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REPORT TO: File

SUBJECT Pierre Charûau, Natchitoches Parish, LA, 1808–1821: Research Notes

BACKGROUND: Legal records created by Marie Thérèse Coincoin, f.n., of Cane River, include two documents said to be executed on 14 September 1814 and 9 March 1816, each of which was witnessed by Pierre Charûau and Jean Baptiste Antÿ.<sup>1</sup> Antÿ's "association with Coincoin is well known; he was the consort of her daughter Marie Susanne Metoyer and the father of five of Coincoin's grandchildren. Charûau is not known to be a family member. A profile is needed for Charûau to understand the patterns of his actions, his location(s) in 1813–14, and the reason why Coincoin chose him on those two occasions. A similar profile of Antÿ's activities is being assembled separately.

This block of research will attempt to identify all or most legal records created by Charûau in Natchitoches Parish, and provide nutshells or abstracts. Full transcripts are not possible due to time restraints on this project.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pierre Charûau was an immigrant from Saintonge, France, who first appeared in the parish in 1808<sup>2</sup> and married Margaret Rabalais of Rivière aux Cannes about 1809. He died there in 1821. His identity, heretofore, has been obscured by the unique spelling of his name, which has been variously misread by contemporary parish clerks. Among the most common variants found are Charnau, Charriau, Charriaux, and Charrio. This report identifies him by the manner in which he wrote his own name, on original documents that carry his signature.

As background for placement of Charûau's activities: Cane River was divided into five districts during the period of Charûau's residence:

- **Natchitoches–Grand Écore.** This district includes the town (aka "post") of Natchitoches and runs up to the juncture of Cane River with Red River at the bluff known as Grand Écore.

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<sup>1</sup> Marie Thérèse Coincoin to Toussaint Metoyer, 1814, Natchitoches Colonial Archives (NCA) doc. 4365 (original record); the officially recorded transcript in Conveyance Book 3: 308–9. Marie Thérèse Coincoin to Jean Baptiste Ailhaud Ste. Anne, 1813, NCA doc. 4132 (now missing). The officially recorded transcript in Conveyance Book 3: 522–23 cites the date as 1816, a demonstrable error. The original document was filed with the parish judge in 1813, amid other documents dated 1813, and the number that it carries is a number from the sequence used in 1813.

<sup>2</sup> The document itself is missing, but it is registered in the parish clerk's "Index to Archive Conveyance Records" (aka "French Archives Index"). Without the document, the exact date and details are not known.

- **Grand Coast** (aka Côte Joyeuse and Joyous Coast). This district follows Cane River from the southern outskirts of Natchitoches down to Bayou Brevelle’s juncture with Cane River and continues past that point on the east side of the Cane. The area spanned twenty or so miles by the twists and turns of the river.
- **Isle Brevelle.** This long, slim district is bounded on the north and west by Bayou Brevelle, on the east and south by Cane River. At its upper end, plantations and settler families overlap with those on the Grand Coast because the plantations of the Grand Coast families sprawled across both sides of Cane River. Its lower end lay roughly 25 river miles from the post. This set of notes makes the following divisions:
  - **Upper Isle Brevelle:** The portion that lies within Township 8N, Range 6 West.
  - **Mid-Isle Brevelle:** The upper half of the portion that lies within Township 7N, Range 6 West.
  - **Lower Isle Brevelle:** The lower half of the portion that lies within Township 7N, Range 6 West.
- **Rivière aux Cannes.** This district follows Cane River from the foot of Isle Brevelle, through present Cloutierville down (originally) to *les Écores*—i.e., the bluffs variously known as LeCourt’s Bluffs and Monette’s Bluff along the present dividing line between the parishes of Natchitoches and Rapides—about 70 river miles below the post. This set of notes makes the following divisions:
  - **Upper Rivière aux Cannes:** The portion that lies within Township 7N, Range 6 West and T6N R6W—i.e., above present Cloutierville.
  - **Mid-Isle Rivière aux Cannes:** The portion that lies within Township 7N, Range 5 West.
  - **Lower Rivière aux Cannes:** The portion within Township 6N, Range 4 West (i.e., Les Ecores District)
- **Les Écores.** This region (roughly defined by present Township 6 North, Range 4 West) became a judicial district in its own right by July 1809.

This paper’s frequent references to S\_\_ T\_\_N R\_\_W refers to the Section, Township (North), and Range (West) numbers assigned by the U.S. Rectangular survey system.



The following chronology summarizes Charûau’s life along Cane River. Each incident is treated more fully, with documentation, in the “Research Notes” segment of this paper.

- 1808 purchased a billiard table from Pierre Michel Zarichi, apparently for operation on Lower Isle Brevelle—likely in the area of 24-Mile Ferry that was a congregation point for both travellers and the community prior to the creation of Cloutierville some miles down river.
- c1808: **Lower Isle Brevelle or Rivière aux Cannes.** Civil marriage to Marguerite Rabalais, daughter of Joseph and Marie Louise (Malbert) Rabalais of Rivière aux Cannes. Dominique had purchased this land from Charûau’s father-in-law.
- 1810 Fall: **Lower Isle Brevelle.** Enumerated (with female 26–45, one male child under 10, and one additional male 26–45) on the land of Dominique Metoyer, who owned two adjacent tracts of land. (1) Dominique’s home place was Sections 24 & 99. Dominique’s supplemental tract, adjacent on the lower side, was S25 and 100. That supplemental tract lay adjacent to Joseph Derbanne who then operated the ferry.

- 1811 May 15: **Rivière aux Cannes.** Called “planter” when he made his first land purchase: three arpents on Eastern bank and two on western bank, from J. P. M. Dubois, merchant of Rivière aux Cannes. The land appears to be the upper part of S37 & 108 T7N R6W.
- 1811 August 13: **Lower Isle Brevelle or Rivière aux Cannes.** Church blessing of his marriage to Marguerite Rabalais.
- 1811 December 11: **Lower Isle Brevelle.** Witnessed (and apparently drafted) a deed for Jean Baptiste Derbanne. This is the earliest document I have found in which he functioned as a notary (with or without a commission as justice of the peace).<sup>3</sup>
- 1812 August 12: **Rivière aux Cannes.** Sold to Louis Pillet the land that he had acquired in 1811 from J. P. M. Dubois.
- 1813 March 9 (about): **Lower Isle Brevelle.** Drafted the deed for Coincoin’s sale of her homestead on the Grand Coast (T7N R6W) to Jean Baptiste Ailhaud Ste. Anne, with Baptiste Antÿ as witness. This is Charûau’s first documented association with Antÿ.
- 1813 September 9: **Explicitly called “justice of the peace”** when he drafted two deeds of sale for Jacques Valery and Jean Baptiste Morin to sell land at Lower Rivière aux Cannes to the surveyor Joseph Irwin. [James F. Porter at this point had become the J.P. for the Les Écores District. Jean Pierre Marie Dubois, who had been a notary at Rivière aux Cannes prior to 1813 and again from 1815, appears not to have filled that role in 1813–14; I have found no documents identifying Dubois as the notary during those years.]
- 1814 January 15: **Rivière aux Cannes.** Attended succession sale for the late Jacques Ambroise [Le Comte] and wife Sylvie Brosset. Served as surety for Antoine Bergeron and Louis Pillet.
- 1814 September 14: **Lower Isle Brevelle or Rivière aux Cannes.** Drafted two deeds of sale: (1) Coincoin’s sale of her supplemental land to her son Toussaint; and (2) a deed from Augustin Metoyer to his brother François for the land at the foot of the Isle.
- 1814 September 26: **Isle Brevelle. Explicitly called “justice of the peace at Isle Brevelle”** when he officiated succession sale of François Adlé and wife Marie Marguerite Frederick.
- 1814 December 26. **Isle Brevelle. Explicitly called “justice of the peace at Isle Brevelle”** when he supervised the sale of goods of deceased François Adlé.
- 1815 May 15: **Lower Isle Brevelle. Explicitly called “justice of the peace”** when he officiated the succession sale of goods belonging to the late Jean Renaud Agués. Purchasers were from the lower Isle and upper Rivière aux Cannes.
- 1815 May 23: [Dubois reappears as “Justice of the Peace at Cloutierville,” i.e., Rivière aux Cannes, supervising the succession inventory of Catherine Lattier and husband Louis Thomassie.]
- 1815 June 7: **Rivière aux Cannes.** Witnessed sale of a Creole slave by Baptiste Antÿ to son J. B.
- 1815 June 7: **Lower Isle Brevelle.** Witnessed marriage contract of Florentine Conant to Marie Louise Metoyer. Also marriage contract of Florentine’s half-sister Marie Susanne Anty to J. B. Augustin Metoyer, both in presence of Baptiste Antÿ.
- 1815 June?: Witnesses, with Baptiste Antÿ, the church marriage of Antÿ’s daughter Marie Susanne to J. B. Augustin Metoyer.

