

**Louis Monet (June 1753–1 November 1804)**  
**Spouse:**  
**Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (1757–1829)**

**Research Notes**

**Louis Monet Family Summary:**

**Born:** cJune 1753, Post of Natchitoches, Louisiana<sup>1</sup>  
**Son of:** Pierre Mathieu Monet, French-born soldier, and Marie Elisabeth Rachal, Créole French  
**Marriage:** **Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte** (widow Dupré); m. 11 October 1785;<sup>2</sup> no children  
**Relationships:**<sup>3</sup> (1) **Thérèse**, Canneci (Lipan Apache); enslaved by Louis Matthias LeCourt de Presle; apparently died after 26 April 1817<sup>4</sup>  
(2) **Marguerite**, Guinea; enslaved by Jean Baptiste Dupré and Louis Monet; apparently died after 12 November 1804<sup>5</sup>  
(3) **Marie Françoise**, b. 1763, Afro-Créole daughter of Coincoin; enslaved by Dupré-Monet and then Alexis Cloutier, who manumitted her on 23 July 1819.<sup>6</sup>  
(4) **Cécile**, daughter of Catherine “Indian”; freed by Jean Baptiste Dupré’s will.  
(5) **Marie Louise LeComte**, b. 1781, Afro-French Créole daughter of Marie Françoise, above; her freedom was purchased in 1834 by her newly manumitted son Louis Monet Jr.<sup>7</sup>  
**Occupation:** Planter  
**Died:** 1 November 1804, Monet’s Bluff, Les Écores District, Natchitoches jurisdiction<sup>8</sup>  
**Child of Louis Monet by Thérèse:**

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<sup>1</sup> 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 562.

<sup>2</sup> Monet-LeComte marriage contract 10 Oct. 1785, Natchitoches Colonial Archives (NCA), Doc. 1839; Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches. All contracts, deeds, probate records and lawsuits cited in this paper, are from this office, unless cited to another archive. Also, Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803*, entry 1093.

<sup>3</sup> Each of these relationships are documented in the research notes that follows. For more details and context, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Louis Monet’s Daughters Dorothée and Dorothée: Sorting Tri-Racial Roots of Two Previously Merged, Colonial Born Freedwomen,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 109 (June 2021): 85–110.

<sup>4</sup> On this day the administrator of the succession of Monet’s neighbor Jean Louis Hopoke drafted an account showing that the succession held a note on Dorothée Monet for \$129 and had paid \$7 to “Thérèse, *sauvagesse*.” No other full-Native Thérèse has been identified at Les Écore. For the account, see Natchitoches Succession Book 2: 159 and 405.

<sup>5</sup> NCA Doc. 3202, inventory of slaves, succession of Louis Monet, itemizes most slaves within their documentable family cluster. “Margaret,” age 60, appears just before “Henriette,” age 7, who was Marguerite’s granddaughter. Henriette’s mother Dorothée, daughter of Marguerite, had already been manumitted and, thus, does not appear in the family cluster.

<sup>6</sup> Natchitoches Conveyance Book 8: 104.

<sup>7</sup> Marie Louise LeComte, Widow Monet and Porter, to Louis Monet, free man of color (fmc), sale of enslaved Marie Louise (LeComte) for manumission, folder 396, MS 182, Cane River Notarial Collection, Historic New Orleans Collection, L. Kemper Williams Research Center, New Orleans. For more on Marie Françoise, see Gary B. Mills and Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Forgotten People: Cane River’s Creoles of Color*, rev. ed. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013), 47–48.

<sup>8</sup> NCA Doc. 3202.

1. **DOROTHÉE MONET**, b. 24 September 1774, LeCourt's Bluff, Les Écores community, Rivière aux Cannes district<sup>9</sup> on Red River; d. 22 July 1820 at Les Écores<sup>10</sup> near the land granted to her by the Spanish Crown. This Dorothée was allowed to identify herself as Monet's daughter during his lifetime.<sup>11</sup> Her succession identifies six children: *Marie Louise Adelle* (who used the surnames Monet and Rachal), her twin *Marie Louise Adeline* (who used the surname Rachal), *Louis* (who used the surname Monet) *Marie Thérèse*, *Marie Céline* (baptized as child of Étienne Rachal;<sup>12</sup> Céline used the surname Rachal as an adult) and *Narcisse* (whose offspring also used the surname Rachal).<sup>13</sup> The executor of Dorothée's succession was her father's first cousin, Alexis Cloutier.<sup>14</sup>

Child of Louis Monet by Marguerite:

2. **DOROTHÉE MONET**, b. 30 October 1777,<sup>15</sup> Côte Joyeuse, Red River, post of Natchitoches. Regularly called "*mulâtresse*," this Dorothée never used a surname on any record created during her lifetime. Her surname is found in only one document: the 1837 marriage record of son *Jean Baptiste Cyriaque Monet*<sup>16</sup> (b. 1795, baptized 22 February 1797).<sup>17</sup> Her only other known child was Marie Henriette Cloutier (baptized 22 February 1797 at two months)<sup>18</sup> who wed the Afro-French Pierre Metoyer Jr., 8 January 1817.<sup>19</sup> This Dorothée died after 17 December 1821, when she served as a godmother to a Guinea slave of Louis Metoyer.<sup>20</sup> Her numerous appearances together with Toussaint Metoyer between 1810 and 1821, and other factors, suggest a personal relationship between the two of them.<sup>21</sup>

Child of Louis Monet by Marie Françoise:<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> As settlements expanded below the military post and town of Natchitoches, several communities formed along Red River (now Cane River). The Côte Joyeuse (aka Grand Coast) stretched below the town for about fifteen river miles. *Isle Brevelle* began at the point that Bayou Brevelle flowed into Red River and stretched for another thirty or so river miles to the point where present Cane River merges with Old River. Rivière aux Cannes began at the foot of Isle Brevelle and ran south another thirty or so river miles to the point that Cane River merged with Rigolet de Bon Dieu (now Red River).

<sup>10</sup> Succession Book 3: 22–25.

<sup>11</sup> NCA Doc. 2838, shows Dorothée, "*métive*, natural daughter of Louis Monet" selling part of this land, stating that she had received it by concession dated 1796.

<sup>12</sup> For Étienne as Céline's father, see Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 311.

<sup>13</sup> In 1810, about the time that Narcisse was born, Dorothée conveyed part of her land to Étienne; Conveyance Book 2: 66–67, Monette to Rachal. For use of the name Rachal by Narcisse's children, see the various examples cited in 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. Note, however, that this latter source merges the two Dorothée Monets into one.

<sup>14</sup> For all information known to date for this Dorothée, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Dorothée Monet, French & Indian Freedwoman (27 September 1774–22 July 1820), French & Indian: Research Notes," a work in progress last updated 26 June 2021; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research" tab.

<sup>15</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3144.

<sup>16</sup> Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches Church Marriages, 1818–1850: Translated Abstracts from the Registers of St. François des Natchitoches* (Tuscaloosa: Mills Historical Press, 1985), entry 375, citing Reg. 12, no. 30-1837.

<sup>17</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1719–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3143.

<sup>18</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3144.

<sup>19</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 784.

<sup>20</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 1687.

<sup>21</sup> For all information known to date for this Dorothée, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Dorothée Monet (30 October 1777–aft. 17 December 1821), French & African: Research Notes," a work in progress last updated 26 June 2021; archived online at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>22</sup> Marie Françoise also had another son who used the surname Monet: Charles, manumitted by Widow Monet on 3 June 1824; Conveyance Book 15:74. Born about September 1783 (according to the inventory of J. B. Dupré's succession), he was freed on 3 June 1824 (Natchitoches Conveyance Book 15:74, "Madame Marie Louise Lecomte Porter" to Charles, *nègre*, aged about 35). A carpenter, Charles died unmarried in 1827, with his mother reporting his death and renouncing his succession; Succession Book 6: 118–24. Usage of a surname other than the mother's almost always represented paternity in this society. However, most records call Charles *nègre*, rather than *mulâtre*, suggesting he was not Monet's son or was unusually dark for a half-French man.

