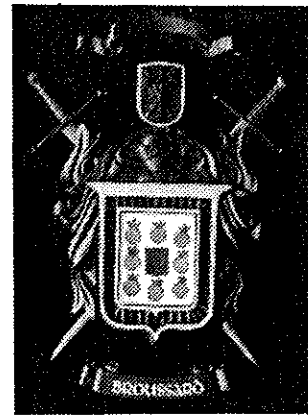




Jean Broussard, "Vieux Pop"  
(1878-1957)



Around the turn of the century, there was a prominent man in South Lafayette named **Jean Broussard**, but most of his family called him **Vieux Pop**, which means old dad or father. He was the first of 12 children of Martin Broussard and Azelina Duhon and had three step-sisters and one step-brother from his father's first marriage to Euphemie Duhon.

Responsibility came early to Vieux Pop and he willingly accepted the duties of work and family. When he was 18 years old, his father died and he became the head of the house. He was looked up to by the rest of the family and when decisions had to be made, such as working the fields or planting crops, it was Jean who made those decisions.

On Dec. 26, 1898 (the same anniversary date of his father's wedding), he married Marie Therzile Dronet, the daughter of Onezime Dronet and Theresa Duhon. He was 20, and his young bride was only 15. They lived a long and happy life together and eventually had 11 children. Vieux Mom, as she was called by her many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, was quiet and very submissive. She took care of the house, did the chores that had to be done and didn't say much.

At a time when very few people had been to school, Jean learned to read and write. Vieux Pop managed the cotton gin in Maurice and supervised a number of men who worked there. He was always interested in improving his skills and abilities, so he took a course in grading cotton at Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute, now USL. He had to take samples of the cotton from the bails brought in by the farmers and classify it by grades.

Vieux Pop owned a tract of land measuring approximately 100 acres extending from what is now known as Johnston Street to where the Vermilion River meets Coulee Ile de Cannes, just south of what is now Teljean Road. (Teljean Road is named for Vieux Mom—Therzile—and Vieux Pop—Jean.) Vieux Pop was widely respected in his community for his knowledge and mature judgment. As a sign of their respect, the people living in the South Lafayette and Maurice area referred to him as *Monsieur Jean*.

They asked him to run for the police jury from the 8th ward of Lafayette Parish which consists of the area between Ile de Cannes on the west, Bayou Vermilion on the east, the Vermilion Parish line on the south and the area around Rena Drive on the north. He was elected and stayed in office from 1908 through 1916.

During the late 1940s, Lafayette was not the bustling community that it is today. There were only four or five cars going to Lafayette or Maurice every day from South Lafayette and one of them was Vieux Pop's. He would drive his Chevrolet to Maurice and purchase the Lafayette newspaper. Because he was one of only a very few that could read, he could inform others about what was taking place in the area and the state.

The people of the area looked to Vieux Pop for help in many ways. He frequently participated in boucheries at the home of his brother-in-law, Mr. Clebert Dronet, as well as the homes of other men in the community. At each boucherie, he would be the one that took the responsibility for distributing the meat fairly among the families present.

Vieux Pop passed away on July 10, 1957, at the age of 78 and 10 years later, on June 20, 1967, Vieux Mom joined him in death at the age of 83. He was greatly missed by his family and friends. The people of the South Lafayette area knew that with his passing they had lost a great leader.

**BROUSSARD FAMILY REUNION**  
**August 13, 1989 — Maurice, Louisiana**