

AUTHOR'S NOTE

The story that follows is my family's story as it lives in my heart.

Most details (even those that have been altered) are historically appropriate and are based on years of painstaking research, but artistic acts of the imagination have helped to flesh out the story. The result is a blend of fiction and nonfiction.

Many names, both of people and of places, are real, but some details (including some names) have been changed to protect the privacy of people I have come to know and honor. I have freely mixed actual names and fictional names. My intention is to bring the past to life as authentically as possible while still maintaining confidentiality.

I owe an immeasurable debt to newfound family members who welcomed and embraced me so warmly and who shared the family story so generously. They will know who they are as the story unfolds, but I hope I have changed enough specifics to let them keep their parts of the story their own.

As I imagine my great-great-grandmother Louisiana and grandmother Fannie telling the stories of their lives, the interpretation of events is solely my own. History and art, fiction and nonfiction, weave together in *my* telling of our family tale.

Nancy Kernel and Pleasant Bybee



Louisiana Bybee and George Washington Armstrong



Cordelia (Deelie) Armstrong and Thomas J. Preston



Fannie Elizabeth Preston and Louis Herschel Tate



Bonnie Landsbury and Louis (Lou) Tate



Linda Tate

This genealogy chart blends actual names with fictional names. It is intended only as an aid to the reader and should not be used for research or genealogical purposes.