

La Voix des Prairies

January 1992
Vol. 13, No. 48

Evangeline Genealogical and Historical Society

P.O. Box 664, Ville Platte, LA 70586

Founded 1980

ISSN# 0743-1848

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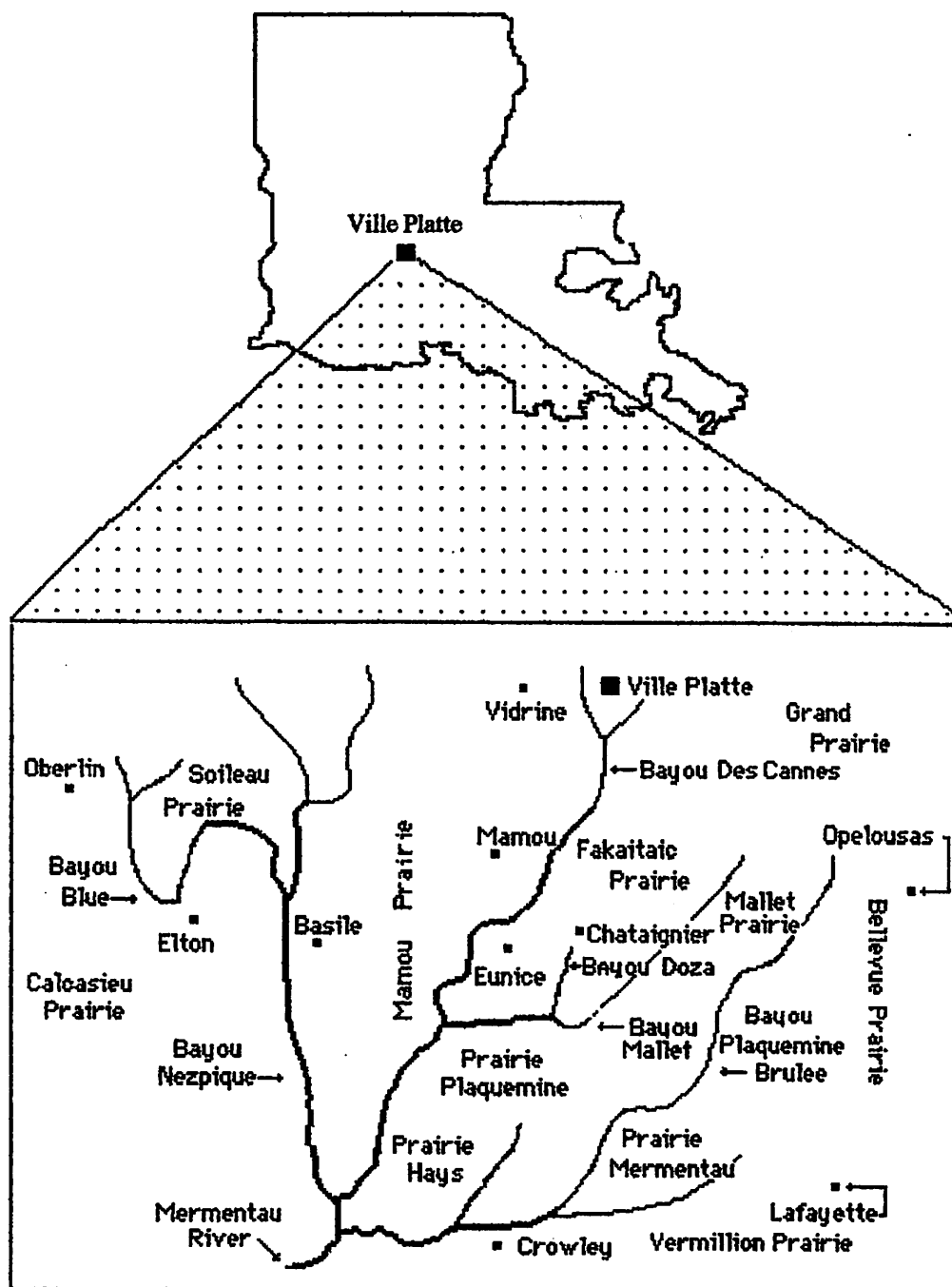
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Prairies of Southwest Louisiana

EVANGELINE GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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La Voix des Prairies is published quarterly, in January, April, July, & October; annual index is included in the October issue.

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THE ATTAKAPAS INDIANS OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA:
An Early Twentieth-Century Observation

Submitted, with Introductory Remarks by Winston DeVille, F.A.S.G

The following narrative was published in 1917, in Galveston, Texas, by one Dr. J. O. DYER of that town. The title-page bears the following title and comments: "The Lake Charles Atakapas (Cannibals) Period of 1817 to 1820, Written by request for the Howand Memorial Library, New Orleans." a copy is in the Louisiana Collection at Louisiana State University.

Readers will understand that we re-publish this interesting report as the author wrote it, without altering any of the many derogatory racial terms or phrases. Further, researchers will certainly not accept these un-documented lines at face value. We believe, however, that the piece is useful to understand better the situation the first Americans, our European ancestors, encountered as they moved westward.

In 1739 De NOUAILLE described a tribe called Apapapas or Atakapas, who resided on the seashore of Louisiana and who lived mostly on fish. In the language of the tribal confederacy of the Caddo, and in the Choctaw the term of Atakapa was applied to coastal tribes of Louisiana and of Texas who were "man eaters." As, however, many other tribes were guilty of the same custom, it occurred to the writer that the name may have had a deeper signification. Similar climate and local conditions frequently cause clans or tribes although of different physical characteristics, of different racial stock, to adopt the same customs and habits. Thus we find the coastal (Gulf) Indians of Louisiana and Texas, the Atakapas, Karankawai, Coanas (Cujanes), the Co-coswai (Cokes), the Mai-a-wai and the Ar-ana-isa (Xaranemes) and even the Rio Grande Pa-ka-wia making use (especially in their names) of an ancient dialect; also they employed similar methods of cooking and preparing flesh by curing the same. They went bare-headed and bare-footed (being fishermen) and their religious and tribal customs, often very peculiar, frequently were not far apart. In 1815 there were still a few Carancahuas (Karankawai) encamped at the mouth of the Sabine, who came in close contact with the Atakapa clan situated near the mouth of the Calcasieu River, which clan forms the object of this sketch. In races of ancient origin it is in the proper names (those determinative of person, of location, of religious rites or objects of veneration) that the language of a decadent nation survives the longest. Thus the Carancahuas in 1817 still retained names in a language, as different from their neighbors, as they them-selves were in their physical appearance. Luckily the writer has been enabled to preserve about twenty or twenty-five names which he believes belonged to a very ancient tongue, because the words were mono-syllabic, of two or three letters each, and grouped in short sentences consisting of mostly nouns and verbs, with a few adjectives (other parts of speech being understood). The names derived from members of the Laffite Commune and of Perry's buccaneer camp, who were thrown in contact with the Carancahuas for three years will be fully described in a work now nearly completed (the History of the Carancahuas). The vocabulary derived from Mrs. OLIVER, who in 1839 came in contact with the remnant of the tribe in Matagorda County, does not contain any of the old words, excepting in a few instances, and then with a different meaning. Dr. GATACHET, who got out his vocabulary, admitted that the words of the vocabulary had affinity with some of those of the Tonkawai, the Pakawai, and of the Shetimasha of Southern Louisiana.

In 1839 the chief of the forty or fifty people still called Carancahuas at Baca River, Matagorda County, was one Antonio, a half breed Tonkawai, (from a Carancahua mother) his wife being a Comanche woman. There were no full bloods in the tribe; the men having been

(Attakapas Indians con't.)

exterminated in 1835 and the women captured by the Tonkawai. The clan was a conglomeration of outcasts from neighboring tribes, who kept alive by begging, stealing, and fishing, and their language in 1839, a jargon mostly of spanish-English mixed with Indian dialects.

In endeavoring to trace the origin of A-ta-ka-pa in the old dialect of the Carancahuas, we find the following: The shark - the buffalo of the coastal tribe - for it supplied skin, flesh, oil, sinews, bones, fins and bile, all of which integral parts found a use in the everyday life of the clan was an object of sufficient importance to retain the ancient name "Hai-a," which translated means fish (Hai) and mouth (a) or more properly the fish (with a) mouth. As all fishes have mouths, the designation meant a significant mouth, a large one, or one capable of inflicting injury. In the Coke clan at Red Fish bar, Galveston Bay, the daughter of teh head man was Ta-Ka (daughter of the chief) and her brother was a skillful harpoon thrower called Pa-ra-hia-a, which translated meant "throws (the) arrow (into the) fish (with big) mouth;" in short, the "Shark harpooner." From these two names by transposition of the words we can translate A-ta-Ka-pa as follows: "a" (pronounced as a guttural with the mouth open) is indicative how it became the term for "mouth;" "ta" meant daughter, "Ka" chief, and "pa" to throw. "(In the) mouth of the daughter (the) chief throws." To us such a sentence would be unintelligible, to the natives on the Gulf coast a century or two back it was the contrary, for they knew that which the chief threw in the mouth of the daughter.

The chief as a rule did not bother with the daughters (the females of the clan) except on certain ceremonial occasions. This happened whenever the victorious warriors captured a brave, swift or strong enemy; or killed one in combat. The body, stripped of certain portions of the flesh, was left on the field, but the human steaks, dried and smoked, were carried back to the camp. Before all others, the pregnant females were lined up, and the chief placed a morsel of the enemy's flesh into each mouth, expressing the sentiment that the unborn babes might acquire the particular attribute (of valor, strength, or fleetness), which of late was inherent in the body now partitioned.

Having found the key to the words A-ta-Ka-pa, it may be of interest to note that the extreme western Texas tribe-the Pa-ka-wai's name can be translated to mean "throws (the) chief (to the) people." The neighbors of the costal tribes, such as the Caddos and Choctaws, thus probably incorporated words of the old dialect into their language.

It was in the year 1819, when an American officer entered the Lake Charles village of the Atakapas on a cold October day. Colonel GRAHAM had been on offical business at the Laffite camp at Galveston, and was making his way from Bolivar by land to the Vermillion Bridge.

An attack of acute dysentery compelled GRAHAM to spend a week at the village, and thus we have an interesting description handed down to us. (GRAHAM became later associated at New Orleans with the writer's father.) The savages, who were the coastal clan of interior tribes, were of a very low type of civilization. They were dark skinned, with dirty, short, coarse black matted hair; their bodies stout, stature short, and heads of large size placed almost between the shoulders. The ears were large, as were the mouths, and the cheek bones and nose prominent. Col. GRAHAM thought they resembled the Orcoquisas, but they were much stouter and their necks shorter. Fish oil was used as a food, consequently they were extremely fat, and the custom of oiling their bodies added to the sleekness. In spite of their frequent presence in the water as fishermen, they were offensive to the sight and smell. However, they received GRAHAM hospitably, and placed him in a vacant hut. This was extremely filthy, filled with vermin, and in one corner were the remains of human excreta; it's sides were made of poles interwoven with vines, and the conical top was open in the center to allow the smoke from below to escape; the

(Attakapas Indians con't.)

fireplace of oyster shells (a mere pit) being in the middle of the dirt floor. Only one opening was provided, serving as door and window, and closed by a heavy hide suspended from a crossbar.

The shaman took charge of GRAHAM, and started in by giving him hot decoctions of a red root, so astringent that he said "he felt his insides pucker up." His bed was a slightly raised platform of drift wood, covered with moss and skins. A fire was kept up day and night and water poured on the hot oyster shells of the fireplace, keeping the hovel steaming hot. GRAHAM said that the steam and the smoke from the fire and torches, kept him blind for days, and his skin shrivelled; however, he got well rapidly, but his diet was confined for some days to a broth made from shell-fish. He learned from the shaman, who talked some English, that his services were frequently required in the Mermentau River settlement, and that he could cure most diseases, except the white man's disease (smallpox). He said that some years before a number of the clan had died, rotting away before his medicines could take effect. Several of the older members of the clan were pockmarked. The shaman would not reveal the name or the nature of the red root, saying that he learned from the Carancahuas the secret of curing by its means all bowel troubles. (This statement was undoubtedly true, for that tribe never suffered from the dysenteries that decimated the Bidai, Koasoti and Tonkawai.)

The tribe were skilled fishermen, but their dugouts being frail, they never ventured into the Gulf for any distance. They did not use the bow and arrow to any extent in fishing, but depended upon darts and spears, which they were able to fling with unerring accuracy. GRAHAM saw them hit (in the salt water lagoons connecting with the Gulf) small fish but ten inches long at a distance of twenty paces. The darts tipped with bone were used for short distances and floated, while the heavier flint tip harpoon had a wooden floater attached to a thong, which enabled them to retrieve their weapons, as well as tire out a wounded fish. Flounders were speared by torch light, with a short-handled dart, tipped with a bundle of sharp fish bones. Flounders were cooked whole in a pit, the fish being placed one above the other. When dried, they were split in halves, but the flesh was insipid, tough and stringy. Small fish of all kinds were dried by being impaled on reeds and smoked over banked fires. A fish with such oily flesh that GRAHAM could not eat it (probably a menhaden) when smoked and salted became very palatable. These fish formed an article of barter with tribes of the interior, and were esteemed a delicacy by the Opelousas, who traded flints for them. This tribe (Atakapa) ate all kinds of shellfish; in fact, seemed to have no taboo-food. Oysters were obtained from the salt water lagoons, being dragged from the shell bottoms with rakes made of two strong poles, curved at the ends and interlaced with strong vines. The drag brought up clumps of live oysters, fastened to the shells of former generations. The old shells were always detached and thrown in the water, while the heaps of shells accumulating from oysters consumed were placed in a mound in the village, upon which stood the lodges of the head man and of the shaman. GRAHAM, curious whether the dead were buried in the mounds was told by the shaman that the dead and living could "not live together." Hence, it is presumable that the dead were placed, at first, in out-of-the-way places, in shallow trenches easily dug in the quicksand. The tribe had no cattle, horses, firearms or whiskey, and but few iron implements. Whilst GRAHAM was ill his whiskey bottle disappeared, as did the buttons of his military cloak. These were probably adopted by the medicine man.

The tribe was far from the nearest settlement, hence their thieving propensities had not developed as fully as in later years. The dugouts were propelled by paddles and poles, and were clumsy logs, hollowed out and one end sharpened.

Small lagoons, subject to tidal flow, were cut off by traps made of brushwood, in which the receding tide left behind numerous small fish.

(Attakapas Indians con't.)

The shaman powdered dry roots or herbs in a wooden mortar and sprinkled the fine power upon the surface of lagoons. In a few hours the fish rising to the surface were stupified and killed by a blow from the paddle.

Col. Warren D. C. HALL visited the village several times in 1817, 1818 and 1819, as he made journeys by land from Bolivar to Calcasieu.

Col. HALL was with Commodore PERRY, who first came to Bolivar in 1815, and Hall was the first white man to land on Galveston Island. He was born in Rapides Parish, La., studied law and medicine at Nacogdoches, and became a free lance in the various Texan revolutionary movements sequent to 1812. Later he figured in Austin's settlement, and finally aided in the 1836 revolution, when Texas secured independence. HALL from his boyhood associated with Indians in Louisiana, and later in life he made friends with the various tribes he came in contact with, the Atakapa, Carancahua, Toncahua, Kaosoti and Orcoquisa. His knowledge of Indian customs, and his observation of race characteristics, were accurate and reliable. After Perry lost his vessels in Galveston Bay, and Hall's men deserted, he made his way on foot to the Atakapa village to await supplies and new men. Early in 1817 the village contained forty miserable, dirty huts, the chief's and haaman's being on an oyster mound, and somewhat larger in size. They had no temple and no religious ceremonials, except the "chi" dance, which was patterned after that of the Carancahuas; likewise they had no food-taboos, which were so irksome to their western neighbors. The tribe, Hall likened to the type of the Toncahuas; men of short stature, large heads, dark skins, and prominent facial features of an unpleasant cast; especially noticable were the high cheek bones and protruding lips. Whilst in many customs, such as hunting, fishing, cooking, dancing and others, the Atakapas followed the Carancahuas, rather than their kindred way from the coast, there was no racial affinity whatsoever, the Carancahuas being tall, slender, agile, light skinned, yellow haired, and with regular features and white teeth. The Atakapas used tobacco and whiskey whenever able to secure it, and were actually willing to perform hard labor to satisfy their wants. Their teeth were stained from the various leaf substitutes they used for tobacco. Head deformation, cuts on the nose and chin, and tatooing were noticable, especially in the older members. They used the yaupon leaves as a beverage, but did not drink large quantities of the decoction, as was the case in the ceremonials of the Trinity River Indians. Possibly it was taken at certain seasons to cleanse the system. The writer in a historical sketch recently published drew attention to a custom of some of the Gulf coastal Indians, which caused them to change their names, either on the birth of a male heir, or upon the said heir becoming famous. The Atakapas thus called themselves after their sons. An illustration of this was secured by names of Indians who visited the LAFFITE camp. The Coke clan was but fifteen miles distant; and the headman, who previous name was unknown had some twenty years previously, when his first son was born, adopted the infant's name of Hai-a or Shark; he thus became Ka-hai-a, or father of shark. One day the young man dived below a twenty-foot shark and stabbed him to death with a bone knife. The feat caused the tribe to change the youth's name to Hai-a-wai, or shark-killer, and the old chief promptly changed to Ka-hai-a-wai, or father of the shark killer. The term wa-i is of interest to ethonologists, because it really meant man, or people who kill, or warriors. Thus the term "wa-i was found as the terminal of many of the Gulf coastal tribes, for instance Ka-ra-ank-wai, Tonk-a-wai, Pak-a wai, Mai a wai and Co-cos-wai, in each case meaning "warrior-people." The Atakapa, at the period mentioned were gentle and timid, but undoubtedly the race had become decadent. The early French speak of their valor and propensity to devour the body of the slain enemy.

From a trader who represented the Laffite Commune, we know that the last act of cannibalism committed by a part of the clan was previous to their removal to the coast. An old man stated that in his youth he belonged to the clan which lived near the Opelousas on the "Mermento" River.

(Atakapas Indians con't.)

The Opelousas went to war with the Avoyels, because the latter refused to barter flints, which were plentiful in their country. Some Avoyels were captured then, and "made good eating." The storm of 1810 was very disastrous on the Gulf, and the Atakapas' huts and supplies were washed away. Some bodies of shipwrecked sailors at that time were washed ashore near the mouth of "Calcasieu." A council deliberated whether the bodies should be cooked for food, for food was scarce. The bodies were roasted in a pit, but finally the shaman gave it as his opinion that if the Atakapa were to eat the flesh of white men, their skin would become spotty. Albinism, somewhat prevalent and well known among Indians, was not considered a desirable possession, so the cannibal feast did not take place. At the time a hunter brought in an alligator's carcass, and thus the tribe escaped another calamity.

From the Greek trader who commanded the Arabelle, one of the trading feluccas of the Laffite camp, further habits and history of the clan at Lake Charles, at the period mentioned, were obtained.

NICHOLAS, the sailor, ran away from Mytilene when a boy, joined the British navy, and at seventeen years of age was made a mate of the Jupiter at Charleston. He came with Jean LAFFITE to Galveston Island in 1817, and went with him to Yucatan in 1820, when LAFFITE evacuated Galveston Island. Twenty-two years later NICHOLAS returned, and for half a century supplied the local markets of Galveston with fish and charcoal. Born in 1800, he lived the entire century. At eighteen years of age NICHOLAS married Or-ta, a Carancahua girl, who accompanied him on his various trading trips, and acted as interpreter. The Laffite Commune found it more profitable to trade off merchandise captured in prizes than to send them to New Orleans or Baltimore where the brokers or fences charged exorbitant commissions. Thus from the Aranemes in the west to the Mermenteau in the east of the gulf littoral, the trade schooners kept plying, entering likewise the navigable rivers, some of which were already colonized by whites. NICHOLAS had picked up another Greek lad, a waif of Jewish parentage, who could read and write and thus acted as supercargo for the Arabelle. His name was XENIPPE, and with the curiosity of his race, on the first visit of the Arabelle, managed to sneak into the shaman's hut in order to investigate. He was soon discovered by the shaman and knocked senseless. The shaman's hut was taboo to everyone, and a crucifix left some years before by a Catholic missionary was stuck over the doorway to "warn intruders away." XENIPPE after this experience kept aboard the felucca. He said the hut contained a lot of snake skins, feathers, fancy shells, and curiosities. In baskets on one side of the hut were human skulls and bones. This is mentioned, because it may have been the custom of the tribe to exhume the body, after some months, clean the bones, and pack them in a basket. The Koasoti exposed their dead on frames, and when cleaned by the birds, they were washed, placed in baskets, and stored in the "holy hut." The chief articles of barter that the tribe offered were mil, moss and pinal. Mil were bunches of dried or smoked small fish. The word was probably of French origin, being used jocularly "thousand in a bunch." The moss was gathered from the trees of swamps and was in great demand on Galveston Island for mattresses and bedding. Pinal, probably a corruption of piedernales, meant hard stones or flints. The Carancahuas took all the flints they could obtain by barter.

Formerly they traded for flints with the Atakapa, rather than make a warlike or peaceable journey into the lands of the tribes to the north of them, such as the Wekoes, Ketchies and others of the Caddo Confederation. The Carancahua women were very handsome, and usually the trading trips ended in battles for the possession of the Carancahua squaws. The tribes owed its extermination to this, for even the white men of Velasco by their acts turned the peaceable, timid, giant Carancahuas into demons, spurred on by blood-vendetta.

(Attakapas Indians con't)

The Atakapa of Lake Charles in their intercourse with the whites spoke the Caddoan dialect, though possibly they had their own tongue; a few of the words, especially those relating to fish and fishing, were identical with the ancient Carancahuan words.

In 1819 on a visit by NICHOLAS, the mosquitoes were so fierce and plentiful that large brush fires were built. At that early date the people of the South associated the presence of so many mosquitoes with yellow fever. Col. HALL contracted the disease that year in Louisiana, where it raged fatally. Nacogdoches had some cases of vomito, but the Laffite camp escaped.

The Atakapa were too lazy to tan skins of beasts or of large fish; their pottery was made by tribes to the north of them, except a few of the globular or conical oil jugs of the Carancahuas, so serviceable, fitted in cane frames, to the canoe voyager. The tribe furnished the Indians to the north with sharks' teeth, marine curios, dried or smoked fish, feathers and seaweed, esteemed as medicine. The plumes of the heron, crane and pelican, as well as of the wild geese, were especially in demand. The small breast feathers (eiderdown) attached to the skin, were obtained by inserting small hollow reeds between the skin and flesh of the breast, and blowing air between them; these feather pelts were dried and prized for ornamentation by the Creoles. Birds were killed with small, blunt arrows to prevent the blood from staining the white feathers. The infant was strapped to a piece of wet bark, which was bent to conform to the shape of the body. The head was left free, so that the mother could pick up the strapped bundle and hold it to the breast to nurse. The infant was removed from its cage twice daily, fresh moss being placed between the legs to absorb the natural discharges.

Skull deformation resulted from the infant lying so much on its back, and the head resting on a hard substance, such as a piece of bark or hide. Col. HALL stated the deformation was unilateral, therefore not caused purposely. Women as wives were barded for with other tribes, the men in the clan out-numbering the females. The tribe frequently picked up valuable wreckage on the coast, which they traded to the whites for whiskey; and shiskey or rum was the currency that always secured the wife; therefore, some women had new husbands at frequent intervals, especially those that were barren. The Attakapas did not fancy shark meat, but they specialized in alligator dainties. The saurian was speared in the eye, and disemboweled in the median line, where the skin is thin. Owing to the difficulty of cutting the horny hide, the carcass was left whole after gutting. Along each side of the spine a long trench was made by removing the flesh, and the belly skin was replaced and tied. The carcass was now placed in a pit of red-hot oyster shells, and covered with live charcoal. In a few hours the skin, though charred, still held the baked flesh and oil that had gathered in the trenches. This oil was served as a delicacy, and placed in jugs for future uses; an essential one was for body inunction, which kept off mosquitoes and gnats, prevented the terrible "water sunburn" of the body, and lastly was believed to render the swimmer more boyant. The alligator oil was used in their lamps; as torchwood was often scarce or wet. The lamp was a large shell containing a wisp of moss, curled into a wick. The smell was abominable. The whites of the Mermonteau used to place a small piece of sulphur in their fish oil lamps, which they claimed prevented smoke or odor (?) Col. HALL, who was versed in Indian languages, stated that this tribe believed it came out of the sea, being cast up in large oyster shells, from which the first men grew. This tribe, however, was probably an inland one some centuries back, and the legend possibly borrowed from the Carancahuas with whom the oyster was taboo-food. Men that were eaten by men, and those that died from snake bite, were believed to be incapable of entering a second life, hence were eternally damned.

The tribe, although careless of the young, was by no means desirous of race suicide. Procreation was encouraged and the man of family respected. The soon-to-become-a-mother was removed to a hut set apart for the purpose and there attended by the old crones of the village; for no

(Atakapas Indians con't.)

matter whether your old woman is black, white, red or yellow, she always delights to dabble in the offices of the lying-in chamber.

Whilst the pregnant female was banished from the hovel of her "man," this red vagabond by custom was allowed to rest, or lay up for imaginary repair. In this clan, however, he escaped the fasting ritual, and anxious friends and relatives made the week pass pleasantly for him by providing an ample supply of dainties, such as alligator fat crisps, or raw shrimp.

After 1819 the last record of the clan reached the writer through the agency of Mrs. Jane LONG, wife of the buccanier chief, General James LONG. After Long established himself at Fort Mina on Galveston Island in 1820, he sent for his wife at Shreveport. The Atakapa's village was the place of meeting between her and an escort under Hall. The clan was described by Mrs. LONG as being filthier even than niggers.

With a woman's aptitude she particularly noticed the ornaments worn, and the methods of the cuisine. The strong strap around the left wrist worn by the men, and sometimes by the women, found it's use as a knife sheath, to hold the weapon securely when the native was swimming and fishing. Flounders and other dry fish, when cooked, were larded with a piece of blubber from an alligator or large fish, the skewers used being long and sharp fish bones. Oysters in the shell were barbecued in a pit, and small fish were placed in the cavities of the larger one's to be baked. The skirt of the women was very primitive. A skin was trimmed into circular shape; in its center a circular hole was cut, and the garment was slipped over the head and fastened around the waist with thongs. Mrs. LONG was left late in 1820 at Bolivar in his old fort by General LONG, when he went on his Mexican expedition. He left with her as companions a physician and his wife, for Mrs. LONG was with child; also a small guard and a cannon in the fort. When General LONG failed to return, Mrs. LONG, declining to leave, was left by her companions with only a slave girl to care for her infant daughter. The winter of 1820 to 1821 was so severe that Galveston Bay froze over (which took place again in 1886). Mrs. LONG finally learning of her husband's death, was taken by settlers to Austin's colony, and resided for half a century at Richmond, Texas. In the revolution of 1836 Mrs. LONG's brick outhouse stored the powder supply of the settlers of Austin's Colony.

