Octave Roussell

Octave Roussell, planter, Welcome, La., St. Cecil plantation, thirteen miles below Donaldsonville, on the west side of the Mississippi River, is one of the finest in the parish, and after being owned by many different individuals passed into the possession of Mr. Octave Roussell in 1889; this fine place is composed of 700 acres and although formerly used exclusively as a sugar plantation, he expects to devote a considerable portion of it to the cultivation of rice, as well.

Mr. Roussell was born in St. John the Baptist Parish, La., January 23, 1841 and is a son of Louis Roussell, who was also a native of that parish and a successful sugar planter. The elder Roussell died in his native parish.

Octave Roussell was educated in St. John Baptist parish and in October, 1862, he joined the Thirteenth Regiment, Louisiana Infantry and was in a number of the prominent battles, viz.: Baton Rouge; Vicksburg; Jackson, Miss.; Brook Haven; New Hope Church; Rome, Ga.; Atlanta and the Atlanta Campaign; Florence, Tenn.; Jonesboro, Ga.; Columbia, Ga., and Franklin and Nashville. On December 15 of the last named year he was taken prisoner at Nashville and was held at Camp Douglas, Chicago, until May 22, 1865. Mr. Roussell was never wounded, but had bullet holes in his clothes and in his hat. He held the rank of orderly sergeant.

After the war Mr. Roussell worked by the day in the timber of St. John Parish, but in 1866, he commenced raising cotton there. The following year he commenced the culture of rice, but was subsequently in the butcher trade a short time. After this he commenced sugar planting, bought a small place near St. John and remained there eighteen years, or until 1889, when he purchased St. Cecil Plantation.

He is one of the progressive, wide-awake planters of the parish, who will make a success of whatever they undertake. Mr. Roussell is a member of the police jury, and was warden of St. John Church for a number of years. His ancestors have been devout Catholics for generations.

In 1867, he was married to Miss Odile Haydel of St. John Baptist parish, who died in 1881, leaving four children – three sons and one daughter. In 1883, Mr. Roussell wedded Miss Aline Boussier, who bore him two sons and one daughter. Socially, Mr. Roussell is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and in politics he advocates the principles of the Democratic Party.

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