

Ex-Gov. Joshua Baker.

The subject of this sketch was born in 1799 near Mayaville, Ky. In 1812 his father moved from Kentucky to Baker's Creek, Mississippi. After attending school for a while he was appointed as a cadet from Louisiana to West Point. There being no better mode of travel, he made the entire trip on horseback. Passing his examination, he entered the Military Academy and completed the full course in two years. Proving himself especially proficient in mathematics, he was given the chair of Acting Assistant Professor of Mathematics in November, 1818, and retained it till February, 1819. On the 1st of July, 1819, he received his commission as second lieutenant of artillery. In October, 1819, he filled the chair of Acting Assistant Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, which he retained until June, 1820. He resigned his commission in the army Oct. 31, 1820.

Soon after leaving West Point he began the practice of law with Mr. Jno. Bronson in the Attakapas, La., with headquarters at Opelousas. To this profession he devoted himself for about ten years. At this time and subsequent he purchased sugar plantations in St. Mary and Terrobonne parishes, and to this business he mainly devoted the next thirty years of his life.

In March, 1831, he was appointed United States Surveyor General of Louisiana by President Jackson, but declined the office. In 1833 he accepted the appointment of Assistant Engineer of Louisiana, which office he filled for some time.

After the war, in 1867, Gen. Hancock appointed him Military Governor of the State in place of Gov. Flanders, resigned, which office he retained until he was succeeded by Gov. Warmoth, elected in 1868.

Judge Baker was known as a man of uncommon activity, energetic and methodic in his business affairs, thoroughly temperate, and a hospitable and generous entertainer. His planting interests and his investments in steamboat property proved highly successful, and some years prior to 1861 he gave each of his children a handsome property and reserved a fortune for himself.

He was married twice. His first wife was a Miss Stille, daughter of Capt. Stille, of Opelousas, by whom he had three children. His second wife was a Mrs. Griffith, of Kentucky, a daughter of James Patton, of Virginia.

The only member of his family surviving him is a daughter, Mrs. Jno. P. Van Bergen, now living in Lyme, Ct. He died at her home on Wednesday, April 15, 1895, after an absence from New Orleans of just one week, where he had spent the winter with his only grandson, Hon. Joshua Baker, Judge of the Criminal District Court of the parish of Orleans. Judge Baker is the only son of Anthony Baker, who was the only son of Joshua Baker.