(Hon.) Albert J. Lacaze

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Lacaze, Hon. Albert James, of Wallace, St. John the Baptist parish, was born in that locality Feb. 6, 1863, and is a son of John and Eleanore (Roussel) Lacaze, the former of whom was born in France and the latter in the same locality as was the son.  The father came to America in 1827, at the age of 20 years, on the same ship that brought Leon Godchaux to this country.  The latter, as is well-known, began business as a peddler, and accumulated a large fortune.  John Lacaze also began business in Louisiana as a peddler, and after about 7 years opened a general store in St. John parish.  After successfully conducting this latter enterprise about 4 years, he moved his store to St. James parish and there established a bakery business in connection with the store, handling these successfully for about 9 years, when he returned to St. John parish and purchased Norma plantation, of about 450 acres, upon which he successfully operated as a sugar planter during about 25 years, prospering greatly.  However, he has now become interested in commission business at New Orleans, and this latter connection finally brought about heavy losses that largely depleted the family fortunes.  He died at the family home in St. John parish in the year 1909. The maternal grandparents were born in Louisiana, as also the maternal great-grandparents.  The maternal great-great-grand parents came to Louisiana from Nova Scotia.  The mother died in 1891, at the family home in St. John parish.  Six children were born to the parents, as follows:  John, the first-born, died of yellow fever at the age of 3years;  Azele, mother of 1 child, Alice, who now lives with her father in Vermilion parish;  Louise was married to John V. Micolo, of New Orleans, but both she and her husband are now deceased, leaving 1 child, a daughter, who is now teaching in the public schools of St. James parish;  George E., was married to Miss Maggie Scanlan, of New Orleans, and engaged in business in that city as a commission merchant, in partnership with his brother-in-law, John V. Micolo.  Both he and his wife are now deceased, leaving 1 child, Laura, who is married to Jesse Taylor, of New Orleans, in the service of the T. & P. R. R.;  Albert James, the subject of this sketch;  Amelie is now the wife of Joseph E. Reine, who is connected with the business of the Colonial Sugars Refining Co., at Gramercy, La.  They have 3 children, namely: Marguerite,  Robert, and  George.

Albert Lacaze received his earlier education at private schools in the vicinity of his birthplace. Later he attended school at St. Louis for a time, and afterward took acommercial course at Soule' college, New Orleans.  At the age of 19 years he entered commercial life as a clerk in the commission house of his brother-in-Jaw and brother, Micolo & Lacaze, at New Orleans.  After 3 years in this connection, however, he returned to the plantation as assistant to his father.  In 1884 he started in business as a planter on his own account, but 2 years later was obliged to move to Iberville parish to supervise some of his father's business there in connection with Acadia plantation, which the father owned.  After 2 years he returned to St. John parish and resumed his planting business.  Three years later, in 1890, he was elected a member of the lower house of the state legislature and shortly after the expiration of his term of service in that body was appointed levee inspector, under the administration of Gov. Blanchard, and has remained incumbent of that office to this time.

In 1902 he purchased "Farm Home," near Wallace, and has utilized this place mainly as a tenant farm.  In 1914 Mr. Lacaze was again elected to the Louisiana legislature to fill the unexpired term of P. N. Bossier, who had removed to St. James parish.  During his previous term in the general assembly he served on the parochial affairs and penitentiaries committees.  Mr. Lacaze has voted the democratic ticket from the time of casting his first ballot, and in the course of his career has served some years as a justice of the peace, and 4 years as a member of the police jury.  He has a number of times filled the post of a commissioner of elections, and during the past 16 years has been a member of the parish democratic executive committee. He is affiliated with the Catholic church and is a member of the Woodmen of the World and the Imperial Order of Red Men.  July 1, 1886,

Mr. Lacaze was married to Miss Berthe Vial, daughter of Charles and Melvina (Songe) Vial, of St. John parish.  They have 1 child, Leonard, now attending primary school.  Mrs. Lacaze's parents were born in France, but she owes her nativity to St. John parish.

**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. 699-701**

**Transcribed by Mike Miller.**