

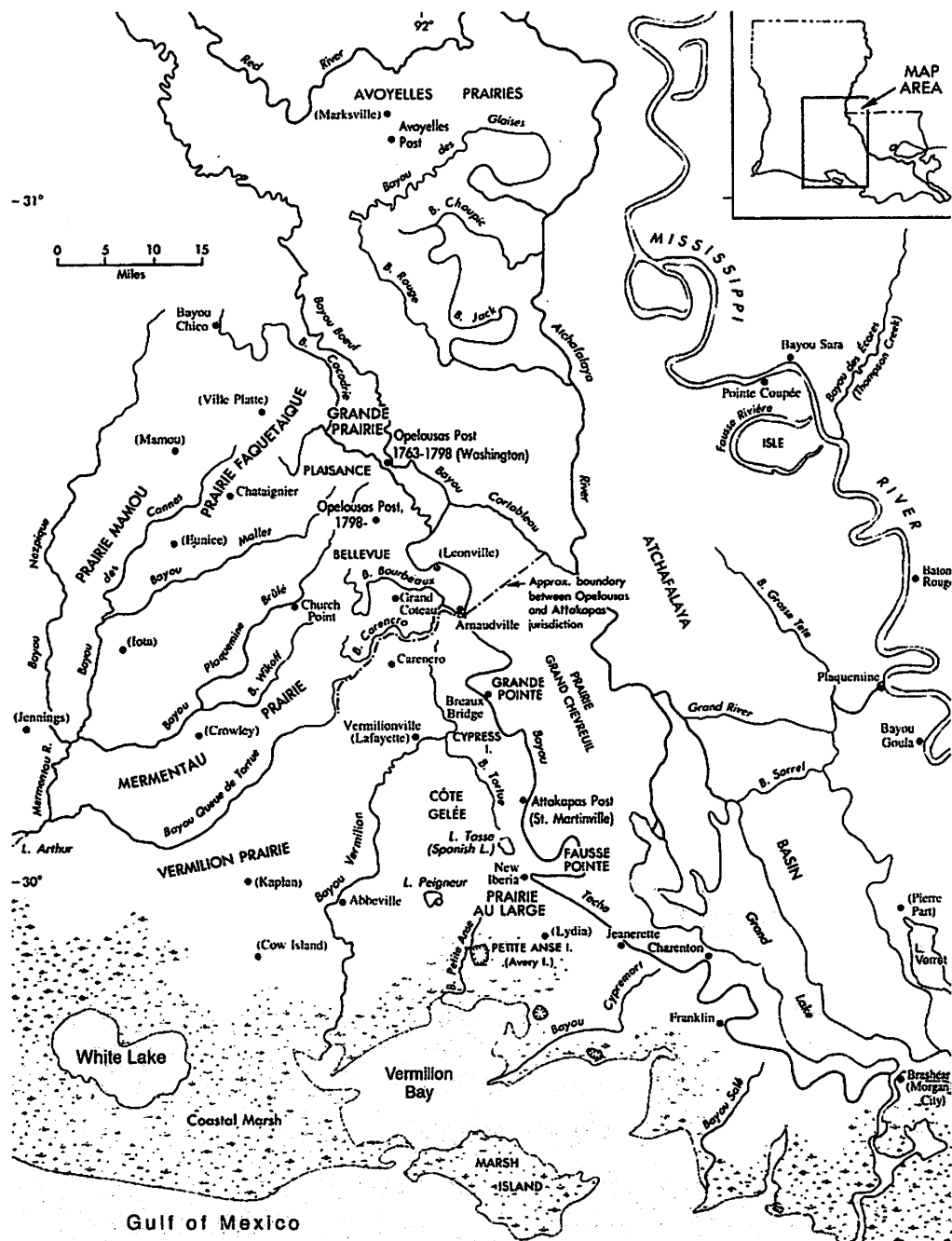
# LA VOIX DES PRAIRIES

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Evangeline Genealogical and Historical Society  
P.O. Box 664, Ville Platte, LA 70586

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Prairies of Southwest Louisiana

**EVANGELINE GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
POST OFFICE BOX 664  
VILLE PLATTE, LA 70586**

Officers: La Voix des Prairies is published quarterly  
President: Jane Vidrine in January, April, July, and October  
Vice President: Donna D. Johnson  
Treasurer: Mardell Sibley  
Secretary: Mardell Sibley  
Newsletter: Jane Vidrine & Mardell Sibley (co-editors)  
Advisors: Mary Foster-Galasso & Jacqueline O. Vidrine

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Meetings of the Society are held on the third Saturday of January, April, July and October at 9:30 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Evangeline Parish Public Library, 242 West Main Street, Ville Platte, Louisiana.

Currently members' dues are \$15.00 annual for individuals, \$20.00 for couples, and \$25.00 for organizations and Institutions based on the calendar year. Members receive a copy of the quarterly journal "La Voix des Prairies". Single copies of back issues of the quarterly are \$6.00 each mailed first class postage paid by the requestor.

Policy of the Society will be formulated and directed by the Executive Board. The material for the quarterly is copyrighted and cannot be used or reproduced without permission of the editor of the Executive Board. The Society does not assume responsibility for accuracy of the information submitted and published, nor does it assume responsibility for any copyright infringement of submitted and published material. The Society solicits materials of genealogical/historical interest, particularly articles which pertain to this area. The quarterly will print all queries that contain the necessary items such as names, dates, date references, places or place references.

Quarterly exchange will take place with other genealogical and/or historical societies. The exchanges received will be placed in the Genealogy section of the Evangeline parish Public Library in the permanent holdings of the Society.

Acquisitions/donations: The Society has an ongoing project of acquiring books, periodicals, and other materials to place in the Genealogy section 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. Memorials and honorariums are welcome.

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The membership year begins in January. Renewal forms will be available at all meetings. Although many of you may have already renewed, maybe other friends and family would like to join. This membership includes a quarterly issue of our publication, access to experienced genealogists: make new friends, visiting with old ones and learning those very helpful hints and tips for your research. Mail your check or money order to the address on the front of the publication and renew now to make sure you don't miss any issues.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, January 16, 2016 at the Evangeline Parish Public Library. 242 W. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA. Our meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room. Any questions, please feel free to call the library at 337.363.1369.**

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**THE EVANGELINE GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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Dues are \$15.00 for individuals; \$20.00 for couples; \$25 for institutions or organizations per calendar year. Mail form to EGHS, P.O. Box 664, Ville Platte, LA 70586. Please make out check or money order to EGHS.

Note: Would you like your newsletter emailed to you or paper copy:

**Paper copy:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_; Check or money order: \_\_\_\_\_

.....

**Query:**

Looking for any information on Homer DeVille born on November 14, 1902 in St. Landry Parish, LA. His parents are Homer DeVille and Augustine Soileau. The birth record is the only information found. No death, marriage, or military record has been found. Please email me at [carla\\_deville@yahoo.com](mailto:carla_deville@yahoo.com) or send in to this newsletter.

**Query:**

Looking for information of Descendants of Elizabeth Thompson married to Whiley Adams. Also looking for Lucinda Thompson who married John W. Gossett. St. Mary Parish. These are two sisters. Parents are Josilah Thompson and Marguerite Row(e). Married between in 1840s – 1850s. Please call **Mary Ann Thompson Fontenot** at **337.363.7428** with any information.

# DEMORUELLE FAMILY

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## Introduction

I began my family history journey on March 1, 2008, and I have found that I have such a unique and grand family of Demoruelle and Fontenot family descendants/ancestors. What I found to be the most fascinating of all is that all our ancestors were soldiers and they were all affiliated through the history in the making of our great United States of America. Some came from France, Nova Scotia, Illinois, Mexico, St. Domingue, Scotland, and many other countries that I still have to discover in the tree. Our family history is great and needs to keep it going for our future generations that may get to see and appreciate knowing the family history as we know it today.

## Descendants

Our Demoruelle family journey begins from my 6th great grandfather Jacques "Santiago" de Mourel, which there is no written proof other than a document from Mobile, Alabama at the Old Mobile Site; Fort Louis De La Louisiane, while his son was serving under Bertet's company, Francois Humbert De Mourel / de Moyrue from a marriage to his first wife. Jacques "Santiago" de Mourel / de Moyrue is mentioned in a Rootsweb search ROME, ST. CYR, and Early Louisiana Families which I discovered on July 17, 2010 which the ID117927, Name Jacques Demoruel, Sex Male, Birth: in Savoy, France, marriage / spouse unknown, and one documented child Francois Humbert Demoruel, born about 1710 in Savoy, France. The Archdiocese of New Orleans and Sacramental Records, Vol. 4, Repository name: Wisconsin Historical Society Library, Note: Source: Medium Book, page DE MOURUELLE p. 90. Humbert was a soldier in Bertet's company, which I did a lot of research on Bertet in Illinois which is affiliated through Fort de Chartres in Illinois. There is a vast amount of information documented in Illinois history on the soldier's and their marriages and land sales which will be followed up in the next chapter.

We do not, unfortunately, have any documentation on his mother, or siblings, if any. I found that Francois Humbert Demoruelle (de Moyrue), noted as Humbert de Moyrue, soldier of Bertet's company, son of Jacques de Moyrue and of Francois Chevalier of St. Jean de Maurienne, bishopric of Annecy, in Savoy. This was a marriage to his first wife, that is documented in Alabama that we know of, if he was married before Elizabeth Boissinot, I have not been able to find any documentation to amend that claim. Jeanne Elizabeth Boissinot, Creole of this parish, daughter of Rene' Boissinot, and of deceased Elizabeth Reullan, habitant, married Humbert de Moyrue, which I found he had three children, one died at a very young age, and the other two are documented in my ancestry tree. I also have census records from The Census Table for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 through 1732.

**This information is documented in the book by Ms. Jacqueline Olivier Vidrine, from Ville Platte, Louisiana, source Marriage Records of Mobile County, Alabama**

Transcribed and Edited BY *Jacqueline Olivier Vidrine* - Center for Louisiana Studies, ...  
Currently referred to as Baptism *Book I* (abbreviated as bb I) it consists of...

Now my interpretation was by two French sources and one states that Francois Chevalier (which could be his mother) or meaning that Jacques, his father was a knight which is chevalier in French. The family came from Morel, Savoy, in a province in France. I have maps from today where Morel is located and there is actually a Route de Morel in this area. I know that if he had family in Savoy, France they were probably from the parish of St. Jean-de-Maurienne. I have maps of Morel, Savoy, France, along with one of St. Jean-de-Maurienne and it is a beautiful and fascinating province in France.

When Humbert's first wife died, he had two living sons Jean Humbert and Louis, don't know if they stayed in Mobile or came with him to New Orleans around 1753. In 1753, Humbert married Suzanne Lavergne, the daughter of Jean La Vergne and Francoise Licene Bourbon, at the age of 43. Humbert and Suzanne had 12 children. Their names were Catherine Suzanne (1736-1820), Suzanne Francois (1756-1792), Pierre (1759-1792), Genevieve (1761- ), Jean-Baptiste (1763-1820), Alain (1765 - ), Marie (1767 - ), Suzanne (1769-1784), Francois (1771-1807), Adelaide (1773-1852), Luisa (1775-1812), and Zenon (1779-1795).

