



ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS

Certified Genealogist® • Certified Genealogical LecturerSM
Fellow & Past President, American Society of Genealogists
Past President, Board for Certification of Genealogists

141 Settlers Way, Hendersonville, TN 37075 • eshown@comcast.net

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SUBJECT Land Transfers & Participants, Rivière aux Cannes and Isle Brevelle, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, c1787–1819: Research Notes (A Work in Progress)

BACKGROUND: After the United States took over Louisiana in December 1803, a major concern for the new government was the documentation of land ownership. Before it could survey and sell the new “public domain,” it first had to identify precisely the lands already settled and legally owned. The U.S. General Land Office set up land offices and local boards in Louisiana and ordered all individuals holding land under French and Spanish titles to submit their proofs of ownership, each of which was set up as a “claim” against the public lands of the United States. Individuals who occupied land by mere settlement or usage without benefit of a legal title were also allowed to file.

The earliest identified claim papers from Natchitoches Parish are dated in December 1806, when a newly created land board met at Natchitoches to register claims and accept evidence. Subsequently, other evidences (mostly testimony by witnesses for the claimants) were submitted to the U.S. Land Office at Opelousas; most date to December 1806 or the 1811–14 period.¹ Concurrently, U.S. surveyors began the task of surveying each claimant’s domain, marking bounds between neighbors, and reconciling differences in the amount of acreage each claimant thought they had against the actual acreage available on the ground. In 1830 the U.S. began issuing patents to Cane River landowners whose claims were approved. When the adjudication process was relatively complete for a township (roughly 1845–60), the U.S. Land Office created official township-range maps that platted section and identified the location of each approved tract, claimant, file number, and section number assigned to each tract.

These plat maps are a staple source for historical researchers. They are also a frustrating and misleading tool, because landownership did not remain static. Many claimants of the 1806 filing period sold their claims before interim certificates began to be issued in 1811. Thus the name that appears on a survey and a subsequent patent was often not the c1806 landowner who filed the claim. Other claimants died and their lands were sold or subdivided among heirs—including sons-in-law with different family names. Still other claimants swapped lands among themselves to better consolidate

¹ These records are scattered today in primarily four locations: (1) Louisiana State Land Office, Historical Records Section, *SLO: Search Historical Documents* (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/>). (2) Opelousas Notarial Records Collection, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge; not digitized. (3) Private Land Claims, RG 49: General Land Office, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; not digitized. (4) Louisiana Miscellany Collection, 1724–1837, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; not digitized.

their holdings or their families. Others moved elsewhere and sold their lands before leaving.

As a consequence, by the time the township plat maps were created, they no longer represented “who lived where.” The composition of most neighborhoods had radically changed. Modern efforts to study individuals of the early 1800s and place them into neighborhoods can be seriously misled by the maps.

This set of research notes is a work-in-progress, being assembled to supplement the township maps that cover Isle Brevelle and Rivière aux Cannes.² As Cane River flows southward from Bayou Brevelle to Monette’s Ferry, it passes through six townships, in this order:

- T8N R6W
- T7N R6W
- T6N R6W (NE corner only)
- T7N R5W
- T6N R5W
- T6N R4W

This set of notes draws heavily from five record collections that deal with land transfers along Cane River—outside the framework of the U.S. Land Office records:

1. Natchitoches Colonial Archives (NCA)—aka Archive Conveyance Records. This is the core collection of notarial records created at Natchitoches between 1732 and 1819, many of which have strayed from the courthouse. A register of the documents, semi-alphabetized by the name(s) of the principal participant(s), was created in 1819 under the title “Index to French Archives” and is available at the courthouse and other locales that offer this collection on microfilm.³
2. Natchitoches Parish Conveyances, 1806–1820. This represents the official “record copies” of deeds, mortgages, marriage contracts, etc., created by the American regime. For the period of this study, many of the recorded documents duplicate notarial records in the Colonial Archives, with noticeable gaps and errors. In some instances, the registers provide a derivative copy of the original records now missing from the courthouse.⁴
3. Natchitoches Parish Successions, 1813–1820. This set of registers represents the official “record copies” of probate proceedings and also duplicates some of the succession documents in the Colonial Archives. It records only key records from the probate settlement process. A complementary set of records, the original packets maintained from roughly 1806, with documents not recorded in the succession volumes, has not been read for this project.⁵

² These township maps are downloadable from Louisiana State Land Office: Historical Records Section, *SLO: Search Historical Documents* (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/>).

³ Microfilm of this collection is available at the Louisiana State Archives and the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, as well through all local Family History Centers operated by FHL. *Some* (but, curiously, not all) of the microfilm is digitally available in the “Louisiana, Wills and Probate Records” database at *Ancestry.com* for those who have a subscription.

⁴ Microfilm access exists, as noted in n. 3.

⁵ *Ibid.*

4. Melrose Collection, c1725–1803. Most document in this collection (at the Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University) are materials removed from the parish courthouse during the period that writers were in residence at Melrose. A calendar of the documents has been published.⁶
5. Cane River Collection, 1817–. This set of notarial records maintained by several (but not all) notaries along Cane River was acquired in the 1970s by the late Robert B. DeBlieux and donated by him to the Historic New Orleans Collection at the Williams Research Center in New Orleans. The collection is available to researchers on four rolls of microfilm at THNOC and Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. The collection has more recently been digitized as part of the *Louisiana Digital Library*, but in a fragmented fashion that is far more difficult to use for thorough research, in comparison to the microfilm.

Conventional courthouse-style indexes exist to Collections 1-3 above. However, they index the names of only one or two principal parties from most documents. Therefore, for this project, these collections are being *read* page by page in order to extract names of adjacent landowners, witnesses, and others whose participation is buried in the verbiage of each document.

Parish Divisions:

Cane River was divided into five districts during the period of Charôau’s residence:

- **Natchitoches–Grand Écore.** This district includes the town (aka “post”) of Natchitoches and runs up to the juncture of Cane River with Red River at the bluff known as Grand Écore.
- **Grand Coast** (aka Côte Joyeuse and Joyous Coast). This district follows Cane River from the southern outskirts of Natchitoches down to Bayou Brevelle’s juncture with Cane River and continues past that point on the east side of the Cane. The area spanned twenty or so miles by the twists and turns of the river.
- **Isle Brevelle.** This long, slim district is bounded on the north and west by Bayou Brevelle, on the east and south by Cane River. At its upper end, plantations and settler families overlap with those on the Grand Coast because the plantations of the Grand Coast families sprawled across both sides of Cane River. Its lower end lay roughly 25 river miles from the post. This set of notes makes the following divisions:
 - **Upper Isle Brevelle:** The portion that lies within Township 8N, Range 6 West.
 - **Mid-Isle Brevelle:** The upper half of the portion that lies within Township 7N, Range 6 West.
 - **Lower Isle Brevelle:** The lower half of the portion that lies within Township 7N, Range 6 West.
- **Rivière aux Cannes.** This district follows Cane River from the foot of Isle Brevelle, through present Cloutierville down (originally) to *les Écores*—i.e., the bluffs variously known as LeCourt’s Bluffs and Monette’s Bluff along the present dividing line between the parishes of Natchitoches and Rapides—about 70 river miles below the post. This set of notes makes the following divisions:

⁶ Carolyn M. Wells, *Index and Abstracts of Colonial Documents in the Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library* (Natchitoches: Archives Division, Watson Library, 1980).

- **Upper Rivière aux Cannes:** The portion that lies within Township 7N, Range 6 West and T6N R6W—i.e., above present Cloutierville.
- **Mid-Isle Rivière aux Cannes:** The portion that lies within Township 7N, Range 5 West.
- **Lower Rivière aux Cannes:** The portion within Township 6N, Range 4 West (i.e., Les Ecores District)
- **Les Écores.** This region (roughly defined by present Township 6 North, Range 4 West) became a judicial district in its own right by July 1809.

This paper's frequent references to S__, T__N R__W refers to the Section, Township (North), and Range (West) numbers assigned by the U.S. Rectangular survey system.

Caveats:

- **The research notes that follow are *nutshells*. They do not represent complete transcripts or thorough abstracts of any document.** Their purpose is to identify land transfers and their witnesses, so that locations of specific individuals can be established at specific points of time.
- Names in each document are presented as written; many are phonetically spelled but the variants are usually recognizable. Where confusion might exist between one surname and other, the nutshell is annotated. Some other characteristics are noted for the people or the activities to assist in understanding the patterns of the time and place.
- Throughout, I have added analytical comments to (a) help place the land into specific sections, townships, and ranges; and (b) help understand the events, the processes, and the actions between individuals.
- This set of notes does not purport to be complete for two reasons: (a) given the nature (and frequent illegibility) of the original documents, buried references to land may have been missed; (b) due to time constraints, the emphasis has been on Rivière aux Cannes; the work for Isle Brevelle continues.

One significant problem for *all* land research along Cane River is revealed by witness testimony in the claim of Antoine Coindet:

"He [the witness] does not believe that any other than a verbal sale passed between the parties which at that date was customary in the transfer of lands [at Rivière aux Cannes]."⁷

As a consequence, we find numerous gaps and contradictions in the chains of title to Cane River lands. This project has tried to compensate for those handicaps by studying records created by all neighboring landowners, ferreting out descriptions of adjacent property that appear in their own purchases, sales, and succession inventories.

⁷ Testimony of François Davyon [Davion], Claim Papers, Antoine Coindet, B1859, T6N R5W, Northwestern District of Louisiana; imaged at *OSL: Search Historical Documents* (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/>; accessed 2 June 2020).

RESEARCH NOTES

COMMENT:

Almost no land transactions exist for Rivière aux Cannes prior to the 1787 census, although residences can be established from later records. As a foundation, this survey of surviving documents begins with that 1787 census, annotated by me below to show where each individual would have been located when the census was taken.

17 AUGUST 1787

PPC-AGI, LEG. 201

“General Census of the Residents and Sieurs at the Post of Natchitoches and its dependencies ... **Rivière aux Cannes.**”⁸

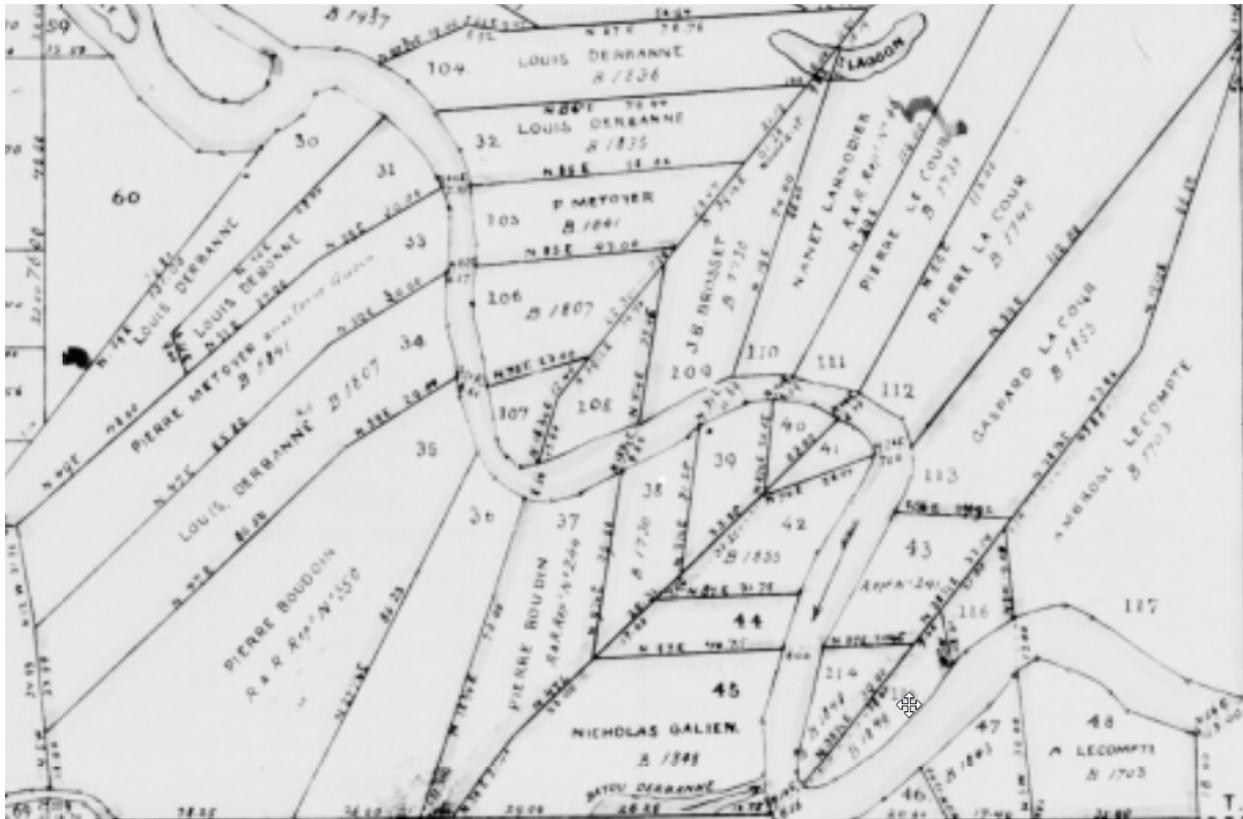
COMMENT:

The following list includes all adults in that community. It provides an overview of the residents in 1787. In the right column, I am adding cross-references to plat map location for those whose landholdings at this time are identifiable. See Figure 1 for the map.

Madame Widow Leconte	S48 & 117 in T7N R6W
Ambrose LeConte & wife	Ditto
J ⁿ B ^{te} Leconte	Ditto
Widow Joseph Dupre [daughter of the Widow]	Ditto
B ^y & Athanase LeCour	S47 & 116 in T7N R6W
François Hugues, wife, and Conception [Peres]	S1 & 114 in T7N R6W, sold land to Nicolas Gallien / owned by V ^{ve} Rouquier 1810
Jn B^{te} Anty , 30, 5 arpents land, 2 slaves, 8 cows, 10 horses [no wife]	S43 & 44 in T7N R6W
J ⁿ B ^{te} Anty, the son, 8, no property	
Valery [Anty, son], 4, no property [His daughters are not listed with him]	
P ^{re} Coutant	S40 & 111 in T7N R6W sold to P. LaCour (ASP 2:850)
P ^{re} Charpentier & wife [widow Cloutier & Gallien]	
Alexis Cloutier	
Michel Robin & wife	S38 & 109 in T7N R6W; sold by Widow Robin to J.B. Brosset
Jn Bte Denis & wife	
Pre [Caseau dit Fauleven] & wife, W/her Baudouin children Pierre, Nicolas, etc.	S35, 36, 37, 108, 109, 110
Nicolas Galien & wife	S45 T7N R6W
Joseph Torres & wife & children	S69 T6N R5W
Joseph Mariano	

⁸ Legajo 201, Papeles Procedentes de Cuba, Archivo General de Indias, Seville; transcribed in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials, A Source Book*, 112–13.

Figure 1
SE Quadrant T7N 6W (Rivière aux Cannes) as Depicted on “Official Plat Map” (1851)⁹



12 JANUARY 1791 / 27 JANUARY 1794
NCA DOC. 2274 & 2275

Before Commandant Louis Charles DeBlanc. **Sieur J. B^{te} Anty** sells to **Sieur André de St. André**, a habitation situated at Rivière aux Cannes containing 5 arpents of frontage bounded on one side by the **Sieur Bouvier** and the other by **Jacques LeVasseur**, on the left descending bank, on which is found a house, etc. 200 piasters. Signed : Anty, André de St. André (x), F^{cois} Calle, Louis DeBlanc. Anty is leaving cattle (17 mother cows, 8 bulls, and 9 young bulls) for St. André to tend. **27 January 1794**: the agreement is annulled before Louis Charles DeBlanc, with François Rouquier & Paul Marcollay as witnesses.

COMMENT:

The land being sold should be part of S43 T7N R6W. The Bouvier land (see the discussion below regarding his succession) lay adjacent to the north in S42 and 113. LeVasseur, Anty's lower neighbor, was his brother-in-law, occupying the bottom half of what became S43.

⁹ Snipped from "T.7.N.—R.6.W. North Western Dist^t La.," Louisiana Office of Lands, *Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=522.01883&category=H#1 : downloaded 14 June 2019). The blurred quality of this map is inherent in the original. That original also carries a numerical list of all sections, the claimant who has been confirmed, the claim number, and the arpentage/acreage.

Typically in this era, residents who petitioned for land received a tract that straddled both sides of the river. The document above implies that the land being sold lay solely on the east bank.

Isle Derbanne was the “island” formed between Red River and Bayou Derbanne. It lay to the west of Isle Brevelle and extended to the upper reaches of Rivière aux Cannes, falling primarily into T7N R6W.

18 JANUARY 1791

NCA DOC. 2278

Before Commandant Louis Charles DeBlanc. **Louis Buart** sells to **Jean B^{te} Anty** a habitation situated at one quarter league [ca. 2/3 mile] from the post on the left descending bank, bounded by **J. B^{te} Brevel** and by **Louis Barthelemy Rachal dit Rath**, containing 2 arpents of frontage to the ordinary depth. Plus ½ arpent of frontage at the same place, bounded on one side by **M^{de} Nicolas Laignon** and on the other by **Louis Barthelemy Rachal dit Rath**. || **26 January 1794**: This sale is annulled by both parties, with Paul Marcollay and Rouquier, witnesses.

1 AUGUST 1791

NCA DOC. 2321

Antoine LeMoine (x) sells to **André Valentin** (x) a tract on Isle à Brevel, two arpents frontage, 8 leagues [24 miles] from town, which came from a donation to him by **Charles Le Moine**, his father, with a *maison poteaux en terre*, covered in bark, 20 x 16. Price: [illegible word] hundred piasters. Signed: Paul Marcollay, L. Chamard. Louis C. DeBlanc.

COMMENT:

Cf. the tract that Antoine sold in 1793 to Dominique Rachal.

1791

NCA DOC. 2368

Remy Lambre and **Joseph Rabalais**, exchange of land. **Document missing.**

COMMENT:

In 1806, Rabalais owned two tracts. The land conveyed here by Rabalais was S59 T7N R5W, about 5 miles below current Cloutierville.

24 SEPTEMBER 1792

NCA DOC. 2419

Before Louis Charles DeBlanc, appears **François Hugues** who says he owes 27 piasters to the succession of deceased **Daniel Barrier** with mortgage on a habitation at Rivière aux Cannes, 4 arpents frontage, bounded on one side by **Capitaine**, free ‘*sauvage*,’ and on the other by the domain. Signed: FU. Witness: Buard.

COMMENT:

Hugues appears on the 1787 census as the adjacent household below Anty. **The 1810 census shows him still in that location.** His land, and the vacant “domain” land of 1792, should be the tract certified to Nicholas Gallien as claim B1848, S45 (and possibly 114) of T7N R6W.

5 NOVEMBER 1792

NCA DOC. 2424

Before Louis Charles DeBlanc appeared **Jean B^{te} Anty** who sells to the “*sauvage*” named **Capitaine**, here present and accepting, about 4 arpents of frontage situated at Rivière aux Cannes on the left descending bank. Bounded on the upper by **André de St. André** and on the lower by **François Hugues**. Witnesses: **Remy Lambre**, L^s Chamard. Signed: **Anty**, and Capⁿ Sauvage (x).

COMMENT:

Note that these 4 arpents on the left bank were bounded as follows:

- on the lower by **François Hugues**. Hugues was Antÿ's adjacent neighbor on the 1787 census.
- on the upper by **André St. André**. From this, we might conclude that the 5 arpents on the left side of the river, that Antÿ sold St. André in 1791, was part of a larger block of 9 arpents originally owned by Antÿ before he began to sell it in parcels.

At the time of the 1787 census, Antÿ held only 5 arpents, apparently on one side only. The lower 4 arpents that he is selling to Capitaine appears to be the tract that was attributed to his brother-in-law Jacques LeVasseur on the Antÿ–St. André deed. In 1794, Antÿ sold these 5 arpents on the left descending back to his brother Louis. In 1809, he confirmed that sale to Louis' widow. However, the whole 9 arpents would end up assigned by the U.S. Land Office to Alexis Cloutier, who purchased the lower 4 arpents in 1810 from the creditor of Capitaine's son. Abstracts for each of these documents appear below under the cited date.

Also relevant:

24 SEPTEMBER 1792

NCA DOC. 2419

Before Louis Charles DeBlanc, appears **François Hugues** who says he owes 27 piasters to the succession of deceased **Daniel Barrier** with mortgage on a habitation at Rivière aux Cannes, 4 arpents frontage, bounded on one side by **Capitaine**, free 'sauvage,' and on the other by the domain. Signed: FU. Witness: Buard.

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 1792

NCA DOC. 2432

6 November. Don Louis Charles DeBlanc has been notified of the death of "**Piere**" **Bouvier**, habitant at Rivière aux Cannes, who died without a will. DeBlanc has now gone to the habitation of the deceased, distant from the post about 10 leagues [later said to be about 15 leagues]. There, he found **Antoine Bergeron**, the partner of Bouvier in a crop of tobacco "only," also the free *negresse* named **Marie Louise [Mariotte]**. He has placed seals on the property.

[n.d.] an untitled list of personal and real property signed by Bouvier (x), which appears to represent property mortgaged to Ambroise LeComte (x) cites the land as "a **habitation of 6 arpents on the right bank descending and 6 arpents on the left bank**, to the ordinary depth. Witnesses: Louis Sienville? and J. Horn. Extensive lists were filed identifying papers held by Bouvier, purchasers of his personal property, and bidders on his land, including ...

17 November 1792, sale of property, describes the land as "a habitation containing **6 arpents** of frontage on **L'Isle Derbanne** and **5 arpents** or about on the opposite side on which there is found a small cabin of potteaux en terre, a corn crib, a chicken coop, and an oven." Adjudged at first cry to Jean Horns for 8 piasters with Guillaume LeBrun, surety.

9 December 1792, second cry of the land of Pierre Bouvier, about 15 leagues from the post, same description of land on Isle Derbanne, adjudged to Sieur Antoine Bergeon with Sieur P^{re} Brosset as surety.

16 December 1792, third and last cry of the land. Adjudged to Remy Lambre with Ailhaud S^{te} Anne, surety.

COMMENT:

Antÿ is not mentioned anywhere in this lengthy succession file—not among those who owed debts to Bouvier (a storekeeper) and not as a purchaser from the estate. Jacques St. André was a purchaser, but not his brother André St. André who temporarily owned Antÿ's land next door to Bouvier. Both Baptiste Antÿ and André St. André had moved from the region.

Bouvier's land was S42 & 116 T7N R6W. Remy Lambre sold this land in 1799 to Gaspard LaCour, the claimant before the U.S. Land Office (claims B1855 & B1856). Gaspard LaCour then sold S42 to Widow Louis Anty (see 1804, below).

Bergeron and Mariotte did not stay on the land. As noted below, Bergeron purchased S35 & 107, several farms upriver, where he was cited as adjacent neighbor, lower side, when Widow Michel Robin (remarried to Horn) sold S34 & 106 to Louis Derbanne in 1798 (NCA Doc. 2867). Before October 1798, Bergeron gave 2 acres off the upper end of his **S35&107 T7N R6W**, both sides of river, to Mariotte in exchange for "washing his clothes" (NCA Doc. 2877). Mariotte filed claim for the land with the U.S. Land Office, but the land was confirmed to Pierre Baudoin.

14 OCTOBER 1793

NCA DOC. 2892

Before Louis DeBlanc, Commandant, appeared **Antoine Lemoine**, fils, who sells to **Dominique Rachal**, 2 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River on Isle Brevelle, about 8 leagues [24 miles] from the town, bounded on one bank above by **Charles Lemoine fils** and on the other by **Baptiste Barthelemy Rachal**. The land had come to him as a donation, legally recorded, from his father Charles LeMoine Sr. in 1791. On the land is a house of *poteau en terre*, covered in bark, 20' long by 16' wide. Witnesses: Louis Chamard and Paul Marcollay.

COMMENT:

Cf. the tract that Antoine sold in 1791 to André Valentine.

Six years later (1799), Dominique Rachal sold this "plantation" to Baptiste Anty (NCA doc. 2892, now missing).

Regarding the location of the land:

Doc. 2887, a mortgage by **Miguel Hernandez**, states that his habitation was "about **4 leagues** from the post. Hernandez held S20 & 92 of T8N R6W, partly adjacent to Coincoin's homestead and immediately to the north of the tract that Coincoin bought in 1807 for her son Toussaint.

The land purchased above by Dominique Rachal, at "about **8 leagues** from the post" would be toward the lower end of the cluster of lands confirmed by the U.S. to Remy Lambre, but not the tract along the lower bounds. See Figure 2.

The plat map for T8N R6W shows Antoine LeMoine's brother Jean Baptiste LeMoine (S58 & 112) and his brother-in-law Jean Massipe (S57 & 111) on adjacent tracts. Dominique Rachal's tract is about 2 arpents on both sides of the river; Jean Massipe's tract is about 4 arpents. The older Lemoine apparently was dividing his land into two arpent shares for each offspring, from one of whom Jean Massipe seems to have acquired an extra.

10 MARCH 1794

NCA DOC. 2519

Before Louis Charles DeBlanc, **Jean B^{te} Anty** sold to Sieur **Louis Anty his brother**, a habitation at Rivière aux Cannes about 12 leagues [36 miles] from the town, upper neighbor on left descending bank is Remy Lambre; below, the land is bounded by Capitaine a free "sauvage." The premises include a maison poteau-en-terre. 500 piasters. Witnesses: Paul Marcollay, L. Charmard, Ls. DeBlanc. Signed: **Anty** and Louis Anty (x).

AUGUST 1795

MELROSE COLLECTION 716

List of inhabitants and assessments, district of Bayou Brevelle descending the river [to *les Écores*], Remy Lambre, syndic; list made by Bossiée, syndic ...

[At Isle Brevelle, T8N R6W]:

Sivestre Bossié, **Jaque Le Vasseur**, Antoine Prudhomme, Auguste Langlois, Emanuelle Prudhomme, Widow Jaque Lambre, **Remy Lambre**, Remy Poisso, J. Btiste Berthelmy Rachale, Jean Varangue, Athanase Dupré, Pierre Larenaudiere, Julien Rachal, Jean Massis [Massip]

[At Isle Brevelle, T7N R6W]:

Jaque Lacaze, Yves Lissillours, Antoine Negre libre, Pierre Beaulieu, Soulange Bossié [claimant to land of Louis Metoyer, current Melrose], Gil Isquierdo, Jean Delouche, Guillaume LeBrun, Charles Le Moine fils

[At Rivière aux Cannes, T7N R6Ws]:

Marguerite Negresse libre, Jean Horn, **Antoine Bergeon, Mariote Negresse libre**, Pierre Caseau [Cajot dit Faulevant], Nicolas Beaudoin [stepson of Cajot], B^{tiste} Denis [married to Beaudouin stepdaughter of Cajot], Pierre Beaudouin, Pierre Lacour *père*, **Capitaine Indien civilisé habitant** [bought Levasseur-Anty land, E side of river, 4 arpents of S43], Jean Laurend Bodin, Nicolas Bodin, François Hugues, Berthelmy Le Cour [Beaudoin and LeCour land extended down into T6N R6W]

[At Rivière aux Cannes, T6N R6W]"

Joseph Laures [Taures, aka Torres], Joachim Davion, Pierre Coutan, Gabriel Laures [Taures], Simeon Rachale, Berthelmy Rachale *fils* de Louis, Louis Rachale *père*, Louis Monette, Louis Lambre, **André St. André.**

c1795

ASP-PL 3:193

Jean Baptiste Anty, **about 1795, turned over control of all or part (E. half) of his Rivière aux Cannes lands to his brother Louis.** In 1810, after Louis's death, he deeded the land to Louis' widow, according to the claim she submitted to the U.S. government. See 1809 Anty-to-Anty sale below.

23 OCTOBER 1798

NCA DOC. 2867

Before commandant Felix Trudeau. **Marie Louise Bodin**, wife of **Jean Horn**, assisted by him, sells to **Louis Derbanne** a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes, 8 arpents front on each bank of Red River, *bounded below, on one side*, by the land of **Antoine Bergeron** and on the upper by that of **Pierre Bodouin** [Baudoin]. Land came from "the succession deceased **Michel Robin**, her husband." Sold on credit with half due during the month of March next and the other in March of 1800. Signed: Marie Louise Baudin (x), Derbanne (s), **LeClercq temoin** [witness], **J. Horn, Dubois, Rouquié jeune** [François Rouquière, the younger]. || **21 March 1800**, in presence of Srs. **Edouard Murphy** and **Nicolas Lauve**, there has appeared Dame Marie Louise Bodin and her husband Sr. Jean Horne who acknowledge that Louis Derbanne has made his last payment. Signed: Marie Louise Baudin (x), Murphy, LeClercq *temoin*. Felix Trudeau.

COMMENT:

This should be **Section 34 and 106 of T7N R6W**. The "land of Antoine Bergeron" which she referenced as being on one side should be S107, from which Bergeron gave Mariotte 2 arpents on 7 November 1798. (See NCA Doc. 2877, below.)

The tract credited to Pierre Baudoin on the upper appears to be Sections 33 and 105, land which was in 1806 claimed by Pierre Metoyer after a swap with his brother Augustin who had acquired

the land before December 1806 through means that the records do not document.¹⁰

In 1811, after Derbanne sold this tract to Jean Pierre Marie Dubois, Dubois mortgaged it stating that it was then bounded (above) Pierre Metoyer and (below) by Mariotte.

The individual-tract descriptions for this whole stretch of river are fuzzy. They appear not to have been surveyed during the Spanish era, as a consequence of the surveyor (Pierre Joseph Maës) going blind. The resolution of the claims by U.S. surveyors left Mariotte with no land at all, although an occasional neighbor's deed indicates that Mariotte's daughter Adelaïde stayed on the land for years after her mother's death.

- The U.S. Land office records for this land tells us that Derbanne had been on the land "about 10 years" in 1812. That put his occupancy of the land about 1802.¹¹
- Derbanne also had another tract of land immediately above the Metoyer tract: S31 on right side of river (R&R no. 352 for 83.52 acres) and S32 on the opposite side (claim B1835 for 107.41 acres). Claim papers for that tract state:

"No. 352–830. Louis Derbonne claims 79.66 superficial acres of land, situated on the right bank of Red river, county of Natchitoches, as is represented in a survey by Jo. Irwin a United States' deputy surveyor filed with the notice. The evidence of **Jn. Bte. Anty, fils**, aged thirty-six years, taken the 15th September 1813, states that the claimant, aged about forty-five years, and the head of a family, "**has resided on the land in question for at least twenty-five consecutive years preceding said date**, but has cultivated largely on both sides during that time, and has always been considered as the lawful proprietor of the land on both sides."¹²

Derbanne was also confirmed by the U. S. Land Office for the following two claims:

- B1835: (claimant) Jean Tchever; (certificate issued to) Louis Derbanne, Red River 220 acres, 260 arpents, held by order of survey and settlement issued to Tchever.
- B1836: (claimant) Margaret; (certificate issued to) Louis Derbanne, Red River 338.51 acres, 400 arpents, held by order of survey and settlement issued to Margaret [f.n.]¹³ This land is the tract over which Louis Derbanne battled François Metoyer in court, when François claimed it as part of the land at Sections 29 and 103 given to him by Augustin.¹⁴

This tract being bought by Derbanne in 1798 was for speculation/rental. There is no evidence that he personally lived on the land. **Derbanne's first residence and home place dates from 1792, at which time he settled S31 and 32 (R&R no. 352) immediately north of Pierre Metoyer.**

This chain of transactions also has implications for S33 and 105, the tract confirmed to Pierre Metoyer—which Pierre obtained from Augustin who had purchased it from Antoine Bergeron,

¹⁰ Pierre Metoyer alias Coin Quoin, December 1806, Claim B1841, S105 & 32 T7N R6W, Northwestern District of Louisiana; imaged at *OSL: Search Historical Documents* (<https://wwwslodms.doa.la.gov/>; accessed 2 June 2020). Pierre's documentation consisted of an affidavit saying that he had acquired the land by exchange with his brother Augustin, with Pierre giving Augustin a tract adjacent to Augustin that had been Pierre's Spanish concession.