The Atakapas after 1820 were soon surrounded by white settlements, and the remnant of the clan which had survived the smallpox, syphilis and tuberculosis, which always accompanied white civilization, was gradually amalgamated with the superior race.

Late last century at Beaumont and in Orange descendants of the Atakapa clan had their residence.

Query.

FONTENOT - TANGETTE/TUNGET - DOUCET

Louis FONTENOT, son of Jacques FONTENOT and "Sallie" DOUCET married Mary Ann TANGETTE/TUNGET in 1843 at Opelousas. Was "Sallie" really Eulalie/Marie Louise DOUCET (b. ca. 1762), daughter of Pierre? If not, who was she? Need Louis FONTENOT's birth and death records. Was he one of the 13 children of Jacques FONTENOT (b. ca. 1754, d. 1818) and Eulalie or Marie Louise DOUCET (b. ca. 1762, d. 1808) Ref. Opelousas Probate # 51; also Probate # 54 and 109. It seems unlikely that he was their son Louis, who was baptized 16 April 1785 (Op. I, p. 49), but who else can he be? Perhaps a younger son? Jacqueline O. VIDRINE, 803 E. Main St., Ville Platte, LA 70586

THE SLOANES OF PLAQUEMINE BRULEE

Submitted by
Bryan J. Sloane, Jr.

Most of the Sloanes living in Acadia Parish and vicinity are descendants of John SLOAN, born in Duplin County, North Carolina around 1765. He was the eldest son of David SLOAN¹ and his wife Margaret. Around 1784, John SLOAN married Rachiel LANIER, a girl from a neighboring plantation.² Rachel was the daughter of Bird LANIER and Sally BROOK/BROCK and a descendant of the Virginia LANIERS who, in turn, descend from Huguenots of London, specifically the Nicholas LANIER, family of musicians.

Evidence indicates that shortly after this marriage, John SLOAN departed his home in North Carolina and headed west with his family. His migration took him through Kentucky where his son, David SLOAN, was born in about 1795. The family eventually arrived in Natchez where where it is believed that John SLOAN died in 1804. In that year, a land claim on Bayou Pierre was assigned by his widow Rachel to A. B. ROSS. She signed on behalf of her children, named in the instrument, Lemuel, Thomas, Hiram and Mary SLOAN. Other children were named, however, due to a tear in the document their names are not legible. The other children whose names are illegible were Margaret, David and Gilbert SLOAN. Witness in this transaction was Jesse LUM, an ancestor on my mother's side which serves as a testament to the smallness of his earth.

Sometime after 1804, the widow Rachel LANIER SLOAN and her seven children moved to Louisiana and the prairies of Plaquemine Brulé where they are enumerated on the 1810 and subsequent census. They lived in an area of Plaquemine Brulee now known as Branch. Many of the descendants of John SLOAN are still found in that area today. A grandson, Furgeson SLOAN, (1831 - 1892) is buried in the Branch Cemetery.

Some of John SLOAN's children had land holdings outside of the Branch area. Gilbert SLOAN, for example, had property at Belle Cheny Springs near Cheneyville in Rapides Parish. Lemuel SLOAN is virtually unknown to the St. Landry Court Records. He does appear in the 1810 and 1820 census as the head of a household. Living with him at the time of the 1810 census were four other persons who I have tentatively identified. The female whose age is over 45, in all probability, was his mother Rachel LANIER. The two boys, one under age 10 and the other between age 10 and 14 were probably Gilbert and David SLOAN, his brothers. The girl between age 10 and 16 was probably a sister, either Mary or Margaret SLOAN. On the 1820 census, in addition to John SLOAN, are three females, one over age 45, one between age 10 and 16 and one under age 10. In all probability, the female over age 45 is his mother, Rachel. The other two are not identified. No marriage record has been found for Lemuel SLOAN; however, one might speculate that the two unidentified females are perhaps Lemuel's wife and a young daughter.

Lemuel SLOAN does not appear in later censuses so I presume he died between 1820 and 1830. The other six children of John and Rachel appear in many documents but identifying his grandchildren and placing them in the proper family groups has been challenging to say the least. The following are the children and grandchildren of John SLOAN/SLOANE and Rachel LANIER.

1. Lemual SLOAN, b. about 1785 (prob. N. C.). No known descendants.
2. Thomas SLOAN, b. ca. 1787; m. 11 Jan 1809 (Opel. Ct. Hse.)³, Elizabeth ANDRUS, b. 7 Feb 1794, d/o James ANDRUS & Lucy HAYES.

(Sloane family cont'd)

- A. Gibson SLOAN, b. 1811; m. 13 Apr 1853 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Sarah RUTLEDGE.
(Sarah was the widow of Jefferson ROWLANDS.)
- B. Hiram SLOAN, b. ca. 1813; d. before 1852; m. ca. 1837, Elizabeth ROBERTSON.
- C. Lemuel SLOAN, b. 1815; m. 14 Sep 1838 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Charlotte WELCH/
WELSH, d/o Rebecca WELSH.
- D. Thomas SLOAN, b. 1822. No other information.
- E. David SLOAN, b. Jan 1828; d. 1865; m. 30 Jul 1847 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Mary Ann
WOODS, d. 1865, d/o Gideon WOODS & Clarinda LUM.
- F. Penelope SLOAN, b. 1832; d. before May 1880; m. 5 Feb 1853 (Opel. Ct. Hse.),
Theodore ANDRUS.
- G. John G. SLOAN, b. 1833. No other information.
- 3. Hiram SLOAN, b. ca. 1790; d. ca. 1820; m. 22 Jan 1814 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Rachel
ANDRUS, d/o James ANDRUS & Lucy HAYES.
 - A. Zelig Ann SLOAN, b. 29 Jan 1814; m. 5 Jan 1837 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), John
WALDER.
 - B. Peggy SLOAN, b. 1816. No other information.
 - C. Hampton SLOAN, b. 1818. No other information.
- 4. Mary SLOAN, b. 17 Sep 1794 (North Carolina); d. 1868 - 69; m. 14 Jul 1814 (Opel. Ct.
Hse.), Jesse ANDRUS, b. ca. 1790; d. before 7 Dec 1868, s/o Joseph ANDRUS &
Marie HAYES.
 - A. Charlotte ANDRUS, b. 14 Jun 1814 (Opel. Ch.); m. 16 Jun 1831 (Opel. Ch.),
Patrick WILKINS, d. 1844, s/o Robert WILKINS & Nancy SMITH.; m. (2), 9 Jan
1845 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Gabriel ENOCH, s/o _____ ENOCH & Lydia
RUMBLEYS.
 - B. Mary Ann ANDRUS, b. 13 May 1816 (Opel. Ch.); m. Elisha ANDRUS.
 - C. Marcelite ANDRUS, b. 14 Jun 1818 (Opel. Ch.). No other information.
 - D. John Joseph ANDRUS, b. 15 Dec 1820 (Opel. Ch.); m. Julia Ann SLOANE.
 - E. Theodore ANDRUS, b. 9 May 1823 (Opel. Ch.). No other information.
 - F. William Addison ANDRUS, b. 13 Apr 1826 (Opel. Ch.). No other information.
 - G. Emelie ANDRUS, b. 22 Feb 1832 (Opel. Ch.). No other information.
 - H. Caroline ANDRUS, b. 4 Dec 1837 (Opel. Ch.); d. before 1868.

(Sloane family cont'd)

5. David SLOAN, b. 1795 (Kentucky); d. 7 Sep 1845; m. 30 Aug 1824 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Catherine HARMON, d/o Jacob HARMON & Tabitha ANDRUS.
 - A. Celestine SLOAN, b. 1825; m. 3 Mar 1842 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Madison LYONS.
 - B. Amelia SLOAN, b. 1827; m. 14 Feb 1842 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Solomon ROBERTSON.
 - C. Thomas Jefferson SLOAN, b. 1829; d. ca. 1869; m. 18 Apr 1851 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Sarah CLARK.
 - D. Ferguson Burnes SLOAN, b. 26 Feb 1831; d. 1892; m. 2 Feb 1860, Martha Ann BRYAN, b. 29 Sep 1841, d/o John BRYAN & Nancy Ann LYONS.
 - E. Henry B. SLOAN, b. 1834; d. 14 Jan 1885.
 - F. Margaret Albiner SLOAN, b. 1836; m. 15 Dec 1857 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), David Jasper ANDRUS.
 - G. Robert SLOAN, b. 1838; m. 10 Jan 1866 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Margaret LAUGHLIN.
6. Margaret SLOAN, b. 1797; d. 1849; m. (1), 26 Nov 1812 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), William HATHORN, d. ca. 1830; m. (2), 27 May 1840 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Louis GUIDRY, b. 27 Dec 1784, s/o Pierre GUIDRY & Marguerite MILLER; m. (3), Benjamin McCLELAND; m. (4), ca. 1846, John B. MUDD, d. prior to 23 Oct 1841.
 - A. Margaret HATHORN, b. ca. 1816.
 - B. Fergus HATHORN, b. ca. 1819.
 - C. Alphonse Toledano GUIDRY, b. 3 May 1841.
 - D. Mary MUDD, b. ca. 1847.
 - E. Susan MUDD, b. ca. 1848.
7. Gilbert SLOAN, b. 1803; d. 13 Oct 1852; m. 2 Mar 1824 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Suzanne ANDRUS, b. May 1808; d. before 1848, d/o Joseph ANDRUS & Catherine HARMON.
 - A. Gilbert SLOAN, b. 1824; d. 1846; m. ca. 1846, Mary COLLINS.
 - B. Julia Ann SLOAN, b. 1824; m. 29 Jun 1848 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), John Joseph ANDRUS.
 - C. Lewis SLOAN, b. 17 Aug 1833 (Opel. Ch.); m. 16 Dec 1856 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Elizabeth WOOD, d/o John WOOD, Jr. & Nancy BURLEIGH.
 - D. Catherine Elisa SLOAN, b. 3 Jul 1836 (Opel. Ch.); m. 15 Mar 1858 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Oscar L. CLARK.
 - E. Evelina SLOAN, b. 15 Nov 1838 (Opel. Ch.); m. 19 Mar 1860, John BUTLER.

(Sloane family cont'd)

F. Martin S. SLOAN, b. 1839; m. 25 Jan 1864 (Opel. Ct. Hse.), Adeline C. SLOANE.

Notes and References

1. David's name is recorded as Solomon David Sloan on the baptismal record of Mary Sloane; St. Landry Ch. Opelousas, Vol. 2, p. 218.
2. North Carolina State Census 1786.
3. Rev. Donald J. Hebert, Southwest Louisiana Records, Vol. 1 - 6 used for most birth and marriage records from the 1800's.

Duhon Cemetery

Recorded by Cart and Carrie Jones

Cart and Carrie Crader Jones, members of the Evangeline Genealogical and Historical Society, recorded cemetery inscriptions in Acadia Parish during the period October thru December 1990. The following is the first of thirteen cemetery lists submitted by Cart and Carrie for publication. Other lists will follow as space permits.

The Duhon Cemetery is located north of Mermentau in Acadia Parish. From Mermentau, take State road 5-1, go past the school about 100 yards and take a left. The cemetery is at the end of the road.

BREAUX

David John, b. 15 Dec 1943; d. 15 Dec 1943; s/o Mr. & Mrs John W. BREAUX.
John W. b. 18 Oct 1920; d. 4 Feb 1990.

BROUSSARD

Amey, b. 14 May 1924; d. 18 May 1955; nee DUHON, w/o _____ BROUSSARD.
Anuncia, b. 13 Jun 1907; d. 23 Mar 1982; nee MOORE, w/o _____ BROUSSARD.

DOUCET

Joseph, b. 19 Jul 1907; d. 9 Jan 1975; h/o Laurena D., b. 30 Sep 1908; d. 14 Mar 1983.

DUHON

A., b. 1886; d. 1893.
Abbie, b. 14 Jan 1914; d. 4 Mar 1924.
Alice, b. 7 Feb 1885; d. 15 Oct 1963; w/o Theotice MOORE.
Aurelia, b. 1854; d. 1902; w/o Desire RICHARD.
Aurelian, b. 28 May 1830; d. 2 Nov 1884; h/o Mary DUGAS.
Charles T., b. 12 Jan 1859; d. 8 Apr 1936.
Dominique, b. 2 Aug 1910; d. 25 Nov 1913.
Elodie R., b. 7 Apr 1879; d. 8 Apr 1957.
Elina G., b. 1879; d. 1926.
Elise, b. 1901; d. 1901;
Helen, b. 22 Aug 1888; d. 17 May 1978; w/o Robert L. VERRET.
Henry, b. 18 Apr 1895; d. 15 Aug 1971; h/o Estella F., b. 6 May 1905; d. 23 Jan 1970.
Herbert, b. 1 Feb 1919; d. 29 Aug 1951.
Honore J., b. 24 Dec 1890; d. 3 May 1964; h/o Mathilde T., b. 22 Jan 1896; d. 27 Sep 1986.
John, b. 10 Apr 1862; d. 11 Jul 1929.
J. W. V., b. 18 Aug 1897; d. 11 Sep 1920.
Lazard, b. 1911; d. 1928.
Marie, w/o U. _____, b. 1868; d. 1902.

(Duhon Cemetery cont'd)

DUHON cont'd.

Mercedes, b. 5 Aug 1918; d. 28 Jun 1989; w/o _____ GUIDRY.
O. E., b. 4 Jun 1871; d. 23 Nov 1900.
Ozite, b. 4 Sep 1905; d. 19 Aug 1923.
Rosa Belle, b. 15 Nov 1912; d. no date.
Ulysse, b. 1871; d. 1927.
U. J., b. 3 Aug 1857; d. 29 Jan 1885.
Valerine, b. 2 Dec 1875; d. 29 Jul 1937; Mrs. Valerine, b. 22 Feb 1881; d. 5 Apr 1958.
Wallis, b. 1902; d. 1902.

DUGAS

Mary V., b. 28 May 1836; d. 23 Nov 1914; w/o Aurelian DUHON.

FONTENOT

Eddie, b. no date; d. no date; h/o Hilda ISTRE.

FRUGE

Baby, no dates
Rose Bud, b. no date; d. no date.

GARY

Alta F., b. 10 Feb 1903; d. 29 Nov 1989.
Elodie, b. 1851; d. 1926.
Leon, b. 4 Jul 1878; d. 18 Sep 1932; h/o Elvina RICHARD.
Philozie, b. 1853; d. 1926.

GUIDRY

Eugenie, b. 1927; d. 1927.
Leodice, b. 3 Oct 1894; d. 23 Nov 1962; h/o Elvina RICHARD.
Cynthia Maria, b. 13 Sep 1951; d. 17 Mar 1952; d/o Mercedes nee DUHON.
Bernadette, b. 8 Oct 1944; d. 8 Oct 1944; d/o Mercedes nee DUHON.
Christine Ann, b. 5 May 1948; d. 5 May 1948; d/o Mercedes nee DUHON.

ISTRE

C. E. b. no date; d. no date.
Mrs C. E. b. 1890; d. 1934.
Hilda, b. 28 Jun 1923; d. 3 Aug 1969; w/o Eddie FONTENOT.

LeGROS

Ovey, b. 11 Dec 1903; d. 28 Nov 1975; h/o Esther VERRET.

MOORE

Nelson, b. 25 Dec 1911; d. 3 May 1965; Pfc 33 QM Depot Co., WW II.
Theodice, b. 16 Jun 1882; d. 1 Oct 1953; h/o Alice DUHON.

RICHARD

Betty Ann, b. 17 Nov 1948; d. 18 Nov 1948; d/o Mr. & Mrs. Ray RICHARD.
Desire, b. 12 Jan 1853; d. 5 Mar 1921; h/o Aurelia DUHON.
Elvina, b. 25 Apr 1876; d. 11 Dec 1939; w/o Leon GARY.
Evalena, b. 12 Oct 1878; d. 11 Mar 1918; w/o R. L. VERRET.
Martin, b. 17 Feb 1896; d. 27 Dec 1940; Mrs. Martin, b. 11 Dec 1898; d. 3 Sep 1939.
Paul D., b. 25 Aug 1961; d. 19 Sep 1961.
Willie, b. 6 Mar 1910; d. 19 Sep 1961.

THIBODEAUX

Arthur P., b. 25 Apr 1910; d. 14 Nov 1969; h/o Eleanor D. b. 14 Feb 1911; d. 1 Mar 1985.

VERRET

Debra Gail, d. 28 Jan 1915.
Ida Edith, b. 28 Mar 1905; d. 24 Jun 1983; w/o John W. BREAUX.
Esther, b. 27 Jun 1908; d. 27 Feb 1972.
Robert L. b. 1876; d. 1945; h/o Helen DUHON.

THE JOHN MADISON PITRE FAMILY

Submitted by Callie Pitre Avera

John Madison PITRE was born in rural St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, on February 10, 1859. Madison was the son of Joseph Dalicourt PITRE who was born in St. Landry Parish, on October 31, 1829, and died in St. Landry Parish on November 13, 1872. Joseph Dalicourt was the first child of Joseph Francois Poupon PITRE and Josephine SOILEAU. Madison's mother, Ermina Francoise PITRE, was born in St. Landry Parish on November 15, 1835, and died in Prairie Ronde on October 27, 1865. Ermina was the daughter of Francois Pouponne PITRE and Sophie (Azalie) JOUBERT. Madison's father, Joseph Dalicourt PITRE, and mother, Ermina Francoise PITRE, were first cousins.

Madison married Ernestine L. FONTENOT in Ville Platte, Louisiana on January 30, 1879. Ernestine, the daughter of Lucas "Belizaire" FONTENOT (b. 9 Oct 1828; d. 14 Nov 1877), and Zeolide J. PITRE (b. 17 Dec 1835; d. before 28 Apr 1890), was born in the rural Ville Platte area on May 5, 1862. Ernestine's paternal grandparents were Joseph Lucas FONTENOT and Marie Sara (Sayra) ARDOIN (HARDOUIN). Her maternal grandparents were Joseph Francois Poupon PITRE and Josephine SOILEAU.

Madison and Ernestine lived on a farm in rural St. Landry Parish. They had the following children:

1. Lucas Alcidus PITRE, b. 20 Oct 1879; d. 26 Mar 1916; m. (1) 15 Mar 1904, Dorestine ARDOIN (b. 8 Dec 1887); m. (2) 8 Apr 1901, Lastinie DEVILLE (AVILLE). Alcidus was buried in the Madison PITRE Cemetery.
2. Ermina PITRE, b. 20 Apr 1881; d. 11 Jan 1959; m. 30 Dec 1901, Edville (Ville) DUPRE (b. ca. 1882; d. 6 Mar 1958). Ermina and Edville were buried in St. Ann Cemetery in Mamou.
3. Jean Baptiste Adraste PITRE, b. 18 Sep 1882. Probably died young.
4. Oscar PITRE, b. 11 Apr 1884; m. (1) Azalie DUPRE; m. (2) Emma Mae DUPRE. Oscar is buried in the Prairie Ronde Church Cemetery.
5. Horace PITRE, b. 23 Jul 1885; m. Adeline MARCANTEL, (b. 12 Dec 188_; d. 5 Sep 19__).
6. Edmonia PITRE, b. 13 Dec 1888; d. 22 Feb 1962; m. Onizime PITRE.
7. Eugenie Leolide (Zeolide) PITRE, b. 31 Mar 1890. Probably died young.
8. Joseph Odea PITRE, b. 28 Oct 1891. Probably died young.
9. Marie Jeannne Edmonia PITRE, b. 15 Jan 1893. Probably died young.

MADISON PITRE CEMETERY

By Callie Pitre Avera

The Madison PITRE Cemetery is located in Prairie Ronde on Highway 104 in St. Landry Parish. It is past the Catholic Church in Prairie Ronde on the left side, going west, just before entering Evangeline Parish. The cemetery property, at one time, belonged to Madison PITRE. It is not known who the first person buried in the cemetery was or when the burial occurred. At one time there were several wooden crosses marking what appeared to be children's graves. The Madison PITRE family did have at least four children who apparently died young. Even though the cemetery was visited every year by descendants to clean the few graves that remain, it was unkept and livestock grazed in it for years. Listed below are those known to be buried in the cemetery, some are unmarked and comments are added.

Marked graves:

Alcidus PITRE¹
b. 20 Oct 1879
d. 26 Mar 1916

Adeline M. PITRE²
b. 12 Dec 188__
d. 05 Sep 19__

Wilton PITRE³
b. 26 Dec 1910
d. 03 Nov 1934

Unmarked graves of persons known to be buried in the cemetery:

Madison PITRE⁴
b. 10 Feb 1859⁷
d. 22 Feb 1910⁹

Ernestine FONTENOT PITRE⁵
b. 05 May 1862⁸
d. 04 Mar 1939¹⁰

Ira PITRE⁶
(No dates)

Clarence "Too Too" PITRE¹¹
(No dates)

Notes

¹ Oldest child of Madison PITRE and Ernestine FONTENOT.

² Wife of Horace PITRE, son of Madison PITRE and Ernestine FONTENOT.

³ Could be a grandson of Madison PITRE and Ernestine FONTENOT.

⁴ Son of Joseph Dalicourt PITRE and Ermina Francoise PITRE, married Ernestine FONTENOT, 30 Jan 1879, his first cousin (Ville Platte, Church). Their graves are bricked above ground tombs.

⁵ Daughter of Lucas "Belizaire" FONTENOT and Zeolide PITRE.

⁶ Son of Oscar PITRE, son of Madison Pitre.

⁷ He was baptized 23 Apr 1859, Opelousas Church.

⁸ She was baptized Josephine Armistide FONTENOT (Ville Platte Church).

⁹ Opelousas Church.

¹⁰ From her succession, Opelousas Courthouse Succ. #8880, dated 30 May 1939.

¹¹ Son of Horace PITRE, son of Madison PITRE.

SOME SEVENTEENTH CENTURY BILLEAUDEAUX IN FRANCE

Submitted by Winston De Ville, F.A.S.G.

For a brief study of ascending Billeaudeau genealogy, see the writer's "The Billeaudeaux Family of France, St. Dominique, and Louisiana: A Progress Report" (La Voix des Prairies, Vol. IV, No. 15, Oct. 1983, pp. 63 - 66, erratum in Vol. IX, No. 34, Jul. 1988, p. 54.)

Some years following the publication of this article, it was a pleasure to receive a book from Monsieur Jacques CODEVELLE of Dolus, Isle d'Oléron, ancestral home of the Louisiana Billeaudeau family. The French volume is titled (in English translation), The Reformation on the Isle of Oléron, written by Paul Thomas and published in 1911; a reprint was issued in 1985, and is available from L.O.C.A.L. (Lien Oleronnais pour la Culture, l'Animation et les Loisirs) Boite Postale 84, 17310 Saint-Pierre, Isle d'Oléron, France.

As the title implies, this island, like the near-by city of La Rochelle, was a stronghold of Protestantism until the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, which exiled thousands of productive Frenchmen from their mother-country. We have extracted all Billeaudeau names from the Thomas book and they are given below. While no definitive relationship is known to "our" Billeaudeau family, there is no doubt that future evidence will demonstrate that they were affiliated with and perhaps ancestors of the St. Domingue family from which we all descend. These names appear on pages 77, 78, 81, and 84:

Citing the mayoral archives of the town of Dolus, recantations of Lutherans and Calvinists in parochial registers, we find the following individuals apparently being forced to renounce their religion, as officials had "the aid of the troops," during the first two weeks of September, 1685: Jacques BILLAUEAU; Widow BILLAUEAU; Marguerite BILLAUEAU; Jeanne BILLAUEAU; and Marguerite Thomas widow of a BILLAUEAU.

During the following month, "the troops" persuaded the following to forswear their religion in favor of Catholicism: Suzanne BAUDOIN, wife of Jacques BILLAUEAU; Pierre BILLAUEAU; "Marie, another Marie and Jeanne BILLAUEAU, (three) sisters;" Jean BILLAUEAU; Jeanne BILLAUEAU, wife of Jean BOUYER, master-sailor, who was to give his oath in November. Interestingly, one Marguerite FONTENEAU was among the converts during this period. All were residents of Dolus.

In the town of Saint-Pierre, in 1685, more Billeaudeaux are found, the original register being found in the Saint-Pierre mayor's office: Marguerite BILLAUEAU, wife of Bertaud; another Marguerite BILLAUEAU, wife of Nadau. The town of St. Denis was home to another victim of the Revocation of that year: Suzanne VIAUD, widow of Samuel BILLAUEAU.

Queries

FONTENOT - DOUCET - TUNGETT/TANGUETTE/TONKET - GREEN

Louis FONTENOT, son of Jacques FONTENOT and "Sallie" DOUCET, married in 1843 Mary Anne TUNGETT/TANGUETTE/TONKET (b. ca. 1826), daughter of Benjamin TUNGETT and Helen GREEN. Who were those two: Tungett and Green, probably Anglo-Protestants? Mary Ann was not baptized until 1850, when she was 24 years old.
Jacqueline O. VIDRINE, 803 E. Main St., Ville Platte, LA 70586

DOUCET - COMEAUX

Need parents of Alexandre DOUCET, born ca. 1825 - 1830. He married Celeste COMEAUX in 1850. Celeste was the daughter of Onezime COMEAUX and Eloise DOUCET. Any information will be appreciated.

Gercie DAIGLE, Rt. 1, Box 848, Church Point, LA 70525

ORTEGO ADDENDUM
Submitted by Nancy Cuckler

[Editors note: In response to the article "An Ortego Puzzle" by John A. Young, which appeared in La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 9, No. 33, pp. 33 - 34, the following information was submitted.]

While my niece was doing genealogy research in Ville Platte, she came across the article "An Ortego Puzzle" in *La Voix*. I wish to inform you that Melanie ORTEGO, number 7, in the article is my ancestor.

