

**Dorothee Monet:
French & Indian Freedwoman
(27 September 1774–22 July 1820)**

Research Notes

Dorothee Monet Family Summary:

Born: 27 September 1774, Red River plantation of Louis Mathias LeCourt de Presle, LeCourt's Bluff *aka* Les Écores, Post St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches, Louisiana¹

Daughter of: **Thérèse** (Canneci *aka* Lipan Apache; b. c1742) and **Louis Monet** (1753–1804; French Créole)²

Relationships: **Étienne Rachal** (French Créole), son of Jacques Rachal and Marie Castel; ward of Louis Monet³

Died: 22 July 1820, lower Rivière aux Cannes, Natchitoches Parish⁴

Children of Dorothee Monet, apparently all by the French-Creole **Étienne Rachal**:

1. **MARIE LOUISE ADELAÏDE "ADELE" DOROTHÉ, aka RACHAL**, a twin, b. 5 February 1801 at Les Écores; d. after 1838.⁵ On 25 June 1820, she and her French-Créole double-cousin **François Dorsino Rachal** (b. June 1790 to Barthélemy Rachal *fils* Louis and Marie Françoise Laberry)⁶ presented for baptism an infant François Ursin Rachal, b. 6 October 1819. The child was said to be their "natural" son and Adele was deemed "a free woman of color."⁷ Her second child, a daughter Florentine, was

¹ Natchitoches Colonial Archives (NCA), Doc. 1285, succession of Marie Jeanne Leroy, wife of LeCourt, 20 April 1778 inventory of enslaved people; Clerk of Court's Office, Natchitoches. Unless cited otherwise, all local legal records used in this paper are from this office.

² See the evidence assembled in E. S. Mills, "Louis Monet's Daughters Dorothee and Dorothee: Sorting Tri-Racial roots of Two Previously Merged, Colonial Born Freedwomen," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 109 (June 2021): 85–110.

Also see Gary B. Mills, "Backtracking a Cross-Racial Heritage in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries: Rachal and Monet of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana," *The American Genealogist* 65 (July 1990): 129–42. This 1990 study covered three genealogical problems: the misidentified parentage of one Joseph Rachal (1848–1927), the change of family surname made during the lifetime of Joseph's father Narcisse Monet, and the identity of Joseph's slave-born grandmother "Dorothee Monet." The 1990 resolutions of the first two problems still stand. The third issue is corrected in "Louis Monet's Daughters Dorothee and Dorothee." The present set of research notes, together with its companion paper for this Dorothee's half-sister, provides the raw data that underpin the separation of the two Dorothees.

³ NCA Doc. [blank], loose receipts for Succession of Louis Monet, bound out of place between Doc. 3806 and 3807, specifically 8 May 1805 receipt by Étienne Rachal in favor of "Dame Louise Widow Monet," for 208 *piasters*, 3 *escalins*, and 3 *quarts* coming to him from the succession of his father and mother—Louis Monet having been his *tuteur* (financial guardian).

Some, but not all, of the Natchitoches courthouse records cited in this paper are imaged in "Louisiana, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1756–1984," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9067>) > Natchitoches. This misfiled document can be found at Natchitoches > Conveyance Records, No. 3541–3885, Books 34–35, 1807–1810 > image 407 of 711.

⁴ Natchitoches Conveyance Book 9: 34, Succession of Dorothee Monet, Alexis Cloutier's bond as curator of minor heirs; also Succession Book 3: 22–27.

⁵ 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), entry 69.

⁶ Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts of the Catholic Church Registers of the French and Spanish Post of St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches in Louisiana* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977), entry 1626. François Rachal in 1815 had presented a child for baptism saying it was born legitimately to him in 1813 by a civil contract with Marie Porier. The contract has not been found; for Marie's last known appearance in 1815, see Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entries 605, 678.

⁷ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 1272.

baptized as the “natural daughter of Adel Dorothé, father unknown.”⁸ In 1838, she presented a daughter who was baptized as Marie Florentine Cide, “daughter of **Jean B^{te} Cide** and Adele Rachal, his wife”; that last record applied no color to Adele.⁹

2. **MARIE LOUISE ADALINE RACHAL**, a twin, b. 5 February 1801 at Les Écores. As “Marie Louise Adeline,” with no surname, she served 25 June 1820 as godmother to her twin’s newborn son. On 5 October 1837, as “Adeline Rachal,” she sponsored a child of her sister Marie Céline.¹⁰
3. **LOUIS MONET [RACHAL?]**, b. 15 February 1803 at Les Écores; he died after September 1829 leaving several offspring by **Oresille Jacques**, whose parentage and ethnicity has not been determined. By 1836, Oresille had married José Marie Robles.¹¹ For Oresille: given that no Jacques family resided before then on Cane River, and given that all the children baptized on the same day were from Les Écores families, her origin might be sought on the plantation of the French-Canadian Jacques St. André, Louis’ mother’s neighbor and in-law.
4. **MARIE THÉRÈSE ROSALIE RACHAL**, b. 6 July 1805 at Les Écores and baptized as “Indian.”¹² She has not been found past the settlement of her mother’s succession in 1820.
5. **MARIE CÉLINE RACHAL**, b. c1807 at Les Écores and baptized 29 December 1809 as “daughter of Étienne Rachal and Dorothé Monet.” Her godfather was the Jacques St. André discussed under her brother Louis, above.¹³ By 1838, Céline had married civilly her French Créole cousin **Siméon Rachal**, a widowed son of Louis Rachal and Marie Louise LeRoy.¹⁴
6. **NARCISSE MONET aka RACHAL**, b. c1810 at Les Écores, his baptismal and marriage records have not been found. He was named as Dorothee’s youngest child in her succession. By 1837 he had settled into a civil union with a French-German Créole, **Marie Marcelite “Nolite” Christy**. In the baptisms of their children between 1840 and 1846, as well as the 1850 and 1860 censuses, the family used the surname Monet; in all these instances they were considered white. Their children, as they came to adulthood, switched to the surname Rachal,¹⁵ perhaps to avoid the “free person of color” label carried by all other Monets in the region.

Dorothee’s maternal family:¹⁶

1. **Susanne**, b. 10 August 1770; no baptism, birthdate provided on 1778 inventory of her mistress.¹⁷
2. **Dorothee Monet**, b. 27 September 1774, died 21 July 1820, the subject of this paper.

⁸ St. François Parish (Natchitoches) Register 6, entry 1830:61; St. François is known today as Immaculate Conception.

⁹ Ibid., entry 1838:82, dated 16 May 1838, child b. 20 February 1838.

¹⁰ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entries 69 (baptism), 1272 (godmother); St. François Register 6, entry 1837:95 (godmother).

¹¹ St. François Register 6, entries 1829:109–112 and 1836:29.

¹² Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 171.

¹³ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 311.

¹⁴ St. François Register 6, entry 1837:95. For Simeon’s first marriage and parentage, see Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3452.

¹⁵ St. François Register 6, entry 1840:125; and Register 9, entries 1841:142 and 1846:219. Also 1850 U.S. census, Sabine Parish, La., p.119, dwelling/family 219/221; 1860 U.S. census, Sabine Parish, Many post office, p. 5, dwell./fam. 33. For the records and name usages of Narcisse’s children, see the previously cited Mills, “Backtracking a Cross-Racial Heritage ... Rachal and Monet.”

¹⁶ For identification of other children produced by Dorothee’s father, including several sons, see the previously cited “Louis Monet’s Daughters Dorothee and Dorothee.”

¹⁷ NCA Doc. 1285.

