

Gentlemen" who were to be provided "a solid and superior education." In addition to Mr. Scheliha, the faculty included "a resident English and French Tutor" and had a staff of the "most competent Professors in the different branches of Education." The academy promised to design a plan of study for each student that was to be "strictly adhered to." To meet the students' physical education needs, a "complete Gymnasium [was] erected on the play ground [sic] of the institution." Building on the theme used by Minor Kenner to sell his home sites, the Kenner Academy advertised the convenience of its location by noting that, "the location of the establishment in the town of Kenner offers many . . . [advantages, including] . . . being within half an hour's ride from New Orleans, by the New Orleans, Jackson, and Great Northern Railroad, combines all the advantages of a rural retirement, with the utmost facility of supplying any immediate wants from the city, and parents have the opportunity of visiting their children at all times."³³ The actual location of the academy within the village is not known for the only address advertised for the school was the Kenner post office. The number of students who attended the academy is also not known. However, with the onset of the Civil War and the turmoil and hardships it brought to the area, it is unlikely that the Kenner Academy prospered for long.

In spite of not being the real-estate success the Kenners had expected, small numbers of farmers continued to move to the area. Some of the new residents were freshly arrived Irish, German, Italian, and other foreign immigrants who were coming to New Orleans in increasing numbers. Among the new arrivals in the settlement were thirty-two year old Samuel Baumann and his thirty-eight year old wife Barbara, natives of Switzerland. They were the fourth family to purchase a lot in Minor's new real-estate development. Fortunately, preserved reminiscences by members of the family give interesting details of life in Kenner during the early years of its development. The Baumanns left their native country for life in the New Orleans area in 1848. When land became available at the new development on the Kenner plantations, they purchased two plots of land and built their family a new home. The family was not wealthy and had to work several jobs in order to make ends meet. Samuel conducted a livery stable in the village for several years and farmed his land. The Baumann's hard work led to

Samuel's livery stable growing to a respectable value of \$15,000 and included ten horses, two mules, carriages, wagons, and sundry support materials. The livery business in the village was very competitive, and when the Baumann's uninsured business was destroyed by fire in December 1865, the family lost everything. Though they were personally convinced that the fire was set by their competitors, not enough evidence existed for authorities to make an arrest. Purchasing a second piece of land in Kennerville at the corner of 2nd and William streets in 1866 for \$4,000 from Minor Kenner's brother-in-law John B. Humphreys, Samuel reopened his livery business. When fire again struck the operation in 1868, the loss was limited because Samuel had learned from his first fire experience and had his new business fully insured.³⁴

The fires were not the only misfortune to strike the Baumanns. Shortly after their move to Kennerville, Samuel sent to Switzerland for his four children of a former marriage. The four young Baumanns, Elisabeth, Rosa, Rosallia, and Albert, found the climate of south Louisiana to be much more difficult to take than that of their home country. The children's acclimation difficulties proved tragic with the arrival of the yellow fever season of 1857. Just as the deadly ailment had struck down Butler Kenner and his young son four years earlier, young Elisabeth and Rosa succumbed to the disease. Death revisited the family several years later when Albert was crushed to death when a large sugar-house chimney fell on the young man.³⁵

The Baumann family's papers also provide insight that not all of the neighbors of the Kenner family were comfortable with the Minor's new real-estate venture and the arrival of the new residents it brought into their area. Barbara Baumann supplemented her family's income by picking and selling blackberries, which grew wild in great abundance in the area. Typically, she and her seven year old son worked in the morning to pick the berries. In the afternoon they would take them for sale in New Orleans and return at the end of the day. On one of their picking expeditions, Mrs. Baumann and her young boy were about two miles away from their home. In an attempt to save time and effort, the pair decided to take a plantation road that ran through the center of the neighboring Trudeau plantation. The morning had been productive and the pair carried a heavy load of berries, including a full basket on Mrs. Baumann's head and another full bucket in her arms,

while the boy hauled two small tin buckets full. When they traveled approximately a half mile down the road, the pair were approached on horseback by the property's owner, Zeno Trudeau. Baumann explained that she was taking a shortcut back to her home and that she and her little son were doing no harm to the property. Trudeau angrily gave her only ten minutes to get off of his property by turning around and heading back from where she came. If she did not, he threatened to call his slave driver to give her twenty-five lashes for he "did not want any poor trash trespassing on his plantation."³⁶

Though the effort to attract residents such as the Baumanns to the new settlement met with some limited success, for the most part the endeavor was hampered by the failure of the railroad to build a promised depot, which was needed for the community's farmers and residents to be able to transport their products to the city. The delay in the construction of the depot was caused by the New Orleans, Jackson, and Great Northern Railroad's policy of only serving stations and depots of recognized communities. Hence, to overcome the railroad's hesitancy in building a depot, the residents of the new little community decided to take action. Bonding together, the people of the settlement selected several of their members to serve as the leaders of their local government and formally organized themselves into a village. As to a name for their new village, the residents decided to honor their most prominent resident and founder and designated the first new community on the newly opened New Orleans, Jackson, and Great Northern Railroad as the village of Kennerville.³⁷