

GEORGE M. BOURGEOIS

Submitted by Mike Miller

Bourgeois, George M., whose home is at Garyville, was born in St. John the Baptist parish March 28, 1855, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Picou) Bourgeois, the former of whom was born in St. James parish and the mother in the same parish as was the son. The paternal grandfather, Thomas D. Bourgeois, and his wife, Miss Matherne, also were natives of St. James. The maternal grandparents died when their daughter, Mary, was in infancy. The ancestors of both the Bourgeois and Picou families in this state came originally from France. Thomas Bourgeois has followed the vocation of a planter from the time of his boyhood. He has attained the age of 83 years, and now lives in retirement at Mount Airy, leasing his lands for cultivation under the direction of others. Nine children were born to his marriage, as follow: Georgina, who married Eugene Tanguis, of St. John the Baptist parish, is now deceased, leaving 2 children; George M., the second child, is the subject of this sketch; Julia, who married Adam Templaint, of St. John the Baptist parish, is now deceased, leaving 5 children; Price F., a successful merchant of St. James parish, is now living in retirement at Mount Airy;

Henry died at the age of 12 years; Joseph, who married Florestine Bourgeois, is farming in St. James and has 7 children; Louis P., who married Clarence Lasseigne, is a successful merchant, planter, and prominent citizen of Gramercy, La., and is more particularly referred to elsewhere in this work; Sidney, a successful business man of New Orleans, married Miss Simore, and they have 2 children. The ninth child was accidentally poisoned about the age of 6 years. George M. Bourgeois received his early education at a private school in the vicinity of his birthplace. Later, he entered Jefferson college, St. James parish, where he graduated with the degree of A. B. in the class of 1878. At the age of 24 years he began commercial life as clerk in a mercantile house of St. John the Baptist parish hut after an experience of 6 months in this business he formed a partnership with his sister, Mrs. Tanguis, and established a general merchandise business under his own name. This business prospered, and was continued under the original arrangement about 15 years, when the partnership was dissolved, since which time Mr. Bourgeois has conducted a large and successful mercantile business on his own account. The partnership business was first established at Mount Airy. The present store at Garyville was established in 1907. Mr. Bourgeois also owns valuable real estate at both Mount Airy and Garyville. He affiliates with the democratic party, and has served his neighbors in various official capacities, occupying

the office of justice of the peace about 12 years, and being a member of the police jury of the parish about the same length of time, and now occupying the latter position. He is a member of the Catholic church, and of the Imperial Order of Red Men. In the year 1881 George M. Bourgeois was married to Louie Tregre, daughter of Alcide Tregre, whose wife's maiden name was Triche, of St. John the Baptist parish. Mrs. Bourgeois died in 1885, leaving no children. Oct. 20, 1896, Mr. Bourgeois was married to Pulcherie C. Chenet. Daughter of Eugene and Myrthe (Poche) Chenet, of St. John the Baptist parish, and 6 children have been born to this union as follow: Elmore George, now attending Chenet institute, New Orleans; Georgette, who died in infancy; Ethel L., attending public school at Garyville; D'Acquin H., Leonie N. and Marie Antoinette. The last-named died at the age of 2 years. Mr. Bourgeois is a man of sterling qualities of character, and few men are blessed with a larger measure of the esteem of the people among whom they have labored from early youth to middle life.