3. FLORENTIN MONET, "pardo," declared free at baptism 18 December 1791;<sup>23</sup> apparently died young.
4. FRANÇOIS NICOLAS MONET, b. cSeptember 1795 (baptized 22 February 1797 at seventeen months);<sup>24</sup> free by 1835 when he bought the freedom of his daughter Marie Zélia, aged fifteen.<sup>25</sup>

Child of Louis Monet by Cécile:<sup>26</sup>

5. MARIE LOUISE PERINE CÉCILE *aka* MONET, b. about 1788; no baptismal record found. By an Anglo newcomer, James F. Porter (justice of the peace for the district of *Les Écores*) she bore two sons. Jacques, b. 25 December 1802,<sup>27</sup> and Louis. By 1809 Porter had married Louis Monet's widow and purchased part of the Dorothée Monet land, from which he "donated" a parcel to the seven-year-old Jacques, citing the boy as his son "by a free mulatress Marie Louise, daughter of Cécile, a free woman of color."<sup>28</sup> When Jacques married, 24 August 1830, he cited his mother's given name as "Perine," rather than "Marie Louise."<sup>29</sup> When Louis married, 14 May 1833, he cited his mother as "Perine Cécile";<sup>30</sup> at Louis' death in 1835, his burial record identified his mother as Marie Perine Monet.<sup>31</sup>

Child of Louis Monet by Marie Louise LeComte, daughter of Marie Françoise above:

6. LOUIS MONET, b. 25 December 1802;<sup>32</sup> freed 2 May 1825 by his father's widow.<sup>33</sup> Married Marie Louise Coton-Mais, 17 May 1825 (blessed 23 July 1829).<sup>34</sup> The 31 July 1834 will of his father-in-law calls him "Palière Louis Monet."<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, no. 2650. His godmother, Susanne Metoyer, would also give the name Florentin to her first-born son in 1794.

<sup>24</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, no. 3145.

<sup>25</sup> The manumission of François Nicolas has not been found; he was free by 1835 when he bought Marie Zélia from Gen. François Gaienné; see *Natchitoches Miscellaneous Book 18*: 412. The surety for Nicolas on the manumission bond was his half-first cousin, Narcisse Dominique Metoyer, *fils* Dominique. Gaienné purchased his plantation and 93 enslaved people from Alexis Cloutier, the first cousin of Louis Monet Sr. and brother-in-law of Monet's widow; *Natchitoches Conveyance Book 12*: 211–15.

<sup>26</sup> Cécile's brother Jean Baptiste Balthasar, in the mid-1790s, had a brief relationship with Louis Monet's French and African daughter Dorothée Monet (Child no. 2 above).

<sup>27</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 49.

<sup>28</sup> NCA Doc. 3739, "James F. Porter, Esquire," donation, to "James Porter, son of the said James by a free mulatress Marie Louise, daughter of Cecile, a free woman of color."

<sup>29</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches Church Marriages, 1818–1850*, entry 353, Louis Porter to Marie Aglae Metoyer, daughter of Dominique Metoyer Jr. and wife Adelaÿde Rachal, all fpc.

<sup>30</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches Church Marriages, 1818–1850*, entry 175, Jacques Porter to Adelaÿde Arsene Coton-Mais. Arsene's sister Marie Louise, in 1825, had married Jacques' half-brother Louis Monet Jr.

<sup>31</sup> St. François Church (Natchitoches), Register 15, section "free people of color and slaves," no. 1835:2; St. François is now known as Immaculate Conception.

<sup>32</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 1838.

<sup>33</sup> For Louis Jr.'s manumission, see *Journal of the House of the State of Louisiana*, 1825, pp. 25, 27, 46; *Journal of the House of the State of Louisiana*, 1825, pp. 39, 71, 73, 85. Also, Marie Louise LeComte to "her slave Louis Monette, aged 22," folder 75, Cane River Notarial Records.

<sup>34</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches Church Marriages, 1818–1850*, entry 1752."

<sup>35</sup> *Natchitoches Conveyance Book 21*: 38, will of Antoine Coton-Mais; the will is recorded in a deed book rather than amid successions.

## RESEARCH NOTES

### 26 JUNE 1753

“Baptism of Louis, legitimate son of Mathieu Monette and Elisabeth Rachal. Godparents: Louis Rachal, his uncle (x) and Marie Louise [Le] Roy.”<sup>36</sup>

### 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.<sup>37</sup>

#### 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.<sup>38</sup> After LeCourt’s death, Louis Monet bought his land (1785).<sup>39</sup>

### 16 APRIL 1776

Luis Monette, resident of the post of Natchitoches, actually in New Orleans at this time, has neither father nor mother. 352 livres are due hi from his maternal and paternal inheritance, as heir of Mattheo Monnet, his father, who died at Natchitoches in 1758. Nicolas Lauve *dit* Colin has been his guardian. [Etc.]<sup>40</sup>

#### COMMENT:

I found this, at closing time, on the last day of a research trip to New Orleans and did not have time to capture it all.

### 1 MARCH 1778

Baptism of **Dorothea**, born 31 October 1777, natural daughter of **Margarita**, a slave of **Juan Bautista Dupres**. Godparents: Joseph Dupré and **Dorothea** Peraut.<sup>41</sup>

#### COMMENT:

Note below that, in 1782, Monet would buy land adjacent to the Baptiste Dupré plantation.

### 20 APRIL 1778

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

“a *sauvagesse* named Thérèse, aged 36 years” and her children

- *Susanne*, her daughter, b. 10 August 1770
- **Dorothe**, her daughter, b. 27 September 1774
- **Rosalie**, her daughter, b. 27 March 1776
- *Gaspard*, born 6 January 1778<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 562.

<sup>37</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2278.

<sup>38</sup> NCA Doc. 301; the document is missing from courthouse but it is logged into “Index 1738–1818” under the date “1760–66.”

<sup>39</sup> NCA Doc. 1848.

<sup>40</sup> Notarial Records of Juan B. Garic, vol. 6 (1776), no. 109; Notarial Office, New Orleans.

<sup>41</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2326.

<sup>42</sup> NCA Doc. 1285.

LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

COMMENT:

On 20 December 1783, two other children were baptized for Thérèse, slave of “El Court,” an unnamed son [who should be Jacques Ambroise LeComte] and a daughter Thérèse,<sup>43</sup> who married the French and African Louis Metoyer and also used the surname LeComte. That marriage record identifies the bride’s mother as “Thérèse, Indian of the Canneci nation.”<sup>44</sup>

**27 SEPTEMBER 1779**

“Rank and names of the Natchitoches militiamen who accompanied Don Atanacio de Mézières (to San Antonio de Bexar where de Mézières was to assume the governorship of Texas: **Monet, Louis**, Rifleman, company of Don Antonio Maria de Mézières.”<sup>45</sup>

COMMENT:

“Don Antonio Maria de Mézières,” baptized as Marie Antoine, was the son of Commandant Athanase Mauguet de Mézières by his second wife Pelagie Fazende.<sup>46</sup>

**1 SEPTEMBER 1780**

“Roll of the Infantry Company of Militia taken in Review [and] Cavalry Company of Natchitoches Militia, company of Capt. Louis Charles DeBlanc: **Louis Monet** [cavalryman].”<sup>47</sup>

**1 JANUARY 1782**

“Register of the Company of Light Cavalry of the Militia of the Post of Natchitoches, in the order according to inspection ... Louis Charles, DeBlanc, Captain ... **Louis Monet**.”<sup>48</sup>

**16 NOVEMBER 1782**

Before Capt. Louis Cesaire Bormé in absence of Commandant de Vaugine, **Athanase Poissot** sells to **Louis Monet**, \_\_\_ arpens of land situated on the river on “*la Grand Côte*, in descending, bounding land of **Baptiste Dupré**. 100 piasters. Witnesses: L. Diard; Roujot.”<sup>49</sup>

COMMENT:

The number of arpents is bound into the crack of the book. When the property was sold in 1791 (see that date below) it was said to be seven arpents.