Joseph Joachim Marcellin ORTEGA (ORTEGO) dit Cosse and Louisa "Lise" Lejeune/Young are known to have had at least eight children. Their seventh child, Melanie ORTEGO, born on December 23, 1832. Melanie married Valery BROUSSARD on October 22, 1850, in Avoyelles Parish, La. Valery, born in Avoyelles Parish on August 26, 1822, was the son of Jean Baptiste BROUSSARD and Nanette "Nancy" LANDRENEAU. Valery and Melanie had the following children:

1. Mahala BROUSSARD, b. 1851.
2. Aristide BROUSSARD, b. 1852, m. Jane LITTLETON.
3. Mary Mathilda (Hulena) BROUSSARD, b. 23 April 1854; d. 20 Jul 1953; m. 3 Nov 1873 (Rapides Parish, La.), Charles Henry NICHOLS, s/o Timothy MICHOLS & Martha CAMPBELL.
 - A. Mary Hulena NICHOLS, b. 27 Aug 1875; m. 20 Dec 1892 William Henry REYNOLDS, s/o Robert R. REYNOLDS & Sarah Elizabeth HARPOLE.
 - a. Effie Hulena REYNOLDS, b. 9 Oct 1893; m. 27 Jun 1912 (Ruby, La.), William Ivy VOORHIES, s/o Abner VOORHIES & Josephine Minott HAYES.
 - a1. James Chester VOORHIES, m. 3 Dec 1937, Mamie Aileen PITMAN.
 - a2. George Ray VOORHIES, m. 2 Mar 1942, Kathleen Marie WILKINS.
 - a3. Mary Bernice VOORHIES, m. (1) 1939, Albert Thomas BECK; m. (2) 1946, Louis LAMB.
 - a4. Nancy Beatrice VOORHIES, m. 1 Feb 1945, Russell Edison CUCKLER.
 - a5. William Henry VOORHIES, m. 24 May 1954, Betty Jo LAMB.
 - B. Laura M. NICHOLS, b. 15 Aug 1876; d. 22 Feb 1952; m. Curtis Sumpter "Heck" HINES.
 - C. Orinda K. "Wren" NICHOLS, b. 21 Jul 1879; m (1) John LUNEAU; m. (2) Thomas BUTLER.
 - D. Albertina C. "Babe" NICHOLS, b. 24 Dec 1881; d. 1967; m. Ebenezer C. "Ebb" HAYES.

(Ortego Addendum con't)

- E. Isabelle "Belle" NICHOLS, b. 15 Jan 188_; d. 25 Sep 1976.
- F. Emily "Emmy" NICHOLS, b. 4 Jan 1887; d. 5 Sep 1941; m. Marshall Andrew EVANS.
- G. Susan NICHOLS, b. 16 Jul 1888; d. 12 May 1970; m. (1) David HAYES; m. (2) John CLARK.
- H. Mildred Sefty NICHOLS, b. 18 Mar 1889; d. 5 Jan 1973; m. Emmett O'DONALD.
- I. Charles Oscar NICHOLS, b. 29 Aug 1891; d. 13 Mar 1962; m. Lula BEAUDOUFF.
4. Marilou BROUSSARD, b. 1859.
5. Joseph "Joe" BROUSSARD, b. 1863. Died young.
6. Cornelius "Neal" BROUSSARD, b. 1865; m. Jane _____.

Maignaud Family Cemetery
Recorded by Cart and Carrie Crader Jones

Located in Acadia Parish at the corner of Highway 90 and 3rd Street in Mermentau, Louisiana.
List made in 1991.

MAIGNAUD

Alexander, b. 14 Jan 1860; d. 8 May 1908.

Augustine, b. no date; d. no date.

Celonise, b. no date; d. no date

Joseph, b. 19 Sep 1871; d. 30 Nov 1891.

Paul, b. no date; d. no date.

Pauline, b. no date; d. no date.

Victorian of Nantes, b. 6 Sep 1880; d. 24 Dec 1909; h/o Caroline HIHN, b. 22 Feb 1886; d. 23 Mar 1920.

MEEHAM

G. J., b. 1 Oct 1870; d. 2 Apr 1899.

J., b. 25 Dec 1887; d. 1 Oct 1901.

_____ Query _____

KENNEDY/CAMEDE/AMEDY - LAFLEUR

Has anyone found the parents of Marguerite KENNEDY/CAMEDE/AMEDY? On her civil marriage record of 1849 to Joseph Dorsin LAFLEUR, her father's name is ONILE. I have no other information on this family.

Jacqueline O. VIDRINE, 803 E. Main St., Ville Platte, LA 70586

THE BOOK SHELF

GEORGE DAMON TESSIER OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA; HIS FOREBARS AND DESCENDANTS By Evelyn T. Smith, 6240 N. 16th St. #34, Phoenix, AZ 85016; Hardcover; 186 pages; Illustrations; Maps; \$27.50 postpaid.

George Damon TESSIER was the first of his line to be born in America. His father, Jean Michel TESSIER, was a French mariner who settled in Natchitoches ca. 1823. He met and married Marie Pelagie Des Nieges ADLE', a descendant of the ADLE', CLERMONT, & DUBOIS families, some in Louisiana as early as 1730. Descendants of this couple include the names LATTIER, LESTAGE, TRICHEL, McLEAN. The marriage of George D. TESSIER to Marie Emilie DEBAILLON united the Natchitoches and St. Landry Parish branches of the family. The bride's parents, Benoit DEBAILLON and Louis Maximilien FONTENOT, were both descendants of French officers who had settled in Opelousas, Louisiana. The final chapter explores the family relationship to John GRADENIGO, an Italian nobleman believed to be descended from the Doges of Venice.

Death/Funeral Notice

DIED

At the residence of Z.T. CARY in West Bellevue on Friday March 31st, 1905 @ 6 o'clock in the evening.

AZELIE STEEL,

aged 81 years, 2 months, and 22 days, widow of Ursin LAVERGNE.

The funeral will leave the residence of Z.T. CARY @ 12 o'clock today, and will arrive at the Protestant cemetery at 4 o'clock this evening, where interment will take place.

The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend.


In Behalf of the Family.
Opelousas, La. April 1, 1905

(The above notice is in the possession of Mrs. Theresa Lavergne AYMOND of Eunice, La. and was submitted by Charles W. BOURGEOIS, 2745 Mahan Drive, Beaumont, TX 77707)

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LA 01 

La Voix des Prairies

April 1992
Vol. 13, No. 49

Evangeline Genealogical and Historical Society

P.O. Box 664, Ville Platte, LA 70586

Founded 1980

ISSN# 0743-1848

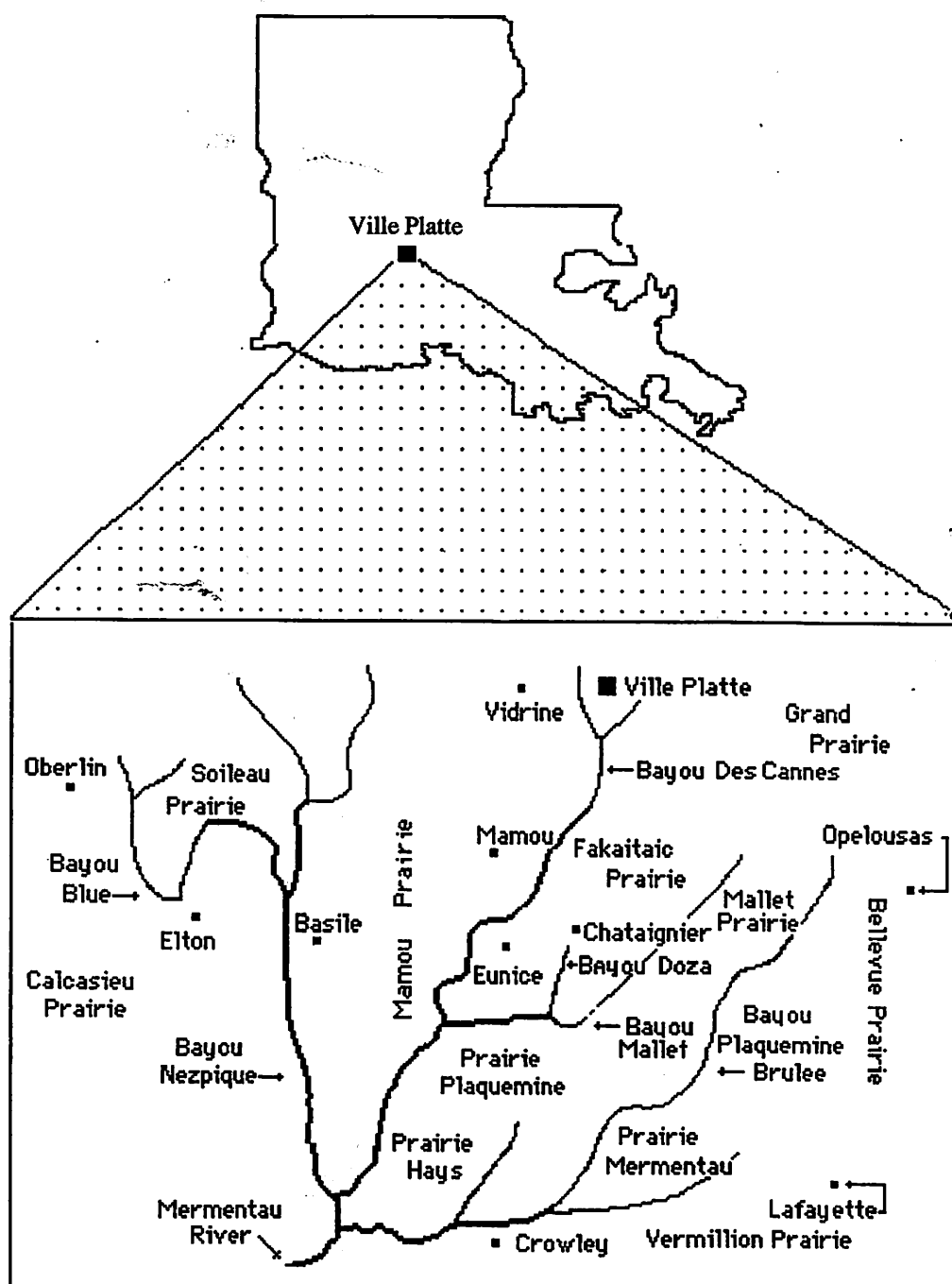
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Prairies of Southwest Louisiana

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Post Office Box 664
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La Voix des Prairies is
published quarterly, in
January, April, July, &
October; annual index is
included in the October
issue.

MEETINGS of the Evangeline Genealogical & Historical Society are held on the third Saturday of January, April, July and October, at 1:30 PM in the Louisiana Room of the Evangeline Parish Library located on Main Street in Ville Platte, Louisiana.

MEMBERSHIP fees are \$10.00 per year for a single membership and \$12.00 per year for a family or couple (single mailing to two persons at the same address). Members receive the newsletter and a subscription to the quarterly, *La Voix des Prairies*. Single copies and back issues of the quarterly are available for \$3.00 each.

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QUARTERLY EXCHANGE will take place with other genealogical and/or historical societies. The exchanges received will be placed in the Louisiana Room of the parish library in the permanent holdings of the Society.

ACQUISITIONS/DONATIONS: The Society has an on-going project of acquiring books, periodicals, and other materials to place in the Louisiana Room of the parish library. We ask for donations of such books and materials which will be placed in the library as gifts from the Society and bearing a bookplate with the name of the donor. We welcome memorials and honorariums.

ADDRESSES: LA VOIX DES PRAIRIES, P.O. Box 664, Ville Platte, Louisiana 70586
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THE MAYER/MYERS FAMILY OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA:**Some Descendants of Homer (Omer) Myers****Submitted by Rena Myers Price and Nanette Price Park**

[Editor's note; The information presented here is not presented as a concise genealogy of the Mayer family. The material used in this article was compiled by Rena Myers Price, Nanette Price Park and John A. Young. The material was collected for inclusion in a "Myers Family" book which was made available to people attending the Homer Myers reunion in Eunice, La. in 1991. It was felt that the genealogical information included in the book would be of interest to many of our readers.]

Among the German immigrants who arrived in the Opelousas Post area in the late 1700's was Andre MAYER, the son of Jacques (Jacob?) MAYER & Catherine MATTHIS. Andre married Marie Anne (Marieanna) STELLY, the daughter of George STELLY and Christina EDELMAYER (ETMAYER ELLENON, HILMEN), in St. Landry Parish, date unknown. George STELLY, possibly from Germany or at least of German descent, was in the Opelousas area by 1777 at which time he is shown on the Opelousas Post census.

George STELLY is shown on the Roster of the Militia Company of Opelousas taken on June 8, 1777. Inclusion on this militia list qualifies his descendants for membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution or National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

As is true with many other names, there are spelling variations to the name MAYER: MAYERS; MIREs; MYRE; MYRES; MAHER; MAIA; MAIARD; MAILLARD; MAYAR; MAYARD; MAYERE; MYE, thus presenting some difficulty for the researcher. The majority of the descendants of Homer MYERS use the spelling "MYERS;" however, some members still use MAYER.

Andre MAYER died sometime prior to February 3, 1818, at which time his succession was filed in Opelousas. Marie Anne STELLY died before December 1822 when her succession was also filed in Opelousas. Andre and Marie Anne had the following children:

1. Victoria MAYER, b. ____ ; m. 11 Apr 1790 (Opel. Ch.) , Fredrick MILLER, s/o Jacob MILLER & Ana Marie THAISON. (Victoria Mayer estate dated Oct 1831 [OCH])
2. Aniese MAYER, b. ____ ; m. 31 May 1791 (Opel. Ch.), Jacob MILLER (Jr.), s/o Jacob MILLER & Ana Marie THAISON.
3. Magdelaine MAYER, b. ____ ; m. 18 Jun 1793 (Opel. Ch.), Guillermo SPANGERBERG, s/o Jorik SPANGERBERG & Luisa AMELONG. (Magdelaine died 10 May 1818 [Opel. Ch.])
4. Marie Francoise MAYER, b. ____ ; m. 19 Jan 1796 (Opel. Ch.), Jean MILLER, s/o Jacob MILLER & Ana Marie THAISON. (Marie Francoise died 28 Sep 1814 Opel. Ch.).
- **5. Jean Baptiste MAYER, b. ca. 1781; d. 27 Jun 1811 at age 30 years (Opel. Ch.); m. 25 May 1801 (Opel. Ch.), Dorothy EDMOND (GUENARD), d/o Francois EDMOND (GUENARD) & Catherine DESBORDES.

** Denotes direct line of Homer Myers.

(Mayer family con't.)

6. Alexis MAYER, b. ca. Jan 1782, bt. 11 Jul 1782 at age 5 mths. 11 days (Opel. Ch.); m. (1) 3 Sep 1805 (Opel. Ch.), Louise (Lise) DESBORDES, d/o Jacque DESBORDES & Julie FONTENOT; m. (2) 23 Dec 1822 (Opel. Ch.), Marie Louise NERAUT, d/o Andre NERAUT & Marie Louise PRUDHOMME. (Marie Louise NERAUT had previously married Guillaume LALONDE.)
7. Michel MAYER, b. 28 Mar 1786 (Opel. Ch.); m. 13 Jul 1812 (Opel. Ch.), Mathilda NERAULT, d/o Andre NERAULT & Marie Louise PRUDHOMME.
8. Marie (Celeste, Cesaire) MAYER, bt. 29 May 1791 (Opel. Ch.); m. (1) 24 Apr 1810 (Opel. Ch.), Louis GUILBERT, s/o Pierre GUILBERT & Marguerite FOUCHE; m. (2) 1 Aug 1826 (Opel. Ch.), Antoine LANGLOIS, s/o Antoine LANGLOIS & Francoise CARRIERE.
9. Andre MAYER (Jr.), b. 8 Oct 1793 Opel. Ch.); m. (1) 6 Sep 1896 (Opel. Ch.), Marie MECHE, d/o Andre MECHE & Marie HARKOP (HOLSTOK, HABRECTO, AVERSHOT, AIBERCHETOCK); m. (2) 5 Aug 1817 (Opel. Ch.), Delphine NERAUT, d/o Andre NERAUT & Marie Louise PRUDHOMME; m. (3) 18 Dec 1822 (Opel. Ch.), Marthe COCHRAN, d/o Nathaniel COCHRAN & Celeste PRUDHOMME. (Andre, Jr. Succession dated 4 Dec 1834 [SM Ct. Hse.]
10. George MAYER, b. ____; m. (1) 18 Oct 1808 (Opel. Ch.), Lise Verette MARKS, d/o Balthasar MARKS & Catherine MILLER; m. (2) 25 Feb 1813 (Opel. Ch.), Elizabeth BOUTIN, d/o Paul BOUTIN & Anne TELLER (TAYLOR). (George Mayer Succession dated Apr 1832 [OCH])
11. Marie (Cecilia) MAYER, b. 4 Jul 1797 (Opel. Ch.). No other information.
12. Marie Carmelite MAYER, m. (1) 7 Sep 1814 (Opel. Ch.), Cesaire FONTENOT, s/o Pierre Baptiste FONTENOT & Celeste LAFLEUR; m. (2) 9 Dec 1828 (OCH), Jean Baptiste FROSARD, s/o Joseph FROSARD & Marie Barbe MILLER. (Cesaire Fontenot Succession dated Jul 1822 [OCH]. Three children listed). (Marie Carmelite died 10 Dec 1835 [GC Ch.]

**** Jean Baptiste MAYER, the fifth (?) child of Andre MAYER and Marie Anne STELLY, born about 1781, married Dorothy GUENARD on May 25, 1801 (Opel. Ch.). Dorothy was the daughter of Francois GUENARD and Catherine DESBORDES. They had at least five children prior to Jean Baptiste's death on June 27, 1811, at age 30 years. (Opel. Ch.):**

1. Nemesie MAYER, bt. 18 Apr 1802 at age 1 mth. (Opel. Ch.); m. 3 Jun 1823 (Opel. Ch.), Arthemise DUPELECHIN, d/o Jean Baptiste DUPELECHIN & Marie Rose TRAHAN.
2. Jean Valerie MAYER, b. 23 May 1803 (Opel. Ch.); m. (1) 27 Sep 1825 (Opel. Ch.), Josephine LANGLOIS, d/o Antoine LANGLOIS & Francoise CARRIERE; m. (2) 4 Aug 1835 (Opel. Ch.), Adeline GUILBERT, d/o Louis GUILBERT & Cesaire MAYER.

****3. Joseph (Valmond) MAYER, bt. 3 May 1807 at age 4 wks. (Opel. Ch.); m. 7 Dec 1831 (Opel. Ch.), Julie DUPELECHIN, d/o David DUPELECHIN & Julie Nicolas GUENARD.**

(Mayer family con't.)

4. Vallerie MAYER, b. ____ ; m. 27 Sep 1825 (Opel. Ch.), Josephine LANGLOIS, d/o Antoine LANGLOIS & Francoise CARRIERE.
5. Euphrosine (Euphrosie) MAYER, b. 8 Aug 1809 (Opel. Ch.); m. 16 Apr 1827 (OCH), Cyprien LALONDE, s/o Guillaume LALONDE & Agnes SCHUTZ (SCHISE, SERICHE, SITEN, CHISSE).

**** Joseph Valmond (Valmont) MAYER, the third child of Jean Baptiste MAYER and Dorothy GUENARD was born about April 1807 (bt. 3 May 1807 at age 4 weeks Opel. Ch.). He married Julie DUPLECHIN (b. 25 Mar 1912 SM Ch.), d/o David DUPLECHIN & Julie GUENARD, on December 7, 1831 (Opel. Ch.). Joseph Valmont MAYER died January 25, 1865 at age 57, at Bayou Teche (Opel. Ch.). He and Julie had nine children:**

1. Joseph MAYER, b. 15 Oct 1832 (Opel. Ch.); m. 20 Feb 1855 (Opel. Ch.), Azelie RAYON, d/o Eugene RAYON & Marie COURVILLE.
2. Amelia MAYER, b. 29 Nov 1834 (Opel. Ch.). No other information.
3. Jean Baptiste Terville MAYER, b. 18 Sep 1838 (Opel. Ch.); m. Auralie DALFRED.
4. Jules MAYER, b. 7 Sep 1840 (Opel. Ch.); m. 19 Jun 1867, Augustin HOLLIER, d/o Octave HOLLIER & Celestine GUILBERT.
5. Celina May MAYER, b. 3 Sep 1842. No other information.
6. Odile MAYER, b. 26 Feb 1844 (Opel. Ch.). No other information.
7. Cyprien MAYER, b. 13 Jan 1846 (Opel. Ch.); d. 7 Mar 1864 at age 18 years at Prairie Petit Bois (Opel. Ch.).
8. Adolph MAYER, b. 13 Oct 1847 (Opel. Ch.); m. 23 Sep 1868 (Opel. Ch.), m. Julie WYBLE, d/o Homer WYBLE & Elisabeth DEVILLIER.

****9. Homer MAYER, b. 10 Aug 1852 (Opel. Ch.); m. (1) 9 Feb 1880 (GC Ch.), Marie Celeste WYBLE, d/o Homer (Omer) WYBLE & Elizabeth DEVILLIER; m. (2) Catherine CARRIERE, d/o Francois CARRIERE & Adelaide LALONDE; m. (3) 16 Jul 1895 (OCH), Laura YOUNG, d/o Jessie YOUNG & Emelie BULLER.**

**** Homer (Omer) (MAYER) MYERS, the son of Joseph Valmont MAYER and Julie DUPLECHIN, was born in St. Landry Parish on August 10, 1852 (Opel. Ch.). Homer married Marie Celeste WYBLE on February 9, 1880 (GC Ch.). Marie Celeste WYBLE, the daughter of Homer (Omer) WYBLE and Elizabeth "Lise" DEVILLIER was born on December 24, 1858 (Opel. Ch.). Homer and Marie Celeste had four children prior to her death on April 10, 1887, at Leonville (Opel. Ch.).**

(Mayer family con't.)

After Marie Celeste WYBLE's death, Homer married a second time on September 27, 1888 (Arnaudville Ch.), to Catherine CARRIERE. Catherine was the daughter of Francois CARRIERE and Adelaide LALONDE. Homer and Catherine had one child and divorced.

Homer married a third time on July 16, 1895 (OCH), to Laura YOUNG. Laura, the daughter of Jessie YOUNG & Emelie BULLER, was born in 1874. Homer and Laura lived in the Basile area.

Family oral history relates that Homer died while on a business trip to Oakdale. He was unknown in the area and was buried in the local cemetery. Word of his death and burial in Oakdale was received sometime later by the family. Laura died in 1933 and was buried in the St. Augustine Cemetery in Basile. Homer and Laura had six children. The following are the children of Homer MYERS in his three marriages:

Children of Homer Myers married Celeste Wyble

- First Jules MYERS, b. 11 Nov 1880 (Opel. Ch.); m. Marie Leora YOUNG, d/o David YOUNG & Leora DOUGET, b. 29 Aug 1890; d. 26 Oct 1920.
- A. Nelson MYERS, b. 21 May 1907; m. Dora SHUFF. Nelson and Dora lived in Elton. Both are deceased and were buried in Elton. They had no children but raised several foster children.
- B. Roy MYERS, b. 7 Jun 1909; m. Elizabeth ROBBINS. Roy was a career Navy man. He lives in San Antonio, Tx. They have no children.
- C. Helen MYERS, b. 6 Jul 1918; m. Thomas J. MANFUSO. Thomas and Helen live in Long Island, NY.
1. Thomas J. MANFUSO, Jr.
 2. Paul Lewis MANFUSO.
 3. Emilie MANFUSO.
- D. Elsie MYERS, b. 13 Oct 1920; m. 26 Aug 1942, Lloyd MURFF, s/o Edger Lee MURFF & Alma Rae HINES. Elsie's mother died when she was only 13 days old. Elsie was adopted by David YOUNG and Eva LEDOUX, her aunt and uncle. Lloyd died 3 Aug 1987. Elsie lives in Centerville, Texas. They had three children:
1. Jacqueline Eve MURFF, b. 14 May 1943; m. Joseph Windell CHRIST.
 2. David MURFF, b. 21 Aug 1947; m. Carrol Jean JOHNSTON.
 3. Johnnie MURFF, b. 11 Aug 1958; m. Roanda Gayle ELLIS.

(Mayer family con't.)

Second Angelas MYERS, b. 15 Nov 1882 (GC Ch.); m. 12 Jun 1906, Etienna Marie LEBERT, born August 16, 1888, the daughter of Desire LEBERT and Julie FRUGE. They had ten children:

A. Louise MYERS, b. 1908

B. Isreal "Bick" MYERS, b. 7 Jan 1910; m. (1) Zulla GILLBEAU; m. (2) Doris MYERS. Zulla had previously married _____ FRUGE, with whom she had four children. Bick died April 18, 1987, in Deweyville, Texas.

C. Julia MYERS, b. 12 Feb 1912; m. Aidule (Dewell) FONTENOT, s/o Remi FONTENOT.

1. Margaret "Suzi" FONTENOT, b. 7 Dec 1927 (Mamou, La.); m. (1) Jack Henderson COUGHRAN; m. (2) Robert Emory BRYSON.

a. Jacqueline Molly COUGHRAN, b. 4 Oct 1951; m. Timothy Allen KERSHENSTINE.

1. Timothy Allen KERSHENSTINE, Jr., b. ca. 1981.

b. Frank Henderson COUGHRAN, b. 4 Apr 1953; d. 25 Apr 1978.

c. Cyd Myers COUGHRAN, b. 21 Nov 1956 (or 57).

2. René FONTENOT, b. 25 Oct 1930; d. 13 Jun 1987; m. (1) Dolon FONTENOT; m. (2) David DIEHL; m. (3) Arthur YOUNG.

a. Judy FONTENOT, b. 15 Nov 1945; m. Jim HASS.

1. Melissa HASS, m. Phil GIASSON.

2. Michael HASS, m. Gina _____.

b. Edward FONTENOT; m. Shelia _____.

1. Kristy FONTENOT.

2. Lori Ann FONTENOT.

c. Steven Louis FONTENOT, b. 9 Aug 1952 (Mamou, La.); m. Carol "Beth" WINSLETT, b. 27 Jun 1953 (Minden, La.), d/o Raymond G. WINSLETT & Carolyn CARTER.

1. Ashley Brooke FONTENOT, b. 26 Nov 1974 (Lake Charles, La.).

2. Kelly Nicole FONTENOT, b. 23 May 1978 (Lake Charles, La.).

3. Steven Mark FONTENOT, b. 4 Nov 1982 (Lake Charles, La.).

(Mayer family con't.)

d. David DIEHL, Jr., m. (3) Jamie _____.