3. **Rosalie Rachal**, b. 27 March 1776;¹⁸ married Louis Guillory of the Adaïs or Opelousas tribe.¹⁹
4. **Gaspard**, b. 6 January 1778²⁰; no further record.
5. **Marie Célestine “Céleste” LeComte**, baptized April 1781.²¹ In 1804 she emerged at Fausse Pointe (present Iberia Parish) as mother of a daughter Rose by the Irish immigrant, John O’Reilly. The baptismal record of the O’Reilly son Pierre in 1807 states that the mother “Céleste LeComte” was “of “Nakitoches.”²² When Rose (full name: Modeste Rosalie) married the North Carolinian William Rogers at St. Martinville in 1830, her mother was said to be “Celeste, *metisse*.”²³ (No pattern of migration has been defined between Rivière aux Cannes and St. Martinville/Fausse Pointe. However, Célestine is not the only Rivière aux Cannes native to move there in that time frame. Jean Pierre Bodin of Rivière aux Cannes died in St. Martin of Tours Parish in 1805, leaving a child; Bodin’s brothers Jean Laurent and Nicolas were married to daughters of the Natives Pierre *dit* Capitaine and Madeleine, who were inventoried with Dorothee and her family as LeCourt slaves in 1778.)²⁴
6. **Jacques Ambrose “Jacquitte” LeComte**, b. 25 May 1783; died 24 November 1813. He eloped to Natchez, Mississippi, with Marie Silvie Brosset (French Créole), where they were married in a civil ceremony on 23 June 1808.²⁵ Both died in an 1813 epidemic leaving two sons. One died young. The surviving son lived as white and wed three white wives, including the great-great-granddaughter of Natchitoches’ founder, Louis Juchereau de St. Denis.²⁶
7. **Marie Thérèse LeComte**, baptized with Jacques, was possibly his twin;²⁷ married Louis Metoyer, fmc, son of Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer (French) and Marie Thérèse Coincoin (Black Créole). Thérèse is last found on record on 30 January 1841 when, as Louis’ widow, she donated five arpents of land to Louis’ natural son by an enslaved woman named Rosalie, “for the amity she bore him.” In that donation she reserved the buildings thereon, during her lifetime, for the use of “Marie Thérèse, widow of Augustin Cloutier, fmc.” (Louis’s natural daughter by Madeleine Grappe).²⁸ Thérèse’s Native status was subsumed into her husband’s African-American status.

¹⁸ NCA Doc. 1285.

¹⁹ Documents differ as to Louis Guillory’s origin. The baptism of his daughter Marie in 1798 identifies him as “an Indian of the Aidaie nation,” while the baptism of his daughter Marie Felicité in 1801 calls him an “Indian of the Opelousas nation.” See Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entries 2863, 3013.

²⁰ NCA Doc. 1285.

²¹ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2343.

²² St. Martin of Tours Church (St. Martinville), Register 6, Baptisms 1804, no. 211 (Rose O’Reilly); Register 7, Baptisms 1807, no. 211 (James O’Reilly); and Baptisms 1808, no. 263 (Pierre O’Reilly). Also see Donald J. Hébert, *Southwest Louisiana Records* (Eunice, La.: Hébert Publications, 1974), 1: 437–38, 2: 698; and vol. 1 (rev.): 558–59. I thank Rodney Sam for alerting me to the presence of Céleste at Fausse Pointe.

²³ St. Martin of Tours Church (St. Martinville), Register 7, no. 147.

²⁴ NCA Doc. 1285 for the LeCourt inventory. Hébert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, I: 53–54, provides data for Bodin.

²⁵ Jacques’ given name is omitted from his baptismal record when he and sister Thérèse were baptized on 26 December 1783; see Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entries 2446–2447. This work of mine, published in 1776, cited 20 December as the date of Jacques’ baptism and 26 December for Thérèse; from a re-reading of the register, after several decades more experience, I would place both baptisms on 26 December. For the LeComte-Brosset civil marriage record, see folder 804, Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry Research Library, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches. For the church ratification of the LeComte-Brosset marriage, see Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 998.

²⁶ In this pair of consecutive records for children of the same mother, Jacques’ name is omitted but his date of birth is given, while Thérèse’s name is given but her date of birth is omitted. For the succession and identification of their sons, see Natchitoches Succession Book 1: 68–71, 74–78. For the subsequent lives and offspring of Jacques’ sons, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, “From Chez Bienvenu to Cane River: Four Generations of the Pierre Brosset Family” (MS, Gadsden, AL: 1981), 20–22, 57–60; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

²⁷ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2446.

²⁸ Natchitoches Donations Book 30: 85. Also see Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches Church Marriages, 1818–1850: Translated Abstracts from the Registers of St. François des Natchitoches* (Tuscaloosa: Mills Historical Press, 1985), entry 10 (Agustin Cloutier to Maria Teresa Metoyer) and 396 (St. Cyr Metoyer and Marie Rosalie). For Louis Metoyer’s manumission of the “mulatto” St. Cyr and his “Negro” mother Rosalie, see Natchitoches Conveyance Book 20: 413.

RESEARCH NOTES

29 DECEMBER 1775

Baptism of **Dorothea**, aged about one year, slave of El Cour [Louis Matthias Le Court de Presle]. Godparents: Mr. Athanasio de Mézières (s) and Modesta Roujot.²⁹

Baptism of **Maria Susana**, aged about four years, slave of El Cour. Godparents: Luis el Cour [Le Court] and Maria el Cour.³⁰

COMMENT:

In the early 1760s, Lt. Louis Mathias Le Court de Presle was appointed the tutor (financial guardian) of the minor Louis Monet, the man who would be Dorothea's father.³¹ At LeCourt's death in 1783, Louis Monet bought his land. LeCourt's previously enslaved Native women who were not married, but were encumbered with children, stayed with the land.³²

Curiously, Dorothee is not named for her godmother or any member of the godfather's family, as was the most-common practice in her place and time. In contrast, her half-sister Dorothee, *mulâtre*, was godchild of Dorothee Peraut.

20 APRIL 1778

Succession of Marie Jeanne Leroy, wife of LeCourt. Inventory of slaves includes the following:

Therese, a *sauvagesse*, about 36

- Susanne, her daughter, b. 10 August 1770
- **Dorothee, her daughter, b. 27 September 1774**
- Rosalie, her daughter, b. 27 March 1776
- Gaspard, her son, b. 6 January 1778

Capitaine, *sauvage*, about 35; Magdeleine, his wife, about 25

- Clemans, their daughter, b. 5 April 1770
- Isabelle, their daughter, b. 7 September 1776
- Romain, their son, b. 18 December 1773

Louison, *sauvagesse*, about 24, with

- Hélène, her daughter, b. 6 June 1772
- Jeanne, her daughter, b. 21 November 1776

Louis, *nègre*, about 50

Mercure, *nègre*, about 80³³

²⁹ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2278.

³⁰ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2279.

³¹ NCA Doc. 301; the document is missing from courthouse but it is logged into "Index 1738–1818" under the date span "1760–66."

³² NCA Doc. 1848.

³³ NCA Doc. 1285. No record states a tribal origin for any of the inventoried adults. All evidence of tribal origin come from labels applied to their daughters. When Dorothee, daughter of Therese, presented children for baptism in 1803 and 1805, all three baptismal acts said she was

26 DECEMBER 1778

Baptism of **Rosalie**, aged about two years, slave of Le Court. Godparents: Luis Anty (s) and Marie Catalina Gallien.³⁴

COMMENT:

Rosalie's land claim with the U.S. government identifies her as "Rosalie **Rachal**, wife of Louis Guillory.³⁵ Given the location of her birth, her father was likely one of the sons of LeCourt's neighbor and brother-in-law, Louis Rachal.

17 APRIL 1781

Baptism of **Maria Célestine**, *endoyé*, a slave of Le Court and daughter of Teresa, an Indian.³⁶

COMMENT:

The 1807 baptismal record of Pierre O'Reilly, son of Célestine (aka Céleste), identifies his mother as a *métive* from "Nakitoches," daughter of "Ambroise LeComte and Marie —."³⁷

20 DECEMBER 1783

Baptism of a slave child [**Jacques Ambroise**], **born May 25**, son of Theresa, slave of Mr. LeCourt, and a father unknown. Godparents: Pedro and Magdalena, slaves of Le Court.³⁸

COMMENT:

This child should be Thérèse's son **Jacques Ambroise LeComte**, son of Ambroise LeComte. On 1 November 1795, as "Jacques Lecomte" he was godfather to Marie Barbe [LeCourt], daughter of Marie Ursule, "a free *métive*,"³⁹ by Barthelemy LeCourt, son of the late Louis Mathias LeCourt de Presle who owned Jacques' mother.