**1782**

“**Monet**, Metoyer et al vs. Rex, suit.” Document missing but registered as Doc. 1662, under the year 1782, in “French Archives Index” created in 1819.

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<sup>43</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entries 2446 and 2447.

<sup>44</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entries 2992 and 3448; both the marriage record and the baptismal record of their son born in 1800 use the “Indian of the Canneci nation” identity for Mme. Metoyer’s mother.

<sup>45</sup> 1779 Roll of Militiamen Dispatched to San Antonio, 27 September 1779,” Ramo de Historia, vol. 299, Archivo General y Público, Mexico City; translation published in Elizabeth Shown Mills and Ellie Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book: Censuses, Military Rolls & Tax Lists, 1722–1803* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2017), 79.

<sup>46</sup> Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Mézières, Trichel, Grappe: A Study of Tri-Caste Lineages in the Old South,” *The Genealogist* 6 (Spring 1985): 3–84, particularly 36; archived online at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/mezieres.pdf>).

<sup>47</sup> Legajo 193-A Papeles Procedentes de Cuba, Archivo General de Indias, Seville (hereinafter PPC-AGI); translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, 82.

<sup>48</sup> Leg. 195, PPC-AGI; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, 88.

<sup>49</sup> NCA Doc. 1624.

**1782**

“**Monet, Louis** to Governor Miro, petition.” Document missing but registered as Doc. 1663, under the year 1782, in “French Archives Index” created in 1819.

**1782**

“**Monet, Louis** to Governor Miro, petition.” Document missing but registered as Doc. 1774, under the year 1782, in “French Archives Index” created in 1819.

**1 JUNE 1783**

“Statement of the Light Cavalry Company of the Militia at the Post of Natchitoches, in the order according to that passed in review ... Louis Charles DeBlanc, Capt. ... **Louis Monet**, Cavalryman.”<sup>50</sup>

**15 AUGUST 1785**

**Mme. Veuve [Widow] B<sup>te</sup> Dupré** sells the following to **Louis Monet**:

- a *negresse Creolle* named Françoise aged 23, and her children
  - her son Remy aged 6
  - a small mulatto named Marie Louise aged about 3 years
  - a small *nègre* named Charles aged about 1 and ½ years
- a *negresse* named Thérèse, aged about 40 years and her children
  - a small *nègre* named Athanaze, aged 7
  - a small *negresse* named Nanette, aged 3 years
  - a small *negresse* named Marie Josephe, 2 years
- a small *mulâtresse* named Dorothée, aged 7 years
- a young *negrillon* named Antoine, aged 15
- 3 arpents frontage of land, to the depth that it is able to carry.

The price for the slaves is 3500 piasters. The price for the land is 69 piasters. Total 3569 piasters. Widow Dupré made her mark. Louis Monet signed neatly. Witnesses: Paul Marcollai, Joseph Capuran. Pierre Rousseau, commandant.<sup>51</sup>

## COMMENT:

- Dorothée’s mother: As noted in the Monet-Dupré marriage contract below, Dorothée is coupled with “one *negresse* named Marguerite, native of Guinea, aged 30,” who is said to be Dorothée’s mother. Marguerite does not appear on the list of enslaved people sold to Monet by his wife-to-be on 15 August.
- Antoine’s mother: In 1825, seven years after the Dupré-Monet heirs had been sold to Alexis Cloutier, the Dupré Heirs sued Cloutier. Documents from that case are filed on microfilm PC.22 in the Office of the Clerk of Court at Natchitoches. The first named was “Marie Jeanne, a Negro woman sold with her son to Monette 15 August 1785.” The second named slave is her son *Antoine*. Marie Jeanne, like Marguerite, is missing from the 15 August 1785 sale recorded in the clerk’s office.
- Both women missing from this sale, Marguerite and Marie Jeanne, are on both the 12 November 1804 inventory of slaves held by Louis Monette at his death (a list that cites Marie

<sup>50</sup> Leg. 196, folio 448–49 verso, PPC-AGI; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, 89.

<sup>51</sup> NCA Doc. 1831.

LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

Jeanne as “Janton”—i.e., *Jeanneton*, nickname for Jeanne) and the August 1818 sale of those enslaved people by the Widow Monet to Alexis Cloutier. (See those dates below) The only Jeanneton I have identified for Natchitoches was born c1735 as an older sister of Coincoin.

#### 10 OCTOBER 1785

Marriage contract of **Louis Monnet**, major son of deceased Pierre Mathieu Monnet and deceased Babet [Elisabeth] Rachal, native of Natchitoches, with **Widow Baptiste Dupré**, daughter of deceased Jean Baptiste Lecompte and Marguerite LeRoy, native of Natchitoches. The inventory of slaves belonging to Monnet included: “one *negresse* named **Marguerite, native of Guinea**, aged 30, and her child, “**a small mulâtresse named Dorothé, 7**, valued at 500 piasters.” Land consisted of 4 arpents of land at one league (about 3 miles) from the post, on the east side of the river, bordered above by Athanaze Poisot and below by the bride.<sup>52</sup>

#### OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1785

“Statement of the Infantry Company of Militia at the Post of Natchitoches, Passed in Review, November 1785: ... Louis Charles DeBlanc, Captain ... Louis Monnet, Cavalryman.”<sup>53</sup>

#### 16 NOVEMBER 1785

Before Pierre Rousseau, Commandant, appeared Mr. Bérthelemy Le Court, a young man of legal age, and Demoiselle Marie Le Court, a young woman of legal age, who sell to **Louis Monnet**, land at the place called *Les Écores*, that place being *the ancient habitation held by their parent, the deceased Mr. LeCourt and the ancient habitation of Sieur Louis Rachal*. The land being sold lies on the left descending bank, bounded on the upper by Sieur Loui[s] Rachal and on the lower by the domain. The deceased Mr. Le Court held title by concession and the sellers are his heirs. Price 100 piasters and the liquidation of the debts of their deceased father, as promised by the purchaser. Both sellers X'd. Louis Monnet signed. Witnesses: Paul Marcollay and E. Pavie.<sup>54</sup>

#### 17 AUGUST 1787

“General Census of the Residents and Sieurs at the Post of Natchitoches and its dependencies ...”

Jn Pommier (aged 44), His Wife, (20), Cecille Dupre (12) [S46, 49 & 110 T8N R7W]

Louis Rachal, the son (29), his wife (25), Melanie (1)

Marie Rachal (15)

Julien Rachal (27), His wife (23), Jn. Baptiste (3), Julien Rachal (1)

Joseph Lingleise [Langlois]

**Louis Monnet** (34), His wife (30), 2 tracts of land, 20 arpents total, 21 slaves, 50 cows, 20 horses

Manuel Davion (23)

Louis Rachal, the ... father (no age), His wife (50), Simeon (15), Jn Baptiste (10), Felicité (6)

Barth<sup>e</sup> Rachal [son of Louis Sr.] (32), His wife (18), Isabelle (1)

Pierre Larenaudiere (35), wife (22), Severin (1), Poupone (3)

[S52 & 107]

Jn Bte Labery (5, Wife (55), Magdelaine (16)<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> NCA Doc. 1839.

<sup>53</sup> Leg. 198-A, folios 804–808, PPC-AGI; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, 97.

<sup>54</sup> NCA Doc. 1848.