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<sup>3</sup> The Louisiana State Archives’ catalog of holdings lists no surviving gubernatorial appointments of notaries or justices of the peace before 1843.

- 1815 June 24: **Mid Isle Brevelle. Explicitly called “justice of the peace”** when he officiated the succession sale of goods belonging to the community of Euphrosine Pomier, deceased, and her husband Jean Miller.
- 1815 October 27: **Lower Isle Brevelle.** Witnessed (and apparently drafted) mortgage by François Lavespère and wife Marie Louise Derbanne to Augustin Metoyer.
- 1816 February 3: **Upper Isle Brevelle. Explicitly called “justice of the peace”** when he and Louis Derbanne signed an attestation about the succession of Remy Lambre. **This is the last known document assigning him that post.**
- 1816 February 6: Accompanied Baptiste Antÿ and son J. B. *fils* from Rivière aux Cannes to Upper Isle Brevelle to attend the estate sale of the late Remy Lambre.
- 1816 March 4: Accompanied Louis Metoyer, Jacques Vercher, and François Lavespère to Natchitoches for Metoyer to have parish judge draft a deed of sale from Vercher to Metoyer.
- 1816 September 7: **Mid Isle Brevelle.** Appointed by parish judge to conduct the estate sale of Widow Frederic, a function typically assigned to justices of the peace.
- 1817 March 13: **Upper Rivière aux Cannes.** Bought S105 from Pierre Metoyer Jr., f.m.c., the same day that Metoyer sold the opposite tract (S33) to François Millon, f.m.c. (married to Coincoin’s granddaughter Catiche, whom Coincoin raised from early childhood). Also witnessed sale of slave from François Lavespère to Augustin Metoyer, that same day.
- 1817 September 26: **Lower Isle Brevelle.** Witnessed a deed of Augustin Metoyer, drafted by Parish Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine at home of Susanne Metoyer.
- 1818 March 27: **Upper Rivière aux Cannes.** Witnessed an exchange of land between Dominique Metoyer and Joseph Metoyer, drafted by P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, apparently at same time and location (“home of Louis Derbanne”) as Lafontaine’s draft of a sale for the Metoyer neighbors, Mme. Brosset and her son Athanase.
- 1818 April 25: Witnessed the marriage of Marie Denise Chaler of Rivière aux Cannes to the immigrant Jean Eugene Michamps.
- 1818 July 6: **Lower Isle Brevelle.** Witnessed and probably drafted a deed of sale from Étienne Lacaze to Louis Metoyer.
- 1818 September: **Lower Isle Brevelle.** At home of Augustin Metoyer, Judge Lafontaine drafted a deed of sale from Charûau to surveyor and land speculator Joseph Irwin: one half of Charûau’s claim to outlying land (typically used as a vacherie) at confluence of Rivers Attaho and Brulée (i.e., Rigolet de Bon Dieu).
- 1818 December: **Lower Rivière aux Cannes / Les Ecores.** Apparently at home of James Porter, J.P., who drafted and witnessed the document: sale of his remaining half of the above land.
- 1820 June–December: Missing from the census
- 1821 March 22: **Rivière aux Cannes.** Inventory taken of goods left by deceased Charûau, under supervision of J. B. LeComte, J.P. at Rivière aux Cannes, in company with Baptiste Chenal and Victorin LeVasseur.
- 1821 December 29: Succession sale of goods left by Charûau. All purchasers were from the community surrounding S105 T7N R6W. However that tract of land was not inventoried and sold. Apparently Charûau, who had bought the land on a 5-year note in 1816, had not paid off the land. The widow renounced the administration of the estate and its goods, apparently because there were more debts than proceeds; the estate was declared “vacant.”

## RESEARCH NOTES

**22 APRIL 1799**

**NCA DOC. 2911**

Before Felix Trudeau, Commandant, appeared Sieur Josephe Petit who sells to Sieur **Jh. Ferrier**, master cordonnière, land at the base of Isle à Brevelle containing 6 arpents of frontage on each bank of Red River, bounded on the lower by the land of **Jean Delouche** and above by that of the mulatto **Dom<sup>que</sup> Metoyer**. \$200. Signed Gil Ysquerdo, Joseph Petit, Jh. Rabalais (x), Dubois, Joseph Ferril[?] Ysquerdo, Joseph Petit, **Jh. Rabalais** (x), Dubois, Joseph Ferrié, Felix Trudeau.

COMMENT:

Joseph Rabalais Sr.'s daughter would marry Pierre Charûau. For that reason, I will include selected Rabalais records in this set of nutshells.

**13 OCTOBER 1806**

**NCA DOC. 3417**

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

COMMENT:

This tract should be S58 (both sides of the river) T7N R5W, a couple of miles below Cloutierville, confirmed by U.S. to Andrew Mitchell. See Figure 1. Rabalais also owned S59, T7N R5W.

The Indio-Spaniard Nicolas Bodin should not be confused with the Frenchman Nicolas Baudoin who lived at Upper Rivière aux Cannes. Nicolas Bodin and his brother Jean Louis were married to the daughters of Capitaine and Madeleine, an Indian couple who had been held in slavery by Lt. Louis Matthias LeCourt de Presle. After Indian slavery was outlawed, Capitaine's family became free and stayed at Rivière aux Cannes, above and below Cloutierville, where “Capitaine, *sauvage*” bought land from Baptiste Anty in 1792 and died about 1810, leaving an unnamed son on his land. Louis Guillaume and “Antoine Sauvage” below were likely sons of Capitaine and brother-in-laws of Nicolas Bodin.

**1808**

**NCA DOC. 3582**

Pierre Michel to **Pierre Charreau**, “sale of billiard.”

COMMENT:

The document is registered in the “Index to Archive Conveyance Records” but is now missing.

