

Cane River Creole

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A Planter's Son Goes to War

by Thomas M. Brennan

When 23-year-old Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme left his home near Natchitoches, Louisiana, and went off to war in May 1861, in many ways he was no different from thousands of other young men from both the North and South. What made Alphonse, as he was known, different, were the personal stakes involved.

As the son and grandson of prosperous plantation owners, Alphonse was at the pinnacle of antebellum Southern society. As a result, the rancorous, intensely sectarian and sometimes violent slavery debate that preceded the Civil War would have been of great personal interest to him. The heir-apparent to Bermuda Plantation, his very way of life would have been threatened by abolition.

In an age when most soldiers had never traveled more than 20 miles from home, Alphonse was different. By the time the war started, he'd already traveled more than a thousand miles from home to attend school, and he was a college graduate. He marched off to war accompanied by an enslaved servant who took care of his domestic needs like tending to his campsite and doing the cooking. While this was not unusual for the scions of plantation society, it was definitely not the norm for the vast majority of Southern soldiers.

Alphonse's war experience was not unlike that of thousands of other soldiers from both North and South.



Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme in his United Confederate Veterans uniform, post-Civil War. Courtesy of National Park Service, Cane River Creole National Historical Park, CARI 22781.

He fought bravely and was wounded, but he never achieved renown for his military exploits. After fighting for what he believed in, he returned home to try and pick up the pieces of his former life and carry on. In his case, however, his former way of life had changed dramatically.

Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme was born on April 17, 1838, into one of the oldest and wealthiest families along Cane River in central Louisiana. He was the eldest son of Bermuda Plantation owner Pierre Phanor Prud'homme, and the grandson of Bermuda founder Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme. Alphonse grew up on Bermuda Plantation, located 12 miles southeast of Natchitoches. Life for the Creole planters along the Cane was good. Good enough, in fact, that the area surrounding the upper Cane River was known as "la Cote Joyeuse," or the Joyous Coast.

From April 1853 until October 1856, Alphonse attended school at the Commercial Institute in New Haven, Connecticut.¹ He returned home briefly and then went off to college. His father, Phanor, had originally planned for Alphonse to attend Yale. In the wake of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, however, Phanor changed his mind, not wanting to expose his son to the abolitionist sentiment present in New England. Alphonse instead attended a Southern school, the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.² After two years, Alphonse transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating in June 1860 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in civil engineering.³

1 Donna Rachal Mills, *Biographical and Historical Memoirs, Natchitoches Parish, LA* (Tuscaloosa, AL: Mills Historical Press, 1985), 365-366, quoted by Mildred Methvin in *The Methvin-Cunningham-McManus-Swartz Family: Information about Jacque Alphonse Prudhomme*, accessed March 18, 2011, <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/m/e/t/Mildred-Methvin/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0133.html>.

2 Sandra Prudhomme Haynie, *Legends of Oakland Plantation* (Shreveport, LA: Sandra Prudhomme Haynie, 2001), 47.

3 Mildred Methvin, *The Methvin-Cunningham-McManus-Swartz Family: Information about Jacque Alphonse Prudhomme*, accessed March 18, 2011, <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/m/e/t/Mildred-Methvin/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0133.html>.

Upon his graduation, Alphonse received a letter of recommendation from UNC instructor Charles Phillips which read, in part:

“It gives me pleasure to testify sincerely to his worth as a gentleman and as a student. Punctual in discharging his duties and diligent in his studies, he has been very successful in making acquisitions in the department under my care. I confidently recommend him as a young man well worthy of trust from all who may feel inclined to secure his service. In mechanics, field work, drawing and the use of instruments, he has made such advancements that he needs but time and opportunity to do anything required of a young man in his profession.”⁴

After graduation, Alphonse returned home to Bermuda Plantation and Phillips’s letter helped him find employment as a civil engineer working for the Mississippi & Pacific Railroad.⁵

When Abraham Lincoln was elected to the presidency in November 1860, the long-simmering issue of slavery boiled over. Lincoln wanted to prohibit the expansion of slavery into states newly-admitted to the Union. The slave states saw this as the first step in totally abolishing their “peculiar institution.” Led by South Carolina, the Southern states began to secede from the United States.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

Louisiana troops seized the Federal Arsenal at Baton Rouge in January 1861. In February of that year, Louisiana became the sixth state to secede and join the new Confederate States of America. Lincoln was inaugurated as President in March 1861, and on April 12 Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter. The Civil War had begun.