Pierre *dit* Capitaine and Madeleine were a married couple, both Native Americans, enslaved by LeCourt. See 1778 inventory of Jeanne LeRoy, above. After LeCourt's death, they removed to upper Rivière aux Cannes where Capitaine eventually bought a small tract of land.⁴⁰

Baptism of **Maria Theresa**, daughter of Theresa, slave of Mr. LeCourt, and of a father unknown. Godparents: François Langlois and Maria Nicolosa Langlois."⁴¹

"of the Canneci nation." When Dorothee's sister Thérèse married Louis Metoyer, fmc, in 1801, she was also said to be "Indian of the Canneci Nation." When Capitaine and Magdeleine's daughter Modeste presented a child for baptism in 1803, Modeste was said to be a "Canneci Indian." When Louison served as godmother to a LeComte slave in 1805, she was said to be a Canneci; however, when Louison's daughter Ursulle presented daughters for baptism in 1795 and 1796, Ursulle was said to be "a free *métive*" and "of the Caddo nation." See Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entries 2255, 3096 (Marie Louise and Marie Barbe, daughters of Marie Ursulle by Barthelemy LeCourt), and 3448 (marriage of Thérèse). Also Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entries 43 (Modeste's child by Nicolas Bodin), 69–70, 171 (Dorothee's children), 1970 (Louison as godmother).

³⁴ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2343.

³⁵ *American State Papers: Documents Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States*, Public Lands Series, 8 vols. (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834–62), 3: 213, claim of Rosalie Rachal. This series is subsequently cited herein as ASP: PL, vol.: page.

³⁶ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2343.

³⁷ Hébert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, 1: 367, 437–38.

³⁸ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2446.

³⁹ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3096.

⁴⁰ NCA Doc. 2424, Jean Bte. Anty to "le sauvage nommé [named] Capitaine," four *arpents* frontage, 5 November 1792; after Capitaine's death about fifteen years later, his son forfeited the land to a local merchant for debts: ASP-PL 3: 218

⁴¹ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2699.

COMMENT:

- No birth date is given for the baptism of Marie Thérèse (“Maria Theresa” in the Spanish-language baptismal record above).
- Marie Thérèse’s surname, LeComte, appears in numerous later records of the parish—for example: Marie Thérèse LeComte, Widow Louis Metoyer to Théophile Metoyer (Donations Book 30: 52).

6 FEBRUARY 1793

Baptism of **Dorotea**, born 26 December 1792, *Negritte*, father unknown, property of Pedro Derbanne. Godparents: Manuel Bartolome Rachal and **Dorotea Monet**.⁴²

COMMENT:

This is the earliest reference I’ve found for Dorothee’s use of a surname.

The child baptized here is the enslaved child inherited by Pierre Derbanne’s son Joseph,⁴³ swapped by him to his brother Manuel in 1805,⁴⁴ sold by Manuel to Augustin Metoye, fmc, in 1810,⁴⁵ then manumitted by Augustin on 11 November 1814.⁴⁶ As **Dorothee Boisdoré**, she married Joseph LaVigne, fmc, by contract dated 7 December 1814.⁴⁷

7 FEBRUARY 1798

Baptism of Marie Guillari, aged four months, legitimate daughter of Louis Guillari, Indian of the Aidaie nation, and **Rosalie**, a free *metive*. Grandparents: unknown. Godparents: Manuel Derbane and **Dorothee**, a free *metive* living at this post.⁴⁸

7 APRIL 1798

Land sale. “Before Commandant Felix Trudeau and assisting witnesses François Dubois and Paul Marcollay, appeared **Dorothee**, a *metive*, the **natural daughter of Louis Monet**,” who sells to Sieur Pierre Joseph Maës, a citizen of this district, a tract of land situated at a place called “the Bluffs” about 25 leagues [75 miles] from the town of Natchitoches, consisting of ten arpents on each bank of Red River. This land belongs to **Dorothee** by concession dated 1796. [Signed] Dorothee (X, her mark), Dubois, Maës, Paul Marcollay, Felix Trudeau.⁴⁹

18 OCTOBER 1799

ST. FRANÇOIS CHURCH

Baptism [at home of Mr. Monet] of **Marie Françoise**, aged seven months, *mulâtresse* daughter of Marie Louise, *mulâtresse* slave of Mr. Monet, and a father unknown. Godparents: **Jacques Lecomte** and **Dorothee**.⁵⁰

⁴² Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2699.

⁴³ NCA Doc. 2846, Succession of Marie LeClerc, account of sale, 3 September 1798.

⁴⁴ Natchitoches Misc. Book 3:348, Augustin Metoyer to Dorothee, Manumission, 11 November 1814.

⁴⁵ Natchitoches Misc. Book 1 (Dec. 1806–May 1811): 186–87.

⁴⁶ Natchitoches Miscellaneous Book 1 (Dec. 1806–May 1811): 186–87, sale, 28 May 1810; Misc. Book 3: 348, manumission, 11 Nov. 1814.

⁴⁷ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 1045.

⁴⁸ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2863.

⁴⁹ NCA Document 2838.

⁵⁰ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3218.

COMMENT:

Given that the godfather serving with this Dorothee was Jacques Lecomte, half-brother of the *metive* Dorothee, it is likely that the *metive* Dorothee was the godmother above. The infant's mother was Coincoin's granddaughter, Marie Louise LeComte, born 26 November 1781 to Coincoin's daughter Françoise by Ambroise LeComte.⁵¹ The 1829 church blessing of Marie Louise's son Louis Monet [Jr.], fmc, identifies his mother as Marie Louise *LeComte*.⁵² That name appears again for her in the document by which her son Louis Monet Jr. manumitted her.⁵³

Baptism, at home of Mr. Monet, with permission of Monsignor Leveque, of a four-day-old infant named **Theotise**, *negresse* daughter of Marie Joseph, *negresse* slave of Mr. Monet, and a father unknown. Godparents: **Jean Baptiste Baltasar**, a free *mulâtre*, and Marie Louise, a free *mulâtresse*.⁵⁴

COMMENT:

This "free *mulâtresse* Marie Louise," has not been identified.

Baptism in the home of Mr. Monet, with permission of Msgr. Leveque, of an infant named **Jeanne**, born April 20, 1799, the *negresse* daughter of Susanne, a slave of deceased Martineau. Godparents: Joseph Bissonet and **Dorothee**.⁵⁵

Baptism at home of Mr. Monet, with permission of Monsignor Leveque, of Marie Thérèse, born 20 August, *negresse* daughter of Françoise, slave of Mr. Monet, and a father unknown. Godparents: Simeon Rachal and **Dorothee**.⁵⁶

COMMENT:

This child is the granddaughter of Marie Thérèse Coincoin through her daughter Françoise, who was illegally sold away to Jean Baptiste Dupré when she was a child.

4 DECEMBER 1803

Baptism of twins born 5 February 1801 in this post, daughters of **Dorothee, Indian of the Canneci nation**, and of a father unknown. Godparents of **Marie Louise Adeline**: Louis Monet and Marie Louise LeComte, represented by Pierre Joseph Maës [French] and Marie Genéviève Agathe Maës [French Créole]. Godparents of **Marie Louise Adelaide**: Same.

Baptism of **Louis**, b. February 1803 in this post, son of **Dorothee, Indian of the Canneci nation**, and of a father unknown. Godparents: Nicolas Martin [French] and Marie Louise Clement [unidentified].⁵⁷

17 OCTOBER 1805

Baptism at *Les Ecords* home of Widow Monet, of an Indian born 6 July in this post, [**Marie Thérèse Rosalie**], daughter of **Dorothee, Indian of the Canneci nation**, and a father unknown. Godparents:

⁵¹ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2404.

⁵² Mills, *Natchitoches Church Marriages, 1818–1850*, entry 152.

⁵³ Folder 396, MS 182, Cane River Notarial Collection, Historic New Orleans Collection, L. Kemper Williams Research Center, New Orleans.

⁵⁴ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3219.

⁵⁵ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3221.

⁵⁶ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3222.

⁵⁷ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entries 69–70.

Jacques [Jacques Ambrose LeComte], *metif quarteron*, and Marie Archange, Indian of the Canneci nation.⁵⁸

COMMENT:

Marie Archange's parentage has not been determined.

27 FEBRUARY 1806

Pierre Joseph Maës sells to **Louis Lambre**, both habitants of this post, in presence of Mr. **Joseph Tauzin** 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 [a crude description here 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 **Dorothee Monet**, *métive libre*. Signed: And. Rambin, Jh. Tauzin, 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.⁵⁹

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, the former post surveyor, had gone blind; hence, his document was executed by his son.

