

# ALEXANDER MOUTON.

## Death of this Most Eminent Louisianian.

An Octogenarian Statesman—Governor, Senator, Planter, Goes Over to the Majority—A Biographical Sketch—The Funeral, the Action of the Courts, etc.

[SPECIAL TO THE PICAYUNE.]

ST. MARTINSVILLE, La., Feb. 13.—Ex-Gov. Alexander Mouton died at 7:30 o'clock last night, on his plantation, near Vermillionville, in the parish of Lafayette. He was born in December, 1803, and was over 80 years old at the time of his death. He was born on what was then known as "La Comte des Attakapas," in that portion forming to-day the parish of Lafayette. His father, Jean Mouton, an orphan boy, born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, came at an early age to the Attakapas country in 1753. There he met and formed the acquaintance of Marthe Borda, an Acadian girl, who had been driven away with her mother, Widow Borda, from their home in Acadia by English tyranny. Jean Mouton married Marthe Borda in 1783, and of this marriage more than twelve children were born. Alexander Mouton was one of the youngest.

He did not receive a collegiate education. His parents were poor, and he was sent to common country schools, such as there were in the Attakapas country in those days; but being endowed by nature with a fine intellect, and having a great desire to learn he soon acquired a sufficient knowledge of the French and English languages, to enable him to undertake the study of the law.

He came to St. Martinville, where he studied law in the office of Edward Simon, then a prominent member of the Attakapas bar, among whom were such men as John Bronson, Wm. L. Brons and Alexander Porter.

He was admitted at the bar at the age of 21 years, and became a partner of Edward Simon, but he soon abandoned the practice of his profession to go into politics—in those days an honorable career.

He was elected several times to the House of Representative from the parish of Lafayette when very young, and became Speaker. In 1837 he was elected to the Senate of the United States, where he remained until he became a candidate for the Governor in 1842, when he resigned. He was elected Governor in 1842. After the expiration of his term he retired to his plantation, in the parish of Lafayette, devoting himself to planting and stock raising. He took no active part in politics until 1860, when he was elected as delegate from the senatorial district composed of the parishes of Lafayette, St. Landry and Calcasieu to the secession convention. He was elected president of that convention.

Since the close of the war, Gov. Alexander Mouton has remained quietly on his plantation, always taking a great interest in the affairs of the country, but without taking an active part in politics.

He was four times chosen Presidential elector—on the Jackson ticket in 1828 and 1832, on the Van Buren ticket in 1836 and the Polk ticket in 1844.

It is stated that Gov. Mouton had lately gone to New Orleans, and that after his return home his general good health commenced failing. There are no details of his last illness.

The funeral, which took place to-day at the Catholic Church, called together probably the largest assemblage ever witnessed in Lafayette.

The most impressive event which your correspondent has witnessed for years was two old colored servants acting as pall-bearers along with such distinguished personages as Judge Martells, Attorney Laurent Dupre and others—the two former acting at the special request of the ex-Governor.

The court here opened to-day at the usual hour. After the reading of the minutes, Judge E. Simon, holding a telegram in his hand, announced the death of ex-Gov. Alexander Mouton, and after some appropriate remarks on the private virtues, patriotism and public career of the eminent deceased, Judge Simon moved that the court adjourn as a mark of respect to his memory;

C. H. Mouton, Esq., and James E. Mouton, Esq., spoke and seconded the motion made by Judge Simon, whereupon the Hon. Fred L. Gates spoke of his long acquaintance with the deceased, of the hospitality he had often received at his house, and of the fine qualities of heart and eminent public services rendered the State by the late Gov. Mouton during a long public career, and then concluded by saying that it was proper that the court should adjourn as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and the court was accordingly adjourned.