**26 MAY 1809**

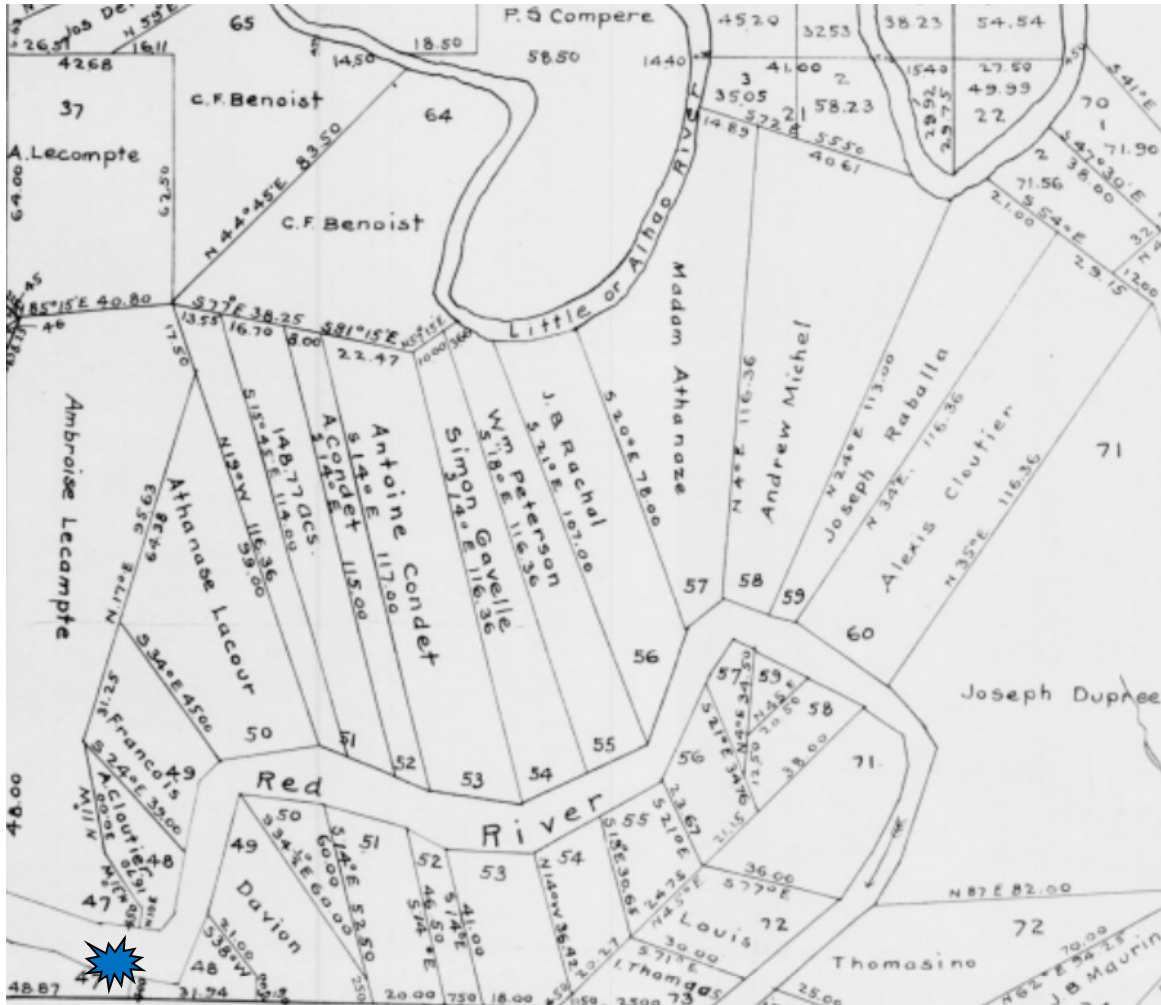
**NCA DOC. 3720**

**P<sup>re</sup> Charûau** witnessed a document signed by **Antoine Sauvage** [Antoine, *sauvage*?] relative to the succession of **Jean Philip Cloutié** and wife. Sauvage acknowledged the document before the J.P. Jas. F. Porter.

COMMENT:

Cloutier, like the Rabalais family, was at Rivière aux Cannes—first at the area where Cloutierville now stands, then on various tracts below the town.

Figure 1  
Rivière aux Cannes at Cloutierville\* and Immediately Below T7N R6W)<sup>4</sup>



1808

NCA DOC. 3582

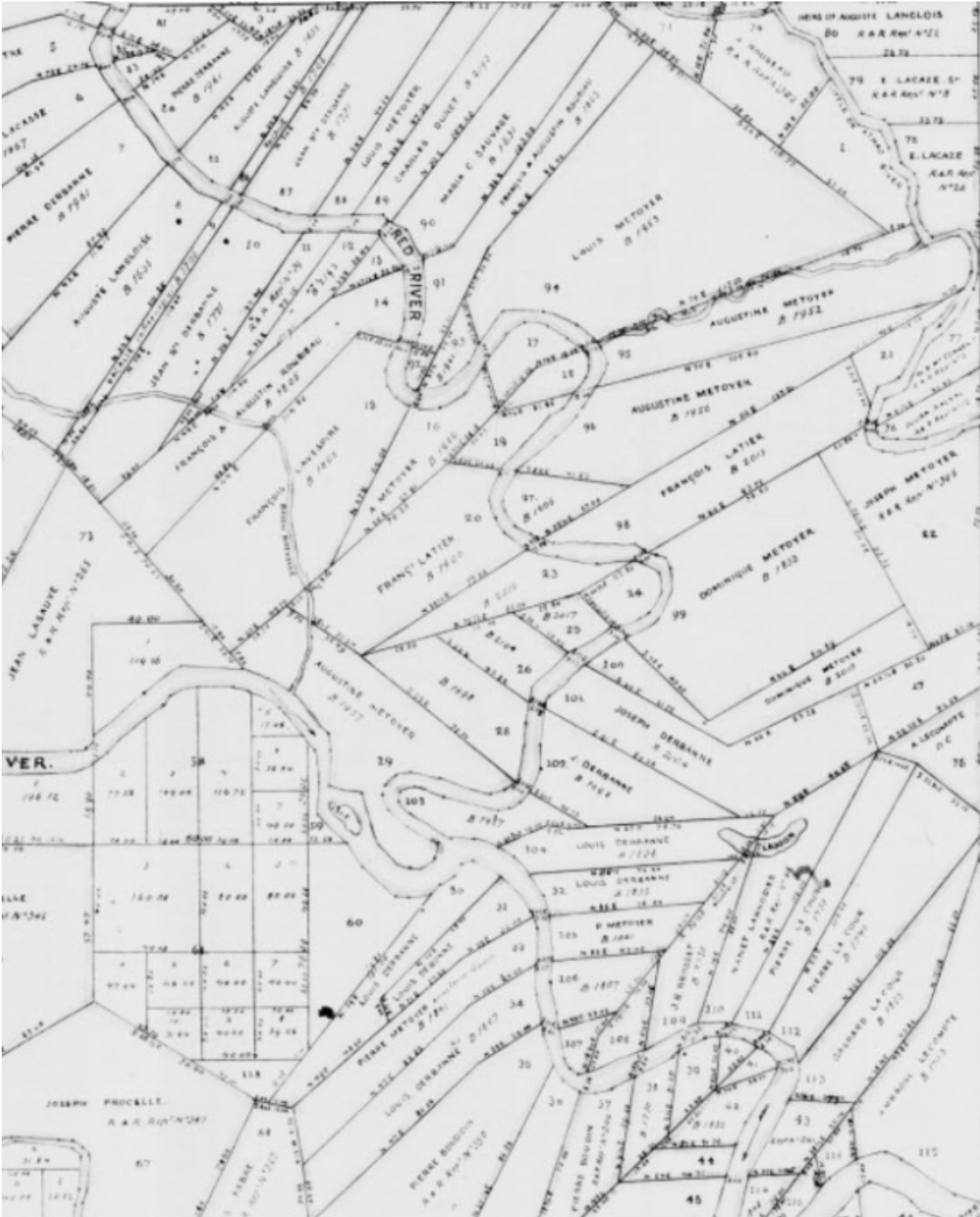
Pierre Michel to Pierre Charreau, “sale of billiard.”

COMMENT:

The document was registered, numbered, and then indexed in the “Index to Archive Conveyance Records” but it is now missing.

<sup>4</sup> Snipped from “T.7.N.—R.5.W. North Western Dist<sup>t</sup> La.,” Louisiana Office of Lands, *Historical Documents* ([www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=522.01878&category=H#1](http://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=522.01878&category=H#1) : downloaded 14 June 2019). The blurred quality of this map is inherent in the original. That original also carries a numerical list of all sections, the claimant who has been confirmed, the claim number, and the arpentage/acreage.

**Figure 2**  
**Lower Isle Brevelle & Upper Rivière aux Cannes (above Cloutierville), T7N R6W<sup>5</sup>**



<sup>5</sup> Snipped from “T.7.N.—R.6.W. North Western Dist<sup>t</sup> La.,” Louisiana Office of Lands, *Historical Documents* ([wwwslodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=522.01883&category=H#1](http://wwwslodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=522.01883&category=H#1) : downloaded 14 June 2019). The blurred quality of this map is inherent in the original.

