

# WHO WAS MARGUERITE HAYES/HAYER?

By Glen Saucier & Cathy (Lemoine) Sturgell / 2018

*In about 1775, Marguerite Hayes/Hayer married Jean Baptiste Guillory, the son of Joseph Grégoire Guillory and Marie Jeanne LaCasse. A record of their marriage has not been found. Their union produced twelve children from whom many Avoyelleans are descended via the Guillory, Charrier, Juneau, Kimball, Saucier, Guillot, and Lacombe lines. Other than that, little is known about her life before her marriage. In this document, we'll examine our efforts to find clues about the origins of Marguerite as well as correct some of the misinformation that has been circulated about her.*

**(NOTE: Marguerite's surname is often written as Hayes or Hayer. However, her surname is spelled in a wide variety of ways in documents in which her name appears. Some of the variations are Haryer, Haille, Ayez, Aill, Haiard, Kay, Ahieze, Kales, Heyter, Haie, and Ayer. For the sake of simplicity, we shall refer to the surname in this document as Hayes/Hayer.)**

Who was Marguerite Hayes/Hayer and where did she come from? The internet is abound with information about the origins of Marguerite Hayes/Hayer but the overwhelming majority of it is unsourced. One of the most widely dispersed bits of information is that Marguerite was born on 6 February 1756 in Alsace, France. We believe that this information can be traced to one or more DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) applications that were submitted to the DAR prior to the requirement that each event be supported by sources. A recent call to the DAR revealed that none of the applications currently maintained by the DAR any longer contain that birthdate for Marguerite since all have been amended due to lack of supporting documentation. Instead, all of the applications containing the 1756 birthdate have been amended to show that Marguerite was born in Mobile in 1757 – a date and place likely obtained from Ancestry's Family Data Collection. We will explore this in further detail within this document.

In addition, other uncorroborated data quotes and assertions that we located include the following:

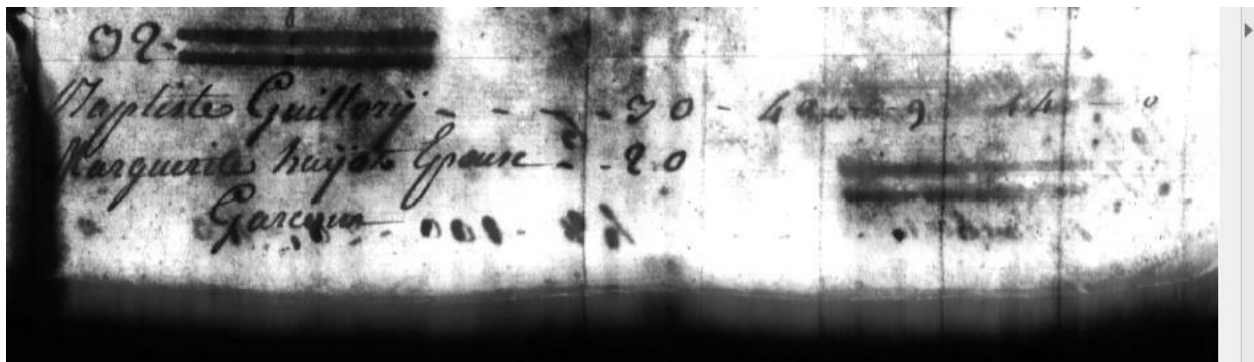
**The marriage of Jean Baptiste Guillory and Marguerite took place in Opelousas:** Although this could be true, there is no evidence to support it other than the fact that the Guillory family appears to have been residing in the Opelousas area for approximately 10-11 years prior to the estimated year of marriage – 1775. Joseph Grégoire Guillory relocated his family to the Opelousas area in about the latter part of 1764 and this can be confirmed by a petition he filed with the Louisiana Superior Council on 29 December 1766 at Opelousas regarding a plot of land he had claimed after receiving an order from Commandant Louis Pellerin which permitted Guillory to choose a tract of land in Opelousas and settle

himself on it. According to the petition, Guillory moved to Louisiana to live among the French and his countrymen after the 1763 cession of Mobile and all land east of the Mississippi (except New Orleans) to the British. Based on the info in Guillory's petition, one can also surmise that the death of his wife in April 1764 at Mobile also played a factor in the timeframe of his decision to move to Louisiana. (Source: Ancestry.com; St. Landry Parish, Collection: Louisiana, Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984, St. Landry Parish, Papers 1766-1787; Image 5-7 of 1316.)

