

Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Narcise Fayard, two of Biloxi's oldest inhabitants, celebrated their golden wedding Wednesday, January 22, 1896. The occasion was taken advantage of by their children, grandchildren and friends, to make it a pleasant memory to the old people and all those who participated. Father Blanc blessed their marriage and a thanksgiving mass was given them at the Catholic church in the morning. Fifty years ago—a half century has passed, and they who plighted their vows and were united in the holy bands of matrimony at its beginning have since hand in hand ascended the hill and are now hand in hand descending in to the valley, their pathway still lighted by the undying and unshifting lamp of faithfulness, love and devotion.

Those who were present at the festivities of this fiftieth anniversary assembled to felicitate the aged couple and to wish them many a long year ere they snap the golden link that binds them together; that their bark may sail on over smoothest seas, and that the sunset of their life may be all that is beautiful and good. Refreshments and fireworks were abundant, and were enjoyed by all.

Father Blanc had been requested to present the happy couple with the numerous gifts bestowed by members of the family. Mr. Fayard received from his sons a handsome gold headed cane; from his daughter-in-law, Mrs. St. Cyr Fayard, a pair of gold cuff buttons; from his daughter, Mrs. R. Lanus, a pair of gold spectacles; from his granddaughter, Odeal Voivedich, a gold dollar, and the same from his grandson, Narcise Lanus. Mrs. Fayard was presented with a handsome pair of gold earrings from her daughter, Mrs. Frank Voivedich; a gold thimble from her daughter, Mrs. R. Lanus; a gold medal from her grandson, Leon Fayard, and a gold dollar from another grandson, Philip Fayard. There were other presents too numerous to mention.

Narcise Fayard was the son of Augustin Fayard and Louise Caruco and was born in Biloxi in 1825. Mrs. Fayard was the daughter of St. Cyr Seymour and Mary Ryan and was born in West Pascagoula, Miss., January 8, 1819. The population of Biloxi at the time of their marriage was about 200. Mr. Fayard states that times were better then, that there was more money for everybody and everybody had some. He says that there was plenty of wood and that all owned their homes, with all the year round gardens, and wanted for nothing. Where the couple now reside was then a swamp and whenever they wanted duck he went to the corner where the Catholic church is now located and secured a mess. At that time they lived near the o'd oak tree on the depot green, where there were only three houses. All transportation was had by the steamboat Wabash, which was the first to land at Biloxi, and it was through her owner that this city started to build.

Mr. and Mrs. Narcise Fayard had eight children—four boys and four girls—of which three sons and two daughters are living, married and have families, except one son, Narcise Fayard, jr., who remains a bachelor. There are twelve grandchildren.