**30 JANUARY 1810**

**DOC 3765?**

**Pierre Derbanne père** acknowledges having received of **Mr. Philipe Brosset** the sum of 11 piasters owed him by deceased **“fillo lacourt” [Gaspard Fiol LaCour]**. Witness: **P<sup>re</sup> Charûau**.

COMMENT:

“Pierre Derbanne, the father,” of this era, was Pierre Derbanne Jr. His father, Pierre Sr., had died in the 1790s. Gaspard LaCour was at S113 of T7N R6W.

**21 FEBRUARY 1810**

**DOC 3765?**

Joseph Foret (x) acknowledges having received from **“Madame V<sup>e</sup> Fillo la court”** the sum of \_\_\_\_ [bound into book] piasters for ferriage over Bayou Brevelle in the year 1807. Witness: **P<sup>re</sup> Charûau**.

COMMENT:

See Figure 2 for the LaCour-Brosset locations below the foot of the Isle.

**6 AUGUST–15 DECEMBER 1810**

**U.S. CENSUS**

Beginning at Bayou Brevelle and descending to the foot of Isle Brevelle.

COMMENT:

This census began on the first Monday in August 1810. It was certified complete on 15 December 1810.

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

- Mid-Isle Brevelle, where Valery Anty and J. B. Anty Jr. lived on land acquired from their inlaws.
- Lower Isle Brevelle and upper Rivière aux Cannes
- Lower Rivière aux Cannes, from Cloutierville to Monette’s Bluffs.

Note that many householders are identified only by surname, a custom of the time and place for well known individuals. I am copying census data only for the households headed by the Antys and by Baptiste Anty’s associate, Pierre Charûau. I am adding, in editorial brackets, the section, township, and range where each household appears on the township plat.<sup>6</sup>

<u>Census household</u>	<u>T8N R6W</u>
Baltazard Brevelle	
Compère	[S52 & 107]
Adley fils	
Julien Rachal fils	[S52 & 107]
François Frederick	
Auguste Robieux	
D <sup>me</sup> V <sup>e</sup> Julien Rachal	[S54 & 108]
Jacques Levasseur	

<sup>6</sup> 1810 U.S. census, Natchitoches Parish, LA, p. 210, beginning line 11.



Jean Massippe [S57 & 111]  
 Jean B<sup>te</sup> Lemoine [S58 & 112]  
 James Miller [m. Pommier, S 56, 59 & 110, 113]  
 D<sup>me</sup> V<sup>e</sup> Pommier [S56, 59 & 110, 113; also S4 & 81; widow of Jean Pomier]

**T7N R6W**

**Valeri Anty** [m. Marie Aspasia, daughter of Pierre **Derbanne** Jr.]  
 Jacques Lacasse [S6]  
 Pierre Derbanne [Jr.] [S7 & 84] [father-in-law of Anty *films*, next door]  
**Anty fils** 1 white male 45– [likely J.B. Sr., age 53]  
 1 white male 26–45 [J.B., Jr., age 31]  
 1 white female 16–26 [J. B. Jr.’s wife, also a daughter of Pierre Derbanne Jr.]  
 2 white males 0–10  
 V<sup>e</sup> Etienne Verger  
 Auguste L’anglais [S8 & 85]  
 Jean B<sup>te</sup> Derbanne [S20 & 87]  
 Jean B<sup>te</sup> Lavigne [R&R 39, owned by Louis Metoyer who sold to sister Susanne Metoyer 1814]  
 Charles Durette [S12 & 89]

COMMENT:

Baptiste Anty should be the older man in the home of his son and namesake “Anty, *films*.” They would be living on the land (2 arpents frontage, both sides of river, c160 superficial arpents in S 7 & 84 T7N R6W), which J. B. Jr. bought from his father-in-law Pierre Derbanne.

[p. 211]

**Census household**

**T7N R6W**

François Robieux [S14 & 91]  
 François Lavespère [S15 & 92]  
 Jean B<sup>te</sup> Latier [S20 & 97]  
 François Latier [S20 & 97]  
**Pierre Chariau** 2 males 26–45 [The additional male has not been identified]  
 1 white female 26–45 [1811, his marriage to M. Rabalais was blessed]  
 1 male 0–10  
 Joseph Derbanne [S26, 28 & 101, 102]  
 Madame Brosset [with son-in-law Joseph Derbanne]  
 Charles Lemoine [S28, 102; land acquired from Joseph Derbanne]

[*Rivière aux Cannes begins here*]

COMMENT:

When each enumerated household is tracked on the plat maps for T8N and T7N, we see that Charûau was living on the land of Dominique Metoyer, whose plantation and supplemental tract was bounded above by **François Lattier** and below by **Joseph Derbanne**. Given that Dominique’s main plantation was at S24 & 99, it appears that Charûau was occupying (and likely leasing) Dominique’s claim B2417, S25 & 100. In 1811, when Charûau bought his first piece of land, that document cited him as a “planter.” Obviously his prior planting efforts were conducted on someone else’s land.

Charûau’s occupancy of land owned by Dominique Metoyer stems from the fact that Dominique bought rights to the land from Charûau’s father-in-law, Joseph Rabalais. See affidavit of Jacques

Lacasse, November 16, 1811, stating that Dominique’s land had been cultivated by “the grantee [Rabalais] and those under him for this last preceding thirteen years.”<sup>7</sup>

If Charûau still operated the billiard table, the location was convenient, given that Joseph Derbanne’s land next door was the site of the ferry. About the time of this census, the parish changed the course of the road down the Isle. Whereas it had previously crossed Cane River at Derbanne’s land, it shifted to that of Lemoine, his in-law. Lemoine then applied for the ferry license and was given the license. Derbanne continued his own, now-unauthorized, ferry until Lemoine sued him in Parish Court.

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

**15 MAY 1811**

**CONV BK 2: 132–33**

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

COMMENT:

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

Neither the Foulevant-Bontemps couple nor Nicolas Baudoin appear on the completed survey of T7N R6W. All Beaudoin lands in that region are assigned to the older brother Pierre. This particular tract seems to be the middle slice of S37.

Charûau acquired his land the same day as this sale. See below. The fact that each document refers to the other, although the second purchase had not been executed when the first was reported, suggests they were drawn at the same time by the same person.

**15 MAY 1811**

**NCA DOC. 3970**

**CONV BK 2: 135**

**John Pierre Marie Dubois**, merchant, to **Pierre Charriaux** “planter,” sale for \$500 to be paid by Charriaux in the month of March, next, has sold a tract of land on both sides of Red River containing 3 arpents on the Eastern bank or left hand side and 2 arpents on the opposite side ... bounded above by land of **Pierre Baudouin** and below by Land of **Nicholas Beaudouin**. Charieau hereby supplies a mortgage on the property until paid off. Signed: Jn P<sup>re</sup> M<sup>e</sup> Dubois, P<sup>re</sup> Charûau. Witnesses: J<sup>n</sup> Levasseur, E. M. Ledet. Recorded by Carr in Bk 2 Folio 13\_\_\_, no date. || [Illegible day] **August 1812**: Dubois cancelled the mortgage in the Judge’s office before Thomas M. Linnard and Charles Slocum.

COMMENT:

This land is not Dubois’ home plantation. It is the entirety of a tract he bought a year earlier from

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<sup>7</sup> U. S. Land Office Claim Papers, Northwestern District, Louisiana, B2017 (Dominique Metoyer), S25&100 T7N R6W; imaged at Louisiana State Land Office, SLO: Search Historical Documents (<https://wwwslodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#183>).

Pierre Beaudoin. Note that Dubois is selling it for radically less than he paid for it.