¹¹ *American State Papers: Documents Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States, Public Lands Series*, vol. 3 (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834), 193. Hereinafter, this source will be cited as ASP-PL vol:page.

¹² ASP-PL 3:202.

¹³ ASP-PL 3:853.

¹⁴ Louis Derbanne vs. François Metoyer, 1829–31, Natchitoches Parish District Court files [case and packet number not stated], Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches; microfilmed as University of North Carolina, *Race & Slavery Petitions Project* (library.uncg.edu/slavery/petitions/; accessed 21 May 2017), petition 20882937.

who had purchased it from Pierre Baudoin before December 1806.¹⁵ Beaudoin's acquisition of the tract has not been found.

7 NOVEMBER 1798

NCA DOC. 2877

Before Felix Trudeau, commandant, and witnesses **François Rouquier** the younger and **Jean B^{te} Buhard**, there has appeared **Antoine Bergeon** who ratifies a gift he has made privately to the free Negresse named **Mariotte**, of two arpents of frontage on **each bank** of Red River, bounded on each side *on the upper by the land of Louis Derbanne*. The gift is made in exchange for her agreement to wash his clothes for one year. Attachment: **6 October 1798**, "I Antoine Crézon [*sic*, should be *Bergeron*] declare having sold in presence of the undersigned witnesses, to Marie Louise Mariotte a portion of land of 4 arpents of frontage situated at Rivière aux Cannes, half on each bank, bounded *on the lower by Sieur Jn Horn*. Signed: Antoine Brejon (x). Witnesses: **D. Rachal, Placide Bossié**.

COMMENT:

This should place Mariotte on the upper third of **S 35 & 107**, which were patented in the name of Pierre Boudoin (R&R Report No. 350). The land Horn held on 6 October 1798 would be the tract that Horn's wife (Widow Robin) sold on 23 October 1798 to Louis Derbanne.

11 FEBRUARY 1799

NCA DOC. 2879

Before Felix Trudeau, Commandant, Sieur **Remy Lambre** appeared to sell to **Gaspar Lacour** a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes, containing about 7 arpents of front on each side of Red River, bounded on the upper (each side) by the land of **Pierre Lacour** and below on each bank by Sieur **Nicolas Gallien**. Signed: Remy Lambre, Gaspart Lacour (x). Witnesses: **Dubois**, Felix Trudeau.

COMMENT:

The tract being sold is the land that Lambre purchased from the estate of Peirre Bouvier. Gaspart LaCour patented **B1855, sections 42 & 113**, lying below the patent of his father Pierre Lacour and above the land that Baptiste Antÿ sold to Widow Louis Anty, his sister-in-law.

At this time, there does not appear to be a notary at Rivière aux Cannes. Instead, individuals from this region had to go to the Natchitoches Post to have a document officially drafted and filed. The difficulty of doing so explains the earlier-cited statement by Antoine Coindet's witness, that most sales were verbal rather than written and recorded.

23 MARCH 1799

NCA DOC. 2886

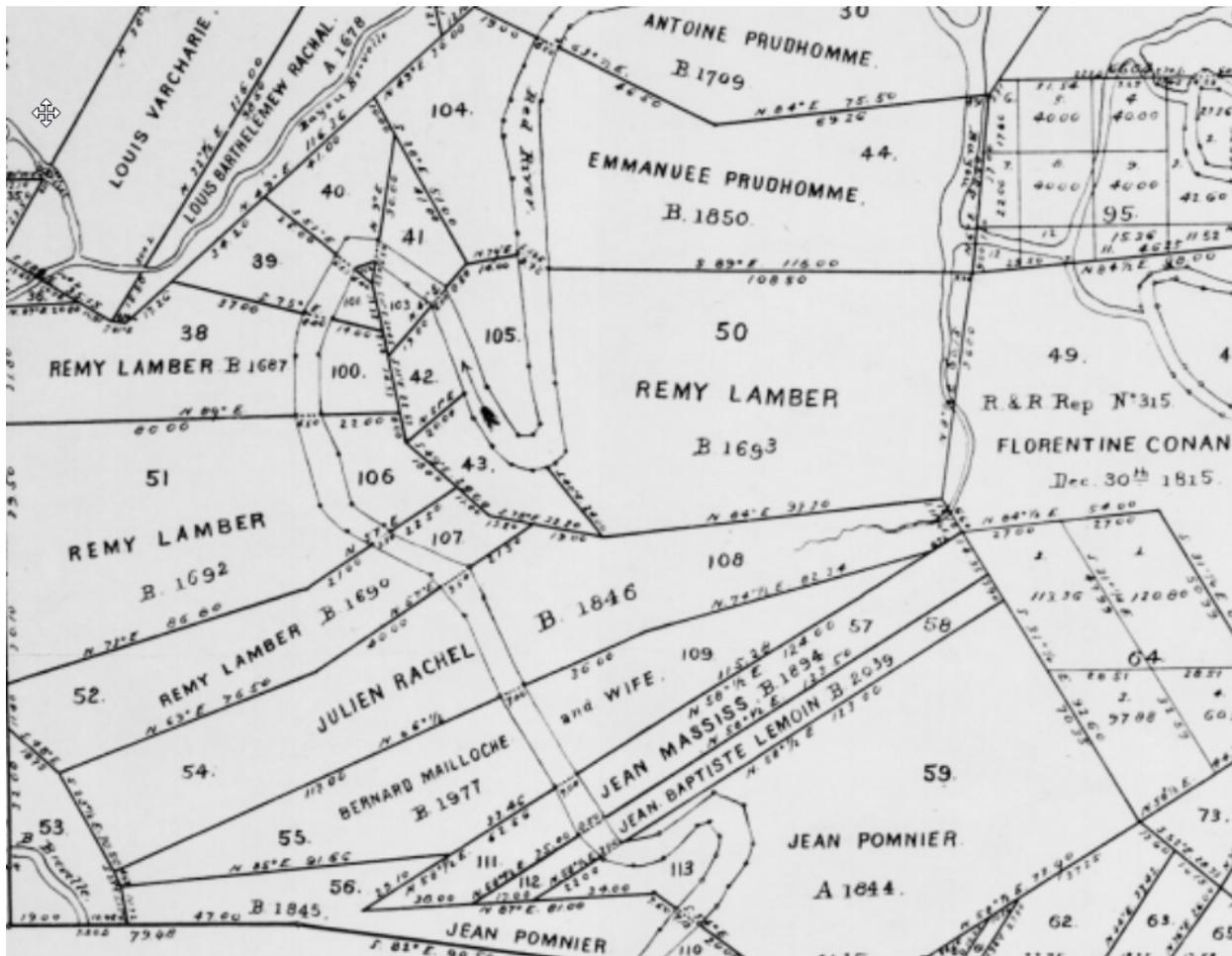
Before Felix Trudeau, Commandant, appeared **Jean Horn** who sells to **Guill^{me} Lebrun** a tract of land at the base of L'isle à Brevelle, bounded on the upper by the purchaser, containing 7.5 arpents of frontage. Signed: J. Horn, Guillaume Lebrun. Witnesses: **Dubois** and Felix Trudeau.

COMMENT:

This appears to be **S29 T7N R6W**, which Lebrun sold to Augustin Metoyer, who later conveyed it to his brother François and his own son Maxille.

¹⁵ Affidavit of Pierre Quoin Quoin (signed Pierre Coinquoin, *mulatre libre*), Claim Papers B1841, S33&105 T7N R6W; imaged at OSL: Search Historical Documents (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov>).

Figure 2
SW Quadrant of T8N R6W (Upper Isle Brevelle) as Depicted on “Official Plat Map” (1850)¹⁶



1799

NCA DOC 2891

Dominique Rachal sold a “plantation” to **Jean Baptiste Anty**. The document was filed with the commandant and numbered; it is registered in “French Archives Index,” compiled 1819, but is now missing. It is not found among the courthouse records that have strayed out and into the Melrose Collection. It may be within the “Natchitoches Parish Records Collection” at LSU.

COMMENT:

This should be the two-arpent tract, with a home 20” x 16” that Dominique Rachal purchased in 1791 from Antoine LeMoine Jr. At that time, Antoine stated that the land had come to him from his father Charles Lemoine Sr. See notes above.

American State Papers—Public Lands includes two relevant entries for this tract, one for Anty that awards the land to Remy Lambre; and one for Lambre that identifies Lemoine as the

¹⁶ Snipped from “T.8.N.—R.6.W. North Western Dist^t La.,” Louisiana Office of Lands, *Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=522.01909&category=H#1 : downloaded 14 June 2019)..

original settler. From this, we can place Baptiste Antÿ in **S38 & 100, T8N R6W**. This would be his home until 1809–10.

cDECEMBER 1806–MAY 1815

ASP-PL 3:78–79

“Claim to land in the county of Natchitoches

[alphabetical list dated 26 May 1815; based on claims filed cDecember 1806 and 1807]

No. 3 / 127

By whom claimed:	Jean Baptiste Anty
Original proprietor or claimant:	Not mentioned
Quantity claimed:	Not mentioned
Nature and date of title or claim:	Possession and occupancy
Class:	C

“Remarks on the foregoing list of claims, with references to the reported numbers:

No. 3. Jean Baptiste Anty. This claim is for two acres on each side of Red river, the depth not mentioned. No proof or other evidence of title has been adduced in support of the claim. Supposed to be confirmed to **Remy Lambert.**”

Antÿ’s **C-class** designation meant that it was “founded on grants *said* to be derived from the French, British, or Spanish Governments; which claims, in the opinion of the Commissioner, are not valid, according to the laws, usages, or customs, of such Governments.” (ASP-PL 3:6)

“Remy Lambert,” as seen below, was issued a **B-class** certificate for this land—i.e., “claims founded on orders of survey, (requettes,) permission to settle, or other written evidence of claims derived from either the French, British, or Spanish authorities; which claims ought, in the opinion of the said Commissioner, to be confirmed.” (ASP-PL 3:6)

19 DECEMBER 1811

ASP-PL 2:848

“Monthly return of certificates issued by the Commissioners of the western district of Orleans Territory, for December, 1811”

Certificate number:	B1687
Issued:	Dec. 19
Name of person under who land was claimed:	Charles Lemain
In whose favor issued:	Remy Lamber
Nature of claim:	Order of survey and settlement
Location:	Natchitoches, Red River
Size:	541.60 acres; 640 arpents

In sum:

- Charles Lemoine Sr. received the original order of survey and settlement
- Lemoine Sr., before 1793, began dividing the land among his children, one of whom sold his 2-arpent share to Dominique Rachal in 1793, who sold to Antÿ in 1799.
- Antÿ filed claim for the land with the U.S. Land Office in December 1806 or thereafter (but before August 1810, as documents show below).
- By 1811, Remy Lambre had bought up the Lemoine parcels (including Antÿ’s), filed his claim for the whole, and was issued a certificate confirming his rights on 19 December 1811.
- Lambre’s B1687 is placed at S38 & 100 on the plat map for T8N R6W. See fig. 2.

Regarding the location of the Lemoine > Rachal > Antÿ > Lambre land:

- Doc. 2887, a mortgage by **Miguel Hernandez**, states that his own habitation was “about **4 leagues** from the post. Hernandez held **S20 & 92 of T8N R6W**, partly **adjoining Coincoin’s homestead** and immediately north of the tract Coincoin bought in 1807 for son Toussaint.
- The Lemoine to Dominique Rachal deed placed the tract of land at “about **8 leagues** from the post.” That syncs with the location of Lambre’s B1687 tract.

22 APRIL 1799

NCA DOC. 2911

Before Felix Trudeau, Commandant, appeared Sieur **Joseph Petit** who sells to Sieur **Jh. Ferrier**, master cordonnère [shoemaker], land at the base of Isle à Brevelle containing 6 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, bounded on the lower by the land of **Jean Delouche** and above by that of the mulatto **Dom^{que} Metoyer**. \$200. Signed: Joseph Petite, Joseph Ferrié. Witnesses: **Gil Ysquerdo, Jh. Rabalais (x), Dubois, Jh. Rabalais (x), Felix Trudeau**.

COMMENT:

This should be **S25 & 100 T7N R6W** eventually confirmed to Dominique Metoyer as supplemental land immediately below his Spanish grant. The transfer to Dominique occurred between 1803 and 1806, according to the documents below:

- 15 January 1803, sale by Delouche to Soulange Bossier of land, 8 arpents frontage on each bank, bounded above by **Joseph Ferrier** and below by **Pierre Brosset** (Doc. 3032)
- 21 August 1806, sale by Soulange Bossier to Joseph Derbanne, 8 arpents bounded above by Dominique Metoyer and below by Pierre Brosset. (Doc. 3403)
- The initial grantee was the witness Joseph Rabalais. See affidavit of Jacques Lacasse, November 16, 1811, stating that Dominique’s land had been cultivated by “the grantee [Rabalais] and those under him for this last preceding thirteen years.”¹⁷

27 SEPTEMBER 1799

NCA DOC. 2914

Felix Trudeau, commandant, and witnesses Sieur **Jean Baptiste Anty** and **Francois Dubois**, have gone to the domicile of Sieur **Jean Joseph Martinot** [Martineau] who died on the 13th of the current month, where he lived with his wife Dame **Marie Magdeleine Labury**, to make an inventory of the property of the deceased. His habitation consisted of 10 arpents on each bank of Red River **about 20 leagues from the town [about 60 river miles]**, with a *maison de poteaux en terre*, covered in bark, and other buildings, bounded on the upper by the land of **Louis Toutin** and on the lower by that of **Barthelemy Rachal**.

COMMENT:

ASP–PL 2:855, identifies only one tract for Martineau, B1906. That tract was claimed by Martineau; but the certificate was issued 22 February 1812 to **François Latier**. The claim rested on an order of survey & settlement on Red River, 677 acres, 800 arpents. This tract is S 20 & 97, T7N R6W on Isle Brevelle.

This Isle Brevelle land was *not* the site of Martineau’s residence when he died. The Isle Brevelle land lay adjacent to Augustin Metoyer on the South and to Dominique Metoyer on the West and North. In contrast, The distance cited in Doc. 2914 would place the land around Monet’s Bluff near the present Natchitoches-Rapides parish line.

¹⁷ Claim Papers, Dominique Metoyer, B2017, S25&100 T7N R6W; imaged at *SLO: Search Historical Documents* (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#183>).

Martineau apparently sold his settlement rights on Isle Brevelle to Latier and moved to lower Rivière aux Cannes prior to his death. The succession reference to **Barthelemy Rachal** as the adjacent landholder on the lower side enables us to place the Martineau homestead of September 1799:

ASP-PL 2:867

Certificate No. **B2151**, issued 8 January 1813

Name of person under whom claimed: **Bartelemey Rachal**

Certificate Issued to: Legal representatives of Robert McAlpin

Spanish Concession, 541.60 acres, 640 Arpents at **Hidden Hill**, Rivière aux Cannes

The plat map for T6N R5W places three adjacent landowners in this order, descending the river:

- Sections 57 & 82: Louis Toutin
- Sections 55 & 56: Madeline Labarie [widow of Montenary]
- Sections 50, 51, 54, 86 & 87 Legal Representativse of Robert McAlpin [**B2151** is S51 and 54.]

The site of McAlpin's plantation, purchased from Barthelemy Rachal, is still known today as Hidden Hill.

10 NOVEMBER 1799

NCA DOC. 2916

"Prudhomme, *Sindic de l'île Brevelle*" (signed Prudhomme) was ordered to take the inventory of deceased **Louis Viger**, ferry operator (apparently at Bayou Brevel, according to a note toward the end of the inventory that valued a barge at Bayou Brevel). Witnesses: **Antÿ** [Jean Baptiste Anty, père], **Jh Derbanne**. Appraisers **François Rouquier**, **François Lemoine**. Notes and accounts on many individuals—including "**Joseph Coïncoin**" [i.e., Joseph Metoyer.]

COMMENT:

There is a gap in records here from December 1799 to January 1803. A contemporary, handwritten inventory of those documents from May 1799 through October 1806 can be found in Folder 738, Melrose Collection. Many of the documents from that time period that are missing from the courthouse are also within the Melrose Collection.

21 MARCH 1800

NCA DOC. 2867

Before commandant Felix Trudeau, in presence of Srs. **Edouard Murphy** and **Nicolas Lauve**, there has appeared Dame **Marie Louise Bodin** and her husband Sr. **Jean Horne** who acknowledge that Louis Derbanne has made his last payment. Signed: Marie Louise Baudin (x), Murphy, LeClercq temoin. Felix Trudeau.

COMMENT:

See 23 October 1798 for the mortgage itself.

14 MARCH 1801

MELROSE FOLDER 726

"Settlement of accounts and partition of the estate of **Marie Leclair**, widow of Pierre Derbanne, by her son Louis Derbanne, executor. ... Payments made to ... **Jean Baptiste Anty**. ... Heirs: "Executor's brother **Pierre Derbanne**. Deceased brother **Jean Baptiste Derbanne** represented by **Pierre Chalier** his brother-in-law, tutor of minor children. Sister **Marie Louise Derbanne** wife of **François Lavespere**. Deceased sister **Marie Victoire** represented by **Pierre Chalier** her husband and tutor of their minor children. Brother **Joseph Derbanne**. Himself **Louis Derbanne**. His brother **Emanuel Derbanne**."

COMMENT:

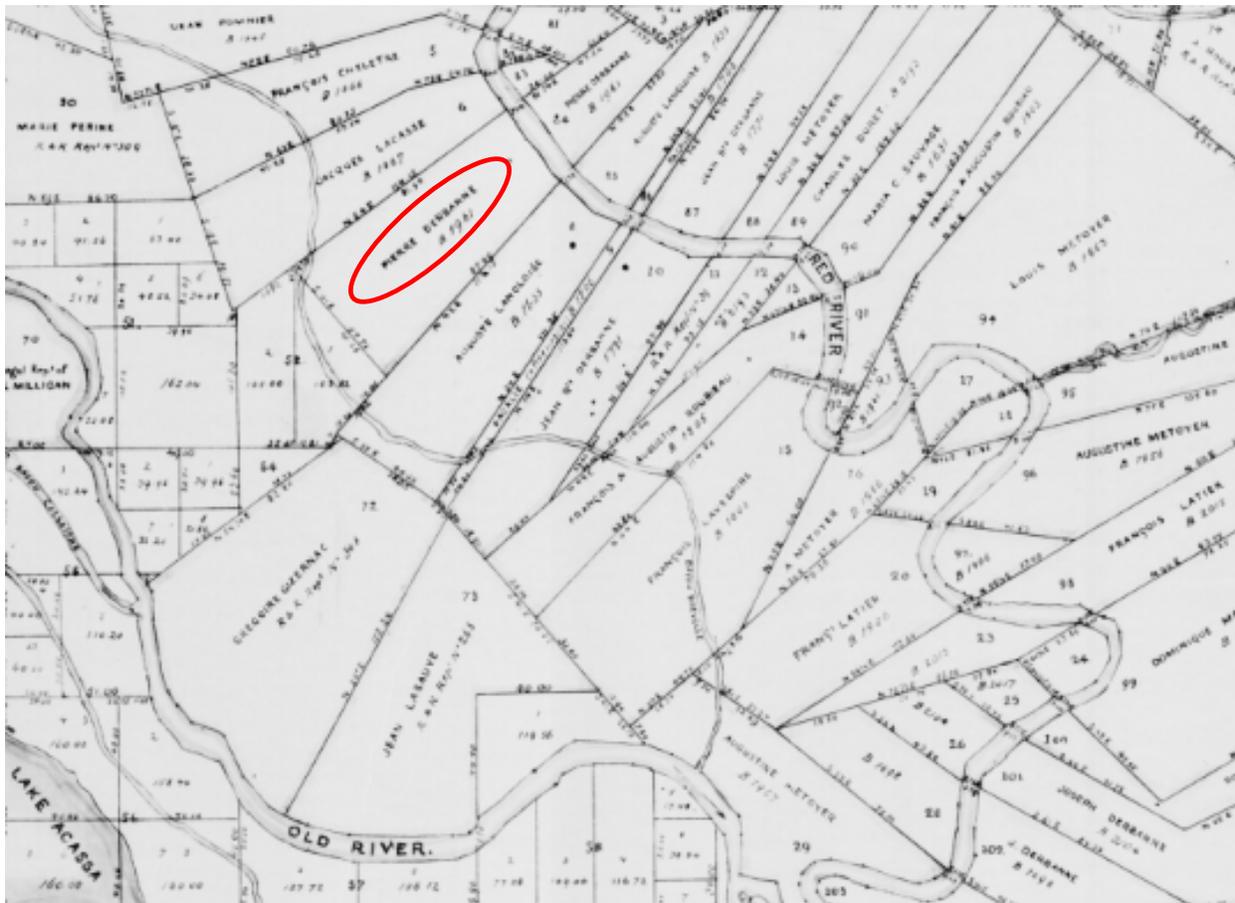
The Pierre Derbanne Jr. of this document lived midway of the Isle. The plat in figure 3 shows his land as S7 & 84, T7N R6W.

29 OCTOBER 1802

NCA DOC. 3022

Pierre Derbanne to Jean Baptiste Anty *filis*.¹⁸

Figure 3
NW Quadrant of T7N R6W (Lower Isle Brevelle) as Depicted on “Official Plat Map” (1851)¹⁹



¹⁸ The document is missing from the courthouse series. It is registered, without date or any other descriptor in the courthouse inventory “Index to Archives,” created about 1819. It is listed and dated in the contemporary inventory of notarial documents, May 1799–December 1806, folder 738, Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches.

¹⁹ Snipped from “T.7.N.—R.6.W. North Western Dist^t La.,” Louisiana Office of Lands, *Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=522.01883&category=H#1 : downloaded 14 June 2019). The blurred quality of this map is inherent in the original. That original also carries a numerical list of all sections, the claimant who has been confirmed, the claim number, and the arpentage/acreage.

15 JANUARY 1803

NCA DOC. 3031

Before Felix Trudeau, commandant, and **Francois Rouquier** and **Andrez Rambin** witnesses, there appeared **Soulange Bossier** (s), habitant of this post, who declared having sold to Sieur **François Latier** (x) a habitation situated about 15 leagues from this post, being 6.5 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River [now Cane River], bounded on the upper (one side) by Sieur **Jean B^{te} Latier** and on the lower by the mulatto **Dominique [Metoyer]**. \$400. The sale also includes his right to take cypress from the land of “the mulatto Dominique” but only for the construction of a habitation.

COMMENT:

This should be **S23 & 98 T7N R6W**, claimed by François Lattier as B2015. In this period a league was roughly three miles. Thus the land was roughly 45 miles (by the twists and turns of the river) from the post.

15 JANUARY 1803

NCA DOC. 3032

Before Felix Trudeau, commandant, and witnesses Francois Rouquier and Paul Marcollay, there has appeared Sr. **Jean B^{te} Delouche** (x), habitant of this post, who sells to Sieur **Soulange Bossie** (s) a habitation about 16 leagues from the town, with 8 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by the land of **Joseph Ferrier** and below by **Pierre Brosset**, included a maison Poteau en terre, a mill, a store house, a fence, &c. \$400. The purchaser accepts the risk of a title that is not clear.

COMMENT:

Bossie sold this land in 1806 to Joseph Derbanne, in whose name the land was confirmed. This should be **S26 & 101, T7N R6W**.

10 FEBRUARY 1803

NCA DOC. 3033?

Baptiste Buard, “syndic of this district” was commissioned by Commandant Trudeau who is sick, to go to the habitation of deceased **Philippe Frederic** with the executor **Pierre Cheletre** to conduct the sale. Among items sold “3 sheep adjudged to “**Coincoin Negresse libre**” for the sum of 8, with **Battiste Anty** as surety. The land and house were adjudged to **Balthasard Brevelle** at first cry. At last cry on 27 February the land was adjudicated to **Pierre Metoyer (Sr.)**, with **François Rouquier** as his surety.

COMMENT:

This land should be **S12 & 25 T8N R6W**. Pierre Metoyer was the lower adjacent neighbor on both sides of the river.

6 APRIL 1803

NCA DOC. 3046

Before Felix Trudeau, commandant, and **Nicolas Lauve** and Paul **Marcollay**, witnesses, there appeared **Nicolas Baudoin** (x), habitant of this poste, who sells to **Pierre Lacour fils** a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes of 5 arpents on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by **Pierre Bodoïn** and on the lower by the acquirer. Note: Lauve signed as N^{las} Lauve.

COMMENT:

This is **S41 T7N R6W** confirmed to Pierre Lacour Jr. as per plat map.

16 APRIL 1803

NCA DOC. 3047

Before Felix Trudeau, commandant, and Nicolas Lauve and Paul Marcollay, witnesses, there appeared **Paul Poissot** who sells to **Yves dit Pacalie**, free Negro, a tract of 1.5 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by **Augustin Langlois** and on the lower by **Jean Bte. Derbanne**. \$180 piasters. Signed: Yves dit Pacalee (x), Paul Poissot (x), N^{las} Lauve, Paul Marcollay, Felix Trudeau.

COMMENT:

This is Pacalé's confirmed claim **B1706, S9 & 86, T7N R6W**, at mid-Isle.

26 APRIL 1803

NCA DOC. 3048

Before Felix Trudeau, commandant and **Nicolas Lauve** and **Paul Marcollay**, witnesses, there appeared **Guillaume LeBrun**, habitant of this district, who sells to **Nicolas Augustin, Mulatre Libre** a habitation about 12 leagues [36 miles] from the town, on Isle à Brevelle, bounded on the upper by **Charles Lemoine** on both banks of the river and on the lower by the free **Negresse Margueritte** on the left bank of Red River and on the other bank of the river by the entrance to Lac a la Vase. \$500 piasters. Signed: Guill^{me} LeBrun, N^{las} Augustin (x), Paul Marcollay, N^{las} Lauve, Felix Trudeau.

COMMENT:

- The lower portion of this land was turned over by Augustin Metoyer to his brother François before the end of 1806, according to their land claims. However, the land was not actually deeded to François until 1814.
- Charles Lemoine's land was the lower tract confirmed to Joseph Derbanne: i.e., claim B1698, S26 and 102, T7N R6W.
- Margueritte's land should be Louis Derbanne's claim B1836, S30 and 104, T7N R6W.

OCTOBER 1804

NCA DOC. 3431

Gaspard LaCoure sells to **Widow Louis Anty**, a tract of land on the left [western] bank of the river going *upstream*, containing 4 arpents of frontage to the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the **lower** (when going *upstream*) by the vendor. \$100 silver. Passed before Monsieur **Louis Derbanne syndic** of the District of said Rivière aux Canne __ 8^{bre} [October] 1804. Witness: Jh Rocheblave. A sideways-written marginal note reads "Gaspard **Derbanne** & Dme. Louis Anty, December 24, 1806." Acknowledged 24 December 1806 by Gaspard **Lacour** before Edw. D. Turner, Judge.

COMMENT:

LaCour's 4 arpents on the left bank going upstream, bounded by himself on the lower, should be the small triangle known as **S41 T7N R6W**, confirmed in the name of Pierre LaCour. See Figure 1.

17 JUNE 1805

NCA DOC. 3293

Placide Bossier, attorney for **Daniel Bedle**, sells to **Remy Lambre**, for \$300, a plantation situated two leagues or thereabouts from the post, consisting of 4 acres of thereabouts, bounded on the upper by **Bernabé Chelatre**, and below by **Jean Baptiste Paillette**. Witnesses: Bossié and Paillette. Acknowledged 17 June 1805 before J. W. Alexander, Judge.

17 JUNE 1805

NCA DOC. 3292

Remy Lambre sells land to **Jean Baptiste Paillet** for \$300, a plantation situated 2 leagues distance or thereabouts from the post of Natchitoches, containing 4 arpents or thereabouts in front, bounded by land of **Bernabé Chelaitre** and below by plantation of **Jean Baptiste Paillette**. Witnesses: **Armand**,

Bossier. Acknowledged 17 February 1805 before J. W. Alexander, Judge. || **21 February 1806:** before “**Bellabre Dumas, justice of the peace** [Isle Brevelle],” Remy Lambre attests that the land he has sold to “Monsieur Paillet” contains about four arpents on each bank, bounded above by Barnabé Shelaite and below by “Mons^r J^r Bap^{te} Paillet.”

COMMENT:

This is the first reference I’ve found to Dumas as a justice of the peace. His office superceded the *syndic* appointment that Jean Baptiste Anty briefly held in 1805.

Dumas’s service was brief. He was also a merchant and lawyer. At his death in late 1807, his goods were inventoried on the plantation of Emmanuel Prudhomme. Given that Dumas was repeatedly said to be justice of the peace for Isle Brevelle, his office apparently stood on S104 T8N R6W. The other half of Prudhomme’s plantation, across the river, was not on the Isle.

23 SEPTEMBER 1805

DOC. 3307

Marie Derbanne sells to **Remy Lambre** for \$425 a plantation situated at 8 leagues below the post [about 24 miles], consisting of 8 acres [frontage] on each side of Red River to the ordinary depth, bounded above by the plantation of **Augustin Robieau** and below by that of **Widow Etienne Verger**. Signed: Marie Derbanne (x), in presence of **Anty** and Gisarnat, witnesses. The document is attested by John C. Carr, acting for “M. Alexander, Judge.”

COMMENT:

The handwriting also appears to be that of John C. Carr. Across many documents, we see several distinctive traits:

- when his ‘s’ ends a word, the s carries a squiggle and a tail that reaches backward for several letters
- When his ‘g’ or a ‘y’ ends a word, there is again that tail that is horizontal and very long, reaching back under the letters already written.

This Marie Derbanne was **Marie de l’Incarnacion Derbanne, widow of Joseph Dupré I**, whose daughter Marie Françoise married Étienne Verger in 1775.²⁰ At the time of this sale, Marie Derbanne was the estranged wife of Jean Varangue, authorized by the court to act in her own name. She and her children were landholders at Rivière aux Cannes.

The land should be *the upper half* of Remy Lambre’s **B1692, S51 & 106 T8N R6W**; the U.S. claim for this land was filed by Jean Varangue, Marie Derbanne’s husband. The *lower half* soon be sold to Lambre by Marie Derbanne’s daughter, Widow Étienne Verger. See 30 August 1806 below.

7 OCTOBER 1805

DOC. 3319

Before “**François Bellabre Dumas**, attorney, undersigned, living in the Isle Brevel district, **in default of a notary or public scribe established at this post** and filling these functions ... has appeared Sieur **Jean Baptiste Prudhomme**, a minor, native of this post, legitimate son of **Sr. Emmanuel Prudhomme** and Catherine **Lambre**, his father and mother here present, living at Isle Brevelle ...” The document is a marriage contract between Prudhomme and Demoiselle Marie Thérèse Victoire Ailhaud Ste. Anne, minor daughter of Sieur Jean Baptiste Ailhaud Ste. Anne and his wife Marie Louise Buard. &c.

²⁰ Mills, Natch. 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts of the Catholic Church Registers, entry 1017.

1806

NCA DOC. 2420

Barthelemy Rachal to Louis Derbanne. Land title. Index entry only. Document missing.

COMMENT:

This should be Louis Derbanne's **S31 & 32 T7N R6W**, just below the Isle. Witnesses who testified in his land claim stated that he settled the tract in 1792. Documents in the 2400 range were created in 1792 and 1793—not 1806.

TO DO:

Determine why this document number is so out of sync, timewise, with the others around it.

21 FEBRUARY 1806

NCA DOC. 3292

Remy Lambre appears before “Bellabre Dumas, justice of the peace [Isle Brevelle] to attest that the plantation he sold in June 1805 to **Jean Baptiste Paillet, adjoining Paillet** contains about four arpents on each bank, bounded above by **Barnabé Shelaite** and below by “Mons^r J^r Bap^{te} Paillet.”