Humbert lived until the age of 80 years and died in New Orleans, on 7 January 1790. His certificate of burial reads as follows Humberto de Mourelle, son of Santiago de Mourelle, native of Sancartie of the parish of Marian, in the Province of Sabre in Savoy, age 80 years, died on 7 January, 1790 and was buried on 8 January, 1790. His burial was from the St. Louis Cathedral parish and he is buried in St. Louis Cemetery #1 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Suzanne died in 7 August 1820, the declarant was Jean Baptiste Demoruelle, 58 years old, butcher, resident of New Orleans, recorded on August 16, 1820 in Volume 1, page 82. Also her death is also mentioned in the Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Volume 14 (1820-1821), page 243, as LAVERGNE, Susanne, native of this parish, widow of Humbert Demoruel, 86 yr., i. Aug 8, 1820, d. [o] (SLC, F13,5).

Our line descendant, Jean-Baptiste Demoruelle, was born on 26 April 1763 in New Orleans, baptized at St. Louis Cathedral on April 27, 1763. His sponsors were Jean Baptiste ROCH and Jeanne Hervieux (SLC, B5,14). He married Felicite Broyard, daughter of Estevan Broyard and Luisa Buquoy, on 22 November 1785, and they had five children. I found five children four died at young ages, and Jacques lived until 1890.

Our line descendant from Jean-Baptiste and Felicite Broyard, Jacques (Santiago) (Carlos) Demoruelle married Marie (Maria) Manette Fromentine, daughter of Antonio and Dorotea Broyard on Jan. 10, 1820 (SLC, M6, 237). They had 11 children Jean Baptiste (1820-1821), Victor Demoruelle (1824-1890), Hanrieta Demoruelle (1824- ), Marie Louise Demoruelle (1828- ), Hypolite Ursin Demoruelle (1829-1877), Ernest Demoruelle (1834-1895), Louise Philomene Demoruelle (1836-1841), James Joseph Demoruelle (1838- ), Francois Paul Demoruelle (1839-1841), and Josephine Demoruelle (1841-1926). I have found documentation that Jacques was the caretaker for Bayou St. John, and the history of Bayou St. John, and the history on Bayou St. John is fascinating and was the grave caretaker. I have researched Bayou St. John \*\*\*\*\*

Our line descendant Hypollite Ursin Demoruelle, was born on 18 June 1829 and baptized on 18 Oct 1829. He married Louise Catherine Lartigue, the daughter of Thomas Lartigue and Marie Pauline Selas (Salles) at the Annunciation Church in New Orleans by Reverend Marigot, and present were Jean Courvelle, William Vogg, Jean Chaignot, and Victor Benoit, and another sponsor whose name was unreadable due to age and fading. He and Louse Catherine had six children. Louise Valentine Demoruelle (1854-1894), Jean Jacques Marie Joseph Leon Demoruelle (1859-1942), Gabriel Demoruelle (1864-1886), Jean Baptiste Charles Demoruelle (Sr.) (1866-1968), Louise Raoul Demoruelle (1872-1876), and Mathilde Demoruelle (1875 - ).

Our early pioneer settler in Ville Platte, Evangeline Parish, at that time of 1860 was known as St. Landry Parish. Hypolite and his wife Louise Catherine packed up the family. Some say after he fought in the civil war, he returned to New Orleans, and decided to move his family west to settle. So Hypolite packed up his family traveled to Ville Platte from New Orleans on a paddle wheeler named the Selma bringing household goods, a horse, a pony and a hack. Upon arriving in Washington, the family loaded up to a 200 acre farm at Manuel's Point near Ville Platte. Hypolite settled his family in the Ville Platte, Evangeline Parish. There were hard times during those years after the civil war so families had a hard time getting back on their feet. I was told from family stories that he wanted the best for his family and kept in touch with his family in New Orleans. In the Ville Platte area, our ancestors became prosper and some were named mayor, clerk of court, and were policeman and deputy in Ville Platte over the years.

A story came to light from an old aunt of mine who has now passed on that Hypollite took in a child which he adopted as his own, Denis LaJack. The story was published in the Bonnes Nouvelles by cousin John Demoruelle how he met and adopted the LaJack child. All of Hypollite's children stayed and lived in Ville Platte until today. His wife Louise Catherine is buried at the Sacred Heart cemetery and it is carved in her grave wife of Hypolite Demoruelle.

#### Acknowledgements and Research information:

I would like to thank my wonderful cousin, JoAnn Burnett and her mom Vinice Demoruelle Brown (deceased), for helping with stories and research time, developing photos and sharing photos, Jennifer Dyer, who helped very much get started on the Demoruelle family history and has a vast knowledge of the New Orleans Demoruelle family, Shannon Mocanu, Cindy Miller, Evangeline Parish Library resources, Lafayette Parish Library resources, Ancestry, Southwest Louisiana Records, Father Hebert Books, Sacred Heart Church documents, Archdiocese of New Orleans documentations, courthouse records in Evangeline and St. Landry parishes, Jacqueline O. Vidrine, John Demoruelle, Richard Deshotels who helped with quite a lot of photos and some family information, Jane Fontenot Vidrine, Mardel Sibley, Carla Deville, Fr. Jason Vidrine, Richard Jamieson, Beverly Demoruelle (deceased), Beryl and Larry Bell, Fr. Jason Vidrine, Debra Hamilton Demoruelle, Sheila Demoruelle Miller, Mattie Buller, Richard Jamieson, Paul Demoruelle, John Guillory, Pris Guillory, Carolyn Sue Pruyn, Ursula Bordelon (deceased), and Lori Matte for all that you have shared in helping us find our roots for the family tree. If I left anyone out, please let me know, and you will be added to the acknowledgements.

#### Note:

This short introductory article on the DEMORUELLE family was completed on July 20, 2015 and handed out to family members at the Bi-Annual Family Reunion July 25, 2015 Ville Platte, Louisiana at the KC Hall. We had a huge attendance and the Evangeline Genealogical Historical Society had a booth set up for any family members seeking information and joining the society of Evangeline Parish.



## FONTENOT FAMILY

Our Fontenot family journey began the same time as the Demoruelle Family tree research began on March 1, 2008, and there have been so many researchers and advocates for the Fontenot family even prior to when I was even a teenager.

I have truly found that in my research with the Fontenot family line we have a great huge family and every Fontenot in the State of Louisiana is originated from the one Fontenot that arrived in Mobile, Alabama, Sir Jean Louis Fontenot (dit Colin) who married Angelique Henry on 8 February 1726 at Fort Toulouse, Mobile, Alabama. I have already documented in the binder the children and the Fontenot Clan's of Jean Louis and Angelique. Some of the children stayed in Mobile, Alabama and some moved west to settle in St. Landry Parish, and today is now Ville Platte Evangeline Parish.

The Fontenot family is listed in the Fontenot Family 1600 - 1903 A Genealogical Study of The Descendants of Jean Louise Fontenot Dit Colin and Louise Angelique Henry by the Evangeline Genealogical & Historical Society, publishing by Claitor's Publishing Division, last publication 2011.

For those who are interested in me making a binder just like I have I would love to print you a copy, however with the cost of ink, paper, and picture protectors, it costs very much to do this. If you are interested, you can let me know for the reunion, or email me at [donnapaul87@att.net](mailto:donnapaul87@att.net) or call me 337-256-0918.

My acknowledgements for The Fontenot family tree as follows:

JD Soileau, Pris and John Guillory, all family members who participated in helping with their family information, Pat and Teresa Fontenot, Bob Ortego, Charles Glynn Demoruelle (deceased), Joseph Walter Demoruelle, Charlene Attales Dupre, Aunt Betty Ray, Charlotte Demoruelle LeBas, Angela Forman Hoychick, Margie Martin, John Phillip Forman, Brenda Fontenot Ortego, Jane Fontenot Vidrine, and Cindy Miller, many resources including Ancestry, Lafayette Parish library for research from the Father Hebert Books (Southwest Louisiana Records) 1751 to 1915, Rootsweb, Find-A-Grave, walking many cemeteries over the last eight years and recording family members, Evangeline and St. Landry parish courthouses, and Evangeline Parish Library including the Evangeline Genealogy and Historical Society.

# La Famille de Védrines

*Védrine*

## A brief history of the Vidrine Family

*By Rev. Fr. Jason Vidrine*

The Vidrine family in America has its origins in France.



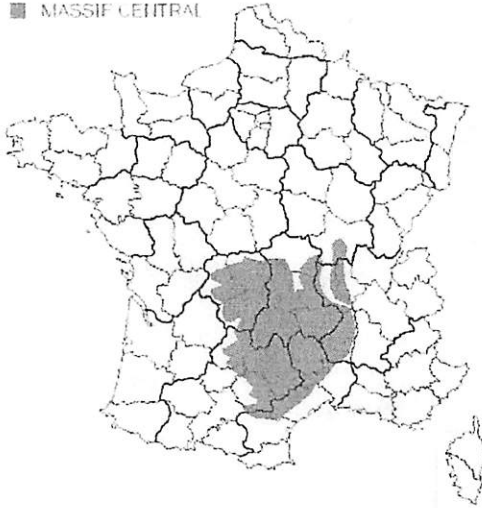
It descends from one man who came to Louisiana:

**Jean-Baptiste Pierre Lapaise de Védrines**

(May 17, 1712 - January 15, 1788)

Several communities with the name Védrières were in the Massif Central region of France from at least the year 1400.

■ MASSIF CENTRAL

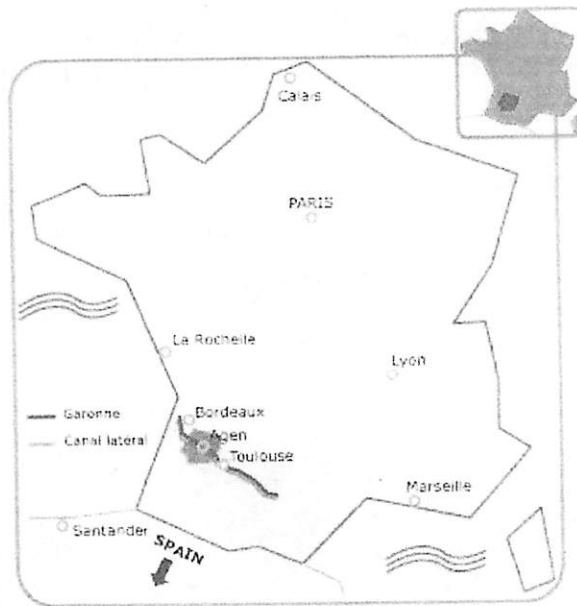


The origin of the name Védrières could be from either the Latin word vitrina (glass-making) or from veterina (indicating a flock).