<sup>55</sup> Legajo 201, PPC-AGI, Seville; transcribed in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials, A Source Book*, 107.

LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

COMMENT:

The land that Monet's wife inherited from her husband Baptiste Dupré was adjacent to the plantation of his brother Joseph Dupré. Joseph's widow claimed **S51 and 106**; she and her daughter (Widow Étienne Verger) sold this to Remy Lambre, to whom the U.S. claim was confirmed. Just south of them, at **S52 and 107**, was the land of Pierre LaRenaudière, whose widow also sold that land to Remy Lambre before the U.S. claim was confirmed.

**9 DECEMBER 1787**

"Roll of the Company of Cavalry of the Militia inspected December 9, 1787 ... Dn Louis Charles DeBlanc, Captain ... **Louis Monet**, present."<sup>56</sup>

**22 MARCH 1789**

"Statement of the Cavalry Company of Militia at the post of Natchitoches in the order according to how they passed in review. ... Don Louis Charles DeBlanc, Captain ... **Louis Monet**, Cavalryman."<sup>57</sup>

**1790**

"**Monet, Louis** from Louis Rachal, donation of price [piece?] of land." Document missing but registered as Doc. 2206, under the year 1790, in the "French Archives Index" created in 1819.

**1790**

"**Monet, Louis** to Antoine Rachal, procuration." Document missing but registered as Doc. 2206 in the "French Archives Index" created in 1819.

**1 MARCH 1790**

"Assessment relating to the community of residents of Natchitoches made by me, Metoyer, syndic of the said post, on account of the 75 piasters that the community has consented to pay to Sieur Jean Baptiste Maurin, for lengthening the storehouse of the presbytery of this parish as it is stated on the agreement that was pledged and signed by the *ancien Habitans* of this post, dated 6 January 1790.

"After having carefully examined the census that has been given me, I have found that each white male who has attained the age of 14 years or over is due to pay one *real* for himself, as are widows and free people of color, and the same sum for each of their slaves, the small ones as well as the large, as it itemized hereafter, to wit: ... Grande Cotte: ... **Louis Monet**: 1 white, 26 slaves, 27 *reales* taxed, 27 *reales* received."<sup>58</sup>

**13 FEBRUARY 1791**

Before Louis Charles DeBlanc, commandant, has appeared **Louis Monet** (s), duly authorized by Louise Marguerite LeComte (x) his wife, who sells to Mr. Athanase Poissot **7 arpents** of land situated at  $\frac{3}{4}$  league [about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles] from the town, descending the river. The land is bounded on one side by the Sieur Poissot and on the other by the Widow Dupré his wife. The land came from the succession of deceased Jean Baptiste Dupré, her first husband. They also sell 2 arpents on the opposite side of the river from the 7

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<sup>56</sup> Leg. 193-A, PPC-AGI; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, 123.

<sup>57</sup> Leg. 202, folios 400–5, PPC-AGI; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, 126.

<sup>58</sup> Natchitoches Parish Records Collection, Department of Archives, Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, 132, 135.



LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

arpents, bounded on the upper by the purchaser and on the lower by the Widow Varangue; these 2 arpents also came from the inventory of the late Dupré. Price: 35 cows and their young, which Monet acknowledges receiving. Witness: Callé.<sup>59</sup>

#### 4 NOVEMBER 1791

“Roll of the Cavalry Company of Natchitoches Militia, taken in review 4 November 1791 .. Captain Dn Louis Charles DeBlanc ... Cavalrymen:... **Louis Monet**.<sup>60</sup>

#### 25 FEBRUARY 1792

Before Louis Charles DeBlanc, commandant, has appeared Sr. **Louis Rachal** (x) who sells to Sr. **Louis Monet** (s) a Negresse named **Marie Jeanne**, aged about 19, for 500 piasters. Witnesses: Paul Marcollay, F<sup>çois</sup> Callé.<sup>61</sup>

#### 6 FEBRUARY 1793

Baptism of **Dorotea**, born 26 December 1792, Negritte, father unknown, property of Pedro Derbanne. Godparents: Manuel Bartolome Rachal and **Dorotea Monet**.<sup>62</sup>

#### COMMENT:

- The godmother at this baptism was Louis’ French-Indian daughter, who was not enslaved.
- The baptized child, Dorotea, should be the enslaved child inherited by Pierre Derbanne’s son Joseph, swapped by him to brother Manuel in 1805, sold by Manuel to Augustin Metoyer in 1810, then manumitted by Augustin on 11 November 1814. As **Dorothee Boisdoré**, she married Joseph LaVigne, contract dated 7 December 1814.<sup>63</sup>

#### 1 DECEMBER 1793

“First Company of Cavalry of the Militia at the Post of Natchitoches taken in review, 1 December 1793. Captain: Dn Louis Charles DeBlanc ... [Cavalryman] **Louis Monet**.<sup>64</sup>

#### 1794

“Roster of Public Labors and Contributions, in alphabetical order. Types of work:

1. Work on the road before and around the church, 28 August 1794
2. Work on the ditch around the cemetery and the road-bridge
3. Enclosing the cemetery with a levee, 26 November 1792
4. Work on the crevasse in front of the church, 4 February 1793
5. Repair work on the ditch around the cemetery, 6 May 1793

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<sup>59</sup> NCA Doc. 2283.

<sup>60</sup> Leg. 193-A, PPC-AGI; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, 144.

<sup>61</sup> NCA Doc. 2389.

<sup>62</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2699.

<sup>63</sup> For more on this third Dorothee, see Mills and Mills, *Forgotten People*, rev. ed., 78–79; also the previously cited Mills, “Dorothee Monet (30 October 1777–aft. 17 December 1821), French & African: Research Notes.” After her purchase and manumission by Augustin Metoyer (who apparently was her brother-in-law, his wife also being a child of Pierre Derbanne’s enslaved woman Françoise), Dorothee Boisdoré married a neighbor Joseph LaVigne, fmc, and was firmly embedded in the Metoyer family, even more so than the French-African Dorothee Monet whose daughter married Augustin’s brother Pierre Metoyer Jr.

<sup>64</sup> Leg. 159-A, PPC-AGI; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, 149.

**Louis Monet**, type of labor: 2; number of days, 1<sup>65</sup>

#### 10 DECEMBER 1794

Before Louis Charles DeBlanc, commandant. **Louis Monet** (s) sells to Widow LaBerry (x) a plantation situated about 2 leagues [six miles] below the town. It contains 7 arpents frontage on the bank of the inhabitants [Grand Coast] and 13 arpents on the other. Bounded on the upper by the Sieur Ambroise LeComte [brother of Monet's wife] and on the lower by Louis Rachal *fils*. On the bank of the inhabitants it is bounded on the upper by Julien Rachal and on the lower by Ls. Buard. The land came to him by concession of the general government. He is duly authorized by his wife **Dame Marie Louise LeCompte** (x), here present. Witness: L. Chamard, Armant; both signed.

**25 April 1796.** Louis Monet gives quittance to the succession of Widow LaBerry.<sup>66</sup>

#### 4 MARCH 1795

Before Louis Charles DeBlanc, commandant. **Denis** (x), chief of the Apalachee, conveys to **Louis Monet** (s) a *negresse* named Nancie, aged about 30, and her two daughters Françoise, aged about 13 and Pellagie, about 11, in exchange for a *sauvage* named Cachoma\_\_ of the Choctaux nation. Witnesses: Frans. Laco\_\_, Roquier; both signed.<sup>67</sup>

#### 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 Bossié, syndic ...

##### [At Isle Brevelle, T8N R6W]:

Silvestre 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 [the original claimant of the land granted to Louis Metoyer that is known today as 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<sup>tiste</sup> Denis [married to a Beaudouin stepdaughter of Cajot], Pierre Beaudouin, Pierre Lacour *père*, Capitaine *Indien civilisé habitant* [bought Levasseur-Antÿ 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 [Taurus, aka Torres], Joachim Davion, Pierre Coutan, Gabriel Laures [Taurus], Simeon Rachale, Berthelmy Rachale *fils* de Louis, Louis Rachale *père*, **Louis Monette**, Louis Lambre, **André St.**

<sup>65</sup> Natchitoches Parish Records Collection, Department of Archives, LSU; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source List*, particularly 165, 169.

