Names Seen at La. Cemetery Grounds Have Made History

Landry, Hopkins, Others Buried in Ascension

By CLAIRE PUNKEY
(T-P Bayou Lafourche Bureau)
DONALDSONVILLE, La.—On Nov. 1, traditionally designated All Saints' Day, Louisiana cemeteries are gathering places for those who, with floral tribute and prayers, raise memories of beloved relatives and friends they once knew.

Louisiana has many historic burial grounds where names that have helped make history appear on headstones. One of these is the Ascension Catholic Cemetery in Donaldsonville.

Here, in the heart of a city that once was the seat of Louisiana government, are found the tombs of such giants of Louisiana's past as Joseph Landry, Stephen A. Hopkins, Francois Marie Prevost and Duncan F. Kenner.

Joseph Landry was first commander under the American government in Ascension Parish. A native of Acadia in Canada, he was married first to Isabelle LeBlanc and, after her death, to Anne Bujol.

LANDRY'S DEATH
Landry owned New Hope Plantation above Donaldsonville on the Mississippi River Road. He died Oct. 11, 1814, after a short illness, leaving his widow and children. He was buried in the Ascension Catholic Cemetery.

In 1845 a large family tomb was erected to his memory by his descendants.

100 YEARS LATER
That hospital did not bear his name, but more than 100 years later, in the late 1960s, a group of local doctors named a newly built hospital the "Prevost Memorial Hospital."

His wife, Victorie Castelain, and a brother, Jean Louis Prevost of France, survived him.

Duncan F. Kenner owned and occupied Ashland, a lovely ante-bellum home on one of his plantations in Ascension Parish. He was famed as a sugar planter and also as a breeder of fine race horses.

When Louisiana was engaged in the Civil War, Kenner accepted a post in the Confederate government, and narrowly escaped capture by Union forces on one of his visits to his home.

BRINGIER TOMB
He died July 3, 1887, survived by his widow, Nanine Bringier, and several children. He is buried in the imposing Bringier tomb.

Today, Ashland bears another name. It is known as "Belle Helene," named for the daughter of John Reuss, a later owner. Helen Reuss, now Mrs. W. C. Hayward of Germantown Plantation, lives across the Mississippi River from the house named for her.

This is but a small glimpse at only one of the numerous Louisiana cemeteries that carry much of history within them, and only a tiny part of the many historic names that occupy this particular place.