The Prud'homme family's wealth, place in society and the operation of Bermuda Plantation's 3,400 acres were all based on enslaved labor.⁶ Both Alphonse and his younger brother, Pierre Emmanuel, must have followed the escalating events of early 1861 with growing alarm and felt that their way of life was imperiled.

Shortly after the bombardment and surrender of Fort Sumter, Confederate President Jefferson Davis called upon the states of the Confederacy to provide troops to defend their new nation. Governor Thomas O. Moore of Louisiana responded to Davis's request and asked for 5,000 volunteers from the state. Both Alphonse and Emmanuel responded to Governor Moore's call for troops by enlisting, although in different units. Alphonse, along with other like-minded young men from the Natchitoches area, joined a militia infantry unit known as the Pelican Rangers. He enlisted in Company H as a private for a period of one year's service. Regimental documents list his occupation as "civil engineer," and note that he stood 5' 11" tall with gray eyes and brown hair.⁷ Even though he was only a private, Alphonse headed off to war accompanied by an enslaved servant to tend to his domestic needs.

⁶ Haynie, *Legends*, 45.

⁷ Document: Army of the Confederate States Certificate of Disability for Discharge for Private J. A. Prudhomme, Company H, 3rd Louisiana Infantry.

On May 1, 1861, the Pelican Rangers departed Natchitoches for New Orleans. Once there, the Rangers were split into two groups: Pelican Rangers No. 1 and Pelican Rangers No. 2. Both units were combined with other militia infantry units to form the 3rd Regiment of Louisiana Infantry. Alphonse and the rest of the Pelican Rangers No. 1 became members of the 3rd Louisiana's Company G.

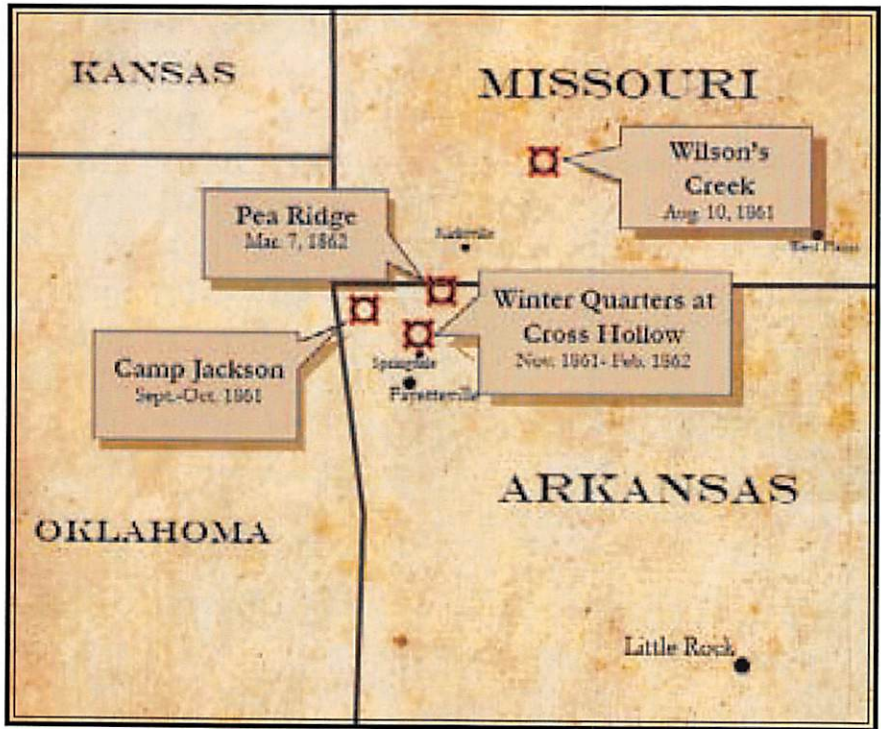
On May 21, the 157 members of Pelican Rangers No. 1 boarded the steamboats Arkansas, Arkansaw, Indian No. 2, and Countess and departed New Orleans, headed northwest for the frontier of Arkansas and Missouri. Six days later, along with the rest of the 3rd Louisiana, they reached Little Rock.⁸