27 FEBRUARY 1806

NCA DOC. 3392

Pierre Joseph Maës sells to **Louis Lambre**, both habitants of this post, in presence of Mr. **Joseph Tuzin** and **André Rambin**, 5 arpents of land on each bank of the River at **Rivière aux Cannes** about 22 leagues [about 66 miles] from the fort in descending [crude description of survey lines] adjoining Sr. **Athanas Dupré**; and on lower by lands of the seller. Land formerly part of a large grant in 1798 to **Dorothé Monet Métive Libre** Signed: And. **Rambin, Jh. Tuzin, Louis Lambre**, and “by order du mon père **Maës fils.**” || **20 July 1807**, Lambre appears before John C. Carr to say that he cannot comply with the terms of the sale and returns the land.

COMMENT:

This land is in the Les Ecores District, T6N R4W, near the current Natchitoches-Rapides line—where Cane River and Red River (former Rigolet de Bon Dieu) come together.

Maës's document was executed by his son, because Maës (the former post surveyor) had gone blind.

MARCH 1806

NCA DOC. 3339

Manuel Derbanne (x) sells to **Andrew Mitchell** of Orleans County, sale of land at Rivière aux Cannes, 30 miles below the post of Natchitoches, consisting of 5 acres front on each side of the River with the ordinary depth of 40 acres, bounded above by **Madame Baudoin**, both sides, and below on the left bank descending by the land of **Alexis Cloutier** and on the right side by land of **Baptiste Italien.**” \$200 on credit. 9 March 1806, acknowledged by Manuel Derbanne before John C. Carr, Parish Clerk, Natchitoches.

Affidavits were made before **Louis Derbanne, justice of the peace at Rivière aux Cannes**, by

- **Pierre Cenquatier** (x) [Sans Quartier] that “**Jen Lorant Baudin**” had sold his land to **Emanuelle Derbanne**. 23 March 1806.
- **Simont Goille** (x) that **Jean Lorant Baudin** had sold his land to **Emanuelle Derbanne**. 24 March 1806.
- **Jacques Enbroise** (x) [Jacques Ambroise LeComte] that **Janlorant Baudin** had sold his land to **Emanuell Derbanne** at Rivière aux Cannes. 26 March 1806.

COMMENT:

Andrew “Michel” is a platted landowner at **S58 T7N R5W**, left bank only. However, his neighbors there are “Madame Athanase” on the upper bank and Joseph Raballé on the lower.

30 MARCH 1806

NCA DOC. 3341

“**Marie Dupres (Widow of Etienne Verger)**” sells to **Remy Lambre**, a tract of land on Red River, on Isle Brevel, about 18 miles below the post, containing 4 acres front on each side of the river, with the ordinary depth, bounded above by land of the said **Remy Lambre** which he purchased of the “**Widow Derbanne**” and below by the habitation that the said Remy Lambre purchased of the **Widow Larenaudiere.**” Signed: Marie Dupre, widow of Etienne Vergey (x). Witnesses: Francis Johnston, **Antÿ.**

COMMENT:

The lands described here lay on the upper Isle and are noted on the map of **T8N R6W** as follows:

- **S51 & 106** (purchased from Marie Derbanne and her daughter Marie Dupré)
- **S52 & 107** (purchased from Widow LaRenaudière)

The document appears to have been executed before (and penned by) John C. Carr.

Note that when the seller’s mother sold her half of this tract to Remy Lambre in 1805, the land was said to be about 8 leagues (i.e., about 24 river miles) from the post.

26 APRIL 1806

NCA DOC. 3362

Before **Louis Derbanne**, justice of the peace, appeared **Marie Derbanne** [widow of Joseph Dupré I], wife of Sieur **Jean Varangue**, who sells to Sieur Jacque Lacase, here present and accepting, a small Negresse named **Marie Thérèse**, aged about 7. \$400. Signed: Marie Derbanne (x), Jacque Lacasse (x). Witnesses: **Remy Lambre** and **Antÿ.**

COMMENT:

This is the same Marie Derbanne who sold her Isle Brevelle land to Remy Lambre. She was the first cousin of the J.P. Louis Derbanne, both of them one-quarter Chitimachas. Her half-Chitimachas father Jean Baptiste and Louis’ half-Chitimachas father Pierre were brothers.

29 APRIL 1806

DOC. 3364

Bellabre Dumas, Justice of the peace, has gone to the home of **Sieur Julien Rachal** to make an inventory of the goods of Sr. **Baptiste Brevel**, deceased [father-in-law of Rachal], in the company of Sieurs **Remy Lambre** and **Jean Baptiste Antÿ.**

23 JUNE 1806

NCA DOC. 3383

Bernabe Cheletre sells to **Bartholomew L’Estage** land on Red River about three leagues [9 miles] below the town of Natchitoches, containing 4 acres front on each side of the River. \$300. Signed: Bernabe Cheletre (x). Witnesses: **Remy Lambre**, **John L. Hackett?**. Proved 23 June 1806 before E. D. Turner, Judge, who appears to have also drafted the document.

COMMENT:

This land would be on the Grand Coast, above Bayou Brevelle, above Pierre Metoyer.

5 JULY 1806

NCA DOC. 4318

Marriage contract, before Luis Derbanne, justice of the peace. **Simont Goille** (x) and **Mademoiselle Nanette Denis** (x) certify that they are married according to the law, Our Father, and The Son, and the Holy Spirit. Goille gives to Nanette Denis **3 arpents** of land on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by Monsieur **Antoine Coindet** and on the lower by him. Also animals. Witnesses: Joseph Carderont (s) Barthelemy Rachal (x), Gaspard Lacour (x). Filed 1814.

COMMENT:

Goy conveys the upper half of his land, **S54 T7N R5W**, confirmed in the name “Simon Gavelle.”

8 JULY 1806

NCA DOC. 3504

Before **François Bellabre Dumas**, attorney and justice of the peace living at Isle à Brevel, in presence of the undersigned witnesses, there has appeared Sieur **Thomas Hill Jones**, resident of Rapides, who sells to Sieur **Remy Lambre**, living at Isle Brevel, a Negress aged 24 or about “called **Milley** or Maille, with two infants, a girl named **Marie** aged 6 years and a boy named **Moise**, aged about one year. \$850. Witnesses: **Antoine Prudhomme**, **Prudhomme fils**, and Graham. The first two are inhabitants of this county and the third is the manager (“Econome”) of Sr. Lambre. Signed T. H. Jones, **Prudhomme fils**, **Prudhomme**, **Thos. Graham**, Bellabre Dumas, justice of the peace.

10 JULY 1806

NCA DOC. 3335

Inventory by John C. Carr, estate of **Françoise LeComte**, deceased wife of **Alexis Cloutier**, and widow of **Joseph Dupré** [Joseph II]. The first document in the file is a list of “inventoried property for which I [Alexis Cloutier] am accountable:

- “a plantation on which the said Alexis Cloutier resides” containing Seven hundred and twenty nine Acres agreeably to the plan and having thereon a Brick building in an unfinished state, thirty five feet long & twenty Feet wide, one Cotton Gin & Tobacco House, One sla [sic] dwelling House, Two Negro Cabbins, Fifteen thousand Bricks unbaked, Twenty thousand Shingles, a quantity of Timber shaped for the Brick House”
- “Two Acres of Land adjoining **Athenas Lecour** below.”

The second item is a full inventory of the estate held in common by Cloutier and wife, taken by (and signed by) **Antÿ** and **Antoine Coindet**. The land is described as:

- “Two Acres of Land adjoining Athenas Lecour below”
- “10 acres of Land in front on the left hand side of Red River in descending about one league [three miles] distance from the habitation of Alexis Cloutier.”

Item 3: “Before me, **François Bellabres Dumas**, justice of the peace ... appears **Jean Baptiste Antÿ** and **Antoine Coindet** ... appreciators of the objects comprising the succession” ... who declared that the deceased owned

- one tract containing 10 arpents of frontage on the left bank of Red River distant about one league from the habitation of the Sieur Alexis Cloutier, estimated at 150 piasters.

Signed: **Antÿ**, Antoine Coindet, Bellabre Dumas.

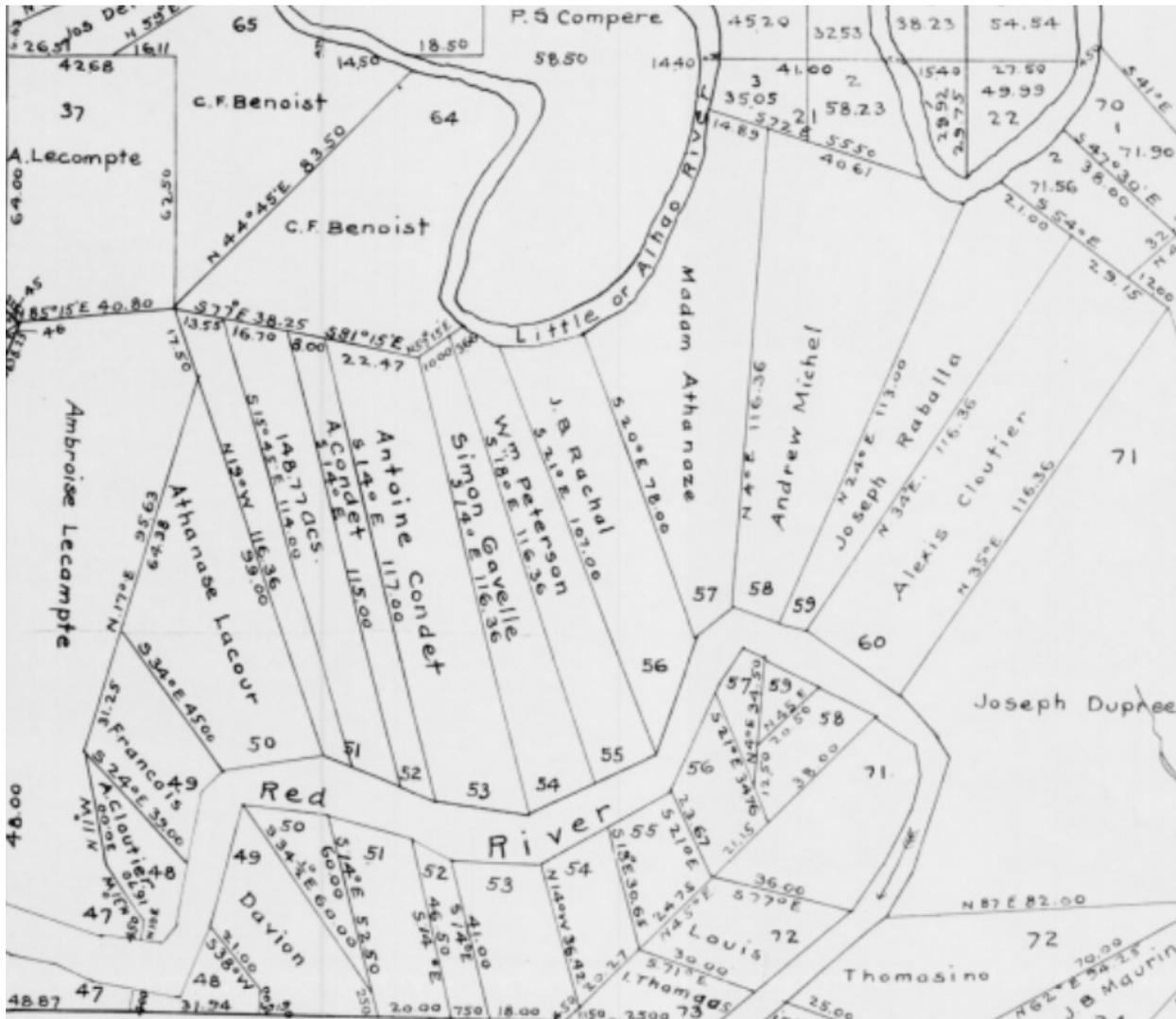
COMMENT:

The plat map for **T7N R5W** (see Figure 4) credits Cloutier with two tracts—the lower of which appears to be the tract containing 10 acres of frontage, although the total acreage does not match:

- **S60**, 317.10 acres, left side descending [the tract supposed to have 10 arpents frontage]
- **S48**, 84.47 acres, both banks; apparently the present site of Cloutierville.

The land of Cloutier's wife, as Dupré's widow, would appear to be part of **S71 T7N R5W**. (See Figure 4.)

Figure 4
SE Quadrant T7N 5W (Rivière aux Cannes) as Depicted on "Official Plat Map" (1840)²¹



10 JUNE 1806
NCA DOC. 3381

“There has appeared Sieur **Pierre Labombarde** and **Marie Labery** his wife,” who sell to Sieur **Pierre Michel** a tract of land on Red River, at Rivière aux Cannes “near a river comonly called **La Barbu**” containing 7 arpents of frontage to the depth that it is able to carry, bounded above by the Red River and at the back by the lands of the U.S.—with whatever house, storehouse, gin, etc. 300 piasters

²¹ Snipped from “T.7.N.—R.5.W. North Western Dist^t La.,” Louisiana Office of Lands, *Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=522.01878&category=H#1 : downloaded 14 June 2019). The blurred quality of this map is inherent in the original.

“gourdes Mexicaines,” with 200 due in silver and another hundred in merchandise. Signed: Pierre Labombarde (x), Marie Labery (x), **W. Murray** [attorney], **Chenet**. Acknowledged 12 June 1806 by Pierre La Bombarde and Marie his wife before Edwd. D. Turner, Judge, and John C. Carr, Clerk.

COMMENT:

Pierre Michel Zarichi, the buyer, was an Italian immigrant unrelated to the Andrew Mitchell of New Orleans who held debts on Natchitoches planters (and took their lands when they could not pay). Mitchell appears on the plat map for T7N R5W, a few miles below Cloutierville.

“Pierre Michell” had four adjacent tracts confirmed in **T6N R5W**

- **S62**, B1661, 350.25 acres
- **S64**, B1662, 162.99 acres
- **S75**, R&R 261, 61.42 acres
- **S76**, B1663, 165.02 acres—the only one of the four that would be 7 arpents along the river.

11 JULY 1806

NCA DOC. 3382

Judge Edward D. Turner conducts the succession sale of the goods of **Baptiste Brevelle**, who died intestate on the 25th of April of the present year. Mr. John C. Carr administrator. Witnesses: **Louis Derbanne**, **Antÿ**, F. Bossië, “acting for Mr. Carr administrator.” Also present and signing: **Remy Lambre**, **Btte. Adle**, **Baltazard Brevelle**, **Julien Rachal** (x), Baptiste Brevelle (x), **Rachale fils** (x), **Pierre Derbanne**.

11 JULY 1806

NCA DOC. 3390 [ENGLISH LANGUAGE]

Edwd. D. Turner, Judge of Probate acting as notary, went to the house of the late **Jn. Baptiste Brevelle** to inventory his property in the presence of **Julien Rachalle** “at whose House the said Baptiste died on the 25th of April, where he had resided for the last Six years.” Signed: John C. Carr, Julien Rashalle (x), **Antÿ**.

12 JULY 1806

NCA DOC. 3499

Before **François Bellabre Dumas**, attorney and justice of the peace living at Isle à Brevel, in presence of witnesses undersigned, there has appeared Sieur **Pierre Michel**, habitant of Isle à Brevel, who sells to **Bertrand Malioche**, also a resident of this county and here present, a “negre” of the Congo nation, aged about 24 years, named **Marie**, acquired by the vendor “dernierement en ville” [i.e., lately in the city of New Orleans]. \$575. Signed Sr. Pierre Michel (x), **Prudhomme**, **P Prudhomme avec paraphe**. Copy made 21 March 1807, Bellabre Dumas. **8 June 1807**, Michel and Mailoche rescinded the sale before Judge John C. Carr.

COMMENT:

“Sr. Pierre Michel” was Pierre Michel Zoriche (aka “Pierre Jarri”), an Italian immigrant who was at the time of the sale above married to Robert Dupré’s daughter Célèste; in 1817 he married a daughter of Julien Rachal Sr.

Célèste Dupré’s sister was married to Jean Pommier of Isle Brevelle (S4 & 81 of T7N R6W and S 56, 59, & 110 of T8N R6W). Their land, lying about the middle of Isle Brevelle, was bounded on the north by Bernard Mailloche (S55 & 109 T8M R6W), then (ascending the river) Julien Rachal, Remy Lambre, Dominique Rachal, and Emanuel Prudhomme.

Note that ASP and other documents of the Louisiana Land Office variously identify Mailloche as *Bernard* and *Bertrand*. They spell the surname variantly as *Mailloche* and *Mailloux*. ASP-PL 3:78 informs us that Mailloche bought his land from “James” [Jacques] Faure.

16 JULY 1806

NCA DOC. 3388

Articles of agreement between **William Patterson** and **Pierre Michel**, both of Natchitoches county. Whereas Patterson is indebted to Michel for \$250, he gives a mortgage on a tract of land “at **River of Canes**, containing 6.5 acres frontage on each side of the river, with all the depth thereunto belonging, as per Survey made by Mr. [W?] Coleman, deputy Surveyor for the county.” Signed: Pierre Michell (x), William Patterson (x). Witnesses: **N^las Lauve, John Nancarrow**. Release of mortgage, **13 February 1807** by Pierre Michel before J. C. Carr J.P. & Notary, with witnesses **John Nancarrow** and **James Bludworth**.

COMMENT:

William “Peterson” appears on the township maps as claimant for S 55 (both sides of river) in T7N R5W, just below Cloutierville.

21 AUGUST 1806

NCA DOC. 3403

“Know all men by these presents that I **Solange Bossie** of the County of Natchitoches” for \$100 paid by **Joseph Derbanne** of same have sold a tract of land on Red River about **8 leagues** [24 miles] below the post, containing 8 acres in front on each side of the river to the ordinary depth that it is able to carry, bounded above by “the land of **Dominic Metoyer**, a free mulatto” and below by “the habitation of **Pierre Bossie**, together with the Shingled house, Magazine, Mill, covered pounding mill, two ploughs and one perogue together with all and singular the apurtenances thereunto belonging.” [Signed] Soulange Bossie. “Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of **Josiah S. Johnston, Isaac Baldwin**. Acknowledged before me Edw. D. Turner, Judge of the County [who appears to have penned the document]. Added caveat: Bossie purports the land to be 40 or so acres deep, but Derbanne takes the risks that it might not be. Signed: Soulange Bossie, Jh. Derbanne. Witnesses: Isaac Baldwin, Josiah S. Johnson, Edwd. D. Turner.

COMMENT:

The conveyed tract should be **S26 & 101, T7N R6W**. Bossier bought this from Jean Baptiste Delouche on 3 January 1803, above.

22 SEPTEMBER 1806

NCA DOC. 3560

François Bellabre Dumas, attorney and justice of the peace at Isle Brevelle, drafts the marriage contract of **Narcisse Prudhomme**, minor son of **Emmanuel Prudhome** and **Catharine Lambre**, with **Marie Thereze Elizabeth Metoyer**, minor daughter of Sieur **Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer** and **Thérèse Buard**. All parties signed. Witnesses: **Prudhomme, Remy Lambre, Buard, Rouquier Juny** [i.e., François Rouquièrre the younger], **Murphy**. Recorded Book 1: folio 233–36, 11 June 1810.

13 OCTOBER 1806

NCA DOC. 3417

Joseph Rabalé to **Andrew Mitchell**, sale for \$150 a tract of land “on a branch of Red River known by the name of the River of Cane, containing on the left hand side of said River in descending,” 5.5 acres frontage to the depth it is able to carry, on both sides of the river. Bounded above by lands of **Louis Guillaume Sauvage**. The land being conveyed is the same land which the said Joseph Rabalé purchased from **Nicholas Baudin**” [Bodin]. Signed: Joseph Rabale (x). Witnesses: B. P. Porter, John C. Carr. Acknowledged before Carr, clerk for E. D. Turner, Judge. [Also apparently penned by Carr.]

COMMENT:

The township map for T7N R5W places Joseph Rabalé on Section 59. However, that tract (which is adjacent to Mitchell's S58) is smaller than 5 arpents of frontage.

Louis Guillaume called *Sauvage*, the upper neighbor, appears to be on the lower part of the tract confirmed to "Madame Athanase." Mme. Athanase was G enevi eve, a free black woman and widow of Athanase, whose land had been previously claimed by Louis Guillory, the multiracial husband of the *m etive* Rosalie Rachal. The Guillorys left that land about the time that Rosalie was given land at the bluffs by her half-sister, the *m etive* Dorothe e Monet. Athanase and G enevi eve were enslaved by the LeComtes. Rosalie and Dorothe e's mother, along with the *Capitaine, sauvage*, had been enslaved by LeComte's brother-in-law, Louis Mathias LeCourt de Presle, before Indian slavery was outlawed.²²

22 DECEMBER 1806

NCA DOC. 3430

Alexis Cloutier sells to **Athanaze LeCour** [LeCourt], for \$6, a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes containing 2 acres in front on the left hand side of the river in descending, with the ordinary depth to be found provided it not interfere with the claims surrounding, bounded above by the said LeCour and below by land of **Charles Daignon**. No witnesses shown.

COMMENT:

Part of this document appears to be missing. The document appears to be a folio with 4 sides, of which Sides 1 and 4 are filmed. Side 2 (which completes the document) and the blank Side 3 appear to have not been filmed).

26 DECEMBER 1806

NCA DOC. 3433

John Pomier, planter, to **Francois Cheletre**, planter. \$200. Sale by Pomier of land about seven leagues [21 miles] below the post of Natchitoches on both sides of Red River being part of the same tract sold by **Francois Monginot to John Pomier**, containing on each side of the river Five Acres in front with the ordinary depth. Bounded above by land of Jno. Pomier and below by the Land of **Jacque Lecase**. Signed: John Pomier (x). Witnesses: Robert Hawke, B. Nancarrow. Acknowledged before Edwd. D. Turner who appears to have penned the document.

COMMENT:

The plat map for T7N R6W shows Jacques Lacasse at Section 6. The land that Pomier is buying should be S 5, the tract that the map assigns to claimant Fran ois Cheletre. Pomier also claimed S4. The location is mid-Isle.

30 DECEMBER 1806

NCA DOC. 3444

Joseph Foret renewed his bond to keep a ferry over Bayou Brevelle.

31 DECEMBER 1806

NCA DOC. 3445

Jean Adl e ("John Adley") posted bond for a license to keep a public ferry "about three miles from the village." **Lauve**, surety.

25 JANUARY 1807

²² Succ. of Marie Jeanne LeRoy, wife of Louis Mathias LeCourt de Presle, Doc. 1285, Natchitoches Colonial Archives.

NCA DOC. 3448?

“John Pierre” (also written as “Jno. P. Vachère” and “**John Pierre Verchere**”) with **John Leland** [Le Lande] as surety, posts bond for a license to keep a public **Ferry** “on the Red River about **Twenty Two Miles below** the village of Natchitoches. Verchere and LeLande made their X’s. Witness: **F^{cois} Chabus**. Before Edw. D. Turner, Judge.

COMMENT:

Jean Pierre Vercher apparently operated this ferry on the land of his father (Louis “Verchaire,” **A1677, S34 & 98 T8N R6W**, adjacent to Coincoin and to Pierre Metoyer’s lower land.

26 JANUARY 1807

DOC. 3335

Succession of **Marie Françoise LeComte**, wife of **Alexis Cloutier**

[A small leaf tucked inside the bigger document]

Today, before me **François Bellabre Dumas**, justice of the peace ... living at Isle à Brevel, has appeared Sieurs **Jean Baptiste Anty** and **Antoine Coinde**, both habitants of this county, in their capacity as appraisers of the estate of Dame Françoise LeComte, deceased wife of Sr. Alexis Cloutier. ...

One document was also signed by **Louis Derbanne**, an auctioneer, justice of the peace, and erstwhile notary at Rivière aux Cannes.

COMMENT:

Rivière aux Cannes appears to be without a justice of the peace at this time. Dumas, the nearest J.P., was sent down by the parish judge to oversee the appraisal.

28 JANUARY 1807

NCA DOC. 3452

Before **Francois Bellabre Dumas**, justice of the peace living at Isle Brevelle, appeared Sieur **Nelson Graham**, resident of Natchès who sells to **Remy Lambe** a young negress aged about 12 named **Mindhah**, “originaire de Chalson” [Charleston?] \$400. Signed: N. C. Graham. Witnesses: **Frans. Roubieu, Comte fils**.

COMMENT:

NCA Doc. 3504, July 1806, identifies Graham as Lambre’s *économé* (i.e., farm manager).

13 FEBRUARY 1807

NCA DOC. 3462

Before John C. Carr, acting as notary: **William Patterson** sells to Mr. Edward Murphy, merchant, a tract of land situate on the River of Cannes ... containing 6.5 acres in front on each side of the river with the ordinary depth, bounded above by **Simon Gouelle** and below by **Baptiste Rachal** [Jean Baptiste Louis Rachal]. Witnesses: **W. Murray, C? Dubois**.

COMMENT:

The plat map for T7N R5W places William Patterson (Peterson) at Section 55.

14 FEBRUARY 1807

NCA DOC. 3463

Before **François Bellabre Dumas**, avocat and justice of the peace living at Isle à Brevel, there has appeared Sieur **Jean Varange**, inhabitant of this county, with his wife **Marie Derbanne** of Isle à Brevel. Marie Derbanne sells to **Remy Lambre** a habitation held in her personal name, consisting of 8 arpents of land on each bank of **Little River** [*sic*] with the depth it is able to carry, bounded on [upper] east bank by land of the Roubieu brothers and on the west by the **Sieurs Roubieu**, and on the lower by Madame

Etienne Verger. \$425. Signed: Sieur Jean Varangue (x). Witnesses: **Aug^{te} Roubieu**, **B^{tte} Adlé**. Recorded 4 June 1810, Book 1 folio 207 and 208.

19 FEBRUARY 1807

NCA DOC. 3469

Before **François Bellabre Dumas**, attorney and justice of the peace living at Isle Brevelle, has appeared Sieurs **Ambroise Comte**, as tutor of the goods of Sieur **Joseph Duprè** his nephew [**Joseph Dupre II**] also present, legitimate son of deceased Sieur Joseph Duprè [II] and Dame **Françoise Comte** deceased spouse of Sieur **Alexis Cloutier**. Also appeared Sieur Alexis Cloutier acting in his own name and as natural and legitimate tutor of Sieur **Sévère Cloutier** his minor son by the said dame widow Comte, deceased in the month of May last. Dumas has gone to the home of Sieur Ambroise Comte at Rivière aux Cannes for the appraisal of the succession by Sieurs [**Jean Baptiste**] **Anty**, [**Louis**] **Derbanne**, and [**Antoine**] **Condé**. Signed: Alexis Cloutier (+), Sr. Ambroise Comte (+), **Anty**, Remy Lambre, Murphy, Jh. Derbanne, L. Derbanne, W. Murray, M^l Prevost Duprés.

10 MARCH 1807

DOCS. 3868 & 3869

Before **François Bellabre Dumas**, there appeared Sieur **Louis Berthelemy Rachal** who declared his intent to sell to **Emanuel Prudhomme**, here present and accepting, a tract of land situated at **Bayou Brevelle**, formerly surveyed by Sr. Maës, bounded by the Bayou and on the other part by the purchaser. \$500. Witnesses: Sieur **Antoine Prudhomme** and **Batiste Anty**. Signed: Prudhomme, **Anty**. || **No date 1810**: L. B. Rachal appears before John M. Carr to acknowledge that he has sold the land to Prudhomme, it lying between Bayou Brevell and Emanuel Prudhomme. Witnesses: Dubois, James Denny. Recorded 10 October 1810 by Judge Carr in Book 2, folios 43 and 44.

COMMENT:

Louis Barthelemy Rachal's land was **S37 & 99, T8N R6W** (see figure 2), a long triangle sliced lengthwise by Bayou Brevelle.

9 APRIL 1807

NCA DOC. 3357

Before **Louis Derbanne**, justice of the peace, appeared **Marianne Bontant** [Bontemps], wife of Sieur **Pierre Cagot** [Cazeau *dit* **Faulevent**] also present and authorizing her action, who sells to **Jean Baptiste Brossie**, also present and accepting, a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes consisting of 8 arpents frontage on the left descending bank of Red River and 7 arpents on the other bank, bounded on one bank on the lower by the land of **Jean Baptiste Denis** and on the other by **Nicola [sic] Baudoin**. \$300. Signed: Madame Pierre Cagot (x), Jean Baptiste Brossée (x), Pierre Cagot (x), **Auguste Langlois**, **Lavespere**, **Louis Derbanne**, civil justice of the peace.

COMMENT:

The plat map for **T7N R6W** places Jean Baptiste Brosset on **S38 & 109**. Pierre Baudoin is above. Below, on the plat map, appears Nanette Larnodier [the mother of Nicolas and Pierre Baudoin].

4 JUNE 1807

NCA DOC. 3497

Before **François Bellabre Dumas**, attorney and justice of the peace living at Isle à Brevelle, there appeared Sieur **Remy Lambre** who sells to Sieur Julien **Poitevin De Pons**, Doctor of Medicine living at Isle à Brevelle, a habitation on Isle à Brevelle containing 8 arpents of land on the right bank of the "Little Red River" on which there is a maison, bounded on the upper by Sr. **Philippe Frederic**, coming from

Dame Widow **Etienne Verger**, and on the lower by **Sr. Julien Rachal**. \$200 Signed Remy Lambre, “Ch. de Pons D. en M^d.” Witnesses: **Antÿ, Rogers McPeack**.

COMMENT:

Philippe Frederic’s land lay between the east bank of Old River and the west bank of what was then Red River (present Cane River), partly in **T8N R6W** and **T8N R7W**.

5 JUNE 1807

NOTARIAL CONVEYANCE BK 42, DOC. 501²³

Before François Bellabre Dumas, lawyer and justice of the peace ... **living at Isle à Brevel**, appeared Sieur **Jean LaLande** (x) who sells to **Marie Thérèse, free Negress** (both of Natchitoches Parish) a tract of 4 arpents frontage on each bank of Red River, adjoining Sieur **Berthelemy Rachal** on the upper and Sieur **Louis Vercher** on the lower. The seller acquired the land from Sieur Vercher, his father-in-law. \$500 payable next month. Witnesses: **Baptiste Anty (s/ Antÿ), Rodger M^c Peak**.

“As a copy conforming to the record remaining in our hands. Bellabre Dumas, justice of the peace.”

COMMENT:

Coincoin’s and Lalande’s choice of Dumas to draft this deed was logical. Both lived just above the Prudhomme plantation on which Dumas maintained his store and office—about two miles as the crow flies. The trip into Natchitoches would have been twenty to twenty-two miles round trip.

As alluded to in Dumas’s note, the document is a copy—with signatures also copied in Dumas’s handwriting. He filed this copy with the parish clerk. The whereabouts of his original files are not known.

I have not yet identified Rodger McPeake, who witnessed both the Lambre-Poitevin sale on 4 June and the LaLande-Coincoin sale on 5 June. It is likely that he as an employee of the Prudhomme plantation. Documents of this era make a number of references to “American” males serving as farm manager for the Prudhommes and Lambres.

8 JUNE 1807

NCA DOC. 3499

Pierre Michel and **Bertrand Malioche**, appeared before Judge John C. Carr in Natchitoches to cancel a sale they had executed on 12 July 1803, by which Michel transferred to Malioche a “negre” of the Congo nation, aged about 24 years, named **Marie**, acquired by the vendor “dernierement en ville” [i.e., lately in the city of New Orleans].

17 JULY 1807

NCA DOC. 3507

Indenture between **Augustin Mettoyer** and **Charles Le Moin**, \$200, sale of **one acre** of frontage on each side of Red River, bounded above by Charles Le Moin and below by Augustin Mettoyer. Signed: Augustin Mettoyer (x). Witnesses: **Chabus, Ezra McCall**. Acknowledged before John C. Carr, Judge of the

²³ This volume is not part of the series labeled “Conveyances” that begins in 1732 (on back wall of Clerk’s Office at the time this volume was used onsite). It’s not part of the series labeled “Conveyances” that begins in 1806 (low shelving in middle of office). This volume was shelved with a group of random notarial volumes (bound original documents) on a tall case one tier from the left wall (when facing the record room from the clerk’s office itself). I am recording the location from the time I used the volume because other researchers report difficulty locating odd volumes of this type when they carry a label similar to a larger series. Neither this volume nor this record will be found in those standard series.