<sup>66</sup> NCA Doc. 2574.

<sup>67</sup> NCA Doc. 2601.

**André.**<sup>68</sup>

**15 OCTOBER 1795**

Census of slaveowners. “General Census of the Slaves of all ages and of all sexes at the Post of Natchitoches, in accordance with the lists that have been provided by Messieurs the syndics ...

“Isle Brevelle, including the bluffs [Monet’s Bluff] to Bayou Jean de Jean—District of Mr. Remy Lambre, Lieutenant of the cavalry of the militia & a syndic ... **Louis Monet** 25 slaves.”<sup>69</sup>

**28 JANUARY 1797**

Before Felix Trudeau, Commandant, appeared Sr. **Louis Monette** (s) who conveys to Sr. **Jean Baptiste Derbanne**, land on Isle à Brevel about 10 leagues [30 miles] from the post, consisting of 10 arpents on each bank. On one side it is bounded by deceased Remy Poissot and on the other by land belonging to the seller. The land comes to him from a concession based upon a request dated 28 May 1788. 120 piasters. Witnesses: Dubois (s), Nicolas Lauve (s).<sup>70</sup>

COMMENT:

This should be **S10&87 T7N R6W**, confirmed by U.S. to Jean Baptiste Derbanne. The plat of confirmed titles shows the following:

- upper neighbor: Yves *dit* Pacalé, who bought from Paul Poissot in 1803 (NCA Doc. 3047)
- lower neighbor (i.e., the land sold below by Monette to J. B. Lavigne). LaVigne mortgaged, then sold half his land to Louis Metoyer in 1811 (NCA Docs. 3895, 4043) and half to Charles Duret who sold it to Augustin Metoyer in 1811 (NCA Doc. 3929)
- The LaVigne-Louis Metoyer land became the plantation of Susanne Metoyer in 1815.

**28 JANUARY 1797**

Before Felix Trudeau, Commandant, appeared Sr. **Louis Monette** (s) who conveys to Sr. **Jean Baptiste LaVigne**, land on Isle à Brevel about 10 leagues [30 miles] from the post, consisting of 10 arpents on each bank. Bounded above by Jean Baptiste Derbanne and below by the land of Widow Philippe. The land comes to him from a concession based upon a request dated 28 May 1788. 120 piasters. Witnesses: Dubois (s), Nicolas Lauve (s).<sup>71</sup>

**22 FEBRUARY 1797**

Baptism of **Jean Baptiste**, aged two years, **mulatto son of Dorothée, mulatress slave of Mr. Monet**, and a father unknown. Godparents: Louis Rachal, represented by Louis Monet, and Margueritte Leroi, Widow [J. B.] Lecompte, represented by Margueritte Lecompte, her daughter.

Baptism of **Henriette**, aged two months, **quadroon daughter of Dorothé, mulatress slave of Mr. Monet**,

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<sup>68</sup> Carolyn M. Wells, *Index and Abstracts of Colonial Documents in the Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library* (Natchitoches: Archives Division, Watson Library, Northwestern State University of Louisiana), 26–27, citing Melrose Collection folder 716. Annotations in editorial brackets added here by E. S. Mills.

<sup>69</sup> Leg. 201, PPC-AGI; translation published in Mills and Lennon, *Natchitoches Colonials—A Source Book*, especially 178, 180.

<sup>70</sup> NCA Doc. 2743.

<sup>71</sup> NCA Doc. 2745.

LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

and a father unknown. Godparents: Louis, a free mulatto, and Marie Louise, a free mulatress.<sup>72</sup>

COMMENT:

As adults, these two children would self-identify as Jean Baptiste Cyriaque Monette (who also identified his father as Balthasar) and Marie Henriette Cloutier.<sup>73</sup>

**9 JANUARY 1798**

Before Felix Trudeau, Commandant, Sr. **Louis Rachal père** (x) declares having received from **Louis Monet** (s) the funds due him from the succession of his [Rachal's] late wife. Witnesses: Paul Marcollay (s), Dubois (s).<sup>74</sup>

**7 APRIL 1798**

“Before Commandant Felix Trudeau and assisting witnesses François Dubois and Paul Marcollay, appeared **Dorothée**, a *métive*, the **natural daughter of Louis Monet**, who sells to Sieur 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 **Dorothé** by concession dated 1796. [Signed] Dorothé (X, her mark), Dubois, Maës, Paul Marcollay, Felix Trudeau.”<sup>75</sup>

**20 APRIL 1798**

Succession sale of goods belonging to Pierre Joseph Maës and his late wife, held at the request of Maës to settle the succession among heirs. Purchasers included

- **Louis Monet** who bid 550 piasters for **Valere**, aged 23, with **Alexis Cloutier** as surety
- Étienne Vercher, who purchased **Marguerite**, aged 21, for 611 piasters, with **Louis Monet** as surety<sup>76</sup>

**18 OCTOBER 1799**

Baptism [at home of Mr. Monet] of **Marie Françoise**, aged seven months, *mulâtresse* daughter of Marie Louise [LeComte], *mulâtresse* slave of Mr. Monet, and a father unknown. Godparents: **Jacques Lecomte** and **Dorothée**.<sup>77</sup>

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*.<sup>78</sup>

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 **Dorothée**.<sup>79</sup>

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

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<sup>72</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entries 3143–3144.

<sup>73</sup> Mills, “Dorothée Monet, French & African Freedwoman: Research Notes (30 October 1777–aft. 17 December 1821),” previously cited.

<sup>74</sup> NCA Doc. 2820.

<sup>75</sup> NCA Doc. 2838.

<sup>76</sup> NCA Doc. 2840.

<sup>77</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3218.

<sup>78</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3219.

<sup>79</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3221.

LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

and **Dorothée**.<sup>80</sup>

COMMENT:

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

**1801**

**Louis Monet** "agrees to the estimate that has been put upon a *mulatress* named **Dorothée**," aged about 22, which belonged to him, having acquired her from **Madame Marie Louise** before his marriage to said lady. Emanuel Derbanne has paid him \$800 for her freedom.<sup>81</sup>

COMMENT:

This French-African Dorothée was the Dorothée who appeared to be in a relationship with Toussaint Metoyer. She was the mother of

- J. B. Cyriaque Monet, b. c1795 by J. B. Balthasar; at Cyriaque's marriage, he identified his mother as "Dorothée Monet."
- Marie Henriette Dorothée who Toussaint Metoyer contracted to buy in 1810, with title made in 1811 to her mother) and who married Toussaint's brother Pierre Metoyer Jr. in 1818 as his second wife.

**9? MARCH? [DECEMBER?] 1803**

"In the month of March next, I will pay to **Mr. J<sup>n</sup> B<sup>te</sup> Anty père**, of L'isle à Brevelle the sum of 35 *piasters* and 3 *Reaux*, Mexican currency, for value of his Account that [illegible]. "The Mark of **Mr. Louis Monette**, not being able to sign." Witness: Paillette.

Similar note 22 March 1805 due 17 \_\_\_\_ 1805, to Mr. Manuel Prudhomme for 10 *piasters* and 4 *reaux*.<sup>82</sup>

COMMENT:

This source is actually a jumble of vouchers submitted in the settlement of Monet's estate. All are part of an original bundle that was cataloged at the courthouse as "Document" 3872.

