

St. Louis, where I found some relatives and I stayed with them for a month or so until I got stronger when finally, after several months, I lost the fever and became myself again.

By that time, politics were getting very exciting and I, being against Grant, soon found myself cut loose from my German associates, so I left St. Louis and went over to Illinois where I finally stopped in the Town of Peoria and worked during the winter of 1868 and 69, when in the spring of 1869, I became homesick for Louisiana and, as Mr. Etheridge kept corresponding with me and kept insisting on my return, I left for St. Louis and again took a steamer for the mouth of Red River but in a happier spirit than the trip before, light in spirit and happy in thought.

Here, in the mouth of Red River, was the old time Wharf boat where a person could find a nights lodging or so until a boat would pass. Of course, it was rather expensive at such a place but there was always plenty of company, especially gamblers who, after they fleeced you, made their way off to hunt up someone else, but always good natured and liberal and would do you no other harm. At that period, the Mississippi and tributary boats were full of gamblers and the games that were played were frequently very exciting and I have seen the time that it got so hot that the Captain would land the boat several of the gamblers left the boat either for fear of trouble or, being busted, hunt up other youngsters so, when I finally got on a Red River boat, I felt like I was at home and, when I landed in Alexandria, I was welcomed like an old friend, the same way on the old ferry boat where I met Captain John Graham and William Morrison who welcomed me as if I had been their brother. The same was with Mr. Etheridge and his family who had awaited my arrival.

At this time I had just five dollars left to my name and I went to work with good intention so, in ten weeks, I had saved \$100.00 and, as my intentions

had been serious, I engaged myself in the meantime to my present wife who I married on June 8th, 1869, just as I reached the age of 25. I was now a married man and, as I started business of my own, I was altogether left to my management but I went at it with a good will and soon had more to do than I could accomplish by myself and sent for my brother, August, who after several months stay, left for Texas where he is at this present writing in Palestine. Later on I sent for brother Rudolph whom I took as a partner in the business which by this time, in 1872, was quite proportionate and, in the year 1873, I sold out and commenced a retail grocery in 1874. The first bill of goods I bought from John I. Adams and Company in New Orleans for \$500.00, all the cash I had at this time, but I had a house and store building of my own and paid for it, so I considered by this time I had a pretty good beginning. As it was a new life began, that of a merchant, as unacquainted as I was with the business, still I did well and, what was best, I accumulated every year to lay aside something for a rainy day. We have raised six children whereof the oldest, or first born, Henry Ernest, came in 1870; Lula 1872; Alice 1875; Quintin 1878; Henryetta 1880, and Katie 1882. I paid very little doctor bills as we all kept mostly in good health.

I kept store just thirty years and was in every way successful for, when I started, I had \$500.00 in cash and my house paid for and, at the end of the thirty years, I can claim to be worth one hundred thousand; all well interested in real estate and stocks in different enterprises.

I have held different offices during this time, more honorary than anything else, such as Councilman, Ward Representative of the Police Jury, Member of the School Board, and held Commission as such from Governor's Wiltz, McEnery, Nisholes, Foster and Heard, and also Blanchard. At this writing, I am also Director of the following enterprises; the Rapides Bank, the Rapides Hotel, the Alexandria Land and Improvement Company; the