

FIFTY YEARS.

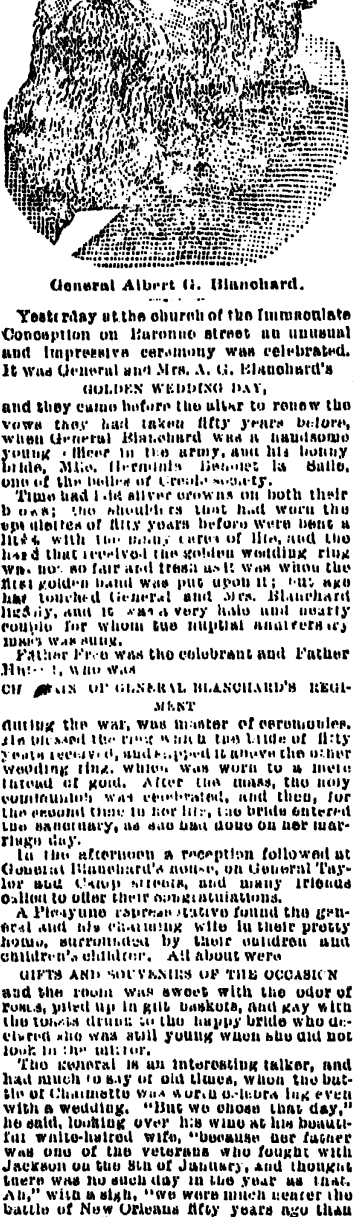
Golden Wedding in Jesuits' Church.

General and Mrs. Albert G. Blanchard the Celebrants.

A Solemn and Impressive Ceremony.

A Charming and Happy Reception at the Home.

A Veteran Distinguished in Military and Civil Life.



General Albert G. Blanchard.

Yesterday at the church of the Immaculate Conception on Baronne street an unusual and impressive ceremony was celebrated. It was General and Mrs. A. G. Blanchard's

GOLDEN WEDDING DAY,

and they came before the altar to renew the vows they had taken fifty years before, when General Blanchard was a handsome young officer in the army, and his bonny bride, Mlle. Hermine Bonnet la Salle, one of the belles of Creole society.

Time had laid silver crowns on both their brows; the shoulders that had worn the epaulettes of fifty years before were bent a little with the many cares of life, and the hand that received the golden wedding ring was not so fair and fresh as it was when the first golden band was put upon it; but age has touched General and Mrs. Blanchard lightly, and it was a very hale and hearty couple for whom the nuptial anathemas were sung.

Father Frey was the celebrant and Father Healy, who was

CHIEF CLERK OF GENERAL BLANCHARD'S REGIMENT

during the war, was master of ceremonies. He blessed the ring which the bride of fifty years received, and slipped it above the other wedding ring, which was worn to a mere thread of gold. After the mass, the holy communion was celebrated, and then, for the second time in her life, the bride entered the sanctuary, as she had done on her marriage day.

In the afternoon a reception followed at General Blanchard's house, on General Taylor and Camp streets, and many friends called to offer their congratulations.

A Picayune representative found the general and his charming wife in their pretty home, surrounded by their children and children's children. All about were

GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS OF THE OCCASION

and the room was sweet with the odor of roses, piled up in gilt baskets, and gay with the toasts drunk to the happy bride who declared she was still young when she did not look in the mirror.

The general is an interesting talker, and had much to say of old times, when the battle of Chalmette was worn a-fore us even with a wedding. "But we chose that day," he said, looking over his wife at his beautiful white-haired wife, "because her father was one of the veterans who fought with Jackson on the 8th of January, and thought there was no such day in the year as that. Ah," with a sigh, "we were much nearer the battle of New Orleans fifty years ago than we are now."

General Albert G. Blanchard

was born in this city Sept. 6, 1810, and graduated at the West Point Military Academy in the year 1829 and was commissioned second lieutenant in the Third United States Infantry and was appointed assistant commissary of subsistence in 1837. He left the army in 1840 and engaged in commerce until 1846, during which time he was an efficient director of the public schools of New Orleans. In 1846 he entered the army as captain of a company of the Second (Dakin's) Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers and went to Mexico. On the disbanding of General Smith's brigade he raised a company called the Pawnee Company of Louisiana, served at the

STORMING OF MONTEKEY

and was complimented in general orders and subsequently at the siege of Vera Cruz, where the company was mustered out, their time having expired. He was then appointed captain of Volunteers, which post he declined, but accepted that of major of the Twelfth United States Infantry, in which capacity he served until the close of the war.

Returning to civil life after the Mexican war General Blanchard became a teacher in the public schools. He was elected

DISTRICT SURVEYOR

of Municipality No. 2, and surveyor on the death of G. T. Dunbar, who had previously occupied that position. He was subsequently elected deputy surveyor of the city of New Orleans and filled the place until 1854, when he became secretary and manager of the Carrollton Railroad Company.

When the war broke out he left his position and was made colonel of the First Confederate Regiment from Louisiana and went to Virginia. Sept. 21, 1861, he was promoted to the grade of brigadier general, served through the war in Virginia, Louisiana, South Carolina and North Carolina, being

IN COMMAND OF A BRIGADE

at the great battle of the war at Bentonville, N. C., and Bull Run, in Virginia.

Having laid down the sword, General Blanchard came back to his native city and has since been engaged in civil engineering and surveying. For a number of years he has been a deputy city surveyor.

In 1832 General Blanchard married Miss Susan Thompson. Their union was blessed with two children, a son, the Rev. H. Blanchard, now of Boston, Mass., and Mrs. S. B. Elder, a southern poet of distinction, known as "Hermine." He married, a second time, Mademoiselle Hermine Bonnet la Salle,

FROM WHOM DESCENDED FIFTEEN CHILDREN, seven of whom are living.

No citizen of New Orleans has led a life of more activity and usefulness than General Blanchard. Equally noted in military and civil life, he will never fail to be mentioned as one who has done the state good service. Of unobtrusive manners, his sole ambition seems to have been to perform faithfully all the duties devolving on him as the head of a family, a private citizen, and a member of the commonwealth. His habits have

PRESERVED HIS HEALTH

and strength, and though well in the seventies, he is ready for almost any enterprise and capable of any undertaking.