**7 AUGUST 1804**

Ambroise Lecomte, Françoise Lecomte (authorized by her husband Alexis Cloutier), and Marie Louise Lecomte (authorized by her husband **Louis Monette**) manumit the Negro Athanase, about 60, and the negresse Geneviève, about 45. All parties made their marks.<sup>83</sup>

**22 SEPTEMBER 1804**

**Louis Monet**, Planter, of the District of Natchitoches in consideration of the trust and confidence which I place and repose in **Hugh Thompson** of the same District, ... Do make, constitute, and appoint the said Hugh Tompson my true and lawful Attorney for me and in my name to act and transact all things necessary to be done concerning a certain account exhibited against me by **William Patterson** of the District aforesaid, **Blacksmith** ... Louis Monette X."

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<sup>80</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Translated Abstracts*, entry 3222.

<sup>81</sup> "Old Natchitoches Data," vol. 2: 40, typescript, Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches.

<sup>82</sup> NCA Doc. 3872.

<sup>83</sup> Natchitoches Deed Book 1: 92.

“I, the undersigned Sindic of the District of Rivière aux Cannes, do Certify that the above Signature [*sic*] of **Louis Monnet** is his own hand writing, for the purposes mentioned in the foregoing premises. Rivière aux Cannes this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of Sept<sup>er</sup> 1804. [Signed] Derbanne Sindic.”<sup>84</sup>

**12 NOVEMBER 1804**

Mary Louise Monet (x), widow of the late **Louis Monnet** appoints **Joseph Tauzin** her attorney to act for her in the settlement of Monet’s estate. Witness: John Duforest.<sup>85</sup>

**12 NOVEMBER 1804**

Inventory and estimation of goods of the late **Louis Monette**.

“I Edw<sup>d</sup> D. Turner, Commandant ... having been officially informed of the decease of **Louis Monnet** of [this] District who departed this life on the **1<sup>st</sup> Day of November 1804** at his Dwelling House, **forty-five miles** from the Post [by road], repaired to the late Habitation of the deceased accompanied by Joseph Tauzin and **Jno. Baptiste Anty** & Jas. Duforest and arrived on the twelfth of the same month, when for the Benefit of the Widow Heirs & Creditors to said Estate, I took the following Inventory and Appraisal of the property, real and personal of the said Deceased. ... <sup>86</sup>

***Enslaved people:***

- Negro Woman slave, 35, **Mary Jane** \$300
- Negress named **Fachonitte**, 23, \$500
- Negro man named **Athanas**, 30, \$500
- Mulâtress aged 12 named **Hortense**, \$400 [daughter of Françoise, below]
- Negro Boy **Colla** [François Nicolas], aged 8, \$300 [son of Françoise, below]
- Negress **Françoise** with a **child** of 3 months, Negro, aged 40, \$500 [Coincoin’s daughter]
- Negro Girl **Jane** [Marie Jeanne], aged 7, \$300 [daughter of Françoise, above]
- Negro girl **Mary Rose**, aged 2 years 6 m., \$150 [daughter of Françoise, above]
- Negro Girl **Judie** aged 2, \$200
- Negro **Antoine**, 35, \$100
- Negro **Louis**, 40, \$400
- Negro **Paul**, 50, \$350
- Negro **Harry**, 15, \$450
- Negress **Nanette**, 23, and her three children **Remy, Sincere, Sephalide**, \$900
- Negro **Michel**, 80, \$50
- Negress **Celeste**, 20, and her child **Celeste**, 4 months, \$600
- Negro **Gregroire**, 45, \$450
- Negress **Pelagie**, 70, \$60
- Negro **John Peter**, 70, \$50
- Negress **Mary Ann**, 35, \$500
- Negress **Pelagie**, 22, \$550
- Negro **Charles**, 22, \$600 [son of Françoise]

<sup>84</sup> NCA Doc. 3185.

<sup>85</sup> NCA Doc. 3205.

<sup>86</sup> NCA Doc. 3202.

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

- Negro **Marie Louise**, 23, \$500 [daughter of Françoise]
- Mulâtresse, **Modest**, 4, \$200 [child of Marie Louise]
- Mulâtre, **Louis**, Boy, 18 months, \$100 [son of Marie Louise] [freed 1824 by Widow Monet]
- Mulâtre, **Jno. Baptiste**, 9, \$300 [Jean Baptiste Cyriaque?]
- Negress, **Janton** [Jeanne “Jeanneton”], 70, \$50 [Coincoin’s sister Jeanneton?]
- Negress, **Margaret**, 60, \$60 [?mother of Dorothée freed 1802]
- Mulâtresse, **Henriette**, 7, \$200 [daughter of Dorothée freed 1802]
- Negress, **Mary Joseph**, 25, \$450
- Negress child, **Margaritte**, 2½, \$150
- Negro Boy **Ciprien**, 1, \$100
- Negress, **Thérèse**, 60, \$50
- Negress, **Nancy**, 50, subject to Fits, \$50
- **Joseph**, Diseased [no age or color] \$0

**Lands:**

“One Plantation of 12 acres front on each side of the River Rouge or Red River, being the usual of 40 Acres Deep and is bounded above by Lands of Cola Baudin [Nicolas Bodin] and below by a Grant made by the Baron Carondelet to the said Louis Monet dated 31 March 1792. The said plantation having thereon a Dwelling House 35’ in length and 20’ in width and divided into two Rooms, one Cotton House, one Store House, one Corn House, and Eleven Negro Huts ..... \$1000

“One Tract of Land Granted by the Baron Carondelet on March 31<sup>st</sup> 1792, containing 42 acres front and bounded below by land of **Athenas Lecour[t]** and above by the plantation aforesaid ... \$500.

**Notes:**

- a note of hand, **François Jnouse?** \$2
- a due bill of **François Rouquier Jur.** \$156.75
- a note of hand of **Pierre Leonaudi?** \$10 [Pierre Larenaudière?]
- Due bill of **Edw<sup>d</sup> Murphy** **\$20**
- Due Bill of **Daniel Biddle** \$6
- Due Bill of **Dr. M. Duffy** \$14
- Account against **Dan<sup>l</sup> Biddle** \$24
- Account against **Madam Tony** \$10
- Ditto **Joseph Lambre** \$10
- Ditto **Dr. Duffy** \$36
- **Louis Rashale, Son** \$9
- Ditto against **Petite Fortin** \$10
- Ditto **Christian Hesser** \$12
- Ditto **Edw<sup>d</sup> Murphy** \$85
- An Account against **Capt. B. Shaumburgh** \$504.00 Total: \$16,382.85

Signed: Edw<sup>d</sup> D. Turner, Commandant; **Mary Louise Monet (x)**, Anty, Jh. Tauzin, John Duforest, Alexis Cloutier (x), witness; Ambroise LeComte, witness.<sup>87</sup>

<sup>87</sup> NCA Doc. 3202.

**4 JANUARY 1805**

Assorted Bills due by Monet's Succession to various parties:

"1804. Due by Mr. Monet to Joseph Foret for crossings at Isle Brevel

3 Jan	2 crossings by horse, by his <i>engagé</i> , a Spaniard	6 reaux
3 June	2 crossings by horse, by his domestic who went in search of a doctor	4 reaux
12 June	2 crossings by horse by <b>Mr. Jean Varangue</b>	4 reaux
6 July	4 crossings by horse by <b>his Econnomme</b> [farm manager]	1 piast.
1 ____	2 crossings by horse, by Mr. <b>Ethienne Rachal</b>	2 reaux
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3 piast.<sup>88</sup></b>

**13 FEBRUARY 1805**1803. Mr. Louis Monnet *Doit a Augustin, forgeron* ... four charges totaling 20.2

"I under my ordinary mark, in presence of Mr. Mactair declare having received from Mr. Tauzin 20 *piasters* 2 *escalins* for the account due me from the Succession of Louis M. Monet. Natchitoches 13 February 1805. Mark ordinary X of Augustin, *forgeron*.<sup>89</sup>

**9 APRIL 1805**

(Assorted Bills due by Monet's Succession)

"1803 **Louis Monnette** due to **Dque Rachal** ...