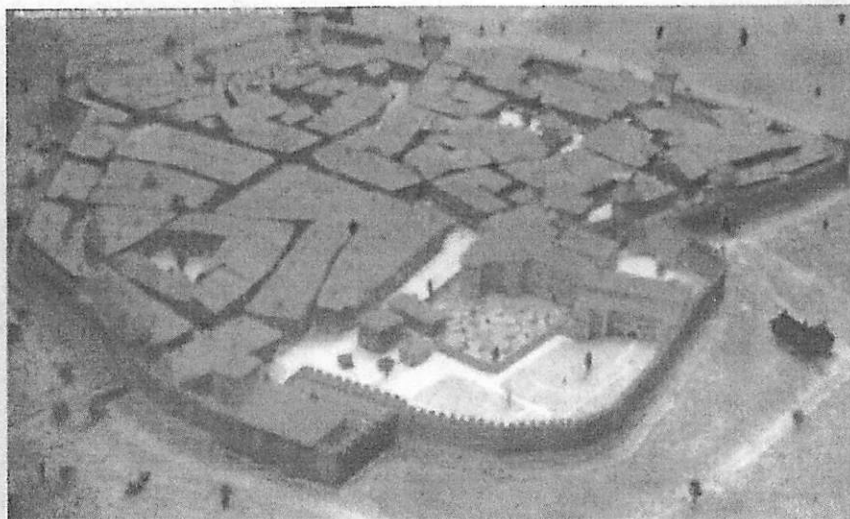
Several small communities in the Massif Central named Védrières continue to exist as this photo taken in 2003 shows.



By the end of the 1400's, several families with the name de Védrines migrated from the Massif Central to the region of Agen in southwestern France between Bordeaux and Toulouse.



The progenitors of the Vidrine family are currently identified as Jehan de Védrines (1534-1601) and his wife Anne Simon (1542-1600) who lived in the city of Sainte Livrade sur Lot in the region of Agen, France (shown in this medieval model).

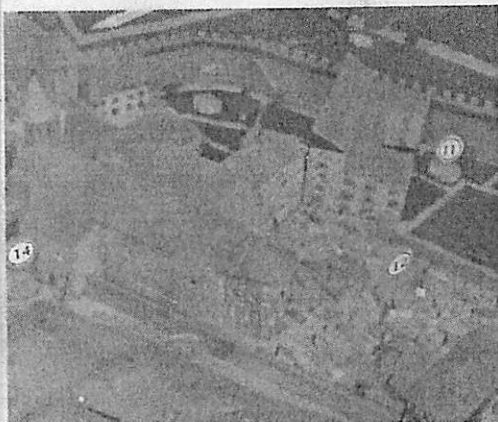


Records show that several generations of Jean Baptiste Lapaise's family were royal judges in the town of Ste. Livrade sur Lot:  
his great grandfather: François de Védrines (1596-1657)  
his grandfather: Jean de Védrines (1635-1706)  
and his father: Jean-Baptiste de Védrines (1673-1746)



Like them, Jean-Baptiste Lapaise de Védrines was baptized in the church of Ste. Livrade.

Records show that Jean-Baptiste Lapaise de Védrines' family members were buried in the cemetery behind Ste. Livrade church (shown in the medieval model of the city). During the French Revolution (1791), the cemetery was sold for 616 livres (\$7,710) and subsequently covered over. It no longer exists today as the parking lot in this photo taken in 2003 shows.



This is the record of  
Jean-Baptiste Pierre Lapaise de Védrines'  
Baptism in the church of Ste. Livrade on  
May 18, 1712.



Records show that the family of Jean-Baptiste Lapaise de Védrines owned a farm in the countryside of Ste. Livrade called Lapeze (or Lapaise), from which he got his name.

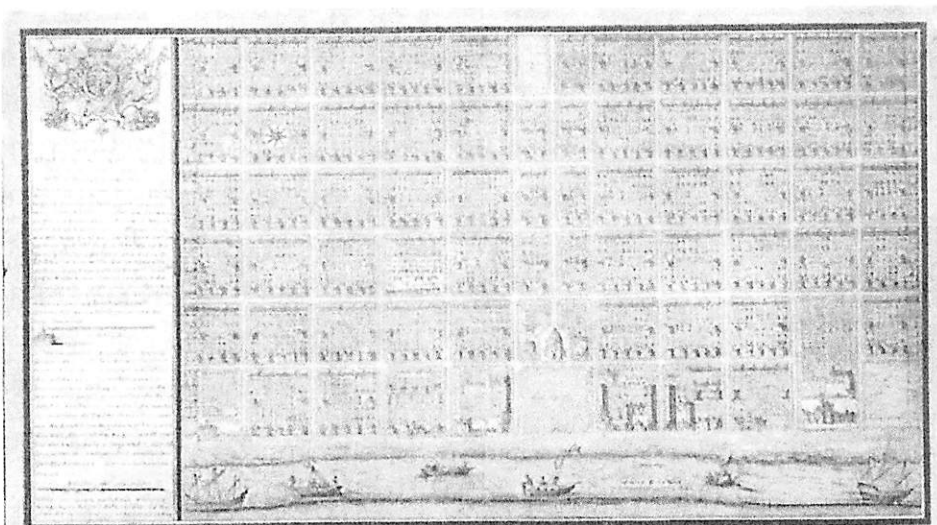




The farm at Lapeze remained the possession of the family of Jean-Baptiste Lapaise de Védrines until it was sold by his nephew and godson, Jean-Baptiste de Védrines some time before 1790.



Jean-Baptiste Lapaise de Védrines came to America as an officer in the Royal French Marines detached to the territory of Louisiana. He sailed on the royal ship La Charente with Governor Vaudreuil from Rochefort France on January 1, 1743 and docked in New Orleans four months later on May 10.

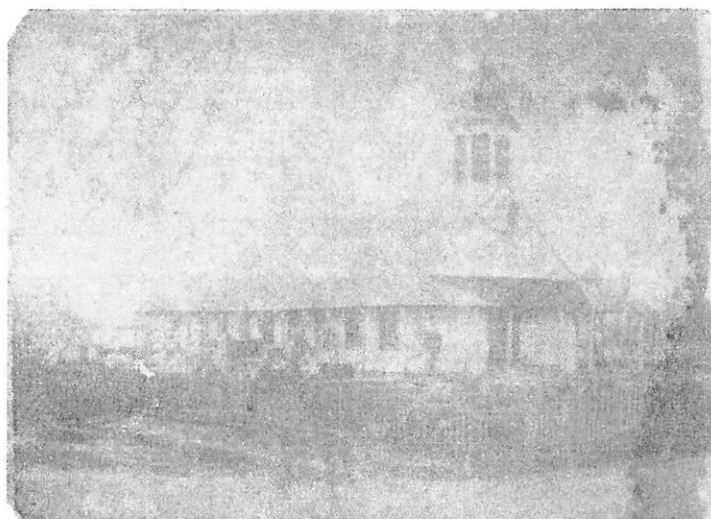






Jean-Baptiste Lapaise de Védrières and his wife Elizabeth settled at the Pointe Coupee Post near the Mississippi River around 1765, where the third, fourth, and fifth of their children (Perrine, Jean Baptiste Pierre, and Etienne dit Lapaise) were born. After 1773, the name Védrières no longer appears in the records of Pointe Coupee.

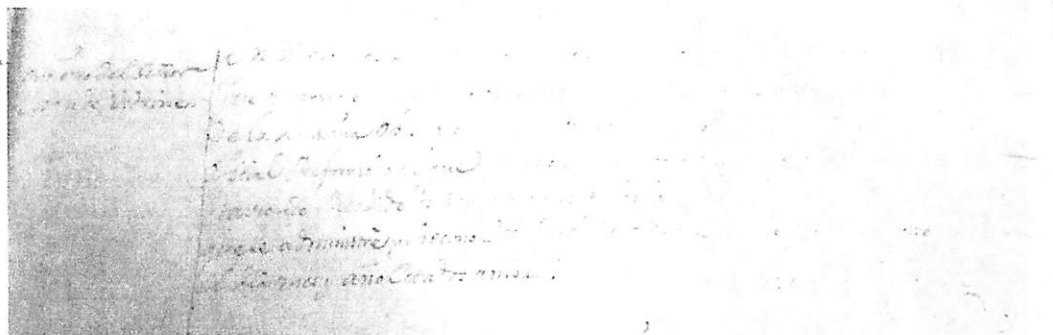
This is the church of St. Francis of Assisi in Pointe Coupee where the children were Baptized, built in 1760 and stood until 1892.



After 1773, Jean Baptiste Lapaise de Védrières and his family moved along the banks of Bayou Courtableau just north of Washington. Their names appear in the Sacramental records of St. Landry church in Opelousas.

For example, Fr. Joseph de Aranzana, O.M.C., wrote:

Jean de Vidrine, having received the Sacraments of Penance, Euchariste, & Extreme Unction "Recibio con particular devocion" (received with particular devotion or piety) died January 15, 1788 at age 80 yrs., buried January 16, 1788 (V. 1-A, p. 5).



***It was during the Spanish rule of LA that the name was changed from Védrières to Vidrine in many records.***

Jean-Baptiste Lapaise and Elizabeth de Védrines  
had six children:

Marie-Jeanne Vidrine married Jean-Baptiste Richaume Soileau

Jean-Baptiste Pierre Vidrine married Marie-Josephe Brignac

Agnès (Inès) Vidrine married (1) Joseph-Barthéломé Rozat  
and (2) Jean Voualier Ponsony

Perrine Vidrine married Charles Belaire Fontenot

Marie-Anne Vidrine

Etienne Vidrine, dit Lapaise married Victoire Soileau

Eugénie Vidrine

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## Various Vidrines



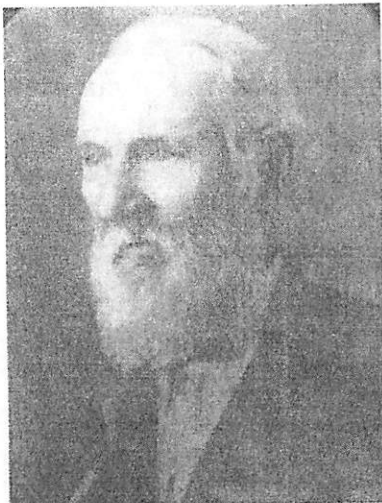
Marcellin Garand (1781-1852) was a native of Savoy, France and retired adjutant major in Napoleon's Army who settled in Ville Platte in 1824, where he operated a hotel, store and tavern; he also served as the first postmaster from 1842-1848. He married Hyacinth Vidrine (1794-1863), daughter of Jean-Baptiste Pierre De Védrines and Marie-Josephe Brignac, with whom he had 8 children. Hyacinth's estate donated a plot of land in 1865 to Sacred Heart Church. Marcellin Garand is buried in the Old Ville Platte Cemetery.