**The marriage of Jean Baptiste Guillory and Marguerite Hayes/Hayer took place c1775 in Mobile:** The author of an article concerning Marguerite's 1835 succession (Source: Louisiana Genealogical Register, Volume XLVI, No. 2, June 1999) entitled "*Marguerite Hayer, Widow Jean Baptiste Guillory: Her Avoyelles Parish Succession of 1835*" concluded that "... the place of their wedding, employing the license of historical deduction, was probably Mobile (or environs) ... and the year-date was ... ca 1775". We believe that Mobile was highly unlikely as the location of the marriage, as the Guillory family had left Mobile c1764. In addition, we recently obtained a copy of a census entitled "*Census of French Inhabitants of Mobile*" dated 26 November 1763 which demonstrates that, while the Guillory family was present at Mobile during this time period, there is no indication that the Hayes/Hayer family was living there at the end of French rule nor is there any evidence that they moved there during British rule.

**Marguerite Hayes/Hayer was the granddaughter of Johann Jacob Folse/Foltz of the German Coast via his daughter, Marguerite Folse:** This is totally false. Marguerite Folse/Foltz (spouse of Jean Simon Trègre) did not marry Nicolas Hayes/Hayer. Marguerite Foltz was married, apparently for the first and only time, in 1750 to Jean Simon Dreger/Trègre [Source: "*Archdiocese of New Orleans Sacramental Records, Volume I, 1718-1750*", Pg. 84.]. They did have a daughter, Marguerite, born in 1754. Jean Simon married for a second time c1766 at St. John the Baptist Parish to Catherine Michel. We believe, however, that our Marguerite Hayes/Hayer was the daughter of Nicolas Hayes/Hayer and Marguerite Folchs/Joles.

We do know, however, that the first indication of Marguerite's presence in Louisiana appears to be the 1777 Census of Opelousas Post.



1777 Census of Opelousas Post – Baptiste Guillory & Marguerite “Hayot” – Page 1 of 2



1777 Census of Opelousas Post – Baptiste Guillory & Marguerite “Hayot” – Page 2 of 2

In this census record, Marguerite was identified as 20 years of age. This would place her year of birth as 1756/1757 – a timeline consistent with the widely-circulated Alsace and Mobile dates. Her husband, identified as Baptiste Guillory, was 30 years of age. Also enumerated with the couple were their 1-year-old son, Baptiste, and two slaves – Baptiste (age 8) and Catherine (age 12). A search, however, of the published sacramental records and transcriptions of the various settlements in and around Louisiana in which Marguerite would have likely been born failed to produce a baptismal record for her (including baptisms of Mobile up to 1781). We also failed to find a baptismal record for her son, Baptiste, whose birth would have occurred c1776.

*(Interesting side note ... It is very possible that these two mulatto slaves – Baptiste and Catherine - enumerated on the 1777 census with Jean Baptiste and Marguerite were the offspring of Joseph Grégoire Guillory, father of Jean Baptiste Guillory, and his slave, Marguerite(a). In 1773, Joseph Grégoire had conveyed Marguerite(a) and their four mulatto children to his legitimate children in order to settle the estate of his deceased wife, Marie Jeanne LaCasse. Marguerite(a) and her four children were the basis for the infamous “Margarita” court case in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.)*  
(<http://louisianalineage.com/margarita.htm>)

Consequently, we searched the transcribed records of Marguerite Hays/Hayer’s children in order to establish her parentage. We quickly located the information we were looking for via the following transcription of a baptismal record found in the church records of Avoyelles Parish. This baptismal document of the second-to-youngest child of Jean Baptiste Guillory and Marguerite Hayes/Hayer provided not only the names of her parents but also indicated that her parents were from Europe:

“Celestina Guillori: b. 9 Feb. 1800, Avoyelles, d/o Juan Guillori & Marguarita Hayer. Bapt: 6 Feb. 1801 - Brady. Grandchild of: Jose' Guillori & Maria LaCasse, n/o Mobile; and **Nicolas Hayer & Marguarita Joles**

**(sic), Europe"**; Record: Number 308, Page 176, Year 1801 (Note: Child was baptized a 2nd time on 5 April 1801: Record: Number 334, Page 188, Year 1801) [Source: *"St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Mansura, Louisiana, Baptism Book #1, 1796-1806"*, Page 31].