Parish Court who appears to have penned the document. Recorded Record Book 1: 187 and 188, 28 May 1810?

COMMENT:

The recording year is unclear, but the next document after this one was recorded 29 May 1810.

Charles LeMoine (son-in-law of Guillaume LeBrun) was the owner of the lower tract that the **T7N R6W** plat map assigns to Joseph Derbanne, **S28 & 102**, Claim B1698.

20 JULY 1807

NCA DOC. 3392

Louis Lambre appears before John C. Carr to say that he cannot comply with the terms of the purchase he executed 27 February 1806 with **Pierre Joseph Maës** for 5 arpents of land on each bank of the river at Rivière aux Cannes, formerly part of the 1798 grant to Dorothé Monet, metive, about 22 leagues from the post. He has returned the land.

12 AUGUST 1807

NCA DOC. 3524

Augustin Metoyer, *mulatre Libre*, in presence of the undersigned witnesses, gives power of attorney to Sieur **Jⁿ Jacques Paillette** to defend him in a matter before Monsieur **Bellabre Dumas**, attorney and justice of the peace living at Ile à Brevel. Signed: Augustin Métoyer M^l (+). Witnesses: **Yves Lissillour**, **Prudhomme**. Acknowledged by the sd. Metoyer before John C. Carr, 11 August 1807. [The document is not in the handwriting of Carr or either witness.] Recorded Book I: folio 216. 2 June 1810.

27 SEPTEMBER 1807

NCA DOC. 1813

[Bound between Documents 3832 and 3833]

B^{te} B^{temy} Rachal declares having sold to Mr. **Baptiste Brevelle**, a tract of land on Isle Brevelle, on the left bank of Red River only, bounded above by **Phillippe Frédéric** and below by **Jⁿ Baptiste Adlé**. \$55. Signed: Jean B^{te} Rachal, Jⁿ B^{te} Brevelle (x), **B^{min} Metoyer, Ls Derbanne, P. S. Compere, E. Prudhomme**. [Acreage not stated]

COMMENT:

Given that the seller is said to be “Baptiste Barthelemy” Rachal, while he signed as “Jean Bt^e” Rachal, we may deduce that this is Jean Baptiste Barthelemy, son of Barthelemy. One other Jean Baptiste Rachal was a contemporary—i.e., Jean Baptiste Rachal *fils* Louis, who lived at Rivière aux Cannes, below present Cloutierville, not the upper Isle.

1808

NCA DOC. 3582

Pierre Michel to **Pierre Charreau**, sale of billiard, etc. Index entry only. Document missing.

1808

NCA DOC. 3668

Barthelemy Rachal to **Pre Metoyer, f.m.c.**, sale of land. Index entry only. Document missing.

COMMENT:

Ailhaud St. Anne also bought part of **Bmy Rachal's 19 & 90** from his widow in 1808. Barthelemy Rachal appears to be holding the land assigned to “Miguel Hernandez” (S 20 and 92) on the plat map for T8N R7W, immediately above the tract that Pierre Metoyer's mother Coincoin had bought in 1807 from the Louis Verchaire claim (S 34 & 98) for her son Toussaint.

As a result, Coincoin and these two sons owned three adjacent/contiguous tracts: her homestead, and one tract for each son. Given that the 1810 census attributes all her slaves to the son Pierre, it appears that he was also farming her homestead.

14 OCTOBER 1808

CONVEYANCE BOOK 2:327

“I **Miguela Rosalie Cruz**, late wife of **Lorenz Bodoin** deceased, formerly inhabitant of the Rivière aux Cannes in the District of Natchitoches and actual inhabitant of this place, for and in consideration of” \$500 paid to me by **Alexis Cloutier**, planter, have sold to him “all my right Title and Claim to a settlement made by me on a tract of land where I resided with my family two years & a half, situated and lying on the said Rivière aux Cannes opposite and in front of the island called and known by the name of the **Old Village**, which claim contains 8 arpents of front on both sides of the river, with the usual depth, joining vacant land on said river above and below when said settlement was made by me and joined below by land belonging to **John Lorenz Bodoin**, at present and by land belonging to **Nicolas Bodoin** above, my sons. “At Nacogdoches this 14th day of October 1808 (Signed/Miguela Rosalie Cruz + her mark {Seal} Signed/ in presence of **S. Davenport, Ls Derbanne**, witnesses.”

COMMENT:

Compare this to Doc. 3339 above, dated 1806, by which Emmanuel Derbanne owned land he had purchased from Juan Lorenzo Bodin; Derbanne sold his land to Andrew Mitchell. The plat map for T7N R5W places Alexis Cloutier on Section 60, adjacent to Joseph Rabalé, with Andrew Mitchell on the other side of Rabalé. Mitchell in 1806 and 1807 had bought the Bodin-Derbanne and Mitchell tracts.

Juan Lorenzo Bodin [more correct spelling] was married to Modeste, the Indian daughter of Magdeleine and Capitaine, enslaved by the LeCourts. His brother Nicolas Bodin was married to Clemence, daughter of Magdeleine and Capitaine. The Bodin wives had at least two siblings who have not been accounted for in these Rivière aux Cannes land records: Clemence, b. 5 April 1770, and Romain, a son, b. 18 December 1773.²⁴

14 OCTOBER 1808

CONVEYANCE BOOK 2:327–328

“I **John Lorenz Bodoin**, formerly inhabitant of Natchitoches on the Riviere aux Cannes and now residing in this province of Texas, for and in consideration of” \$200 cash paid by **Alexis Cloutier** have sold “all my right and Title to a settlement made by me on a tract of Land situated of [at] Rivière aux Cannes containing four arpents front on both sides of said river with the accustomed depth and joining on the upper side lands belonging to my mother **Miguela Rosalie Bodein** and below by land belonging to **François St. Germain**. ... Signed John Loranz Bodin + his mark {Seal}.” Witnesses **S. Davenport, Ls Derbanne**.

23 MAY 1809

NCA DOC. 3692

Before **J. J. Paillette**, justice of the peace for the parish of Natchitoches [on Isle Brevelle] and undersigned witnesses, has appeared “Monsieur **François Roubieu freres**” acting also in the name of Sr. **Auguste Roubieu**, his brother, sells to Mr. **Julien Rachal fils** a habitation on Isle La Brevelle bounded on the upper by Mr. **Compere et Comp^{nie}** and on the lower by the habitation of Mr. Julien Rachal fils,

²⁴ Dates of births for these children, and the fact that their parents were a married couple, are cited in the succession inventory of Marie Jeanne LeRoy, wife of LeCourt, 20 April 1778; NCA Doc. 1285. LeCourt himself died 1783. His “mortuary” is registered that year as NCA Doc. 1673, but it is now missing.

consisting of 2 arpents of frontage on Red River (right bank) to the ordinary depth. \$1000 on credit. The Roubieus have the right to occupy the house and lands until 1 September next. Signed “Roubieu freres.”
Julian Rachalle fils (+), Dagobert, **Jque Lavasseur fils**, **Louis Lambre**.

COMMENT:

François Roubieu and Pierre Sebastien Compère were married to daughters of the late Julien Rachal Sr. and shared in the inheritance with Julien Jr.

26 MAY 1809

NCA DOC. 3720

P^{re} Charûau witnessed a document signed by **Antoine Sauvage** relative to the succession of **Jean Philip Cloutié** and wife. Sauvage acknowledged the document before **Jas. F. Porter**, J.P. [*Les Écores* District]

COMMENT:

This “Antoine Sauvage” may be Antoine, *sauvage*, offspring of Capitaine and Madeleine.

12 JUNE 1809

NCA DOC. 3699

François Frederick sells to **Julien Rachal fils** a tract of land at Red River containing 1 arpent of frontage bounded on the upper by Julien Rachal fils and on the lower by the seller. Signed: François Frederic. A. **Sompayrac, Dubois**.

14 JUNE 1809

DOC. 3700

“I declare having sold to **Madame V^e Louis Anty** a tract of land of 5 arpents frontage situated at Rivierre aux Cannes, bounded on the upper by Mr. **Gaspard Lacour Jr.** and on the lower by **Capitaine, Sauvage**. ... Isle a Brevel, 14 June 1809, in faith of which I have signed with witnesses. **Antÿ**. Witnesses: **J. F. Hertzog, Rodger McPeak**.

COMMENT:

Antÿ does *not* state whether he is conveying land on both sides of the river or on just one side. He does not say whether the “upper” and “lower” references are descending or ascending descriptions; but descending was by far the most common practice.

Of the cited neighbors, LaCour owned on both sides, Sauvage only on the east bank (left descending bank). Thus, we know that the Anty-to-Anty sale must include the north part of S43 T7N R6W. Whether it includes S44 across the river to the west is not conclusive from this document.

The supplemental record below clearly states that the land was solely on the left bank:

“No. 240—247. Maria Jeanne Crette, widow of Louis **Anty**, claims two hundred superficial arpents of land, viz: five arpents front, by forty deep, situated on the left [ascending\] bank of **bayou Canes** [Rivière aux Cannes] in the county of Natchitoches, bounded above by land of **Gaspard Lacour**, and below by that of **Alexis Cloutier**, accompanied by an authentic deed of sale from **John Baptiste Anty** to the claimant, for five arpents front, by the depth that may be, dated the **17th July, 1810**; and a plat of survey dated the 24th January, 1813, by J. Irwin, a United States’ deputy surveyor, for twenty-six and six one-hundredths superficial acres in favor of the claimant. The evidence of Pierre Baudin, taken the **9th October, 1812**, establishes the land to have been inhabited and cultivated for twenty-four consecutive

years preceding said date, **the first seven years by J. B. Anty, and the last seventeen by the claimant and her husband.**"²⁵

The final adjudication by the Land Office allotted the east-bank land (all of S43) to Alexis Cloutier. Similarly, the land office confirmed to Pierre Lacour Jr. the west-bank land which the widow had bought in 1804 from Gaspard LaCour. Inexplicably, that final adjudication assigned the Widow Anty's land to the west-bank (S44), which she did not claim and Anty did not sell.

12 AUGUST 1809

NCA DOC. 3713

[English]

Articles of agreement between **William Owens** (s) and **John Horn** (s), both of the parish of Natchitoches. Owens has purchased from Horn, the curator of the estate of James Young late of this parish, deceased intestate, land on the Rio St. Juan, 640 acres, \$155. "I hereby certify that the within Instrument of writing was duly recorded in my Book of Record No. 1 Folio 372 & 373. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand & affixed my Notarial seal, this 20th July 1810. [no signature]

COMMENT:

I have not located this tract.

16 SEPTEMBER 1809

NCA DOC. 3822

John Horn (s) and his wife **Marie Louise Baudin** (x) [Bodin] appear before John C. Carr, Judge, agreeing to separate. He agrees to pay all debts and she agrees to give up any interest in his property. Witness: **[John] Cortes**.

25 SEPTEMBER 1809

NCA DOC. 3831

At the request of Mr. **Nicolas Gallien, J. J. Paillette**, justice of the peace, is conducting an estimation of the goods of the community between Mr. Gallien and his deceased wife Madame **Marie Antoine Le Court**. Present **Alezi Cloutier** (x), **Louis Derbanne** (s), **Louis Bertelmy Rachalle** (signed: L. B. Rachal), **Bertelmy le Court** (x). First item: A habitation where the couple resided composed of **21 arpents** on the right bank of the river with buildings and **16 arpents** on the left bank ... \$2,250.

On 16 July, Judge Carr had appointed **Ambroise LeCompte** to be under tutor of the minor children of Gallien and his late wife: **Neuville, Emanuel, Horisile [Oresile], Adeline, and Ozeline [Azeline]**. Gallien had that same day taken the oath of tutor in the presence of **Ch^s Noyrit, Ls Derbanne**, and Judge Carr. Also present **Louis Galien**, his adult son, **Jacques Vercher his son-in-law** married to **Marie Jeanne Gallien. Antoine Coindet** was chosen by Nicholas Galien as Estimator to represent the minor children, **Ambroise Le Compte** was chosen as second estimator by Jacques Verchaire to represent him and his wife, and **Athanaze Le Court** was chosen as third estimator by Louis Gallien.

COMMENT:

The Gallien land and the referenced neighbors held the following property according to the plat maps:

- Nicolas Gallien, S45, 46 & 114 of T7N R6W
- Nicolas Gallien, S39 and 40 of T6N R6W
- Bertelemy Lecour, S47, T7N R6W

²⁵ *American State Papers: Documents Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States*, Public Lands Series, vol. 3 (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834), 193.

- Bertelemy Lecour, S38, T6N R6W
- Jacques Vercher, S43, T6N R6W

Ambrose Lecomte was the next neighbor downriver. Baptiste Anty's S43 that he sold to his brother was the next neighbor upriver.

In addition to the relationships stated in the document, Louis Derbanne was the brother-in-law of the fellow witness Louis Berthelmy Rachal.

31 DECEMBER 1809

NCA DOC. 3752

Charles LeMoine posts bond for a license to keep a ferry across Red River for the year 1810. Witness: **W. Murray**. Done before John C. Carr, Judge.

COMMENT:

William Murray was an attorney who kept offices at Cloutierville and Alexandira.

In 1810 Lemoine sued Derbanne for operating a ferry in competition him him (Reel PC.7, Office of the Clerk of Court). Derbanne had originally held the license for that district, but a new parish road was cut through LeMoine's land and he persuaded the court to give him the license.

30 JANUARY 1810

DOC 3765?

Pierre Derbanne père acknowledges having received of **Mr. Philippe Brosset** the sum of 11 piasters owed him by deceased "fillo lacourt" [**Gaspard Fiol LaCour**]. Witness: **P^{re} Charûau**.

COMMENT:

This "Pierre Derbanne, the father" was actually Pierre **Jr.**, who now had a grown son Pierre III. The first Pierre had died in the 1790s.

12 FEBRUARY 1810

DOC. 3768

At the maison of Mr. **Dominique Rachal**, was present **Louis Verchere** who sells to Mr. **Dominique Rachal** a habitation situated on the Joyous Coast [Grand Coast] of Red River composed of 6 arpents of frontage on each bank of the river, with the depth it is able to carry. Bounded on the upper by the land of **Pierre Métoyé**, **Mulatre libre**, and on the lower by the lands of the seller. \$450. Signed L. Verchair, **Prudhomme fils**, **L. B. Rachal**, **Anty**. Done before **Paillett, justice of the peace**. [Also a sale to son Jean Pierre, almost illegible.]

COMMENT:

- Dominique Rachal was married to Vercher's daughter Marie Rosalie.
- Pierre Metoyer in 1808–9, by a document registered in the French Archives Index but now missing, bought from Barthelemy Rachal (Dominique Rachal's brother) one arpent of land abutting both his mother's homestead and the 1807 land that his mother bought for Toussaint. He sold this small triangle to Toussaint on the same day that Toussaint sold both pieces to J. B. Prudhomme. See 1821 below.

21 FEBRUARY 1810

DOC 3765?

Joseph Foret (x) acknowledges having received from "**Madame V^e Fillo la court**" the sum of ____ [bound into book] piasters for ferriage over Bayou Brevelle in the year 1807. Witness: **P^{re} Charûau**.

3 MARCH 1810

NCA DOC. 3777

Madam Jeanne Larenodiere (x) to **John Baptiste Larenodiere** (x), her legitimate son by her late husband **Pierre Larenodiere**, for \$400, conveys the habitation on which the said Jeanne Larenodiere now lives, consisting of 4.5 arpents frontage on each side of Red River, bounded above by the plantation of **Pierre Brosset Junior** and below by that of **Madam [Gaspard] Fiol LeCour**. The seller has the privilege of remaining on the plantation for the rest of her natural life. Witnesses: Jn Boucher?, J Rouquier *fils*, V. Rouquiere. John C. Carr.

COMMENT:

This tract, **S39 & 110**, is assigned by the plat map for **T7N R6W** to “Nanette Larnodiere.” Pierre LaRenaudière’s widow was née Jeanne LaBerry.

5 MARCH 1810

NCA DOC. 3778

Jeanne Rachal, widow Morain (x), resident of Rivière aux Cannes, accepts the pretensions that she has to the succession of her deceased nephew **Louis Monet**, resident of Les Ecors in this county, etc. Witnesses: **Prevost Dupré, Jⁿ P^{re} M^{ie} Dubois**.

COMMENT:

This Jeanne Rachal is the daughter of the original immigrants Pierre Rachal and Marianne Benoist. She was a sibling of Louis Rachal Sr., Marie Louise (Rachal) Gallien, Cloutier, Charpentier, and Elisabeth (Rachal) Monet Lauve—all of lower Rivière aux Cannes—as well as Barthelemy Rachal of the Grand Coast and the deceased Jacques Racha.

5 MARCH 1810

NCA DOC. 3779

Marie Louise Porter sells to “**Dominick Mettoyer** a free mullatto,” both of Natchitoches Parish, a negress slave named **Susette**, about eighteen years, with her daughter **Mary Magdelain**, about one and a half year. At the end of nine years, Susette and her daughter are to be free. Signed: Marie Louise Porter (x), Dominick Mettoyer (x). Witnesses: **Jh. Tazuin, F^s Rouquier**. John C. Carr, Parish Judge. Carr recorded the document in Record No. 2 at Folio 31 & 32 on 27 August 1810.

7 MAY 1810

DOC. 3797

William Owens of Natchitoches Parish, merchant, sells to **Alexis Cloutier** “a certain Tract of Land situate on the East Bank of Red River in the parish aforesaid, containing four arpents in front with all the depth privilege and appurtenances ... **bounded above by the Land of Baptiste Anty pere and below by that of Madame Rouquier.**” \$200. Signed: W^m Owens. Witnesses: Bossië, Paillette. Before J. C. Carr, Judge.

COMMENT:

Cloutier filed his U.S. claim for this 1807 land in 1813. His claim papers tell us this:

1810–13

ASP 3:218

“No. 546-251. **Alexis Cloutier** claims one hundred and sixty superficial arpents of land, viz: four arpents front, by forty deep, situated on east bank of the River aux Cannes in the county of Natchitoches, bounded above by **land of Baptiste Anty, Sen**. The notice is accompanied by a certified copy of a deed of sale from William Owen to the claimant, dated the 7th of May, 1810, and a **plat of survey by Joseph Irwin, dated the 24th of January 1813**, for 33 4/100 acres on the left bank. The evidence of **Louis Derbanne**, taken the 9th of October 1812, states

that twenty-five or twenty-six years ago, the land was inhabited by **Pierre Captain, a Christian Indian**, who continued thereon to the time of his death, about four or five years ago [i.e., from 1787–88 to about 1805]; that **his son continued on the land** until the claimant took possession about a year ago; and that William Owen, who sold to Cloutier, claimed it on account of a debt owing to him by said Indian, but is not positive this was the case.”

Cloutier’s tract should be **S43 T7N R6W**. Note that this description affirms the conclusion that the land of **Baptiste Antÿ Sr.** was on the *east* bank only, above the land Cloutier purchased.

Antÿ had already sold the land in 1794 to his brother Louis, saying that it lay between the lands of Remy Lambre (who sold to Gaspard LaCour) on the upper and “Capitaine, an Indian” on the lower.

There is clearly a land-allotment problem with this tract. Cloutier claimed that the tract he bought from Owen had a depth of 40 arpents. However, the completed surveys show that 40 arpents of depth would have significantly overlapped a claim by his neighbor and in-law Ambroise LeComte. To compensate, the adjudication allotted Cloutier 9 arpents along the river, including land of both Capitaine and Antÿ. To compensate, Widow Anty was reassigned by the land office to S44, across the river—a tract that has gone without a claimant for some reason these records don’t explain.

Mme. Widow Rouquier was née Buard. She inherited the Hughes *dit* Tonant land from her mother, the Widow Buard, to whom Hughes had sold the land. (Docs. 2178 and 3979).

12 MAY 1810

NCA DOC. 3801

Pierre Beaudoin to **John Pierre Marie Dubois**, for \$3310, sale of land on both sides of Red River, containing on the E bank or left hand side thereof the quantity of **3 arpents** in front, and on the opposite side of said River the quantity of 2 arpents front, together with all depth it can carry. Bounded above by land of Pierre Beaudoin and below by land of **Nicolas Beaudoin**. Signed: Pierre Beaudoin (+). Witnesses: **Jⁿ Cortés. A. Sompayrac**. John C. Carr, Judge.

COMMENT:

The tract above appears to be the upper part of **S36** (which carries no name on the **T7N R6W** plat map) and the lower part of **S107** (which the map attributes solely to Pierre Baudoin’s R&R claim).

On 14 May 1811 Dubois mortgaged a different tract to Widow Rouquier—a tract of **8 arpents** on both sides, bounded above by P. Metoyer and below by Mariotte. That land was **S34 & 106**, Louis Derbanne’s claim B1835.

3 JUNE 1810

NCA DOC. 3815

Mary Louis Le Comt Porter, for \$650 paid by **Tousont Metoy**, “do liberate a Certain mulatress named **Harriet**, fifteen years Old, the daughter of a **free Mulatress named Dorota**. Signed: Mary Louis Le Coint Porter (x). Witnesses: [Jⁿ P^{re} M^e Dubois], **Comte fils**, **[Ant]oine Coindet**, **[James] F. Porter**. || **9 June** “Toussant Metoyer free Mulatto” brought the document into the office of Judge John C. Carr for recording. It was recorded 10 June Record No. 1: Folio 226 & 227.

COMMENT:

The first name of several of the witnesses was bound into the crack of the book.

9 JUNE 1810

NCA DOC. 3810

Isaac Shute of Tennessee, trader, sells to **François Metoyer** “a free mulatto” a certain negress named **Sarah**, aged about 12, a slave for life. \$450. Signed: Isaac Shute. Witness: A. Sompayrac, Charles Slocum. Executed before John C. Carr, parish judge.

9 JUNE 1810

NCA DOC. 3811

Isaac Shute of Tennessee, trader, sells to **Pierre Metoyer** “a free mulatto” a certain negress named **Delphy**, aged about 13, a slave for life. \$500. Signed: Isaac Shute. Witness: A. Sompayrac, Charles Slocum. Executed before John C. Carr, parish judge.

9 JUNE 1810

NCA DOC. 3812

Thomas Parham of Brunswick County, Virginia, sells to **Dominique Metoyer** “a free mulatto” a certain negress named **Suzan**, aged about 14, a slave for life. \$550. Signed: Thomas Parham. Witness: A. Sompayrac, Charles Slocum. Executed before John C. Carr, parish judge.

9 JUNE 1810

NCA DOC. 3813

Isaac Shute of Tennessee, trader, sells to **Susan Metoyer** “a free mulatress” a certain negro named **Bradley**, aged about 13, a slave for life. \$600. Signed: Thomas Parham. Witness: A. Sompayrac, Charles Slocum. Executed before John C. Carr, parish judge.

COMMENT:

Susanne is still legally enslaved. She would not become free until her mistress died in 1813. I have found no evidence of her holding or claiming land until 1815. The purchase of a young male teen suggests that, at this point, she did not have land and likely was not farming. More likely, she would then rent him to her brothers, for them to train, until she became a free landowner.

9 JUNE 1810

NCA DOC. 3814

Thomas Parham of Tennessee, trader, sells to **Augustin Metoyer** “a free mulatto” a certain negro named **Harry**, aged about 20, a slave for life. \$600. Signed: Isaac Shute. Witness: A. Sompayrac, Charles Slocum. Executed before John C. Carr, parish judge.

COMMENT:

Apparently Parham and Shute did not sell any more slaves until

- 14 June (NCA Doc. 3818), when John Sibley bought three from Parham: a woman and her small children for \$1000. Shute was witness to the sale.
- 22 June (NCA Doc. 3820), John C. Carr bought Mary, 18, for \$500. Shute and ___ H. Harrison as witnesses.
- 7 July 1810 (NCA Doc. 3878), John Cortes bought Nancy, 15, for \$500. M. Halphen (doctor) and M^l Prevost Dupré were witnesses.

These two traders were in the parish for roughly two weeks, to make 7 sales. Then another two weeks later they appear again. Did they go to Nacogdoches in the meanwhile?

The enslaved Harry may be the man of that name who appeared among the enslaved people Coincoin conveyed to her children in March 1816.

7 JULY 1810

NCA DOC. 3839

Sylvester Buard (s) declares that he owes Sieur **William Owens** the sum of \$399. He gives a mortgage on the cotton and tobacco he is growing on the habitation of his father Mr. **Louis Buard**. Witnesses: G. B. Co____, Stephen Allyn. Acknowledged **31 July 1810** before Judge Carr.

7 JULY 1810

NCA DOC. 3840

Joseph Lambre (s) declares that he owes Sieur **William Owens** \$209.85. To secure that sum he mortgages the tobacco that he is growing on the habitation of Mr. **Louis Buard**. Witnesses: G. B. Co____, Stephen Allyn. **31 July 1810** acknowledged before Judge Carr.

16 JULY 1810

NCA DOC. 3826

Nicolas Galien conveys to **Louis Cuyere** a tract of 3 arpents of frontage to the depth it is able to carry, on the right bank of Rivière Rouge, bounded on one side by **Barthelemy Lecour** and on the other by **Jacques Vercher**. \$150. Done at Rivière aux Cannes. Signed: Nicolas Galien (x). Ls Derbanne and Ch^s Noyrit, witnesses. Acknowledged before Judge John C. Carr, **16 July 1810**. [The document appears to be in Derbanne's handwriting.]

COMMENT:

This land appears to be **S39 T6N T6W**.

16 JULY 1810—31 DECEMBER 1811

DOC. 3833

16 July 1810: At the request of **Ambroise LeComte**, Judge Carr has assembled witnesses at the dwelling house of the said LeComte to open the annexed papers purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of **Joseph Dupres [III]**, late of this parish, deceased. Carr has interrogated Messrs. Charles Noyrit, **Louis Derbanne**, **John Louis Hopok**, and **Jacques Verchaire**, witnesses, whose names are subscribed to the testament. They say they were present at the house of the deceased on the 6th Instant and found him in Bed sick of body but of sound mind and he dictated the will to them. All signed, together with **Antoine Condet** and **Comte fils**.

17 July 1810: **Jacques Levasseur** (s) appeared before Judge Carr to state that he was present when the will was written and that Dupres was in sound mind. Witnesses to the attestation: Ch^s Noyrit, Comte *fils*.

17 July 1810: **Auguste Langlois** appeared before Judge Carr to say that he was present when the Testament was dictated by Joseph Dupré who was at the time of sound mind, etc. Signed Auguste Langlois. Witnesses to the attestation: **Antÿ**, Comte *fils*. Dupré's will is attached, leaving \$6,400 to "*mon frere Jⁿ B^{te} Severe Cloutier*, \$300 and a slave woman to "*la Mulatresse Adelaide*," and the rest to "*mes Enfants Philippe Valsin, Marie Doralise & Noel*" [children of Adelaide]. **Jean Pierre Marie Dubois** signed as witness to the will and appears to have drafted the document in his capacity as notary at Rivière aux Cannes.

COMMENT:

"La mulatresse Adelaide" was Adelaïde Mariotte, the first cousin of Antÿ's consort, Susanne Metoyer. Adelaïde's mother Marie Louise *dite* Mariotte was sister of Susanne's mother Marie Thérèse *dite* Coincoin.

25 July 1811 John C. Carr, at the request of Ambrose LeCompte Executor of the last will and Testament of Joseph Dupre, has gone to the "dwelling house of the deceased and then and there in presence of Messrs. **J. J. Paillette**, **William Murray** and **Gasparite LeCour**, has taken an inventory of the property. Includes "Habitation at the river of Cannes containing ____ [*sic*] arpents front on each side Red River

bounded above by Sever Cloutier and below by **Mr. Thomasin.**” Dupré held notes on *many* neighbors, including

- “Athanaze free Negroe fifty dollars” and another for Athanase of \$200
- Wm. Owens, \$49.88

COMMENT:

Young Joseph Dupré’s land was S71 in T7N R5W. The neighboring land attributed above to Sévère Cloutier, Dupré’s half-brother, is attributed by the plat map to Sévère’s father, Alexis Cloutier (S58 & 60). Louis Thomasine’s land was adjacent to Dupré on the lower side (S72).

Also inventoried was “Receipt of **Marriotte**, free negress, for 352 doll^s for hire of **Adelaide** [Mariotte’s daughter who was Dupré’s consort]. Witnesses: W. Murray [attorney], Paillette, Gasparite LaCour (+), John C. Carr.

31 July? 1811: John C. Carr met Mr. Ambroise Lecompte, testamentary executor of the will of Sr. Joseph Dupre, at the home of the said Sieur Dupré and in presence of Alexis Cloutier, to take an inventory. Signed: Ambrose Lecomte (+), Alexis Cloutier (+). Witnesses: Antoine Coindet, François Davion, Comte *films*, Dubois. [No land].

3 September 1811: Placing of the seals on the goods of Joseph Dupré in the house of Ambroise LeCompte, in presence of Sr. Remy Lambre and Comte *films*.

6 ____? 1811?: LeComte notified the parish judge that a suit had been brought against him as executor by Sévère Cloutier [minor half-brother of the deceased, whose father Alexis actually instigated the suit] protesting the will and that the will had been found valid except for bequests to slaves [namely to Adelaide and the children she had by Joseph Dupré]. Much else transpired. A sale was held, drawing buyers from the upper Isle (Baptiste Brevelle and Remy Lambre) but **no member of the Anty family**. Ambrose LeComte bought Dupré’s plantation but a subsequent note of **31 December 1811** states that at the request of LeComte, Judge Carr sold the land to Alexis Cloutier.

25 JULY 1810

NCA DOC. 3842

Last will and testament of **Athanase Lecour** [LeCourt] (x), whose wife is **Marie Robin**. Witnesses: Wm. Murray, Jⁿ L^s Hopok, Wm. H. Emery?, Ambroise Le Conte (x). Before Judge Carr.

25 JULY 1810

NCA DOC. 3843

Last will and testament of **Marie Robin** (x), wife of **Athanase LaCour**. Witnesses: Wm. Murray, Ambroise Le Conte (x), Paillette, Wm. H. Emery?, Jⁿ L^s Hopok. Before Judge Carr.

28 JULY 1810

DOC. 3837

Judge John C. Carr has gone to the house of Madam **Louis Verchaire**, Widow of Louis Verchair late of said parish deceased. In presence of Messrs. **J. J. Paillette** (s), Jⁿ B^{te} **Anty** (s/ **Anty**) and Jⁿ B^{te} **Prudhomme** (s/ Prudhomme *films*), witnesses whose names are subscribed upon a sealed packet purporting to be the last will and Testament of Louis Verchaire” and also in the presence of **John Pierre** (x), **Jacques** (s), and **Joseph** (x), sons of the deceased, all of whom have reached the age of majority. Also in the presence of the Widow and **Rosaline**, wife of **Mr. Dominique Rachal**, daughter of the deceased. The will was read aloud and all declared upon their oaths that it was “word for word” as they had witnessed and that the testator appeared to be of sound mind. The widow Marie Louise is appointed tutor of the minors. Recorded by Judge Carr on 31 July 1810 in Record No. 2 folios 3 & 4. || **12 February 1810**, the will was

drawn at the house of Dominique Rachalle. Witnesses: **Anty**, L. B. Rachal, Prudhomme *fils*. Signed by *Paillette* who appears to have drawn up the document as notary.

