

Henry A. Donaldson, of Reserve, St. John Parish, was born in that vicinity April 5, 1887, and is a son of Dr. Louis T. and Antoinette (Vignes) Donaldson, the former of whom was born in St. James Parish and the latter in the same region as was the son. The paternal grandparents, Valsin and Armanline (Gravois) Donaldson were natives, respectively, of St. James and St. Charles Parishes, but lived at Edgard, where the husband employed his slaves in making brick and cultivating a farm. He died in 1892 at the age of 90 years. His wife died in 1891, at the age of 78. The paternal great-grandfather, John Donaldson, came to Louisiana from Georgia and located in St. James Parish at a very early date. He married Manon Rome, a native of that region. The maternal great-grandfather, Armand Gravois, came to Louisiana from Canada with a party of early settlers. He married Erasie Hotard, who was born in St. Charles. The ancestors of the Donaldson family in Louisiana were of Irish origin, while those of the Vignes family came originally from France. Dr. Louis T. Donaldson, who has long been active as a practicing physician of St. John Parish, is a graduate M. D. of the University of Louisiana (now Tulane) and served 2 years as interne at the New Orleans Charity Hospital. He graduated in the class of 1879, which included, among others, Dr. Rudolph Matas, and Drs. Parham, McCutcheon, Vance, Gabert, Elmore, Hanson, Kennedy and Dunlap, several of whom have risen to distinction in the medical profession. Dr. Donaldson has been in practice at Reserve since 1882, also owning a farm there, and being a stockholder and director in the Bank of St. John. He has been health officer of the parish the past 7 years.

Dr. Donaldson was married Sept. 17, 1883. His wife is a daughter of Adrain and Claire (Basset) Vignes, both of whom were natives of France, but were married in Louisiana, where the former followed the business of a planter and merchant. He died in 1903, at the age of 78 years, as a result of injuries accidentally received in alighting from a street car in New Orleans. His wife died in 1890, at the age of 67 years. Nine children were born to Dr. Louis T. Donaldson and wife, as follow: Louis T., Jr., also a graduate in medicine at Tulane University, now practicing medicine at Hahnville, and married to Edna Gabert; Sidney was educated at Jefferson College and is now doing clerical work at Louisville, Ky.; Henry A., the subject of this sketch; Guy Rudolph received the degree of A. B. at Jefferson College and afterward studied French under Prof. Alce, Fortier. Later he was a student in mechanical engineering at Tulane University; Caire Marie was educated at Sacred Heart Academy, convent, and at Picard Institute, New Orleans; Adrain Vignes died in childhood; Antoinette Armantine attended Sacred Heart academy, Picard institute and Miss Brest's private school, New Orleans; Rosa attended Picard Institute and Miss Brest's school; and Armand, the last two now attending the public school at Reserve.

Henry A. Donaldson received his earlier education at a private school in the vicinity of his home. He then matriculated at Jefferson College, where he passed 6 years as a student. Later he entered the New Orleans College of Pharmacy, (now affiliated with Loyola University), from which he received the degree of Master of Pharmacy with the class of 1905. Shortly after his graduation he became connected with the business of the Rapides Drug Co., at Alexandria, but after 18 months at that place accepted a position as pharmacist for L'Heureux at Reserve. In 1908 he purchased the business of his employer and has continued this to the present, making many improvements, enlarging the capacities of the business and extending his trade. He now handles a complete line of drugs and druggists' sundries and does a general prescription business. In 1908 Mr. Donaldson was appointed postmaster at Reserve and has discharged the duties of that office to this time. He has taken civil service examination and passed successfully. He is affiliated with the Democratic Party, and is a member of the Catholic Church, Woodmen of the World and Knights of the Maccabees. June 1, 1910, Henry A. Donaldson was married to Denise Maurin, daughter of Fortune and Desire (Bossier) Maurin, of Reserve, where the father has long conducted a wholesale produce and baker business. He was born in France, but his wife is a native of the parish in which the family now lives. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson, viz.: Beulah and Henry, Jr. The last-named died in infancy.

Fortier, Alcee, *Louisiana: Comprising Sketches of Parishes, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form, volume 3*, Madison, Wis.: Century Historical Association, 1914, pp. 515-516.

Transcribed by Jim Cox

Buried St. Peter Catholic Cemetery, Reserve, LA