D. Joseph MYERS, b. 14 Jul 1915; m. Vella MANUEL.

1. Patrick MYERS, b. 14 Jul 1936; m. Charlotte _____.

2. Lacy MYERS, b. 20 May 1941; m. Joy _____.

a. Jackie MYERS.

b. Kim MYERS.

c. Amy MYERS.

d. Shane MYERS.

3. Linden MYERS, b. 1 Jan 1944; m. 19 Apr 1969, Diana Louise DESHOTEL.

a. Candace Lynnette MYERS, b. 10 Nov 1969; m. 8 Jul 1989, David FIELDS.

1. Jillian FIELDS.

2. Stuart FIELDS.

b. Linden Gladwin MYERS, b. 8 Feb 1974.

4. Theodore Matthew "Teddy" (MYERS) MEYERS, b. 7 Apr 1946 (Eunice, La.);
m. 17 Jul 1965, Cathy Lurleen MAYNARD, b. 20 May 1950, d/o Wilbert B.
MAYNARD & Loretta GRIMES. Teddy and Cathy live in Sulphur, La.

a. Melissa Ann MEYERS, b. 28 Aug 1966; m. ^{Gregory James} _____ THORNE. s/o James
& Kaye Thorne.

1. Amanda THORNE, b. 25 Aug 1984.

b. Lori Lynn MEYERS, b. 1 Aug 1970.

5. Debra MYERS, b. 7 Sep 1957; m. Ronnie JENKINS.

a. Robin JENKINS.

b. Wendy JENKINS.

c. Joseph JENKINS.

d. Gunner JENKINS.

E. Merice MYERS, b. 3 Sep 1917; d. 17 Jun 1938; m. Don Louis MANUEL

(Mayer family con't.)

F. Elton MYERS, b. 14 Feb 1919 (Eunice, La.); m. Jeanne LEGER, b. 16 Sep 1928, d/o Leonce LEGER & Josephine BOURGEOIS.

1. Jimmie Field MYERS, b. 13 Dec 1947 (Eunice, La.); m. 18 Oct 1969, Cheryl BIHM, d/o Robert L. BIHM & Hazel BELLARD.

a. Jeremy MYERS, b. 27 Jul 1971 (Opelousas, La.)

b. Monique MYERS, b. 16 Dec 1974 (Franklin, La.)

2. Glyn Dale MYERS, b. 26 Sep 1951; m. Ellen LELEUX, d/o Harold P. LELEUX, Sr., & Marilyn McBRIDE.

a. Derek Paul MYERS, b. 7 Jul 1980.

b. Clay Patrick MYERS, b. 30 Oct 1983.

c. Mark Phillip MYERS, b. 23 May 1985.

3. Mitchell MYERS, b. 24 Jan 1952 (Eunice, La.); m. 10 Aug 1974, Harriett FRYE. Mitchell and Harriett live in Eunice.

a. Kathy "Cassie" MYERS, b. 10 Oct 1975.

b. Katrina MYERS, b. 11 Dec 1981.

4. Cindy MYERS, b. 3 Jun 1955.

G. Wallen MYERS, b. 12 Jan 1921; m. Helen FONTENOT.

1. Keith Gerard MYERS, b. 12 Aug 1959 (Opelousas, La.); m. (1) Brenna DUPRE; m. (2) Ginger Ann MORAIN, b. 13 Aug 1961. Keith and Ginger live in Palmetto, La.

Children of Keith MYERS married Brenna DUPRE

a. Brandon MYERS, b. 24 Sep 1977.

b. Brach MYERS, b. 10 Mar 1981.

Children of Keith MYERS married Ginger MORAIN

c. Chelsea MYERS, b. 4 Sep 1987.

H. Rena Marie MYERS, b. 14 Mar 1923 (Mamou, La.); m. 2 May 1942, Wilber PRICE, b. 11 Oct 1923; d. 21 Apr 1988, s/o Glover Erly PRICE & Annette LAWRENCE of Jackson Miss.

(Mayer family con't.)

1. Betty Jean PRICE, b. 9 Apr 1943 (Eunice, La.); m. (1), Billy Wayne DAVID; m. (2), 26 Dec 1973, Bercy COURVILLE, b. 13 Apr 1931, s/o Shelby COURVILLE & Carrie REED.
 - a. Brigitte L. COURVILLE, b. 2 Aug 1963 (Kinder, La.); m. Wilton Eurtis JOHNSON, Jr., b. 25 Jul 1960.
 1. Justin Miles JOHNSON, b. 25 Sep 1980.
 2. Erica Hope JOHNSON, b. 16 Sep 1986.
 - b. Barbie Katherine COURVILLE, b. 13 Aug 1964 (Kinder, La.); m. 17 Jul 1985, David Wayne REED, s/o John REED & Pat DUBROC. David & Barbie live in Jennings, La.
 1. Kristi Reneé REED, b. 31 Jul 1985.
 - c. Byron Chase COURVILLE, b. 17 Feb 1966 (Kinder, La.).
 - d. Brent Allen COURVILLE, b. 25 May 1967 (Jennings, La.).
 - e. Bentley Wilber COURVILLE, b. 7 Aug 1969 (Jennings, La.); m. 2 Mar 1991, Rose Marie RIBBECK, b. 23 Dec 1959, d/o Cecil RIBBECK & Mary Cole.
2. Nannette Marie PRICE, b. 16 Aug 1947 (Eunice, La.); m. 17 Jan 1969, Joseph PARK, s/o John Weesley PARK & Marie LANDRY.
 - a. Scott Douglas PARK, b. 17 Sep 1969 (Lake Charles, La.).
 - b. Angela Denise PARK, b. 19 Oct 1971 (Lake Charles, La.).
3. Linda Faye PRICE, b. 26 Jan 1949 (Eunice, La.); m. 28 Sep 1968 (Elton, La.), John Rickey ISTRE, s/o R.J. ISTRE & Ethel Mae BENOIT.
 - a. John Rickey ISTRE, Jr., b. 15 Oct 1969 (Eunice, La.); m. 20 Jan 1989, Belinda Marie MARCANTEL, b. 20 Jun 1969, d/o Jerry MARCANTEL & Mary Jane CHAPMAN.
 1. Chassidy Nicole ISTRE, b. 28 Jan 1990.
 - b. Wendy Nicole ISTRE, b. 1 Mar 1972 (Mamou, La.).
 - c. Monica Lynn ISTRE, b. 7 Jul 1973 (Jennings, La.); m. 25 Aug 1990, Lezime "Lee" FONTENOT.
 1. Ashley Lynn FONTENOT, b. 1 Jun 1991.
 - d. Wilber Joseph ISTRE, b. 11 Aug 1977 (Lake Charles, La.).

(Mayer family con't.)

- I. Francis MYERS, b. 27 Oct 1925 or 27 Sep 1926 (Mamou, La.); m. Esther MOREAU, d/o Joseph MOREAU & Marie BAGIN. Francis and Esther live in Eunice.
1. Clifford James MYERS, b. 20 May 1949 (Eunice, La.); m. 8 Aug 1969 (Lawtell, La.), Launa Marie SELLERS, d/o Irby Joseph SELLERS & Patricia Doll GAILEY. Clifford and Launa live in Eunice.
 - a. Shawn Marie MYERS, b. 10 Feb 1970.
 - b. Dollie Kay MYERS, b. 8 Feb 1975.
 - c. Jessica Ruth MYERS, b. 17 Jan 1978.
 - d. Billie Clare MYERS, b. 19 Sep 1982.
 - e. Patti Lane MYERS, b. 16 Mar 1986.
 2. Francis MYERS, Jr., b. 2 Dec 1955.
 3. Ricky James MYERS, b. 14 Aug 1960; d. 2 May 1977. Killed by lighting.
 4. Tina Marie MYERS, b. 21 Dec 1962; m. 10 Jul 1980, Ashton Joseph MILLER, Jr., s/o Ashton Joseph MILLER & Linda LAVERGNE.
 - a. Leah Lynn MILLER, b. 10 Jan 1984.
 - b. Lacy Ann MILLER, b. 14 Jul 1985.
 - c. Ricky James MILLER, b. 29 Aug 1990.
 5. David MYERS, b. 5 Nov 1966 (Eunice, La.); m. 11 May 1991, Renessa Lynn FONTENOT, d/o Curley FONTENOT & _____ FUSELIER.
- J. Classie Louis MYERS, b. 14 Dec 1927 (Mamou, La.); m. 20 Apr 1952, Dorothy Ann FREY, d/o John FREY & Helen DAIGLE.
1. Carla Ann MYERS, b. 3 Mar 1953; m. (1) Zachery CRAWFORD; m. (2) Tommy MONTZ.
 - a. Erick CRAWFORD, b. 12 Jun 1975.
 - b. Kevin MONTZ, b. 24 Apr 1980.
 - c. Emily MONTZ, b. 8 Dec 1981.
 - d. Luke MONTZ, b. 7 Jul 1983.
 - e. Merrell MONTZ, b. 6 Jul 1985.

(Mayer family con't.)

2. Kimbrough Ivan MYERS, b. 31 Jul 1954; d. 24 Nov 1977. Buried in Eunice.
3. Gary Louis MYERS, b. 11 Aug 1956; d. 6 Aug 1972. Buried in Eunice.
4. Jonathon Neal MYERS, b. 12 Jan 1959; m. Felica DUPLECHIN. Jonathon and Felica live in Bakersfield, Calif. They have no children.
5. Stephen Paul MYERS, b. 23 Jan 1960; m. _____.
- a. Jill Nicole MYERS, b. 9 Aug 1986.

Third Edvise (Marie Edwige) MYERS, b. 11 Oct 1884 (Opel. Ch.); d. 30 Oct 1934; m. Adraste VIDRINE, b. 2 Feb 1887; d. 20 Jul 1948.

A. Saih VIDRINE, m. Clayton REDDELL.

1. Betty REDDELL, b. 1990; m. Denneth ISTRE.
 - a. Cathy ISTRE.
 - b. Kenny ISTRE.
 - c. Cristi ISTRE.
2. Elton Pete REDDELL, b. 25 Jul 1909; m. 12 Jul 1939, _____.
3. Hilda REDDELL, m. Lucien "Sally" WADE.
 - a. Janice Joy WADE, m. Mackie PRATT.
 1. Doug PRATT.
 2. David PRATT.
 3. Paula PRATT
 - b. Elizabeth Ann "Liz" WADE, m. Don ELLERBE. Now divorced.
 1. Mike ELLERBE.
 2. Rebecca ELLERBE.
 - c. Sally Jo WADE, m. Ronnie BUTLER.
4. Arecia REDDELL, b. 27 Aug 1914; d. 14 Oct 1985; m. 26 Feb 1938, Jesse Douglas MALLORY, b. 26 May 1908; d. 16 Feb 1987.
 - a. Sandra Alice MALLORY, b. 10 Apr 1941 (New Iberia, La.); m. 5 Jul 1969, Ronald Gene DEATON, b. 26 May 1941. Divorced in 1988.

(Mayer family con't.)

1. Devon Patrick DEATON, b. 26 Jul 1972 (New Orleans, La.).
2. Shannon Mallory DEATON, b. 7 Oct 1974 (Harrisonville, Missouri).
- b. Vicki Darlyn MALLORY, b. 19 Jan 1945 (Jennings, La.); m. 5 Jun 1966, Cecile William "Bill" MILLER.
1. Douglas Doerle MILLER, b. 27 Aug 1969 (New Iberia, La.); m. 15 Apr 1989, Jenne DEROUEN.
2. Brandi Leigh MILLER, b. 19 Apr 1973 (New Iberia, La.).

Fourth Marie Celeste MAYER, b. 1 Apr 1887 (Arnaudville Ch.). No other information.

Child of Homer MYERS married Catherine CARRIERE

Fifth Marie Bertha MYERS, b. 4 Jul 1889 (Arnaudville Ch.). No other information.

Children of Homer MYERS married Laura YOUNG

Sixth Natile MYERS, m. (1) _____ CLEMENT; m. (2) Willis LOPEZ.

A. Eli LOPEZ.

B. Emery LOPEZ. Died young and unmarried. Buried in Bertrand Cemetery, Hathaway, La.

Seventh Eraste "Compo" MYERS, b. 20 Oct 1899; d. 29 Nov 1970; m. Celise MARCANTEL, b. 12 Oct 1900 Cemetery Inscription (12 Oct 1901 Opel Ch.); d. 21 Jan 1961, d/o Celestin MARCANTEL & Louise DESHOTEL. Both are buried in Basile, La.

A. Oliver J. (O.J.) MYERS, b. 27 Aug 1924; m. (1) Mildred SONNIER, d/o Orelie SONNIER & Marie DURAND; m. (2) Nellie AGUILLARD, d/o Able AGUILLARD & Angelique BERZA. No children from second marriage.

1. Patrick Roger MYERS, b. 6 Jan 1944; m. Theresa RICHARD.

a. Leslie MYERS, b. 21 Jan 1973.

b. Karen MYERS, b. 29 Apr 1959.

2. Paul MYERS.

3. Phillip MYERS, b. 29 Apr 1959.

B. Louise "Coca" MYERS, m. Douglas PREJEAN.

(Mayer family con't.)

Eight Adraste (Adros) "Slim" MYERS, b. 27 Nov 1901; d. 30 Nov 1965. Never married. Lived on a farm, near Hathaway, La. with his sister Daya and her husband. Adraste was buried in Basile.

Ninth Mathilde MYERS, m. Willis LEJEUNE. No other information.

Tenth Daya (Dea) MYERS, (a twin), b. 27 Aug 1903 (Eun. Ch.); m. (1) July 1921, Floyd Wilson RITTER, s/o James RITTER & Clara TAYLOR; m. (2) Hebert RACCA.

A. Fred A. RITTER, b. 27 Apr 1923 (Hataway, La.); m. Dorothy HETZEL. Fred and Dorothy live in Reeves, La.

1. Carl Wilson RITTER, b. 3 Aug 1946; m. Nan FLUESMIEIER.

a. Jennifer Lohman RITTER, b. 15 Jan 1974.

b. John Samuel RITTER, b. 7 Jan 1984.

2. Kathleen RITTER, m. Mike HEINTZ.

a. Shannon Newell HEINTZ, b. 22 Sep 1973.

b. Brian Wilson HEINTZ, b. 26 Oct 1976.

3. Fred Allen RITTER, Jr., b. 25 Jul 1951; m. Kathy THOMBLEY.

B. James E. RITTER, b. 12 Apr 1926 (Hathaway, La.); m. Jesse Lynn REEVES.

1. Mark Randall RITTER, b. 8 Oct 1956; m. Colleen ROBERTS.

a. Jolene RITTER, b. 30 Sep 1977.

b. Desmond RITTER, b. 17 Mar 1983.

2. James Edward RITTER, Jr., b. 21 Jul 1958; m. Harriet ADAMS.

a. Isaac RITTER, b. 8 Oct 1986.

3. Angela Ruth RITTER, b. 3 Jul 1959; m. Andy STANLEY.

a. Brandi STANLEY, b. 26 Mar 1977.

b. Bethany STANLEY, b. 21 Mar 1980.

4. Kevin RITTER, b. 7 Sep 1960; m. Helen CHANEY, b. 14 Feb 1960.

C. Laura RITTER, b. 25 Feb 1932; m. Leroy SONNIER.

1. John Keith SONNIER, b. 6 Apr 1952; m. 4 May 1974, Janice GUIDRY

(Mayer family con't.)

- a. John Kyle SONNIER, b. 3 May 197_.
- b. Kayla Jeanine SONNIER, b. 22 May 1977.
- 2. Jacqueline SONNIER, b. 26 Apr 1956 (Port Arthur, Tx.); m. 23 Mar 1979, Albert Joseph Duval, b. 8 Sep 1945.
 - a. James A. DUVAL, b. 10 Mar 1980.
 - b. Lucas J. DUVAL, b. 5 Sep 1986.
- 3. Julie Marie SONNIER, b. 22 Nov 1959; m. (1) Robert GONZALES; m. (2) 18 Aug 1989, David BAILEY.
 - a. Michael GONZALES, b. 12 Nov 1980.
 - b. Tasha GONZALES, b. 5 Feb 1982.
- 4. James Oran SONNIER, b. 28 May 1961; m. 15 Dec 1983, Peggy Jean ROSE, b. 19 Mar 1959.
 - a. James Oran SONNIER, Jr., b. 3 Jul 1984.
 - b. David Trey SONNIER, b. 11 Aug 1986.
- 5. Jane Carol SONNIER, b. 5 May 1964; m. 24 Aug 198_, Jerry Lamar BASS.
 - a. Ashley BASS, b. 1986.
 - b. Derek BASS, b. 1989.
- D. Clara Ann RITTER, b. 27 Feb 1941 (Jennings, La.); m. (1) Curtis LeBLANC; m. (2) Aaron VELASCO, b. 11 Jul 1938, s/o Adolph VALASCO & Dora ESQUIVEL.
 - 1. Bradford Dale LeBLANC, b. 30 May 1960; m. 1980, Debra GONZALES.
 - a. Joshua LeBLANC.
 - b. Kristy LeBLANC.
 - 2. Gregory Wilson LeBLANC, b. 23 Aug 1961; d. 27 Jun 1983.
 - 3. Timothy Wayne LeBLANC, b. 5 Nov 1962 (Groves, Tx.); m. 9 Mar 1991, Becky Delgado GREEN.

Eleventh Deus (Devis) MYERS, (a twin), b. 27 Aug 1903 (Eun. Ch.); d. 27 Aug 1903.

_____ End of Article _____

The Ernest Soileau Home

Joy Ortego and Margaret Reed Fontenot

The Ernest SOILEAU home in Ville Platte on the southwest corner of the one hundred block of West Main Street was built around 1910 in the same location that Marcellin GARAND had built his home. The population of the Ville Platte at the time Ernest built his home was 603. The house was set back about eighty feet from the street which was part of the Spanish Trail. The Spanish Trail was the main road from Opelousas in the south to Bayou Chicot, Natchitoches and eventually to Texas and points west.

The first person to own the property where the Garand house was located was William O'DONEGAN, one of the pioneer settlers of Ville Platte. In 1806 he gave his daughter, Eleanor O'DONEGAN, ten acres of land bordering Main Street which ran from the Chataignier road to the twelve hundred block of West Main. This property was eventually sold to Samuel LAUGHLIN, who in turn sold it to Marcellin GARAND in 1824. When Marcellin GARAND died in 1852, his widow Hyacinth VIDRINE GARAND retained the estate until her death in 1865. It was then sold at public auction to Joseph FONTENOT, Jr. who later sold it to Onezime TATE. In 1869, Prospaire DAIRE and his wife Eulicia, came into possession of the property which remained in the Daire family for many years. It was a Daire daughter, Adele DAIRE CONWAY who sold the Garand house to Joseph LeBAS in 1908. The house was then moved by oxen to the LeBas property on the one hundred block of West Washington Street. Ernest SOILEAU then bought the three corner lots (150 X150 feet) where the house had stood.

As was the style at the time, the roof of the Soileau home was made of wood shingles with two "dog-house" windows protruding from the roof. (A sketch of the house appears on page 38) The front entrance opened into a long hall (in later years used as a sitting area) that separated two bedrooms on the left and the living room on the right, with a third bedroom behind it. At the end of the hall was the dining room followed by the kitchen, with a porch on both sides extending the length of those two rooms.

To help keep this huge house cool in summer, there were transoms (small windows) above the doors that could be opened for ventilation. The rooms had twelve foot ceilings and the house was built between three to four feet above the ground, which also helped in keeping it cool. The crawl space under the house provided the grandchildren with many happy hours of entertainment playing with their homemade cars and trucks. The chickens and geese also found this area much to their liking, building their nests near the house pillars and the chimineys. The features that made the house so cool in summer also caused it to be very difficult to heat in the winter.

Almost all of the prominent homes at this time were built high off the ground. One can't help but wonder if it wasn't because of the flooding conditions also. Notations on the original plats for the Ville Platte area stated that surveyors had to use pirogues and flatboats to get around to properly get their work done. Poor drainage and flooding conditions still exist in the area today.

To furnish his elegant new home, Ernest Soileau traveled to New Orleans and purchased some beautiful mahogany furniture plus four mantle pieces for the three double fireplaces in the house. These, too, were made of dark mahogany wood. Two of the mantles had mirrors across the top with four-inch columns along each side down to the floor. The other two had carvings of leaves and scrolls, as did the front door with the designs in the top corners above the oval glass. This door now (1992) graces the front entrance of the home of a grandson, Maxie GUIDRY, of Opelousas.

(Ernest Soileau Home con't.)

The drawing of the Soileau residence was done by Margaret REED FONTENOT from a snapshot taken by Sidney SOILEAU, the last living child of Ernest and Emma SOILEAU's family of thirteen children. The house was, in reality, more massive looking than the sketch portrays. In observing the windows and high-pitched roof that provided living area for a second story, one recalls the custom of the 1800's and early 1900's, of this part of the house being the boy's sleeping quarters, called the "garconniere." When interviewed, Sidney said that he had never slept upstairs, however, he recalled the many times, as a small child, that he went up into the attic, struggled to open a window and then climbed out on the roof. He then laughingly tapped his head a couple of times with his fist and expressed how hardheaded he was to do such a dangerous thing. The attic had no rooms or partitions, but did have an area the size of an average room with a floor with a bed to accommodate overnight guests.

Ernest SOILEAU was a well-known, influential man, never holding a political office at any time, but active in the affairs of the community and politics of the state. His home was a meeting place for many discussions and business decisions as well as a place where home cooked meals were served by his wife in his large dining room. All the Soileau children were born on the family property south of Ville Platte, and some were married prior to the time their parents moved to town. As the family swelled with grandchildren, the house was almost like a hotel with people in and out. They congregated on the long front porch that ran the width of the house to enjoy each other's company and exchange news.

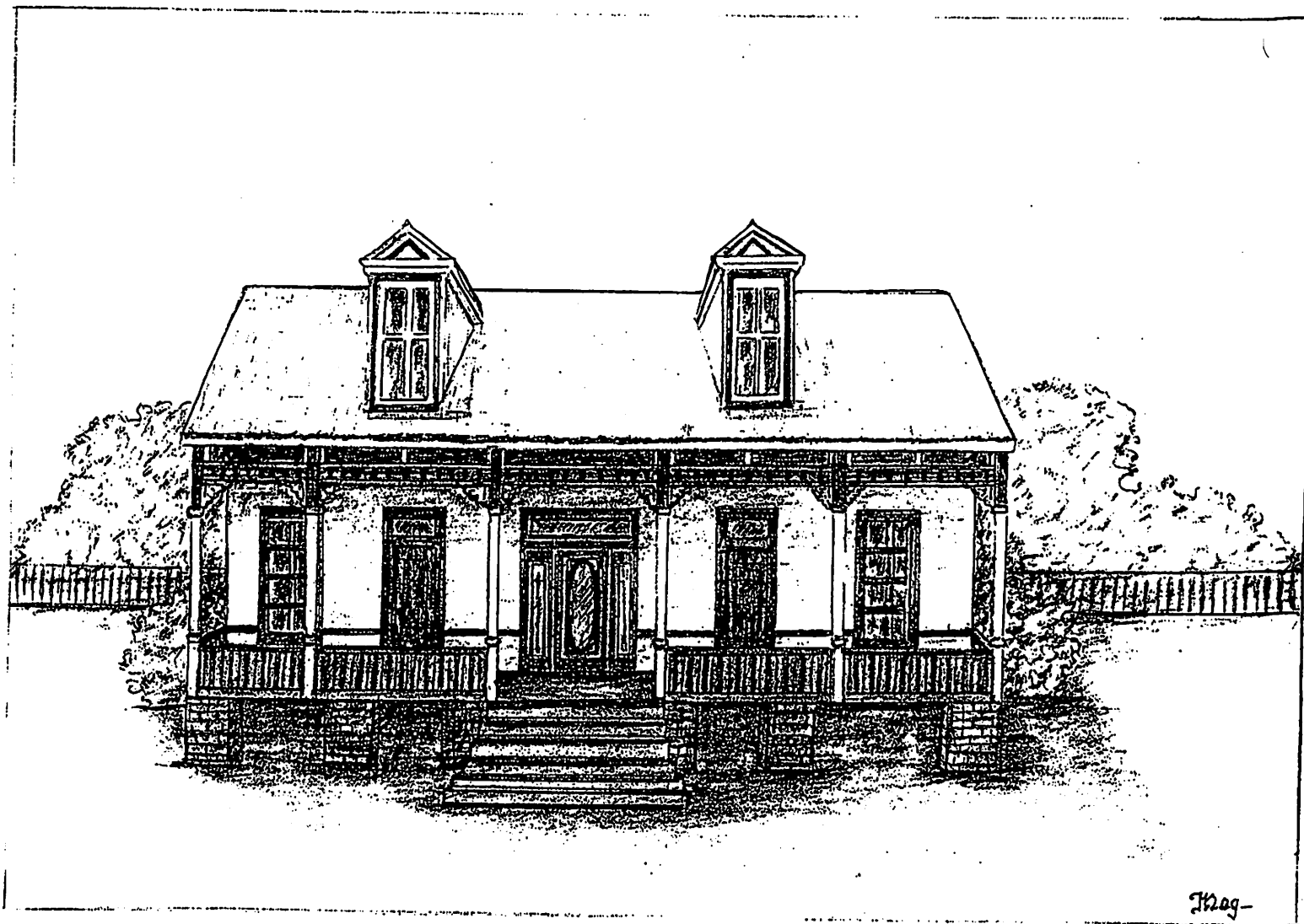
Three years after the death of Ernest SOILEAU in 1931, the home was sold to his daughter, Hermance, married to Zannie GUIDRY. Again, this house became a gathering place for political and business discussions as Zannie served as mayor of Ville Platte from 1945 to 1949.

Over the years, the face and shape of this grand old house changed many times in the hands of its new owners. Hermance first cut off the dining room and kitchen with the two porches attached, hauled it to the side street and made a rent house with that part. A complete upstairs was made on the front part and converted into apartments for rent. During World War II folding cots were put in the kitchen area to accommodate soldiers that came to Ville Platte from the various Army camps in the area for the weekend. When Zannie GUIDRY and son, Marie, built their Firestone Store in 1946, taking up the whole front yard, the entrance of the home was then changed to face the side street, High School Drive.