6 AUGUST–15 DECEMBER 1810

U.S. CENSUS

(beginning at mouth of Bayou Brevelle & descending Cane River)

COMMENT:

Below I am presenting the full “neighborhood,” in the order enumerated, for three successive neighborhoods, as one descends the river:

- Upper Isle Brevelle
- Lower Isle Brevelle and upper Rivière aux Cannes
- Lower Rivière aux Cannes

Note that many householders are identified only by surname, a custom of the time and place for well known individuals. I am copying census data only for the households headed by the Anty and by Baptiste Anty’s associate, Pierre Charûau. I am adding, in editorial brackets, the section, township, and range where each household appears on the township plat.²⁶

<u>Census household</u>	<u>T8N R6W</u>
Baltazard Brevelle	
Compère	[S52 & 107]
Adley fils	
Julien Rachal fils	[S52 & 107]
François Frederick	
Auguste Robieux	
D ^{me} V ^e Julien Rachal	[S54 & 108]
Jacques Levasseur	[This census places him at the site of Bernard Mailloche S55 and 109 T8N R6W]
Jean Massippe	[S57 & 111]
Jean B ^{te} Lemoine	[S58 & 112]
James Miller	[m. Pommier, S 56, 59 & 110, 113]
D ^{me} V ^e Pommier	[S56, 59 & 110, 113; also S4 & 81; widow of Jean Pomier]
	<u>T7N R6W</u>
Valeri Anty	[m. Marie Aspasia, daughter of Pierre Derbanne Jr.]
Jacques Lacasse	[S6]
Pierre Derbanne [Jr.]	[S7 & 84]
Anty fils	1 white male 45– [likely J.B. Sr., age 53]
	1 white male 26–45 [J.B., Jr., age 31]
	1 white female 16–26 [J. B. Jr.’s wife, also a daughter of Pierre Derbanne Jr.]
	2 white males 0–10 [sons of J. B. Jr. and wife Cyprienne Derbanne]
V ^e Etienne Verger	
Auguste L’anglois	[S8 & 85]
Jean B ^{te} Derbanne	[S20 & 87]
Jean B ^{te} Lavigne	[R&R 39, owned by Louis Metoyer who sold to sister Susanne Metoyer 1814]
Charles Durette	[S12 & 89]

COMMENT:

²⁶ 1810 U.S. census, Natchitoches Parish, LA, p. 210, beginning line 11.

Baptiste Antÿ should be the older man in the home of his son and namesake “Anty, *fiils*.” The older man would not be J. B. Jr.’s father-in-law because that man (P. Derbanne) was enumerated next door. They would be living on the land (2 arpents frontage, both sides of river, c160 superficial arpents in S 7 & 84 T7N R6W), which J. B. Jr. bought from his father-in-law Pierre Derbanne.

[p. 211]

<u>Census household</u>	<u>T7N R6W</u>
François Robieux	[S14 & 91]
François Lavespère	[S15 & 92]
Jean B ^{te} Latier	[S20 & 97]
François Latier	[S20 & 97]
Pierre Chariau	2 males 26–45 [The additional male has not been identified] 1 white female 26–45 [1811, his marriage to M. Rabalais was blessed] 1 male 0–10
Joseph Derbanne	[S26, 28 & 101, 102]
Madame Brosset	[on land of (or adjacent to) son-in-law Joseph Derbanne]
Charles Lemoine [Jr.]	[S28, 102; land acquired from Joseph Derbanne]

COMMENT:

Pierre Charûau’s location should be the land of Dominique Metoyer, whose plantation was bounded above by **François Lattier** and below by **Joseph Derbanne**. Given that Dominique’s main plantation was at S24 & 99, it appears that Charûau was occupying (and likely leasing) Dominique’s supplemental claim B2417, at S25 & 100.

Dominique and all other free people of color are not enumerated in their exact location on this census. They are all placed together at the end of the census. Dominique’s brother François, who lived just below Charles Lemoine, would have been the last household in the Isle Brevelle District, just below the Rivière aux Cannes enumeration below.

[Rivière aux Cannes begins here]

<u>Census household</u>	<u>T7N R6W</u>
Louis Derbanne	[S30, 31, 32, 34 & 104, 106 T7 R6] [S105 is here]
Pierre Beaudoin	[S35, 37 & 107, 108 T7 R6]
Nicolas Beaudouin	[with brother Pierre]
Jean B ^{te} Brosset	[S38 & 104 T7 R6]
V ^{ve} Larenaudiere	[S39 & 110 T7 R6]
V ^{ve} [Pierre] Lacour	[S40, 41 & 111, 112 T7 R6]
Gasparite Lacour	[S42 & 113 T7 R6]
E__ F ^{cois} Hugues	[1787 next-door neighbor of Baptiste Antÿ. I cannot find land for him in the 1800s. He was heavily in debt in the 1780s and sold his land to Widow Buard about 1787 (Doc. 1679, registered but now missing). In 1789, his property was inventoried amid the case Rex vs. Huguet (Doc. 2178) and no land was included. His land appears to be that later credited in 1810 to “Madame Rouquier,” daughter and heir of Widow Buard (Doc. 3797), Section 114 T7N R6W, immediately below the land that Baptiste Antÿ sold to Capitaine.
Veuve [Louis] Anty	[S44 T7 R6; formerly land of J. B. Antÿ, her brother-in-law]
Nicolas Gallien	[S45 & 114 T7 R6]
Benin Vercher	[married to Marie Gallien; likely on Gallien’s land]

COMMENT:

Here the river dips briefly into the township to the south, before rising again and moving into the township to the east of those above.

Census household

T6N R6W

Berthelemy LeCour [S38 T6N R6W]
 Ambroise Lecomte [S36 T6N R6W; but see below]

Census household

T7N R5W

Ambroise Lecompte [several sections along border with T7N R6W]
 Alexis Cloutier [S48, present Cloutierville, widower of Lecompte’s sister]
 [Lower Rivière aux Cannes; below present Cloutierville]
 François Davion [S49; married to Cloutier’s sister Marguerite]
 Athanase Lecour[t] [S50; on land granted to self or father Louis Mathias LeCourt de Presle]
 Antoine Coindet [S52 & 53]
 Simon Goy [S54]
 P^{re} Labombarde [S55; Wm. Patterson “Peterson” claim on plat map]
 Jean B^{te} Rachal [S56]
 Pierre Kerry [not located; living either on S57, 58, 59, 60 or 71]
 Louis Tomassine [S72, 73]
 Franc^s Poirier dit Vincent [not located]
 Joseph Raballé [S59, brother-in-law of Pierre Charûau]

[p. 212]

Census household

T6N R5W

Jean B^{te} Bonnette [S80-81]
 Eman^l Derbanne [S78-79]
 Joseph Taure [S69]
 Jean B^{te} Morin [S74]
 Paul Couty [S65; “Coutant” in ASP-PL 3:198]
 Pierre Michel [S62, 64, & 76]
 Berthelemy Rachal [S51 & 54; Hidden Hill adjoining “Little Eva” Plantation]
 P^{re} Nolasque De Porcuna [S55 & 56; married to Madeline Laberie]
 Nicolas Beaudin [26 arpents frontage adjacent to Mme. Porter; sold before plat map created]
 Madame Porter [S38, 40, 42, 43 T6N R5W; S82 T6N R4W]

Census household

T6N R4W

James F. Porter S82; estranged husband of Mme. Porter; living on her land]
 Antⁿ Rachal [S54, 55, 56, 57]
 Jacob St. André [S50, 51]
 Narcisse Prud’homme
 André St. André [S45, 46]

COMMENT:

Here, the enumerator has reached the Natchitoches-Rapides parish line. He turns and moves back up river, either on the opposite bank or else picking up households that were not at home on his way down.

D[a]me V ^e Gagnier	[née Marie Louise Davion; sister of François Davion S49 T7N R5W; Baptiste Antÿ appraised her husband's estate in 1798; see Doc. 2844]
Anty pere	[no census data; he apparently was not home when the census taker passed; in such cases, neighbors typically identified the missing homeowner]
John Biggs	[1813 bought the 640-acre vacherie of James Young, adjoining Laurent Bodin in Lower Natchitoches]
Census household	T6N R5W
Jacquet Lecompte	[S47, B1703 confirmed to Ambroise LeComte after Jacquette's death; Jacquette also claimed 640a, both sides, lower Red R, used as a vacherie]
Robert Morrow	
Jean Morantin	
Jean Bte Brevelle	[m. to Melanie Derbanne, niece and ward of Louis Derbanne]
Charles Lavignie	
Pierre Fendlevent	[Pierre Cajot <i>dit</i> Faulevent; stepfather of the Baudoins above Cloutierville]
M ^e Gertrude [du Roy]	[S63; daughter of Joseph Taurea/Torres at S69; ASP-PL 3:199] "No. 311–827) 5 arpents front on waters of Red River, between Paul Coutant {S67} & Jean Jacques Rachal {S65}].
F. V ^e [St.] Germain	[S65 or thereabout; adjacent to Joseph Taure, Pierre Michel, Jacques Vallery; see ASP-PL 3:198]
[p. 213]	
Mad ⁿ Dupre	[S71]
Pierre Derbanne [III] [etc.]	[S49; living on land of father-in-law François Davion]

COMMENT:

- The path of the census taker places Baptiste Antÿ Sr. in Lower Rivière aux Cannes, Township 6, Range 4 or 5.
- It appears that Anty was listed twice—first, as the older man in the household of his son at mid-Isle Brevelle (that older man would not be the son's father-in-law because the father-in-law was enumerated next door to him); and second, at Lower Rivière aux Cannes. Double listings are common on early American censuses, a situation usually caused by individuals or families moving amid the census process.
- The census began on the first Monday of August. Census instructions called for reporting all individuals living in the household on that specific day, even though weeks or months might pass before the household was enumerated. Considering the amount of time that it took for one man to enumerate the whole parish, Baptiste Antÿ apparently moved before the enumerator reached lower Rivière aux Cannes.

23 AUGUST 1810

NCA DOC. 3858

Inventory of the goods of deceased **Julien Rachal**, including "The Plantation Dwelling House [illegible word] the plantation has eight arpents on each side of the river in front with the ordinary depth, upon which is a crop of Cotton and corn ungathered." Also a Tract of Land cointaining twenty arpents in front on red river, bounded on the upper side by land of **Pierre Michele**, **Auguste Langlois**, and below by land of **Simeon Rachal fils**. Witnesses: **Compere** [son-in-law], **Rouquiér**, **Paillette**, **Balthasar Brevelle** [the widow's brother]. Drawn by John C. Carr. || The estimation (same day?) describes the plantation as "bounded above by Land of Auguste Roubieu and below by land of Jacques Levasseur." Tobacco crops are itemized in the estimation. Same witnesses. || **2 September 1810**. Auction. Widow bought the plantation. **Baptiste Lattier** bought the outlying tract adjacent to Simeon Rachal. Same individuals were

purchasers, also Baptiste Brevel, Pierre Derbanne, Btte. Adlé, Gasparite LaCour, Joseph Derbanne, D. Rachal [brother-in-law], François Lattie, ___ Bossier, Lavespere, Jh Vercher, J. J. Paillette, Auguste Roubieu, Placide Bossier, **J. B. Anty, fils** (x), ___ Beaudry, Louis Lambre, Remy Lambre, Prudhomme *fils* signed as witness.

COMMENT:

- The plantation of Julien Rachal was on upper Isle Brevelle, a couple of miles above the land that Pierre Derbanne sold to J. B. Anty *fils*, **S54 & 108**.
- The tract of 20 arpents adjacent to Simeon Rachal appears as **S61** on the plat map for **T6N R5W**, near present Marco.

6 SEPTEMBER 1810

NCA DOC. 3862

Jacques Levasseur and wife **Marie Therese Grillet** mortgage to **Auguste Robieau**, a tract of 4 arpents frontage on each side of Red River, to the depth it is able to carry, bounded above by the plantation of **Widow Julian Rachal** and below by that of Compere and Hertzog. “The condition on the foregoing Sale is such that whereas the said **Jacque Levasseur** and **Marie** his wife acknowledge to be justly indebted to the said Auguste Robieau ... for \$500 due in March 1812. If not paid, then the land is conveyed to Robieau. Witnesses: Daniel Eames, Wm. H. Emery. Judge Carr recorded the document in Book of Record No. 2, folios 52 and 53 on 12 December 1810. 3 April 1811, “Roubieu” appeared before Judge Carr to acknowledge that the debt had been paid. Witnesses: Compere, Dubois.

11 NOVEMBER 1810

DOC. 3881

James Miller petitions court, saying that he has in his possession a will made 21 May 1808 by the late **Jean Pomier**, whose “property is said to be Left by him to Mary Robeart his Wife during her life.” Miller is “Married in sd. Family to the Eldest Daughter of the Sd Deceased.”

COMMENT:

- Pomier’s wife was Marie Dupré, daughter of Robert Dupré.
- The next document in the volume (3882, not abstracted here) is the response of the widow.

20 NOVEMBER 1810

DOC. 3876-3877

Jacques Lacasse (x) appears before Judge John C. Carr to make his last will and testament. Wife **Marie Louise Dupré**. Witnesses: Auguste Langlois, Jean B^{te} Rachal, B^{tte} Adlé, **Anty**, Fçois Frederic, J^{as} Miller, P. Morrow. Same day. Will of his wife Marie Louise Dupré. Same witnesses.

COMMENT:

Jacques LaCasse’s land lay in **S6 T7N R6W**, mid-Isle Brevelle.

21 NOVEMBER 1810

DOC. 3880

Judge Carr gives orders of administration to **Marie Robert Dupré**, widow of deceased **Jean Pommie**. Family meeting to be held on the 9th next; those attending are to be **Pierre Michell** [Zoriche] brother in law, **Auguste Langlois**, ___ **Hertzog**, **Remy Lambre**, **Antoine Prudhomme**, ___ **Cheletre**, and J. J. Paillette, Cousins. [First names bound into crack of book]. The account of the family meeting identifies Hertzog as *Henry* and Cheletre as *Pierre*. Witnesses to inventory: **Jacques Lacasse** (+), [Jⁿ M^{ie} P^e] **Dubois**, **Auguste Langlois**, **Jas. Miller**. Witness to appraisal: **Jean Massip** (+), **Pierre Michell** (+). || **15 January 1811**. Succession sale included all the above, as well as Jean Baptiste Derbanne, François Adley, “Perite Derbanne pere,” Baptiste Lattie, François Schletre, Antoine Himel, François Frederick, Antoine Himel,

Widow Julien Rachal, François Roubieu, Louis Pomier, Th. M. Linnard, Andre Himel, Balthazar Brevel, Guillaume Bernard, Wm. Murray, Baptiste Barthelemy Rachal, Jean Baptiste Adle, François Roubieu, Jean Pierre Marie Dubois. John C. Carr, Judge, oversaw all proceedings.

COMMENT:

“Perite Derbanne pere” in 1810 would be Pierre Derbanne Jr., father-in-law of both Valery Anty and J. B. Anty Jr. The first Pierre Derbanne died in the 1790s. Neither of the Anty sons-in-law or their father participated. August 1810–November 1810 appears to be the period of their move to Rivière aux Cannes.

20 FEBRUARY 1811

NCA DOC. 3899

Jacob St. André (x) sells to **Antoine LeMoine** for \$200 “land situate on the right hand side of Red River in said parish containing between 10 and 11 arpents in front, with the depth belonging, bounded above by **Placide Bossie** and below by a Pine Tree at the foot of the Hill on the Line of Lands belonging to the vendor.” Before John C. Carr, Judge. Witnesses: Prudhomme *fi*ls and Jⁿ P^{re} M^{ie} Dubois.

COMMENT:

This appears to be **S51 T6N R4W**.

26 FEBRUARY 1811

DOC. 3905

Valery Anty (x) is in debt to **Remy Lambre** (s) for \$300 due in installments of \$100 beginning in March 1812 and \$100 each March thereafter until paid. He guarantees payment with a mortgage against “the said slave” [who was not previously mentioned or named in this document]. Witnesses: Jⁿ Cortes, Jⁿ P^{ie} M^{ie} Dubois. Judge John C. Carr.

COMMENT:

This appears to represent the credit-purchase of an enslaved adolescent or one past middle age.

6 MARCH 1811

DOC. 3917

Jean Baptiste Anty buys from **Alfred Cantrell** (s) of the state of Tennessee, “a negroe named **Caswell**.” Witnesses: Jh Tausin. Dubois.

Same day: Cantrell sold to Joseph Tausin, “a negress named Rhodie and her mulatto son about twelve months old,” at which time witnesses were Dubois and **Anty**.

8 MARCH 1811

NCA DOC. 3923

Robert Bell of Tennessee sells to “**Louis Metoyer** a free mulatto ... two Negroes named **Sam & Henry**.” \$1,300. Witnesses: James Bludworth, Dubois.

8 MARCH 1811

NCA DOC. 3924

Robert Bell of Tennessee sells to “**Augustin Metoyer** free mulatto ... Negresse named **Charlotte**.” \$525. Witnesses: James Bludworth, Dubois.

9 MARCH 1811

NCA DOC. 3924

Alfred Cantrell of Tennessee sells to **François Latier** a “Negress named **Jude**.” \$525. Witnesses: J. F. Hertzog, Dubois.

9 MARCH 1811

NCA DOC. 3928 [INDEXED AS 3929]

Before Judge John C. Carr, **Sr. Charles Duret** habitant of the parish acknowledges that he conveys to **Augustin Métoyer**, a tract of land containing 2 arpents frontage on each bank of Red River, to the depth it is able to carry; bounded on the upper by the vendor and on the lower by **Bte. Latier**, being the same land that Duret acquired from **Bte. Lavigne** in a notarial act dated 26 March 1798. Both “Durette” and Métoyer X’d. Witnesses: Wm. Owens and Dubois signed. Recorded by Carr in Book of Record No. 2, Folio 948?. || **3 November 1813**, Duret and Métoyer appeared before Judge Carr to cancel the agreement. Witnesses: François Rambin and Dubois.

9 MARCH 1811

UNNUMBERED [SHOULD BE NCA DOC. 3929]

Before Judge John C. Carr, **Sr. Charles Duret** habitant of the Parish acknowledges that he conveys to **Augustin Métoyer mulatre libre**, a tract of land containing 3 arpents frontage on each bank of Red River, to the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the upper by **Bte. Lavigne** [Tessier *dit* LaVigne] and on the lower by the **purchaser**. Land was acquired from Bte. Lavigne on 26 March 1798 by notarial act, reserving rights to the seller until his death, also during the life of Demoizelle **Catherine Prudhomme** his belle-soeur [sister-in-law]. Done for the sum of ___ hundred piasters [bound into crack of book]. X’d by Duret and Métoyer. Witnesses: Wm. Owens, Dubois. Recorded by Carr in Book of Record No. 2, Folio 95 & 96. || **3 November 1813**, Duret and Métoyer appeared before Judge Carr to cancel the document. Witnesses: Wm. Owens, Dubois.

22 MARCH 1811

NCA DOC. 3934

Before John C. Carr, Sr. **Jacques Levasseur** (x) and wife **Marie Thérèse Grillette** (x) convey to Compère and Hertzog, merchants, a habitation situated on L’isle a Brevelle containing 4 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River to the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the upper by **Dame Widow Julien Rachal** and on the lower by the said **Sieurs Compere and Hertzog**. *In exchange*, Srs. Compere & Hertzog convey to the said Sieur and Dame Levasseur a habitation situated on Isle a Brevelle containing 2.5 arpents of frontage on the left bank going upriver and 1.5 arpents of frontage on the right bank, going upriver, bounded on the right side on the upper by **Baltazard Brevelle** and on the lower by **Jean Adley fils** and on the other bank is bounded on the upper by Sr. **Baltazard Brevelle** and on the lower by **Julien Rachal fils**. Compere and Hertzog return to the said Sr. and Dame Le Vasseur the sum of \$711? payable in installments before March [or May] 1812. The Le Vasseurs had previously given a mortgage to Auguste Robieux &c. Witnesses: Paul Prudhomme, Auguste Langlois. M^l Prevost Dupré, Dubois, A. Sompayrac, Francesco Serpentine. Signed “Compere & Hertzog.” Acknowledged 28 July 1812 by the parties before Judge John C. Carr.

5 APRIL 1811

NCA DOC. 3944

Agreement between **Marie Pommier** (x), widow of **Jean Pommier**, and **James Miller** (s) and his wife Euphrosine [née Pommier] (x). The widow conveys to the Millers “one undivided fourth part of the tract of land on which the said Widow now resides, commencing on each side of Red River in the parish aforesaid, at the lower lines of the plantation of **Baptiste Lemoine**.” In exchange, the Millers abandon all their “pretentions” in the succession of Jean Pommier, deceased. Before Judge John C. Carr. Witnesses: **Remy Lambre**, [Jn Pre] M^e **Dubois**.

10 MAY 1811

NCA DOC. 3967

Before John C. Carr, **Jean Baptiste Tessier dit Lavigne** (x) acknowledges that he owes to the succession of deceased Sr. François Rouquier the sum of \$450 due in March of 1812. To secure the debt he gives a mortgage on 5 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, to the depth that it is able to carry, bounded above on one bank by **Jean Bte. Derbanne** and on the other side on the lower by **Charles Durette**, being part of the same land that he acquired from Sr. Louis Monette. Witnesses: Dubois, Jacques Fabre.

COMMENT:

This should be **S11 & 88, T7N R6W**, land later purchased by Louis Metoyer and conveyed to his sister Susanne. For Duret, see documents of 9 March 1811.

14 MAY 1811

CONVEYANCE BOOK 2: 133–34

John Pierre Marie Dubois, merchant, to **Marie Louise Rouquier**, admx. of succession of **François Rouquier** deceased. For \$1,109.81, Dubois mortgages “all that tract of Land situate and being on Red River in the said parish, at That part of it Known by the name of the River of Cannes containing **eight arpents on each side of said River in front**, with the ordinary depth, together with all and singular the houses, outhouses, cotton gins, and buildings of every nature and kind soever, bounded above by Land of **Pierre Metoyer** a free mulatto and below by land belonging to **Mariotte** a free Negress. The conveyance of the land is conditional upon Dubois paying to Rouquier \$1198.78 ½ due in the month of March next. If paid by then, the sale [mortgage] is void. Witnesses: Barth^w Shaumburgh. Executed and acknowledged 14 May 1811 before John C. Carr. Judge. E M. LeDet then acknowledges that he has received full payment from Dubois for the funds he advanced him to build “the house, gin & other buildings” on his plantation.

COMMENT

Pierre was at **S33 & 105 of T7N R6W**. This Dubois land would have to be **S34 & 106**.

15 MAY 1811

NCA DOC. 3970

CONV BK 2: 135

Before Judge John C. Carr, **John Pierre Marie Dubois** (s), merchant of the parish of Natchitoches, sells to **Pierre Charieau** (signed P^{re} Charûau) of the same place, **planter**, for \$500 to be paid in the month of March 1812, a tract of land on both sides of Red River, “containing on the Eastern bank or left hand side thereof” three arpents in front and on the opposite side the quantity of two arpents, to whatever depth it can carry. Bounded above by land of **Pierre Beaudoin** and below by land of **Nicholas Beaudoin**. Charieau hereby supplies a mortgage on the property until paid off. Witnesses: **Jⁿ Levasseur?**, **E. M. Ledet**. Recorded by Carr in Bk 2 Folio 13___, no date. || [Illegible day] **August 1812**: Dubois cancelled the mortgage in the Judge’s office before Thomas M. Linnard and Charles Slocum.

COMMENT:

This should be the upper part of S37, with Pierre Baudoin at S36 & S35. See comments at 18 June 1811 below. Note that this document was created the same day, with same witnesses, as the Faulevant–Bontemps document below, by which Beaudouin acquired the land above.

Note also that Charûau is called “planter,” even though he did not previously own land. That suggests he was leasing land in the community—which calls to mind his 1810 enumeration on the land of Dominique Metoyer—land that had been the 1790s-era concession of Charûau’s father-in-law, Joseph Rabalais.

15 MAY 1811

DOCUMENT 3972

CONV BK 2: 132–33

Pierre Foulevant and **Marianne Bontemps** his wife, of Natchitoches Parish, to **Nicolas Beaudouin**, sale for \$200, two arpents frontage on both sides of the river, bounded above by land of **Pierre Charriaux** and below by land of Pierre Beaudouin. Both sellers X'd. Witnesses: **E. M. Ledet** and **Vⁿ Levasseur**. Acknowledged 15 May 1811 before John C Carr, J.P.N.3928

COMMENT:

Note that there are two consecutive documents numbered 3972. This one is correctly numbered; the next should be 3973.

Marianne Bontemps was the widow of François Beaudouin and mother of Nicolas, Pierre, and Marie Elizabeth (wife of Jean Baptiste Denis).

Neither the Foulevant > Bontemps couple nor Nicolas Beaudouin appear on the completed survey of T7N R6W. All Baudoin lands in that region are assigned to the older brother Pierre.

This should be the middle slice of S37.

22 MAY 1811

CONV BK 2:138–39

Before John C. Carr, parish judge, **Nicolas Beaudouin** acknowledges that he owes Messieurs **Compère & Hartzog**, merchants, \$530.82½ payable on demand. To secure the debt he mortgages two arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, bounded on upper by **Pierre Charriaux** and on lower by **Pierre Beaudouin**, with all the depth it is able to carry. Nicolas Beaudouin + his mark. "Compere & Hertzog accepting the conditions above." Witnesses: Auguste Langloy and Dubois.

18 JUNE 1811

NCA DOC. 3977

Jean P^{re} M^{ie} Dubois, Negt. [negotiant = merchant] living in the parish of Natchitoches acknowledges that the owes to **Docras, négre libre** also of this same place, the sum of \$1882 payable next March. As surety he gives a mortgage on land at the place called Rivière aux Cannes containing 8 arpents frontage on each bank of the river, to the depth that it is able to carry, bounded above by the land of **Pierre Metoyer mulatre libre** and on the lower by the land of **Mariotte, negresse libre**. Witnesses: Dubois, Jⁿ Cortes. Executed before John C. Carr.

COMMENT:

Dubois has already mortgaged this land to Widow Rouquier. The mortgage he gave Docras does not indicate that it is a second mortgage. Dubois also did not use this money to pay off his debt to Widow Rouquier. Therefore, if the debt to the widow was not paid and the land was put up at a judicial auction (usually at less than the property was worth), she would likely get all the proceeds, leaving none for Docras.

This land would be **S34 & 106, T7N R6W**.

17 JULY 1811

NCA DOC. 3895

Before Judge John C. Carr, **Sr. Jean Baptiste Tessier dit Lavigne** acknowledges that he owes **Louis Métoye, mulatre libre**" [no "Sr." used for him], \$829, which LaVigne promises to pay in the month of March 1812. As collateral, he mortgages land containing five arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, to the depth it is able to carry; bounded on upper by **Jean Bte. Derbanne** and on lower by **Charles**

Durette. Witnesses: John Nancarrow, Dubois. X'd by both LaVigne and Metoyer. Recorded by Carr in Book of Record No. 2 Folio [in crack of book], n.d. || **17 January 1812**, Louis Metoyer M.L. appears before Judge Carr to acknowledge that Tessier dit LaVigne has paid off the mortgage. Witnesses: Dubois, O^{lis?} H^{ry} Sandoz.

COMMENT:

NCA Doc. 4267, dated 29 June 1814, says that Jn Bte Tessier Lavigne was “habitant de Bayou Pierre.”

13 AUGUST 1811

Marriage. **Pierre Charnau** [Charûau] (s) and **Margueritte Rabalais** (s). Groom: native of Saiyon in Saintonge, France, legitimate son of Pierre Charnau and Susanne Maitter. Bride: Native of this parish, legitimate daughter of **Josef Rabalais** and **Marie Louise Malbert**. Signed: Chs. Noyrit (s); **Ls. Derbanne** (s). Priest: Louis Buhot, Opelousas.”²⁷

28 SEPTEMBER 1811

NCA DOC. 4006

CONV BOOK 2: 177–78

Before Parish Judge John C. Carr, **Augustin & Pierre Métoyer**, free mulatto brothers residing in Natchitoches Parish, acknowledged an exchange of lands. Augustin conveys to Pierre a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes containing 6 arpents of frontage of each bank, to the ordinary depth, bounded on the upper by Sr. **Louis Derbanne** and on the lower by Sr. Jean P^{re} M^{ie} Dubois, being the same land that **Pierre Bodouin** had received by concession from the Spanish government by request of 4 February 1798. In exchange, **Pierre Metoyer** gives to **Augustin Metoyer**, his brother, a tract of land on Red River containing 10 arpents of frontage on each bank, to the ordinary depth. Both Métoyers made their marks. Witnesses: [François] Dubois & **V^e Rouquier**. Executed and acknowledged by the parties on 28 September 1811.²⁸

COMMENT:

In December 1806 Pierre submitted an affidavit to the Old Land Board stating that he and Augustin had swapped lands, a swap that resulted in Pierre holding the land at Rivière aux Cannes. It has taken them 6 years to legalize the swap. That delay was not uncommon during their time and place. We see it also with a conveyance between Marianne Bontemps and her son Pierre Baudoin. Also with Augustin and his acquisition of the land of his brother Nicolas, f.n. Also Alexis Cloutier in September 1814 (see below) had waited three years to make good on the title to land that he sold Mme. Widow Dupre.

30 NOVEMBER 1811

NCA DOC. 4026

Before Judge John C. Carr, **Auguste Robieux** (s) conveys to Mr. **François Robieux** (s) his brother, a habitation situated on Isle a Brevelle, on the **right bank** of Red River, descending, containing **8 arpents** of frontage more or less, by the depth it is able to carry. Bounded on the upper by the land of **François Philippe [Frederic]** and on the lower by the land of **Widow Julien Rachal**. Also the nègre **Jean Baptiste**, the negresse **Thérèse**. \$4760. Witnesses: John Nancarrow, Dubois.

5 DECEMBER 1811

²⁷ Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five of the Catholic Church Parish of St. François des Natchitoches in Louisiana* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1980), p. 164, entry 1004.

²⁸ Natchitoches Parish Conveyance Book 2:177–78.

NCA DOC. 4030

F^s Frederic (s) conveys to **F^s Roubieu** (s) a tract of 10 arpents of frontage on Red River, **right bank** descending, for which the sd. Roubieu conveys to Frederic a tract of 7 arpents of frontage on the right bank descending, bounded on the lower by the land of the acquirer. Witnesses: **Roubieu fils, B^{tte} Adlé**. The document apparently was drawn by Roubieu, then proved by “Roubieu *fils*” before John C. Carr, who neglected to cite the date of proving.

11 DECEMBER 1811

NCA DOC. 4034

Jean Baptiste Derbanne (x) and wife **Marie Helaine Brevelle** (x), habitants of **L’isle a Brevelle** sell to Sieur **Antoine Barthelemie Rachal** (x) “living also in the same place” and here, accepting, a tract of land containing **2 arpents and 12 toises** of frontage on each bank of Red River, which makes 4 arpents and 24 toises, with the ordinary depth, bounded on the upper by the seller and on the lower by **Jean Baptiste Tessié [Lavigne]**. \$440. Witnesses: **Ls Derbanne, P^{re} Charûau**. **20 December 1811**, witnesses “Louis Derbanne and Pierre Charuau” proved the deed before Judge Carr.

COMMENT:

The handwriting of the document appears to be Charûau. **This is the earliest document I’ve found in his penmanship, acting as a notary.**

Note below, February 1812, Derbanne and wife would convey the same amount of land at the same price to Jean Bapiste Derbanne Jr., before Judge Carr. Rachal’s wife was a daughter of J. B. Derbanne and wife Marie Helaine. Both documents represent the typical situation in which parents divided up their lands into strips (frequently two arpents) for each grown son and married daughter.

6 JANUARY 1812

NCA DOC. 4938

Before John C. Carr, **S^{rs} François Roubieux** (s) and **François Frederick** (s), exchange of lands. Robieux delivers to Frederick a tract of land containing 10 arpents of frontage on the right descending bank, with all the depth it can carry, bounded on the lower by **Fçois Lavespère** and on the upper by **Bte. Latier**. Frederick delivers to Robieux a tract containing 7 arpents of frontage on the right bank only, bounded on the lower by François Robieux and on the upper by **Julien Rachal fils**. Witnesses: John Conrad, Dubois.

10 JANUARY 1812

NCA DOC. 4040

Before Judge John C. Carr, Sr. **Nicolas Gallien** (x) conveys to his son **Neuville Gallien** (x) 5 arpents frontage on the right descending bank of Red River and 4 arpents frontage on the other bank, with the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the lower by **Louis Gallien** and on the upper by the seller, Nicolas Gallien. Witnesses: Dubois, Ls Derbanne.

10 JANUARY 1812

NCA DOC. 4041

Before John C. Carr, Judge, appeared **Alexis Cloutier** (x) in the role of tutor to the minor children of his brother **Fifi Cloutier** and his wife **Marie Salvan**. He discharges Placide Bossier, coadministrator of Fifi’s estate. Witnesses: Prudhomme *fils*, Prudhome.