## Various Vidrines



Aurelie Vidrine (1843-1915) was a Confederate Soldier of the Civil War serving with Company K, 28th (Thomas') LA Infantry Regiment. He was the son of Etienne Vidrine, Jr. and Domelise Guillory, born near Ville Platte, LA. He married first, Zoe Fusilier and had 11 children. After Zoe died, he married Louisiana Singletary and had 5 children. Aurelie is buried in the Old Ville Platte cemetery.

## Various Vidrines



Alcin Vidrine (1845-1932) was also a Confederate Soldier in the Civil War with Company K, 16th LA Infantry Regiment. He was the son of Antoine Vidrine and Josephine Ortego and born near Opelousas. After the war, he engaged in planting and merchandising and owned a plantation of about five hundred acres cultivated by tenants. Alcin married Marie Estelle Andrepont and had 13 children. He is buried in the cemetery of St. Landry Church in Opelousas.

## Various Vidrines



Dr. Jules C. Vidrine (1870-1945) was the son of Aurelie Vidrine and Zoe Fusilier and born near Ville Platte. He married Herodias Guillory. Dr. Jules was was a General Practitioner, School Board President and had a boarding home for teachers in the area. He is buried in the Old Ville Platte Cemetery. The community of Vidrine is named after him as the post office was housed in his home.

## Various Vidrines



Euzebe Vidrine (1898-1924) was the son of Archille Sony Vidrine and Aureline Fontenot, born near Ville Platte. He married Lilian Andrus. He was sentenced to death by hanging at the Evangeline Parish Courthouse on August 8, 1924 for the murder of Robert Leo Wiggins, Jr from Mamou. He was one of the first "serial killers", murdering five men. Before the trapdoor opened, Euzebe's last words were reported to be: "*Do not gamble. Do not drink whiskey...You'll end up like Euzebe Vidrine if you do.*" He's buried in the Te-Mamou cemetery on Hwy 167 near Ville Platte.

# Various Vidrines



Dr. Arthur Vidrine, Sr. (1896-1955) was the son of Jean Eloï Vidrine and Marguerite Dorice Brignac, born in Ville Platte. He married Kathleen Miazza and had three children. Dr. Arthur was appointed by Governor Long as the Superintendent of Charity Hospital in New Orleans (1928-1936) and was the founder and first dean of the LSU School of Medicine (1931-1937). He is best known for having operated on U.S. Senator Huey Pierce Long, Jr., after Long was shot on September 8, 1935, in the LA State Capitol in Baton Rouge. Afterward, he moved back to Ville Platte and owned and operated a hospital (1937-1950). Dr. Arthur is buried in the cemetery of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Ville Platte.

The Vidrine Family has provided three Priests and two Religious Sisters since the arrival of Jean-Baptiste Lapaise de Védrières in Louisiana in 1742...all natives of Ville Platte. Two of them [Fr. Richard and Sr. Richard (Mildred)] descend from Jean Baptiste Lapaise's first son, Jean-Baptiste Pierre and three [Msgr. Curtis, Sr. Elsie, and Fr. Jason] descend from Jean-Baptiste Lapaise's second son, Etienne dit Lapaise.



Sr. Richard Vidrine, OP  
Entered Religious Life: 1930



Msgr. Curtis Vidrine  
Ordained: March 17, 1945



Sr. Elsie Mae Vidrine, MSC  
Entered Religious Life: 1945



Fr. Richard Vidrine  
Ordained: June 17, 1995



Fr. Jason Vidrine  
Ordained: July 8, 2006

1846 La Vendre.  
de la commune de noble  
de la République  
à la commune de la Vendre  
le 10 Mars 1846

Archives Nationales Coloniales, France  
Archives Departmentales de Agen, France  
*Barsac Infos* Newsletter, July, August, September 2008  
Loudoun Collection, Vaudreuil Papers, Huntington University, San Marino CA  
*Governor Vaudreuil's Voyage to Louisiana*, Vidrine and Vidrine, San Clemente, CA, 2014  
Carl Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country*, University of Illinois (July 20, 2000)  
Kaskaskia Manuscripts  
Sacramental Records, St. Joseph Church, Prairie du Rocher, IL  
Sacramental Records, St. Francis Church, New Roads, LA  
Opelousas Post Census of 1777  
Spanish Colonial Land Grant Papers, New Orleans Historical Museum  
Sacramental Records, St Landry Church, Opelousas, LA

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light, textured background. The signature is written in a cursive script and reads "Jean Baptiste Védrières".

*Signature of Jean Baptiste Lapaise de Védrières at his retirement in 1770*

## List of Foreigners in the District of Opelousas and Attakapas and in New Iberia, May 15, 1781

In 1977, Dr. Glenn R. Conrad published an article in the Attakapas Gazette [Vol. XII 1977, pgs. 137-140] entitled **Friend of Foe? Religious Exiles at the Opelousas Post in The American Revolution**. In the article, Dr. Conrad explains that the arrival of English settlers from Natchez in February 1780 and sixty Irish and German refugees from Fort Pitt on June 24, 1780 led the Commandant of the Opelousas and Attakapas Districts to take a census on May 15, 1781 of all "foreigners" in Opelousas, Attakapas and New Iberia. They were also required to turn in their weapons. The list includes individuals who arrived before the 1780 group, e.g. Abshire, Anderson, Beard, Berwick, Miller, Smith. The following is an article in a photo image. The Collins' family and many other names are listed and are probably lurking in

### FRIEND OR FOE? RELIGIOUS EXILES AT THE OPELOUSAS POST IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*By Glenn R. Conrad*

Fort Panmure, the English installation at Natchez, together with the Anglo-American civilian population of the area, fell under Spanish control shortly after Spain declared war on Britain in the summer of 1779. For sometime thereafter, however, the allegiance of the inhabitants of Natchez was cause for Spanish concern. Were these colonists now unqualified subjects of Carlos III? Did some residents secretly sympathize with the American independence movement? How many were covertly loyal to George III? Over the next two years a series of events would provide some answers to these questions.

About six months after the Spanish capture of Natchez (February 26, 1780), Alexandre DeClouet, commandant of the Opelousas and Attakapas posts, reported almost casually to Governor Bernardo de Galvez that two English families, those of Richard and John Ellis (father and son), had abandoned their homes near Natchez and had moved to the Attakapas with about 100 slaves. (1) Galvez responded that he was pleased that the Ellises had chosen to live in the Attakapas, for he knew them to be an upstanding family.

The next incident in a seemingly unrelated series of events occurred within a

few months. On June 24, DeClouet notified the governor that sixty Irish and German refugees from Fort Pitt had arrived at the Opelousas Post and were requesting permission to settle there. They claimed to have fled their homes in Pennsylvania because of English suppression of Catholicism. DeClouet noted that their initial request was to be allowed to baptize their children. While willing to receive the new settlers, the commandant informed the governor that he could provide them very little in the way of food, clothing and shelter. Therefore, he asked Galvez to send emergency supplies as well as orders regarding the disposition of the refugees. (2) In the meantime, DeClouet and other established settlers would care for the newcomers until their fate was determined.

Acting Governor Pedro Piernas (Governor Galvez being away on the Mobile campaign) responded that the Spanish intendant of Louisiana, Martin Navarro, would contact DeClouet concerning the future of the refugees. For unknown reasons, however, Navarro apparently ignored the problem of the immigrants. Indeed, little more is heard from DeClouet on the subject, except an occasional reminder to Piernas that he was

1. Alexandre DeClouet to Bernardo de Galvez, February 26, 1780. Archivo General de Indias, Papeles procedentes de la Isla de Cuba, legajo 193-B/72. Hereafter cited as P.P.C., with folio number.

2. DeClouet to Galvez, June 24, 1780. P.P.C., 193-B/72.



still awaiting Navarre's instructions.

Over the next year, then, one can assume that the English, Irish and German refugees went about the task of establishing themselves in the Opelousas and Attakapas districts, including the newly established community of New Iberia. Even though the new settlers had caused no problems, their presence did, nevertheless, cause DeClouet and others to ponder certain questions. Why had these people suddenly appeared on DeClouet's doorstep? Was religion their real motive for leaving Pennsylvania? Were they British Loyalists deliberately sent into enemy territory to subvert the heretofore successful Spanish war effort on the Gulf Coast? Were they American sympathizers who sought to use Spanish territory as a base of operations against the British in the old Southwest? Their presence must have been a bit disconcerting; still, they gave every indication of being what they claimed to be, religious refugees simply seeking to start life anew. Thus, the new arrivals were largely dismissed from official attention until the spring of 1781.

In early March 1781, Galvez launched his campaign to capture the British naval base at Pensacola. As part of his defensive strategy for that British installation, Colonel John Campbell called upon the Loyalists at Natchez to rise in rebellion against Spanish domination. Through this diversionary tactic, the Englishman hoped, Galvez would abandon the siege of Pensacola and return to the Mississippi to put down the rebellion. Moreover, if the Spaniards withdrew from the Pensacola area, even for a brief period of time, Campbell might be able to receive long overdue reinforcements.

Campbell's plan was only partially successful. The English settlers of the Natchez District did strike against Spanish

control, and, led by John Blommart, they succeeded in recapturing Fort Panmure in late April. Campbell's tactic was unsuccessful, however, for it failed to lure Galvez back to the Mississippi.

Learning of the rebellion at Natchez, Acting Governor Piernas ordered DeClouet and Carlos de Grand Pré, commandant at Pointe Coupée, to assemble their respective militia units to retake Natchez and crush the rebellion. DeClouet was told to supply forty militiamen. This small military force was placed under the command of Etienne-Robert de la Morandière who would join Grand Pré's contingent en route to Natchez. It was at this juncture that Spanish officials apparently remembered the English, Irish and German settlers who had recently arrived in the Opelousas and Attakapas district and about whose politics so little was known. The sudden removal of forty militiamen from the area could give the "foreigners" an opportunity to implement any ulterior motives which they might harbor.

On May 14, therefore, Piernas dispatched a courier to DeClouet. The Acting Governor ordered the commandant to "watch closely the English and Americans in your district." Moreover, Piernas authorized DeClouet to disarm any Englishman or American whom he suspected of perpetrating anti-Spanish activities. (3)

Apparently alarmed by Piernas' words, DeClouet decided to take no chances with his English-speaking neighbors—he would disarm all of them. The next day, May 15, the Attakapas and Opelousas militia moved through the district collecting the arms of the "foreigners." When the collection of these weapons was completed, DeClouet discovered that the district's French and Spanish settlers had only twenty weapons

more than the refugees. (4)

The arms gathered by DeClouet were placed under guard in the home of Donato, and although the English-speaking families complained about their treatment, there were no further incidents connected with their disarmament. La Morandiere

and his militiamen could now leave the district assured that there would be no surprises from their Irish, German and American neighbors.