After the death of Zannie GUIDRY, and the confinement of his wife, Hermance, to a nursing home, their children were given the home by their mother. In 1984, it was sold to Noward WYBLE for \$40,000. The old home was then torn down.

Today nothing remains of that lovely old home that stood in the heart of Ville Platte for almost three quarters of a century... except in the minds and hearts of those for whom it holds precious memories of joys and sorrows, and of people gone but not forgotten.

[Editor's note: The sketch of the Ernest Soileau home which appears on the following page was done by Margaret Reed Fontenot of Ville Platte. Mrs. Fontenot previously submitted the drawing of the Evangeline Club which appeared along with her article, "The Evangeline Club in Ville Platte" in La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 11, No. 42, p. 46, Jul. 1990]



The Ernest Soileau home built on Main Street of Ville Platte around 1910.

<oo> <oo> <oo> <oo> Queries <oo> <oo> <oo> <oo>

HAM - McDANIEL - MARTIN - TEAL - EVENS - BUNDICK

I am interested in corresponding and exchanging information with anyone having information on the above listed surnames. I would also like to locate the graves of William Arthur and Susannah BROWN HAM and Dennis and Sarah MARTIN McDANIEL who are believed to be buried in the Bayou Boeuf area as this is where they lived. Would also like to know if a history of the First Baptist Church of Bayou Chicot has been published.

Dorothy Reed Black, 7918 Rustic Forest, San Antonio, TX 78239

DUNKS

Andrew DUNKS, Sr. and Andrew, Jr. are listed on the St. Landry Parish 1820 census. The 1830 St. Landry Parish census lists only the widow Andrew DUNKS. Information on this family would be appreciated. Would also like to know of any cemeteries having DUNKS burials ca. 1820's and 1855 - 56.

Laurel Bryan Stockton, 7761 Crystal Blvd., Diamond Springs, CA 95619

DISALVO - PRIMA

I am interested in information on, or the mention of any DISALVOs and PRIMAs in newspapers, books, obituaries or cemetery listings. Any help on these families would be appreciated.

Kathy Gakeler, 2520 Crawford, Wichita, KS 67217

NEELY - NULL

I am searching for information on my great-grandparents, Charles T. NEELY and Mary E. NULL. They were married on August 13, 1869 in Mississippi and moved to Louisiana about 1871. They are believed to have settled in St. Landry Parish. Any information would be appreciated.

Barbara Borel, 59333 Palestine Rd., Bogalusa, LA 70427

BRYANT - HOOK - McGEE - HAMILTON

I am interested in corresponding with anyone descended from Annie BRYANT HOOK McGEE. Annie's father, Thomas BRYANT, is a complete mystery. I have been unable to find a record on him before or after his 1866 marriage to Mary HAMILTON at the residence of John D. HUDSPETH on Bayou Boeuf, in St. Landry Parish.

Lucy R. Delancy, Rt. 2, Box 58 B, Braxton, MS 39044

SEALES - FISH

I would like to correspond with persons having knowledge of cemeteries in the Bayou Chicot and Turkey Creek area. I am searching for a death date for Alfred SEALES who died in the Bayou Chicot - Turkey Creek area between 1881 - 1890. I would also like to locate a church, probably Baptist, where a Reverend FISH was pastor in 1879. Any help would be appreciated.

Steve Torgeso, 4330 Pleasant Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70605

JENNINGS ORPHANAGE

I am searching for records from an orphanage which was in operation in Jennings, Louisiana in the 1920's. I do not know when it was founded but I believe that it closed in the late 1920's. The home has been referred to by the names of Nancy Lee Home; Nancy Jane Home; Memorial Mercy Home; Jennings Institute and Jennings Children's Home. Any help in locating records from this orphanage would be greatly appreciated.

Vallery Hamilton, Rt. 3, Box 188-H, Farmersville, TX 75442

THE FONTENOT-DOUCET MARRIAGE CONTRACT: 1768

Submitted by Winston De Ville, Fellow
American Society of Genealogists

When this writer and Jacqueline O. VIDRINE published *Marriage Contracts of the Opelousas Post: 1766 - 1803* (Ville Platte, La., 1960), the colonial records housed at the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans were closed tightly to researchers. The document we present here, then, was not included in that compilation.

The original of the Fontenot - Doucet marriage contract is now in the archives collection of the Louisiana State Museum's Louisiana Historical Center, cited as Document No. 10439, 16-4-1768. As an addendum to the above-named volume, we offer an abstract of it below:

At Opelousas, 16 April 1768, Afternoon
Before recorder Jean CARRIERE, acting as notary and clerk
aux Appelloussace, appeared Anry [Henri] FONTENAU, a
habitant [of Opelousas], legitimate son of the deceased
FONTENAU and Louisse ANRY [Henri], proceeding as of major
age, and with the consent of his mother and his brother,
contracts marriage with Marie DOUSSET [DOUCET], legitimate
daughter of deceased Pierre DOUSSET and Marie FRANÇOISE,
native of Alibamons, proceeding with the authority of her
mother. Both are habitants of La Cote des Opeloussas.
Making their ordinary marks are the bride, the groom, the
bride's mother, and J. Batiste CLERI [sp. ?]. Signatures
are Charles LARTER [sp. ?]; RACLOT, witness; LOYLES [sp.
?], witness; J. CARRIERE, notary.

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La Voix des Prairies

Founded 1980

ISS # 0743-1848

Evangeline Genealogical and Historical Society

P.O. Box 664, Ville Platte, LA 70586

July 1992

VOL. 13, NO. 50

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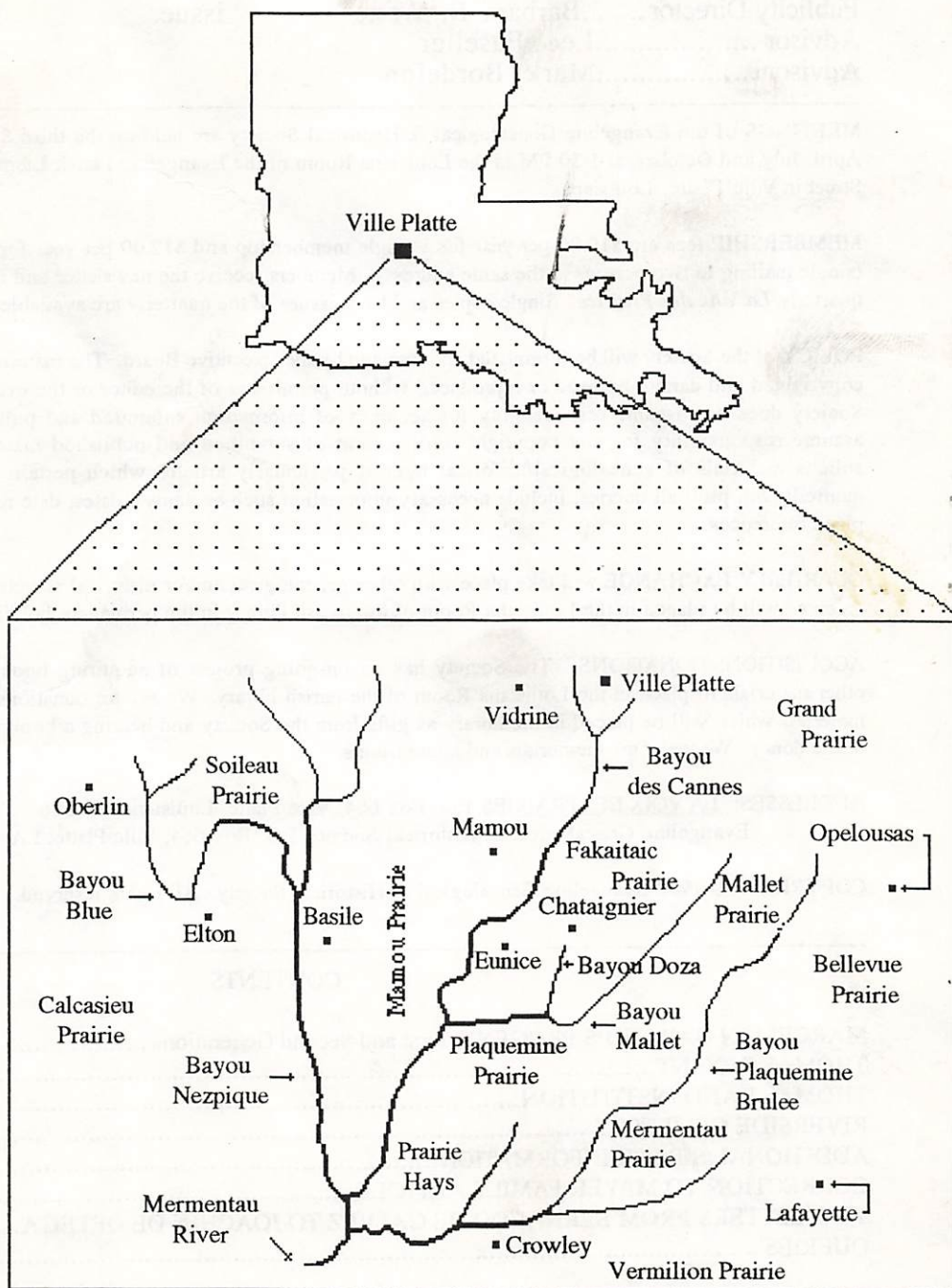
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Prairies of Southwest Louisiana

EVANGELINE GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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La Voix des Prairies is published quarterly, in January, April, July, & October; annual index is included in the October issue.

MEETINGS of the Evangeline Genealogical & Historical Society are held on the third Saturday of January, April, July and October, at 1:30 PM in the Louisiana Room of the Evangeline Parish Library located on Main Street in Ville Platte, Louisiana.

MEMBERSHIP fees are \$10.00 per year for a single membership and \$12.00 per year for a family or couple (single mailing to two persons at the same address). Members receive the newsletter and a subscription to the quarterly, *La Voix des Prairies*. Single copies and back issues of the quarterly are available for \$3.00 each.

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QUARTERLY EXCHANGE will take place with other genealogical and/or historical societies. The exchanges received will be placed in the Louisiana Room of the parish library in the permanent holdings of the Society.

ACQUISITIONS/DONATIONS: The Society has an on-going project of acquiring books, periodicals, and other materials to place in the Louisiana Room of the parish library. We ask for donations of such books and materials which will be placed in the library as gifts from the Society and bearing a bookplate with the name of the donor. We welcome memorials and honorariums.

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MARCELLIN GARAND'S PROGENY: FIRST AND SECOND GENERATIONS
Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr.

Introduction

Most Ville Platte, LA residents and displaced natives consider Marcellin GARAND to be the founder of their town, although he was by no means the first resident. During the 1958 centennial of its incorporation, the Town of Ville Platte did, however, proclaim him as "Founder of Ville Platte" on a new granite tombstone that was placed on his grave in Ville Platte's Le Vieux Cimetière.¹ In the process of preparing a historical piece on GARAND,² this writer assembled information on the GARAND children and grandchildren. Reviewers of the historical article suggested that such data more properly belonged in a genealogical journal; therefore, the present article was prepared. In the meantime, work on the historical piece is continuing while reviewers' comments are being addressed and additional sources investigated.³

European Origins

GARAND's 15 July 1781 birthdate at Conflans, Principality of Savoy (now part of the département of Savoie, France), can be found on his military service record.⁴ He was the son of Joseph GARAND and Georgetine PERROLAZ (various spellings).⁵ His application for United States naturalization shows that he arrived in New Orleans from the French port of Bordeaux in August (?) 1817.⁶ Thus far, examination of port arrival records has not yielded his name on a ship passenger list. No doubt, more prudent searching could provide the needed entry.⁷

Census Data

Marcellin GARAND was certainly present in Louisiana when the 1820 census was taken. Whether he was a head of household or living with others is not clear. An M. GARARD was recorded as head of New Orleans household 059 in 1820; however, to assume that this individual is Marcellin GARAND would be strictly speculation. He definitely appears on the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses of St. Landry Parish, the 1850 census being taken only two years prior to his death. A very poor microfilm copy of the 1830 census of St. Landry Parish shows a Mischer (?) (perhaps, Mister) GARAND as a head of household; however, no other information could be deciphered.⁸ On the 1840 St. Landry Parish census, Mⁿ GARAND's household is shown as having three males, one under 5 years, one 5 to 10 years, and one 50 to 60 years; four females, three 10 to 15, and one 40 to 50 years; seven male slaves, two under 5 years, two 5 to 10 years, two 10 to 15 years, and one 15 to 20 years; and eight female slaves, two under 5 years, two 5 to 10 years, two 10 to 15 years, one 15 to 20 years, and one 20 to 30 years.⁹ By 1850, the GARAND household included Marcelin (sic) GARAN (sic), a 70-year old male (actual age 69

(Marcellin Garand con't.)

years), with no profession shown (retirement is assumed), value of real estate owned as \$300.00, and born in Savoy; Heloise (sic, should be Hyacinthe), a 55-year-old female (actual age closer to 53 years), born in Louisiana; Heuereth (could be one of several daughters), a 22-year-old female; and Sydalise (Cedalise in other records), a 19-year-old female.¹⁰

Descendants

Although the census data is somewhat useful for reconstructing the GARAND family, it is best used as a supplement to the more reliable church and civil records and tombstone inscriptions. Marcellin GARAND wed two different Louisiana women, each of whom bore offspring. His first marriage was on 3 July 1821 to Brigitte SOILEAU, the daughter of Noël (Etienne) SOILEAU and Angelique FONTENOT.¹¹ Noël (Etienne), the son of Noël SOILEAU and Marie-Josephe RICHAUME, had served in the Spanish militia in Louisiana, including a tour of duty as commandant of Avoyelles Post during the latter part of the eighteenth century. One child was born of the GARAND-SOILEAU union:

1. Julie GARAND, b. ca. 1821; d. 19 Dec 1912; m. William REED, the son of William REED and Marie RAMOS on 26 November 1838, St. Landry Catholic Church, Opelousas, LA. Eleven children were born to the REED-GARAND marriage, as follows:¹²
 - a. Thomas REED, born 8 October 1840; died 1923; married 1865, Elvina VIDRINE.
 - b. Brigitte REED, born 4 December 1841; married 1888, Jean Baptiste Larose FONTENOT.
 - c. Elizabeth REED, born 10 May 1843; died Ville Platte, 4 February 1926 (age 82 years, 8 months, 25 days); buried Le Vieux Cimetière.
 - d. Clara REED, born 22 May 1845; married 27 January 1876, Edouard DARDEAU, fils (son of Edouard Alphonse Ferdinand DARDEAU and Louise Felicite Lodoiska RAULIN).
 - e. William REED, born 26 April 1847; married 1875, Corinne DUCHARMES.
 - f. Julie REED, born 15 March 1849; died young (not on 1860 or 1870 censuses).
 - g. Corine REED, born 24 February 1850; died 14 February 1936; married 1876, Richard O'CONNOR. Corine was buried in Le Vieux Cimetière.
 - h. Clinton REED, born 1853-1854; married 1888, Alice VIDRINE.

(Marcellin Garand con't.)

- i. Alfred REED, born 11 February 1856; died unmarried, 7 April 1933; buried Le Vieux Cimetière.
- j. Edgar REED, born 20 March 1859; died young (not on 1860 census).
- k. William REED, born 18 July 1861; died young.

GARAND's second marriage was on 3 January 1825 at St. Landry Catholic Church to Hyacinthe VIDRINE, the daughter of Pierre VIDRINE and Marie-Josephe BRIGNAC.¹³ Hyacinthe died at Ville Platte on 10 October 1863.¹⁴ There were at least eight children and a number of grandchildren born to the GARAND-SOILEAU union, as follows:¹⁵

- 2. Celestine GARAND, born 1825; entered Academy of the Sacred Heart, Grand Coteau, LA, 12 October 1840; married 1 June 1842, Pierre Etienne OLIVER.
- 3. Marie Jeanne GARAND, born 6 February 1826.
- 4. Jacinte GARAND, born 10 October 1827; married 29 August 1853, Onesime GUILLORY
 - a. Marie Hermine GUILLORY, born 29 August 1856.
 - b. Jean Baptiste GUILLORY, baptized 21 August 1858.
 - c. Marie Hyacinthe Alma GUILLORY, born 22 May 1865.
- 5. Marie Josephe Clotilde (Clothilde) GARAND, born 19 March 1829; died ca. 1856; entered Academy of the Sacred Heart, 12 October 1840; married 24 September 1846, Hilaire FONTENOT.
- 6. Marie Cedalise GARAND, born 1 March 1831; died 12 November 1901; married first 25 April 1852, Hilaire TATE, fils (Hilaire, Elie) TATE and Eugenie H. FONTENOT. Marie Cedalise was buried in Le Vieux Cimetière.
 - a. Arthur TATE, born 6 (?) January 1852; married 17 June 1872, Delphine DAIRE.
 - b. Marie Coralie TATE, born 16 December 1853; died 16 May 1880; married 21 Jun 1870, Oscar DARDEAU¹⁶ (son of Edouard Alphonse Ferdinand DARDEAU and Louise Felicite Lodoïska RAULIN) Marie Coralie was buried in Le Vieux Cimetière.
 - c. Marcellin TATE, born 8 August 1858.
 - d. Jean Baptiste Rost. TATE, baptized 12 September 1858 (mother incorrectly identified as Julie GARAND in SWLR).

Hilaire TATE, fils, the first husband of Marie Cedalise GARAND, died 27 October 1878. The widow TATE married second 3 January 1883, Emerand LANDRY (widower of

(Marcellin Garand con't.)

____ Roy, and son of deceased Landry LANDRY and deceased Josephine ROUSSEAU). There were no children born to the GARAND-LANDRY marriage.

7. ?Cuthbert GARAND, born ?; married 19 July 1842, Melina WILDS.

8. William GARAND, born ?; died ca. 1845 (succession dated 24 Jan 1845).

9. Jean Baptiste GARAND, born ?; died before 1888; married 21 November 1860, Sarah Anne DOUCET. "The SHAW Family Bible Records" shows Sarah DOUCET as the widow GARAND marrying John F. SHAW on 11 September 1888.¹⁷

There is no shortage of speculation concerning what might have happened to Jean Baptiste or other sons of GARAND. Some stories place him somewhere in the state of Texas after the Civil War; however, to the best of this writer's knowledge, there has never been any real evidence to support this. What is known is that Jean Baptiste died before 1888, and he and his brothers seemed to have left no male descendants; at least there are no representatives of the GARAND family in Evangeline Parish today. Marcellin GARAND's daughters, however, did leave descendants, and they can be found among the families discussed in the previous paragraphs. In succeeding generations, other families are also represented. This writer is a great-great-great grandson of GARAND, and some in his generation have grandchildren of their own, which would represent the seventh generation of descendants (counting the GARAND children as first generation).

Death of GARAND

Marcellin GARAND died in Ville Platte on 4 June 1852 and was buried in Le Vieux Cimetière. His grave is the oldest in the burial ground that he reputedly gave to the community.¹⁸ No church record of his funeral could be found, however. The succession of the Marcellin GARAND estate will be discussed in the historical piece now being revised.

Recommendations for Further Study

The historical piece on GARAND now being revised will cover his military service and his early life in the community. It will also discuss some of the tales associated with this man, trying to discern fact and fiction. Even then, many questions will still remain unanswered. A more thorough search of Louisiana church and civil records is needed. Additional information could possibly be gleaned from newspaper and port records. Further examination of French records would likely provide clues to his life in Europe prior to emigration to the United States and on his ancestors. (Notes follow)

¹ The original French tombstone, a small flat marble slab, was placed atop the grave near the head. The Town's 1958 tombstone, inscribed in English, was placed at the head of the grave. A third tombstone, a large flat granite slab purchased by Jules Ashlock in 1983 was also placed atop the grave but near the foot; it duplicates the French inscription on the original marble slab. Garand is buried in the southeast corner of the old Ville Platte Cemetery.

² Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr., "Marcellin Garand: Some Facts and Some Fiction Concerning Ville Platte, Louisiana's 'Founder'," in revision following review. The title may also be revised.

³ The historical article on Garand that is being revised will address his life in Europe and his role in the early days of Ville Platte. Special gratitude is extended to Winston DeVille, F.A.S.G., Jackie Vidrine, and Jules Ashlock, who provided excellent critical reviews.

⁴ Garand's eleven-year military service record in the French Army, obtained from the Ministère de la Guerre, Paris. A certified copy, dated 6 June 1952, was included in the 18 September 1958 (Ville Platte Centennial) and in Vol. 75, No. 16, p4B, of the 25 February 1898 (Gazette 75th Anniversary) editions of The Gazette, Ville Platte's newspaper. Although his service record and military career will be covered in detail in the upcoming historical piece, the writer feels compelled to point out that Garand was never a major (as has been popularly expressed in several newspaper articles and other published sources) or even an 'adjutant major' (as shown on his tombstone). Rather, his highest rank was a 'sous-lieutenant de Carbiniers,' which he received 1 February 1814. He did, however, hold the rank of 'sergent-major' between 13 May 1812 and 9 April 1813 and 'adjutant-sous-officier' between 9 April and 29 September 1813; hence, the probable source of confusion concerning military rank.

⁵ Louisiana State Archives (LSAR): Opel: 1821 (Southwest Louisiana Records [SWLR], Vol. 2, p364). See also St. Landry Catholic Church, Opelousas, LA (Opel. Ch.), Marriage Records Vol. 1, p432 (SWLR, Vol. 2, p364).

⁶ The source document, entitled "Report of Marcelin (sic) Garrand (sic)," was filed 31 May 1824 by Guy H. Bell, Clerk, District Court, St. Landry (LSAR, St. Landry Parish Documents, Microfilm Box 19). Marcellin Garand signed his name as "Garand." Copy provided by the Evangeline Parish Library, Ville Platte, LA, through the courtesy of Winston DeVille. DeVille had first discussed the Garand naturalization document in his "Titles and Tales" column in The Gazette, 14 August 1966, p5A.

⁷ Carl Brasseaux's 1990 book, The 'Foreign French.' Nineteenth-Century French Immigrations into Louisiana: Volume I, 1820-1839 (Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA), includes a partial listing of pre-1820 immigrants from France and other areas, "such as Savoy (Savoie), which were later incorporated into France in the nineteenth century." Unfortunately, Marcellin Garand's name is not included.

⁸ 1830 Census, St. Landry Parish, LA, microfilm M19, roll #44, p23, Ouachita Parish Library, Monroe, LA (Monroe Libr.); copied 29 June 1991.

⁹ 1840 Census, St. Landry Parish, LA, microfilm M704, roll #28, p258, Line 23, Monroe Libr.; copied 29 June 1991.

¹⁰ 1850 Census, St. Landry Parish, LA, microfilm M432, roll #240, back of p37 (Note: backs of 1850 census pages were not numbered), Line 28, House 745, Family 844, taken 13 October 1850, Monroe Libr.; copied 29 Jun 1991. (Note: the 1850 microfilm examined at the Monroe Libr. did not include slave data.)

¹¹ The Garand-Soileau marriage record is in Opel. Ch. Marriage Records, Vol. 1, p379, St. Landry Parish Courthouse (Opel. Ct. Hse.) Mar. #72, and LSAR: Opel: 1821 (SWLR, Vol. 1, p364 and p822; Note: SWLR does not list the record of the church marriage under Garand). Garand's place of birth is recorded as Conflans, Principauté de Savoie on the LSAR record. Baptismal records at Opel. Ch. show that Brigitte was born on 7 September 1794 (Vol. 1, p379; cited in SWLR Vol. 1, p517).

¹² Julie Garand's baptismal record could not be located; however, she was born ca. 1821, based on obituary information included in Ramona A. Smith and Kathleen M. Stagg. 1991 Le Vieux Cimetière: The Old Ville Platte, La., Cemetery: 1852-1990, privately published, Ville Platte, LA. The Opel. Ch. record of her marriage to William Reed is Vol. 2, p161 (SWLR, Vol. 3, p269, and p541). Information on the children and grandchildren of the Reed-Garand marriage is taken primarily from Albert Tate, Jr. 1985. "The Family of William Reed (1806-186?) and Julie Garand of Ville Platte," Louisiana Genealogical Register (La. Gen. Reg.), Vol. XXXII, No. 1 (March), pp45-47, supplemented by SWLR and Smith and Stagg.

¹³ The record of the Garand-Vidrine marriage can be found in Opel. Ch. Marriage Records, Vol. 1, p432, and Opel. Ct. Hse. Mar. #27 (SWLR, Vol. 2, p364, p894, and p895). Hyacinthe (Hiacinthe) Vidrine was baptized 16 April 1797 at Opel. Ch. (Baptismal Records Vol. 1, p17; SWLR Vol. 1, p565). Note: "Batiste" is incorrectly shown as her father.

¹⁴ Opel. Ch. Funeral records, Vol. 2, p174, cited in SWLR, Vol. 7, p468.

¹⁵ Information on births, marriages, and deaths of the children and grandchildren of the Garand-Vidrine union taken from SWLR supplemented by Anna Jane Marks, 1981. Register of Students of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Grand Coteau, Louisiana, 1821-1971. The Acadiana Press, Lafayette, LA, which was used to establish school enrollment dates of Clotilde (Clothilde) and Celestine Garand.

¹⁶ Oscar Dardeau had a second marriage to Marie Louise (Louisa) Coreil, the widow of Joseph Pierre Roy and the daughter of Marius Barthelamy Coreil and Hyacinthe Godfroy Soileau, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ville Platte, 26 July 1888 (Sacred Heart Marriage Records, Vol. 3, p112; SWLR Vol. 19, p90 and p99). No children were born to this marriage. Additional information on the antecedents and descendants of Oscar Dardeau is available in the following by this writer: a) 1980. "Seven Generations of the Dardeau Family, ca. 1757 - 1980," La. Gen. Reg., Vol. XXVIII, No. 3, pp 255-262; b) (R. - P. Dardeau and) 1981. "Familles Dardeau de France, Côté Alexandre et Edouard, Partis en Louisiane," La. Gen. Reg., Vol. XXVIII, No. 3 pp 240-243; c) 1982. "The Dardeau Manuscript," La Voix des Prairies (La Voix), Vol. 3, No. 9, pp 23 - 27, and No. 10, p59; and d) (and R. - P. Dardeau) 1985. "Early Seventeenth-Century Dardeau Presence Near France's Massif-Central," La Voix, Vol. 6, No. 22, pp 47-50.