COMMENT:

Note that Alexis Cloutier came into town and appeared before John Carr on the same day as his half-brother Nicolas Gallien, but they did not use the same witnesses. “Fifi” was Jean Pierre Cloutier.

17 JANUARY 1812

NCA DOC. 4043

Before Judge John C. Carr, **Sr. Jean Bte Tessier dit Lavigne**, habitant, acknowledges selling to **Louis Metoyer mulatre libre**, here present, a land containing 5 arpents of frontage of each bank of Red River to the depth it is able to carry, bounded above by **Bte. Derbanne** and on the lower by **Charles Durette**, being the same land that Lavigne purchased from **Sr. Louis Monette**, passed before a notary [n.d.], Lavigne and Metoyer made their marks. Witnesses Dubois and C^{les} H. Sandoz both signed. Recorded by Judge Carr in Book of Record No. 2, folios 205 and 206.

COMMENT:

The township map for **T7N R6W** shows this tract claimed by Louis under R&R 39, being **S11 & 38**. The land would be conveyed to his sister Susanne Metoyer after she was legally free.

1 FEBRUARY 1812

NCA DOC. 4046

CONV BK 2:216–17

Before Judge John C. Carr appeared Sr. **Jean Baptiste Derbanne pere (x)**, who conveys to **Jean Baptiste Derbanne fils (x)**, a tract of **2 arpents, 12 toises** frontage on each bank of Red River, together with the depth it is able to carry. Bounded above by the seller and on the lower by **Antoine Rachal**. \$440. Signed also by **Marie Helen Brevel (x)** [wife of the seller]. Witnesses: R. K. MLaughlin, Dubois.

COMMENT:

A few months earlier, Derbanne Sr. conveyed to “Antoine Barthelemy Rachal” the same amount of land for the same amount of money. Rachal’s tract represents the lower slice of Derbanne’s land (then adjacent to Tessier dit LaVigne > Louis Metoyer > Susanne Metoyer). J. B. Derbanne Jr. would have received the next slice just above Rachal.

20 MARCH 1812

CONV BK 2: 224–25

Before John C. Carr, Judge, there has appeared **Pacalé (+)**, free Negro who acknowledges that he owes to **Augustin Metoyer (+)**, free mulatto, the sum of \$800, with which Pacalé is buying his daughter **Thérèse** from Sr. **François Roubieu**. To secure the debt, he mortgages a tract of land consisting of 2 arpents frontage on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by **Auguste Langlois** and on the lower by **Bte. Derbanne**, also a Congo *negre* named **François** aged about 20 years. Witnesses: James Bludworth, R. K. MLaughlin. || **20 March 1812**. Pacalé buys his daughter from Roubieu. Same witnesses. || **26 May 1813** Augustin Metoyer appears before the new parish judge, P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, to acknowledge that the debt had been paid. Witnesses: Prudhomme *fils* and Dubois.

5 APRIL 1812

CONV BK 2: 133–34

Before Parish Judge John C. Carr, **Jean Pierre Marie Dubois** of the Parish of Natchitoches [note that it does not call him a merchant, as previously, nor does it call him a planter] acknowledges owing to Madame **Veuve Rouquier**, admx. of the estate of deceased Sr. **François Rouquier**, a debt of \$1469.23 ¼. Gives mortgage on his plantation at Rivière aux Cannes containing 8 arpents of frontage on each bank, to the depth that it can carry, bounded above by **Pierre Metoyer, mulatre libre**, and on the lower by **Mariotte**, free Negress. Signed by Dubois and Rouquier. Witnesses: “Dubois” and C. Pavie.

COMMENT:

Madame Widow Rouquier was née Marie Louise Prudhomme, daughter of Dr. Jean Baptiste Prudhomme and Marie Josephe Colentine; married 1782. She was sister of Emanuel Prudhomme and the J.B. who signed as Prudhomme *fils*.

On 14 May 1811, Dubois had given Widow Rouquier a mortgage on this land as security for a debt of \$1198.78 ½. The debt is obviously growing.

1 MAY 1812

NCA DOC. 4087

Before Judge John C. Carr appeared Sr. **Julien Rachal** (x) who acknowledges that he owes Mr. **François Bossier** (s) the sum of \$1,359.04½, payable in the month of March 1813. To secure the debt he mortgages 6 arpents of frontage on Red River, right descending bank only, with the depth it carries, bounded on the upper by **Jacques Levasseur** and on the lower by **François Robieux**. Witnesses: Wm. Owens, Dubois.

6 MAY 1812

NCA DOC. 4092

Before John C. Carr, judge, appeared Sr. **Baltazard Brevelle** (s), who conveys to Sr. **Valentin Adley** (s/ V..tin Adlé) a tract of land consisting of 1 arpent frontage on only the left descending bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by the vendor and on the lower by Sr. **François Adley**. \$200. Witnesses: [Francois] Dubois, Rich^d Graham.

10 JUNE 1812

NCA DOC. 4077

Inventory of goods held in community between **François Rouquier** [*l'aine*] & **Marianne Buard**, his wife, died 10 March 1812.

12 AUGUST 1812

NCA DOC. 4122

CONV BK 2:276–77

Pierre Charriaux to **Louis Pillette**, sale for \$500, land containing, on the left bank of Red River **3 arpents** of frontage, and on the other bank **2 arpents**, bounded above by **Pierre Bodouin** and below by **Nicolas Bodouin**, land that the said Charriaux acquired from **Jn Pre Mie Dubois** by sale passed before the “Griffe” on 15 May 1811. Signed P^{re} Charûau, Louis Pillet. Witnesses: Charles Slocum, Jⁿ P^{re} M^e Dubois. Done before the Parish Judge John C. Carr.

COMMENT:

Pillet does not seem to have farmed this land—more likely he leased it out until he found a buyer. Charûau does not seem to have stayed there as the renter. By 9 September 2012 (see below) he was called a justice of the peace [no location] and on 26 September he was called “justice of the peace at Isle Brevelle.”

6 NOVEMBER 1817

CONV BOOK 6: 260–61

Louis Pillet sold to **Valentin Adlé**, a tract of two arpents on the left bank only, bounded above by **Pierre Baudoin** and below by **Nicolas Baudoin**. Witnesses: Nicola Gracia, Joseph Alphonse. Both Pillet and Adlé signed.

This is part of S108 (on east side of river from S37. It cannot be S107 because, in 1816 Pierre Baudoin sold Sylvestre Anty (son of Louis), 3 arpents on east side of river, with Mariotte’s

daughter Adelaïde above and P. Baudoin below. On 7 June 1818, Nicolas Baudoin sold his part of S108, citing Pierre Baudouin and Valentin Adlé as neighbors.

9 OCTOBER 1812–24 JANUARY 1813

ASP 3:193

“No. 240–247. **Marie Jeanne Crette, widow of Louis Anty**, claims two hundred superficial arpents of land, viz: **five arpents front**, by forty deep, situated on the **left bank** [left descending bank] of **Bayou Canes** [Rivière aux Cannes], in the county of Natchitoches, bounded above by land of **Gaspard Lacour**, and below by that of **Alexis Cloutier**, accompanied by an authentic deed of sale from **John Baptiste Anty** to the claimant, for five arpents front, by the depth that may be, dated the **17th July 1810**, and a plat of survey dated the **24th January 1813**, by J. Irwin, a United States deputy surveyor, for twenty-six and six one-hundredths superficial acres in favor of the claimant. The evidence of **Pierre Baudin** [Baudoin], taken the **9th October 1812**, establishes the land to have been inhabited and cultivated for twenty-four consecutive years preceding said date, the first seven years by **J. B. Anty**, and the last seventeen by the claimant and her husband.”

COMMENT:

This is clearly S43, because of the position of Capitaine. When these claims were finally adjudicated, the land of Widow Anty was reassigned to the *right* descending [west] bank. The tract that Baptiste Anty sold to her on the *left* descending bank—in which the deed clearly stated that it was bounded below by the Indian Capitaine—was assigned by the U.S. Land Office to Alexis Cloutier, who bought Capitaine’s land from the merchant William Owens, to whom Capitaine’s son had been indebted.

As discussed under 1810 above, Cloutier claimed that Capitaine’s land consisted of **4 arpents of frontage to a depth of 40**. However, it was not possible for the surveyors to allot him 40 arpents of depth because that bumped into the land of another influential planter, Ambrose LeComte. Instead, the final adjudication added Widow Anty’s five arpents of frontage onto the 4 arpents of Capitaine/Cloutier land and gave Cloutier **9 arpents** of frontage in partial compensation for the depth that he did not have.

It is possible—as sometimes happened in situations such as this—that Cloutier made a token payment to the widow or her heirs to settle the dispute. If so, it was not recorded with the parish judge.

5 JANUARY 1813

NCA DOC. 4246

Marriage contract of **Jean Baptiste Berthélemy Rachal** to **Margueritte Frederick**, before Pierre David Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge.

COMMENT:

This is the first reference I’ve found to Lafontaine holding this position. The last prior document to John C. Carr as parish judge was no. 4130, 16 November. *Documents 4131–4245 are missing.* LaFontaine did not begin to keep a conveyance register until 17 May 1813 (Book 3).

17 FEBRUARY 1813

NCA DOC. 4255

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, Mr. **Alexis Cloutier** sold to Messieurs **Jean Louis & Pierre Deslouches, brothers**, a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes containing **10 arpents** frontage on Red River on the left bank only, to the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the upper by Sieur P. D. Cailleau

LaFontaine and on the other by the seller. \$1000. Signed: Alexis Cloutier (x), Pierre Delouches (x), J. L. Delouche (s). Witnesses: Comte *fills*, Jⁿ P^{re} M^e Dubois.

COMMENT:

This would be the 10 arpents cited for Cloutier in the inventory of the property held in community with his late wife, Marie Françoise LeComte: **S60 T7N R5W**.

9 MARCH 1816 [1813]

DOC. 4132 [MISSING]

CONV BOOK 3:522–23

“Let it be known by all to whom it concerns that I, **Marie Thérèse Coincoin**, free Negress” for \$1,850 cash paid by Mr. **Jean Baptiste Ailhaud**, convey to him 7 arpents and 1 perche of frontage on the right [descending] bank of the river and 6 arpents of frontage on the left, bounded on upper by Mr. **Victorin Metoyer** and on the lower, each bank, by the purchaser. Witnesses: P^{re} **Charûau**, **Antÿ**. “Natchitoches [Parish], the ninth day of the month of March of the year of our Grace 1816.” || **20 April 1816** [*sic*]. Before P. D. Cailleau LaFontaine, parish judge, appeared **Marie Thereze Coincoin** (x), a free Black woman who in presence of P^{re} **Charuau** and Jⁿ B^{te} **Anty** has acknowledged signing the deed. Signed: P^{re} Chareau, Anty [signatures as copied by the clerk into the record book, without the diacriticals that Charûau and Antÿ consistently used]

COMMENT:

Notice that neither Coincoin nor Aihaud called in their Metoyer-Prudhomme neighbors as notary or witness—an implication that the transaction did not occur at the site of Coincoin’s homestead.

For the mis-dating of this document, see E. S. Mills, “Laying a Legend to Rest: Marie Thérèse Coincoin & LDA Sites 16NA785 & 16NA789,” publication forthcoming.

24 MARCH 1813

NCA DOC. 4434

Alexis Cloutier (x) sells to **Athanas, free Negro** (x) a tract of land with 5 arpents frontage, situated at Rivière aux Cannes, on the right descending bank, about 11 leagues [33 miles] from the post, bounded on the upper by land belonging to the said Athanase and on the lower by Alexis Cloutier. \$400. Witnesses: Jⁿ P^e M^e Duubois, Comte *fills*, Jacque Verchere. || **16 October 1815**, Dubois and Comte *fills* presented this document to P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine for proof and recording. Witnesses to their attestation were **Gasparite Lacour (+) and Ls Derbanne**.

COMMENT:

- Jacque Verchere’s land was **S43, T6N R6W**, on Bayou Derbanne. The Baudoin and Gallien land at Rèvière aux Cannes is to the north and east of him above Cloutierville. Cloutier’s land lay below Cloutierville.
- Because this document was not submitted until 1815, it was assigned a number that fits the 1815 sequence.
- The document appears to have been drafted by J P M Dubois.
- “Madame Athanase,” i.e., Gènèviève below, is assigned to S57 T7N R5W.

24 MARCH 1813

NCA DOC. 4435

Alexis Cloutier (x) sells to **Genevieve**, free Negress previously belonging to deceased Sr. Jⁿ B^{te} **Comte**, a negress named **Julienne**, aged about 50 years. \$500. Witnesses: Jⁿ P^e M^e **Dubois**, **Jacque Verchere**. ||

16 October 1815 proved before Judge Lafontaine by Dubois and Comte *fiils*, with witnesses being Gaparitte Lacour (+) and Ls Derbanne.

COMMENT:

- Again, Dubois appears to be the notary who drafted the document.
- Again, the document number is appropriate to the month and year in which the document was filed.
- Note also that both Athanase and G n vieve’s documents were executed on the same day (24 March 1813) and both taken to the courthouse for filing on the same day (16 October 1815).

7 JULY 1813

DEED BOOK 3: 86–87, DOC. 49

Before Judge Pierre David Cailleau Lafontaine, appeared Mr. **Ailhaud St. Anne** (s), habitant, who manumits an enslaved male *n gre* named **Grand Baptiste**, aged about 50 years. “Made and passed at the **domicile** of **Ailhaud St. Anne**, in presence of witnesses “Sieurs **Anty P re**, Benjamin Metoyer (s/B^{min} Metoyer), Narcisse Prudhomme (s),

COMMENT:

These are original signatures in the record book, suggesting that Lafontaine took the book with him when he went downriver to Ailhaud’s house.

13 AUGUST 1813

NCA DOC. 4294

Louis Thomasin (x), habitant, sells to **Jean Louis D louche** a tract of 5 arpents frontage on the (left?) bank descending, with the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the upper by the land of deceased Sr. Joseph Dupre and on the lower by the seller. \$500. Witnesses: **Fs. Vienne, Comte fiils**.

18 AUGUST 1813

NCA DOC. 4316

Simon Go ye (x) and wife **Nanette Denis** (+) to M^r Jⁿ P^e M^e **Dubois**, for \$200 due in the month of March next, mortgages his habitation situated at Riv re aux Cannes, consisting of 2 arpents of frontage on the left bank, bounded on the upper by Mr. **Ant^t Coinde** and on the lower by Mr. **William Owens**. Witnesses: **Jas. F. Porter, Comte fiils**. || **26 May 1814**, mortgage proved by the oath of Jean Bte Comte *fiils*.

COMMENT:

This land should be part of **S54** attributed on the township map of **T7N R5W** to “Simon Gavelle.” Antoine Coindet is on the upper. “Wm. Peterson” is on the lower at what had formerly been Owens’ land.

The notary/justice of the peace in this case would be James F. Porter, of the Les  core District (extreme lower Riv re aux Cannes. Dubois, who was the notary at upper Riv re aux Cannes, would not be filling that role for a document in which he takes a mortgage on someone else’s land.

Again, the document number assigned to the mortgage is appropriate for the year it was filed, even though it was drafted the previous year.

9 SEPTEMBER 1813

DEED BOOK 3:129–30

Before **Pierre Charuau, justice of the peace**, appeared **Jacques Valery** (x), habitant of this parish, who sells to Mr. **Joseph Irwin**, all his rights and pretentions to land lying on both banks of Rivière aux Cannes, containing 640 acres or 756 arpents, except 5 arpents of frontage on each bank, to the depth it is able to carry. \$450. Witnesses: Jⁿ P^{re} M^e Dubois. Brun. Acknowledged before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, 18 September 1813.

COMMENT:

Valerie was then living on S70 & 71 of T6N R5W, several miles below the present site of Cloutierville. However, that is not the tract he was selling.

9 SEPTEMBER 1813

DEED BOOK 3: 130–31

Before **Pierre Charuau, justice of the peace**, appeared **Jean Baptiste Morin** (x), habitant of Natchitoches, who sells to **Joseph Irwin** his claim and all pretentions to land lying on both banks of Rivière aux Cannes *dite* Riviere Rouge, containing 640 acres or 756 arpents, with the depth it is able to carry. \$800. Witnesses: Jⁿ P^{re} M^e Dubois. Brun. Acknowledged before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, 18 September 1813.

14 SEPTEMBER 1813

LA STATE LAND OFFICE

“No. 823 “In pursuance of An Act of Congress passed the 27th February 1813 entitled “An Act giving further time for Registering Claims to Land in the Eastern & Western Districts of the Territory [*sic*] of Orleans now State of Louisiana—

“**Pierre Toussaint Metoyer** claims a Tract of Six hundred & forty acres of Land Situate on Bayou Blue a Branch of Lack a Casa in the Parish of Natchitoches Bounded on all sides by Vacant Land and Occupied as required by Law. Opelousas 14th Septr. 1813.”²⁹

23 NOVEMBER 1813

NCA DOC. 4325

Estate of **William Owen** to **John Biggs**, sale of the former vacherie of **James Young** \$160 paid to James Bludworth, curator of the estate. Before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge.

COMMENT:

ASP-PL 3:200

“No. 325–909. The legal representatives of **James Young** claim six hundred and forty superficial acres of land, situated on both sides of **Young’s bayou** in the county of Natchitoches, bounded above by land of **Lawrence Bodin**. The evidence of **François Robin**, taken the 2d October, 1813, establishes the land to have been inhabited and cultivated for seventeen or eighteen consecutive years preceding this date; for the first seven or eight years by James Young, and subsequently by his widow and family.”

“No. 324–887. **Lawrence Bodin** claims six hundred and forty superficial acres of land, situated on both sides of **bayou Young**, in the county of Natchitoches, bounded above by land of **James Young**. The evidence of **François Robin**, taken the 2d October, 1813, establishes that the claimant, upwards of forty years of age, has inhabited and cultivated the land for fifteen consecutive years preceding this date.

NCA DOC. 3339

²⁹ Pierre Toussaint Metoyer claim file, Louisiana State Office of Lands, *OSL: Search Historical Documents* (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00064&category=H#227> : accessed 2 September 2018).

Manuel Derbanne sold to **Andre “Mitchell”** 5 acres on each side of river, about 30 miles below the post, bounded above by **Madame Baudoin** and below by **Alexis Cloutier** (on left descending side) and **Baptiste Italien** (on right). Derbanne had purchased this land from “**Jean Lorant Baudin**” according to witnesses **Simon Goille**, Pierre “Cenquatier” [Sans Quartier] and “**Jacque Enbroise** [Jacque Ambroise Lecomte].

This Young’s Bayou land almost certainly lies in lower Natchitoches Parish—as opposed to the current Young’s Bayou on the outskirts of the town of Natchitoches. Vacheries in this period were set up on new land, usually uncleared, but reasonably near the residence of the owner. Bodin and Robin were both settlers of Lower Natchitoches.

15 JANUARY 1814

SUCC BOOK 1: 74–77

Judge P. D. Cailleau LaFontaine went to the plantation of Ambrose LeComte to conduct the sale of goods within the succession of deceased **Jacques Ambroise** [LeComte] and wife **Sylvie Brosset**, also deceased. Included:

- to Antoine Bergeron a trunk and “un affeiviuda.” **Mr. Pierre Charuau**, surety. 6p 4d
- to Louis Pillet a spinning wheel & 2 pair of cards. **P^{re} Charuau**, surety. 12p 4d
- to **Adelaide, m.l.** one old plow, **Ambroise Lecomte**, surety. 14p 2d
- ditto, and a lot of old plates, pots, etc. 7p 2d

22 JANUARY 1814

DOC. 4257

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, Mr. **Alexis Cloutier**, habitant, makes a donation to **Dufroi & Derzilin**, natural infants, white and free, of Sieur **Nicolas Gallien**, Cloutier’s brother: land situated in the district of Rivière aux Cannes, on the left bank of Red River, containing 4 arpents of frontage with the depth it is able to carry. The land was obtained from the deceased Sieur **Wm. Owens**. Made and done at the domicile of Alexis Cloutier. Signed: Alexis Cloutier (+), Nicolas Gallien (+), Ambroise Lecomte (+). Witnesses: Auguste Langlois, Jⁿ P^e M^e Dubois, Comte *fils*.

COMMENT:

This land should be immediately below **S43 T7N R6W**.

Dufroi and Derzilin Gallien were baptized on 11 November 1816 as sons of “Marie Jeanne Cret-Anty,” b. 9 January 1816.³⁰ When Derzilin was married on 14 July 1828 to Phelonize Lattier, he identified himself as the “natural and minor son of Marie Jeanne Crete.”³¹

31 MARCH 1814

NCA DOC. 4285

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, Dame **Widow Pommie** (+) sells to Mr. **Pierre Michel Caussi?** [Zorichi]; signed Pierre Michel (+)] habitant, a tract of two arpents frontage on each bank of Red River to the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the upper by said Dame Widow Pommie and on the lower by **François Cheletre**. \$500. Witnesses: Dubois, **Jas. Miller**.

31 MARCH 1814

³⁰ Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five of the Catholic Church Parish of St. François des Natchitoches in Louisiana* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1980), entries 2846 and 2847.

³¹ Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches Church Marriages: Translated Abstracts from the Registers of St. François des Natchitoches in Louisiana* (N.p.: Amazon Kindle, 2016), entry 137, citing register 8.

NCA DOC. 4287

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, Mr. **François Chelêtre** sells to Mr. **Pierre Michel** a tract of 5 arpents frontage on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by **Madame V^e Pommier** and on the lower by S^r **Jacques Lacase**. \$400. Witnesses: Jas. Miller, Dubois.

14 APRIL 1814

NCA DOC. 4385

Françoise Laberie, wife of **Barthelemy Rachal** consents that her husband Barthelemy Rachal can use her land as collateral for a debt of \$265 he owes to Jⁿ P^e M^e Dubois due in the month of March 1816. Land is said to be situated at Rivière aux Cannes “on which I reside with my family.” Signed Françoise Laberie (+) *femme* Bmy Rachal; Barthelemy (+) Rachal. Witnesses: **Fs. Roubieu, Jn Levasseur**. || **11 December 1814**: François Roubieu appeared before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine to prove the document, attesting that he had signed as witness.

8 JULY 1814

CONV BOOK 3:276–77

Before Parish Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Mr. **Barthelemy Lecour** conveys to Mr. **Cezaer Brosset**, both habitants of Natchitoches, a habitation situated in the district called Riviere aux Cannes, containing 3 arpents of frontage on the right bank of Red River, to the depth it is able to carry; bounded on the upper by the lands of “Mr. **Louis Cezair Bmy. Lecourt, mon enfant naturel**” and on the lower by “**Sieur Jn Bte LeCour**,” \$300. Done at the **domicile of Sieur Alexis Cloutier** in the district of Riviere aux Cannes, this day, month, and year above, in presence of Sieurs **Jean Pierre Marie Dubois** and **Julien Deslouche**, witnesses. Bmy. LeCour and Cezair Brosset made their marks. Dubois, Deslouche, and Lafontaine signed.

COMMENT:

- Note here and below that Judge LaFontaine the parish judge from Natchitoches, executed these two documents at Rivière aux Cannes in lieu of a notary.
- Pierre Caesar Brosset was married to Marie Louise LeCourt, daughter of Barthelemy LeCourt de Presle by the Native American Ursulle.

8 JULY 1814

CONV BOOK 3:277–79

Before Parish Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, **Marianne Bontems, widow Baudoin** conveys to “**Pierre Baudin her son**,” a habitation at Rivière aux Cannes containing **3 arpents of frontage** on Red River, to the depth it is able to carry, of which two arpents are on the right bank of the river and one arpent is on the left. The widow declares, after about thirty years, having made a verbal donation of the same to her son. Done at the **domicile** of Sieur **Alexis Cloutier** in the district of Riviere aux Cannes, on the day, month, and year above, in the presence of **Jean Bte Comte fils** and **Alexis Cloutier** witnesses. The two Baudoins and Alexis Cloutier made their marks. LeComte and LaFontaine signed.

COMMENT:

This should be **S35 & 107** or **37 & 108** of **T7N R6W**. The 1 arpent on the left bank would lie in 107 or 108. If in 107, it should be the lower part of 107, given that Mariotte was in the upper part adjoining Jean Pierre Marie Dubois.

30 JULY 1814

NCA DOC. 4345

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, judge, was present **Jaques Valery (x)**, domiciled in this parish, who conveys to Mr. **Jⁿ P. Marie Dubois**, also present and accepting, a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes containing 5 arpents frontage on each bank of Red River, land that the vendor owned by act of 9 September past, retained in the office of the parish judge.

COMMENT:

In October 1814, Dubois sold this land to Joseph Irwin. At that time, Manuel Derbanne was said to be the landowner above the tract, with Irwin owning the land below the tract.

This should be **S70 & 71, T6N R5W**.

8 AUGUST 1814

CONV BOOK 3:295

Marie Louise Horn, widow of **John Horn** deceased, renounces her interests in that estate. She X'd. Witnesses: J. W. Windship, Germeuil. Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge. \$115. Witnesses: Charles Durette and Alexandre Germeuil.

COMMENT:

NCA Doc. 3010 identifies Mrs. Horn as Marie Louise Baudouin [Bodin].

22 AUGUST 1814

NCA DOC. 4354

Pierre Toutan sells to Mr. **Alexis Cloutier**, a tract of land situated on the right bank of Bayou Derbanne, for \$100 which he recognizes having received over about 9 years time. Signed: P^{re} Toutan (+). Witnesses: P^{re} Derbanne *fi*ls (+), Jⁿ P^e M^e Dubois. || **31 August 1814**, Dubois appeared before Parish Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine to attest his witnessing the above sale.

COMMENT:

Dubois appears to have drafted this document, although no record since 1812 has referred to him as a justice of the peace or noary.

9 SEPTEMBER 1814

NCA DOC. 4361

CONV BOOK 3: 302–3

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, “the free negress named **Marie Louise, dite Mariotte**, declares that, seeing that there is no opposition to her announced act, now manumits her daughter **Marie Adelaide**, who is her slave. Also to be free from bondage are Adelaide’s children under the age of ten: **Philippe Valsaint**, quadroon, aged 9 years, who was baptized free; **Marie Doralie**, a quadroon aged 8 years, who was baptized free; **Joseph Manuel**, a quadroon aged 6 years, who was baptized free; **Sanville, quadroon, aged 7 months** who has not yet been baptized. Witnesses: **Jean Pierre Marie Dubois** and **Jean Bte. LeComte fils**. Mariotte made her mark; Dubois and Le Comte signed.

COMMENT:

Mariotte has gone into the parish courthouse, in the company of her Rivière aux Cannes neighbors, Dubois and LeComte, to execute her document. The issue she is trying to rectify is a serious one, given that the enslaved daughter and grandchildren were named as heirs in the will of Joseph Dupré (LeComte, administrator) and their ability to legally inherit was being challenged by Dupré’s stepfather (Cloutier) in the name of his son who was Dupré’s half-brother and also an heir.

9 SEPTEMBER 1814

CONV BOOK 3:303-4

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, there appeared the free negress “named **Mariotte or Marie Louise dite Mariotte**,” who makes a donation pure and simple to her daughter **Marie Adelaide**, affranchised this day. Adelaide’s two infants: Jean Baptiste, a quadroon, aged 12 years and Marie a

quadroon aged about 17 years are to be freed. According to law, that will take effect when they reach the age of 30. ...

COMMENT:

These two children of Adelaïde were born prior to her union with Joseph Dupre.

14 SEPTEMBER 1814

CONV BOOK 3:305

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, **Alexis Cloutier** appeared to report that he had, about 3 years earlier, conveyed a tract of land to Madame **Widow Dupré** and now wishes to make a good title. The land lies in the District of Rivière aux Cannes, on the left bank, having 2 arpents of frontage on Red River to the depth it is able to carry, bounded above by land of **Athanas LeCourt** and below by land of the seller (Cloutier). Done and passed at the **domicile** of Sieur **Alexis Cloutier**, the day, month, and year above. Witnesses: Jn Pre Marie Dubois, Jas. F. Porter. Cloutier X'd.

COMMENT:

Cloutier was previously married to “Madame Widow Dupré” (the widow of Joseph Dupré II), but she has died. The Madame Widow Dupré of the above document should be the mother of Joseph Dupré II—i.e., Marie de l'Incarnacion Derbanne. She was the aunt of Louis Derbanne.

14 SEPTEMBER 1814

NCA DOC. 4364

CONV BOOK 3:306–7

To whom it may concern, I, **Augustin Métoyer**, *mulâtre libre*, and **Marie Agnés** *mulatresse libre*, my wife, living at Isle à Brevelle, in presence of the witnesses undersigned, declare that I convey to Sr. **François Métoyer**, *mulâtre libre*, also living in this parish, a tract of 13.75 arpents frontage, situated in this Parish on the right bank of “la petite Rivière dite Bourguignon” bounded on the upper by us, the vendees, and on the lower by the extreme base of Isle à Brevelle, where it enters **Lac à la vase**, that is on the left bank, opposite. The land on the left bank opposite the said sellers and the said acquirer was acquired from the late **Guillaume LeBrun**. The land on the left bank is bounded on the upper by the sellers and on the lower by **Mr. Louis Derbanne**. \$400. Augustin, Agnes, and François all X'd. Witnesses **P^{re} Charûau** and **Antÿ** signed. **16 September 1814** Augustin and Agnes acknowledged the sale before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Parish Judge. **P^{re} Charûau** also appeared before the parish judge to acknowledge witnessing the document. Antÿ did not.

COMMENT:

- In the original Doc. 4364, the name of Augustin's wife is written as **Aniès**.
- 14 September was a Wednesday. Note, below, that multiple documents were transacted that day with the same witnesses—including Coincoin's sale of her supplemental farm land to her son Toussaint. Pierre Charûau would be the notary who drafted the documents.

14 SEPTEMBER 1814

NCA DOC. 4365

CONV BOOK 3:308–9

Marie Thérèse Coincoin, free Negress, in presence of the undersigned witnesses, conveys to Toussaint Métoyer, free mulatto, a land situated on the Cote Joyeuse containing **5 arpents of frontage on the right bank** of Red River, bounded on the upper by Mr. **Jn Bapte. Prudhomme fils** and on the lower by the same and **Dominique Rachal**—also 4 arpents opposite on the left bank, bounded above and below by the same parties. \$1625. The acquirer states that he well knows the property. Both Coincoin and Toussaint Métoyer made their marks. Witnesses: **P^{re} Charûau** and **Antÿ** signed. The document was drawn up in French, place not stated. || **17 September 1814** “Marie Thérèse Coincoin, a free black

woman” appeared before Parish Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine to acknowledge the conveyance. **John Bte. Antÿ** also appeared to attest that he had witnessed the document, but **P^e Charûau** did not. Lafontaine recorded his certification in English.

COMMENT:

Note that both Augustin’s document and Coincoin’s document were drafted the same day, using the same witnesses and same notary—a man who lived in 1810 on Dominique Metoyer’s lower tract.

All parties did not go into Natchitoches on the same day to acknowledge their sales. Augustin, Agnes, and Pierre Charûau made the trek upriver to Natchitoches on the 16th. Coincoin and “son-in-law” Antÿ made the trip on the 17th.

Also relevant to this tract of land:

23 FEBRUARY 1821

SUCCESSION BOOK 3: 56

Inventory and estimation of goods of Jn Bte. Prudhomme in community with his deceased wife. Includes:

- “A plantation purchased of **B^{my} Rachal** containing two hundred and forty seven arpents estimated at \$3,000. [See 10–12 November 1814, below.]
- A 1798 plantation purchased of **Pierre J Maes** having nineteen arpents front on the left bank of red river & nineteen arpents and a half on the right bank ... estimated at \$4,000.
- A plantation purchased of **Doclas Marianne & Marie Louise Badin** N.L., having 800 arpents estimated at \$4,000.
- A plantation purchased of **Toussaint Metoyer N.L.**, having five arpents ‘of front’ on both sides of the red river, estimated at \$4000.”