The list which follows gives the names of the "foreigners" who were to surrender their weapons. (5)

4. DeClouet to Piarres, June 14, 1781. P.P.C., 184:170.  
5. "Etat du Rencensement General des Individus Etrangers lors du Desarmement dans la Partie des Attakapas, Opelousas et Nouvelle Iberie du 15 mai 1781. P.P.C., 184:162.

LIST OF FOREIGNERS IN THE  
DISTRICT OF OPELOUSAS AND  
ATTAKAPAS AND IN NEW  
IBERIA, MAY 15, 1781

Luke Collins, Sr.  
Charles Percy  
Theophilus Collins  
John Collins  
William Collins  
Luke Collins, Jr.  
William Wikoff  
Samuel Wells  
Cesar Archinard  
Richard Ellis  
John Ellis  
Thomas Murdock  
Raphael Bowker  
Evan Mill  
Gerard Brandon  
Robert Collingwood  
John Liver  
Solomon Bernard  
Henry Askeater  
Phillip Howard  
John Tyson  
John Vaughan  
Jacob Schnell  
Moise Cutter  
Mark Cotes  
Joshua Garret  
George Foreman  
William Brown

William Hanchey  
John Kennedy  
John Cotes  
Stephen Cotes  
Abraham Roberts  
Richard Rodney  
Amos Fairchild  
Michael Hunter  
Seth Hanchey  
Athanase Martin  
Francis Daniel  
Jacob Bihm  
Garret Harcourt  
James Cole  
Matthew Nugent, Jr.  
Nathaniel Kennison  
James Clayton  
John Clark  
Robert Huxley  
Patrick Clark  
Frederick Meyer  
Isaac Lewis  
James Clark  
John Bowels  
Peter McIntyre  
John Ryan  
Francis Holst  
Nicholas Smith

Samuel Allen  
Roger West  
Jacob Miller  
George Miller  
Michael Ryder  
John Orrey  
Jack Crouk  
Michael Ryder  
Thomas Priestman  
Henry Bradley  
Edward Tear  
Zachery Martin  
Edward Murphy  
John McDonald  
John Green  
Edward Caslow?  
Francis Little  
Phillip Barbus?  
Joseph Wyble  
Charles Smith  
John Fitzpatrick  
Joseph Ingraham  
Jacob Herman  
James Brown  
Anthony Coskain?  
Anthony Bennet  
Benjamin Roth  
Stephen Rhodes

Gabriel Martin  
 Matthew Nugent, Sr.  
 Edmund Nugent  
 Francis Roth  
 Joshua Wallace  
 Zachen? Roth  
 Abraham Odom  
 David Odom  
 Michael Hanfpanir  
 Samuel Bell  
 William Fairbanks  
 Luke Folse  
 John Rider  
 Matiquis? Hayes  
 James Carlin  
 George King

John Folse  
 Francis Stelly  
 Benjamin Malveau  
 William Malveau  
 Benjamin Anderson  
 Benjamin Fitz  
 Solomon Anderson  
 Joseph Anderson  
 James Anderson  
 James Yarborough  
 Thomas Yarborough  
 John Leger (Ledger?)  
 Thomas Parr  
 Adam Bridges  
 Maxwell? Yarborough

**NEW IBERIA**

Thomas Berwick  
 Ephraim Hormelle  
 Thomas Beard  
 William Bundick  
 Joseph Carr  
 John Brandon  
 John Hair  
 William McCullough  
 Ebenezer Crene  
 Cameron  
 Patrick McCarty  
 John Abshire  
 Abraham Stuart  
 William Dickson

**LUKE COLLINS**

Luke Collins and his family had a large part in shaping this area by putting a touch of Irish culture in the pot of gumbo we tend to make in this place we call "Cajun Country." Luke was born in Ireland about 1728 and sometime about 1738 his family moved to the settlement of Job Pearsall, located in Romney, Virginia. He struggled quite a bit before arriving in Mississippi and Louisiana, ran away from a few bill collectors, and in the Collins family, women were equal when it came to claiming land. The following is the rest of his timeline:

1739 - Augusta, Virginia.

1747- Married Sarah West or White in Virginia, she was born in Scotland.

1748 - Lucas Jr. born 1748 Hampshire County, Virginia married Zoe Courtableau on February 17, 1782 at Opelousas Catholic Church, Opelousas, LA.

1752 - Theophilus born Hampshire County, Virginia married Isabelle Leonard on April 5, 1789 at Opelousas Catholic Church, Opelousas, LA.

1759- Luke moved the family to Frederick, Virginia and he struggled on his farm.

1761 - Luke bought land from Bryan Bruin in Winchester, Frederick, Virginia.

1763 - He participated in the French & Indian Wars.

1765 - Luke was paid \$10.50 for his services of Virginia "Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia" 1761-1765.

1767 - William L. born in Mississippi and married Celeste Leonard on May 15, 1796 at Opelousas Catholic Church, Opelousas, LA.

1768 - Luke borrowed money from Andrew Wallace, but he did not pay this debt back and moved to Bedford County, Virginia, about 150 miles South of Winchester, Virginia.

1768 - He sold land to Joseph L. Helm.

1772 - Luke borrowed money from Bryan Bruin \$834, signing the note, was Luke Sr. Luke Jr., Thomas, Theophilus Collins. WV History XXX Don Bryan or Bruin vs. Don Lucas Collins located in New Orleans.

1773 - He moved to Natchez, Mississippi, British West Florida.

1773 – On the Natchez district – West Florida Census in his house are Luke Collins, Sara White, 4 children, and 4 servants.

1776- He moved to Fairchild's Creek Natchez, Mississippi and on Jan 8 he received a grant for 600 acres Northeast of Natchez.

1776 – On April 20 Luke Jr., Thomas, Theophilus, all received a grant for 200 acres on Fairchild's Creek Mississippi.

1776 – During the month of September John Collins received a grant for 200 acres.

1777 – On Oct 1 a grant of 200 acres on Boyd's Creek was given to Luke Collins Jr. along with his wife, Celeste Leonard and 3 children.

1779- Luke arrived about 1779 at the Opelousas Post, but was probably in Louisiana in another area.

1781 – Luke, Theophilus, Luke Jr., William and John Collins are all listed on the census of friend vs foe article.

1801 – During the year 1801 a will was written by Luke Collins Sr. in Opelousas, LA.

1801 – On Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>, Luke Collins, an Irishman and Catholic was buried in the local cemetery.

#### Other Notes on the Collins family:

- Luke Collins Sr. served in the Virginia Militia as a Captain during the French and Indian wars.
- Luke Collins Sr. and his wife Sarah White or West did not receive any grant around the area of Opelousas.
- Another son of Luke Collins Sr. and Sarah White or West was John Collins, but no date has ever been found for his birth. He is possibly the John Collins that married on December 6, 1795 at Natchez to Elizabeth Gillard, Protestants.
- Guillaume Collins is another son listed as being married to Hortense April 23, 1787 at the Opelousas Catholic Church, Opelousas, LA. Guillaume is the French version of William, there is a possibility he married two different women.
- Another child named Sara Collins married Julien Lessassier on October 26, 1786 at the Opelousas Catholic Church, Opelousas, LA.
- A Bridget and Mary Collins each received a grant for 1,000 acres in 1763 near Iberville, relation to Luke Collins is unknown.

LA History V14 1973 Pg. 137

Submitted by Carla C. Deville





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

American-Canadian Genealogy  
Society  
P.O. Box 6478  
Manchester, NH 03108



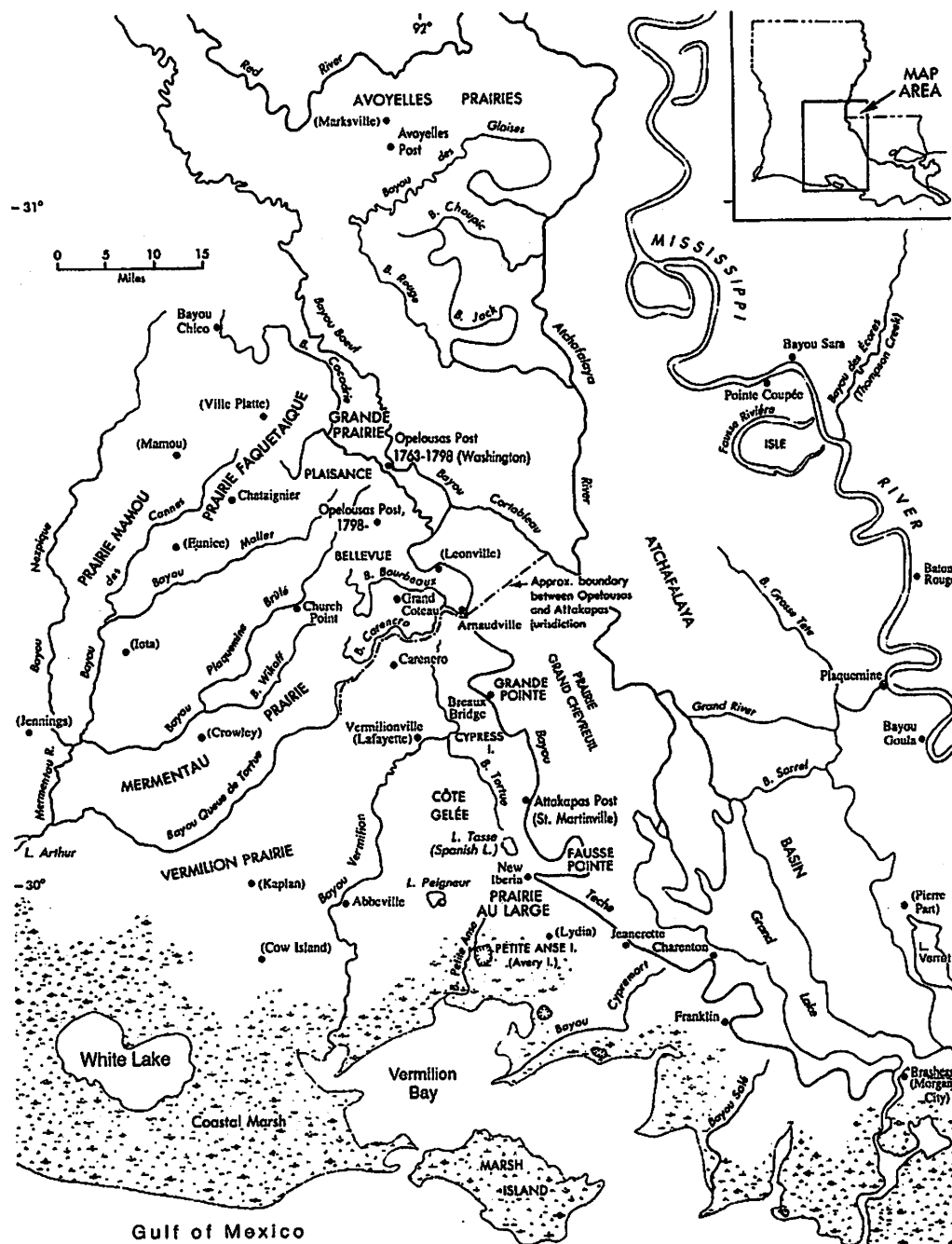
# LA VOIX DES PRAIRIES

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

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Prairies of Southwest Louisiana

**EVANGELINE GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
POST OFFICE BOX 664  
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Officers: La Voix des Prairies is published quarterly  
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Treasurer: Mardell Sibley  
Secretary: Carla C. DeVille  
Newsletter: Jane Vidrine Carla C. Deville  
Advisors: Mary Foster-Galasso & Jacqueline O. Vidrine

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Meetings of the Society are held on the third Saturday of January, April, July and October at 9:30 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Evangeline Parish Public Library, 242 West Main Street, Ville Platte, Louisiana.