At the same time, we found three Avoyelles baptismal records of the grandchildren of Marguerite which indicate that she was from Alsace. Note that all three baptisms took place on the same day:

"Celestine Guillory: b. 29 May 1814, l/d Auguste Guillory of Opeluses and Marie Louise Landernaux (?) of Avoyelles; P/g: Bte. Guillory of Mobile and **Margueritte Hays of Alcasse**. M/g: Joseph Landernau and Helene Juneau of Pointe Coupee. Godparents: Joseph Guillory and Celestine Guillory; Bapt. 2 Oct 1814, Avoyelles, Barriere"; Record: Number 23, Page 110, Year 1814 [Source: *"St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Mansura, Louisiana, Baptism Book #2, 1807-1824"*, Page 46].

"Felicien Guillory: b. 3 May 1814, l/s Julien Guillory of Opelouses and Pauline Guillot of Avoyelles; Bapt. 2 Oct 1814, Notre Dame du Carmel des Avoyelles, Barriere; P/g: Bte. Guillory of Mobile and **Margueritte Hays (sic) of Alsasse (sic)**. M/g: Mathurin Guillot and Francoise Juneau of Pointe Coupee. Godparents: Jean Bte. Guillory and Francoise Juneau"; Record: Number 12, Page 107, Year 1814 [Source: *"St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Mansura, Louisiana, Baptism Book #2, 1807-1824"*, Page 46].

"Julie Guillory: b. 15 Jan 1813,, l/d Joseph Guillory of Opelousas and Marie Tassin of Avoyelles, Bapt. 2 Oct 1814, Avoyelles, Barriere, P/g: Baptiste Guillory of Mobile and **Margueritte Hayes of Alcasse**, M/g: Nicolas Tassin of St. Charles on Miss. River and Judie Juneau of Pointe Coupee, Godparents: Marcellin Tassin and Lucille Lemoyne"; Record: Number 21, Page 109, Year 1814 [Source: *"St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Mansura, Louisiana, Baptism Book #2, 1807-1824"*, Page 47].

Subsequent searches of the records of Opelousas Post failed to establish that a "Nicolas Hayer" and "Marguarita Joles" ever resided there but two records related to the children and grandchildren of Marguerite produced information which alluded to Marguerite's possible German Coast origins:

"Celestin Guillory (Celestin – from Avoyelles & Marguerite Guillory) b. 23 May 1815, bt. 9 August 1816 Pats: Mathurin Guillory & Francoise Juneau (my note – this should be Mathurin Guillot) – of Pointe Coupee; Mats: Jean Baptiste Guillory & **Marguerite Hayer "des Allemands" [of the German Coast ] ..."** [Source: *"Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 2-A (1811-1818)"*, Page 468].

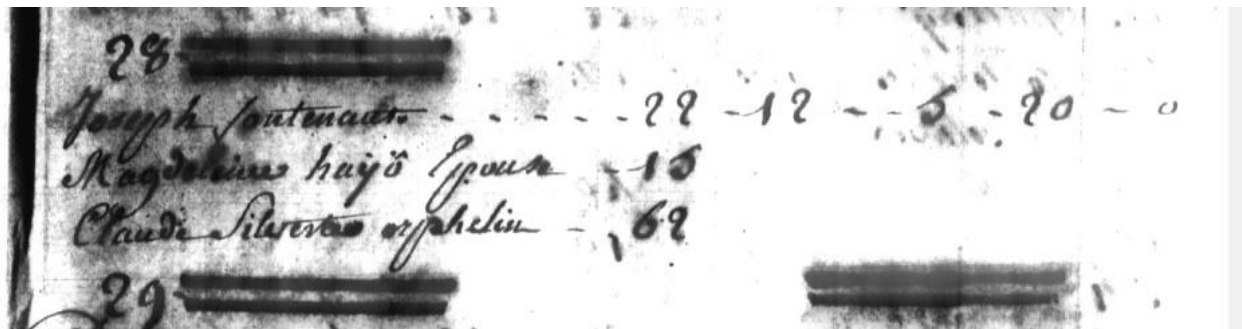
"Julien Guillory (Julien – from here & Pauline Guillori) – from Avoyelles b. 10 Sept. 1816, bt. 13 April 1817 Pats: Jean Baptiste Guillory – from Mobile - & **Marguerite Hayer – from the River: ..."** [Source: *"Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 2-A (1811-1818)"*, Page 473].

### **The Sisters of Marguerite Hayes/Hayer**

A search of the Opelousas sacramental records did allow us to ascertain that Marguerite had one sister and, almost certainly, a second sister living in Opelousas simultaneously with her in 1777.