By August 1861, the 3rd Louisiana was camped near Springfield, Missouri. Alphonse was by then listed in a dispatch as the Orderly Sergeant. In that position, he was responsible for organizing the company's day-to-day operations and supervising the company's other non-commissioned officers. An old army saying states that the Orderly Sergeant "really runs the company and lets the company commander 'borrow it' now and then," so Alphonse's position was one of considerable responsibility.⁹

On August 10, Confederate and Union forces fought the first major battle west of the Mississippi River: the Battle of Wilson's Creek in southwestern Missouri and known to the Confederates as the Battle of Oak Hills. (The Union generally referred to a battle by the name of a nearby geographic feature such as a creek. The Confederates usually referred to a battle by the name of the nearest settlement.)

⁸ "3rd Louisiana Infantry History," The Call to Arms, accessed June 21, 2012, <http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~virgilgw/third/page1.html>.

⁹ "Job Descriptions for the Re-Created Eleventh New Jersey," Orderly Sergeant/First Sergeant, accessed June 21, 2012, http://www.stonewallbrigade.com/atb07_GeneralOrders_3_job.pdf.



Alphonse fought bravely in the Confederate victory, and his conduct was mentioned in an after-action report from Lieutenant-Colonel Hyams to Colonel Hébert, commander of the 3rd Louisiana:

*“Orderly Sergeant Alphonse Prudhomme is reported to have cheered and acted with coolness.”*¹⁰

¹⁰ United States War Dept. (John Sheldon Moody, Calvin Duvall Cowles, Frederick Caryton Ainsworth, Robert N. Scott, Henry Martyn Lazelle, George Breckenridge Davis, Leslie J. Perry, Joseph William Kirkley), *The war of the rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series 1 Volume 3 (Washington DC: US Government Printing Office, 1881), 116.

Early in the battle, Alphonse witnessed the mortal wounding of his friend and cousin, Placide Bossier. Four days after the battle, he wrote to his father about the experience:

“Was it not for the loss of my esteemed friend Placide, it would be a battle that I would never have regretted. Never, however, can I think of that battle without a shadow of regret. A truer and more constant friend than he never lived; I loved him as a brother; our ranks could not afford a better soldier—ever ready for duty— never murmuring at the numerous trials which fell to our lot—brave as himself, he rushed in the thickest fire, and acted his part coolly [sic] and deliberately, when he received the fatal wound, none were in advance of him, knowing that he could not live, he attempted to speak, but could only whisper ‘I’m suffocating’! He appeared cool and quiet, and undoubtedly met death like a man and a Christian. I could not stay to see him die, I bade him good-bye, pressed his hand and promised to avenge him. I saw from his eyes that he understood me. He beckoned to me with his hands to hand him his canteen, then bade me, go. I left him in charge of Blount, but he died shortly after, even before the Surgeon could reach him. He lived only about ten minutes.”¹¹

We don’t know if Alphonse was able to avenge Placide’s death or not, but we do know he survived Wilson’s Creek unscathed. However, he was listed as “sick at hospital” at Camp Jackson, located northwestern Arkan-

sas, during September and October 1861.¹² Most likely, he was suffering from one of the many camp diseases that afflicted troops during the Civil War. Caused by a combination of primitive medicine, poor sanitation, cramped quarters, and bad water, the more common camp diseases were typhoid fever, dysentery, malaria, measles, small pox, whooping cough and tuberculosis. Disease, in fact, killed more soldiers than did combat: roughly two out of three Confederate soldiers died from diseases.¹³ The regimental record also notes that Alphonse had not been paid since July.¹⁴

The 3rd Infantry went into winter quarters at Cross Hollow, Arkansas, in late November 1861 and remained there until mid-February 1862.¹⁵

At Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Union and Confederate forces fought another major engagement on March 7. Resulting in a Union victory, the Battle of Pea Ridge was referred to by the Confederates as the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern. Alphonse and the 3rd Louisiana were in the thick of the fighting near the settlement of Leetown. His divisional commander, Brigadier-General Benjamin McCulloch, was killed in action and both his brigade and regimental commanders were captured. Alphonse himself took a shrapnel wound to his left thigh during one of several charges against a Union artillery position.¹⁶ He, too, was captured, but he escaped a few days later.¹⁷

12 Document: H Company, Third Louisiana muster for J.A. Prudhomme, Sept.–Oct. 1861.

13 "About Major Civil War Diseases," accessed June 21, 2012, http://www.chow.com/about_4568235_major-civil-war-diseases.html.