11 OCTOBER 1814

NCA DOC. 4404

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, appeared **Mad. V^e Buard**, who sells to the free Negresss **Zabelle**, represented by **Augustin Métoyer**, free mulatto, a Creole Negro man named **Etienne**, aged about 30. \$600, which the said Augustin Metoyer has paid to the widow. Sighed: V^e Buard, Augustin Metoyer (+). Witnesses: Jh. Tauzin, Joshua Green.

31 OCTOBER 1814

NCA DOC. 4372

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, appeared **J. P. Marie Dubois** (s) who sells to Mr. **Joseph Irwin**, (s), land surveyor, domiciled in this parish, here present and accepting, a tract of 5 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, to the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the upper by Mr. **Manuel Derbanne** and on the lower by the lands of the purchaser. Witnesses: François Rambin, Germeuil.

COMMENT:

Dubois bought this land in October 1814, from **Jacques Valery**. Also note, the document is numbered as 4373 on its last page. It should be 4372. The subsequent document is 4373 and the prior document is 4371.

10–12 NOVEMBER 1814

NCA DOC. 4375

CONV BOOK 3:336-38

“At the request of Jn Bte Prudhomme” the following instrument of writing has been Recorded this 12th of November 1814, which instrument is recorded in the following words”: To whom it may concern, I

Barthelemy fils de Barthelmi Rachal, resident of this county, in the presence of witnesses and for the sum of \$3801 in hand paid by Mr. **Jean Baptiste Prud'homme fils** do convey a tract of land measuring **16 arpents frontage on the left bank** of the river and **15 arpents on the other side** of the river, bounded on the upper at each bank by the free Negro named **Doclas** and on the lower, also on each bank, by "**Toussin Métoyer mulatre Libre**" ... to which I place my ordinary mark in the presence of the undersigned witnesses. 10 November 1814. Barthelomie *fils de* Barthelomie Rachal X. Signed: Prudhomme *fils*; **Pre Charuau**, witness, **J. F Hertzog**, Witness.

COMMENT:

This has to be **S92 & S20, T8N R6W**, patented in the name of Miguel Hernandez. Docla lies immediately above this tract. Consequently, Toussaint would be in the upper portion of S34 and S98.

Lafon's name is omitted from the recorded copy.

22 NOVEMBER 1814

NCA DOC. 4377

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, judge, appeared **Augustin Metoyer**, free man of color, who manumits his slave **Dorothé**, mulatress, [no age]. Witnesses: Davenport, Germeuil.

COMMENT:

On 7 December 1814, Joseph LaVigne posted a marriage bond to marry Dorothée, no surname given. Augustin Metoyer was his bondsman. (NCA Doc. 4383). The couple's marriage contract is at 4384. Joseph identified him as the major son of Jeanne; no father named. Dorothée was also said to be of full age, but her parents weren't named.

22 DECEMBER 1814

DOC. 4388

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, at the Domicile of Sieur **Emmanuel Prudhomme**. Marriage contract of Sieur **Jean Baptiste Lecomte**, major son of Sieur **Ambroise Lecomte** and his wife **Hélène Cloutier** to **Marie Adèle Prudhomme**, minor daughter of Sr. Emmanuel Prudhomme and Dame Catherine Lambre. Signed: B^{te} Lecomte *fils*; M^e Adèle Prudhomme. Witnesses: Lambre Prudhomme [bride's mother], Narcisse Prudhomme, Mr. Comte **Pére, Antÿ**, M^e Adaline Prudhomme, Prudhomme, S^{te} Anne Prudhomme, Phanor Prudhomme.

26 DECEMBER 1814

SUCC BOOK 1:266–67

Succession of François Adlé. Sale, before **Pierre Charûaux, justice of the peace on Isle Brevelle**, of goods belonging to Adlé and wife Marie Marguerite Frederick, held at domicile of Mr. Jⁿ B^{te} B^{my} Rachal, adm. Purchasers included **Mr. Pierre Charuaux**, who bought a shirt for 2p.

20 FEBRUARY 1815

DOC. 4426

CONV BOOK 3: 375–76

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, has appeared **Françoise Brevelle, Widow [Pierre II] Derbanne** (x), who sells to **her daughter Marie Aspasia**, wife of Sieur **Valery Anty** (x) a tract of land in the District of **Rivière aux Cannes**, containing 6 arpents of frontage, being 3.5 arpents frontage on the right bank and 2.5 arpents frontage on the left bank, bounded on the right bank, at the upper, by land of **Antoine Coinde** and on the lower by land belonging to the Succession of deceased **William Owens**. On the left bank, it is bounded on the upper by land of **Antoine Coindé** and on the lower by land of the minor **Jⁿ B^{te}**

Goye. \$430. Passed at the domicile of Sieur **Ambroise Comte** in the district of Rivière aux Cannes. Witnesses: **Comte fils** (s), **Ls Derbanne** (s). Acknowledged 20 February 1815 before Judge Lafontaine.

COMMENT:

The parish judge has again gone downriver to execute the document. The Coindet-Owens-Goy neighborhood was in T7N R5W, a couple of miles below present Cloutierville. The land being conveyed here would appear to be the upper half of the tract confirmed to Simon Goÿ (“Gavelle”), Section 54.

8 MAY 1815

NCA DOC. 4449

CONV BOOK 3:388–90

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, **Augustin Metoyer**, free man of color conveys to **Louis Metoyer** land at Isle à Brevelle, containing 5 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River [now Cane River] bounded on the upper, both banks, by lands of **Louis Metoyer** the acquirer, and on the lower at both banks by the land of Augustin Metoyer, the seller. \$1500. Witnesses: C. Pavie and Germeuil. Both Metoyer’s X’d.

COMMENT:

This appears to be **S18 & S95, T7N R6W** (patented to Augustin as B1952), originally the grant of Pierre Metoyer.

8 MAY 1815

NCA DOC. 4450

CONV BOOK 3:390–92

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, **Louis Metoyer**, free man of color, sells to **Suzanne Metoyer**, free woman of color, sister of the seller, absent but represented by **Augustin Metoyer**, free man of color, a tract of land on Isle Brevelle, consisting of 5 arpents on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper on both banks by Sieur **Antoine Barthelemy Rachal** and on the lower, both banks, by the said **Augustin Metoyer**. \$1500. Witnesses: C. Pavie and Germeuil. Both Metoyers X’d.

COMMENT:

Susanne, aged 47, is now free under the terms of her conditional manumission of 1802 that required her to continue to serve her father’s wife until the wife died. That wife died 6 February 1813, according to her grave marker in the American Cemetery at Natchitoches.

This land is **S11 & 88, T7N R6W**, previously bought from Charles Duret.

8 MAY 1815

NCA DOC. 4451

CONV BOOK 3:392–93

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, **Jean Bapte. Latier**, habitant of Natchitoches, conveyed to **Augustin Metoyer**, homme de couleur libre, also an inhabitant of Natchitoches, “one habitation situated in the parish of Natchitochses at the place called Isle à Brevelle, containing 5 arpents of frontage on each bank, to the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the upper by lands of the said **Augustin Metoyer** and on the lower by **François Frederic** on the right bank and Augustin Metoyer on the left. \$1500. Witnesses: Joshua Green, Fleetwood Herndon, witnesses. Latter and Metoyer made their marks. Signed “T. Herndon, Joshua Green,” witnesses.

COMMENT:

Several tracts were confirmed by the U.S. to *François* Lattier, between Augustin and Dominique. The only one that seems to have 5 arpents on both sides would be **S23 & S98, T7N R6W**, although neighbors do not match.

15 MAY 1815

SUCC BOOK 1:305–7

Succession of **Jean Renaud Agués**. Sale, before **Pierre Charuau, Justice of the Peace**, of goods belonging to Agués, in presence of his widow **Marie Louise Massip**. Purchasers included Charles LeMoine, Alexis Cloutier, **Pierre Charuau** (who bought a red bull), **Baltazar Brevel, Joseph LaVigne** [with Aug. Metoyer as surety], **F^s Millon**, and many more.

COMMENT:

Note here and below that Pierre Charûau and Jean Pierre Marie Dubois are identified as notaries in the same month: Charûau on 15 May; Duboi on 23 May. Dubois would be serving the Rivière aux Cannes district. Charûau would be serving Isle Brevelle. The 1810 census places Charûau on the supplemental land of Dominique Metoyer, lower Isle Brevelle. In 1811, he bought land from Dubois at Rivière aux Cannes, but could not pay the debt and sold the land the next year. Apparently, he has returned to Dominique's land or to someone else's on the Isle.

23 MAY 1815

SUCC BOOK 1: 329–31, 344–50

Succession of **Catherine Henriette Latier**, deceased, and husband **Louis Thomassie**. Inventory before Jⁿ P^{re} M^{ie} **Dubois, J.P. at Cloutierville**. Witnesses: **Alexis Cloutier**, Prevost Dupré. Sale of land just below Cloutierville.

COMMENT:

No participation by Charûau or Isle Brevelle residents.

5 JUNE 1815

CONV BOOK 3:403–4

Pierre Michel [Zarichi] to **Pierre Metoyer** fmc, a land situated in Natchitoches containing 7 arpents on each bank of Red River [now Cane River] to the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the upper, both banks, by lands of **Widow Pomier** & on lower by those of **Mr. Jacques Lacaze**. Seller purchased the land from Widow Pommier & François Chelette on 31 March 1814? [digit is bound into the crease]. Witnesses: François Rambin, Alexandre Germeuil.³²

COMMENT:

The back of the document is mislabeled, by the clerk, as Pierre *Metoyer* to Pierre Metoyer, h.c.l.

Note that the tract is said to contain 7 arpents on both sides, while Pierre's marriage contract states that he held 4 arpents on both sides. Did he sell 3 or did one of these documents contain a copying error?

Pierre has begun to expand away from Coincoin's homestead although the 1 January 1816 survey identifies Pierre as the original claimant for Coincoin's land.

This new tract is mid-Isle Brevelle—about 8 miles (as the crow flies) or 10 miles (by the twists and turns of the river) from Coincoin's land. It lies adjacent to the land of Pierre Derbanne Jr., whose two daughters married the sons of Baptiste Antÿ.

³² Natchitoches Parish Conveyance Book 2:403.

6 JUNE 1815

SUCC BOOK 1:320

Succession of **Mme. Widow Julien Rachal** [Sr.]. Sale conducted by P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Parish Judge.

COMMENT:

Note that Lafontaine, after finishing the Rachal auction, headed down river to the point of the Isle where, the next day, he inventoried the land left by the community of François Metoyer and wife, then executed several other documents for the Metoyers.

7 JUNE 1815

SUCC BOOK 1:314–18

Succession of **Marguerite**, wife of **François Metoyer**. Sale conducted by P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Parish Judge. Goods included habitation situation in the Parish of Natchitoches at the place called Isle a Brevelle on Red River, containing about 9 arpents of frontage on each bank ... bounded on the upper, both banks, by land belonging to **Augustin Metoyer** and on the lower, left bank by land of **Louis Derbanne** and on the right bank, at the lower, by a river named Lac a La Vase." François Metoyer bought everything. Witnesses: **Pierre Charuau**, Jⁿ P^{re} M^{ie} Dubois."

COMMENT:

Note that Charûau is not acting in his role as justice of the peace. The judge is in charge; Charûau is only his witness.

Re "Lake a La Vase," I've seen no other reference to this name in contemporary records. François's land at that time was S29 T7N R6W (land office claim B1457), which he had obtained from Augustin. Louis Derbanne was indeed the lower neighbor on left bank.

Also note that this transpired the same day as

- Baptiste Antÿ's conveyance of a slave to his son Jean Baptiste Anty *fi*ls. (NCA Doc. 4462)
- Marriage contracts of Antÿ's daughter and her half-brother Florentin Conant (NCA Doc. 4464, 4465)
- Sale by Marie Louise LeComte, wife of James F. Porter, to her husband: a mulatress slave named Lucie, aged about 25, \$900. Witnesses: P^{re} Charûau. Done at Isle Brevelle home of **Sieur Charles Lemoine** (François Metoyer's adjacent neighbor). (Doc. 4463).

7 JUNE 1815

DOC. 4464

DEED BOOK 4:156–19

Marriage contract, place of execution not stated, between **Jean Baptiste Florestine [Conant]** (s/ Jⁿ Baptis Florrentin) and **Marie Louise [Metoyer]** (x). He, minor son of **Marie Susanne**, fwc. She, minor and legitimate daughter of **Augustin Metoyer** and his spouse **Marie Agnes**. Goods of the groom consists of \$200 that his mother has given him in contemplation of the marriage and 4500 piasters in silver, effects, movables, animals, etc. Goods of the bride consists of *5 arpents of land on each bank of Red River*, bounded on the upper by the land of **Susanne Metoyer**, free woman of color, and on the lower by the father of bride; also a sum of \$600 in silver, making all together the value of \$1600. Witnesses: **Prudhomme, Antÿ, Jas. F. Porter, P^{re} Charûau**.

COMMENT:

This land appears to be the tract confirmed to Charles Duret, **S12 & 89, T7N R6W**, adjacent to the tract he sold Louis Metoyer.

7 JUNE 1815

DOC. 4465

DEED BOOK 4:159–161

Marriage contract, place of execution not stated, between **Jean Baptiste Metoyer, fils Augustin (s)** and **Susanne (x)** daughter of **Marie Susanne (x)**. Augustin Metoyer (x) gave them 5 arpents of land, with him being the upper neighbor and Jn Bte. Latier being the lower neighbor. Witnesses: **Prudhomme, Antÿ, Jas. F. Porter, P^{re} Charûau**.

COMMENT:

- Note that Antÿ was there, but his daughter Susanne was not given his surname.
- Is this land S14 (B1805) confirmed to François and Auguste Roubieu, which they sold to Augustin Metoyer in 1812? The township map suggests it might be S 20 & 97 (B1906).

7 JUNE 1815

NCA DOC. 4463

DEED BOOK 4: 155–56

Marie Louise LeComte [wife of **Jas. F. Porter**, but legally separated from him] to Dr. **Jas. F. Porter**, sale of a mulatress **Lucie**, before Judge P. D. C. Lafontaine. Witnessed by **P^{re} Charûau**, Jⁿ P^{re} M^{ie} Dubois.

9 JUNE 1815

DEED BOOK 3:406

Before P. D. Cailleaux Lafontaine, parish judge, **Jean Baptiste Anty** acknowledged conveying to **Suzanne Metoyer**, woman of color, a Negro slave named Pierre of the Bambara nation, aged about 20. Made and passed in the parish of Natchitoches at the **home** of Sieur **Manuel Prudhomme** at **Isle a Brevelle**, with **Em. Prudhomme** and **Ambroise Sompayrac** witnesses. Signed: Anty, A Somparac. Suzanne made her mark.

COMMENT:

Emanuel Prudhomme's home was along the northern tip of Isle Brevelle, just a couple of miles from Coincoin's homestead.

19 JUNE 1815

DOC 4471

Before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, marriage contract of "**François Métoyer**, homme de Couleur libre, fils majeur & naturel de **Marie Thérèze** Nègresse libre, natif de la Paroisse de Natchitoches," and "**Arthemise**, fille de couleur libre, fille majeure & naturelle de **Victoire Meulon** femme de couleur libre, natif de la Paroisse de Nouvelle Orléans. Groom's property: one habitation on Isle a Brevelle containing about 18 arpents of frontage to the depth it is able to carry; three slaves named **Baptiste** nègre Congo, **Jacques** nègre Congo, and a Nègresse named **Cid**; also diverse movables. Bride's property: \$200. ... Both parties X'd. Passed at the **domicile of Sr. Em. Prudhomme**. Witnesses Augustin Métoyer (+), W. Prudhomme, A. Sompayrac, Antÿ, Jⁿ B^{te} Metoyer *fils* Aug^{tin}.

COMMENT:

NCA Doc. 4472 is the marriage bond dated 19 June 1815, with Augustin as surety; both men signed. The next document, a marriage bond for Thomas Caro and Maria Gertrudis Tefeva [*sic*], is also labeled 4472.

Note that neither Arthemise's mother nor François' mother are shown as witnesses.

24 JUNE 1815

SUCC BOOK 1:326–28

Succession of deceased **Euphrosine Pomier**. Husband **Jean Miller**. Inventory conducted under the oversight of "**Pierre Charuau Juge de Paix**." Includes a tract of land at Isle a Brevelle containing 6 arpens

on each bank of the Red River to the depth it is able to carry, bounded above on each bank by Jⁿ Baptiste Lemoine and on the lower by D^{lle} Felicité Pomie, valued at \$1000. Witnesses: **Fçois Frederic, Auguste Langlois.**

COMMENT:

Although Charûau lived on lower Isle Brevelle, his jurisdiction would cover all the Isle. The Pomier land was Mid-Isle.

14 OCTOBER 1815

NCA DOC. 4520

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, appeared Mr. **Jean Bte. Barthelemy Rachal**, who sells to Mr. **Jn Bte Adley, fils ainé**, a tract of one arpent of frontage to the depth that it can carry, bounded on the upper by **Valentine Adley** and on the lower by **Jaques Levasseur**. Signed: Jean B^{te} Rachal, B^{tte} Adlé. Witnesses: O^e Buard, E^d C^r Murphy. Alexis Cloutier (x).

14 OCTOBER 1815

NCA DOC. 4548?

Jean Varangue (x) sells to **Isabelle Marianne** (x) his mulatto slave **Etienne** for \$800 to be paid in two installments: \$400 during March 1817 and \$400 during March 1818. Isabelle obliges herself to manumit Etienne. Witnesses: **Louis Lambre, Jⁿ P^{re} M^e Dubois**. || **16 October 1815**: witnesses Lambre and Dubois acknowledged their signatures before parish judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine. Witnesses: Comte *fils*, Ls Derbanne.

COMMENT:

Dubois should have been the notary for this document.

16 OCTOBER 1815

NCA DOC. 4872

Simon Goÿe (x) to **Jⁿ P^{re} M^e Dubois**, sale of land on **Little River**, on **Isle a Brosé**, containing 640 acres, bounded by lands of unknown owners. Witnesses: **Ls Derbanne, Vⁿ Levasseur, Metoyer fils**. || **27 March 1818** proved by oaths of Louis Derbanne and Vⁿ Levasseur before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine.

COMMENT:

- This would be Goÿe's outlying vacherie, not his home plantation.
- Metoyer *fils* was Pierre Victorin Metoyer. His father had just died about two weeks before.
- Note the 2½ year delay between execution and filing. The file number is appropriate for the filing month and year. It does not fall within the sequence of numbers used for documents filed in 1815.

27 OCTOBER 1815

NCA DOC. 4534

DEED BOOK 4: 200

Sieur **Francois Lavespère** (s) and **Marie Louise Derbanne** (x) his wife, in the presence of S^{rs} P^{re} Charuau & **Jean Bap^{te} Anty**, undersigned witnesses, declare that they owe **Augustin Metoyer**, a free man of color, the sum of \$1085. To secure they debt they give a mortgage on their land at Isle à Brevelle, containing 10 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by **François Frederick** and on the lower by the said **Augustin Metoyer**. The sum is used to pay to the heirs of deceased **Pierre Derbanne** for a mulatress slave named **Magdelaine** and her infant **Manuel**, whom they purchased from the succession. Signed: **Antÿ**. || **20 November 1815** acknowledged by Lavespère before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine in the presence of M. A. Gauvain and Jⁿ P^e M^e Dubois.

8 NOVEMBER 1815

DOC. 4531

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine appeared Mr. **Pierre Baudoin** (x), habitant, who sells to “*son gendre*” [his kinsman; actually son-in-law] **Silvestre Anty**, also domiciled in this parish, a tract of **one arpent at Rivière aux Cannes**, on right bank of Red River to the depth it can carry, bounded on the upper by lands of the purchaser and on the lower by lands of the seller. \$130. Done at Natchitoches in the presence of Alexandre Germeuil and Cesar Murphy, witnesses.

COMMENT:

Where did Silvestre Anty get the land he already owned? I’ve seen no prior document. The land owned by Silvestre’s mother—S 41 purchased from Gaspard LaCour) and the upper 5 arpents of S43 (purchased from Baptiste Anty—did not abut Baudoin land, unless Silvestre had earlier acquired the west side of the former Nicolas Gallien tract (the eastern part being owned by the Widow Rouquier).

Also see **DB 6:79-81** below, for a “7 September 1816” sale of 3 arpents from Pierre Baudoin to Sylvester Anty.

3 FEBRUARY 1816

SUCC BOOK 1:413–26

Estate of **Remy Lambre** and deceased wife. Louis Derbanne & **Pierre Charuau, J.P.** signed attestation.

COMMENT:

Charûau, as notary and j.p. for Isle Brevelle, would be the designated notary to handle the estate of Remy Lambre, who lived on the upper Isle.

6 FEBRUARY 1816

DEED BOOK 4:223–24

Remy Lambre succession to **Jean Bte Anty, fils**. Sale of *nègre* **Caesar**, slave for life. No age given. 950p. Witnesses: **P^{re} Charuau, J. P. Hopock**.

6 FEBRUARY 1816

DEED BOOK 4:224-25

Remy Lambre succession to **J. P. Hopock**. Sale of mulatto named **Moses** and *negresse* **Marguerite** for \$2845. Witnesses: **P^{re} Charuau, Anty**.

6 FEBRUARY 1816

DEED BOOK 4:219–20

Remy Lambre Succession to **Pierre Charuau**. In presence of **Benjamin Metoyer** and **Jean Baptiste LeComte**. Sale of a *nègre* named **Blanc Blans**, slave for life. No age given. 150p. Witnesses: Bossié, Ponthieu.

COMMENT:

This slave was not in his succession 5 years later.

4 MARCH 1816

DEED BOOK 6:9

At Natchitoches, before P. D. C. LaFontaine, Judge & notary. **Jacques Vercher** to **Louis Metoyer**, sale of slaves: **Marie**, *negresse* of Congo, 25, and **Bide**, 3, her infant, for \$750. Witnesses: **Pre Charuau** and **Lavespère**.

7 SEPTEMBER 1816

DEED BOOK 6:79-81

Pierre Baudoin sells to Sylvestre Anty land at Rivière aux Cannes, 3 arpents frontage on left bank [descending?], bounded on the upper by a free mulatress named **Adelaide** and on the lower by land belonging to vendor. Witnesses: **Athanase Brosset & Ls Gallien**.

COMMENT:

The named Adelaide should be on the land of her mother Mariotte at **S107**, on the left descending bank. Pierre Baudoin owned the land below that, on both banks (S108 and 37). The plat map for **T7N R6W** also credits him with all of **S36 & 107**, with no reference to Mariotte's 2 arpents at the upper end of those two tracts. Considering that Mariotte had only the upper part of S107, the only way that Baudoin could have sold Anty 3 arpents frontage lying between Adelaide and himself would be for him to have sold the lower half of S107.

7 SEPTEMBER 1816

SUCC BOOK 2:103–5

Pierre Charuau is appointed by the parish judge to conduct the estate sale of **Widow Frederic** at Isle à Brevelle.

27 JANUARY 1817

SUCC BOOK 2:143–52

Succession of **Antoine Rachal**. Inventory supervised by **Louis Derbanne**, J.P. "at place called **Ecords**." **Accounts held** on 20 planters along river, including Mr. Ramond, Mr. Gilard, Ambroise LeComte (2), F^s Baudry, Mr. Porter, Mr. Lavespère, Mr. Auguste Langlois, "Augustin Metoyer, *m. libre*," Pre Massip, Mr. **Pierre Charuau**, Louis Metoyer *m. libre*, Baptiste Chenal, Daniel Maconelle, François Roubieu, Jⁿ Pre M^{ie} Dubois, Mr. Compère, Joseph Lavigne m. l., Mr. L^s Derbanne, Mr. **Jⁿ Baptiste Anty**, Mr. Antoine LeMoine. Witnesses included **P^{re} Charuau**."

COMMENT:

Note that Louis Derbanne has again replaced Jean Pierre Marie Dubois as justice of the peace for Rivière aux Cannes.

21 FEBRUARY 1817

SUCC BOOK 2:156, 179

Succession of deceased **Jⁿ L^s Hopoke**. Inventory at his home on Isle Brevelle, in presence of his heirs (his half-siblings of the Cloutier clan). Inventory items included:

- note by **Pierre Charnau** for \$110.6
- 1 habitation situated on l'Isle à Brevelle, containing 6 arpents of frontage, estimated at 1000 p., which was subsequently (p. 179) sold to **Toussaint Metoyer** for \$2,070.
- a parcel of cotton found at the home of **Mr. Hertzog**

Charuau did not sign as a witness or participant.

12 MARCH 1817

SUCC BOOK 2:179

Estate sale of **Jean Louis Hopoke** [Hopock]. **Toussaint Metoyer** bought "1 habitation situated on Isle a Brevelle, containing 6 arpents frontage \$2070 cash. **Benjamin Metoyer** was also at the sale. Pierre Jr. was not mentioned.

COMMENT:

This Hopock land was part of the original plantation of **Julien Rachal Sr**. This places Toussaint's new residence next to the Roubieu place that was purchased many years later by Carroll Jones.

Hopock's wife was Marie Louise Salvant, widow of Jean Pierre Cloutier.

Conv Book 3:50–52

11 June 1813

Before P. D. Cailleaux Lafontaine, Parish Judge, **Sr. Julien Rachal** sold to **Sr. Jean Louis Opocke**, both habitants of Natchitoches parish, a habitation situated on Isle à Brevelle containing 6 arpents of frontage on the Red River, to the ordinary depth, bounded on the upper by **Jacques Levasseur** and on the lower by **Sr. François Robieux**. \$1200. Rachal made his mark. Hopoke signed with witnesses Dubois and Jean Désésbartz.

13 MARCH 1817

DEED BOOK 6:159–60

Pierre Metoyer, f.m.c., sold to **François Millon**, f.m.c., also present, a tract situated at a place called Rivère aux Cannes, of an area of 6 arpents frontage on the *right* descending bank of Red River, with all depth that it is able to carry. Upper neighbor: **Louis Derbanne**; lower neighbor: Mr. **Jean Pierre Marie Dubois**. Price: 500 piasters “paid in hand.” Witnesses: Ls. Derbanne & **Pierre Charuau**.

COMMENT:

This tract should be the **S33** portion of B1841, lying on the right descending bank of the Cane, across the river from S105.

Millon (aka *Mulon*, *Milon*) was married to Marie Louise Catherine “Catiche” Metoyer, daughter of Louis Metoyer by the Lecomte slave Marie Françoise. Catiche had lived with her grandmother Coincoin from the age of two (NCA Docs. 2550, 2552).

13 MARCH 1817

MISC. NOTARIAL BOOK

Pierre Metoyer, f.m.c., sold to **Pierre Charuau**, also present, a tract situated at a place called Rivière aux Cannes, of an area of 6 arpents frontage on only the *left* descending bank of Red River, with all depth that it is able to carry. Upper neighbor: **Louis Derbanne**; lower neighbor: Mr. **Jean P. Marie Dubois**. Price: 700 piasters payable in five years from date, with Pierre to hold Charuau's mortgage on the land. Passed at **home of Augustin Metoyer**, in presence of Sr. **Ls. Derbanne & François Lavespère**. All parties signed the document, except Augustin Metoyer.³³

Observations:

- This description matches the land known as **S105 T7N R6W**: the site of the archaeological site CRNHA 16NA785 and 16NA788.
- Note that the document does *not* state that the tract was the seller's place of residence, as was standard when the owner physically resided on the piece of land he was selling.
- Note also that the sale was made on credit. Charuau died before the end of that five-year period. His succession inventory and proces-verbal make no mention of any land ownership by him.³⁴ Unless he sold the land by a document not yet found, then the land reverted back to Pierre Metoyer.

³³ Natchitoches Parish, “Book 2 & 3, Marriage & Misc. (1816–1819),” fo. 44. On 19 November 1809 Louis Derbanne had sold Dubois, for \$150, 8 arpents frontage on both sides of river, bounded above on both sides by “Pierre Metoyer, free mulatto,” and below by “Mariotte, free Negress.” This should be Derbanne's B1807 tract—i.e., S 34 & 106.

³⁴ Natchitoches Parish, Succession Books 4:78–84, 145; 5:104–5.

13 MARCH 1817

DEED BOOK 6:160–61

Before Parish judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, **François Lavespère** to **Augustin Metoyer**. Sale of enslaved **Manuel**, *petite mulatre Créol*, aged about 12. \$525. Witnesses: **Pierre Charuau** and **Ls Derbanne**.

15 MARCH 1817

DEED BOOK 6:167–69

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, appeared **Jaques Verchère**, domiciled in this parish, who sells to **Augustin Métoyer** free man of color, a Negresse slave named **Julie**, of Guiné, aged about 25. \$650. Both Vercher and Metoyer made their marks. Witnesses: **Ls Derbanne** and **Benjamin Metoyer**.

COMMENT:

Augustin, like his brother Toussaint, has substantial cash to make a purchase in the wake of what appears to be the private settlement of Coincoin's estate.

15 MARCH 1817

DEED BOOK 6:168–69

Before Parish Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, at **domicile of Louis Derbanne** [*sic*]. **Dominique Metoyer** to **Joseph Metoyer**. Sale of land bounded on both banks by **J. B. Lattier**, above, and the seller below. Witnesses: Ls Derbanne & **Benj. Metoyer**.

COMMENT:

Benjamin Metoyer's presence is highly unusual. He is rarely found at these Rivière aux Cannes and Isle Brevelle sales.

17 MARCH 1817 (MONDAY)

DEED BOOK 6:170–71

Benjamin Metoyer was back in the town of Natchitoches, where he and Baptiste Adlé appeared in the "*study*" of P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, for Adlé to sell a Negro slave to Benjamin. Witnesses: Fs. Vienne, Btte Adlé [Jr.].

15 MARCH 1817

DEED BOOK 6:159–60

Before Parish Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, at domicile of **Louis Gallien** [*sic*]. Jacques Vercher to **Augustin Metoyer**. Sale of a negressee named **Julie**, 25, Guinea, slave for life. \$____. Witnesses: **Ls Derbanne**, B^{min} **Metoyer**.

COMMENT:

Charûau is not involved in this transaction. Note that he also was not a purchaser at the sale of Louis Gallien's goods, that same day.

15 MARCH 1817

SUCC BOOK 2:180

Succession of **Louis Gallien**. Sale overseen by P. D. Cailleau LaFontaine, Parish Judge, at the home of the deceased at Rivière aux Cannes. Purchasers included P^{re} **Métoyer**, who bought one steel bar for 2-6, and **François Millon** who bought 3 "boilers."

17 MARCH 1817

SUCC BOOK 2:201

Inventory of **Pierre Michel Zoriche** in community with deceased wife **Cécile Dupré**. Includes 1 note for \$1000 due from "**Pre. Metoyer M.L.**"

COMMENT:

P. Michel Zoriche is the man from whom Pierre bought a part of the Pommier land in 1815. It is probable that this note is for the remainder of the purchase price.

8 APRIL 1817

CONV BOOK 6:179–80

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, **Mr. P. Sébastien Compère**, resident of this parish, acting as special procureur for Sr. David C. Williams of New Orleans ... sells to **Dominique Métoyer**, free man of color, land at Rivière aux Cannes containing 9 arpents of frontage on the left bank and 8 on the right, to the depth it is able to carry. \$1300 cash. The land comes from the succession of **William Owens**, 31 July 1815. Witnesses: Fs. Hertzog, Baltazar Brevelle. Compère signed, Métoyer made his mark.

COMMENT:

I have not yet located this land, but it should be below Cloutierville—considerably removed from Dominique’s plantation. Possibly, he is purchasing it for one of his newly adult sons who married multiracial daughters of Jean Baptiste Louis Rachal, a settler in the area of the new purchase.

10 APRIL 1817

CONV BOOK 6:182–83

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge, **Pierre (dit Bayonne)**, free man of color, sold to **Louis Metoyer**, free man of color, a tract of land at the place called **Ecores**, containing 3 arpents of frontage on the right bank of Red River, bounded above by **Mr. Bte Latié** and below by Mr. **Barthelemy Rachal**. Drawn up at the domicile of **Sieur Silvestre Rachal**, 10 April 1817. Witnesses: F^{COIS} Frederic, Nicola Gracia.