Currently members' dues are \$15.00 annual for individuals, \$20.00 for couples, and \$25.00 for organizations and Institutions based on the calendar year. Members receive a copy of the quarterly journal "La Voix des Prairies". Single copies of back issues of the quarterly are \$6.00 each mailed first class postage paid by the requestor.

Policy of the Society will be formulated and directed by the Executive Board. The material for the quarterly is copyrighted and cannot be used or reproduced without permission of the editor of the Executive Board. The Society does not assume responsibility for accuracy of the information submitted and published, nor does it assume responsibility for any copyright infringement of submitted and published material. The Society solicits materials of genealogical/historical interest, particularly articles which pertain to this area. The quarterly will print all queries that contain the necessary items such as names, dates, date references, places or place references.

Quarterly exchange will take place with other genealogical and/or historical societies. The exchanges received will be placed in the Genealogy section of the Evangeline parish Public Library in the permanent holdings of the Society.

Acquisitions/donations: The Society has an ongoing project of acquiring books, periodicals, and other materials to place in the Genealogy section 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. Memorials and honorariums are welcome.

Address: LA VOIX DES PRAIRIES, P.O. BOX 664, VILLE PLATTE, LA 70586.  
Evangeline Genealogical and Historical Society, P.O Box 664, Ville Platte, LA 70586

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At the January 2016 meeting, officers were appointed for this year. Officers are as follows: Jane F. Vidrine, President; Donna D. Johnson, Vice President; Mardell Sibley, Treasurer; Carla C. DeVille, Secretary; Advisors, Mary Foster-Galasso and Jacqueline O. Vidrine.

REMINDER: If you haven't paid your dues yet this year, please send in renewal fees.

La Voix De Prairie Newsletter officers are: Jane F. Vidrine, editor and Carla C. DeVille, co-editor.

Copies of the Minutes of January 2016 meeting will be available at the April 2016 meeting.

The officers have created a pamphlet for EGHS. Copies will be available at various places around the parish to help get the word out about the Evangeline Genealogical & Historical Society. Included in this pamphlet is a membership form which can be mailed in.

The membership year begins in January. Renewal forms will be available at all meetings. Although many of you may have already renewed, maybe other friends and family would like to join. This membership includes a quarterly issue of our publication, access to experienced genealogists: make new friends, visiting with old ones and learning those very helpful hints and tips for your research. Mail your check or money order to the address on the front of the publication and renew now to make sure you don't miss any issues.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, April 16, 2016 at the Evangeline Parish Public Library. 242 W. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA. Our meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room. Any questions, please feel free to call the library at 337.363.1369.**

This month's speakers and topic: Louisiana Orphan Train Museum: A History.

Speakers will be Ms. Margaret Briley and Mr. John Ledoux, both of which are volunteers at the Louisiana Orphan Train Museum, Opelousas, LA. They both have a parent who came on the orphan Train in Louisiana. They will share their stories and other stories of children who came on the Orphan Train and are displayed at the Museum. They will have pamphlets to give out. The Society has recently published a book titled "From Cradle to Grave, Journey of the Louisiana Orphan Train Riders". They will bring some of their books if anyone is interested in purchasing one of these for their own.

### **Query:**

Looking for any information on Homer DeVille born on November 14, 1902 in St. Landry Parish, LA. His parents are Homer DeVille and Augustine Soileau. The birth record is the only information found. No death, marriage, or military record has been found. Please email me at [carla\\_deville@yahoo.com](mailto:carla_deville@yahoo.com) or send in to this newsletter.

### **Query:**

Looking for information of Descendants of Elizabeth Thompson married to Whiley Adams. Also looking for Lucinda Thompson who married John W. Gossett. St. Mary Parish. These are two sisters.

Parents are Josilah Thompson and Marguerite Row(e). Married between in 1840s – 1850s.

Please call Mary Ann Thompson Fontenot at 337.363.7428 with any information.

**Any other Queries to be included in the newsletter, please email at [eghsvp@yahoo.com](mailto:eghsvp@yahoo.com) or mail to EGHS, P.O. Box 664, Ville Platte, LA 70586. You may also give the President at one of the quarterly meetings.**

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### **Table of Contents**

List of Web sites, by Carla C. DeVille'

William Henry Gaty's Final Homestead Notice, 1894  
Submitted by E.A. (Tony) Dardeau, Jr.

Certain Surprises in Research about Vidrine Family History  
By: Rev. Fr. Jason Vidrine (part 1)

Family Group Sheet: Buller/Jeansonne  
Submitted by Rita Soileau

Succession of Louis D. Chechere,  
St. landry parish, Filed 15 November 1827.  
Submitted by Mary Ann Fontenot

## Web Sites:

### Free

- 1) [www.slodms.doa.la.gov](http://www.slodms.doa.la.gov) LA. Government State Web Site
- 2) <http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/Pages/OnlinePublicVitalRecordsIndex.aspx> Birth and Death records archived
- 3) [www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-museum/collections/historical-center](http://www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-museum/collections/historical-center) LA Museum Colonial Documents, Manuscripts, Maps, Sheet Music, Newspapers, Library, Scrapbooks, and Microfilm.
- 4) [Specialcollections.tulane.edu](http://Specialcollections.tulane.edu)
- 5) [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) National Archives
- 6) [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov) Library of Congress
- 7) [www.chroniclingamerica.gov/newspapers](http://www.chroniclingamerica.gov/newspapers) Library of Congress Newspapers
- 8) <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special> LSU online collection
- 9) <http://library.louisiana.edu/collections/university-archives-manuscripts> ULL
- 10) [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) Latter Day Saints
- 11) [www.libertyellisfoundation.org](http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org) Ellis Island
- 12) [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com) Free books or e-books to be purchased. Groups.
- 13) <https://news.google.com/newspapers> Old newspapers.
- 14) [www.googleyourfamilytree.com](http://www.googleyourfamilytree.com) Google Family Tree help page.
- 15) [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) Free or very little cost books.
- 16) [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Cemeteries
- 17) [www.deadfred.com](http://www.deadfred.com) Free web site for family unidentified photos.
- 18) [www.freegenealogytools.com](http://www.freegenealogytools.com) Web site that gives links and hints.
- 19) <http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/> Irish records.
- 20) [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com) as of September 30, 2014 read only format.
- 21) [www.crestleaf.com](http://www.crestleaf.com) Tell your story and search over 90 million records.
- 22) [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)
- 23) [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com)
- 24) <http://www.usgwarchives.net/> Records by state
- 25) [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) Free Records
- 26) [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

### Paid

- 1) <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/> National Genealogy Society
- 2) [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
- 3) [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) European History
- 4) [www.fold.com](http://www.fold.com) Military records
- 5) [www.storyworth.com](http://www.storyworth.com) Telling your stories with your families

### Forms

- 1) [www.familytreetemplates.net](http://www.familytreetemplates.net)
- 2) <http://www.ancestry.com/download/charts>
- 3) <http://www.mvmcpl.org/genealogy/family-history-forms>
- 4) [www.google.com/docs](http://www.google.com/docs)
- 5) [www.genealogysearch.org](http://www.genealogysearch.org)

### Programs

- 1) [www.legacyfamilytreestore.com](http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com)
- 2) [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)
- 3) [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- 4) [www.rootsmagic.com](http://www.rootsmagic.com)
- 5) [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)
- 6) [www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com)

## WILLIAM HENRY GATY'S FINAL HOMESTEAD NOTICE, 1894.

Submitted by E.A. (Tony) Dardeau, Jr.\*

Source: *St. Landry Clarion*, Opelousas, LA, Saturday, 3 February 1894, First Edition, Notice, page 2.

### NOTICE.

LAND OFFICE AT NEW ORLEANS, }

Jan. 29, 1894, }

Notice is hereby given that the settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before B. Bloomfield, U.S. Commissioner, at Opelousas, La., on Tuesday, March 13, 1894, viz:

### WILLIAM H. GATY,

who made Homestead Entry No. 9864, for the NE¼ of Sec 12 Tp 5 S R 1 W La. Meridian.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of, said land, viz:

W.W. Turner, F.N. Williams, Dr. J.B. Walters, Joseph Celestin, all of St. Landry parish, La.

Fb3 6t

G. N

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\* E.A. (Tony) Dardeau, Jr., lives at 12 Crestwood, Vicksburg, MS, 39180-6244; e-mail: [DardeauEA@bellsouth.net](mailto:DardeauEA@bellsouth.net). He has been Editor of *Mississippi River Routes*, the quarterly journal of the Vicksburg Genealogical Society, since Fall 1996, and manages their website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~msvgs/index.htm>. William Henry Gaty (1863-1941), a native of Iuka, Illinois, and a homesteader on the Mamou Prairie, was his maternal grandfather. Gaty served on the first Police Jury of Evangeline Parish and was elected Police Jury President in 1916. William Worth Turner (1850-1922) was William Henry Gaty's brother-in-law (m. Ella Irene Gaty).

## Certain Surprises in Research about Vidrine Family History

Rev. Fr. Jason Vidrine

Genealogical research, like all of history, is filled with various surprises along the way, and the work I've done through the years has been no different in this regard. Of course, all who research the history of the Vidrine Family are indebted to Drouet and Jackie Vidrine's tremendous work in the last 40 years. Without it, none of the ongoing research today would be possible. But because of it, I and many others, peeked by both personal interest as well as love of history, can continue the quest...and discover surprises along the way. I would like to share three of those areas of research, which contained delightful surprises to me.

### 1 - Védrières (Vidrine) family who remained in France.

Once I entered seminary college and began to study the history of the Church, and particularly, the French Revolution, I remembered that the background to my family's history was in France. I also remembered from Jackie Vidrine's book that two of Jean Baptiste Lapaise de Védrières' brothers had professed vows as Benedictine Monks.<sup>1</sup> I wondered, therefore, if and how the Védrières family who remained in France (especially Francois and Guillaume de Védrières) may have been impacted by the violent and turbulent years of the French Revolution which began in 1789 and even wrote a research paper about that topic for a class at seminary.