¹⁷ The citations for the marriage of Sarah Doucet (widow Garand) to John F. Shaw are a.) Kathleen Stagg, 1989. "Shaw Family Bible Records," La Voix, Vol. 10, No. 38, p49, and b.) two Opel. Ct. Hse Records, Donations: Vol. 4, p303 (25 September 1888) and Mar. #15074 (8 September 1888) (SWLR, Vol. 19, p157, p352, and 353).

¹⁸ Smith and Stagg, Le Vieux Cimetière.

THOMAS BRYANT

Submitted by Lucy R. Delancy

The "New Dictionary of American Names" by Elsdon C. Smith states "Bryant, Bryan, (Irish), Descendant of Bryan (strong)".

Little is known of Thomas BRYANT. He seems to be somewhat of a mystery. There is the possibility that Samuel was either his first or middle name, but this has not been proven. Tradition has it that he could have been a carpetbagger from the North who came down the Mississippi River after the Civil War to make some fast money. He is said to have moved around a lot and married many times. It is also mentioned that he was possibly a professor at Texas University or a U. S. Senator. At this point, none of this has been proven.

On the 1900 census of St. Landry Parish, his daughter, Annie, states that her father was born in Texas. Another source says he may have died in 1869, but again, this has not been proven.

The first known record of Thomas BRYANT is found in St. Landry Parish when he married Mary HAMILTON. The marriage license was issued on May 19, 1866, and dated May 24th. Both Thomas and Mary could write as they both signed their names to the document.

"State of Louisiana, Parish of St. Landry Know all men by these presents, that I, the undersigned authority, did unite in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony Mr. Thomas BRYANT and Miss Mary HAMBLETON all of the parish of St. Landry. The ceremony was performed in the presence of the friends of the family, and the subscribing witnesses on the 24th day of May 1866 at the residence of Mr. John D. HUDSPETH on Bayou Boeur. In testimony thereof I hereunto set my official Signature ... James PARKER." (The signature is difficult to read but appears to be Parker.) Witnesses were Frank CARTER, D. D. HUDSPETH and M. or GM HUDSPETH.

There were at least two issues of the marriage of Thomas BRYANT and Mary HAMILTON. The date of Thomas' death is not known as St. Landry Parish had no record of a will or any succession records for him; however, in 1877 Mary HAMILTON married Eli Wilson HIGDON, and bore at least four children by him.

Agnes BURAS, a great-granddaughter of Thomas BRYANT, states that her mother, Marie Philomene HOOK ROURK, told her that Thomas BRYANT disappeared during the "Spanish-Indian War." Agnes said, "I can remember as a child, Marie Philomene telling me that during the Civil War 'my grandfather' was hidden in the swamps by the Indians so that he wouldn't have to go. I do not know which 'grandfather' she was referring to - mine or hers - or which family branch she was speaking of."

The only Bryant appearing on the 1880 St. Landry Parish census was a Melinda BRYANT, age 60, born in La., as were her parents. She was living in the household of her son Sylvester WILKINS, age 35. At this time she is not believed to be related to our Bryants. It should be noted here that parts of the 1880 census microfilm are totally illegible.

This researcher was unable to locate any Bryants on the St. Landry censuses of 1850 and 1860 and only a Charles and Peter BRYANT found on the 1870 census. Their ages are 11 and 6, both born in La. and living in the home of Terrence L. SCOTT. The quality of the microfilm

(Thomas Bryant con't.)

is poor and the completeness and accuracy of these particular rolls or microfilm are in question.

The descendants of Thomas BRYANT and Mary HAMILTON are as follows:

- I. Anne Marguerite BRYANT. Family records indicate she was born December 3, 1859 in St. Landry Parish. Since her parents were not married until 1866, I believe this date is incorrect. Rev. Donald J. Hebert in Southwest Louisiana Records, Vol. 8, p. 67, lists the following; "BRIND, Marguerite Anne (Thomas and Mary HAMPTON), b. Feb. 1868 (Opel. Ch. v. 6, p. 285". The 1900 St. Landry census lists her birthdate as February 1867. The 1867 or 1868 date appears to be more realistic.

January 10, 1885, a marriage license was issued in St. Landry Parish for Frank HOOK and Annie M. BRYANT. The marriage was solemnized on January 19, 1885, by the Rev. M. BARDY. Witnesses were B. F. NEYLAND, Antoine MEYER, and J. J. LEBLANC. Anne Marguerite died in Port Barre on April 23, 1905. She and Frank HOOK had at least two children:

- A. Marie Philomene "Soonie" HOOK, b. 19 Dec 1885; d. 27 Jun 1971; m. 27 Sep 1900, William BEAUREGARD. (Note: Marie may have married a second time to a MUSE.)
- B. Charles HOOK, b. 27 Jul 1889; d. 25 Mar 1978; m. (1) 3 May 1910 Ida REED; m. (2) _____ RICHARD.
- C. There is possibly another child of this marriage. Certainly the birth did occur but an action by the priest clouds the issue as to the father. There is a baptismal record of an Elina HOOK, born August 3, 1892. She is listed as the daughter of Frank HOOK and Annie BRYANT. The record states "legitimate daughter of Frank HOOK and Annie BRYANT;" however, a line is drawn, apparently by the priest, through "legitimate" and "of Frank HOOK." Sponsors at the baptism were Felencien McGEE and Margerite BERSA. Elina was not mentined in the succession or guardianship papers filed after the death of Frank HOOK. No further information on Elina has been found.

Frank HOOK died May 31, 1895, and Anne found herself a widow of little means with children as well as herself to support. In addition, she faced opposition from her husband's family.

Frank's brother Eli filed a petition to wit: "That his brother Frank Winkley HOOK lately died in said parish, where he was domiciled leaving a small Estate composed of a Houseboat now in the Atchafalaya River and also a lot of household furniture fixings, fishing tackle, guns, tools and other minor articles. That he also left the following heirs Charlie and Mary, both of whom are minors, that the property is lying exposed and liable to loss or destruction that there is no money to settle the debts of the Estate, that the Estate owes this petitioner the sum of Thirty-five dollars and seventy-five cents, that it is necessary that an inventory be taken and an administrator appointed whereupon the petitioner prays that a commission issue to any notary public, authorizing him to make an inventory and appraisal of all the property belonging to the said Estate according to law, and that he be appointed tutor of Mary and Charlie."

Annie responded by filing a petition "... that she makes opposition to this (Eli's)

(Thomas Bryant con't.)

application on the ground first that no administration is necessary as there are no debts except expenses of last illness which petitioner is willing to pay herself, and because there is to little property to be burdened with the expenses of an administration, the total value of the property not amounting to \$100. Secondly because if it be necessary to appoint an administrator then in that event petitioner herself should be appointed, she as natural tutrix of her minor children having the preference."

The court ordered an inventory and appraisal made appointing Eli HOOK, Andrew JOHNSON and Alexander McGEE as appraisers. The eventual settlement of the estate saw Anne appointed administrator of an estate worth \$96.25 and guardian of the two minor children. Alexander McGEE was appointed undertutor on June 24, 1895.

Anne Marguerite married a second time, in St. Landry Parish, to H. A. (on license), Alexander H. (on census) McGEE on September 20, 1895. The marriage license was issued on the 21st day of September 1895, but the record filled out by the Justice of the Peace, T. B. BROOKS, states he married them on the 20th day of September 1895. Both A. H. McGEE and Annie BRIANT (sic) could not write and signed with a mark. The witnesses, whose names are difficult to read, appear to be "V. BRUNELS" and "S. DESBRIST."

Family records indicate that Alex McGEE was born December 1, 1861, at Fakaitaic, between Eunice and Opelousas. His birthdate shown on the 1900 census is December 1863, in Louisiana, with his mother born in Louisiana, and his father born in Ireland. It is likely that the date given in family records is the correct one. Alex's father was Thomas H. McGEE and his mother Amelie TELLER (TAYLOR). [Editors note: See "The McGee Family of Southwest Louisiana: Five Generations of Descendants," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 12, No. 46, p. 43 - 56 for additional information on the McGee family.]

The 1900 census shows Annie and Alex to be living in St. Landry Parish. In their household were daughter Mary H., age 13, son Charley H., age 11, daughter Eva H., age 6, daughter Alvinia H., age 4, daughter Lucretia H., age 2, and Samuel H., only a few months old. It should be noted here that the oldest two children were those of Frank HOOK. The birthdate given for Eva on this census is July 1894. Frank HOOK was still living at that time suggesting that Anne and Alex were already living together before the death of Frank HOOK. This would explain why Eli HOOK described the property as "exposed and liable to loss or destruction."

Alex McGEE died February 22, 1928, and was buried at the Rosemound Cemetery, Waco, Texas. He and Annie had at least four children:

1. Eva H. "Sugar" McGEE, b. 10 July 1894, St. Landry Parish; d. 26 May 1977, Houston, Texas; m. (1) 13 Nov 1915, F. V. B. DERRICK; m. (2) W. D. JOHNSON.
2. Elvina H. "Elvy" McGEE, b. 29 Aug 1896, St. Landry Parish; d. 15 Jun 1954, Tacoma, Washington; m. (1) 3 May 1917, Charles L. STEVENSON; m. (2) Walter HUNT.
3. Lucretia H. "Lou" McGEE, b. 16 Apr 1898, St. Landry Parish; d. 28 May 1958, Houston, Texas; m. (1) 5 Mar 1921, H. F. HUBBARD; m. (2) Bob KIMBERLY; (3) Pete HEINEM; m. (4) _____. A clipping from a New Orleans newspaper, date unknown, reads as follows:

(Thomas Bryant con't.)

NINETY-NINER IS GAINED BY CITY
Woman Flier Makes Temporary Home in New Orleans

When Miss Lucretia HUBBARD came to New Orleans two weeks ago from Oklahoma, New Orleans gained a Ninety-niner. The Ninety-niners are not so unlike the Forty-niners, for they can be put in the pioneer class. Membership in the Ninety-niners, as members of the Women Fliers of America are known, comes only after one has been approved for stunt flying and long solo hours. The number has gone past the original number that gave the name, but still you don't find one every time you turn a corner. Miss HUBBARD, who is making her home here temporarily as stylist of a hat shop, has lived in several cities but claims Austin where she received her first flying license, as home. She has 150 hours to her credit, most of which was done in Texas and Oklahoma. Her ambition is to be a commercial pilot or an instructor.

"I'm crazy about flying," she said. "I've been crazy about it ever since I first heard of it. I made up my mind then I'd fly. I have no interest in dancing or in any other amusement or recreation."

And, oh, boy, the partners she could have.

She did not make her first trip even as a passenger until five years ago. That was when the municipal airport at Graham, Tex., was dedicated. After that every dollar she could spare went into instructions and into a ship. She got her license in August, 1932. Then the department of commerce made new rules. Under these she took written and flying tests and June 1 of this year received her 'new private' license, as it is called. This is almost like a limited commercial license.

She had bought her ship in the meantime, but the day before she received her new license her ship went smash. Her instructor did it. Now Miss HUBBARD's airplane cupboard is bare. But she is planning for a new ship.

She has had blowouts, she has made forced landings, she has had cut-offs while taking off with passengers, but she never has had a crack-up.

She doesn't want to be a member of the Caterpillar Club for, as she said, "I'd hate to have my ship smashed." No mention of the parachute jump that would be the initiation ceremony.

Her business has made it necessary for her to supervise branches in six towns at once. Here was where flying was a business asset as well as a pleasure, for what are visits to several towns in one day to an aviatrix?

(Thomas Bryant con't.)

4. Samuel H. "Sam" McGEE, b. 3 Jun 1900, St. Landry Parish, d. 16 Feb 1919; never married. He died of appendicitis.

On the 1900 census, Annie states she had borne eight children, with six still living. It appears that Elina, as well as another unidentified child were the two children who did not survive.

Thomas Rand Institution

Among the schools in St. Landry Parish in the mid 1800's was the Thomas Rand Institution. The institution, located in the Opelousas area, was apparently named for Professor Thomas RAND, Jr. of Mississippi. Professor Rand his wife and children are enumerated as family 817 at dwelling number 722 on the 1850 St. Landry Parish census. The students are listed at dwelling 723 indicating the institution was probably a boarding school. A margin note on the census indicates the following were students at the school in October 1850.¹

Dwelling 723 Family 818

Name	Age	Sex	Place of birth	Attended school within year
Leclin LAFONTAINE	23	m	Louisiana	Student
A. B. IREON (? sp)	18	m	"	"
Louis STAGG	17	m	"	"
Th'e OVERTON	15	m	"	"
Adolph STAGG	16	m	"	"
A'be STAGG	12	m	"	"
D'n LAFLEUR	13	m	"	"
L' FONTENOT	14	m	"	"
Pr STAGG	12	m	"	"
William CAMPBELL	10	m	"	"
L'n CAMPBELL	11	m	"	"
Or' FONTENOT	12	m	"	"
J___ SOILEAU	16	m	"	"
Al's SOILEAU	14	m	"	"
W'll COREILL	12	m	"	"
W. JACKSON	12	m	"	"
Jule DESBAILLON	11	m	"	"

Notes

1. ed. John A. Young, The 1850 Census of St. Landry Parish Louisiana, (Basile, La.: By the author, 1992), p. 59.

Riverside Cemetery
Submitted by Cart and Carrie Jones

The Riverside Cemtery is located in Acadia Parish near the community of Evangeline. From the Evangeline exit (Highway 97) on I-10, near Jennings, proceed north for one mile. At the Riverside sign turn left and proceed about three miles to a canal crossing. At the crossing turn left and proceed 1/4 mile to a farm road. Turn right, the cemetery is at the end of the road.

AGUILLARD

Cora Lee, 1879; 17 Nov 1954

BAILEY

Lenie D., 10 Aug 1949; 23 Jan 1974

BARDO

Leon, no dates

BEARD

Randall L., 10 Mar 1966; 28 Mar 1986
Harry, 10 Jan 1910; 14 Apr 1920

BENOIT

Odel, 18 Feb 1913; 6 Oct 1976

BERGEAUX

LeBreaux, 13 Oct 1857; 18 May 1927
Julie Mae, 2 Aug 1935; 7 Jun 1942

BOULET

Paul, no date; 7 May 1935
(Pvt 83 Inf. 17 Div.)

BOYLE

Joseph Janes, 28 Apr 1968; 28 Jun 1990

CLEMENT

Artelus, no date; 1936 (age 38)
Evelna, no date; 1926 (age 16)
Charles, 26 Oct 1872; 28 Nov 1941
Estave, no date; 1907
Gustave, no date; 1887 (at age 38)
Gustin, 9 Jul 1904; 22 Jul 1976
Lezima, no date; 1896 (age 16)
Rosalie, 3 Aug 1866; 15 Jan 1948

CLOUD

Juanita, 30 Jan 1929; 3 Mar 1983
w/o Jessie RICHARD

COMEAX

Joseph J., 1878; 1916
Marie Olesia, 8 Jul 1869; 1904
w/o _____ MILLER

DAIGLE

Addison P., 20 Feb 1920; no date
Alada, no dates
Alerisna, 4 ___?___ 1872
Alexon, 2 Sep 1867; 27 Jun 1949
Andre, 1889; 1934
Arthur L., 8 Jul 1913; 4 Feb 1985
Celeman, 3 Apr 1883; 31 Mar 1963
Clemence, 17 Aug 1906; no date
w/o _____ BURUS
Charles, 2 Aug 1953; 15 Jun 1983
Cleveland J., 19 Oct 1915; 5 Dec 1984
Tec 4 USA WW II
Deshray, 7 Aug 1885; 31 Mar 1947
Donald J., 22 Jun 1951; 18 Sep 1971
Dorecelie, 23 Feb 1895; 3 Nov 1919
Edgar, 7 Jun 1887; 21 Apr 1957
Eras, no date; 29 Jul 1908 (age 22)
Estave, no date; 1930 (age 83)
Eugne, 1865; 27 ___?___ 1933
Felciede G., no date; 1925 (age 69)
Floyd, no dates
Mrs Francis F., 6 Feb 1887; 8 May 1963
Julie, 15 Feb 1884; 15 Apr 1920
Marcelite H., 1883; 1969
w/o Celeman DAIGLE
Marie L., 13 Apr 1891; 6 Nov 1977
Milton, 5 Aug 1925; 17 Mar 1979
Opelia, 8 Oct 1873; 30 Sep 1944
Ozema, 18 Feb 1821; 2 May 1918
Mary Ordellie, 17 Nov 1829; no date
w/o Ozema DAIGLE
Rachel, no dates
Raymond, 1898; no date
Roland, no date; 1933 (age 2)
Telesmar, 3 Dec 1902; 24 Aug 1976
Geneva, 30 May 1905; 23 Mar 1975
nee TRAHAN w/o Telesmar DAIGLE
Theogene, no date; 1924 (age 72)
Vivian, 19 Aug 1931; 17 Apr 1989
nee LEJEUNE

(Riverside Cemetery con't.)

McFARLAIN

Albert, 25 Jan 1888; 20 Oct 1914
 Alton, 15 Nov 1906; 22 Feb 1973
 Amos, 10 Aug 1896; 6 Jun 1971
 Andrew L., 23 Oct 1873; 10 Aug 1909

MILLER

Adam, 21 Mar 1900; 5 Jul 1973
 Alcide, 30 Sep 1891; 13 Jan 1970
 David L., 6 Aug 1835; 1 Sep 1901
 Elizabeth, Jules, Eudia, no dates.
 Buried next to David L.
 Lorenia D., 15 Aug 1869; 10 Jun 1954
 Marie Odilia, 17 Mar 1876; 7 Aug 1921
 m. 20 Jul 1896, Joseph MILLER
 Olsin, no date; 1906 at 58 yrs.
 Paleston J., 1894; 1938
 Valentine, 23 __?__ 1889; 3 Mar 1967

MIRE

Maudy, no date; 1945

MORVANT

Adam, no date; 18 Feb 1941, 66 yrs old
 Telephore, no dates
 Civirillian, 6 Aug 1928; 14 Feb 1986
 Etienne, 18 Mar 1909; 5 Feb 1972
 Joseph L., 1925; 1973
 Leodice, 21 Jan 1909; 21 Jul 1975
 Leon Louis, 12 Aug 1917; 13 Apr 1981
 Matthew, 4 Feb 1934; 18 Jul 1974
 Odilia F., 15 Feb 1884; 28 Apr 1971

Thernell, 6 Sep 1883; no date

REED

Mary, no date; 19 May 1906, 89 yrs old
 w/o A. GUIDRY

RICHARD

Jessie, 30 Oct 1924; 2 Aug 1988
 USN WW II

TEAL

Fredrick Joseph, 21 Jun 1949; 6 Jan 1989 "Blue Wing"

TILL

Caroline, no dates

THIBODEAUX

Albert, 25 Jan 1912; 6 Jan 1972

TRAHAN

Albert, 25 Jan 1912; 6 Jan 1972
 Emile, no dates
 Geneva, 30 May 1905; 23 Mar 1975
 John J., no date; 1937, 67 years old
 Mrs John J., 23 Feb 1876; 12 Sep 1958
 Willex, 13 Sep 1931; 14 Mar 1977

YOUNG

Joseph, 28 Aug 1914; 2 Jul 1956
 Mary D., 25 Nov 1904; 11 Oct 1990
 w/o _____ RICARDSON

Query _____

MOORE - RIDEAU - GODEAU - RAMARE- LOUIS

Charlotte MOORE had two daughters, Lena (Elina) and Felicia MOORE, who lived in Plametto, LA. They are listed with GODEAU families on the 1850 St. Landry Parish census. Charlotte is not listed on any census. Lena (Elina) married Jules RAMARE and Felicia married Preval RIDEAU. The girls did not live with Charlotte in the Beaver community after she married Robert DELAFOSSE. Descendants of the Robert DELAFOSSE family knew of these daughters. Louis DELAFOSSE, the second son of Robert and Charlotte went to live with these half sisters as a young teenager and never returned to Beaver. Louis married Louisa LOUIS and remained in Palmetto. Louis DELAFOSSE and Louisa LOUIS had the following children: Louisa, b. 1887; Jean Baptiste, b. 1888; Elizabeth, b. 1893; Sidonia, b. 1895; Lorens, b. 1902 (baptisms in 1887 Washington, LA.) I need information on these families and would like to locate living descendants.

Peggy Stevenson), 4410 Twinkle Ct., Houston, TX 77072

ADDITIONAL SIDECK INFORMATION

Submitted by
Talmadge L. Buller

In the notes on the Sideck family appearing in the October issue, 1991, (Vol. 12, No. 47, p. 74), of La Voix des Prairies, the name and family background of the wife of John Baptist SIDECK was not given. Since the publication of the Sideck article, the writer has obtained additional information. In November of 1991, Mr. Lee SMITH of Victoria, Texas, sent photocopies of two letters written during the 1920's by V. Wallace SEVIER and addressed to Mrs. B. E. (Elizabeth Constance) SMITH, his niece. V. Wallace SEVIER was the son of Elbridge G. SEVIER by his marriage to Marie Louise SIDECK. Elizabeth Constance SMITH was a daughter of Mary DILL HUGHES who was a daughter of Thomas M. HUGHES by his marriage to Marie Louise SIDECK.

In the above mentioned letters, one dated 4 March 1921, carries the signature of V. W. SEVIER. The other dated 15 April 1925, lacks a signature but appears to be in the handwriting of V. W. SEVIER. Both letters were written in pencil and both contain information on the ancestors of Mrs. B. C. SMITH. V. Wallace SEVIER was born in 1859. He would certainly know the names of his own parents and possibly the names of his grandparents. The above two letters were found among Mrs. B. E. SMITH's effects by her daughter, Mrs. Fred W. (FORREST) PRAEGER. The letters, in 1991, were in the possession of Lee J. SMITH, Jr.

When we compare the information given in the above mentioned letter with information found in the R. B. Blake Collection we find only minor differences. Based on the letters of V. Wallace SEVIER and The Blake Collection, we determine the following information on John Baptist SIDECK and his wife.

John Baptist SIDECK married Marie DILL, daughter of James DILL, a native of Philadelphia, and Helena GIMLECH, a native of Germany. Her complete name appears to have been Marie Casilda DILL. [The Blake Collection, Vol. 18, p. 298, showing the Spanish census of Nacogdoches, May 31, 1809.]

Marie Louise SIDECK, the only child of John Baptist SIDECK and Marie DILL, was living with her grandmother, Helena (GIMLECH) KIMBLE, in Nacogdoches, Texas in 1828. [The Blake Collection, Vol. 18, p. 348.] James DILL had died and Helena had married a KIMBLE who had also died.

It is believed that the marriage of Thomas M. HUGHES and Marie Louise SIDECK ended in divorce. Thomas M. HUGHES, believed to be the former husband of Marie Louise SIDECK, appears in the 1850 federal census in Washington County, Texas. [p. 290] V. Wallace SEVIER states in one of his letters that Marie Louise SIDECK's first husband was "Meccsiepie" HUGHES. Therefore we conclude that the middle initial "M," appearing in HUGHES' name, probably stands for "Meccsiepie" which might be a misspelling for "Mississippi."

After the termination of the marriage of Thomas M. HUGHES and Marie Louise SIDECK, through death, divorce or otherwise, Marie Louise SIDECK married on 24 June 1842 in Nacogdoches, Texas, Elbridge G. SEVIER. [Murrie, Pauline Shirley, Marriage Records of Nacogdoches County, Texas, 1824 - 1881, citing Book A-1837-1848.]

According to V. Wallace SEVIER, Marie (DILL) SIDECK, the widow of John Baptist SIDECK who was living with her daughter and son-in-law in Victoria County, Texas in 1850, died 18 January 1852.

Correction to the Mayer Family Article

[Editor's note; The following is a correction to the article "The Mayer/Myers Family of Southwest Louisiana: Some descendants of Homer (Omer) Myers" which appeared in La Voix des Prairies Vol. 13, No. 49, April 1992 issue. We wish to thank J. Nilas Young of Eunice, La. for submitting these corrections.]

On page 32 of the above referenced issue of the quarterly, the family of the third child of Homer MYERS, Edvise (Marie Edwige) MYERS married Adraste VIDRINE, was incorrect as shown. The following is a corrected list of the family.

Third Edvise (Marie Edwige) MYERS, b. 11 Oct 1884 (Opel. Ch.); d. 30 Oct 1934; m. Adraste VIDRINE, b. 2 Feb 1887; d. 20 Jul 1948. After Edvise's death Adraste married Mary REED, the widow of Moise CHAPMAN and Benjamin YOUNG.

A. Saih VIDRINE, m. Clayton REDDELL.

1. Betty REDDELL, d. 1990; m. Kenneth ISTRE.
 - a. Cathy ISTRE.
 - b. Kenny ISTRE.
 - c. Cristi ISTRE.
2. Rayford C. REDDELL. Never married.

B. Elton "Pete" VIDRINE, b. 25 Jul 1909; d. 1939. Never married.

C. Hilda VIDRINE, m. Lucien "Sally" WADE.

1. Janice Joy WADE, m. Mackie PRATT
 - a. Doug PRATT.
 - b. David PRATT.
 - c. Paula PRATT.
2. Elizabeth Ann "Liz" WADE, m. Don ELLERBE. Now divorced.
 - a. Mike ELLERBE.
 - b. Rebecca ELLERBE.
3. Sally Jo WADE, m. Ronnie BUTLER.

D. Arcia VIDRINE, b. 27 Aug 1914; d. 14 Oct 1985; m. 26 Feb 1938, Jesse Douglas MALLORY, b. 26 May 1908; d. 16 Feb 1987.

1. Sandra Allice MALLORY, b. 10 Apr 1941 (New Iberia, La.); m. 5 Jul 1969, Ronald Gene DEATON, b. 26 May 1941. Divorced in 1988.
 - a. Devon Patrick DEATON, b. 26 Jul 1972 (New Orleans).
 - b. Shannon Mallory DEATON, b. 7 Oct 1974 (Harrisonville, Missouri).
2. Vicki Darlyn MALLORY, b. 19 Jan 1945 (Jennings, La.); m. 5 Jun 1966, Cecile William "Bill" MILLER.
 - a. Douglas Doerle MILLER, b. 27 Aug 1969 (New Iberia, La.); m. 15 Apr 1989, Jenne DEROUEN.
 - b. Brandi Leigh MILLER, b. 19 Apr 1973 (New Iberia, La.).

TWO LETTERS FROM BERNARDO DE GALVEZ TO JOACHIN DE ORTEGA
 With Comments by Winston De Ville, F.A.S.G.