**12 MAY 1810**

**NCA DOC. 3801**

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

Three candidates exist for this tract. In all cases, the 3a + 2a slice would represent only *part* of a larger tract owned by Pierre Beaudoin. Those three tracts are

- S35 & 107 in T7NR6W, which the plat map assigns to Pierre Beaudoin—the upper 2 arpents of which Bergeron had given to Mariotte in 1798
- S36 in T7N R6W, for which the plat map assigns no confirmed owner
- S37&108 in T7N R6W, which the plat map assigns to Pierre Beaudoin.

Dubois's home plantation, which he mortgaged in May 1811 and many times later through at least 1819, was sandwiched between Pierre Metoyer's S33 & 105 on the upper and Mariotte's S35 & 107 on the lower. Dubois's home plantation was thus **S34 & 106 T7N R6W**, shown on plat maps as Louis Derbanne's confirmed claim 1807.

**22 MAY 1811**

**CONV BK 2:138–39**

**NCA DOC. 3975**

Before John C. Carr, **Nicolas Beaudouin** (x) acknowledges that he owes to M<sup>rs</sup> Compère & Hertzog, merchants, the sum of \$530.13½. As surety, he gives a mortgage on a tract of land containing two arpents frontage on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by **Pierre Charriaux** and on the lower by **Pierre Beaudouin**, the same land that he acquired from Dame Faudlevent by act of 15 May 1811. Witnesses: Auguste Langlois, Dubois.

**13 AUGUST 1811**

Marriage.

**Pierre Charnau** (s) and Margueritte **Rabalais** (s). Groom: native of Saiyon [Saujon?] in Saintonge, France, legitimate son of Pierre Charnau and Susanne Maitter. Bride: Native of this parish, legitimate daughter of Josef Rabalais and Marie Louise Malbert. Signed: Chs. Noyrit (s); Ls. Derbanne (s). Priest: Louis Buhot, Opelousas.<sup>8</sup>

COMMENT:

The household composition on the 1810 census suggests that the couple married about 1808 or 1809 and had one son before August 1810, the official census date. Natchitoches Parish was at this time without a priest. Many couples married in civil ceremonies then had those blessed when a priest from elsewhere visited Natchitoches, as in this case.

**11 DECEMBER 1811**

**NCA DOC. 4034**

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<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five of the Catholic Church Parish of St. François des Natchitoches in Louisiana* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1980), p. 164, entry 1005.

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

COMMENT:

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

Note below, February 1812, Derbanne and wife would convey the same amount of land at the same price to Jean Bapiste Derbanne Jr., before Judge Carr. Charûau was not involved.

**12 AUGUST 1812**

**NCA DOC. 4122**

**CONV BK 2:276-77**

**Pierre Charrioux** to **Louis Pillette**, sale for \$500, land containing, on the left bank of Red River 3 arpents of frontage, and on the other bank 2 arpents, bounded above by **Pierre Bodouin** and below by **Nicolas Bodouin**, land that the said Charrioux acquired from **J<sup>n</sup> P<sup>re</sup> M<sup>ie</sup> Dubois** by sale passed before the *greffe* on 15 May 1811. Signed **P<sup>re</sup> Charûau**, Louis Pillet. Witnesses: Charles Slocum, **J<sup>n</sup> P<sup>re</sup> M<sup>e</sup> Dubois**. Done before the Parish Judge John C. Carr.

COMMENT:

Pillet is not known to have lived on this land. It is possible that Charûau continued to farm it under lease. Note that Pillet sold part of this land in November 1817, after Charûau purchased the nearby S105 from Pierre Metoyer.

6 NOVEMBER 1817

CONV BOOK 6: 260-61

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

**12? AUGUST 1812**

**NCA DOC. 3970**

**CONV BK 2: 135**

**John Pierre Marie Dubois** cancelled **Pierre Charûau's** mortgage in the Judge's office before Thomas M. Linnard and Charles Slocum.

**9 MARCH 1816 [1813]**

**DOC. 4132 [MISSING]**

**CONV BOOK 3:522-23**

"Let it be known by all to whom it concerns that I, **Marie Thérèse Coincoin**, free Negress" for \$1,850 cash paid by Mr. **Jean Baptiste Ailhaud**, convey to him 7 arpents and 1 perche of frontage on the right [descending] bank of the river and 6 arpents of frontage on the left, bounded on upper by Mr. **Victorin Metoyer** and on the lower, each bank, by the purchaser. Witnesses: **P<sup>re</sup> Charûau**, **Antÿ**. "Natchitoches, the ninth day of the month of March of the year of our Grace 1816." **20 April 1816**. Before P. D. Cailleau LaFontaine, parish judge, appeared **Marie Thereze Coincoin** (x), a free Black woman who in presence of **P<sup>re</sup> Charuau** and **J<sup>n</sup> B<sup>te</sup> Anty** has acknowledged signing the deed. Signed: **P<sup>re</sup> Chareau**, **Anty** [signatures as

copied by the clerk into the record book, without the diacriticals that Charûau and Antÿ consistently used]

COMMENT:

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

**9 SEPTEMBER 1813  
DEED BOOK 3:129–30**

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

COMMENT:

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

**9 SEPTEMBER 1813  
DEED BOOK 3: 130–31**

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

COMMENT:

“Brun” has not been identified. *LeBrun* was a *dit* of the Bossier Family and one Guillaume LeBrun had previously settled on the Isle.

**15 JANUARY 1814  
SUCC BOOK 1: 74–77**

Succession sale, goods of **Jacques Ambroise [LeComte]** and wife **Sylvie Brosset**. Included:

- to **Antoine Bergeron** “une Malle & un affeviuda.” **Mr. Pierre Charnau**, surety. 6p 4d
- to Louis Pillet “un Rouet,” 2 pair of cards. **P<sup>re</sup> Charuau**, surety. 12p 4d
- to **Adelaide**, m.l. “un vieille Charue” **Ambroise Lecomte**, surety. 14p 2d
- ditto, and a lot of old plates, pots, etc. 7p 2d

**7 MARCH 1814  
SUCC BOOK 1: 81–84**

Succession of Mr. Auguste Roubieu. Before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, John Gormley testified that on 17 August 1813, while returning to San Antonio after a battle that had taken place that day, he came upon **Auguste Roubieu** lying wounded on the side of the road ... that 2 days after his arrival in San Antonio he made inquiry of Dr. Lenton? and was told Roubieu was in the hospital badly wounded. A few days later, while visiting the hospital, he was told that Roubieu was dead. Notes and accounts included:

- **Pierre Charnaux**, Account & Note \$12.3
- “**Louis Metoyer, fils**,” account .4

**14 SEPTEMBER 1814**

**NCA DOC. 4364****CONV BOOK 3:306–7**

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

## COMMENT:

- In the original NCA DOC. 4364, the name of Augustin’s wife is written as **Aniès**.
- 14 September was a Wednesday.
- Note that this transaction occurred on the same day that Coincoin sold her 1807 land to her son Toussaint, before the same witnesses.

**14 SEPTEMBER 1814****NCA DOC. 4365****CONV BOOK 3:308–9**

**Marie Thérèse Coincoin** (x), free Negress, in presence of the undersigned witnesses, conveys to **Toussaint Metoyer** (x), free mulatto, a land situated on the **Cote Joyeuse** [aka Grand Coast] containing **5 arpents of frontage on the right bank** of Red River, bounded on the upper by Mr. **Jn Bapte. Prudhomme fils** and on the lower by the same and **Dominique Rachal**—also 4 arpents opposite on the left bank, bounded above and below by the same parties. \$1625. The acquirer states that he well knows the property. Witnesses: **P<sup>re</sup> Charûau** and **Anty** signed. The document was drawn up in French, *place not stated*. || **17 September 1814** “Marie Thérèse Coincoin, a free black woman” appeared before Parish Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine to acknowledge the conveyance. **John Bte. Anty** also appeared to attest that he had witnessed the document, but **Pre Charûau** did not. Lafontaine recorded his certification in English.

