

Thibodaux at the start of the Civil War in 1861. Born in 1850, the family's second child of eight, Georgiana Suthon was baptized in the Roman Catholic Church in Plattenville, attended by a godfather, Adolphe Lovet, and godmother, Marguerite Serafine Blanchard. She became known as "Georgie" and eventually changed her affiliation to the Episcopal Church. The family moved to New Orleans in 1880, and Georgie attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

In April 1889, at the age of 39, Georgiana traveled with a fellow missionary, Rebecca Ford Heath of Kentucky, by steamer across the Pacific Ocean to Tokyo. She entered into missionary work in Tokyo at a time when Japan only recently had begun to allow Christians to enter the country. For many centuries, followers of Christ found Japan unwelcoming and dangerous. Georgiana learned the language and began teaching Bible to Japanese youth. She transferred to the northern Japan city of Aomori, the only white person there. Her eventual assignments were to Kanazawa, on the Sea of Japan, and then to Kyoto, where she worked with Bishop Henry St. George Tucker, who later became presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in America.

A life member both of the American Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross, Georgiana traveled in many countries in her missionary role and was highly honored for her outstanding work in Japan.



Georgiana Suthon c. 1900



Georgiana Suthon and students c. 1930

Two photographs of Georgie Suthon show her as a determined, handsome woman, at different stages of life. A passport form indicated her height as five feet four inches. The earlier image depicts her not long after she entered into missionary work, and the later photo shows her with two of her Japanese students, their identities unknown and their futures uncertain. Japan soon tragically became involved with militarism and conquest.

(Sources: Houma, Thibodaux, and New Orleans newspapers; usgarchives.net, rootsweb.ancestry.com; 1860 U. S. Census, Thibodaux; Suthon family)

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY ART PROJECT



NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY GRAPHICS ART STUDENT TEAM: Trisha Rabalais, Kathrym Stock, Caitlin Cowen, Kaitlen Stapler, Emily Knobloch, Shelby Buquet, Elizabeth Macklin, Danielle Lafont, Kyle Donegan, Maryna LeBouef and Sara Sedatol.

Under direction of the University graphics art teacher Trisha Rabalais, a team of ten or more students is undertaking a class project on behalf of the St. John's Historic Cemetery Association. The project is a public service, in response to the need for identification signs including 15-20 small signs to be mounted near tombs, signs to identify the main aisle and lanes separating the burial plots, and a large sign at the entrance gate which will have a summary of the Cemetery's history and its layout. In addition, the students will design a brochure which will be available in a box at the entrance gate and assist with design of a web site for the Association. Following the completion of the project in early December, it is anticipated that the Vestry of the church will contract for the signage and the brochure. The improvements will better inform visitors to the Cemetery and the public and also aid the Association in future membership and funding efforts.

Assisting the student team, from the Association, are Julie Green, Mike Strausser, Betsy Magee, Lee Shaffer, III, and David Plater, all of whom have been researching and writing about various notables buried in the cemetery. •