PRESCOTT, Lewis Demaret

St. Landry then St. James Parish, Louisiana

Submitted by Mike Miller

Prescott, Lewis Demaret, of Lutcher, was born at Washington, in St. Landry parish, Dec. 24, 1871, and is a son of Capt. Lewis D. and Lucy (Offutt) Prescott, both of whom were born in the same locality as was the son.  The paternal grandfather, William Marshall Prescott, was a native of Macon, Ca., and was married to Miss Moore, of Iberia parish, La.  The maternal grandfather, William J. Offutt, was born in Georgia and married a Miss Posey, of Opelousas, La.  The paternal great-grandparents, William and Mary (Marshall) Prescott, were natives of Virginia.  The maternal great-grandfather, Dr. William J. Offutt, came from Scotland to America at an early date and located in the state of Georgia.  The paternal ancestors came originally from England.

Capt. Lewis D. Prescott was educated for the profession of law.  He received his degree in law at the University of Louisiana, and afterward passed 2 years as a law student at the University of Paris, France.  His studies at the latter institution were interrupted by the beginning of the Civil war, when he returned to America and enlisted in the Confederate service in the state of Virginia. After a short time, however, he returned to Louisiana, where he organized Co. A, of which he was elected captain, and became attached to the 2nd Louisiana volunteer cavalry, with which he served throughout the remainder of the war, taking part in many notable engagements.  It is related that his command was the last regularly organized and equipped company to surrender, that event taking place at Washington, La., June 6, 1865, after a lengthy parley and confirmation of the surrender of Gen. Kirby-Smith 's army.  He returned to the family plantation home, "Oakland," adjoining the town of Washington, and succeeded to the management of the estate, which at that time also included "Sunflower," ''Lone Cypress,'' ''Prescott Springs,'' and some other smaller places.  In 1878 some of these properties were sold, and later the remaining lands were divided among the children.

Capt. Prescott affiliated with the democratic party, and during some years after the war he served as a member of the state senate.  Eight children were born to his parents, and three of these are now living.  Willis B., one of these children, who died about the age of 50 years while a member of the state senate, served in the latter body during the famous fight against the Louisiana state lottery. Benjamin, another of Capt. Prescott's brothers, married Miss Taylor, of Virginia, and 7 children were born to the latter union, the father now living at Baton Rouge with one of his sons, Col. A. T. Prescott.  Mary, sister to Capt. Prescott, is the widow of Capt. M. P. Scott, and living at Washington, La.  Her husband served the Confederacy throughout the term of the Civil war.  He died in 1902, leaving 2 children.  Mrs. Scott owns valuable property at Atlanta, Ga.  Addie, another sister, is the widow of R. G. H. Kean, of Lynchburg, Va., a prominent lawyer of that state, who died in 1898, leaving 4 children.

Capt. Prescott died in 1909.  Eight children were born to his marriage, as follow:  John, died about the age of 4 years; Lizzie, married W. C. Dunbar, and is living at Lutcher; Lewis D., third child and subject of this sketch; William, who married Miss Fauntleroy, of Jeanerette, La., is manager of a state farm there; Sallie, wife of T. R. Atkinson, planter, of Glendora, Miss; Eleanora, wife of John B. Murphy, manager of the state farm at San Gabriel; J. P., married to Lillian McCabe, Garyville; Offutt F. N., married to Mabel Foster, living at Chapel Hill, Tex.  Lewis Demaret

Prescott received his early education at the Sisters' school near his home.  Later he attended Louisiana State university.  At the age of 21 years he purchased a plantation of 500 acres at Gold Dust, La., and began growing cotton and rice.  Five years later he sold this property and located at Lutcher, where he was for a time connected with the lumber business.  At the beginning of the Spanish-American war he enlisted as a member of Co. D, 2nd Louisiana volunteer infantry, and served until honorably discharged at the close of the war.  He returned to Lutcher and resumed his connection with the lumber business, so remaining about 8 years, when he went into the sawmill business in St. Charles parish.  After conducting this latter enterprise 3 years, he disposed of his mill interests and established a drug business at Lutcher, to which he has since devoted his abilities.  Mr. Prescott's undertakings have prospered, and he now owns valuable property in St. Charles parish and drug stores at Gramercy and New Iberia.  He is a member of the Catholic church, and affiliates with the republican party.  He is a Master Mason, and united with the Knights of Pythias, Ancient United Order of Druids, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Sept. 24, 1903, Lewis Demaret Prescott was married to Mildred, daughter of George Pugh, planter, of Bayou Lafourche, and 2 children have been born to their union, Amelie P. and  Lewis P., the latter of whom died in his 5th year.

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. 731-732.