14 Document: H Company, Third Louisiana muster for J.A. Prudhomme, Sept.–Oct. 1861.

15 "3rd Louisiana Infantry History," The Call to Arms, accessed June 21, 2012,

16 Haynie, Legends, 48, and Document: Army of the Confederate States Certificate of Disability for Discharge for Private J. A. Prudhomme, Company H, 3rd Louisiana Infantry.

17 Haynie, Legends, 48.

On March 20, 1862, Alphonse was granted a Certificate of Disability for Discharge. The examining medical officer's report noted that he would be "unfit for duty for at least two months" due to his injuries. Since his one-year enlistment would be up within that time, he was officially discharged from service in April 1862. He returned home to Bermuda Plantation to convalesce.¹⁸

By the summer of 1862, Alphonse had recovered from his war wounds. Colonel Winter W. Breazeale, his relative and neighbor, began recruiting a unit of militia cavalry from men living in and around the Natchitoches area. Alphonse joined up and helped Breazeale in recruiting the troops.¹⁹



Image Courtesy of Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center.

In all, Breazeale raised a battalion of five companies of cavalry, called the Partisan Rangers. Companies B, C, and D all came from the Natchitoches area. Company C was known as Prud'homme's or the Isle Brevelle Rangers. (Isle Brevelle is the area of land lying

between the Cane and Old Rivers, just south of Natchitoches. Bermuda Plantation and Cane River Creole National Historical Park are both located on Isle Brevelle.) Alphonse was commissioned as a First Lieutenant and the adjutant of the Partisan Rangers on July 28, 1862.²⁰

18 Document: Army of the Confederate States Certificate of Disability for Discharge for Private J. A. Prudhomme, Company H, 3rd Louisiana Infantry.

19 Don Parker, in response to "2nd Louisiana Cavalry Adjutant" inquiry on the "Louisiana in the Civil War" message board, March 19, 2011, http://history-sites.com/cgi-bin/bbs53x/lacwmb/webbbs_config.pl?read=13252.

20 Document: State of Louisiana commissioning certificate for J. Alphonse Prudhomme.

In September 1862, the Partisan Rangers were ordered to move south from Natchitoches to Opelousas in southern Louisiana. Shortly afterwards, Breazeale's Battalion of Partisan Rangers was transferred from local service (a militia unit) to Louisiana service, and became part of the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry regiment, commanded by Colonel William Vincent.²¹

Alphonse continued in his role of adjutant with the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry. As the regimental adjutant, he was Colonel Vincent's chief staff officer and was responsible for preparing the regimental reports, transmitting orders, assigning details and guard duty.²²