1817

Marriage. _____ ite (s) and _____ Beaudoin? “Nothing remains of this entry except signatures. Those of the bride and groom are almost entirely destroyed. The signature of Nicolas Baudoin (x) appears just under that of the bride and groom, a spot usually reserved for close family members, and more often for a father. Under the column labeled ‘witnesses’ there appear the following signatures: **Michel Carlos mere _____ n (x); Athanas LaCour (x); Pier Baudoin (x); M. Prevost Dupré (s); P^{re} Charnau (s); Bte. Cheval (s)**. Priest: Franco. Magnes.”³⁵

26 SEPTEMBER 1817

DEED BOOK 6:252–53

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, at home of **Susanne Metoyer**. Donation by **Augustin Metoyer** to son **Maxille Metoyer**, who is marrying **Marie Aspasia**, daughter of Susanne. Land at Isle à Brevel, 6 arpents on both sides of Red River, bounded above by **Charles Lemoine** and below by land of **François Metoyer**. Witnesses: Lavèspere, **P^{re} Charuau**.

COMMENT:

François Metoyer’s land was the lower portion of Sections 19 and 103, at the foot of the Isle, for which the claim was filed by and confirmed to his brother Augustin.

The land that Augustin donated to Maxille should be the upper portion of **S29 & 103**, T7N R6W.

27 SEPTEMBER 1817

NCA DOC. 4890

B^{te} B^{lemy} Rachal conveys Mr. **Phillippe Frédéric (x)** a tract of land on l’ille Brevelle, containing 2 arpents of frontage on each bank of the river to the depth it can carry, bounded above on the left bank by the

³⁵ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five*, p. 124, entry 772.

seller and on the lower by **Bte Brevelle** and on the right bank on the upper by the seller and on the lower by **Rosalie Larenaudière**, dame **Ganivet [Ganiret? Guisarnat?]**. \$700. Seller signed (very crudely) as **Jean B^{te} Rchle**. Witnesses: **Ls Derbanne, B^{min} Metoyer, P. S. Compere, Prudhomme**. || **13 April 1818** proved before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine by Benjamin Métoyer. Witnesses: Dranguet, [illegible].

COMMENT:

This tract should be on upper Isle Brevelle.

10 OCTOBER 1817

SUCC BOOK 2:307

Inventory of goods held in community by **Pierre Metoyer** and his deceased wife **Marie Perine**, woman of color, who died intestate on 11 July 1815. Three children: **Marie Susette, Pierre, Athanasite Vienne**, etc.

15 DECEMBER 1817

DEED BOOK 6:278

Before _____? **Victorin Metoyer** sells to **Louis Metoyer**, a Guineau named **Babet**, about 45. \$400. On condition that she be freed. Witnesses: Wm. Callaghan, Felix Estrada.

17 DECEMBER 1817

DEED BOOK 6:279

Before _____? **Benjamin Metoyer** sells to **Louis Metoyer**, a Creole mulatresse named **Brigitte**, aged about 14. 50p. No stipulation for manumission [she is too young to legally qualify]. Witnesses: Ch. Noyrit, Louis Fort.

31 DECEMBER 1817

DEED BOOK 7: 96

Marriage contract. **Pierre Metoyer** and **Henriette**. He calls himself "*filz naturel de feu*" **Marie Thérèse dite Coincoin**. The property he is taking into the marriage consists of a habitation of 14 arpents frontage on Isle à Brevel.

COMMENT:

Pierre does not mention any land at Rivière aux Cannes. The credit sale of S105 to Pierre Charûau is still in effect.

LATE 1817 OR EARLY 1818

SUCC BOOK 2: 339–41

Inventory of **B. Guisainet**, included a debt due from "**Tousant Metoyer** —.50.

28 JANUARY 1818

NCA DOC. 4841

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, marriage contract of **Manuel Llorens** (s), free man of color, of full age, natural son of **Françoise Nivelles**, free woman of color, native of New Orleans and **Marie Arcène Metoyer** (x), free woman of color, minor and natural daughter of **Susanne Metoyer** (x). The goods of the future groom consists of one house in the post of Natchitoches, estimated at \$1000. The goods of the bride consist of \$700 that her mother has given her as an advancement on her inheritance. Witnesses: D. Case, Jh. Tauzin.

10 FEBRUARY 1818

SUCC BOOK 2:351

Sale of estate of **Marianne Buard**, wife of **Fs. Rouquier**. **Toussaint Metoyer** bought **Elsey**, no age cited, "Negresse," \$1320.

19 FEBRUARY 1818

NCA DOC. 4836

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, **Jean Pomié** (x) sells to **Jacques Lacase** (x) land at Isle a Brevelle that has not been surveyed, for the sum of \$300. Witnesses: Felix Trudeau, B. Dranguet.

13 MAR 1818

NCA DOC. 4852

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Sieur **Louis Pommier** (x), Sieur **Pierre Délouche** (x) representing his wife **Félicité Pomier**, the Sieur **Pierre Charruau**, *procureur de* [attorney for] **James Miller**, the natural tutor of his son **John Miller** have all given their quittance to **Paul Chelet**, each for the sum of \$115.92. Witnesses: Jh. Tuzin, Gabriel Dubois.

24 MARCH 1818

NCA DOC. 4865

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Mr. **Alexis Cloutié** sells to Mr. **Nicolas Gracia**, a tract of land containing about 3 arpents of frontage on the left bank of Red River to the depth it is able to carry, bounded on the upper by land of **Madame Widow Dupré** and on the lower by land of **Antoine Coindet**. Witnesses: **Jean Jacques Paillette**, **J. A. Z. Carles**.

COMMENT:

This tract would be at mid-to-lower Rivière aux Cannes. Dr. Jean A. Z. Carles, about this time, became the consort of Louis Metoyer's natural daughter Marie Rose (widow Jean Baptiste Balthasar).

24 MARCH 1818

NCA DOC. 4866

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, appeared Mr. **Athanas Lecour** (x) who sells to Mr. **Pierre Derbanne** (x) a tract of land containing 1 arpent of frontage on the right bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by land of **François Davion** and on the lower by the seller. \$200. Executed at the domicile of Mr. **Alexis Cloutié**. Witnesses: **J. J. Paillette** and **J. A. Z. Carles**.

COMMENT:

Athanase LeCourt's claim lay in **S50 T7N R5W**, just below Cloutierville.

24 MARCH 1818

NCA DOC. 4867

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, appeared Mr. **Ambroise Lecomte** (x) who sells to **Joseph Metoyer** (x), free man of color, a mulatress named **Magdelaine, Creole** of Natchitoches, aged about 50 years, for the purpose of manumission. Witnesses: **J. A. Z. Carles** and **J. Bte. Lecomte fils**.

24 MARCH 1818

NCA DOC. 4869

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, judge, appeared Sieur **Alexis Cloutié** (x) who sells to **Louis Thomasine fils** (x), a tract of land on the right bank only of Red River, frontage undetermined, bounded between **Pierre Query** and **Athanase**, free Negro. \$440. Witnesses: **J. A. Z. Carles**, **Nicolas Gracia**.

26 MARCH 1818

NCA DOC. 4870

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, appeared Mr. **Remy Rachal (x)** who sells to **Pierre Rachal** (a free man of color represented by his father, the Sieur **Jn Bte Rachal (x)**, a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes of 5 arpents frontage on the left bank only of Red River, to the depth it can carry, bounded on the upper by **Alexis Moreau** and on the lower by **Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine**. \$1050. Witnesses: **MI. Prevost Dupré, Antoine Coindé, Alexis Cloutier (x)**.

COMMENT:

Remy Rachal was son of Barthelemy Rachal and Françoise LaBerry.

27 MARCH 1818

DEED BOOK 6:325

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine. **Joseph Metoyer** to **Dominique Metoyer**, sale for 640 acres on Little River claimed by Joseph with the Land Office Registrar, no. 318, being (on upper) a continuation of the land of **Dominique Metoyer** and (on lower) bounded by **J. E. Derbanne** [Joseph Derbanne on plat and claim]. Executed at the domicile of Sieur Augustin Metoyer. Witnesses: **Lavespère** and **P^{re} Charuau**.

COMMENT:

This is the eastern portion of Dominique's **S100 T7N R6W** assigns this to Dominique Metoyer, as the person to whom the title was confirmed c1813–16. He obviously had been in possession of it for many years before he and Joseph created the deeds to legalize the land swap. The western half of S100 was the land on which Pierre Charûau was enumerated in 1810—formerly land of Charûau's father-in-law Rabalais.

Note that the document above and the one below occurred the same day in Augustin's home, with Charûau as witness to both.

27 MARCH 1818

DEED BOOK 6:324–25

Parish Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, at home of **Sieur Augustin Metoyer**, drafts a deed of sale from **Pierre Charruau** to **Joseph Irwin** for an undivided half of land in the parish of Natchitoches, claimed by Sieur Charruau, shown in the District Land Register as **no. 354**. Price: 340 piasters. Witnesses: François Lavespère and Max^{le} Metoyer.

COMMENT:

Joseph Irwin was the surveyor used by the U.S. government along Cane River to survey the claims for land made in the wake of the Louisiana Purchase. He bought many of the outlying tracts claimed by Cane River settlers by right of "occupancy." These backwater lands were substandard compared to the land on Cane River, but they were free for the claiming. Cane River planters sometimes used them as cattle-grazing land, but often made no substantial improvement upon them. That is obviously the case for Charûau; the deed makes no reference to a house or outbuildings.

27 MARCH 1818

NCA DOC. 4875

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, **Madame Marie Joseph Grillet Brosset (x)**, duly assisted and authorized by her spouse **Pierre Brosset (x)** here present [from whom she was legally separated], conveys to her son **Athanas Brosset (s)**, also here present and accepting, a tract of two arpents frontage on the right bank of Red River, with the depth it can carry, bounded on the upper by land of the seller and on the lower by Charles Lemoine. \$305. Done at the domicile of **Louis Derbanne**, in presence of Louis Derbanne and **Louis Pillet**, witnesses.

COMMENT:

Madame Brosset was the mother-in-law of Joseph Derbanne. The land appears to be the lower part of **S26 & 101 T7N R6W**, confirmed to Joseph Derbanne. Her son J. B. Brosset was at S38 and 109, T7N R6W, just above present Magnolia plantation.

30 MARCH 1818

NCA DOC. 4878

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, **Marie Louise** (x), free Negress living in this parish sells to **Jean Bte. Prudhomme** (s/ Prudhomme *filis*) a tract of land about 15 miles below the post, the same that the seller inherited from deceased **Nicolas Doclas**, free Negro. Tract consists of 1.5 arpents frontage on each bank of Red River, with all the depth it can carry. \$622. Witnesses: S. Davenport, Jas. Locard.

COMMENT:

The only known land for Doclas was **S6 & 91, T8N R6W**, amid the Prudhommes.

13 APRIL 1818

NCA DOC. 4891

Jean B^{te} Adley (s/ B^{tte} Adlé) to Mr. **Benjamin Metoyer** (s), sale of a habitation situated at the place known as Isle à Brevelle, containing 2 arpents of frontage on the left bank only of Red River, bounded on the upper by the land of **Madame Veuve Jaques Levasseur** and on the lower by the lands of the purchaser. Witnesses: L. S. Hazelton, J. Jques. Lambre.

COMMENT:

This should be in the lower SW quadrant of **T8N R6W**: the Frederick-Roubieu-Julien Rachal neighborhood.

15 APRIL 1818

NCA DOC. 4892

Valentin Adele sells to **J. B^{te} Adele**, here present and accepting, a tract of land on Isle à Brevel containing one arpent of frontage on the Red River with all the depth it can carry, bounded on the upper and lower by the lands of the buyer. \$200. **Done at the Domicile of Monsieur Benjamin Metoyer** ... Isle a Brevel ... in presence of witnesses Messieurs **Ruelle** and **Jⁿ P^{re} M³ Dubois**. || **17 March 1818** proved before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine by **Francois Ruelle** and **Bte Adlé** who acknowledge their signatures.

16 APRIL 1818

NCA DOC. 4893

Jean Bte Adley filis (signed B^{tte} Adlé) sells to Mr. **Benjamin Metoyer**, a land situated on the left bank of Red River containing 4 arpents of frontage bounded on the upper by land of **Jean Bte Brevelle** and below by **Widow Levasseur**. \$900. Done "in my study at the post of Natchitoches... in presence of Sieurs **Jn P. Marie Dubois** and **Joseph Irwin** ... P. D. Cailleau LaFontaine," Parish Judge.

16 APRIL 1818

NCA DOC. 4894

Rosalie Larenaudiere (x) sells to Monsieur **Jean Baptiste Adele** (signed JB^{tte} Adlé), here present and accepting, a tract of land situated on the right bank of Red River, consisting of one arpent of frontage with all the depth it can carry, bounded on the upper by **Philippe Frederic** and on the lower by the purchaser. "Done and passed in the parish of Natchitoches" before P. D. Cailleau LaFontaine. Attest: **Jⁿ P^{re} M^e Dubois, B^{min} Metoyer.**"

25 APRIL 1818

ST. FRANÇOIS CHURCH

Marriage. **Jean Eugene Michamps & Marie Denis Shalere [Chaler]**. Groom: aged 36, native of Paris, legitimate son of Eugenio Mechamps and a mother not known, widower of Rosa Vachon who died in this parish leaving no children from their marriage. Bride: 23 years and 7 years [*sic*], native of this parish, legitimate daughter of **Pier Shalere**, native of New Orleans, and of **Maria Victoria Dervan [Derbanne]**, a native of Natchitoches. 3 bans. Witnesses: **Jh. Derbanne** (s); **Jⁿ P^e M^e Dubois** (s); **B^{min} Metoyer** (s); **[Le] Comte, fils** (s); **F^{cois} Frederic** (s); **P^e Charnau** (s). Priest: Franco. Magnés.”³⁶

23 MAY 1818

NCA DOC. 4910

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine there has appeared M. M. [Messieurs] **Pierre Deluches** (x), representing his wife **Félicité Pomier**, **James Miller** representing his minor son **John Miller**, **Jaques Lacase** (x), representing **Louis Pomier** having acquired his rights to the land stemming from the succession of their deceased brother **Jacques Pomier**—all divide a tract of land situated at L’isle à Brevelle, belonging to the succession of deceased **Jacques Pomier**, containing about 9 arpents of frontage on the right bank of Red River and about 7 arpents of frontage on the other bank, bounded above on the left bank by the land of **Silvestre Bossié** and on the right bank by the land of **Louis Pomier** and on the lower left bank by land of **Pierre Métoyer**, to the depth that it is able to carry. Land to be divided into three portions: (1) to Félicité Pommier, wife of Pierre Delouche; (2) John Miller, son of James Miller; (3) Jaques Lacaze, 2 arpents from the part?, bounded by Pierre Metoyer. Witnesses: A. Sompayrac, Fr? Cortés.

COMMENT:

NCA Doc. 4911

LaCase (x), this same day, sold to **Paul Cheletre** (x) his share described as “containing three arpents on the right bank of Red River, plus two arpents on the river opposite, to the depth it can carry, bounded on the upper by the land of **John Miller** and on the lower by **Pierre Métoyer**. Witness J. Tauzin, A Sompayrac.

7 JUNE 1818

NCA DOC. 4916

Nicolas Baudouin (x) sells to Monsieur **Jⁿ B. Chenal [Cheval?]** (s), here present, a tract of land on the left bank of Red River, containing 2 arpents of frontage with the depth it can carry, bounded above by Monsieur **Valentin Adlé** and below by Monsieur **Pierre Beaudoin**. \$250. Witnesses: **Jⁿ P^e M^e Dubois**, **V^{tin} Adlé**. **6th July 1818** proved before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine by Nicolas Baudoin and Bte. Chenal. Witnesses: **B^{min} Metoyer**, **B^{tte} Adlé**.

COMMENT:

This is S108, part of which Pierre Baudoin had sold to Pierre Charûau in 1811, who had sold to Louis Pillet in 1812, who had then sold to Adlé.

6 JULY 1818

NCA DOC. 4923

DEED BOOK 6:383

Etienne LaCaze (x) sells to **Louis Metoyer** (x), free man of color, 20 arpents frontage on right bank of **River Athao**, opposite Ile à Brosset, with the depth it is able to carry, bounded at left on lower by land of Louis Metoyer and on upper “bounded at about 2 arpents from the “**bas du Bayou au Cipré**.” Also sells to Louis Metoyer a tract on right bank of **Rivière à Thao** [River Attaho] opposite Isle à Brosset and on right bank by River Athao opposite Ile à Brosset. Witnesses: **Pre Charûau**, **Louis Fort**, **B^{te} Chenal**. || 6

³⁶ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five*, p. 128, entry 788.

July 1818, proved before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine by Etienne Lacase and Louis Metoyer.
Witnesses: B^{min} Metoyer, B^{tte} Adlé.

COMMENT:

The handwriting, in superb copybook style, appears to be that of the judge's clerk. LaFontaine's added paraph is in his scrawl. The document was likely drawn by Pierre Charûau.

8 AUGUST 1818

NCA DOC. 4936

Etienne Rachal (x) sells to Sieur **Jean Baptiste Simon Goilts** (x) a land "situated in Lecor [Les Écore] District containing 5 arpents of frontage to the depth it can carry, bounded above by **Dorotte Monette** and on the lower by the seller, on the right bank in ascending the said River. \$425, for the abovesaid land which came to me from **Dorotté Monette**. Done and passed in the District of Rivière aux Cannes. witnesses: **Derbanne** [apparently the scribe or notary] and **Lambre**.

8 AUGUST 1818

NCA DOC. 4937

Jean Baptiste Simon Goilts sells to **Michel Derbanne** a tract of land at Rivière aux Cannes, containing 2 arpents of frontage to the depth of 40, on the right bank of the river in ascending it; bounded on the upper by the land of Sieur **Valery Anty** and on the lower by the land of **Dominique Metoyer**, free man of color. Done and passed in the Rivière aux Cannes district. Witnesses: **Ls Derbanne** [apparently the scribe or notary] and **Onézime St. André**.

20 AUGUST 1818

NCA DOC. 4939

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, appeared **Pierre Michel Zorich fils (s)**, who sells to his beau-frere Sieur **Silvestre Rachal** (s) here present and accepting, his half of a habitation belonging to the two of them, having been adjudged to them on 10 April 1817 at the public sale of the community of **Pierre Michael père** and his wife **Cécile Dupré**, at a place known as **La Barbu**, containing about 19 arpents of frontage on the left bank of the river, to the depth it can carry, bounded on the upper and lower by lands of Sieur Silvestre Rachal. \$6300 piasters. Witnesses: **Comte fils, M^c Sompayrac**. 23 August 1818, proved before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, by Zorichi *fils*.

iCOMMENT:

This would be **S62, T6N R5W** opposite the point that Bayou Barbue emptied into Rivière aux Cannes. He also owned several adjacent tracts.

20 AUGUST 1818

NCA DOC. 4941

Marie Louise Lecomte, Widow Monet (x) sells to Mr. **Alexis Cloutié** (x), a tract of land at **les Ecores**, containing 26 arpents of frontage on the left side of Red River in descending—coming from two titles of concession in favor of **Lacour Duprelle** [Louis Matthias LeCourt de Presle] dated 2 April 1762 and 8 November 1765. Also 26 arpents of frontage on the opposite bank of Red River coming from the same concession titled by the Spanish government to **Louis Monet** under date of 12 May 1792, to the depth it can carry. Bounded on the upper on both banks by lands of **Nicolas Baudin*** and on the right bank by the **Bayou des Ecores** and land of Athanas LaCour; on the left bank by the lands of James T. Porter. Also conveys the following enslaved people: Françoise, Marie Louise, Henri, Hortense, Nicolas, Jeanne, Pierre, Rose, Modeste, Eulalie, Joseph, Dorotée?, Toussaint, Jean Baptiste, Susanne, Marcillite, Louis, François, Augustin, Pompose, Celesy, Thérèse, Athanas, Nanette, Celeste, Remy, Cephalide, Ambroise, Narcisse, Lolette, Jean Baptiste *fils de Celeste (dit Marchand)*, Elise, Manuel, Silvestre, Valsin, Etienne,

Meriquitte, Ciprien, Marie Thérèse, Marie Rose?, Antoine, Gregoire, Louis, Paul, Pélagie, Marie Jeanne, Nancy, Jean Pierre. \$40,500 payable in the month of April next ... Witnesses: Jas. F. Porter, P^{re} Michel Zorich *fils*, Comte *fils*, Silvestre Rachal. Signed: P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine. || **12 September 1818** Jas. F. Porter consents that his wife **Mary Louis[e] LeComt** “is & has been at perfect liberty to sell & dispose of any property that may have been in her possession since our Separation, and more particular to property land & Negroes lately sold to **Elixcis Cloutier** for thirty [*sic*] thousand five hundred dollars. Witness: P. Bossier. Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine.

COMMENT:

On the 1810 census, Nicolas Baudin of Les Ecores District was 8 houses from “Anty Pere.”

30 NOVEMBER 1818

DEED BOOK 7:19

“**Florentine**” sold to **Joseph Irwin** his backwater tract R&R 851. No date, but he mentions that the land was confirmed by Act of Congress 29 April 1815 [1816?]. Signed: Jn Bte Florantin Conan. Marc Sompayrac, and [illegible]. Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Judge, 30 November 1818.

COMMENT:

Florentine received a part of his mother’s much-better land when he married. That was the site of his main plantation.

6 [8?] DECEMBER 1818

DEED BOOK 7:27

P^{re} **Charûau** to **William Murray** of Rapides Parish for \$250. Sale of “my undivided half of a tract of land situated at the confluence of the rivers **Attaho & Brulée, descending Rivière Brulée** “for frontage on right bank.” The other half was sold earlier to Joseph Irwin. “The said tract of land confirmed to me by a certificate of the Register of the Land Office.” Witnesses: J. Porter, Carles.

COMMENT:

The first survey for this piece of land did not occur until 1822, after the death of both Charûau and Murray. It was surveyed again in the 1840s. The land office apparently had trouble placing it at the location cited by Charûau, above—or else the purchaser Joseph Irwin (or Murray’s heirs) chose to relocate the land. That it was Irwin’s choice is more likely, given that he surveyed the region and knew the best lands available.

“River Brulée” on the US survey maps was the name for the northern reaches of Rigolet de Bon Dieu. The surveys place the land at the juncture of Rigolet de Bon Dieu with **Bayou Bourbel** (in the northern part of the surveyed tract) and **Bayou Cadoche** in the southern half of the tract. This does not fit at all the location that Charûau described above.

River Attaho comes out of the Rigolet de Bon Dieu several miles below the spot assigned post-mortem to this claim. It soon merges with Little River (a stream that comes out of the Rigolet a couple of miles above Attaho). As “Little River or Attaho” it then flows south and east through T8N R6W, then T7N R6W, then T7N R5W—running through lands of the various Metoyers. The only river that cuts off of it is the one called “Middle River” in the extreme SE corner of **T8N R6W**, across from the Roubieus (at an unnumbered section that appears to be S70. A vacant spot appears there, with its frontage on the right bank of Middle River and no claimant assigned.

This unnumbered tract is placed as follows

- In T8N R6W (west half) it is adjacent to François Roubieu, Auguste Roubieu, and Auguste Langlois.

- In T8N R5W (east half) it is across the river from the vacherie claim of Valery Anty. Just past that is the continuation of Langlois's claim on the east side of Rigolet de Bon Dieu.
- In T8N R6W it's about a mile from the backside of Augustin's plantation and the adjacent tract of Augustin's brother Nicholas (R&R 307).

6 MARCH 1819

NCA DOC. 5011

Jⁿ P^{re} M^e **Dubois** acknowledges that he is indebted to Heirs of **François Rouquier** [listed] for \$3,331.50, which sum he promises to pay in the month of March next. He gives mortgage on land situated on Red River at Rivière aux Cannes, 8 arpents front on each side, bounded above by land of **Pierre Metoyer**, f.m.c. and below by land belonging to **Mariotte**, free Negress. Also gives mortgage on enslaved Negress **Victoire** and Negro **Jacquot**. The debt includes past sums due in May 1811, April 1812. Added clause: "At signing it was observed [that] the boundaries were erroneously stated of [for] the tract of Land. ... It is bounded as follows. On upper side, on the left hand side of the River in descending, **Pierre Charruau** and on the opposite side by **François Mulon**, a free mulatto, and below on both sides by **Adelaide**, a free woman of color." Signed: Jⁿ P^{re} M^e Dubois, V^e Rouquier [Veuve = Widow Rouquier]. Witnesses: Metoyer, Charmard [first names bound into crack of book]

20 MAY 1819

NCA DOC. 5086

Louis Thomasine (x) sells to **Mr. Paul Poissot** (x) land on right descending bank of Red River containing undetermined frontage, bounded by **Pierre Quiery** and deceased **Athanase**, free Negro which was acquired by **Alexis Cloutier**. \$850. Witnesses: **Spotswood Mills** [attorney from Virginia], **F. Vienne**, **L. S. Hazelton**. Before Parish Judge **Charles Slocum**.

21 MAY 1819

NCA DOC. 5087

Louis Pomier to **Pierre Delouche**, whereas Pomier owns land at **Point Pomier**, on right bank only, bounded above and below by lands of Delouche, he promises not to sell the land to anyone else but Delouche. Witnesses: **J. W.? Bell**, **Jas. Locard**.

21 MAY 1819

NCA DOC. 5088

Ls Pomier (x) for \$500 paid by **Jean Baptiste Anty** (x) sells a tract of land on left descending bank of Red River, 4 arpents front, bounded below by land of **Sylvestre Bossier** and above by lands of **Pierre Delouche**. Witnesses: **James Locard**, **Milton Slocum**.

COMMENT:

Note the absence of "Sr." or "Jr." for Anty. The implication is that there is now only one man by that name. The fact that this Jean Baptiste Anty X'd, while Baptiste Sr. had signed every document he created since the 1770s, also implies that Anty Sr. is not the man of this document.

13 JULY 1819

NCA DOC. 5126

Jean Pierre Marie Dubois to **Alexis Cloutier**, conveys a balance due him from **J. B. Cazenave** to whom Dubois sold 2 arpents frontage on 6 June 1818, situate at Rivière aux Cannes, bounded above by town of Cloutierville and below by land of **Athanase LaCourt**. Witnesses: **Wyatt Herster**, **Murray**.

29 NOVEMBER 1819

NCA DOC. 5188

Ls Pomier (x) to Paul Poissot (x). Sale of land on right descending bank of Red River at **Point Pommier** which he bought from his mother on 27 April 1816 “so much only excepted as sold to **Bt. Anty** of 4 arpents front on left bank on 21 May 1819.” Witnesses: **F. Vienne, L. S. Hazelton**. Before Judge Carr.

3 JANUARY 1820

DEED BOOK 8: 181–82

William Murray to Alexis Cloutier for \$13,200. Sale of land on Red River at a place called **Ecors**, frontage of **30 arpents** on both sides of the river, granted by the Spanish to **Lacour de Prelles** by two grants, as appears by the “saides” in the office of the Judge of the Parish of Natchitoches. Land is “legally derived to the said Murray, as appears ... [etc.]” Witnesses: **Thos. Thompson, John Estes**.

COMMENT:

Les Écores [the bluffs] is the land at Monette’s Ferry, along the present Natchitoches-Rapides parish line, that was original granted to Lt. Louis Matthias Le Court de Presle in 1762.

18 MARCH 1820

SUCC BOOK 2:491

Succession of **Charles LeMoine**, deceased. Inventory at his home on Isle Brevelle. His lands included:

- “Pretensions to a Vachery on the **River Brulée** settled about nine years, bounded above by the land belonging to the Succession of **Renaud Eighesse [Agués]**
- Plantation situated on Isle Brevelle, frontage of 5 arpents on both sides, bounded above by **Athanase Brossett** and below by **Maxille Metoyer**.

COMMENT:

LeMoine’s Isle Brevelle land lay in **S28 & 102, T7N R6W**, formerly the B1698 claim of his in-law Joseph Derbanne. Athanase Brosset was also on Derbanne’s land by 1820. LeMoine’s lower neighbor, Maxille Metoyer, was sharing S29 and 103 with François Metoyer—that land having originally been purchased and claimed by Maxille’s father Augustin.

Prior to LeMoine’s settlement on the Isle, he had lived on the Grand Coast or upper Isle Brevelle. U.S. Land Office records document that residence, but it does not document a claim on River Brulée (aka Rigolet de Bon Dieu):

No Lemoine land was patented by the U.S. prior to his death. None is shown on the plat of completed titles for T8N R6W, to help locate the land more precisely. *American State Papers—Public Lands*, vol. 2 reports that Charles Lemoine was the original U.S. claimant for three tracts of land on Red River.

1-2. **Claims B2032 and 2033**, for 105 arpents and 61.80 arpents, confirmed in the name of “Legal representatives of Edward Murphy.” **This land does not fall on the Grand Coast or Isle Brevelle.**

3. **Claim B2107**, for 101.55 and 120 acres on Red River, claimed by Charles LeMoine but confirmed to Jacques Lavassieure, based on occupancy for 10 years. [This would be LeMoine’s upper Isle property.]

On a “working copy” of T8N R6W plat map that I’ve used for the past 45 years, I have two notes:

- Charles Lemoine was the original settler of this land, but sold his order of survey to Remy Lambre, being Lambre’s claim B1687, sections 38 and 100. Source: Soulange Bossié affidavit for Remy Lambre B1687, MS collection 510.00064 “Claim Papers N.W.D. T8N R5&6W Vol. 6,” Louisiana State Land Office, Baton Rouge; imaged at Louisiana office of Lands, *OSL: Search Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov).
- A note on Julien Rachal’s B1846, S 54 & 108, that Jacques LeVasseur was the first owner.

Between LeMoine and LeVasseur lay two other tracts:

- Remy Lambre's B1692, sections 51 and 106 was first claimed by Jean Varangue. Varangue's estranged wife, Marie Derbanne (who owned the land by virtue of inheritance) was the person who sold the land to Lambre. See 1805 above.
- Remy Lambre's B1690, sections 52 and 107, for which I have a note that it was first claimed by Pierre LaRenaudière.

22 MARCH 1821

SUCC BOOK 4:78–80, 145—

J. B. LeComte, J.P. at Rivière aux Cannes, went to the home of **Charûau**, deceased, to make the inventory, together with Mr. **Baptiste Chenal** and Mr. **Victorin Levasseur**. Inventory witnessed by widow, unnamed, who made her mark.

COMMENT:

Charûau is still in the neighborhood of S105. He is missing from the 1820 census, but the landowners and household heads surrounding S105 were listed in this order: Phillip & Ant. Brosset, Wid. LeMoine, **Louis Derbanne** (S30 & 104, S31 & 32, S34 & 106), Frs. Derbanne, Isabel Charlot, Hillaire Lavespère, Ant. Bergeon. Compare this list to the purchasers of his goods, below.

29 DECEMBER 1821

SUCC BOOK 4:80–84

Sale of goods belonging to deceased **Pierre Charûau**. Purchasers and sureties were Jean Valotte, **François Mulon**, Joseph Metoyer, **Antoine Bergeron**, Charles Melançon, **Pierre Baudouin**, **Berthelmy Lecour**, **Louis Derbanne**, Athanase Denis, Antoine Adélé, Philippe Brossai, Dominique Metoyer, Valentin Adélé, Hilaire Lavèspere *fils*, Philippe Brosset, Marc Sompanrac, and B^{te} Brossai. The goods included no books and no land. He clearly had not paid off the mortgage he made to Pierre Metoyer for S105.

23 APRIL 1822

SUCC BOOK 4:145

Petition by P. A. Rost to be appointed curator of the vacant estate of **Pierre Charûau** who died intestate. "He has in his hands several claims against the estate."

2 JULY 1823

SUCC BOOK 5:104–5

P. A. Rost, curator of estate of **Pierre Charuau**. Estate is insolvent. Debts were paid to Arnaud Lauve, **Joseph Metoyer**, Joseph Vercher, B^{te} Getti, Compère, Sompayrac Brothers, John Cortes, L. Deblieux, and Lemaitre De Launay.