23 DECEMBER 1806

"**Dorothee Monet** claims sixty superficial Acres of Land on the left bank of Red River in descending in the County of Natchitoches, by virtue of Order of Survey bearing date 4th July 1798, signed by Manuel Gayozo de Lemos, by virtue of having resided on & cultivated the same agreeably to the Spanish Laws. For Dorothee Monet [by] Alexis Cloutier (x). Natchitoches Decr. 23 1806."⁶⁰

COMMENT:

In December 1806, the United States General Land Office set up a land board at Natchitoches and required all landholders to appear before the board and submit proofs of their legal right to the lands they "claimed" to own—whether by French or Spanish title or by occupancy after the American regime took over Louisiana in December 1803. Most of the "claims" would be adjudicated and titles issued within the next decade. Some few extended for several decades thereafter.

20 JULY 1807

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 **Dorothee Monet**, *métive*, about 22 leagues from the post. He has returned the land.⁶¹

⁵⁸ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 171.

⁵⁹ NCA Doc. 3392.

⁶⁰ Affidavit of Alexis Cloutier, 23 December 1806, Claim B1702, S52 71 T6N R4W, Northwestern District; imaged at Louisiana Office of State Lands, *OSL: Search Historical Documents* (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00059&category=H#215> also #146 : accessed 25 July 2020).

⁶¹ NCA Doc. 3392.

10 APRIL 1809

Dorothee Monnet sells to Mr. **James Porter** a portion of her land on Red River, 25 arpents of frontage, with whatever depth it carries. The land is bounded on the upper by Sr. James Porter and on the lower by the seller. 805 piasters. Witnesses: P. Bossier, Antoine Coindet.⁶²

5 AUGUST 1809

Separation agreement between **James F. Porter** and **Mrs. James F. Porter**, née Marie Louise Lecomte. Whereas Mrs. Porter filed for separation on 3 August [present year] and on 4 August a decree of separation was issued ... the said Marie Louise Lecomte promises

- to pay all the debts contracted by James F. Porter during their marriage and cohabitation, of whatever nature, provided they do not exceed the sum of \$2,600.
- to convey to the said James F. Porter all rights to a tract of land of 15 arpents frontage on Red River in the parish of Natchitoches, at the place commonly called **Les Ecores LeCour** i.e., LeCourt's Bluffs], being part of a tract of land purchased by Porter from **Dorothee Monet** by deed dated 10 April 1809. This land is to be laid off and divided from the lower part of the said tract.
- to quit all claims to a Negro boy named **Tennessee** purchased by Porter from H. N. Grayham for the price of \$412.
- to convey and deliver to the said Porter at his first demand one black American-bred mare purchased by Porter from Mr. Browning of Georgia, together with her colt, also one mare purchased by Porter from the judicial sale of the property of Madame Bon Dieu, deceased, and two cows and calves out of their common stock.

Porter himself promises

- at first demand of Marie Louise LeComte, to deliver to the parish judge all papers, conveyances, etc., that relate to any property purchased by him during coverture [i.e., the period in which Marie Louise, as his wife, had no legal rights of her own], except those relating to the property covered by this agreement.
- he will not hold the said Marie Louise LeComte responsible for any debts contracted by him except up to the amount of \$2,600.
- to quit all claims entirely to other property of Marie Louise LeComte, so that she can enjoy all rights as though their marriage had not existed.

To guarantee their performance of the above both parties mortgage fully all the property "above designated."⁶³

20 APRIL 1809

Combined successions of Jean Pierre Cloutier and his widow Marie remarried to Jean Louis Hopok.

Due to **Dorothee Monet** (x), for having wet nursed the new infant born of deceased Madame Jn. Pierre Cloutier and having provided a servant during 15 months at \$16.66 2/3 per month: \$25.00.

Personally appeared before me **Dorotee Monette** and made oath that the above account as it stands stated is just and true. [Signed] Jas. F. Porter, 20 April 1809.⁶⁴

⁶² NCA Doc. 3710.

⁶³ NCA Doc. 3711.

COMMENT:

Cloutier's land lay next door to the French-Indian Dorothee, on her on upper side.

This succession file also has bills submitted by two Natives formerly enslaved by LeCourt: (1) Nicolas Baudin's wife, the daughter of Pierre *dit* Capitaine and Madeleine; and (2) Louison, the mother-in-law of Pierre Césaire Brosset.

19 DECEMBER 1809

Baptism of **Marie Céline Rachal**, child aged two and one-half years, daughter of Etiéne Rachal and **Dorothee Monet**. Godparents: Jacques St. André [French Canadian] and Adelaïde Bricou [his wife].⁶⁵

29 DECEMBER 1809

Baptism of **Marie Susanne Guillerie**, child of four years, legitimate daughter of **Louis Guillerie, Indian**, and **Rosalie, Indian**. Godparents: Jn. Baptiste [possibly Jean Baptiste Balthasar] and **Marie Louise Adele** [daughter of Dorothee].⁶⁶

19 NOVEMBER 1810

Dorothee Monette of parish of Natchitoches sells to **Sr. Étienne Rachal**, citizen of the parish of Natchitoches, a tract of land "situated below the bluffs of **Dame Widow Monette**," containing 10 arpents of frontage with whatever depth it has, lying on right side of river. The land on the upper boundary belongs to the seller; the land on the lower belongs to Louis Guillorie. The seller derives her title from a concession dated 4 June 1798. Acquirer well knows the property. Price: \$300.⁶⁷

30 APRIL 1811

Table: "Monthly return of certificates issued by the Commissioner of the western district of Orleans Territory, for April, 1811."

Certificate No.	B972
Person under whom land claimed:	Louis Monet
In whose favor issued	Louis Monet
Nature of claim:	Requete
County/Water course:	Opelousas, Bayou Chico
Number of acres / arpents:	677 / 800 ⁶⁸

COMMENT:

Monet is dead. His widow inherited his land.

31 DECEMBER 1811

Table: "Monthly return of certificates issued by the Commissioner of the western district of Orleans Territory, for December, 1811."

⁶⁴ NCA Doc. 3720. This document, which is difficult to find in the record set, has been imaged in "Louisiana, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1756–1984), *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9067>) > Natchitoches > Conveyance Records, No. 3541–3885, Books 34–35, 1807–1810 > image 165 of 711.

⁶⁵ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 311.

⁶⁶ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 312.

⁶⁷ Natchitoches, Conveyance Book 2: 66–57.

⁶⁸ ASP-PL, 2: 812.

Certificate No. B1702
Person under whom land claimed: **Dorothe Manet**
In whose favor issued **Dorothe Manet**
Nature of claim: Order of survey and settlement
County/Water course: Natchitoches, Red River
Number of acres / arpents: 50.77 / 60⁶⁹

31 JANUARY 1812

Table: "Monthly return of certificates issued by the Commissioner of the western district of Orleans Territory, for January 1812."

Certificate No. B1771
Date issued: January 18
Person under whom land claimed: **Louis Monet**
In whose favor issued Jean Baptiste Derbonne
Nature of claim: Order of survey & Settlement
County/Water course: Natchitoches / Red River
Number of acres / arpents: 677 / 800

Certificate No. B1790
Date issued: January 24
Person under whom land claimed: **Etienne Rachel**
In whose favor issued **Jacques St. Andrew**
Nature of claim: Order of survey & Settlement
County/Water course: Natchitoches / Red River
Number of acres / arpents: 744.72 / 880⁷⁰

5, 20 FEBRUARY 1812

Table: "Monthly return of certificates issued by the Commissioner of the western district of Orleans Territory, for February 1812."

Certificate No. B1857
Date issued: February 5
Person under whom land claimed: **Lacourt De Prelle**
In whose favor issued Marie Louisa Porter, **widow of Louis Monet**
Nature of claim: Order of survey & Settlement
County/Water course: Natchitoches / Red River
Number of acres / arpents: 1218.64 / 1440

Certificate No. B1902
Date issued: February 20
Person under whom land claimed: **Louis Guillory**
In whose favor issued Athanase (free negro)
Nature of claim: Settlement

⁶⁹ ASP-PL, 2: 847.

⁷⁰ ASP-PL, 2: 851.

County/Water course: Natchitoches / Bayou aux Cannes
Number of acres / arpents: 338.51 / 400⁷¹

COMMENT:

Amid this publication's transcripts of depositions and other claim papers, numbered to correspond to each entry on the table, I have not been able to find corresponding documents for "Athanas," "Atanase," or "Athanas LeComte" (the surname he usually used).

27 OCTOBER 1812

Table: "Monthly return of certificates issued by the Commissioner of the western district of Orleans Territory, for October 1812."

