Guide to the

Velmer Lenora Smith Papers
2004 - 2012

1.26 linear feet

Collection Number 192

Updated by Angela Leonard
September 2014

CITATION: The Velmer Lenora Smith Papers, Collection No. 192, Box number, Folder number, Archives and Special Collections Department, Frazar Memorial Library, McNeese State University.

Archives and Special Collections Department
Frazar Memorial Library
McNeese State University
Biographical Sketch

Velmer Lenora (Hetzel) Smith, born in DeRidder, Louisiana and grew up near Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Smith is an amateur naturalist who has researched wildflowers in the Bundick Swamp area of Beauregard Parish, with the discovery of a very rare flower to her credit. She also has an interest in historic preservation and writing. She was instrumental in having both the Beauregard Training School and the DeRidder USO (the first USO completed for use by the military in WWII) placed on the National Register of Historic Places. She established a historical military display located in the DeRidder Civic Center. Smith also was instrumental in having the DeRidder Army Air Base Historic Marker placed on Highway 190 and a historical marker commemorating the foot trails of the Atakapa Ishak placed near the intersection of Highways 190 and 111.

Smith enjoys writing human interest and historical sketches about local people and places. She is the author of the book, “The Best of Yesterday…Today” which is a history of the Sabine River and “No Man’s Land” and features folk art by Merryville folk artist Gussie Townsley. Among her endeavors is developing web sites about area people and historical places. She is an avid collector of Atakapa Ishak Indian artifacts and is preserving an Indian Site in Merryville known as the “Screaming Eagle Atakapa Mound.”

She is the Contributing Writer to Web Sites:
www.beau.org/~lawild
www.beau.org/~velmer/atakapa
www.beau.org/~velmer/local/retire.html
www.lutheransonline.com

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