## COMMENT:

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

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

**16 SEPTEMBER 1814****NCA DOC. 4364**

Augustin Metoyer and wife Agnes appeared before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Parish Judge, to acknowledge their sale to his brother François. **P<sup>re</sup> Charûau** also appeared before the parish judge to acknowledge witnessing the document. Anty did not.

**17 SEPTEMBER 1814****NCA DOC. 4364**

Marie Thérèse Coincoin appeared before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, Parish Judge, to acknowledge her sale of land to her son Toussaint. **Anty** appeared with her to acknowledge witnessing the document. **P<sup>re</sup> Charûau** did not.

**10–12 NOVEMBER 1814**

**NCA DOC. 4375**

**CONV BOOK 3:336-38**

“At the request of Jn Bte Prudhomme” the following instrument of writing has been Recorded this 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1814, which instrument is recorded in the following words”: **To whom it may concern, I Barthelemy fils de Barthelmi Rachal**, resident of this county, in the presence of witnesses and for the sum of \$3801 in hand paid by Mr. **Jean Baptiste Prud’homme fils** do convey a tract of land measuring **16 arpents frontage on the left bank** of the river and **15 arpents on the other side** of the river, bounded on the upper at each bank by the free Negro named **Doclas** and on the lower, also on each bank, by “**Toussin Métoyer mulatre Libre**” ... to which I place my ordinary mark in the presence of the undersigned witnesses. 10 November 1814. Barthelomie fils de Barthelomie Rachal X. Signed: Prudhomme fils; **Pre Charuau**, witness, J. F Hertzog, Witness.

COMMENT:

The land being conveyed has to be S92&20, patented in the name of Miguel Hernandez. Docla’s land lies immediately above this tract. Consequently, Toussaint would be in the upper portion of S34 and S98.

**26 DECEMBER 1814**

**SUCC BOOK 1:266–67**

Succession of **François Adlé**. Sale, before **Pierre Charuau**, **justice of the peace on Isle Brevelle**, of goods belonging to Adlé and wife Marie Marguerite Frederick, held at domicile of Mr. **J<sup>n</sup> B<sup>te</sup> B<sup>my</sup> Rachal**, adm. Purchasers included **Mr. Pierre Charuau**, who bought a shirt, for 2p.

**15 MAY 1815**

**SUCC BOOK 1:305–7**

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

COMMENT:

Eight days later, there was held the succession sale for Catherine Lattier, deceased wife of Louis Thomassie of lower Rivière aux Cannes. That sale was officiated by “J<sup>n</sup> P<sup>re</sup> M<sup>ie</sup> Dubois, J.P. at Cloutierville.” Charûau did not participate. See below.

**23 MAY 1815**

**SUCCESSION BOOK 1: 329–31, 344–50**

Succession of Catherine Henriette Latier, deceased, and husband **Louis Thomassie**. Inventory before J<sup>n</sup> **P<sup>re</sup> M<sup>ie</sup> Dubois, J.P.** at Cloutierville. Witnesses: Alexis Cloutier, Prevost Dupré. Sale of land just below Cloutierville.

COMMENT:

I am capturing this document to show the identification of the J.P. at Cloutierville (Dubois) at the same time that Charûau was J.P. at Isle Brevelle. This document has no participation by Charûau or Isle Brevelle residents.

**7 JUNE 1815**

**SUCC BOOK 1:314–18**

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

COMMENT:

Note that Charûau is not acting in his role as notary and justice of the peace.

Re “Lake a La Vase,” I’ve seen no other reference to this name in contemporary records. François’s land at that time was S29 T7N R6W (land office claim B1457), which he had obtained from Augustin. Louis Derbanne was indeed the lower neighbor on left bank. His statement that Augustin was upper neighbor suggests that Augustin had purchased S28 (B1698) from Joseph Derbanne.

“Isle a vache” was a common phrase in that period, speaking to the custom of using islands in the river as grazing grounds for cows. There was such an island in Old River right beside François’s land.

Also note that this transpired the same day as

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

**7 JUNE 1815**

**DOC. 4462**

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, acting as notary public, appeared **M<sup>r</sup> J<sup>n</sup> B<sup>te</sup> Anty père** (s) who conveys to **M<sup>r</sup> J<sup>n</sup> B<sup>te</sup> Anty fi**ls (x) a Creole mulatresse slave named Agnes, aged about 25, guaranteed free of maladies and vices. \$1000. Passed at **Isle Brevelle home of Augustin Metoyer**, free man of color. Witnesses: James F. Porter, Pierre “Charruau” (signed as **Charûau**).

COMMENT:

Note that this transpired the same day as

- succession proceedings for Marguerite, wife of François Metoyer (Succ Bk 1:314–18)
- marriage contracts of Antÿ’s daughter and her half-brother Florentin Conant, below.
- sale by Marie Louise LeComte, wife of James F. Porter, to her husband: a mulatress slave named Lucie, aged about 25, \$900. Witnesses: P<sup>re</sup> **Charûau**. Done at Isle Brevelle home of **Sieur Charles Lemoine**. (Doc. 4463).

However, Charûau participated only as a witness, not as a justice of the peace. His authority at this event was overridden by the parish judge.

**7 JUNE 1815**

**NCA DOC. 4463**

**DEED BOOK 4: 155–56**



Marie Louise LeComte [wife of Jas. F. Porter] to Dr. Jas. F. Porter, sale of a mulatress Lucie, before Judge P. D. C. Lafontaine. Witnessed by **P<sup>re</sup> Charûau**, J<sup>n</sup> P<sup>re</sup> M<sup>ie</sup> Dubois.

**7 JUNE 1815**

**DOC. 4464**

**DEED BOOK 4:156–19**

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

**7 JUNE 1815**

**DOC. 4465**

**DEED BOOK 4:159–161**

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

**9 JUNE 1815**

**DEED BOOK 3:406**

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

COMMENT:

Note that Charûau did not participate at this event.

**c JUNE 1815**

**ST. FRANÇOIS CHURCH**

Marriage. Date torn away. "**Jean Baptiste Augustin Metoyer**, free mulatto, aged 19, legitimate son of Augustin Metoyer and M<sup>e</sup> Agnes [Poissot], also free mulattoes ... and ... **Susanne Metoyer** [Anty] aged [17] years, natural daughter of Susanne Metoyer, a free mulatress [all natives of this post]. Signed: J. Bte. Metoyer, *fils Aug<sup>tin</sup> m.l.*; **P<sup>re</sup> Charûau** (s); **Antÿ** (s); Jn Bte Florentin [Conant] (s); Louis Metoyer, *m.l.* (x); Joseph Metoyer, *m.l.* (x); Auguste *fils Aug<sup>tin</sup> Metoyer, m.l.* (s); Augustin Metoyer (x); Marie Agnes (x); Susanne Metoyer, *m.l.* (x)."<sup>9</sup>

COMMENT:

Note, again, that Antÿ is there for the marriage of his and Susanne Metoyer's daughter—but, again, the daughter is not given his name.

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<sup>9</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five*, p. 112, entry 720.

The published church abstract suggests that the marriage may have been 1816, because of the cluster in which its fragment appeared. The marriage contract, subsequently found, clearly dates the marriage in 1815.

**19 JUNE 1815****DOC 4471**

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

## COMMENT:

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

Again, Charûau did not participate.

**24 JUNE 1815****SUCC BOOK 1:326–28**

Succession of deceased **Euphrosine Pomier**. Husband **Jean Miller**. Inventory conducted under the oversight of "**Pierre Charuau Juge de Paix.**" Includes a tract of land at Isle à Brevelle containing 6 arpents on each bank of the Red River to the depth it is able to carry, bounded above on each bank by J<sup>n</sup> Baptiste Lemoine and on the lower by D<sup>lle</sup> Felicité Pomie, valued at \$1000. Witnesses: Fçois Frederic, Auguste Langlois.