Certificate No. B2112
Date issued: October 27
Person under whom land claimed: **Louis Monet**
In whose favor issued **Madame Louise Porter**
Nature of claim: Order of survey & Settlem't
County/Water course: Natchitoches / Red River
Number of acres / arpents: 135.40 / 160⁷²

30 SEPTEMBER 1813

Table: "Monthly return of certificates issued by the Commissioner of the western district of Orleans Territory, for October 1812."

Certificate No. B2193
Date issued: September 30
Person under whom land claimed: **Louis Monet**
In whose favor issued Charles Duret
Nature of claim: Order of survey & Settlem't
County/Water course: Natchitoches / Red River
Number of acres / arpents: 258/305⁷³

14 DECEMBER 1813

"In the claim of **Rosalley Rachal** (No. 1030) **Joseph Procelle** being sworn deposeseth that the Claimant[,] a woman about thirty years of age and the mother of children[,] has resided on and cultivated the Land in question for twelve Consecutive years—Being asked if the claimant is a Widow, the deponent answereth that she is not, that her husband or the man with whom she is connected and who lives with her is a **Indian** known by the name of **Guillory**. ... #339" Sec. 38 NW T6N R4W.⁷⁴

1 DECEMBER 1813

⁷¹ ASP-PL, 2: 853–55.

⁷² ASP-PL, 2: 864.

⁷³ ASP-PL, 2: 869.

⁷⁴ Affidavit of Joseph Procelle, 14 December 1813, T6N R4W, Northwestern District; imaged at Louisiana Office of State Lands, *OSL: Search Historical Documents* (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00059&category=H#141> also #142 : accessed 25 July 2020).

Succession of “**Jacques Ambroise** [half-brother of Dorothee] and **Silvie Brosset** his [French Creole] wife.” Louis Derbanne, Justice of the Peace for Riviere aux Cannes, acting under order of the parish judge, has gone to the domicile of the deceased Jacques Ambroise who died intestate on 24 November last, to make the inventory of the deceased Jacques Ambroise and deceased Silvie Brosset his wife. Present were Sieurs Pre. Brosset, grandfather of the two legitimate minors named Valcourt and Tranquillin, and witnesses Pre Charuau and Antoine Coindet. The closure to the document identifies the deceased as “late Jacques Ambroise (alias Jacquit).” Pierre Brosset X’d.⁷⁵

15 JANUARY 1814

Sale of goods belonging to the late **Jacques Ambroise** and **Silvie Brosset** his wife, conducted by P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, parish judge. Credit to be extended to 15 January 1818 with payments made annually on 15 January. Purchasers: Mr. Ambrose Lecomte, Mr. Jn. Pre. Me. Dubois with Mr. Fçois Roubieu as surety, Mr. Louis Julian Rachal with Fçois Davion as surety, Mr. Antoine Bergeron with Pre. Charuau surety, François Davion with Antoine Coindet surety, Mr. Pre Brosset with Mr. Ambroise Lecomte as surety, Mr. Louis Julien Rachal with Bte. Rachal, surety. Mr. Louis Pillet with **Pre. Charuau** surety, Mr. Lecompte *fils*, Mr. Colomé, Mr. Baptiste Rachal with Fçois Davion surety, Mr. Louis Gallien with Gasparite Lacourt surety, Mr. Jacques Vercher with Athanas Lacourt surety, Mr. Charles Lemoine with Philippe Brosset surety, Mr. Silvestre Anty with Compère surety, Mr. Jacques St. André with Pre Derbanne surety, Mr. Pre. Délouche with Athanase Lecour surety, Mr. Narcisse Rachal with Silvestre Rachal surety, **Adelaïde**, M.L., with Ambroise Lecomte surety, Mr. Marsaline Martin with Dubois surety, Mr. P. Derbanne *fils* with Gasparite Lacour surety, Mr. Pierre Michel with [?] surety, Mr. Pre. Délouche with Bte. Rachal surety, Mr. Philippe Brosset with Ambs. Lecomte surety, Mr. Baptiste Latier with Fçois Latier surety. \$4970. Land not included in the sale.⁷⁶

10 APRIL 1815

Land plat, **Dorothee Monett**, 677 acres, S43?, **T6N R3&4W**, both sides of river, between Louis Lambre on upper descending left and Pierre Jos. Maës on lower descending left. The survey calls do not mention the location of her home.⁷⁷

COMMENT:

Surrounding plats in this file place her adjacent to “Representatives of Marie Salvant Cloutier”— i.e., widow of Jean Pierre Cloutier who married Jean Louis Hopock. This suggests that the Dorothee Monet mentioned in the 1809 Hopock-Cloutier succession record was this *métive* Dorothee, rather than her half-African half-sister Dorothee Monet who, as a free woman, went back to the Grand Coast to live.

6 APRIL 1816

“The Register of the Land Office and Receiver of Public Moneys of the western district of the late Territory of Orleans, now State of Louisiana, have the honor to report their decisions and opinions for the revision of Congress on the following claims to land within the said district, which were filed with the

⁷⁵ Natchitoches, Succession Book 1: 68–71.

⁷⁶ Natchitoches, Succession Book 1: 74–78.

⁷⁷ Survey, land of Dorothee Monett, 10 April 1815, Claim A1734, T6N R4W, Northwestern District; imaged at Louisiana Office of State Lands, *OSL: Search Historical Documents* (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00059&category=H#152> also #142 : accessed 25 July 2020).

Register pursuant to the acts of Congress, entitled ‘An act giving further time for registering claims to land in the western district of the Territory of Orleans,’ passed the 10th March, 1812, and the act entitled ‘An act giving further time for registering the claims to lands in the eastern and western districts of the Territory of Orleans, now State of Louisiana, passed the 27th February, 1813, classing and arranging the same as follows, viz: ...

“Class No. 2, will comprise claims founded on authentic orders of survey conceded by the Spanish Government of Louisiana, which, with or without proof of occupancy, ought in the opinion of the said Register and Receiver, to be confirmed. ...

“Class No. 6, will comprise claims for lands on which settlements had been made prior to the 1st day of October, 1800; and inhabited and cultivated for three consecutive years from that date by persons over the age of twenty-one years, or the heads of families, and not claiming or holding, in their own right, any grants or concessions for other lands from the French or Spanish governments, ought to be, in the opinion of the Register and Receiver, confirmed, pursuant to the first section of the act of Congress of the 21st April, 1806, for the quantity claimed, or within the acknowledged and ascertained limits of the same, not exceeding one mile square, or six hundred and forty acres. ...

“Class No. 7, will comprise claims founded on occupancy subsequent to the 1st of October, 1800, and previous to the 12th day of April, 1814; and claims founded on occupancy, commenced previous to the said 1st day of October, by persons holding, or having held, other lands in their own names in Louisiana under French or Spanish grants or concessions, and which claims do not come within the purview of classes Nos. 5 or 6, ought **not** in the opinion of the said Register and Receiver, to be confirmed, the right of pre-emption to the extent of one hundred and sixty acres (a quarter of a section) being secured to the settler by an act of Congress passed the 12th of April, 1814. ...

“Class No. 9, will comprise claims for land occupied as vacheries; and whether with or without evidence of occupancy, ought not, in the opinion of the Register and Receiver, to be confirmed. **See note I**, at the end of the report.”⁷⁸

Class 2: “No. 39—252. **Louis Metoyer** claims four hundred superficial arpents of land, viz: five arpents front, by forty deep, each side of Red river, in the county of Natchitoches, bounded above by land of John Baptiste Dearbonne, and below by that of Charles Duret, claimed under an order of survey in favor of **Louis Monet** for twenty arpents by forty, each side of the river, dated 28th of May, 1788, and signed by Estevan Miro, then Governor of Louisiana. Accompanying the notice is the order of survey, and a certified copy of a deed of sale from J. B. Tessier, alias Lavigne, to the claimant, dated the 17th of January, 1812; and plat of survey by Joseph Irwin, for 266.50 acres. The evidence of Louis Dearbonne, taken the 9th of October, 1812, states that J. B. Tessier resided on and cultivated the land eighteen years ago, and has continued to inhabit and cultivate the same until he sold to the claimant.”⁷⁹

COMMENT:

This land fell within Township 7N Range 6W.

⁷⁸ ASP-PL 3: 172.

⁷⁹ ASP-PL 3: 176.