However, when researching the Hayes/Hayer surname in Opelousas Post we did find that there was more than one family in the area with the Hayes surname. There are approximately 25 sacraments transcribed in Volume 1-A of Hébert's "Southwest Louisiana Records" for a Hayes family with ties to Virginia, Maryland and the Carolinas as well as the Lutheran or Presbyterian faith. We are confident that these family members were in no way related to our Marguerite Hayes/Hayer.

The first sister of Marguerite was identified as Magdelaine Hayes/Hayer. She married Joseph Philippe Larose Fontenot, the son of Philippe Fontenot dit St. Philippe and Marie Nicole Brignac, some time prior to the 1777 Opelousas Post census which identified the 15-year-old Magdelaine as the wife of 22-year-old "Joseph Fontenaut". This would place her year of birth about 1762. Based on her age and the fact that the couple had no children in the household, it is likely that they had recently married. However, living with the young couple was 62-year-old Claude Silvestre who was identified as an "orphelin" (orphan). We shall address Claude Silvestre later in this document.



1777 Census of Opelousas Post – Joseph Fontenaut & Magdelaine Hays

Residing in the dwellings next door and a short distance away from Magdelaine and Joseph were various members of their family. The house next door was occupied by Joseph's parents (Philippe and Marie Nicole) and siblings. Next door to the Philippe Fontenot family was living the 90-year-old Widow Brignac, likely Marie Anne Turpin, who was the widow of Jacques Simon Turpin. She was the mother of Marie Nicole Brignac. Living in the next house was the 17-year-old son of Philippe Fontenot and Marie Nicole Brignac, "Simon Fontenaut". Finally, in the dwelling next door to Simon was the household of Jean Baptiste Guillory and Marguerite Hayes/Hayer – the sister and brother-in-law of Magdelaine.

Magdelaine's parentage was confirmed via the baptismal records of two of her children with Joseph Philippe Larose Fontenot:

"Modeste Fontenot (Joseph & Magdelaine Hayers) bt. Sunday, 15 Oct. 1797 Pats: Phillip Fontenaut & Marie Brignac; Mats: **Nicolas Hayers & Marguerite Folchs**; Spons: Baptiste Lafleur & Theotiste Desmares. Fr. Pedro de Zamora"; (Opel. Ch.: v.1-A, p.184) [Source: "Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-A (1750-1800)", Page 321].

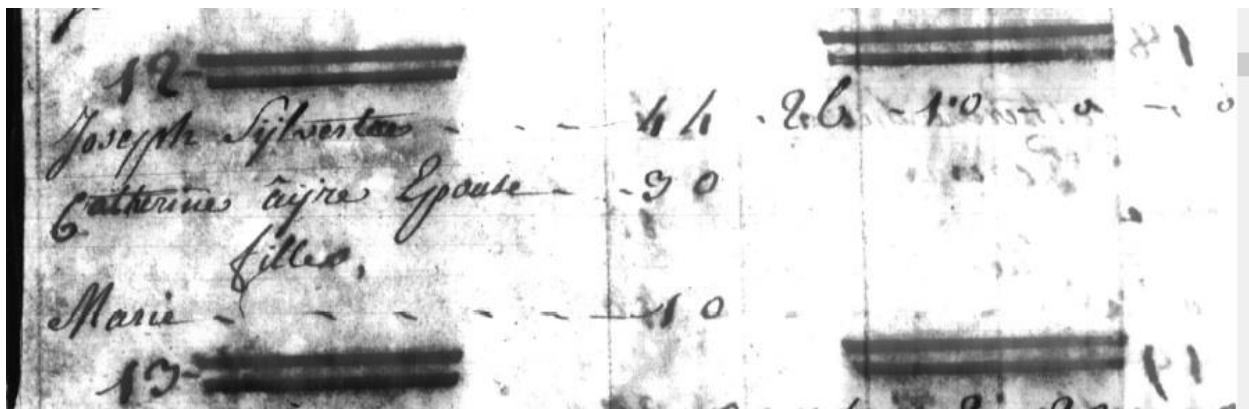
"Diegue Fontenot (Joseph & Magdelaine Hayers) bt. Thursday, 26 Sept. 1799 Pats: Phillip Fontenau & Marie Brignac; Mats: **Nicholas Hayers & Marguerite Folch**; Spons: Diegue LaFleur & Julienne Fontenau.

Fr. Pedro de Zamora"; (Opel. Ch.: v.1-A, p.220) [Source: *"Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-A (1750-1800)"*, Page 308].