**27 OCTOBER 1815****NCA DOC. 4534****DEED BOOK 4: 200**

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

**3 FEBRUARY 1816****SUCC BOOK 1:413–26**

Succession of Remy Lambre and deceased wife. Louis Derbanne, J.P. (Rivière aux Cannes) & **Pierre Charuau, J.P.** (Isle Brevelle) signed attestation.

**6 FEBRUARY 1816****DEED BOOK 4:223–24**

Remy Lambre succession to **Jean Bte Anty, fils**. Sale of *nègre* Caesar, slave for life. No age given. 950p. Witnesses: P<sup>re</sup> Charuau, J[ean] P[ierre] Hopock.

**6 FEBRUARY 1816**  
**DEED BOOK 4:224-25**

Remy Lambre succession to J. P. Hopock. Sale of mulatto named Moses and *negresse* Marguerite for \$2845. Witnesses: **P<sup>re</sup> Charuau, Anty.**

**6 FEBRUARY 1816**  
**DEED BOOK 4:219–20**

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

COMMENT:

This slave was not in his succession 5 years later.

**4 MARCH 1816**  
**DEED BOOK 6:9**

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

COMMENT:

Jacques Vercher appears at S43 T6N R6W, adjacent to the Baudoins at Rivière aux Cannes.

**24 JULY 1816**  
**SUCC BOOK 2:84–89**

Inventory of goods of succession of deceased Francisco Uorens. One note on **P. Charuau**, \$114.00. (p. 87)

**7 SEPTEMBER 1816**  
**SUCC BOOK 2:103–5**

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

**27 JANUARY 1817**  
**SUCC BOOK 2:143–52**

Succession of **Antoine Rachal**. Inventory supervised by **Louis Derbanne, J.P.** “at place called Ecords” [subsequently, Monette’s Bluff]. Accounts on 20 planters along river, including Mr. Ramond, Mr. Gilard, Ambroise LeComte (2), F<sup>s</sup> Baudry, Mr. Porter, Mr. Lavespère, Mr. Auguste Langlois, “Augustin Metoyer, *m. libre*,” Pre Massip, Mr. **Pierre Charuau**, Louis Metoyer *m. libre*, Baptiste Chenal, Daniel Maconelle, François Roubieu, J<sup>n</sup> Pre M<sup>ie</sup> Dubois, Mr. Compère, Joseph Lavigne *m. l.*, Mr. L<sup>s</sup> Derbanne, **Mr. J<sup>n</sup> Baptiste Anty**, Mr. Antoine LeMoine. Witnesses included **P<sup>re</sup> Charnau.**”

COMMENT:

The coupling of “Mr. J<sup>n</sup> Baptiste Anty” with Charûau, as well as the emphasis on Anty’s middle name, does imply that this is a reference to Baptiste Sr. However, given that these are promissory notes (i.e., debts), they could have been executed years earlier. It does not suggest that he was still alive in January 1817.

**21 FEBRUARY 1817**  
**SUCC BOOK 2:156, 179**

Succession of deceased **J<sup>n</sup> L<sup>s</sup> Hopoke**. Inventory at his home on Isle Brevelle, in presence of his heirs (his half-siblings of the Cloutier clan). Inventory items included:

- note by **Pierre Charruau** for \$110.6
- 1 habitation situated on l'Isle à Brevelle, containing 6 arpents of frontage, estimated at 1000 p., which was subsequently (p. 179) sold to **Toussaint Metoyer** for \$2,070.
- "un parte de coton que trouve chez Mr. Hertzog.

COMMENT:

Charnau did not sign as a witness or participant.

### 13 MARCH 1817

#### DEED BOOK 6:159–60

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

COMMENT:

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

### 13 MARCH 1817

**Pierre Metoyer**, f.m.c., sold to **Pierre Charuau**, also present, a tract situated at a place called Rivière aux Cannes, of an area of 6 arpents frontage on only the *left* descending bank of Red River, with all depth that it is able to carry. Upper neighbor: **Louis Derbanne**; lower neighbor: **Jean P. Marie Dubois**. Price: 700 piasters payable in five years from date, with Pierre to hold Charuau's mortgage on the land. Passed **at home of Augustin Metoyer**, in presence of Sr. Ls. Derbanne & François Lavespère. All parties signed the document, except Augustin Metoyer.<sup>10</sup>

#### *Observations:*

- This description matches the land known as S105 T7N R6W: the site of the archaeological site CRNHA 16NA785 and 16NA788.
- Note that the document does *not* state that the tract was the seller's place of residence, as was standard when the owner physically resided on the piece of land he was selling.
- Note also that the sale was made on credit. Charôau died before the end of that five-year period. His succession inventory and proces-verbal make no mention of any land ownership by him.<sup>11</sup> Unless he sold the land by a document not yet found, then the land reverted back to Pierre Metoyer.
- On 31 May 1833, Pierre's son Athanase Vienne made his marriage contract with Emelia Metoyer, stating that he was the owner of "a lot of ground measuring 6½ arpents frontage" that came to him as a gift from his father.<sup>12</sup> This tract appears to be the land sold above to Charôau.

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<sup>10</sup> Natchitoches Parish, "Book 2 & 3, Marriage & Misc. (1816–1819)," fo. 44. On 19 November 1809 Louis Derbanne had sold Dubois, for \$150, 8 arpents frontage on both sides of river, bounded above on both sides by "Pierre Mettoyer, free mulatto," and below by "Mariotte, free Negress." This should be Derbanne's B1807 tract—i.e., S 34 & 106.

<sup>11</sup> Natchitoches Parish, Succession Books 4:78–84, 145; 5:104–5.

<sup>12</sup> "Old Natchitoches Register" [typed transcripts of original documents taken from the parish courthouse during the Cammie Henry era and not returned], vol. 2, doc. 87; Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches.

**13 MARCH 1817**

Deed Book 6:160–61

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

**15 MARCH 1817**

**DEED BOOK 6:159–60**

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

COMMENT:

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

**15 MARCH 1817**

**SUCC BOOK 2:180**

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

COMMENT:

Charûau was not at the sale or else did not make a purchase

**1817**

**ST. FRANÇOIS CHURCH**

Marriage. \_\_\_\_\_ ite (s) and \_\_\_\_\_ Beaudoin? "Nothing remains of this entry except signatures. Those of the bride and groom are almost entirely destroyed. The signature of **Nicolas Baudoin** (x) appears just under that of the bride and groom, a spot usually reserved for close family members, and more often for a father. Under the column labeled 'witnesses' there appear the following signatures: Michel Carlos mere \_\_\_\_\_ n (x); Athanas LaCour (x); Pier Baudoin (x); M. Prevost Dupré (s); P<sup>re</sup> **Charûau** (s); Bte. Cheval (s). Priest: Franco. Magnes."<sup>13</sup>

**26 SEPTEMBER 1817**

**DEED BOOK 6:252–53**

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine, at home of Susanne Metoyer. Donation by **Augustin Metoyer** to son **Maxille Metoyer**, who is marrying **Marie Aspasie [Anty]**, daughter of Susanne Metoye. Land at Isle à Brevel, 6 arpents on both sides of Red River, bounded above by Charles Lemoine and below by land of François Metoyer. Witnesses: Lavèsperre, P<sup>re</sup> **Charuau**.

COMMENT:

This would be the upper part of **S 29 & 103** in T7N R6W.

**31 DECEMBER 1817**

**DEED BOOK 7: 96**

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<sup>13</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five*, p. 124, entry 772.

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

COMMENT:

Pierre does not mention any land at Rivière aux Cannes. The credit sale of \$105 to Pierre Charûau is still in effect.

**13 MAR 1818**

**NCA DOC. 4852**

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

**27 MARCH 1818**

**NCA DOC. 4871**

**DEED BOOK 6:325–26**

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine appeared **Joseph Métoyer** (x) (free man of color) and his brother **Dominique Métoyer** (x) (free man of color). Joseph conveys 640 acres on the right bank of Little River, claimed by Joseph in the land office under the number 318, the said land being a continuation of the land of Dominique Metoyer, bounded on the lower by land claimed by **Joseph Derbanne**. Witnesses: Lavespere, **Pre Charûau**.