The first letter translated here was written to Joachin de ORTEGA in 1779 when Galvez, as governor of Spanish Louisiana and general of the colony's troops, was preparing for the expected war against England. Only a few days after this letter was written, in fact, Galvez was notified that Spain had become formally allied with the thirteen revolting American colonies. His dramatic campaigns against English forts at Manchac, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola, were about to begin.

Originally written in Spanish, the letters were translated in the mid-60's by the late Dr. Jack D. L. HOLMES, well-known historian of the Spanish Borderlands, for this writer's study (still far from complete) of the Ortega-de Soto-de St. Denys family. In approximately 1960, both documents were among the many discorganized papers in the St. Landry Parish Courthouse, Opelousas, Louisiana; we assume they are now among those in the safe-keeping of Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge. No attempt has been made to locate either of the letters in recent years.

The first of the letters bears no salutation:

New Orleans, 31 July 1779

I have received your [letter] of May 28, in which you refer me to the combat that GARCIA, [and] those who accompanied him, had with the Comanche indians. The vague rumors that were being spread around here indicated that GARCIA and all the rest had perished, [and this] struck me with the greatest feeling [of sadness], but the news that they availed themselves well has filled me with happiness. Let him know [by] reading this to him, [as well as] the other letters that I write to you, so that he will see the particular esteem that he merits from me.

I am happy at your improvement, which also had me in some fear [because of] the esteem with which I hold you.

It is well that CARRANCO has remained discharged from my service and paid with all his due salaries. ... as Mr. BORME sends me the receipts of your grace, I shall order paid the fifty pesos that correspond to the supplements you have made.

(Letters of Bernardo de Galvez con't.)

As usual, upon receipt, you will see it is [illegible word] on the march or disposing of it, I implore you that, when they arrive at Natchitoches, they will send me prompt notice and await there until they have my answer, as I am writing to Mr. BORME [today] to have a place selected where the cattle may graze.

The secretaries appreciate the [greetings] of your grace and they return them in kind.

Our Lord guard your grace many years

[Signed:] Bdo. de GALVEZ

The entire letter is holographic, a highly unusual example in the correspondence of colonial governors. As we suggested in an earlier article relating to Joachin de ORTEGA, we cannot escape the probability that he and Galvez were good friends. This does not, however, explain why the governor should refer to Ortega as "your grace."

Unfortunately, the letter does not tell precisely where Ortega was residing or was stationed at that time, but the implication is that he was at Natchitoches.

Another letter from Galvez to Ortega is extant. It is dated from Havana, after the war with England was over, and the American Revolution won. Galvez had risen considerably, politically and in the military. His governorship of Louisiana had ended a year earlier, when he had become Captain-General of Cuba, soon to be named Viceroy of New Spain in Mexico, where he died the following year.

The date is 15 April 1785, Havana, Cuba:

Esteemed Ortega,

I thank your grace very much for the warm wishes, which serve to show me all the interest with which you regard my successes. Thus your letter of last March 30 informs me, and convinced of your sincerity, I reiterate to your grace my own [sincerity] ...manifesting the recognition with which your most cordial friend remains,

[Signed:] GALVEZ

(Letters of Bernardo de Galvez con't.)

For the best perspective on Galvez's career in Louisiana, which will also serve to provide some insight into the life and times of ORTEGA, see John W. CAUGHEY, Bernardo de Galvez in Louisiana: 1776 - 1783 (Berkely, Calif., 1934). The Ortega article referred to above is by this writer, "Joaquin de Ortega y Prieto...", Louisiana Genealogical Register, Vol. XXIX, (No. 3, Sep. 1982), pp. 207 - 215, and La Voix des Prairies, Vol. III (No. 10, Jul. 1982), pp. 43 - 48.

Queries

LESASSIER - RILLIEUX - LENORMAND - BROUTIN

Am seeking information on Marie Louise Adeline LESASSIER, d/o Jean LESASSIER and Eleanor RILLIEUX who m. 29 Nov 1823 Charles Ursin LENORMAND, s/o Pierre Marin LENORMAND and Charlotte BROUTIN. They were the parents of Eleonore, Rose Odile, Adelaide Celeste, Charlotte, Eleonore Adele, Marie Alcide Joseph, Pierre Eusebe and Marie Dorica LENORMAND. They lived in St. Martin Parish.

Mrs. Bernice Walker, 43041 Country Club Dr., Oakhurst, CA 93644

DELAFOSSÉ - SIMON

I am searching for the parents of Robert DELAFOSSE. According to the 1850 St. Landry Parish census, Robert was born in 1828 (age 22 on census). At that time he was living, along with his Mother, Celeste age 37, and half sisters, Octavie, age 15; Augustine, age 12; Louise, age 10; and Genevieve, age 8 in the residence of Louis SIMON. Robert is listed on the census as Robert ROMAIN. Could his father have been a descendant of Romain DELAFOSSE? Whoever the father of the half sisters was, he was still living in 1839 - 40. Any information on the above related families or known descendants will be greatly appreciated.

Peggy Stevenson, 4410 Twinkle Ct., Houston, TX 77072

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La Voix des Prairies

Founded 1980
ISS # 0743-1848

Evangeline Genealogical and Historical Society

P.O. Box 664, Ville Platte, LA 70586

October 1992

VOL. 13, NO. 51

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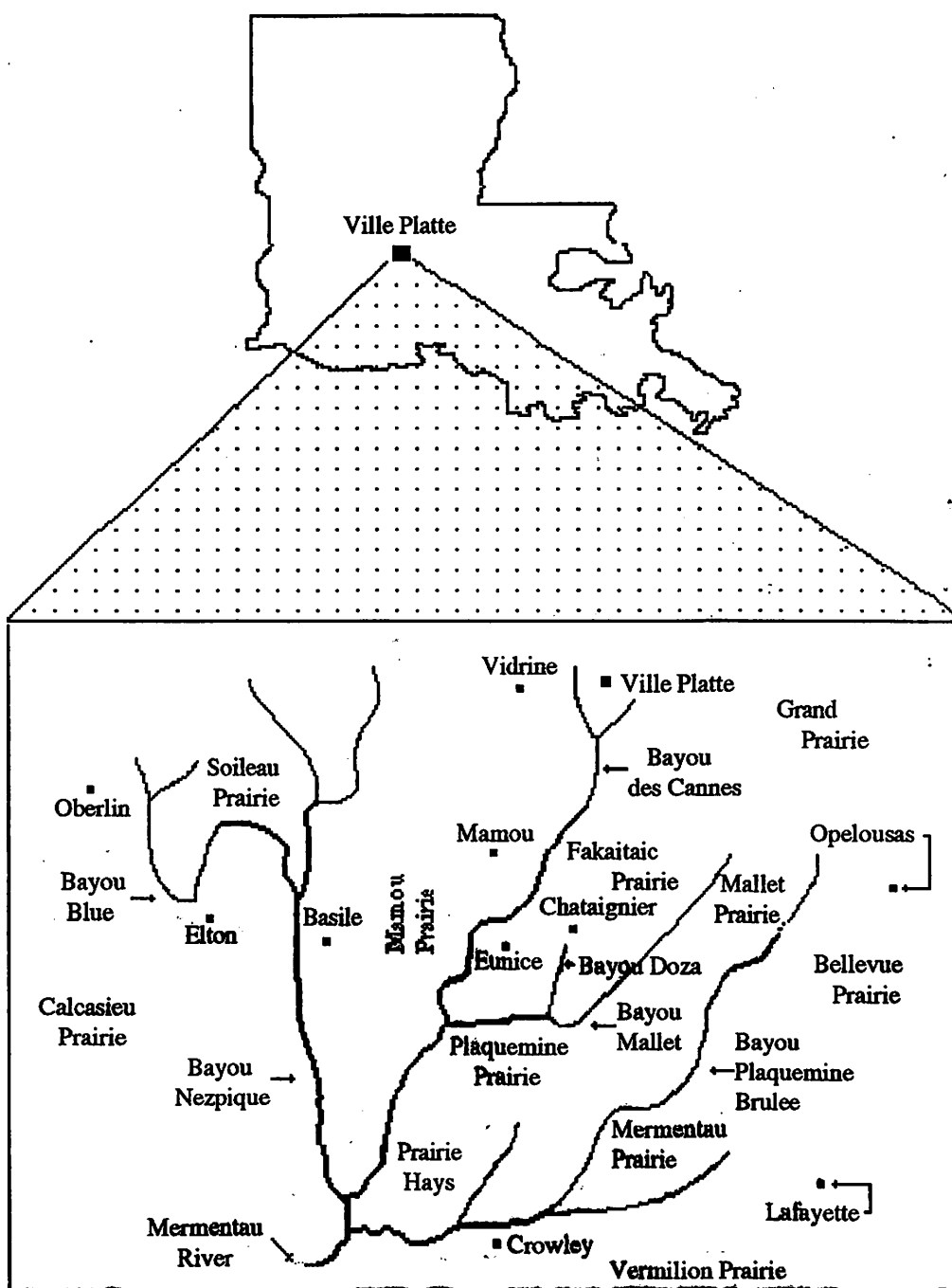
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Prairies of Southwest Louisiana

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La Voix des Prairies is published quarterly, in January, April, July, & October; annual index is included in the October issue.

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The Venable Family of New Jersey and Southwest Louisiana: A Possible Connection

By John A. Young

[Editor's note: The following compilation came about as a result of background information on the Venable family in New Jersey provided by Mr. Vincent Sonnier of Lafayette, Louisiana. Mr. Sonnier is confident that the Joseph Venable who is listed, in New Jersey, as a son of Philip Venable and Mary Borradail is the same person as Joseph Venable who married Anastasie Savoie in Opelousas in 1807 and is recorded as being the son of Philip Venable and Marie Durbey]

The first person carrying the Venable surname to appear in the Opelousas Post area was Joseph VENABLE. Joseph does not appear on the 1796 Opelousas General Census, indicating an arrival in the area after that date. The first documented evidence of his being in the Opelousas area appears at the time of his marriage to Anastasie SAVOIE on September 27, 1807 (Opel. Ch.).¹ The marriage record indicates that Joseph was from New Jersey and was the son of Philip VENABLE and Mary DURBEY. Research in New Jersey by Mr. Vincent SONNIER, a Venable descendant, suggests a possible connection of Joseph VENABLE to the Venables of New Jersey.

The Venables of New Jersey

The first-known American ancestor of most of the Venables of New Jersey was Thomas VENABLE.² It is not known if Thomas was born in America or England or how he is related to other Venables who arrived in the New World in the late 1600's and early 1700's. The earliest documented evidence of the existence of Thomas VENABLE of Burlington County, New Jersey is his marriage license to Sarah WALLIS dated January 10, 1729.³ Thomas appears to have been born between 1705 and 1708. Thomas VENABLE died in May 1783 and Sarah WALLIS in November 1785.⁴ From his will, drawn in 1778 in which he disposes of land in Evesham Township, Burlington County, New Jersey, the following children were found:⁵

I. Thomas VENABLE, Jr., b. Feb 1731; d. 13 Dec 1774; m. 1756, Esther BORRADAIL.

II. Philip VENABLE, b. _____; d. Nov 1787, m. Mary BORRADAIL.

III. Isaac VENABLE, b. _____; d. 1804; m. Ann _____.

¹ Rev. Donald J. Hebert, Southwest Louisiana Records, (3rd ed.; Eunice, La.: n. pub., 1974) Vol. 1, pg. 562. All church and civil records noted are taken from Rev. Hebert's multivolume set, hereinafter cited as Hebert, SWLR, etc.

² Henrietta Brady Brown, Some Venables in England and America, (Cincinnati, Kinderton Press, 1961), pp. 112 & 113. Hereinafter cited as Brown, Some Venables.

³ Brown, Some Venables, p. 113.

⁴ Brown, Some Venables, p. 116.

⁵ Brown, Some Venables, pp. 113 - 114.

(Venable family con't.)

IV. Sarah VENABLE, b. _____; d. _____; m. 1755 John COLLINS.

V. Ann VENABLE, b. _____; d. 1787; m. 1761, Nathaniel CASSABOOM.

VI. Mary VENABLE, b. _____; d. _____; m. 1768, William HOLMES

VII. Joseph VENABEL, b. _____; d. Apr 1799; m. (1) 1778, Susanna JONKINS; m. (2) 1787, Sarah Evans MORRIS.

It is believed that Philip VENABLE (number II above) and his wife Mary BORRADAIL (DURBEY ?) are the father and mother of the Louisiana Joseph VENABLE.

The date of Philip VENABLE's birth is not known. No marriage bond or license has been found for his marriage; however, it is presumed that he married at an unknown date, but prior to 1760, to Mary BORRADAIL. Mary was the daughter of Arthur BORRADAIL and Margery ADAMS and a sister of Esther BORRADAIL, who married Philip's brother Thomas VENABLE, Jr. The wills of both Arthur BORRADAIL (1760) and Margery ADAMS BORRADAIL (1763) name daughters Esther VENABLE and Mary VENABLE.⁶

Philip VENABLE died November 1787. From his will dated October 18, 1787, in which the family surname is spelled "Vanable," we know that Philip and his wife, Mary BORRADAIL, had seven children: three sons, three daughters, and a child who died young and whose name and sex is unknown.⁷

Children of Philip VENABLE and Mary BORRADAIL:

A. Thomas VENABLE

B. Joseph VENABLE.

C. Jesse VENABLE.

D. Rebecca VENABLE.

E. Esther VENABLE.

F. Ann VENABLE.

⁶ Brown, Some Venables, p. 116.

⁷ Brown, Some Venables, p. 118. Names of children taken from the will of Philip Venable dated 18 Oct 1787, proved 7 Nov 1787.

(Venable family con't.)

The Venables of Southwest Louisiana

By September 1807, a Joseph VENABLE is in Southwest Louisiana. The date of Joseph VENABLE's arrival in Louisiana or the Opelousas area is not known. He does not appear on the General Census of Opelousas conducted in May 1796, indicating an arrival after that date. The first indication of his being in the area is his marriage, in Opelousas, on September 27, 1807, to Anastasia SAVOIE, the widow of John (Jean, Jean Baptiste) (ANDREWS) ANDRUS. St. Landry Catholic Church records indicate that Joseph was from New Jersey and that he was the son of "Philip VENABLE and Mary DURBEY."⁸

Circumstantial evidence indicates that Joseph VENABLE ("B" above), the son of Philip VENABLE and Mary BORRADAIL of New Jersey, and Joseph VENABLE listed as being the son of Philip VENABLE and Mary DURBEY who married Anastasia SAVOIE in Opelousas are the same person.

Some background on Anastasie Savoie

Anastasie SAVOIE, born about 1774,⁹ was the first of ten children born to Jean SAVOIE of Acadia and Margaret BOUTIN. Jean SAVOIE and his wife Margaret migrated from Ascension Parish to the Opelousas area sometime prior to 1777 where they were enumerated along with two children, Anastasie and Aimee, on the census conducted that year.

On August 27, 1793,¹⁰ at age nineteen, Anastasie married John (Jean, Jean Baptiste) ANDREWS (ANDRUS) the son of Benjamin ANDRUS and Marie HARGRAVE of North Carolina. Jean Baptiste ANDRUS, born about 1768, was baptized in St. Landry Catholic Church on August 26, 1793, "at 25 years of age" (Opel. Ch.). He married Anastasie SAVOIE the next day. John ANDRUS and Anastasie SAVOIE had the following children:

1. Joseph Narcisse ANDRUS, b. 1 Jan 1794 (Opel. Ch.); m. 4 Sep 1815 (SM Ch.), Marguerite PREJEAN, d/o Martin PREJEAN & Marie Rose BENOIT.
2. Anastasie ANDRUS, bt. 24 Oct 1796 (Opel. Ch.); m. 24 Sep 1811 (Opel. Ch.), Charles MILLER, s/o George MILLER & Catherine RITTER.

⁸ Hebert, SWLR, Vol. 1, p. 563.

⁹ Winston De Ville F. A. S. G., Southwest Louisiana Families in 1777: Census Records of Attakapas and Opelousas Posts, (Ville Platte, La., n. pub, 1987.), family O -114.

¹⁰ Hebert, SWLR, Vol. 1, p. 8.

(Venable family con't.)

3. Sophie ANDRUS, b. 24 Jun 1797 (Opel. Ch.); m. 19 Nov 1816 (Opel. Ch.), George MILLER, s/o George MILLER of London & Catherine RITTER of Frederick Town, Maryland.
4. David ANDRUS, b. 10 May 1799 (Opel. Ch.); m. 19 Nov 1821 (Opel. Ch.), Celeste SAVOIE, d/o Francois SAVOIE & Lucile POTIER.
5. Hilaire ANDRUS, b. 31 Dec 1800 (Opel. Ch.); m. 6 Apr 1829 (Opel. Ch.), Caroline TAYLOR, d/o Jean (TELLER) TAYLOR & Marie RITTER.
6. Marie ANDRUS, b. 5 Mar 1804 (Opel. Ch.); m. Oct 1824 (GC Ch.), Pierre Silvert RICHARD, s/o Pierre Gregoire RICHARD & Anne PATRICE.

John ANDRUS died sometime after their sixth child, Marie, was born in 1804 and prior to September 1807 when Anastasia married a second time. It is possible that he is the Jean ANDREWS whose succession inventory was filed in Opelousas on April, 27, 1804. ¹¹

On September 27, 1807 (Opel. Ch.), the widow, Anastasia SAVOIE married Joseph VENABLE in Opelousas. From the date of birth of their first child, it appears that Joseph and Anastasia may have had an earlier unrecorded marriage or perhaps had set up housekeeping prior to their marriage in Opelousas.

The 1810 St. Landry Parish census lists Joseph Venible [sic], age group 26 -45, Anastasia, age group 26 - 44, along with nine children in various age groups. All of the children from Anastasia's two marriages are accounted for in their correct age brackets except that in the "boys age 10 to 15 bracket" one unidentified child is shown. There is no way of knowing who this "extra" boy between the age of ten and fifteen is.

Joseph and Anastasia lived on a farm in the Grand Coteau area where Joseph died sometime prior to 1817. On a tax list of St. Landry Parish Land Holders taken that year, Anastasia is listed as a *Veuve* (widow). On that tax list the farm on which she is living is noted as being located in "Caran Cro" (Carencro) and to contain 300 acres of 2nd class land. She possesses 15 head of "Horses, Mares and Mules," and has no slaves or cattle. Her total tax bill for the year is \$3.09. ¹²

No evidence has been found indicating that Anastasia remarried after the death of her second husband Joseph VENABLE. The date of Anastasia's death is unknown.

¹¹ Hebert, SWLR, Vol. 1, p. 7. Jean Andrews, Succession Inventory dated 17 April 1804, LSAR: Opelousas: 1804

¹² Ramona A. Smith, Land Holders of Southwest Louisiana: Tax Lists for St. Landry Parish, 1817 and 1818, (Ville Platte, La., 1990.), p. 23

(Venable family con't.)

In all probability she is the "Widow Josey Venable age 76", listed on the 1850 census living next door to Glasire VENABLE, her son.¹³ On the 1860 census, "Anastasia Savoie age 89" is listed in the household of Sophie ANDRUS (apparently a widow), her daughter by her first marriage to John ANDRUS.¹⁴

Five children have been found from Joseph VENABLE's marriage to Anastasia SAVOIE:

1. Joseph Glasir VENABLE, b. 15 May 1807 (SM Ch.); d. 7 Aug 1854 (GC Ch.); m. 4 Aug 1828 (GC Ch.), Marguerite TAYLOR, d/o Jean (TELLER) TAYLOR & Marie RITTER. (Marguerite Taylor's succession is dated 23 Aug 1869 OCH).
 - A. Emilie VENABLE, b. 29 Sep 1829 (GC Ch.); d. 24 Oct 1854 "at age 25" (GC Ch.); m. 28 Feb 1848 (GC Ch.), Gerasin BOUDREAUX, s/o Antoine BOUDREAUX and Marie SAVOIE.
 - B. Joseph Valsain VENABLE, b. 3 Mar 1832 (GC Ch.), m. 1 May 1854 (GC Ch.), Josephine MECHE, d/o _____
 - C. Hypolite VENABLE, b. 18 Feb 1834 (Opel. Ch.); m. (1) 12 Oct 1857 (GC Ch.), Therese BRISCO, d/o William BRISCO & Therese FALL; m. (2) 15 Jun 1871 (GC CH.), Marie Adele WIMBERLY, d/o Abraham WIMBERLY & Elizabeth WIMBERLY.
 - D. Louise VENABLE, b. 16 Jun 1836 (GC Ch.), m. 29 Apr 1854 (OCH), John Thomas (CURLYGAN) COLLIGAN, s/o Bernard COLGIN & Marie Therese (FAUL) FALL.
 - E. Jean Oliver VENABLE, b. 2 Aug 1838 (GC Ch.); m. 25 Jan 1858 (GC Ch.), Josette Bedelia MILLER, d/o Hillery Charles MILLER & Anastasie MILLER.
 - F. Narcisse VENABLE, b. Oct 1840, bt. 4 Jan 1841 (GC Ch.).
 - G. Eleonore Marguerite VENABLE, b. 19 May 1843 (GC Ch.); m. 21 Dec 1858 (GC Ch.), William Leonard BRISCO, s/o William BRISCO & Therese FALL.
 - H. Jules VENABLE, b. 5 Jun 1845 (GC Ch.); d. 4 Jun 1849 at age 4 yrs (GC Ch.).

¹³ John A. Young, The 1850 Census of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, (Basile, La., sp, 1992), p. 37.

¹⁴ John A. Young, The 1860 Census of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, unpublished manuscript, p. 136.

(Venable family con't.)

- I. Alexandre VENABLE, b. 9 Feb 1848 (GC Ch.); m 9 Sep 1869 (GC Ch.),
Mary Theresa COLLIGAN, d/o James COLLIGAN & Emilia ROBIN.
- J. Marie VENABLE, b. 19 May 1850 (GC Ch.); d. 22 Sep 1857 at age 7
years (GC Ch.).
- K. Celeste Onezia VENABLE, b. 28 Sep 1852 (GC Ch.); d. 8 Oct 1857 at
age 5 years (GC Ch.).
- L. Michel VENABLE, b. 28 Sep 1852 (GC CH.); m. 8 May 1872 (GC Ch.),
Mary Ann COLLIGAN, d/o James COLLIGAN & Emilia ROBIN.
- 2. Joseph (Jesse) VENABLE, b. 16 Jan 1809 (Opel. Ch.); m. 28 Jan 1842 (GC
Ch.), Louise (Eloise) LABAUVE. (This family migrated to Grand Chenier.)
 - A. Aurelien (Orelia?) VENABLE, b. 20 Nov 1841 (GC Ch.); m. Jackson
Brooker.
 - B. Emilia VENABLE, b. 26 Jan 1844 (GC Ch.).
 - C. Louise VENABLE, b. 12 Oct 1849 (GC Ch.); m. Louis ALLAIN.
 - D. Anastasia (Entazie) VENABLE, b. 26 Mar 1851 (GC Ch.); m. Louis
DEPON.
 - E. Marie Josephine VENABLE, b. 30 Sep 1852 (GC Ch.).
 - F. Elied VENABLE, b. 21 Jul 1859.
 - G. Joseph VENABLE. (From succession filed in Cameron Parish)
 - H. Lersome VENABLE. (From succession filed in Cameron Parish)
 - I. Mary VENABLE. (From succession filed in Cameron Parish)
- 3. Adelaide VENABLE, b. 1 Jan 1811 (SM Ch.); d. 5 Mar 1851 "at age 40" (GC
Ch.); m. (1) 24 Nov 1834 (GC Ch.), Andre MECHE, s/o George MECHE &
Elizabeth HAYES; m. (2) 10 Nov 1836 (OCH) (Validation 4 May 1847 GC Ch.),
Anselm DOUCET, Jr., s/o Anselm DOUCET & Marie Angele LEJEUNE.

It appears that Andre Meche died soon after he and Adelaide were

(Venable family con't.)

married. Possibly he is the Andre Meche who died January 3, 1835, at age 22 (GC Ch.).¹⁵ No children were found of their marriage.

After Andre's death, Adelaide married Anselm DOUCET. Anselm was born in the Point aux Loup area about November 1806, baptized January 11, 1807, at the age of six weeks.

Anselm DOUCET had previously married Pauline BERGEAU (born ca. 1813; married at age 15 years), the daughter of Joseph BERGEAU and Marie MILLER on February 5, 1828 (Opel. Ch.). Pauline died after 1832. Anselm and Pauline had three children: (1) Anselm (III), b. ca. 1828; (2) Paulin, b. 12 Dec 1830, and (3) Ursin DOUCET, b. 24 Dec 1831.

Anselm DOUCET and Adelaide VENABLE had the following children:

- A. Celestine DOUCET, b. 22 Sep 1837 (GC Ch.). Celestine probably married Alcide LEGER on 9 Jan 1858 (OCH), validation 30 Jun 1858 (GC).
- B. Simon DOUCET, b. 11 Jul 1839; m. (1) 29 Dec 1859 (GC Ch.), Marguerite Cora LEGER, d/o Dositee LEGER & Marcellite SEMER; m. (2) 19 Mar 1885 (CP Ch.), Alphonsine CORMIER, d/o Angelique CORMIER.
- C. Onesime DOUCET, b. 17 Nov 1842 (GC Ch.); m. 2 Sep 1870 (OCH), Victorie LAINE.
- D. Joseph DOUCET, b. 2 Nov 1844 (GC Ch.).
- D. Josephine Celemene DOUCET, b. 19 May 1847 (GC Ch.); m. 14 Jan 1869, validated 27 Jan 1869 (GC Ch.), John GAY, s/o Jean GAY & Adolphine SAVOY. Josephine Celemene's succession dated 7 Jan 1871 (OCH).
- E. Mellon DOUCET, b. 19 Feb 1851 (GC Ch.).

(Another possible child, Narcisse DOUCET, b. 3 Jan 1841 (Laf. Ch.), parents listed as Absolom DOUCET & Adelaide WABLE.)

- 4. Child, d. 26 Mar 1813 at age 8 days (Opel. Ch.).
- 5. Jean Paul VENABLE, b. 19 Sep 1814 (Opel. Ch.); m. 6 Feb 1843 (GC Ch.), Josephine DOUCET, (b. 10 Apr 1825 Opel. Ch.), d/o Anselem DOUCET & Angela Marie LEJEUNE.

¹⁵ Hebert, SWLR, Vol. 3, p. 456.

