

EPISODE TITLE: General Alfred Mouton's Secretary

CIRCA: 1850

Guest Interview: Anne-Marie Hightower – Curator; Alexander Mouton House

Project: General Jean Jacques Alfred Alexandre Mouton's mahogany secretary

Mouton (1829-1864) was born in Opelousas, Louisiana, the son of former Governor of Louisiana Alexandre Mouton. After graduating from West Point, he resigned his commission and took a position as an engineering assistant with the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad. Afterwards, he took up sugarcane farming in Lafayette, Louisiana. While living in Lafayette Parish, he became a prominent member of the community due to his family connections. He was well thought of and lived up to his position in the community. He served as leader of the Lafayette Vigilante Committee, which formed to dispense justice to those who paid off juries or perjured witnesses. He also served as brigadier general in the Louisiana State Militia from 1850–61. General Mouton died in the Civil War Battle of Mansfield on April 8, 1864.

It is unclear just when Mouton acquired the secretary, but it is understood that he moved it to each residence as he relocated. The top portion was nailed to the table from underneath. Also unclear is whether the table and adjoined secretary were intended as a set, but it is obvious that this was its use.

The story is told by Anne-Marie Hightower, curator of the Alexander Mouton House museum. Video locations are the museum and the MT studio shop.

The project will be a faithful recreation of the original.



Secretary



Anne-Marie Hightower