COMMENT:

This should be **S 25 & 100 in T7N R6W**. This is the tract of land on which the 1810 census places **Pierre Charûau**. See the census analysis above, under that year.

**27 MARCH 1818**

**DEED BOOK 6:325**

Before P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine. **Joseph Metoyer** to **Dominique Metoyer**, sale for 640 acres on Little River claimed by Joseph with the Land Office Registrar, no. 318, being (on upper) a continuation of the land of Dominique Metoyer and (on lower) bounded by J. E. Derbanne. Witnesses: Lavespère and **P<sup>re</sup> Charuau**.

**27 MARCH 1818**

**DEED BOOK 6:324–25**

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

COMMENT:

Joseph Irwin was the surveyor used by the U.S. government along Cane River to survey the claims for land made in the wake of the Louisiana Purchase. He bought many of the outlying tracts claimed by Cane River settlers by right of "occupancy." Usually, those Cane River residents claimed to use the outlying land as a vacherie.

On this same day, Judge Lafontaine also went to the home of Louis Derbanne, where he drafted a deed from Mme. Marie Josephe (Grillet) Brosset to her son Athanase Brosset. (Doc. 4875).

**25 APRIL 1818**

Marriage. **Jean Eugene Michamps & Marie Denis Shalere [Chaler]**. Groom: aged 36, native of Paris, legitimate son of Eugenio Mechamps and a mother not known, widower of Rosa Vachon who died in this parish leaving no children from their marriage. Bride: 23 years and 7 years [*sic*], native of this parish, legitimate daughter of **Pier Shalere**, native of New Orleans, and of **Maria Victoria Dervan [Derbanne]**, a native of Natchitoches. 3 bans. Witnesses: **Jh. Derbanne** (s); **J<sup>n</sup> P<sup>e</sup> M<sup>e</sup> Dubois** (s); **B<sup>min</sup> Metoyer** (s); **[Le] Comte, fils** (s); **F<sup>cois</sup> Frederic** (s); **P<sup>e</sup> Charnau** (s). Priest: Franco. Magnès.”<sup>14</sup>

**6 JULY 1818**

**NCA DOC. 4923**

**DEED BOOK 6:383**

**Etienne LaCaze** (x) sells to **Louis Metoyer** (x), free man of color, 20 arpents frontage on right bank of River Athao [Little River], opposite Ile à Brosset, with the depth it is able to carry, bounded at left on lower by land of Louis Metoyer and on upper “bounded at about 2 arpents from the “bas du Bayou au Cipré.” Also sells to Louis Metoyer a tract on right bank of Rivière à Thao opposite Isle à Brosset and on right bank by River Athao opposite Ile à Brosset. Witnesses: **Pre Charûau**, Louis Fort, B<sup>te</sup> Chenal. **6 July 1818**, proved before Judge P. D. Cailleau Lafontaine by Etienne Lacase and Louis Metoyer. Witnesses: B<sup>min</sup> Metoyer, B<sup>tte</sup> Adlé.

COMMENT:

The handwriting, in superb copybook style, appears to be that of the judge’s clerk. LaFontaine’s added paraph is in his scrawl.

River Athao is a short stream that branched off Rigolet de Bon Dieu (now Red River). After a couple of miles, it merges with Little River (aka Rivière Brosset on early maps). Current maps typically refer to the joint stream as “Athao or Little River.” Ile à Brosset was the stretch of land between Athao/Little River and Rigolet de Bon Dieu (present Red River)

**27 SEPTEMBER 1818**

**NCA DOC. 4953**

**P<sup>e</sup> Charûau** witnessed a sale by Seabron Gray of “Wilkinson County, State of Louisiana” [*sic*] to **Espallier Rachal**, f.m.c., two enslaved people: **Agay**, about 25 and **Milly** about 13. \$1400. Also witnessing: Will. Dromgoold.

COMMENT:

Pierre Espallière Rachal was the son of Jean Baptiste Louis Rachal (S56 T7N R5W) and his consort Françoise LeComte, whom J. B. L. purchased for manumission from the LeComtes. The sale of the land to Espallier likely occurred in the town of Natchitoches, considering the identity of the witness.

**27 [29?] SEPTEMBER 1818**

**DEED BOOK 6:324–25**

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

COMMENT:

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<sup>14</sup> Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five*, p. 128, entry 788.

Joseph Irwin was the surveyor used by the U.S. government along Cane River to survey the claims for land made in the wake of the Louisiana Purchase. He bought many of the outlying tracts claimed by Cane River settlers by right of “occupancy.” Usually, those Cane River residents claimed to use the outlying land as a vacherie.

**6 [8?] DECEMBER 1818**

**DEED BOOK 7:27**

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

**COMMENT:**

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

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

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

This unnumbered tract is placed as follows

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

**6 MARCH 1819**

**NCA DOC. 5011**

**J<sup>n</sup> P<sup>re</sup> M<sup>e</sup> Dubois** acknowledges that he is indebted to Heirs of **François Rouquier** [listed] for \$3,331.50, which sum he promises to pay in the month of March next. He gives mortgage on land situated on Red River at Rivière aux Cannes, 8 arpents front on each side, bounded above by land of **Pierre Metoyer**, f.m.c. and below by land belonging to **Mariotte**, free Negress. Also gives mortgage on enslaved Negress **Victoire** and Negro **Jacquot**. The debt includes past sums due in May 1811, April 1812.

Added clause: “At signing it was observed [that] the boundaries were erroneously stated of [for] the tract of Land. ... It is bounded as follows. On upper side, on the left hand side of the River in descending, **Pierre Charrûau** and on the opposite side by **François Mulon**, a free mulatto, and below on both sides



by **Adelaïde**, a free woman of color.” Signed: J<sup>n</sup> P<sup>re</sup> M<sup>e</sup> Dubois, V<sup>e</sup> Rouquier [Veuve = Widow Rouquier].  
Witnesses: Metoyer, Charmard [first names bound into crack of book]

**22 MARCH 1821**

**SUCC BOOK 4:78–80, 145—**

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

COMMENT:

Charûau is still in the neighborhood of S105. He is missing from the 1820 census, but the landowners and household heads surrounding S105 were listed in this order: Phillip & Ant. Brosset, Wid. LeMoine (widow of Charles LeMoine, S28 & 102), **Louis Derbanne** (S30 & 104, S31 & 32), Frs. Derbanne, Isabel Charlot, Hillaire Lavespère, Ant. Bergeon (S35 & 107). Compare this list to the purchasers of his goods, below.

**29 DECEMBER 1821**

**SUCC BOOK 4:80–84**

Sale of goods belonging to deceased **Pierre Charrau**. Purchasers and sureties were Jean Valotte, **François Mulon**, Joseph Metoyer, **Antoine Bergeron**, Charles Melançon, **Pierre Baudouin**, **Berthelmy Lecour**, **Louis Derbanne**, Athanase Denis, Antoine Adélé, Philippe Brossai, Dominique Metoyer, Valentin Adélé, Hilaire Lavèspere fils, Philippe Brosset, Marc Sompayrac, and B<sup>te</sup> Brossai. The goods included no books and no land.

**23 APRIL 1822**

**SUCC BOOK 4:145**

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

?DATE

**SUCC BOOK 5:104–5**

P. A. Rost, curator of estate of **Pierre Charuau**. Estate is insolvent. Debts are owed to Arnaud Lauve, Joseph Metoyer, Joseph Vercher, B<sup>te</sup> Getti, Compère, Sompayrac Brothers, John Cortes, L. Deblieux, and Lemaitre De Launay.

1821

Vacant Successions: Microfilm VS.2

Continuation of succession of Pierre Charûau.

COMMENT:

This file is currently inaccessible for research due to the Covid-19 shutdown.