Class 6: “No. 338–1006. Paul Prudhomme claims six hundred and forty superficial acres of land, situated on both sides of Red river, county of Natchitoches, bounded below by land of Louis Courtesse, and above on the right bank by James Poetres’s [Porter’s] land, and on the left by **Dorothy Monet’s** land, as is represented in a plat of survey filed; dated the 24th November 1818 [*apparently a typo for 1813*] by K. McCrummin, an authorized deputy surveyor. The evidence of **Etienne Rachal**, taken the 9th December 1813, states that the claimant, aged thirty-six years, has inhabited and cultivated the land for sixteen consecutive years preceding said date. This land is the same in quality as that of Louis Courtesse. The claimant should be limited to so much of the land as lies on the side he *inhabits*.”

COMMENT:

This land lay at Les Écores, Township 6N Range 4 West.

The immediately preceding entry addresses Louis Courtesse’s land this way:

“No. 337–1005. **Louis Courtesse** claims five hundred and sixty-eight superficial acres of land on both sides of Red river, in the county of Natchitoches, bounded above by land of Paul Prudhomme, and below by land of **Maes** and **Dartigaux**, as is represented per plat of surveyor by K. McCrummin, an authorized deputy surveyor, dated the 26th February, 1813. [*Note this reads “1813,” not 1818 as in the reference to Dorothee Monet.*] The evidence of **Etienne Rachal**, taken the 9th December, 1813, states that the claimant, upwards of forty years of age, has inhabited and cultivated the lands for fourteen consecutive years preceding this date. The claimant resides on and cultivates the left bank, using the right as a pastorage, and that *there is not more than three or four arpents of arable land in depth on each side of the river; the rest is swampy, and subject to inundation, and unfit for culture*. The confirmation is recommended only for that part of the claim lying on the left bank.”

“No. 339–1,025. **Maria Tauros** claims six hundred and forty superficial acres of land, situated on the left bank of Regolet de Bon Dieu, in the county of Natchitoches, bounded on the upper side by land of **Louis Guillory** and below by that of **Felicity Guillory**. The evidence of Joseph Procelle, taken the 14th December, 1813, states that the claimant, widow of Baptiste (Staleau)_[i] has inhabited and cultivated the land for sixteen consecutive years preceding this date.”⁸⁰

COMMENT:

“Baptiste (Staleau)” was Baptiste *Valery*. Apparently, the “V” at the start of his surname was misread as “St,” while the ending *ry* was read as *au*.

Class 7: “No. 395–250. **Alexis Cloutier** claims three hundred and twenty superficial arpents of land, viz: four arpents front on each side of Red river, by the depth of forty, in the county of Natchitoches, bounded below by land of **Porter**, and above by that of **Jean Baltazar**. The notice is accompanied by a private deed of gift from **Louis Monet** to **Nicholas Bodin**, dated the 23d September, 1804; a deed of sale from said Bodin to claimant, dated the 4th August, 1812, for the land as claimed; and a plat of survey by D. Coleman, the 29th December, 1806, in favor of **Cola Bodin** for 52.8 acres on the right bank and 88 acres on the left. The evidence of Louis Derbanne, taken the 19th October, 1812, states that the wife of

⁸⁰ ASP-PL 3: 201.

Nicholas Bodin has inhabited and cultivated the land from 1798 until Bodin sold to the claimant. **Marie Anne Bodin** has an order of survey in her own name, on which a certificate, No. 1,730, has issued.”⁸¹

COMMENT:

This land lay in the Hidden Hill neighborhood, where Louis LeCourt’s consort Marie Jeanne LeRoy had received a grant.

This Nicolas “Cola” Bodin should not be confused with the French-Gypsy Nicholas Baudoin (*var.* Beaudoin) of upper Rivière aux Cannes who was married to Marie DesNeiges Malbert.⁸²

Cola Bodin, son of Jean Laurens (*var.* Juan Lorenzo) Bodin of Canada and Miguela Rosalia Cruz of Adaïs,⁸³ was married to Clemence, daughter of the Natives Pierre *dit* Capitaine and Magdeleine who had been enslaved by LeCourt. Cola’s brother Juan Lorenzo Bodin was married to Capitaine and Madeleine’s daughter Modeste.⁸⁴

“Jean Baltazar” of this document was Jean Baptiste Balthasar, who was freed by the 1781 will of Jean Baptiste Dupré wherein he is identified as the *griffe* son of the *Indien* Catherine.

Class 7: “No. 479.—1007. **James F. Porter** claims six hundred and forty superficial acres of land, on both sides of Red river, county of Natchitoches, bounded below by land of **Dorothy Monet** on the left, and P. Prudhomme on the right bank, and above by land of **widow Monet**. The notice is accompanied by a private deed of sale, dated the 26th November, 1813, from **José Mari Leando** to the claimant. The evidence of **Etienne Rachal**, taken the 9th December, 1813, states that J. M. Leando, of whom the claimant purchased, still resides on the land, and has inhabited and cultivated the same for fifteen consecutive years preceding this date. The claimant has inhabited the land for eight years past.”⁸⁵

COMMENT:

The lawyer and justice of the peace, James F. Porter, was the estranged husband of “widow Monet.”

Note the date given for the sale from Leando to Porter, November 1813. *Cf.* the recorded deed, below, dated November 1816.

The day given for the deed, 26 November, was the day that Porter filed his claim that was “accompanied by” the deed. Note that the recorded copy of the deed at the courthouse is dated 13 November.

⁸¹ ASP-PL 3: 206.

⁸² For this couple and their parentage, see Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entries 167–69.

⁸³ Hébert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, I: 53–54, provides church abstracts for Jean Pierre “of Nakitoches” who married Anne Marguerite Hébert at St. Martinville, naming the points of origin for his parents Jean Laurens and wife “St. Croix.” In Natchitoches Conveyance Book 2:327–28, dated 14 October 1808, Miguela Rosalia Cruz at Nacogdoches identified herself as widow of Lorenz and mother of “John Lorenz” and Nicolas when she sold Cloutier all her rights to land at the Rivière aux Cannes island called “Old Village.” Her son “John Lorenz,” also living at Nacogdoches, sold his rights to Cloutier that same day.

⁸⁴ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 43 (Jean Laurent and Marie Modeste, “Canneci Indian” daughter of “Pierre and Marie Magdeleine”). For the family of Capitaine and Magdeleine, see NGA Doc. 1285, inventory of enslaved people, succession of Marie Jeanne LeRoy, wife of LeCourt, 20 April 1778.

⁸⁵ ASP-PL 3: 213.

“No. 481—1030. **Rosalie Rachal** [Mme. Louis Guillory] claims six hundred and forty superficial acres of land, situated on the left bank of Red river, about three leagues above the mouth of Rigolet de Bon Dieu, in the county of Natchitoches. The evidence of Joseph Procelle, taken the 14th December, 1814, states that the claimant has inhabited and cultivated the land for twelve consecutive years preceding this date.”⁸⁶

Class 9: “No. 114—836. “**Louis Gillory** (a free man of color) claims six hundred and forty superficial acres of land situated on the left bank of **Rigolet de Bon Dieu**, county of Natchitoches. The evidence of Athanase Dupré, taken the 20th September, 1813, establishes the occupancy and cultivation of the land by the claimant, for thirteen consecutive years preceding this date, as a vacherie.”⁸⁷

5 JULY 1816

Baptism of child of four months, natural daughter of Maria, slave of **Mda. Marie Louise LeComte**. Godparents: Louis and Marie Louis Deline [**Marie Louise Adeline**, both children of Dorothee].⁸⁸

9 NOVEMBER 1816

Paul Prudhomme sells to “Atchene Rashal” [**Étienne Rachal**], 640 acres on both sides of Red River “as a plat or survey represents.” Witnesses Jas. F. Porter, Robert McAlpin. [The deed cites no neighbors or section-township-range numbers.]⁸⁹

10 NOVEMBER 1816

Baptism of Pierre, aged 4 months, natural son of Susanne, slave of **Dorothee Monet**. Godparents: Athanas and Pelagie, colored.⁹⁰

COMMENT:

Susanne and her children, Pierre and Louise, are inventoried as part of the estate of the *métive* Dorothee.

