Prosper Ganier

St. James Parish, Louisiana

Submitted by Mike Miller

Prosper Ganier is the successful manager of Welcome plantation, in the conduct of which he has shown much practical wisdom.  He was born on the place May 11, 1835, to Francois Ganier, a native of France, who came to the United States in 1819, when about twenty-five years of age, and took up his residence in St. James parish, La.  In 1859 he returned to the land of his birth, and there died in 1860 or 1881.  Upon coming to this country he first followed the calling of a merchant, but later purchased Welcome plantation, which was at that time very small, but was an excellent man of business, and every few years would make additions, and his son now controls 540 acres of as fine land for the culture of sugar cane as there is in the parish.  Before coming to the United States Francois Ganier served in Napoleon's army, with whom he remained until the disastrous battle of Waterloo, when he left home and kindred to seek his fortune in the new world.

He was married in Louisiana to Heloise Le Boeuf, of this parish, who died here in 1847, after having borne her husband seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second.  Two daughters reside in France, a son is a cotton planter at Milliken's Bend, in Madison parish, another son resides on Pike's Peak plantation, and the oldest and youngest of the family are deceased.

Prosper Ganier was sent to France in July, 1846, in which country his school days were spent.  He remained in college six years, and in 1852, upon his return to the United States, he took a course in mathematics in an institution at Bedford Springs, Penn., and there also thoroughly learned the English language.  Upon his return to Louisiana he at once took charge of Welcome plantation, and has since devoted his attention to the manufacture of sugar, of which he has a thorough and practical knowledge.  This place is twelve miles below Donaldsonville, and although it has been under cultivation many years, it is still exceedingly fertile, and is carefully looked after by its owner.

Amelia Le Boeuf became his wife April 30, 1861, and has borne him four sons, three of whom are living:  George Prosper and Alceé, all of whom assist their father on the home plantation.  One son, Elie, died when quite young.  The family worship in the Catholic church; but in his religious, as well as political views, Mr. Ganier is very liberal.  He is a useful citizen, and a man whom to know is to respect.

*Biographical and Historical Memoires of Louisiana*. Vol. 1. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1892, pp. 429-430.