



Robert Gentry

Owner and Publisher

Robert Gentry, owner and publisher of the Sabine Index in Many, Louisiana, founded Rebel Park (currently known as Rebel State Commemorative Area) in the piney woods hills near Marthaville, Louisiana, his home town. The significance of the area goes back to the Civil War and the death of an unidentified Confederate soldier who was killed and buried in the woods. For nearly 100 years, the Barnhill Family cared for the buiral site. In 1961, Robert wrote several newspaper articles about the grave and the following services in honor of the Unknown Confederate Soldier.

Robert produced and directed numerous bluegrass, gospel, country, and folk music shows for many years at Rebel. Local performers, as well as nationally known artist, have performed on the amphitheater stage, including former governor of Louisiana, Jimmie Davis, the Oak Ridge Boys, Bill Monroe, Roy Acuff and the Smoky Mountain Boys, Ernest Tubb and the Texas Troubadours, David Houston, Slim Whitman, George Jones, Aaron Neville, Granpa Jones, Nat Stuckey, Claude King, Tom T. Hall, Charlie Louvin, the Wilburn Brothers, and the Sullivan Family.

Among his interesting pursuits throughout life, he was the last Public Relations Coordinator for Louisiana Governor Earl K. Long. Currently, in addition to being involved with his mueseum in Many, he owns Sweet Dreams Publishing Company and has written, co-authored and published numerous books. In 1984, Robert was inducted into the Hall of Master Folk Artists for his numerous accomplishments.

Updated Febuary 20, 2017 by Natchitoches-NSU Louisiana Folklife Center Staff