13 NOVEMBER 1816

Joseph Maria Leando (x) to James F. Porter. Sell of land “improved” by Leando since 1798, on both sides of river, bounded on lower by land belonging to **Doroty Monett** on left and Paul Prudhomme on right bank. On upper, it is bounded by **Mary Louis Porter, widow of Monett**. Witnesses: Robert McAlpin and “Atchen Rachal” (x).⁹¹

COMMENT:

In 1813, when Porter filed his claim for the land, as evidence of ownership he submitted this deed bearing a date in November 1813.

The above deed, as transcribed into the record book by Judge P D. Cailleau Lafontaine, dates the sale at 13 November 1816. The document was recorded consecutively with (and immediately after) the 9 November 1816 Prudhomme document, above, that also involved Étienne Rachal,

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ ASP-PL 3: 237–38.

⁸⁸ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2480.

⁸⁹ Natchitoches Conveyance Book 6:130–31.

⁹⁰ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2504.

⁹¹ Natchitoches Conveyance Book 6: 131–32.

James F. Porter, and Robert McAlpin. Both documents apparently were brought into the courthouse for “proving” and filing by the witnesses on 18 November 1816. While transcribing into his record book, Lafontaine seems to have inattentively copied the 1813 date as 1816. He made a similar error in recording (as 1816) an 1813 deed of sale by Marie Thérèse Coincoin to Ailhaud Ste. Anne.⁹²

25 APRIL 1817

“Account. Succession of deceased **Jn Ls Hopoke** by Alexis Cloutier, administrator:

- 1 Note of Pierre Charrau for \$110.6
- 1 Do. of **Dorothee Monet** for \$129.00

Sums paid to

- Thérèse *Sauvagesse*\$7.00
- Nicolas Gracia.....19.30⁹³

COMMENT:

This “Thérèse *Sauvagesse*” may be Dorothee’s mother, living with her. No other full-Native Thérèse has been placed at Rivière aux Cannes.

8 AUGUST 1818

Étienne Rachal to J. B. Simon Goills, sale of 5 arpents frontage at Rivière aux Cannes, bounded on the upper by **Dorothee Monet** and on the lower by Rachal himself. \$425. Land acquired from said Dorothee Monet.⁹⁴

COMMENT:

Étienne is selling half of the land that he bought from Dorothee during their relationship. He has chose to sell the upper half—putting Goills between him and Dorothee.

“Goills” (*var.* Goye, Goué, and Goy) was the brother-in-law of the Bodin brothers who married Native sisters from the LeCourt plantation, Modeste and Clémence, daughters of Pierre *dit* Capitaine and Magdeleine.⁹⁵

25 JUNE 1820

Baptism of **Marie Loyse**, infant aged 18 months, natural daughter of Dorothee [should be Susanne], slave of **Dorothee Monet**. Godparents: Pier and Proudans [Prudence].⁹⁶

COMMENT:

Note that the baptism occurred the same day as the baptism of the French-Indian Dorothee’s first grandchild. The succession inventory of Dorothee *métive*, just one month after this, names “Louise” as the daughter of her enslaved woman *Susanne*.

25 JUNE 1820

⁹² Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Laying a Legend to Rest: Marie Thérèse Coincoin and Archaeological Sites 16NA785 and 16NA789,” *Louisiana History* 62 (Spring 2021): 177–224.

⁹³ Natchitoches Succession Book 2: 159, 405.

⁹⁴ Natchitoches Conveyance Book 7: 41.

⁹⁵ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entries 2231, 2854.

⁹⁶ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 1253.

Baptism of **François Ursin Rachal**, free infant born 30 December 1820, natural son of Francisco Rachal and **Marie Louise Adelle**, a free woman of color. Godparents: Etienne Rachal and Marie Louise Adeline.⁹⁷

COMMENT:

Four candidates exist for this “Francisco” (*var.* François) Rachal:

- François Barthelemy, who witnessed Martineau-LaBerry marriage, 1787⁹⁸
- François Dorcien, b. 1790 to Barthelemy and Françoise Laberry of lower Rivière aux Cannes⁹⁹
- François Celestin, b. 1800 to Barthelemy and Françoise Laberry of lower Rivière aux Cannes¹⁰⁰
- François Isaac, b. 1801 to J. B. Bmy. and Marie Pelagie Brevet of the Grand Coast¹⁰¹

The 1820 census cites “Dorcino Rachal” adjacent to the Dorothee Monet household, strongly suggesting that the male baptized as “François Dorcien,” aged 30 in 1820, was the “Francisco” Rachal who was in a relationship with Dorothee’s daughter.

13 JULY 1820

“Last Will & Testament of **Dorothee Monet.**” (French language)

“Before me Jean Pierre Marie Dubois, inhabitant of Rivière aux Cannes, parish of Natchitoches, at the request of Dorothee Monet, I have gone to her domicile, situated at the place called *Les ecords*, parish of Natchitoches” where I found her bedridden but of sound mind, as can be observed from the certificate of Sieur Jean André Zepherin Ca[r]les, Doctor of Medicine, which certificate is attached. The testament that she made on 9 June of the current year is to be annulled. After her death, her habitation—situated at the place called *Les ecords*, is not to be sold but is to be divided in equal portions between her children. She constitutes Alexis Cloutier to be her executor and in case of his death Monsieur Antoine Condet. In case of both of their deaths, then Monsieur Pierre Cloutier. To “her **sister Rosalie, Widow Guillori**, five? arpents frontage, land on Red River, with the depth it is to carry ... at the place called *Les ecords*. ... [signed] Dorothee Monette (x her mark). Witnesses: Antoine Rachal, Pierre Michel, Jas. F. Porter, Jn P. M. Dubois, François Rachal (x) his mark. Alexis Moreau, Bte. Adley Junr.

“I the undersigned Jean André Zépherin Carles, Doctor of Medicine legally practicing in this state of Louisiana, declare and certify that Dorothee Monet who made this attached testament, is sound of mind. At Ecores, 13 July 1820. [Signed] Carles, D.M.”

4 August 1820, will probated, on oaths of witnesses Pierre Michel, James Porter, and **Francois Rachal**. Alexis Cloutier, named by the will as executor, is confirmed.

4 August 1820, inventory of Dorothee Monet who **died 22 July 1820**.

- A tract of land in parish of Natchitoches on left bank of Red river **ascending**, “quantity not precisely known, being the balance remaining of a tract of land granted to the said Dorothee Monet by an order of survey issued under the Spanish government” 4 July 1798, “deducting therefrom twenty five arpens frontage now held by Dr. James F. Porter & 10 arpens frontage now held by Étienne Rachal. Estimated at \$2000.

⁹⁷ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 1272.

⁹⁸ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3343.

⁹⁹ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 1626.

¹⁰⁰ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3008.

¹⁰¹ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3001.

- A negro woman slave named **Suzanne**, aged about 27 years, with her child **Pierre**, about 5, & her child **Louise**, about 3. Estimated at \$1200.
- A negro man named **Christmas** aged about 27 years. Estimated at \$900.
- A negro man named **Tom**, aged about 80 years, unserviceable.
- Articles of household furniture. Estimated at \$6.
- 1 Pair of oxen. Estimated at \$50.
- The crop of corn now growing on her plantation, containing about 10 arpents of corn. Estimated at \$100.

“There being nothing further to estimate, I have caused the inventory & estimation to be closed.”
[Signed] Jas. F. Porter, John Carnahan. Witnesses: Wm. Murray, François Rachal (x). Alexis Cloutier (x)

4 August 1820. Charles Slocum, parish judge, called a “meeting of the family of **Narcisse Monet**, a minor child under the age of puberty of the late **Dorothe Monette** a free woman of colour. There being but one of the relations of the said minor in the immediate neighbourhood, I served her to be called, to wit **Rosalie Louis Guillori** a free woman of colour [also] James F. Porter, John Carnahan, **François Rachal** & William Murray, neighbors.” They are of the opinion that Alexis Cloutier be appointed tutor [guardian of the financial interests and assets] of the said minor, with James F. Porter as under tutor. The estate is to be disposed of according to the will. The balance of the property would be sold “on credit the one half until the month of March 1821 and the balance until the month of March 1822.” [Signed]: James F. Porter, John Carnahan, Wm. Murray, François Rachal (his X mark), Rosalie Louis Guilorie (her X mark), Charles Slocum.¹⁰²

COMMENT:

The church registers of St. François variously identify Rosalie as a “metive,” a “mestizo,” and a “Canneci Indian.”¹⁰³

4 August 1820. Appointment of tutor and undertutor. “The said Dorothe Monet left the following children (to wit) **Marie Louise Adelle Monet, Marie Louise Adeline Monet, Louis Monet, Marie Theresa Monet & Marie Celine Monet** of the age of puberty & **Narcisse Monet** under the age of puberty.