Juin 17	for the balance of his account	23.4	
Nov. 3	____ to <b>Derote sa fille naturelle</b>	Do.	[the French-Indian Dorothé]
Mar. 1	a barrell of rice ... [sundry goods]	?	
	by his note payable to <b>Mr. Anty père</b>	35.3	
27 Nov	Madame Jacques Fort	7 piasters	
7 Dec	"Mr. Metoÿie	6 p	
	Pierre Metoÿie <i>mulatre libre</i>	8 p	
12 April	Mr. Placide Bossie	11 p	
18 April	Mr. Jn Bte. Bmy. Rachal	20 p	
[Signed]	9 April 1805 <b>D. Rachal</b> <sup>90</sup>		

**8 MAY 1805**

(Assorted Bills due by Monet's Succession)

"I, **Etienne Rachal**, under my mark and in presence of the undersigned witnesses, declare that I have received from D<sup>me</sup> Louise V<sup>e</sup> Monet, [various sums] being my rights in the succession of my father and mother .... **Louis Monet** ... being my tutor.<sup>91</sup>

**23 MAY 1805**

Assorted Bills due by Monet's Succession to various parties:

Bill: **Mr. Monet** due to **Metoyer** for blacksmith work by his *Economé Tom Monroe*. 15.4.<sup>88</sup> NCA Doc. 3806.<sup>89</sup> One of a collection of notes and vouchers from the Louis Monet succession that is misfiled after NCA Doc. 3805.<sup>90</sup> NCA Doc. 3806.<sup>91</sup> NCA Doc. 3806.



LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

**5 February 1805?** **Madame Widow Monet** paid the sum to **Augustin Mulatre libre**. [Signed] Metoyer [the signature of Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer]. (See also 13 February 1805, below.)<sup>92</sup>

COMMENT:

Apparently Widow Monet gave Augustin Metoyer the money the estate owed his father, for him to take to his father.

#### 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 **Dorothée, Indian of the Canneci nation**, and of a father unknown. Godparents: Jacques [Jacques Ambrose LeComte], *metif quarteron* and Marie Archange, Indian of the Canneci nation.<sup>93</sup>

#### 24 JANUARY 1806

(Assorted Bills due by Monet's Succession)

"This day Received of **Madam Monnett** twenty two dollars it being in full of all accompts dues and demands. [Signed] Thomas Roach." [This is attached to a bill itemizing tasks typical of a blacksmith.]<sup>94</sup>

#### 22 JANUARY 1807

Ordered that Alex<sup>s</sup> Cloutier and Joseph Tauzin be discharged from their Bonds as Sureties to the above signed **Louise Monet**, she having given **James T. Porter** (with sureties François Bossier & Placid Bossier) in their place.<sup>95</sup>

COMMENT:

This document suggests that the Widow Monet has not yet married Porter but that he has persuaded her to let him manage her affairs. The marriage likely occurred soon after this.

#### 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 same 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 Écores LeCour**, being part of a tract of Land purchased by Porter from **Dorothée 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

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<sup>92</sup> NCA Doc. 3806.

<sup>93</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register No. Five*, entry 171.

<sup>94</sup> NCA Doc. 3806.

<sup>95</sup> NCA Doc. 3202.

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 they were married and her rights were “covered” by or subsumed into his], except those relating to the property covered by this agreement.
- to not hold the said Marie Louise LeComte responsible for any debts contracted by him past 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.’<sup>96</sup>

#### 4 JUNE 1810

Sale of **Henriette** by Widow Monet, wife of Porter, to Toussaint Metoyer for \$640 on credit, for the purpose of manumission.<sup>97</sup>

COMMENT:

See 1811 below for the document by which the final title was issued to Henriette’s mother, not to Toussaint.

#### 5 MARCH 1810

**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 Écors in this county, etc. Witnesses: **Prevost Dupré, J<sup>n</sup> P<sup>re</sup> M<sup>ie</sup> Dubois**.<sup>98</sup>

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 Rachal.

#### 7 MARCH 1810

Final Account of Dame Widow Monet against the succession of Deceased Mr. Monet, Her spouse.

Payments include:

- No. 1 Mr. Ternier
  - no. 2 Augustin, Forgeron 20.2
  - no. 3 Fs. Rouquié
  - No. 4 Augustin Metoyé
- [32 others]

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<sup>96</sup> NCA Doc. 3711.

<sup>97</sup> Natchitoches Miscellaneous Book 1: 226.

<sup>98</sup> NCA Doc. 3778.

LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

For a mulatress named **Fanchon** with her two infants that Mr. Louis Monet had sold to **Mr. Baptiste Rachal**, which slaves came from the inheritance of Dame Widow Louise Lecompte, widow Monet, from the succession of Dame Leconte, her mother. 1200 p.

For the tomb of brick, paid to a mason, for his work 60p.

Etc. totaling 16,382.70 piasters.<sup>99</sup>

COMMENT:

“Fanchon” was Marie Françoise LeComte, who would live the rest of her life with Rachal as the mother of his children.

**19 NOVEMBER 1810**

**Dorothée Monette** of parish of Natchitoches sells to **Sr. Etienne 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.<sup>100</sup>

**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:	<b>Louis Monet</b>
In whose favor issued	<b>Louis Monet</b>
Nature of claim:	Requete
County/Water course:	Opelousas, Bayou Chico
Number of acres / arpents:	677 / 800 <sup>101</sup>

**4 JUNE 1810**

Credit sale for the purpose of manumission. Widow Monet, wife of Porter, conveys **Henriette** to Toussaint Metoyer. \$640 on credit.<sup>102</sup>

COMMENT:

See the subsequent document of 1811 in which Widow Monet conveys Henriette to *her mother Dorothée*, not to Toussaint Metoyer who had assumed responsibility for buying her freedom.

**31 DECEMBER 1811**

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

Certificate No.	B1702
Person under whom land claimed:	<b>Dorothe Manet</b>
In whose favor issued	<b>Darothe Manet</b>

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<sup>99</sup> NCA Doc. 3782.

<sup>100</sup> Natchitoches Conveyance Book 2: 66–67.

<sup>101</sup> ASP-PL, 2: 812.

<sup>102</sup> Natchitoches Miscellaneous Book 1: 226.

Nature of claim: Order of survey and settlement  
 County/Water course: Natchitoches, Red River  
 Number of acres / arpents: 50.77 / 60<sup>103</sup>

**17 JANUARY 1812**

Before John C. Carr, Judge of the Parish of Natchitoches, appears Sr. Jean Bte. Tessier *dit* Lavigne, habitant of the Parish of Natchitoches, who hereby sells to “Louis Metoyer, free mulatto, here present and accepting” a tract of land measuring 5 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, to the depth it is able to carry. The land is bounded on the upper by Bte. Derbanne and on the lower by Charles Durette, being the same land that Tessier *dit* Lavigne “acquired in a larger quantity” from **Sr. Louis Monette**. Price: 1500 piasters cash.<sup>104</sup>

## Comment by ESM:

This land would be S63 T8N R6W and its extension S88 T7N R6W. Tessier’s earlier claim to the land was filed as R&R no. 39. Louis eventually conveyed this land to his sister Susanne Metoyer.

**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 & Settlem’t  
 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 & Settlem’t  
 County/Water course: Natchitoches / Red River  
 Number of acres / arpents: 744.72 / 880<sup>105</sup>

**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**

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<sup>103</sup> ASP-PL, 2: 847.

<sup>104</sup> NCA Doc. 4043.

<sup>105</sup> ASP-PL, 2: 851.