(Venable family con't.)

A. Marie Leoradie VENABLE, b. 20 Nov 1843 (GC Ch.).

B. Jean Dupreville VENABLE, b. 24 Apr 1845 (GC Ch.).

C. Marie Azema VENABLE, b. 28 Dec 1847 (GC Ch.); m. 9 Feb 1870 (Eun. Ch.), Julien GADE.

D. Anastasie VENABLE, b. ca. 1849 (1850 census).

E. Hilaire VENABLE, b. 1 Feb 1852 GC Ch.); prob. m. 11 Jun 1872 (OCH), Marie Abegail McFARLAND.

Queries

ROLLIN - HENNEQUIN - LEJEUNE - CARRIERE

Jean HOUIDOBRE had a second marriage to Marie Francoise ROLLIN, d/o _____ ROLLIN & Marie Francoise HENNEQUIN on 9 Oct 1858 in N.O. Marie Francoise ROLLIN was first married to Louis Augustin LEJEUNE. I found a succession for a Louis LEJEUNE dated 5 Jul 1854 (Opel Ct. Hse. Succ. 1841) and a succession for a Clement ROLLIN dtd. 30 Apr 1850 (Opel. Ct. Hse. Succ. #1486). I need to know if Clement ROLLIN is the father of Marie Francoise ROLLIN. Also if Louis Augustin LEJEUNE who married Marie Francoise ROLLIN is a son of Joseph LEJEUNE and Euphrosine CARRIERE. Any help or suggestions on this problem will be greatly appreciated.

Diane DuBois QUICK, 2662 Gallinghouse St., New Orleans, LA 70131

ARMAND - DUCOTE - JEANSONNE

Need a lead on Lucille ARMAND of Avoyelles Parish, b. 1890, m. Bascom DUCOTE (1886 - 1966). A sister, Aliska DUCOTE, m. 1897, Cyrile JEANSONNE. Who were parents of Lucille ARMAND, Bascom DUCOTE and Cyrile JEANSONNE ? Mrs. S. E. DEKKO, P. O. Box 207, Hailey Idaho 83333

THOMAS RAND INSTITUTE

Seeking information on Thomas Rand Institute, a private boarding school at Bayou Chicot, La. in the mid 1850's. Thomas RAND, the professor of the school, was born in West Springfield, Mass. July 10, 1813. He graduated at Hamilton Theological Seminary, New York in 1838 and was ordained an Elder on July 4, 1841 at Bayou Chicot. Any information about the school would be appreciated.

John A. YOUNG, P. O. Box 178, Basile, LA. 70515

SOME LUM GENEALOGY 1774 - 1933

By Doris Jackson

According to Natchez Court Records, 1767 - 1805 - Abstracts of Early Records, compiled by May Wilson McBEE, there were Lums in the Natchez District, West Florida, before the American Revolution. A Jesse LUM was in the Natchez District in 1774 as recorded in Book E, p. 8, petition of William FERGUSON for payment from Silas CRANE which states that Crane was in West Florida as early as 1774: "also, a firm of Lum, Williams and Co. and a Jesse LUM were in the district at that time." Other claims are as follows:

Claim No. 1366, Book E, Land Claims, p. 310, is for a British grant to Hannah LUM, William LUM and Jesse LUM, 300 acres, 30 miles NE of Fort on Boyd's Creek, Pensacola, 14 November 1776 . . . claimants, heirs of Hannah, William and Jesse LUM, 28 March 1804, whose legal representatives claim 300 acres by virtue of a British patent to them.

Claim No. 21, pp. 34 - 41, Reg. 15 December 1803, Book A, Land Claims, names Hannah, William and Jesse LUM bounding land claimed by Patrick KELLY, a reduced non-commissioned officer, 200 acres 30 miles NE from Natchez on west side of a branch running into Boyd's Creek , 2 September 1779.

Claim No. 293, Book A, p. 523, Deed. Silas CRANE, settler and inhabitant of this district, sells to Wm. FERGUSON 325 arpents of land on Cole's Creek, b. by Hannah LUM, David ODAM and Mrs. Sarah TRULY, 16 June 1784.

Claim No. 727 - Unrecorded Land Claims - 19 March 1804, Jesse LUM claims . . . "a donation of 640 acres in Jefferson Co. on south fork of Bayou Pierre which he improved in August 1797 and moved personally to the tract in October following. He inhabited and cultivated sd tract on and before the Mississippi Territory was evacuated by the Spanish troops and at that time had a wife and two children."

Claim No. 1808, Land Claims, Book F, p. 368: Spanish Govt. to Jesse LUM, order of survey of 200 acres for service in mounted volunteers of Natchez, commanded by Don Richard KING, 18 January 1793. Assignment of right to Ebenezer REES by Jesse and Lovicy (x) LUM, 31 March 1798. Plat shows tract on south fork of Bayou Pierre.

The Jesse LUM in the last two claims (No. 727 and No. 1808) appears to be the son, Jesse Daniel LUM (1775 - 1846). Jesse Lum married Levica Martin in Natchez on 6 April 1795, as recorded in the Catholic Church records , Diocese of Baton Rouge, Vol. 2, 1770 - 1803, p. 509, and in the early 1800's settled in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, viz Pointe Coupee Parish. When their daughter, Maria, married in

(Lum family con't.)

1829, she was referred to as "Maria of Pointe Coupee" in the St. Landry Parish marriage record. [Rev. Donald J. Hebert, Southwest Louisiana Records, Vol. 2, p. 612.]

Jesse Daniel LUM, Sr., and Levica MARTIN had six children:

1. Maria LUM, m. 1829, James MCAULEY of Charleston, S. C. James was the son of Daniel MCCAULEY and Sarah WAINE. The children of James and Maria reportedly migrated to Texas.
2. Mary LUM, m. 1832, James H. BUCHANAN.
3. Ann LUM, m. Frederick KIMBALL.
4. Clarinda LUM, m. Gideon C. WOOD.
5. William LUM, m. Sarah Ann NELSON.
6. Jesse LUM, Jr., m. Lucinda EVERETTE. Jesse moved to Texas where he and Lucinda were married.

In the 1840's Jesse Daniel LUM, Sr. and Jesse, Jr., left St. Landry Parish for Texas. Levica, wife of Jesse, Sr., did not accompany her husband. She appears, at age 71, on the 1850 St. Landry Parish Census as living in the dwelling of her daughter, Mary, widow of James BUCHANAN, next door to daughter Maria and James MCCAULEY, and son William. On the census record, Levica's place of birth is given as Virginia. She died in St. Landry Parish on 26 November 1852; the location of her grave is unknown.

Upon their arrival in Liberty, Texas, in 1843, Jesse Daniel LUM, Sr. and Jesse, Jr. rented rooms in the home of Jackson H. GRIFFIN. When Jesse, Sr. died in 1848, Griffin provided space on his land for his burial site. From that time on the plot was known locally as Griffin Cemetery; the grave of Jesse Daniel LUM, Sr., was the first at that site. The land was sold following the death of Griffin, but the cemetery has been maintained as a private cemetery by the Methodist Church with historical marker erected at the Griffin-Methodist Cemetery, Lakeland Drive, Liberty, Texas.

Jesse Daniel LUM, Sr.'s succession is Number 1281, St. Landry Parish Court House, dated March 1847. Inventory of his estate, taken 27 miles from Opelousas, included four slaves and 120 acres of land on the east bank of Bayou Rouge, was valued at \$3,518.50. Public auction of his property was held at the residence of his

(Lum family con't.)

son, William LUM, on Big Cane Ridge, St. Landry Parish.

Jesse Daniel LUM, Jr. remained in Texas and is buried in Liberty. When the War between the States began, he enlisted in Liberty for the duration of the war. He was in Co. B., 25th Texas Cavalry, and was soon promoted from private to 1st Sergeant, to Drill Master and then 1st Lieutenant. He was stationed at Camp Lubbock, Galveston, and then Fort Hindman, Arkansas, where he was captured and transferred to Ft. Delaware as a prisoner of war. He was exchanged in 1863 and returned to serve the Confederacy to the end of the war.

Back in Louisiana his brother, William LUM, had married Sarah Ann NELSON and continued to live in St. Landry Parish. They are listed on the 1850 and 1860 census of St. Landry Parish as follows:

1850: William LUM, 45, planter, land valued at \$900, born La., Sara LUM, 30, born Mississippi; (children) William, 8; Louisa (recorded as Susanne), 5; Erastus Hugh, 3 and Mary 3/12 (mts.).

1860: (William LUM is dead. Sarah and children are listed as living in Grand Coteau.) Sarah LUM, 38, planter; Wm. R., 18, manager; Louisa, 15; Hugh, 13; Mary, 10; Ellen, 7; and Lewis, 4.

William LUM died in St. Landry Parish on 9 February 1857, leaving six minor children. His widow, Sarah Ann NELSON, was appointed natural tutrix to William, Jr., Louisa, Erastus Hugh, Mary, Ellen and Lewis, issue of her marriage to William LUM. William's succession (Number 2129) was filed in St. Landry Parish on 24 February 1858; however, his estate was not settled for ten years or more, following numerous petitions.

Of the children of William LUM and Sarah Ann NELSON, only William, Jr., who married Maria Lou FOGLEMAN, and Louisa, who married Milton BIHM, remained in St. Landry Parish. The other four children went to Texas; Erastus Hugh LUM to Red River where he married Pauline WISE. Mary LUM married Joel TANNER, Ella LUM married Nickolas JACKSON and Lewis LUM married Texana TANNER. The latter three children along with their spouses settled in Liberty, Texas. The descendants of Jesse Daniel LUM, Sr., and Levica MARTIN hold an annual reunion in Liberty County, Texas every year in May with all descendants invited. [For reunion information contact William "Al" LUM, 2012 N. Memorial Ct., Pasadena, Texas 77502; Ph. (713) 941-3814.]

Milton L. BIHM, who married Louisa LUM, descended from Jacob BIHM, I, progenitor of the Bihms of southwest Louisiana and his wife, Marie RITTER. Milton L.

(Lum family con't.)

BIHM is one of eight children born to Jacob BIHM, III and Matilda BUNDICK. He was born on Lower Waxia, St. Landry Parish, on 10 October 1833. Milton served the Confederacy during the War between the States as a Sergeant in Co. C., Louisiana Infantry, 6th Regiment. On September 6, 1864, he married Louisa LUM at the residence of her mother, Mrs. Sarah LUM, widow of William LUM.

In 1870 Milton BIHM, wife Louisa and their four children were living on Bayou Waxia near the family of William DUCKWORTH, his wife Sophia FONTENOT and their five children as shown on the St. Landry Parish Census of that year. Milton was 28; William DUCKWORTH, 44, and gave his birth place as Indiana.

The four children of Milton L. BIHM and Louisa LUM were Lila, Sarah (Sally), Nina and Milton, Jr. Lila BIHM (1866 - 1949) married (1) William DUCKWORTH, son of William DUCKWORTH, Sr., and Sophia FONTENOT; m. (2) 25 September 1888, Ralph McADAMS. Sally BIHM (1868 - 1910), married Walter A. DUCKWORTH, son of William DUCKWORTH, Sr., and Sophia FONTENOT. Of the other two children, Nina and Milton, Jr., nothing further is known.

The family of Milton L. BIHM and Louisa LUM lived their entire life on Bayou Waxia and are buried in the Methodist Cemetery there. Among those buried in the Waxia Cemetery are the following:

M. L. BIHM, Confederate Soldier, October 10, 1833 - July 18, 1925
Louisa LUM, wife of M. L. BIHM, 1839 - 1933
W. M. DUCKWORTH, February 2, 1828 - April 28, 1920
Sophia FONTENOT, wife of W. M. DUCKWORTH, April 13, 1836 - June 17, 1924
Walter A. DUCKWORTH, October 22, 1863 - March 21, 1957
Sallie BIHM, wife of W. A. DUCKWORTH, March 29, 1868 - October 3, 1910
Ralph Clinton McADAMS, 1866 - 1943
Lelia BIHM McADAMS, 1866 - 1949

References

Rev. Donald J. Hebert, Southwest Louisiana Records.
St. Landry Parish Successions, Marriage Records, Census Records.
May Wilson McBee, Natchez Court Records, 1767 - 1805.
Lum information from William "Al" Lum, Pasadena, Texas.

Some Early Ville Platte Settlers

[Editors note: The following newspaper article appeared in the Ville Platte Weekly Gazette, Vol. ? No. 22, p. 1, July 2, 1932. The article was apparently written by Mrs. Adele CONWAY, Mrs. [Valerie ?] DARDEAU, Mrs. T. G. ASHLOCK and Mrs. Oscar REED. No doubt the information used for the article was handed down through several generations and some of the "facts" presented have since been proved incorrect. Footnotes have been added indicating where additional information may be found on some of the listed families.]

THE TALE TOLD OF THOSE PIONEERS WHO SETTLED VILLE PLATTE 130 YEARS AGONE

Far out on the frozen wastes of barren Russia, a man writhed and groaned in the pain of snow-blindness - that man was Marcellin GARAND¹, adjutant major in the army of the Empire, and said by many to have been the first settler of Ville Platte.

Garand was an officer in the disastrous expedition led by Napoleon into the heart of the Russian empire, one of the most hazardous and fateful invasions ever engineered by man. Only 40,000 of the invading horde of 400,000 returned to their native land; 'tis said that the stench of human bodies along the homeward trail could be sensed for miles around.

Garand was one of those who through the grace of fate and twists of destiny, survived the ordeals of the campaign at the cost of impairing his eye-sight forever. His bones now lie beneath a tiny marble slab in the 'old cemetery' at Ville Platte. The inscription reads; Marcellin GARAND adjutant major-sous L'Empire Francais - Ne en Savoie en 1781 - Decede le 4 Juin 1852.

For some mysterious reason the old Frenchman left his native shores to seek his fortunes in America. Whether he left because of his affliction, or was exiled at the fall of Napoleon during the Elba imprisonment has never been known. Or mayhap it was the old urge for excitement that propelled his war-worn body to a new land.

At any rate he stopped at what was then nothing, but which is today Ville Platte. His house was where the Ernest SOILEAU home stands today. The original building has been moved and its foundations form the base of the house now occupied by Mrs. Joseph LEBAS.

It is said that the old soldier kept a tiny tavern just in front of where the post office now stands. Travelers on their way to Mexico used to stop with him to hear the old man relate the tales of blood and thunder which he has seen in the service of the 'little Corporal.'

The old warrior had one son. The lad died and the direct line was broken; the strain being taken up by the Dardeaus, Tates and Reeds. Thus ended the name of the first settler of Ville Platte. Today his ashes lie unheeded and unknown by the people of

¹ Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr., "Marcellin Garand's Progeny: First and Second Generations," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 13, No. 50, pp. 43 - 48

(Early Settlers of Ville Platte con't.)

the town he founded.

Perhaps the one romance definitely connected with the early settlers here may be linked to the DeVidrines². This is the only clan to which 'blue blood' may definitely be traced. For a long time the family papers and sears, etc., were preserved. However, due to some mishap they were burned some many years ago.

So the story goes, Josephine DeVIDRINE, a beautiful lady of the nobility whose hair reached the floor, was in love with another DeVidrine. The brother of Josephine objected to this attachment in the most violent manner for some reason which is today unknown.

One day or one night, it is not definitely known, he found his sister and her lover in the garden. The rash and angry brother then and there demanded vengeance. In the dual [sic] which took place on the spot, he slew the lover of his sister.

To escape the vengeance of the emperor or the sword of the dead man's kinsmen, DeVidrine and his sister fled to this country and, for some reason or other, stopped in this vicinity and settled. This must have happened just about the time that Garand made his way over here. It is believed that Vidrine also brought his wife or perhaps some other members of his family with him.

On her death-bed Josephine DeVIDRINE placed a curse upon the name of Josephine. Whether because of her own sad and ruined life, or for some other reason was never known. Some say she cursed the name because it was that of the Empress, who could have averted all this bloodshed and heart-break had she so desired. At any rate the true story was never made clear.

Then, it cannot be decided in what order, there appeared in this spot some several different families. Among these were the names of Marcel DAIRE, Edward DARDEAU³, Alexis LATOUR, Etienne COULEAU, Marius COREIL⁴, MOUILLEAUD, Paul Eugene GUILLAUMIN, MOREIN, BRIGNAC, GUILLORY⁵, LAFLEUR, ARDOIN

² Jacqueline O. Vidrine, "Vidrine - Vadrines 1659 - 1788," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 4 - 5 and part two, Vol. 2, No. 6, p.57.

³ Evelyn Garrett, "Dardeau Descendant Reminiscences," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 50 - 51; ; Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr., "The Dardeau Manuscript," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 3, No. 9, pp. 23 - 27; Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr., and René-Pierre Dardeau, "Early Seventeenth-Century Dardeau Presence Near France's Massif-Central," La Voix des Prairie, Vol. 6, No. 22, pp. 50.

⁴ Patrick Morein, "Theodore Coreil," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 4, No. 15, p. 78; Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr., "The Coreil Family: A Preliminary Study," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 7, No. 26, pp. 45 - 51.

⁵ Jacqueline O. Vidrine, "The Guillorys of Louisiana," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 2, No. 7, pp. 63 - 73; Albert Tate, Jr., "Jeanne Montfort Guillory," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 4, No. 12, pp. 16 - 17; Carolyn P. Ricke, "The Guillorys of Louisiana," Vol. 5, No. 16, pp. 12 - 16.

(Early Settlers of Ville Platte con't.)

and the SOILEAU's⁶.

These people just about made up what might be considered the pioneers of this section. There has always been much speculation as to why the French happened to stop at this point and as to why they left France at all. Many say that the reason was because they were all exiled at the close of the French Revolution; others believe that they came in about 1790 while some think that the date was around 1815 at the fall of Napoleon's reign.

The exact origin of the town is lost in legend and the dead preserve their secrets well. The writing on the tomb of Garand may be interpreted in two ways. He may have meant that he was a soldier under Louis 16th, or under Napoleon. So the tentative age for the settlement might be set at either 142 years or about 120 years.

There was much inter-marriage among the first families to settle here due to the scarcity of people. It might be safely stated that all descendants of the first citizens are kin to each other. For example, Garand, Daire and Dardeau married three of the Vidrine sisters, daughters of the duelist.

Times have changed since the first settlers built their sturdy homes. A man named SANTINI, a Spaniard, used to live at the place now occupied by the house of R. L. DeROUEN⁷. Santini is said to have been perhaps the first settler, but he moved away and no trace was ever found of him.

The CAZEAUX brothers, five of them, occupied the place where J. D. LAFLEUR and Moise LEBAS now live. They operated a tannery there. However, no record of them remains as they never married, finally after they had made their fortunes, they returned to France. Guillaumin and Mouilleaud taught school here. Mouilleaud was a musician as well as a scholar. Classes were conducted in their homes.

Marcel DAIRE lived in the house now occupied by Mrs. T. G. ASHLOCK. The first Dardeau lived in the house he bought from the Cazeaux brothers when they left. Alexis LATOUR built his house at the site of Yves GUILLORY's residence. The Rousseau family lived where Milton REED's⁸ home burned down a few years ago.

Just a few years after the first settlers came to Ville Platte, the Reeds, DeRouens,

⁶ Jacqueline O. Vidrine, "Soileau - Pellerin," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 2, No. 5, p. 37; Jacqueline O. Vidrine, "The Family of Noel Soileau," Attakapas Gazette, Vol. 16, (part 1), No. 1, pp. 29 -31; (part 2), Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 80 - 83; (part 3), Vol. 16, No. 3, pp. 124 - 125.

⁷ "Some Descendants of Robert Drouin," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 10, No. 39, pp. 63 -73.

⁸ Albert Tate, Jr., "The Early Reed Families of the Spanish Opelousas Post Area," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 6, No. 20, pp. 3 -7.

(Early Settlers of Ville Platte con't.)

Tates⁹, Ortegoes¹⁰, Manuels¹¹ and Fontenots also found the spot and settled here.

After these came Alexandre LAZARO, father of Ladislav LAZARO, for a long time member of Congress from this district. Lazaro was not the original name but rather an abbreviation of the real name; these people came from Jugoslavia. Legend has it that the uncle of the late congressman, name is believed to have been PETROVITCH, was at one time associated with the famous pirate, LAFITTE. He settled here after the battle of New Orleans when the pirate crew was disbanded.

The Reeds and Tates are not French at all. William REED came from Maine and settled where Oscar REED lives today. Of all the descendents, the Reeds are the only ones who occupy the ancestral home.

The first Tate came alone [on] horseback from Virginia. The story goes that there were two brothers traveling together. They were attacked by Indians in Mississippi and the Tate who came here hid in a log. In the confusion that followed, they became separated and the other Tate settled in Mississippi. The fact that there are Tates in Mississippi and Georgia is the only thread on which the story hangs. Three Fontenots¹² came together; they were brothers. These men are said to be of Spanish descent; their names were Don Diego Larose FONTENOT, Manuel and Alexandre Larose FONTENOT. The Ortegoes and Manuels were also of Spanish origin. The name was originally Ortega. The DeRouens came from Canada at all the same time.

Of the first settlers the strains Couleau, Garand and Rousseau has about died out; very few Daire remain today. The tale of these settlers is a simple one; their troubles were many and their pleasures few. But they were destined to conquer wilderness and subdue a savage [unreadable word] to made homes for you and me.

Footnote - The Gazette is indebted to Mrs. Adele CONWAY, Mrs. [Valerie ?] DARDEAU, Mrs. T. G. ASHLOCK and Mrs. Oscar REED for this story.

* * *

⁹ Albert Tate, Jr., "The Tate Cove Tates: The First Three Generations," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 5, No. 16, pp. 4 - 9.

¹⁰ Winston De Ville, F. A. S. G., "Joachin de Ortega y Prieto, The Spanish Ancestry of a Gateway Pioneer in Colonial Louisiana," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 3, No. 10, pp. 43 - 48; Winston De Ville, F. A. S. G., "The Ortega Family: Three Generations in Louisiana," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 7, No. 24, pp. 3 - 9; Barney Ortego, "The Ortego Family of Southwestern Louisiana 1750 - 1903," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 12, No. 44, pp. 3 - 12.

¹¹ Albert Tate, Jr., "The early Manuel Family of the Spanish Opelousas Post Area," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 6, No. 21, pp. 23 - 26; Jacqueline O. Vidrine, "The Manuel Family of Louisiana Province," Vol. 7, No. 24, pp. 10 - 17.

¹² Albert Tate, Jr., "The First Fontenots of the Opelousas Area," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 5, No. 17, pp. 25 - 26; Robert Bruce L. Ardoin, "Louisiana-Poitou, France Fontenots," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 5, No. 17, pp. 27 - 31; "The Marriage of Philippe Fontenot and Marie Brignac in 1747," La Voix des Prairies, Vol. 7, No 24, p. 19.

PIERRE SAVANT; LOUISIANA MILITIA CAPTAIN OF 1823

By Winston De Ville, F.A.S.G.

Pierre SAVANT, subject of the document transcribed below, is probably the Jean Pierre SAVANT of New Orleans, who married Marie Louise GUILLORY somewhere in the St. Landry Catholic Church parish in 1805. Several children were born to the couple during the first three decades of the nineteenth century. His parents were Isidore Mathieu SAVANT and Francoise MANUEL.¹ Scanning the published records of St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, he appears to be the grandson of the Louisiana progenitor, Mathieu SAVANT of Provency, archdiocese of Sens, France, who married Marie Agnes/Marie Anne DROEZLER (TROSCLAIR?) in New Orleans in 1752.²

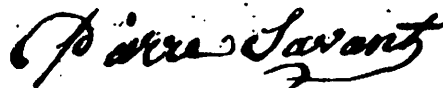
The purpose of this vignette, however, is not to explore the Savant genealogy, but to present an important document relating to the apparent Savant progenitor in the greater Opelousas area.

The following record, written in English on a single page is among the "St. Landry Documents," Louisiana State Archives, microfilm box no. 19, December. 1822 - Sep. 1824; unfortunately, no additional retrieval device is available. The document follows:

State of Louisiana
Parish of St. Landry

I, Pierre Savant, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and further, I Pierre Savant, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as Captain of the First Company in the First Battalion of the Sixteenth Regiment in the Fourth Brigade of the Militia of the State of Louisiana, according to the best of my abilities and understanding, agreeably to the rules and regulations of the Constitution and the laws of the State, so help Me God.

[Signed:]



¹ Donald J. Hebert, Southwest Louisiana Records, Vol. I, (Eunice, La., 1974), p. 506; Vol. II, (Eunice, La., 1974), p. 798.

² Earl C. Woods & Charles E. Nolan, Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Vol. II, (New Orleans, 1988), p. 251.

(Pierre Savant con't)

One Pierre SAVANT, probably our subject, had seen military service in the Battle of New Orleans at the end of the War of 1812. Then, he was a private in Thompson's Sixteenth Regiment of the state militia.³ It was in 1823 when President Monroe proclaimed to the world that the Americas was "closed" to further colonial settlement by European powers.⁴ Thus, Savant's promotion to captain was probably the result of militia companies throughout the nation being prepared for possible action.

³ Marion J.B. Pierson, Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812, (Baton Rouge, 1963), p. 106.

⁴ Bernard Grun, The Timetables of History, (New York, 1975), p. 388.

GLASS TAX

A story regarding a glass tax on glass windows as the reason that Acadian houses did not have windows has been in circulation. In response to a query by Kathleen STAGG to the State Library the following was received from Virginia SMITH, head of the Louisiana Department, State Library of Louisiana.

Dear Kathleen,

After much research to no avail on the question you asked about taxing "house parts," I finally called Barbara BASCOT, head of Historic Preservation. She told me that these stories of taxes are purely folk tales. They are heard not only in Louisiana, but all along the Eastern coast. A number of historians have researched this and found no evidence of such taxes. The import of glass was taxed, but not in houses. Closets were rare because the traditional form of storage was the linen press. Outside stairs were considered more convenient than inside stairs.

I think you may have trouble convincing people that these taxes are folk tales!

s/ Virginia Smith

Querie

DESHOTEL - DOZIER - GUILLORY

Victoria DESHOTEL, b. 1898, d. 1965, m. Albert DOZIER. Victoria's mother was Hyacinth GUILLORY. Who was her father?

Mrs. S. E. DEKKO, P. O. Box 207, Hailey Idaho 83333

- ADAMS, Harriett, 34
 ADAMS, Margery, 64
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