5 August 1820. Sale of succession on following terms: “the present crop of corn, cattle & house furniture payable in March next. The slaves on a credit one half payable in March next & the balance in March 1822 (to wit):

- Two Dutch ovens adjudged to François Rachal for \$5.50
- One pair of oxen to Fr. Rachal [for] \$56.00
- One field of Corn to A. Cloutier [for] \$37.00
- One man slave named Christmas to **Jn Bte Rachal Pierre Rach** [sic] \$1260.00
- One Negro woman slave named **Suzan** & her two children named **Pierre & Louise** to **John Louis Delouche** [for] \$1250

¹⁰² Natchitoches Succession Book 3: 22–27.

¹⁰³ Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entries 2863, 3013, 3394.

[Signed] A. Cloutier (x) Curator, Jas. F. Porter, Tutor. Witnesses: P. Michel, John Carnahan. Charles Slocum, Par. Judge.

7 AUGUST 1820

CENSUS

[Beginning in present area of Magnolia Plantation & descending the river]¹⁰⁴

Bmy. Lecour [with his children by Ursulle, the daughter of LeCourt's enslaved Native, Louison]

Wid. Monet [Widow of Louis, estranged wife of Porter, living next to her brother Ambroise L]

Ambroise LeComte

Alexis Cloutier

Vallery Anty

A. Brisset

Artonace Lacour [Athanas Lacour]

Ant. Condit

Pierre Michell

Wm. Owens

Sylvester Rachall

Jno. P. M. Dubois

Remy Resto

Pierre Quierey

Wid. Dupre

Marc Sompayrac

Manuel Rachall

Osgood Witcher

Nicholas Gracia

Bat. Rachall

Spalier Rachall

Alexis Moreau

John Carnehan

Geo. Sneed

Jno. Verangue

Jas. F. Porter [on land bought from Dorothee Monet]

Wid. Nolasco

Dorote Monet¹⁰⁵

	1 white female 45+	1 male slave 45+
1 white male 16–25	1 white female 26–44	1 female slave 26–44
1 white male 10–15	2 white females 10–15	
2 white males 0–9	2 white female 0–9	

Dorseno Rachall [François Dorsino; later had child by Dorothee's daughter Adéle]

Etienne Rachall

Ant. Rashall

Louis Rashall

¹⁰⁴ 1820 U.S. census, Natchitoches Parish, La., stamped p. 99.

¹⁰⁵ Dorothee is dead. Census instructions called for naming all individuals in the household as of the official census date (1st Monday in August 1820). Dorothee did a few days before that. Apparently the informant for the household was not certain of Dorothee's death date.

Onezeame St. Andre
Wid. Ant. Rachall
Frans. St. Germain
Frans. Baudry
Andre St. Andry
Jacque St. Andre
Jacob St. Andre
James Brown
Jean Larenodiere
Bat. Chellette
James McGloughlin
Bat. Seader [Cidre *var.* Cid]
Juan Parrinos
Guadeloupe Sevallos
[end of page]

26 MAY 1822

Account of Alexis Cloutier, administrator of the succession of **Dorothee Monet**. Included is:

- March 1817 Due to Alexis Cloutier, curator for the clearance of a note of **Madame Dorothee Monet** to Opoque [Hopok] ... \$109.14

The heirs, who divided the land among them, were left with a balance of \$1840.76%.¹⁰⁶

14 JULY 1824

“Monsieur Louis Monette,” free man of color, gives his quittance [release] to “Monsieur Alexis Cloutier,” acknowledging that he has received his share of the estate of his deceased mother, **“Mademoiselle Dorothee Monette,”** before Cloutierville notary, Jean Pierre Marie Dubois. Both parties X'd their names on the release.¹⁰⁷

COMMENT:

Louis Monet appears to have had an informal union with a woman named Orezitte Jacques, by whom they had four or possibly five children, baptized as follows:

“No. 109. Louis Constantin Monete, natural son of Louis Monete and Orezitte Jacque, b. 28 ay 1825, bt. 24 Nov. 1831, by Blanc. Sponsors: Simeon Rachal and Marie Therese.”

“No. 110. Marie Eleonore Monete, natural daughter of Louis Monete and Orezitte Jacque, b. 15 Mar. 1828, bt. 24 Nov. 1831, by Blanc. Sponsors: Joseph Derbanne and Marie Elizabette Derbanne, all inhabitants of Natchitoches Parish.”

“No. 111. Marie Zoé Monete, natural daughter of Louis Monete and Orezitte Jacque, b. 3 June 1829, bt. 24 Nov. 1831, by Blanc. Sponsors: Jean Pierre Cloutier and Marie Tranquilline LaCourt, all inhabitants of Natchitoches Parish.

¹⁰⁶ Natchitoches Succession Book 4: 166–67.

¹⁰⁷ Louis Monette to Alexis Cloutier, Quittance, 14 June 1824, Folder 55, Cane River Notarial Collection, L. Kemper Williams Research Center, New Orleans.

“No. 112. Marie Théotis Monete, natural daughter of Louis Monete and Orezitte Jacque, b. 3 June 1830, bt. 24 Nov. 1831, by Blanc. Sponsors: Emanuel Hernandes and Marie Adéline Gallien, all inhabitants of Natchitoches Parish.”

“No. 117. Marie Joseph Orezitte, natural daughter of Marie Orezitte, b. 19 Mar. 1830, bt. 24 Nov. 1831 by Blanc. Sponsors: Emanuel Hernandes and Marie Adélayde, all residing in Natchitoches Parish.”¹⁰⁸

Note that all were baptized on the same day. On the preceding day, Fr. Blanc baptized a child of Silvester Rachal and another of André St. André, residents of lower Rivière aux Cannes (T6N R4W). On 16 November, Fr. Blanc had been a few miles below, in Rapides parish, where he baptized An Apalache Indian child, an Opelousas Indian child, and several children for the intermarried Gillard and LaCour families.

The location of this Louis Monette and Orezitte Jacques suggests they are on Dorothee Monet’s land, adjacent to the St. Andrés. The records of their neighbor Jacques St. André should be studied for possible origins of Orezitte.

The Marie Adelayde of entry 117 *might* be Louis Monet’s sister Marie Louise Adelaïde, aka Adelle.

The same volume of baptisms offers one other item of interest—a baptism occurring on the same day as baptisms for several of the families above:

“No. 29. Philbert Robles, legitimate son of José Marie Robles and Marie Oresille Jacques, b. 15 Apr. 1835, bt. 13 Apr. 1836, by E. D’Hauw. Sponsors: Joseph Derbanne and Marie Arsène Derbanne.”¹⁰⁹

25 AUGUST 1830

ST. FRANÇOIS

Baptism of **Florentine** born October 1822, natural daughter of **Adel Dorothe** and a father unknown. Godparents: Joseph François Martines and Marie Florentine de Porcuna, all residents of the parish of Natchitoches.¹¹⁰

2 OCTOBER 1834

ST. FRANÇOIS

Baptism of Josse Mauritio Vasquez, aged 2 years, son of Manuel Vasquez and **Marie Louise Moneta**. Godparents: Ventura Guerra and Maria Andrea Flores.¹¹¹

COMMENT:

This Marie Louise “Moneta” would appear to be either Marie Louise Adele or her twin Marie Louise Adeline.

16 MAY 1838

¹⁰⁸ Judy Riffel, *Natchitoches Baptisms, 1817–1840: Abstracts from Register 6 of St. Francis Catholic Church, Natchitoches, Louisiana* (Baton Rouge: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, 2007), p. 145.

¹⁰⁹ Riffel, *Natchitoches Baptisms, 1817–1840*, p. 198.

¹¹⁰ St. François Parish, Reg. 6, no. 1830:61.

¹¹¹ Sr. François Parish, Reg. 6, no. 1834:89.

ST. FRANÇOIS

Baptism of child born 20 February 1838, daughter of Jean Bte. Clemente Cide and **Adele Rachal**, his wife. Godparents: Benigne Martina and his wife Josephine Couti.¹¹²

COMMENT:

This “Adele Rachal” would be Dorothee’s eldest daughter, a twin to Adaline. Note that no color is applied to her in this document.

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¹¹² St. François Parish, Reg. 6, no. 1838:82.