

OF DISTINGUISHED LINEAGE.

Death of Mrs Alexander Mouton, of Lafayette, La., Who Was Known in Western Massachusetts.

News has been received in Greenfield of the recent death of Mrs Emma Kitchel Gardner Mouton, widow of ex-United States Senator and ex-Gov Alexander Mouton, after a short illness at the family plantation, Ile Copal, in Lafayette, La. Mrs Mouton visited this section when her youngest brother, G. Clinton Gardner, was manager of the state road and Hoosac tunnel, and will be remembered by the friends of Mr and Mrs Gardner, who then lived at Greenfield. She was a native of New York city, and educated at Mrs Emma Willard's young ladies' seminary in Troy, N. Y. She was a daughter of Col Charles Kitchel Gardner, adjutant-general of Gen Brown's army of the North during the war of 1812, and granddaughter of Capt Thomas Gardner and Sarah Kitchel, who were married in 1785. The latter, although young during the Revolutionary war, performed their part. Thomas Gardner, the youngest son of a family of six, five of whom were sons, all in service, was a New Jersey farmer and a volunteer brigade-wagon master at the assemblage of the farmers' teams of New Jersey, upon a call for the transportation of Rochambeau's army to Yorktown. Tradition has it, that upon the occasion of a fight between the French wagoners and the American farmers forming the wagon brigade, Capt Tom Gardner was soon in their midst and quelled the disturbance, for which service Count Rochambeau thanked him in person. Sarah Kitchel Gardner's father, Abraham, was also in the colonial service, and was the grandson of Abraham Kitchel, the first white child born in Newark, N. J., the family being of the earliest settlers. Sarah Kitchel was the niece of United States Senator Aaron Kitchel of New Jersey and niece of Maj Joseph Morris, who fell in the battle of Springfield and died January 7, 1778. She was adopted by her Uncle Morris, and at his house made the acquaintance of many of the young officers of the Revolutionary army.

Mrs Mouton's mother was Ann Eliza McLean, daughter of Gen John McLean and Ann Burnett. John McLean came to this country as a boy from Scotland and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, doing service throughout the war, retiring as a lieutenant and marrying in 1784. His wife, Ann Burnett of Little Britain, N. Y., was the sister of Maj Robert Burnett, who was the last surviving member of the society of Cincinnati and the commanding officer of the rear guard of the army upon their entrance into New York city at the evacuation of the English. Gen John McLean was commissary-general of the state of New York and commanded the veteran corps of artillery of the city of New York. An intimate friend of his was Vice-President and Gov George Clinton, and his tent-mate during the Revolutionary war was James Monroe, afterwards president. Both of these intimacies lasted through life.

Mrs Mouton's father, Col Gardner, resigned from the army before her birth and afterwards was commissary of the division of artillery of New York state. He was invited to Washington by Judge John McLean, then postmaster-general under Adams's administration, and was retained by President Jackson. Col Gardner soon became assistant postmaster-general under Jackson's postmaster-general, William T. Barry, and was the first auditor of the post-office department for the treasury department upon the creation of that office. The family moved to Washington in 1827, and Miss Emma Gardner's first appearance in society was in Philadelphia at a party given for her by Mrs Farquhar, an intimate friend of Mrs Grinnell, the mother of James S. Grinnell of Greenfield. She was one of the belles of Washington when she first met Alexander Mouton, United States senator from Louisiana. At one of the Washington assemblies she was selected by the artist as a model for the face of Pocahontas, which is seen in one of the large pictures in the rotunda of the capitol. The fact was not generally known until after the canvas was exhibited and her friends recognized the portrait. Col Gardner was incensed and demanded an explanation. The artist confessed he did not know whose face he had selected, and stated that he chose his subject and made his sketches at the different assemblies during that winter; and upon being presented to Miss Gardner admitted that hers was

the face he had studied. Senator Mouton was a son of Jean Mouton and Martha Bordat, who settled in the county of Attakapas, a section of the state immortalized by Longfellow and called in "Evangeline" the Eden of Louisiana. His grandparents, Salvador Mouton and Anne Bastareiche, emigrated to Louisiana from the province of Acadia, now Nova Scotia. They were of the families loyal to the French flag, who refused to swear allegiance to the English king and were driven off of their lands with their cattle and stock of all kinds, which were forfeited to the crown; hence the antipathy of the Creole families of Louisiana to the colonies of New England.

Alexander Mouton died on his plantation in 1884. He had been elected to the Legislature when barely of age and speaker of the House at 20. He was elected United States senator in 1837, being the first native of Louisiana to hold that position. Before he had served out his term he was nominated and elected governor of the state and resigned from the Senate after his marriage to accept the governorship. He was chosen a presidential elector for Jackson in 1829 and again in 1833; for Van Buren in 1837 and for Polk in 1845. In 1852 he was president of the southern and western convention, which assembled in New Orleans, and he was president of the state convention which voted Louisiana out of the Union in 1861. Gov Mouton was often called the embodiment of southern courtesy and hospitality, and in these traits he was cordially supported by his wife. Mrs Mouton was a woman of singular tact and great beauty, and in social life in Washington, before her marriage, and afterward as the wife of the governor of Louisiana, took a prominent part in all social matters. After Gov Mouton's term had expired they retired to their plantation, Ile Copal, and built for themselves a house that now faces the Bayou Teche. This is a large two-story brick mansion with balconies, the columns extending to the roof after the usual southern colonial style. Gov Mouton visited Mexico with his brother-in-law, G. Clinton Gardner, who was then constructing the Mexican National railroad, and was greatly pleased with the development of facilities for an active commerce between the United States and Mexico. Upon his return to New Orleans from that trip the New Orleans veteran artillery company paraded and serenaded him. Col Beckemin greeted him in happy terms, and the first native governor since the civil war being then in office, Col Beckemin referred to him as of the same old Creole element which sustained Mouton when he was governor. Gov Mouton in his expression of thanks alluded to the past and stated that he thanked God for preserving his days to witness a good government after the struggles of the past. Gov Mouton was the oldest governor of the state then living, being 80 at the time. He was invigorated by his short excursion and delighted with what he considered the dawn of a new era of peace, plenty and affluence in his beloved state.

Mrs Mouton was the sister of Gen Franklin Gardner of the confederate service, who until after the fall of Vicksburg held Gen N. P. Banks in check and to whom he finally surrendered the works at Port Hudson. Her family comprised four sons and two daughters, who are still living in or near Lafayette Parish, together with the numerous grandchildren.