

Dr. Louis T. Donaldson

In the medical field, as doctors, dentist and druggists, the Donaldsons have served the parish.

In 1833, Doctor Louis Theophile Donaldson, son of Valsin Donaldson, a direct descendant of the nobility of Scotland, and Amazelie Gravois of Vacherie, was married to Antoinette Vignes, only daughter of a wealthy rice planter, Adrien Vignes, and Claire Eleanore Basset of France. The struggling young physician, a classmate and a personal friend of the internationally famous Dr. Rudolph Matas, and his bride settled in Reserve and raised a family of nine children in the old Vignes house that still stands today as a landmark.

Two of the children, the eldest, Louis, and the youngest, Armand, followed in their father's footsteps, graduating from Tulane university as physicians; Henry and Guy serve as druggists, and Sidney as a dentist.

Of the three daughters, one, Rosa, was married into the Maurin family; Antoinette and Claire live in and own the old homestead.

There are seventeen living grandchildren: Beulah, Edna Mae, Malcolm, Maurin, children of Henry and Denise Maurin; Guy, Marion, Rosemary, Millicent, children of Guy and Marie LaBranche; Horace, Donaldson, Peggy, Lois, Gene, Michael, children of Rosa and Horace Maurin; and Billy, Joy and Armand, children of Armand and Marguerite Magendie Coulon.

The Donaldson family is proud of the tradition that the town of Donaldson was named after its ancestor, William Donaldson (1806), on whose land the Catholic church now stands.

Eyraud, Msgr. Jean M. & Donald J. Millet, *A History of St. John the Baptist Parish with Biographical Sketches – St. Peter's Diamond Jubilee*, Marrero, LA: Hope Haven Press, 1939, p. 66.