Just a few years ago, while doing an internet search, I came across a quarterly newsletter published by the Commune of Barsac, France, which included a passage of Barsac's history during the time of the Revolution from the book, *Barsac au Temps de la Carmagnole*.<sup>2</sup> Interestingly (and surprisingly!), it happened to contain some information about our family's history. Basically, the passage that month traced certain citizens who were fined by the State for failing to report and/or pay the necessary taxes for their income or wealth. One of those highlighted was Jean Baptiste de Védrières, nephew and godson of Jean Baptiste Lapaise de Védrières (son of his brother, Pierre de Védrières). Facts found in this newsletter included the following: 1) It was well known that Pierre de Védrières had houses in the town of Ste. Livrade and a farm [at Lapeze] in addition to the Chateau [Doisey-Vedrières] near Barsac [all inherited from his father] and property inherited from the family of his wife (Marie Pinsan) at the nearby town of Preignac. 2) That three of Pierre de Vedrières' sons also moved to the new world (literally "out of the Kingdom"). 3) That Jean Baptiste de Védrières was the one who sold the property in Ste. Livrade, Lapeze, and Preignac, some time before 1790, retaining only the Chateau at Barsac. 4) That three sisters of Jean Baptiste de Védrières who were living with him at the Chateau and who were single girls whom Jackie Vidrine surmised had never married<sup>3</sup> were, in fact, Religious Sisters who had been banished from Religious Life at the start of the Revolution and all sought refuge with their brother. 5) That Jean Baptiste de Védrières' sister, Marie de Védrières, a former Religious Sister who had to testify about where she lived (in 1790) was 58 years old, and described in her passport as: 5 feet tall, brown hair, blue eyes, well made nose, round front, average mouth, short chin and round face.<sup>4</sup>

I also learned about the life of Fr. Michel Bernard Barriere who fled France because of the Revolution and ended up ministering to Jean Baptiste Lapaise de Védrières' family in LA (He baptized several of their children and buried Elizabeth de Moncharvaux).<sup>5</sup> Included along with his records in the Baptismal Register of St. Landry Church is the note he left: "this family was well known" to him in Bordeaux in 1770.<sup>6</sup>

It is clear that the French Revolution did indeed impact the Védrières family, both in France and in LA. But further research in this area should be pursued.

<sup>1</sup> *Vidrières-Vedrières: Our Vedrières in France*, Jacqueline O. Vidrine, Acadiana Press, 1981

<sup>2</sup> Barsac Infos, July-September 2008 ([http://www.barsac.fr/images/upload/journal/infos\\_n\\_20.imp.pdf](http://www.barsac.fr/images/upload/journal/infos_n_20.imp.pdf)), p. 15

<sup>3</sup> *Vidrières-Vedrières: Our Vedrières in France*, Jacqueline O. Vidrine, p. 137

<sup>4</sup> Barsac Infos, July-September 2008 ([http://www.barsac.fr/images/upload/journal/infos\\_n\\_20.imp.pdf](http://www.barsac.fr/images/upload/journal/infos_n_20.imp.pdf)), p. 15

<sup>5</sup> See *Abbé Michel Bernard Barrière: Apostle of Southwest Louisiana's Bayous and Prairies*, Rev. Fr. Jason Vidrine

<sup>6</sup> Marginal Note by Fr. Barriere in the Baptismal Register of St. Landry Church, Opelousas, LA (V.1, p.113)

# Family Group Sheet

5 Jan 2005

<b>Husband Arcadius BULLER</b>		
Birth	1 May 1831	Opel Area, St. Landry Par, La
Death	1858	Killed by a bull before his son Arcadius was born.
Alt. Name		Arcade Jean BULLER
Alt. Name		Arcadius Jean BULLER
Marriage	2 Mar 1850	St. Landry Parish, LA
Marriage	5 Mar 1850	Opel Ct Hse, Opelousas, La
Father	Joseph BULLER Jr (1805-1835)	
Mother	Louise "Lise" DESHOTELS ( - )	
<b>Wife Adelaide Jn Bte JEANSONNE</b>		
Birth	10 Apr 1835	Avoyelles Parish, La
Baptism	16 May 1835	
Alt. Name		Adeliade JEANSONNE
Father	Jean Baptiste JEANSONNE (1809- )	
Mother	Marceline MAYEAU ( - )	
<b>Children</b>		
1	<b>M Joseph (Boulard) BULLER</b>	
	Birth	2 Jun 1852 Ville Platte, Evang Ph, La
2	<b>M Aristide (Arestille) BULLER</b>	
	Birth	22 Jun 1854 Ville Platte, Evang Ph, La
	Death	15 Apr 1928
	Alt. Name	Aristile BULLER
	Burial	Eastin Cemetery
	Spouse	Martha DURIO (1868-1939)
	Marriage	25 Jan 1887 S H Cath Ch, Ville Platte, La
3	<b>M Miller (Miles) BULLER</b>	
	Birth	2 Oct 1855 Ville Platte, Evang Ph, La
	Birth	26 May 1856
4	<b>M Mills BULLER</b>	
	Birth	26 May 1856
5	<b>M Arcadius BULLER Jr</b>	
	Birth	15 Feb 1859 Ville Platte, Evang Ph, La
	Alt. Name	Arcadus BULLER
	Spouse	Sarah GUILLOT ( - )
6		
	Birth	
	Chr	
	Death	
	Burial	
	Marriage	
7		
	Birth	
	Chr	
	Death	
	Burial	
	Marriage	
Prepared 5 Jan 2005 by: Rita Soileau 1-225-362-1617		Comments

# Family Group Sheet

5 Jan 2005

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**HUSBAND NOTES: Arcadius BULLER**

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Birth (1 May 1831): Sps: Andre Reau and Eugenie Buller. Fr Rossi.

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**WIFE NOTES: Adelaide Jn Bte JEANSONNE**

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Birth (10 Apr 1835): Her godparents were Malxim,ilien Broussard and Pauline Joffiron.

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**General:**

Had a Jean Baptiste Jeansonne as father also. need to research

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**CHILD NOTES: Joseph (Boulard) BULLER**

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**General:**

from gedcom file, UNVERIFIED

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**CHILD NOTES: Miller (Miles) BULLER**

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**General:**

from gedcom file, UNVERIFIED

(The following was copied verbatim from photostatic copy of original in St. Landry Parish Courthouse, Opelousas, LA by Nettie C. Faulk, Rt. 3, Box 192, Rayne, LA)

- - -  
#455 - Succession of LOUIS D. CHACHERE

St. Landry Parish, La.  
Filed 15 November 1827

To the honorable George S. King, Judge of the Court of Probates in & for the parish of St. Landry.

The petition of LOUIS CHACHERE, of JULIEN Lisle CHACHERE, of PROSPERE BEAUREPAIRE CHACHERE, of FELIX VEILLANT CHACHERE, of CONSTANT CHACHERE, of LOUISE CHACHERE widow of Leon Boutte; of MANETTE CHACHERE, wife of Antoine Boutte, duly assisted and authorized by her husband, of ERMANCE CHACHERE, and of ELEONORE CHACHERE, wife of JAC. Bacon, duly assisted and authorized by her husband; all the above named persons, being of the parish of St. Landry; and of EMILIE CHACHERE, wife of Balthazar Martell of the parish of St. Martin, assisted by her husband; with respect represent:

That all your petitioners, are the legal heirs and representatives of the late LOUIS CHACHERE pere, late of the parish of St. Landry, deceased; whose succession is opened in the said parish of St. Landry.

That there are in the said parish of St. Landry, certain property real and personal belonging to the succession of the said deceased LOUIS CHACHERE pere, who died intestate; all which property are to be disposed of particularly for , paying the debts of the succession.

And your petitioners represent that altho no seals have been affixed on the effects of the succession, which is still in the same situation as it was at the time of the said LOUIS CHACHERE'S death; no creditor of the estate having acted against the said succession, your petitioners are yet at liberty to demand the benefit of inventory and the term for deliberating whether they will accept or renounce the said succession. And your petitioners, wishing to enjoy the privilege given to them by the laws of the state, do hereby declare to your honorable court, that, as there may be many debts against their said father's estate, which are yet unknown to them, they wish to take the benefit of inventory, and have the delay for deliberating.

Your petitioners further represent that according to the laws of the state, an inventory of all the property that belongs to the said succession, is bound to be made as soon as possible; and if any property is situated in different parishes, a commission is to be directed to the judge of any parish wherein the effects may be situated, for the purposes of making such inventories; after all which formalities an administrator of the succession is, according to the Art. 1034 of the Civil code, to be appointed by your honr. court; who, the said administrator, is to have by the Art. 1042 the powers exercised by curators of vacant states, and subject to the same duties, and as your petitioners do not intend to take the said administration, and as none of them wishes to take it; and as the said administration



is demanded by none of the creditors of the estate; they respectfully suggest that Mr. Charles Garrigues Flaugenc Junr. of the parish of St. Landry, would be a proper person to act as such administrator of your petitioners' father's succession; and they recommend him to your honr. court for that purpose.

Your petitioners further beg leave to observe that they don't intend to take any part in the affairs of the succession, except after all the debts paid; and they wish that all the formalities required by law should be completed with as soon as possible, in order that the administrator appointed take immediately the charge of the affairs of the estate under the powers given to him by law and by your honr. court.

Wherefore, your petitioners pray, that it may please your honorable court to grant them the benefit of inventory, and the legal delay for deliberating; and that an inventory or inventories of all the property belonging to the said Louis Chachere's succession, be made according to law, as speedily as possible, by the judges of the parishes whereon the different property may be situated; after the completing of which inventories, your petitioners pray that the above named Charles Garrigues Flaugenc, may be appointed by your honor, administrator of your petitioners' father's succession, together with all the powers necessary for his administration. And your petitioners pray for all such other & further relief as equity and justice may demand.

And as in duty bound, etc.

D. C. SITTIG for Hermance Chachere

Emilie Chachere wife B. MARTELL

JACQUE BACON

CTANT. CHACHERE

LOUISE CHACHERE

LILE CHACHERE

MATILITE CHACHERE

V. CHACHERE

BRE. CHACHERE

L. CHACHERE

Filed 15th November 1827.

Parish Court            )  
Parish of St. Landry )

In the Succession of Louis Chachere Senr. let the heirs of the Estate have the legal time for deliberating whether they will accept or renounce the Succession, and let an estimative inventory be made, by Charles Garrigues Flaugenc Jr. be appointed administrator as prayed for in the Petition of said heirs 15th Nov. 1827.

GEO KING Judge of Probates

is demanded by none of the creditors of the estate; they respectfully suggest that Mr. Charles Garrigues Flaugenc Junr. of the parish of St. Landry, would be a proper person to act as such administrator of your petitioners' father's succession; and they recommend him to your honr. court for that purpose.

Your petitioners further beg leave to observe that they don't intend to take any part in the affairs of the succession, except after all the debts paid; and they wish that all the formalities required by law should be completed with as soon as possible, in order that the administrator appointed take immediately the charge of the affairs of the estate under the powers given to him by law and by your honr. court.