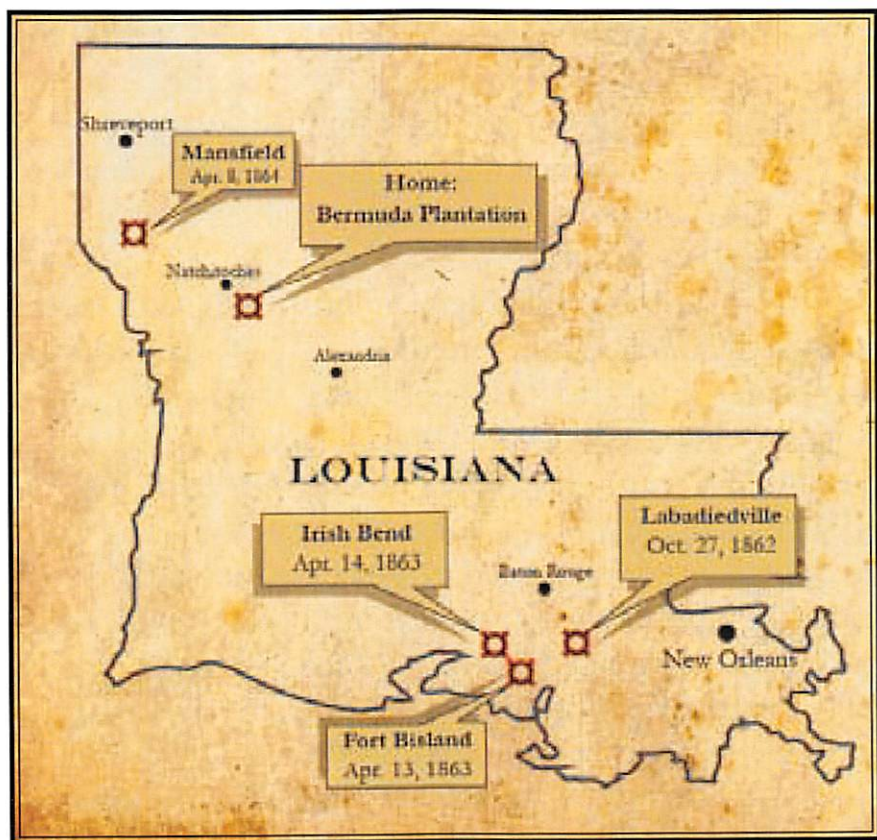
Shortly after its formation, the 2nd Cavalry was ordered further south from Opelousas to fight against Union army and naval forces, which were moving west out of New Orleans. The 2nd Louisiana Cavalry would spend the next 17 months in southern Louisiana, fighting numerous battles and skirmishes and conducting raids. Roughly half of that time was spent campaigning among the numerous rivers and bayous of southeast Louisiana. Unlike most Civil War campaigns, here the conflict was one of riverine operations, and utilized gunboats, transport steamboats, barges, cavalry, artillery, and infantry. Amphibious opera-



Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme as commander of the Louisiana UCV. Courtesy of National Park Service, Cane River Creole National Historical Park CARI 27609.

21 Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr., *Guide to Louisiana Confederate Units 1861–1865*, (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1996), 42–43.

22 "The Twenty-First Missouri Volunteer Infantry," *Civil War Terminology*, Adjutant, accessed June 21, 2012, <http://mo21infantry.tripod.com/cwterms.htm>, accessed June 21, 2012.



tions were common. The 2nd also spent time on the prairies of the southwest part of the state conducting operations against Union sympathizers, also known as “jayhawkers.”²³

During September and October of 1862, the 2nd Cavalry fought engagements along Bayou Teche. On October 27, at the Battle of Labadieville, also known as Georgia Landing, the Confederate forces stopped a Union advance but were forced to withdraw when they ran out of artillery ammunition.

23 “2nd Regiment Volunteer Cavalry,” Acadians in Gray, accessed June 21, 2012, <http://www.acadiansingray.com/2nd%20Regt.%20Cav.htm#2nd%20Regiment%20Volunteer%20Cavalry>

The closing days of 1862 found Alphonse and the 2nd Cavalry again in action along Bayou Teche. They unsuccessfully fought to defend the Confederate gunboat J. A. Cotton from Union army and naval forces in January of 1863. The Cotton was subsequently scuttled to block the channel in Bayou Teche.²⁴

By April 1863, Alphonse and the 2nd Cavalry were located near Franklin, where they acted as part of the reserve force during the Battle of Fort Bisland on April 13. There, they were posted on the west bank of Bayou Teche to help prevent Union forces crossing over from the east bank and landing in the Confederate rear. While the Confederates successfully defended their position at Fort Bisland, the Union was also successful in crossing the Teche and landed forces behind the Confederate fortifications. This gave the Union control of the road to New Iberia, the Confederates' only avenue of escape.²⁵

Accordingly, the next day Confederate General Richard Taylor chose to conduct a fighting withdrawal to extricate his outnumbered army from what had become an untenable position. The resulting Battle of Irish Bend on April 14 saw the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry heavily engaged. Supported by the gunboat Diana, the outnumbered Confederate forces charged the Union lines and drove them back. This delaying action bought the necessary time for Taylor's army to make good its escape. However, the Diana and most of the Confederates' transport steamboats had to be burned to prevent their capture. During the fighting, Alphonse was severely wounded. General Taylor noted:

24 Bergeron, *Louisiana Units*, 42–43.

25 United States War Dept. (John Sheldon Moody, Calvin Duvall Cowles, Frederick Caryton Ainsworth, Robert N. Scott, Henry Martyn Lazelle, George Breckenridge Davis, Leslie J. Perry, Joseph William Kirkley). *The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series 1 Volume 15 (Washington DC: US Government Printing Office, 1886), 390.

