GEARHEARD, Arthur G.

Montgomery County, IN., then St. James Parish, Louisiana

Submitted by Mike Miller

Gearheard, Arthur G., of Lutcher, St. James parish, La., was born at Darlington, Montgomery county, Ind., June 20, 1872, and is a son of J. M. and Lucindy A. (French) Gearheard, both of whom were born in the vicinity of Kokomo, Ind., as was the paternal grandfather, Samuel A. Gearheard.  His wife, Miss Chitwood, was a native of Kentucky.  The maternal grandfather, A. French, and his wife, Miss Royalty, were Indians.  Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers devoted their abilities to the vocation of farming.  The ancestors of the Gearheard family in this country came originally from Germany, and those of the French family from England.  J. M. Gearheard devoted his active years to the cultivation of the soil at the Indiana home of the family.  He has now reached the age of 66 years, and he and the mother are living in retirement with their son at Lutcher.  Fourteen children were born to the parents of the father, and 10 to those of the mother.  Seven of the former family are now living, and five of the latter.

Arthur G. Gearheard was the third of 10 children born to his parents, and seven of these are now living, as follow:  O. E. married to Ada Rhodes, of Jackson, La., and the father of 3 children, is living at Donner, La., where he occupies the position of sales manager for the Dibert, Stark & Brown Cypress Co. of that place; A. J., married to Grace Nevinger, of the state of Kansas, and father of 2 children, is an ordained minister of the M. E. church, and now has a charge at McDonoghville, La.; Arthur G., the subject of this sketch; Mabel, wife of T. W. Jones, who is connected with lumber business at White Castle, La., where they reside, has 2 children; Frank, now living at Seattle, Wash., 1 child; Frona, married and living at Omaha; Neb., 1 child; Sadie, married and living at Oberlin, O., 5 children.

Arthur G. Gearheard received his early education at the public schools in the vicinity of his birthplace.  Later he also attended public schools in Missouri, and thereafter attended the University of Missouri, at Columbia, afterward teaching in the public schools of Missouri for 4 years.  He then took a business course at Janesville, Wis., including bookkeeping, stenography and typewriting, and after completing this, at the age of 23 years, he found employment as stenographer for the D. K. Jeffries Lumber Co., at Jeffries, Wis.  After about 6 months, however, he came south and took a position at Lutcher, as stenographer for the Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., but after passing about 6 months in this place, he went to New Orleans and became connected with the insurance business as stenographer in the office of Marshall J. Smith & Co.  Half a year later he returned to Lutcher as general office man for the last-named lumber company, so remaining about 3 years, when he was promoted to the position of general sales manager, which he occupied about 12 years, at the expiration of which time he was advanced to the office of manager, was again promoted Jan. 1, 1914, to vice-president and manager, and has so continued to this time, handling the business of one of the largest and most important enterprises in Louisiana.

Mr. Gearheard is a man of large and varied interests.  In addition to being an important stockholder in the great business of which he is manager, he is a stockholder and secretary-treasurer of the Delta Lumber Co. of New Orleans; a stockholder and director in the Bank of St. James, and a stockholder in each of the following institutions:  The Whitney-Central National bank, Canal Bank & Trust Co., Louisiana Red Cypress Co., New Orleans; the American Cities Co., and various other substantial corporations.  Also, he has valuable real estate holdings at Lutcher and elsewhere.  Mr. Gearheard affiliates with the republican party in national affairs, and with the democratic party in state affairs.  He is united with the Methodist Episcopal church, is a Master Mason, a Noble of the Mystic Shrine and a member of the Knights of Pythias and Woodmen of the World.

Dec. 31, 1898, Mr. Gearheard was married to Emma Rhodes, daughter of N. G. Rhodes, of East Feliciana parish, near Jackson, La.  Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gearheard:  Gladys M. and A. G., Jr., both of whom are attending the public schools at Lutcher, the first-named being at high school.  Mr. Gearheard is a man of sterling character and unimpeachable integrity, and no man within the bounds of Louisiana enjoys a larger measure of the good opinion of the people with whom his lot has been cast.

Fortier, Alcee, Lit. D. *Louisiana: Comprising Sketches of Parishes, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form* Volume 3. Madison, Wis.: Century Historical Association, 1914. pp. 615-617.