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And as in duty bound, etc.

D. C. SITTIG for Hermance Chachere

JACQUE BACON

LOUISE CHACHERE

MATILITE CHACHERE

Emilie Chachere wife B. MARTELL

CTANT. CHACHERE

LILE CHACHERE

V. CHACHERE

BRE. CHACHERE

L. CHACHERE

Filed 15th November 1827.

Parish Court            )  
Parish of St. Landry    )

In the Succession of Louis Chachere Senr. let the heirs of the Estate have the legal time for deliberating whether they will accept or renounce the Succession, and let an estimative inventory be made, by Charles Garrigues Flaugenc Jr. be appointed administrator as prayed for in the Petition of said heirs 15th Nov. 1827.

GEO KING Judge of Probates

State of Louisiana )  
Parish of St. Landry )

This day the tenth of January in the year one thousand Eight hundred and twenty eight pursuant to an authority to me given by the Honorable George King Judge in & for the aforesaid Parish, & being also requested to that effect, I James Ray Notary Public in & for the aforesaid Parish for the office of the Parish Judge thereof, have proceeded to make an Estimative Inventory of the Estate of Louis Chachère late of said Parish, deceased & to that effect have appointed Philip Richard Senr. & Joseph C. Daigle, planters of said Parish; as appraisers who being first duly sworn, according to law, we have proceeded as follows to wit: - Note: The residence of the Notary is in the town of Opelousas.

- First: An old negro woman named Celeste (infirm) aged about  
fifty five years; appraised at fifty dollars ----- \$ 50.00
- 2nd: The Plantation & tract of land on which the said deceased  
formerly resided, situated in the aforesaid Parish of  
St. Landry & situated in the quarter of Bellevue;  
containing four hundred & seventy arpents appraised  
with the buildings & improvements thereunto belonging  
at sixteen hundred & forty five dollars ----- 1645.00
- 3rd: A certain tract or parcel of land situated in the  
aforesaid Parish of St. Landry & lying on the Bayou  
Boeuff adjoining to land formerly belonging to William  
Garrard & containing three hundred & twenty superficial  
arpents, appraised at the sum of four hundred & eighty  
dollars ----- 480.00
- 4th. A certain tract or parcel of land situated in the aforesaid  
Parish of St. Landry & lying on both sides of the Bayou  
Nezipque & containing sixteen hundred arpents; Eight  
hundred arpents on each side of said Bayou, appraised  
at the sum of one hundred dollars ----- 100.00
- 5th. A small house in the town of Opelousas, situated at the  
Corner of Court & Bellevue Streets, on ground belonging  
to William Moore, appraised at the sum of ----- 50.00
- 6th. One bureau appraised at ten dollars ----- 10.00
- 7th. One stove appraised at fifteen dollars ----- 15.00
- 8th. An old armoire at five dollars ----- 5.00
- 9th. Two tables one of cypress & the other of poplar,  
appraised together at four dollars ----- 4.00
- 10th. Two old chairs, much worn, appraised at one dollar ----- 1.00

- 11th. A lot of shelves for books, papers &c, appraised at four dollars ----- 4.00
- 12th. One old bench & box appraised at fifty cts. ----- .50
- 13th. A tract of land situated in the Parish of Natchitoches, same acquired from Therese Lamalattie, situated on the Bayou Gouttiers, & containing one thousand arpents; not appraised as it lies out of our jurisdiction.
- 14th. Two tracts of land situated in the Parish of St. Mary; the one tract containing four hundred & eighty arpents & the other five hundred & eighty arpents coming from Delahoussay's; not appraised in consequence of their lying out of our Parish.
- 15th. Two hundred & eighty nine Volumes of Books of different kinds, some being pretty good & others of but little or no account; they are appraised at twelve & a half cents per volume ----- 36.12½

No other object being found or heard of to appraise, we have proceeded to examine & inventory the papers of the Estate as follows, towit:

- No. 1 - Certificate of Marriage of deceased in -----1786
- " 2 - Copy of Mortgage Chabot to Lienord in -----1805
- " 3 - Rect. Porter Sr. to decd. for title papers -----1817
- " 4 - Rect. Hrs. of Sorrel to deceased -----1817
- " 5 - Saunier to Maddon & Maddon to Richard Sale of Land in the year -----1809
- " 6 - Order, Lemelle to Haggard in favor decd. for \$110.37½ dated in -----1810
- " 7 - Rect. Dechenay 446 & dated -----1801
- " 8 - Richard & wife to decd. Sale of Land -----1822
- " 9 - Mami Jany to decd. Sale of Land -----1822
- " 10 - Hubert Jany to decd. Sale of Land -----1822
- " 11 - Commissioner Certifi. to dec. B No. 2139 for 51.88/100 acres land, dated -----1812
- " 12 - Lambert to decd. sale of slave -----1812
- " 13 - Dupuy to decd. sale of slaves -----1817
- " 14 - Retrocession to decd. slaves, by -----1812
- " 15 - Lastrapes to decd. Release of Mortgage-----1797

16 - Richard to Chachere fils sale of land -----	1812
17 - Cepion by Boutte to Chachere several tracts land & documents belonging to same No. 1 2 3 4 & 5-----	1818
18 - Sale of land Thibodeau to decd. -----	1812
19 - Thibodeau to decd. rect. 200 arpents land -----	1821
20 - Ratification of Rect. to Decd. by Thibodeau -----	1821
21 - Demarets to decd. sale of land -----	1809
22 - Lewis to Boutte Sale of slaves -----	1806
23 - Boutte to decd. rect. for slave -----	1794
24 - Certi. of Boutte in favor Mrs. Chachere for negroes & lands -----	1806
25 - Memo, Lands sold by decd. to Rogers & Smith &c -----	1825
26 - Declaration of Deblanc concerning land sold by Indians, in Natchitoches -----	1820
27 - Mouton to decd. sale of Land -----	1811
28 - Shields to decd. Sale of Slave-----	1809
29 - Partition of Lob, Chachere, Moon & Desassarts -----	1826
30 - Inventory of Estate in Community between decd. & his children -----	1825
31 - Comeau to Chachere Mortgage &c -----	1807
32 - Simion to Andrepont Sale of Land -----	1809
33 - Certifi. of Register relative to 1000 arpents Land of Decd. in Natchitoches-----	_____
34 - Certifi. of Commissioners & platt of survey for 3200 arpents land on Nezpique-----	_____
35 - Decd. to Mrs. Judice Mortgage 40.00 in -----	1823
36 - Jany to Chachere Sale of Land -----	1822
37 - Jany to Chachere Sale of Land -----	1812
38 - Rect. Ve. Judice to deceased -----	1821
39 - Settlement of accounts between decd. & Estate of Judice in-----	1825

all put into separate bundles marked & No. from 1 to 39.

Settlement of the Estate in Community between Louis Chacherie Senr. deceased & the heirs & legal representatives of Catherine Vauchery deceased wife of the said Louis Chacherie; It must here be observed that in the year \_\_\_\_\_, the said Catherine Vauchery departed this life leaving her Estate in community with that of the said Louis Chacherie Senr; that in the month of March in the year One Thousand Eight hundred & twenty five, an Estimative Inventory of said Estate in community was made & on the sixth of June in the same year all of said Estate in community was sold at Public auction, except the lands, which could not be sold for the want of bidders, & which were afterwards adjudicated to the said Louis Chacherie Senr; at the price of appraisement; that said Estate in community, after the sale was managed by the said Louis Chacherie until the time of his death; that during the management or administration of said Estate, the said Louis Chacherie never rendered any account to his children for their share of the Estate of said Catherine Vauchery; and no Settlement or Partition of said Estate ever having taken place by which could be ascertained, the amount inherited by said children from their said mother; & it being now important to them to know to what extent the succession is indebted to them on account of inheritance from their deceased mother Catherine Vauchery, as aforesaid, they have examined the papers of their deceased father in order to ascertain what amount of debts of said succession were paid & discharged by him during his administration; & having ascertained as well as they are able the amount of the debts of said Estate in community which were not discharged by their father & that are now still owing, they have proceeded with the settlement as follows towit:

First on referring to the Public Sale of Estate in community between the said Louis Chacherie Senr. & the heirs of said Catherine Vauchery, the amount is found to be seven thousand nine hundred & twenty one dollars -----\$7921.00

To which is to be added the estimated price of the lands, adjudged to the said Louis Chacherie at the price of Estimation towit:

The tract of land at Bayou Boeuf at -----	1280.00
Plantation in Bellevue at -----	4150.00
Tract of Land in Attakapas at -----	1440.00
Another tract in Attakapas, at -----	1560.00
A tract of land in Natchitoches at -----	2000.00
A tract of Land on Bayou Nezpique at -----	800.00
A Lot & improvements in Town of Opelousas at -----	<u>1400.00</u>

\$20551.00

Gross amt. of the Estate in Community between Louis Chacherie Senr. & the heirs of the said Catherine Vauchery dec. & from

which the following debts are to be deducted towit: a part of which it appears had been paid, & a part thereof to pay:

Debt of Doeb. Grolee -----	\$229.75	
" James Ray -----	194.40	
" Louaillier -----	12.38	
" Succession of Pintaid -----	66.12	
" Doeb. Lillett -----	36.75	
" Godfroy Hollier -----	25.00	
" Elisha Forman -----	10.00	
" Madam Judice -----	4500.00	
" Jean Miramon-----	189.15	
W & G Moon -----	80.00	
Succession Antoine Lambert -----	600.00	
Notary -----	10.00	
Charles Garrigues -----	60.00	<u>5993.55½</u>

Net amt. of Estate in Community between Louis Chachere Senr. & the heirs of Catherine Vauchery -----	14557.44½
Father's share of estate -----	<u>\$ 7278.72</u>

Like sum or other half being equally divided amongst the heirs of said Catherine Vauchery there being ten in number given to them, say to each of them as follows towit:

To Louis Chachere fils the sum of seven hundred & twenty seven dollars & eighty seven & a half cents -----	727.87½
To Lil Chachere the same -----	727.87½
To Beaurepaire Chachere the same -----	727.87½
To Vellient Chachere the same -----	727.87½
To Constant Chachere the same -----	727.87½
To Louis Chachere the same -----	727.87½
To Manette Chachere the same -----	727.87½

To Ermance Chachere the same ----- 727.87½

To Eleonore Chachere the same ----- 727.87½

To Emelie Chachere the same ----- 727.87½

This settlement made the thirtieth day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred & twenty eight & for the purpose above set forth & expressed.

Pour mois & Lisle Chachere  
D. C. SITTIG

Pour mois, pour Louise Chachere, Manette Chachere, Emelie Chachere  
& Veillant Chachere.

L. CHACHERE

JACQUE BACON

BRE. CHACHERE

CTANS. CHACHERE

Witness:

C. GARRIGUES FLAUJAC



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