Maximilian Becnel

   Maximilian Becnel, deceased, formerly a prominent merchant and planter of Edgard, St. John parish, La., was born November 20, l839, in the same parish.  He was a son of Norbert and Marceline (Trosclair) Becnel, both natives of St. John Parish.   The subject of this notice was the youngest of four children.  He was educated at Beardstown, Ky., at St. Joseph College.  From l85l to 1853 he clerked in a store in New Orleans, and then came to Edgard, and began merchandising on his own account, in which business he continued until his death, and at the same time he followed farming, raising principally sugar and corn.  In 1853 (July 30), he was married to Miss Azema Webre, who was born in Edgard, December 10, 1836.  She is a daughter of Peter and Azelina (Rodrigue) Webre, natives of St. John Parish.  Her parents were of Spanish descent.

   To Mr. and Mrs. Becnel were born thirteen children, as follows:  Joseph deceased; Louise; Annette; Alice, deceased; Leonie, also deceased; Rebella, deceased; Eva; Maximilian, deceased; Marie; Philomene; Cleona; Bernardette and Maxie.   Mr. Becnel died August 14, 1882.  On his father's side he was of English descent, and on his mother's he was of French descent.  He had a very wide circle of friends, and was one of the prominent men of the parish, being highly respected by all.  His family still lives on the old place.  He accumulated a snug fortune, and was engaged extensively in farming.  His wife now oversees the operations on the place.  He was a consistent member of the Catholic Church and his entire family are members of that organization.  He was very much attached to his church, and it was a source of great pride to him that his children all followed his teachings in that direction.  Two of the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Becnel are married.  Annette is the wife of Emile Laurent, a native of St. John Parish, La.  They have two children, named Sabine and Lubin.  They are comfortably settled on a farm in the parish of St. John.  Eva is married to Aristid Webre, who is a planter in St. James parish.  He also does some merchandising.  They are the parents of one child, named Charles.

Mrs. Becnel and all of her children were educated in St. James Parish at St. Michael’s Convent, and all have received a good education.  Mr. Becnel was postmaster of Edgard for twenty years.  He never graduated in college, owing to ill health, but was a well-educated man.  He was well and favorably regarded in his parish, enjoying the respect of all worthy citizens of that place, and his death was greatly regretted by all who knew him.

***Biographical and Historical Memories of Louisiana*, Volume 2, Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co. 1892, p. 278**

**Transcribed by Jim Cox**