In whose favor issued	Marie Louisa Porter, <b>widow of Louis Monet</b>
Nature of claim:	Order of survey & Settlem't
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:	<b>Louis Guillory</b>
In whose favor issued	Athanase (free negro)
Nature of claim:	Settlement
County/Water course:	Natchitoches / Bayou aux Cannes
Number of acres / arpents:	338.51 / 400 <sup>106</sup>

## 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 "Athanase," "Atanase," or "Athanase 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:	<b>Louis Monet</b>
In whose favor issued	<b>Madame Louise Porter</b>
Nature of claim:	Order of survey & Settlem't
County/Water course:	Natchitoches / Red River
Number of acres / arpents:	135.40 / 160 <sup>107</sup>

**2 NOVEMBER 1812**

Marie Louise LeComte Porter (x) sells to the free *mulatresse* **Dorothée** (x) a young *mulatresse* named **Henriette**, aged about 16, for \$650 cash. It is the intention of both parties that Henriette is to be free. Witnesses: Comte *fils*, and Brun.<sup>108</sup>

## COMMENT:

Mme. Porter (Widow Monet) did not use the surname Monet for *this* Dorothée.

**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

<sup>106</sup> ASP-PL, 2: 853–55.

<sup>107</sup> ASP-PL, 2: 864.

<sup>108</sup> NCA Doc. 4019, Mme. Porter to Dorothée.

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: 258/305<sup>109</sup>

**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 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 1800, and previous to the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1814; and claims founded on occupancy, commenced previous to the said 1<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.”<sup>110</sup>

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

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<sup>109</sup> ASP-PL, 2: 869.

<sup>110</sup> ASP-PL 3: 172.

LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> of January, 1812; and plat of survey by Joseph Irwin, for 266.50 acres. The evidence of Louis Dearbonne, taken the 9<sup>th</sup> 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.”<sup>111</sup>

COMMENT:

This land fell within Township 7N Range 6W.

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 24<sup>th</sup> November 1818 [*apparently a typo for 1813*] by K. McCrummin, an authorized deputy surveyor. The evidence of **Etienne Rachal**, taken the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1813. [*Note this reads “1813,” not 1818 as in the reference to Dorothée Monet.*] The evidence of **Etienne Rachal**, taken the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1813, states that the claimant, widow of Baptiste (Staleau)<sub>(r)</sub>, has inhabited and cultivated the land for sixteen consecutive years preceding this date.”<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>111</sup> ASP-PL 3: 176.

<sup>112</sup> ASP-PL 3: 201.

LOUIS MONET SR. (1753–1804)

Spouse: Marie Louise Marguerite LeComte (Widow Dupré; later Porter)

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 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1812, for the land as claimed; and a plat of survey by D. Coleman, the 29<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1812, states that the wife of 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.”<sup>113</sup>

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.<sup>114</sup>

Cola Bodin, son of Jean Laurens (*var.* Juan Lorenzo) Bodin of Canada and Miguela Rosalia Cruz of Adaïs,<sup>115</sup> 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.<sup>116</sup>

“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 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1813, from **José Mari Leando** to the claimant. The evidence of **Etienne Rachal**, taken the 9<sup>th</sup> 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.”<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> ASP-PL 3: 206.

<sup>114</sup> For this couple and their parentage, see Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entries 167–69.

<sup>115</sup> 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 the deed recorded 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.

<sup>116</sup> 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.

<sup>117</sup> ASP-PL 3: 213.



## 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.

“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 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1814, states that the claimant has inhabited and cultivated the land for twelve consecutive years preceding this date.”<sup>118</sup>

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 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1813, establishes the occupancy and cultivation of the land by the claimant, for thirteen consecutive years preceding this date, as a vacherie.”<sup>119</sup>

**5 JULY 1816**

Baptism of child of four months, natural daughter of Maria, slave of Mda. Marie Louise LeComte. Godparents: Louis [**Monet; son of Dorothée**] and Marie Louis Deline [**Marie Louise Adeline; daughter of Dorothé**].<sup>120</sup>

**20 AUGUST 1818**

**Marie Louise Lecomte, Widow Monet** (x) sells to Mr. **Alexis Cloutié** (x), a tract of land at **les Écores**, 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** [Bodin] and on the right bank by the **Bayou des Écores** 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 *fiils de Céleste (dit Marchand)*, Elise, Manuel, Silvestre, Valsin, Étienne, 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<sup>re</sup> Michel Zorich *fiils*, Comte *fiils*, 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

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> ASP-PL 3: 237–38.

<sup>120</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts*, entry 2480.

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.<sup>121</sup>

## COMMENT:

- The first nine enslaved people are Coincoin’s daughter Françoise and her offspring. The tenth, Eulalie, has not been identified but her name suggests that she is part of Coincoin’s family also. Several of the others may be as well.
- Marie Jeanne, who appears three names from the end of the list, is identified as the mother of Antoine (five names before her) in the suit.
- The Marchand *dit* suggests that this Cèleste may be a daughter of Jean Marchand *dit* Varangue of Les Écore.

**9 JUNE 1825**

## “Slaves mentioned in Bte. Dupré’s Inventory and Their Increase”

The following is a typescript of a four-generation chart tracing the descendants of four slaves belonging to the Succession of Jean Baptiste Dupré who died 31 August 1781. The court file from which this was taken reveals *many* more details.

1. Marie Jeanne— a Negro woman sold with her son to Monette 15 August 1785
  - A. Antoine
2. Françoise—and her children sold to Monette 15 August 1785
  - A. Hortense
    - 1) Louis
    - 2) Marcellite
    - 3) Mimi
    - 4) Cupidon
  - B. Jeanne
    - 1) Augustin
    - 2) Pompose
  - C. Rose
    - 1) Silvie
  - D. Marie Louise
    - 1) Modeste
      - a) Jean Baptiste
      - 2) Paliere [Palière Louis Monet, aka Louis Monet Jr.; freed 1825 by Widow Monet]
      - 3) Matilde
      - 4) Goldo? [Gerdaud?]
  - E. Remy
  - F. Charles
  - G. Henry
  - H. Pierre
  - I. Nicolas

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<sup>121</sup> NCA Doc. 4941.

3. Thérèse—and her children sold to Monette 15 August 1785

- A. Céleste
  - 1) Perine
  - 2) Mariane
  - 3) Lise
  - 4) Manuel
  - 5) Silvestre
  - 6) Joseph
  - 7) Valsin
  - 8) Étienne
  - 9) “one sucking”
- B. Nanette
  - 1) Desirée
  - 2) Ambroise
  - 3) Narcisse Pagnol
- C. Céphalide
  - 1) one child not named
- D. Marie Joseph[e]
  - 1) Marguerite
    - a) Marie Joseph[e]
    - b) “One sucking”
  - 2) Remy
  - 3) Marie Thérèse
  - 4) Marie Jose

4. Marguerite

- A. Dorothé (sold 15 August 1785) [manumitted by Monet, 1802]
  - 1) J. B. Suriaque
  - 2) Henriette [sold 1810–11 by Widow Monet to her mother]
    - a) Ozite [Marie Ozite Metoyer, daughter of Pierre Jr.]
    - b) Neres [Neres Pierre Metoyer, son of Pierre Jr.]
    - c) “one sucking”<sup>122</sup>

**29 AUGUST 1829**

**Marie Louise Lecompte, V<sup>e</sup> Monète**

Burial “in the cemetery at Rivière aux Cannes, situated on the plantaiton of S<sup>r</sup> A<sup>se</sup> Lecompte, body of Marie Louise Lecompte, V<sup>e</sup> Monète [*sic*], died in the evening preceding, aged about 73 years.”<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> Heirs of Dupré v. Alexis Cloutier, Parish Court Microfilm PC.22 (1825), cases arranged alphabetically.

<sup>123</sup> St. François Register 15, Section: “Whites,” entry 1829:9.

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### SHARING POLICY

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