Capt. O.L. Durham

History of De Soto Parish Emblished

DE SOTO PARISH.

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second battle of Manassas by a minie-ball passing through the left leg just above the ankle. After recovering from this wound he was transferred to the Conscription Department and was ordered to Sabine Parish, where he served over a year as enrolling officer. After the surrender he returned to Mansfield, resumed the practice of his profession and has resided here ever since, building up a widespread reputation as a capable and painstaking dentist. He has succeeded in accumulating a considerable amount of this world's goods, and besides owning his home in Mansfield he has considerable land heavily covered with timber. He was first married in 1868 to Miss Julia D. Holman, by whom he had two children: Julia and Margaret. His next marriage took place in 1882, his wife being Mrs. H. P. McDonald, who has borne him one child, Susie B. The Doctor is a Mason, and he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

A. J. Du Bose, Sr., of Grand Cane, De Soto Parish, La., is a practical farmer, one who believes that it is beneficial to have all his farming operations conducted in a manner so thorough as to not slight one department of labor more than another, and this idea is carried out very completely. He is a native of Dallas County, Ala., where he was born January 25, 1824, his parents, Isaac and Mary (Moss) Du Bose, being natives of Georgia, their ancestors having been French Huguenots. The great-grandfather was born in France and emigrated to the new world over 200 years ago. Isaac, the paternal grandfather, was a soldier in the Revolution, and died in Alabama in 1824, after having followed the life of a farmer. To Isaac and Mary (Moss) Du Bose, a family of eleven children were born, but only three are living at the present date: A. J., Mrs. Johnson (of Alabama), and Mrs. Williams (of Mansfield, La.). After spending his youth and early manhood in Alabama, A. J. Du Bose removed to Louisiana, this being about the year 1854, and purchased his present plantation, which he increased to 1,200 acres prior to the war, his slaves numbering thirty. His present plantation, which is an excellent one, comprising 480 acres with about 250 under cultivation,

shows that he is thrifty and persevering, and ever ready to adopt new and improved methods. The principal products are cotton and corn, but vegetables of all kinds and all sorts of grain can be raised in abundance. He was married October 1, 1850, to Fannie C. Atkins, a native of Alabama, by whom he has four children: Mary M. Durham, Martha E. Williams, A. J., Jr., and Junius A. Four children are deceased: Thomas L., Fannie A., Sarah A. and Frances H. Mr. Du Bose is a member of the Baptist Church, and has been for the past fifty years.

Capt. O. L. Durman has for forty two years been a resident of De Soto Parish, La., and during his long residence here has become well known, and has won the respect of all with whom he has come in contact. He possesses excellent natural abilities, and is deserving of a more extended sketch than the nature of this work will permit; suffice it to say that his life has been a success, both in material affairs and in the esteem which has been accorded him among those with whom he has so long made his home. He was born in Fairfield County, S. C., April 23, 1817, and has been familiar with farming from his carliest boyhood, as his father was a worthy tiller of the soil, and upon his removal to this State he purchased and entered land upon which no improvements whatsover had been made. He began immediately to improve his land, and is now the owner of at least 1,000 acres, of which 350 acres are cleared and devoted to crops, the principal being cotton and corn. He also gives considerable attention to the raising of stock, and in every particular is considered a thrifty and prosperous farmer. Upon his first removal from his native State, he emigrated to Alabama (in 1839), but afterward came to Louisiana, and from this State enlisted, in 1862, in the Confederate army, going out as commander of the Dixie Rebels, Twenty-seventh Louisiana Regiment. He was subsequently transferred to the quartermaster's department, collecting food and horses for his regiment, and continued thus to serve the cause he espoused until the close of the war, being paroled at Shreveport. He was married in 1839 to Martha J. Haywood, by whom he has five children:

Osmund Ross (died in infancy), Robert H. (died in 1886, leaving a widow and two sons-Abner R. now married, and Judson, who died in 1886), Melissa C., Mary E. and Emma V. all of whom are married. The mother died in 1880 and Mr. Durham has never remarried. Both he and wife were members of long standing in the Baptist Church, and Mr. Durham has for years been a member of the school board, of which he has for years been president, and has helped to build Keatchio College. He was one of the originators of this school, and has taken a great interest in its welfare, and is also interested in all educational institutions. He is chairman of the District Baptist Association, composed of De Soto and Caddo Parishes, and although he has often been solicited to become a candidate for a political office he has always refused as he is not an office seeker. His parents, Robert W. and Molsey E. (Ross) Durham, were of English descent, the fornier being a farmer of South Carolina, in which State he died, he and wife having had a large family of children, four of whom are living. Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, the former holding the rank of captain and dving in South Carolina. The latter, whose name was Abner Ross, was reared in New Jersey, but afterward moved to South Carolina, where he became a member of the State Legislature, being very prominent politician.

Devereaux J. Ferguson, through good management and energy has become the owner of 300 acres of land, and by his own efforts has cleared and put under cultivation 200 acres of this land. It is situated twelve miles southeast of Mansfield, and on account of the admirable manner in which it is conducted and to the improvements which have been made it is more valuable than many larger farms. Mr. Ferguson was born in Brunswick County, Va., in 1830, his father and mother, Lockett and Cherry (Garner) Ferguson, having been born in Greenville County, Va., and Northampton County, N. C. respectively. Their lives were spent in the former State where they both passed to their long home shortly after the close of the Rebellion, both being members of the Baptist Church, and the former a farmer. He was also a soldier in one of the early wars and was a son of Berriman Ferguson, who was born, spent his life and died in the Old Dominion, being of Scotch-Irish descent. The mother's father, John Garner, spent his life in Northampton County, N. C. The subject of this sketch is the eighth of ten children, and his early life was spent on a farm, his education being recoived at Stony Mount Academy, Virginia. 1853 he moved westward to De Soto Parish, La., the journey overland taking him three months, and here he was married in 1858 to Miss Lucy, daughter of Francis and Phoebe Powell. Ferguson was born in Mississippi, and died in 1872, having borne a family of seven children, four now living. His second union took place in 1874, his wife being Mrs. Lucy Ferguson, widow of his brother, and a daughter of Burrell Ridgeway, who emigrated from North Carolina to Alabama in which State he died. Mrs. Ferguson was born in Alabama. Mr. Ferguson has lived on his present farm since 1853, and has a very comfortable and pleasant home. From 1863 until the close of the war he served in Company E, Second Louisiana Cavalry, and during this time was in several engagements in Louisiana. He is president of the Shady Grove Farmers' Alliance, and has ever identified himself with the popular issues of the day. His wife is a Baptist.

Joseph Oscar Flores has passed the uneventful life of a planter, having steadily pursued the "even tenor of his way," and is now classed among the prosperous agriculturists of De Soto Parish. He was born in 1855, in the house in which he now re-His parents were Onafre and Mary (Roble) The former was born in Texas, and the Flores. latter in De Soto Parish, La., and both died here They were members of the Catholic in 1879. Church. The father was brought to De Soto Parish by his parents when a boy, and here he spent the rest of his life as a planter, his first location being on a woodland farm, on which the subject of this sketch is now residing. Onafre Flores was of Spanish lineage, and was one of the first settlers of this parish, where his intelligence, talents and ability soon won him a widespread reputation and