*“Colonel Vincent, Second Louisiana Cavalry, was wounded in the charge, in the neck; Adjutant Prudhomme, of the same regiment, in the thigh...”*²⁶

After enduring medical evacuation in a wagon traveling rough, unpaved roads, Alphonse once again came home to Bermuda to recover from his wounds. Three months later, in July and August of 1863, he was still listed on the regimental rolls as “absent, wounded.”²⁷ When Alphonse returned to active duty, he became the enrolling officer for the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry in Natchitoches Parish.²⁸ He participated in the Red River Campaign of March–May 1864 and the Battle of Mansfield in April of 1864.²⁹

During the Red River Campaign, Alphonse literally saw the war come to his doorstep. When Federal forces captured New Orleans in 1862, they cut the Cane and Red River cotton planters off from their markets. As a result, thousands of bales of cotton were stored at the plantations located along those rivers. If seized by the Federals, this cotton could be sold to help finance their war effort. Confederate forces, therefore, practiced a scorched-earth policy as they retreated up the Red River in front of the advancing Union forces. They burned thousands of bales of stored cotton along with many gin houses in order to keep them out of the hands of the Federals. Alphonse’s home of Bermuda Plantation was not spared. To add insult to

26 United States War Dept., Official Records, Volume 15, 392.

27 Document: 2nd Louisiana Cavalry muster record for July–August, 1863.

28 Alcee Fortier, ed., Louisiana, Vol. III—Biographical (New Orleans: Southern Historical Association, 1909), quoted by Mildred Methvin in The Methvin-Cunningham-McManus-Swartz Family: Information about Jacque Alphonse Prudhomme, accessed March 18, 2011, <http://familytree-maker.genealogy.com/users/m/e/t/Mildred-Methvin/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0133.html>.

29 Document: United Confederate Veterans Memorial Certificate of Membership for J. Alphonse Prudhomme.

injury, a detachment or burning squad extremely active in Natchitoches Parish was from his own unit, the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry. Led by Second Lieutenant F. L. Grappe, the squad had orders to “burn all the cotton they could find.” Grappe described the results of the destruction wrought between 24-Mile Ferry, located 24 miles south of Natchitoches, and the town itself:³⁰

“...it looked like everything was on fire—every plantation had fire & smoke—Cotton burning. Cotton pens & gin houses were burning. And it seemed to be a retreat of 24 miles through the fire & smoke of burning cotton & cotton houses and when we arrived at Natchitoches, there was cotton burning on the opposite side of the river from that place.”³¹

According to family history, the Confederates burned over 1,000 bales of Prud’homme cotton.³² This was a financial loss of tens of thousands of dollars at the time and over a half-million dollars in modern terms.³³ In addition, several of Bermuda’s enslaved workers escaped to the advancing Union forces and freedom. At least one of them, William Smith, escaped and joined the Union Army’s 99th Volunteer Infantry at Alexandria.³⁴ At Magnolia Plantation, the home of Alphonse’s fiancée Elise LeComte, the main house and cotton gin were torched by the Feder-

30 Susan E. Dollar, “The Red River Campaign, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana: A Case of Equal Opportunity Destruction,” *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* Vol. 43, No. 4 (Autumn, 2002), 415.

31 Dollar, “Red River Campaign,” 417.

32 Haynie, *Legends*, 52.

33 Calculation arrived at by using a price of 10¢ per pound (received by Ambrose LeCompte in 1856) and a 500-pound bale. (\$50 per bale x 1000 bales = \$50,000 in 1864 money). Using the Inflation Calculator (<http://www.westegg.com/inflation/>), \$50K in 1864 money is the equivalent of \$688,951.86 in modern money.

34 Dollar, “Red River Campaign,” 429.

als and a two-day skirmish was fought on the plantation grounds. The economic losses resulting from the Red River Campaign were staggering.

After the campaign, a surgeon's certificate removed Alphonse from field duty as he had never fully recovered from his wounding at Irish Bend.³⁵ He subsequently served the remainder of the war as the enrolling officer for the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry in Natchitoches Parish.³⁶

In September 1864, Lieutenant Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme married Elise LeComte at his home, Bermuda Plantation. Elise was the daughter of Magnolia Plantation founder Ambrose LeComte, the wealthiest planter in the Cane River area. Alphonse and Elise's wedding cake was decorated with a silken miniature of a Confederate flag decorated with gilded stars.³⁷



Elise LeComte (standing) and presumably her sister, Eulalie Cora. Courtesy of Judge Henley Alexander Hunter.

³⁵ Methvin, *The Methvin-Cunningham-McManus-Swartz Family: Information about Jacques Alphonse Prudhomme*.

³⁶ Don Parker, in response to "2nd Louisiana Cavalry Adjutant" inquiry on the "Louisiana in the Civil War" message board, March 19, 2011, http://history-sites.com/cgi-bin/bbs53x/lacwmb/webbbs_config.pl?read=13254.

³⁷ Document: Newspaper clipping (paper unknown), Prudhomme-LeComte Wedding, September 6, 1864.

Depleted by almost three years of constant warfare, what remained of the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry was encamped near Natchitoches at war's end. In New Orleans on May 26, 1865, a representative of Confederate General E. Kirby Smith surrendered the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry to Union forces. Although he was in Natchitoches, Alphonse was listed as a prisoner of war.³⁸ He signed his formal parole at Natchitoches on June 5, 1865.³⁹ His war, like the Civil War itself, was over.

When his father, Phanor, passed away in the fall of 1865, Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme became the owner of Bermuda Plantation.⁴⁰ Shortly thereafter, the plantation was divided between Alphonse and his younger brother, Pierre Emmanuel, who had also survived the war. The land on the east side of Cane River went to Emmanuel, who named his new plantation "Ataho." Alphonse's portion contained the big house and lay along the west bank of the river. He called it "Oakland" after the live oak allée in front of the house.⁴¹

38 Document: 2nd Louisiana Cavalry Prisoner of War roll

39 Document: J. Alphonse Prudhomme parole.

40 The origins of the "Bermuda" name are unclear. There is debate as to when the name came into common use. However, according to family tradition, the plantation's original name was "Bermuda".

41 Haynie, Legends, 59.



Jacques Alphonse with daughters, Cora (7 years) and Atala "Lallah" (3 years) courtesy of Mildred "Mimi" Methvin.

Alphonse and Elise had eight children. Alphonse managed Oakland Plantation during the chaotic times following the Civil War—through the years of Reconstruction, the labor transition from slavery to sharecropping, the financial Panics of 1873, 1901 and 1907, and the devastating boll weevil infestations of the cotton crop. He built the store at Oakland Plantation in 1868. In spite of numerous obstacles, he persevered

and prospered. Oakland's cotton won gold medals at both the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904 (the St. Louis World's Fair) and the Jamestown Exposition of 1907.⁴²

A staunch Democrat, Alphonse was active in state and local politics after the war. He worked against the Republican "carpet-bagger" government of Reconstruction Louisiana. He unsuccessfully ran for the office of state representative in 1876. He served as a jury commissioner for 21 years and also served as a school commissioner. Alphonse served on the



Jacques Alphonse and his wife Elise LeComte, courtesy of the Prud'homme family.

⁴² Methvin, *The Methvin-Cunningham-McManus-Swartz Family: Information about Jacques Alphonse Prudhomme.*

staffs of three Louisiana governors. The latter service earned him the honorific of “Colonel” and he was known as “Colonel Prud’homme” in his later years.⁴³

Alphonse never forgot about his old comrades-in-arms. When the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) was organized, he joined his fellow veterans in that organization. They elected him as the first commander of Camp No. 40, located in Natchitoches, and he held that position for years. He later served as Major General, or state commander, of the Louisiana Division of the UCV from 1906 to 1907.⁴⁴



LSU-Shreveport Archives and Special Collections

Jacques Alphonse Prud’homme lived to be 80 years old and died on February 17, 1919.

43 Ibid.

44 Ibid.

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