Also note that Marguerite "Hadre" was the godmother of Phillip Fontenot, s/o Joseph Fontenot & "Madeleine Hadre", who was baptized 19 November 1780 at Opelousas [Source: *"Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-A (1750-1800)"*, Page 322]. This further illustrates the relationship between Marguerite Hayes and Madeleine Hayes.

The other woman whom we believe was a sister of Marguerite was Catherine Hayes/Hayer. Catherine's parentage has not been positively confirmed, but there is circumstantial evidence that would seem to suggest that she was likely a daughter of Nicolas Hayes/Hayer & Marguerite Folch/Joles.

Catherine Hayes/Hayer was married to Joseph Sylvestre/Sylvestre. She was 30 years old in the 1777 Opelousas Census placing her year of birth at approximately 1747. Her spouse was 44. Living with them was their oldest known child, Marie (age 10).



1777 Census of Opelousas Post – Joseph Sylvestre & Catherine Âyre

Two sacramental records seem to suggest a relationship between Catherine Hayes/Hayer and Marguerite Hayes/Hayer:

- The 1787 marriage record of Marie Sylvestre, d/o Joseph Sylvestre & Catherine "Alere" shows that one of the witnesses was Jean Baptiste Guillory: ["Marie Sylvestre - of this parish (Joseph & Catherine Alere) m. 25 April 1787 George Desmarest - of Pointe Coupee (Francois & Catherine Duclos) Wits: Joseph Sylvestre, Francois Pitre, Pierre Vidrine, Jean Bureau, Jean Baptiste Guillory. Fr. Joseph de Arazena"; (Opel. Ch. v.1-A, p.1) [Source: *"Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-A (1750-1800)"*, Page 709]. Of course, we cannot prove that this is the same "Jean Baptiste Guillory" who married Marguerite Hayes/Hayer but we suspect that they were, indeed, one-in-the-same.

- The 5 July 1791 baptism of Joséphine Guillory, d/o Jean Baptiste Guillory and Marguerite Hayes/Hayer, identified as godmother, Françoise Silvestre, d/o Joseph Silvestre/Sylvestre and Catherine Hayes/Hayer: ["Josephine Guillory (Jean Baptiste & Marguerite Kales) b. 5 July 1791, bt. Saturday, 29 September 1792, Spons: Francois Brignac & Françoise Silvestre. Fr. Pedro de Zamora"; (Opel. Ch.: Volume 1A, Page 107)]; [Source: *"Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-A (1750-1800)"*, Page 388].

In addition, you might remember that we pointed out that there was a 62-year-old man named Claude Silvestre who was enumerated in the 1777 census in the household of Joseph Fontenot and Magdelaine Hayes/Hayer. We believe the following explains who he was and why he might have been living with Magdelaine Hayes/Hayer and her husband:

- A. There was a marriage record in Mobile dated 10 September 1738 for a "Claude Sylvester, native of Berus Diocese of Metz, soldier in Benoist's company, son of Juste Sylvestre and Catherine Chouartz, .... and .... Charlotte Paulinet, widow of Pierre Laccombe, mounted soldier in Palarin's company, daughter of Jacque Paulenet and Barbe Querche of Dijon, St. Michel Parish". (Source: *"Love's Legacy: The Mobile Marriages Recorded in French, Transcribed with Annotated Abstracts in English 1724-1786"*, Page 175 (Cites: Mob.mb I:23a-3). This record is important for several reasons:
- B. There is a note in Vidrine's book associated with this marriage record which states the following: *"(Bernard) Diron (Dartaguiette), as commandant of the post, gave written permission for this marriage. Their child, named Joseph, baptized December 5, 1737, under the name of Bernard Fouchz was declared legitimate and an heir equal to future issue of this marriage."* (Unfortunately, this baptism does not appear in the book entitled *"Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of Mobile, Volume I, Section I, 1704-1739"*.)
- C. "Claud Silvestre" is highly likely the 62-year-old "orphan" living with Magdelaine Hayer and Joseph Philippe Larose Fontenot in the 1777 Opelousas Census. This would place his year of birth c1715 which indicates that he was of marriageable age in 1738 – year of the marriage listed above.
- D. The following Opelousas burial record is likely that of Joseph Silvestre, husband of Catherine Hayes (Hayes, Haille, Ayre). It states: "Mr. – Sylvestre, bur. 10 Oct. 1810 at age about 70 yrs. Fr. Louis Buhot"; (Opel. Ch.: v.1, p.112), [Source: *"Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-B (1801-1810)"*, Page 680]. This record is significant because it would place the birth of Joseph at about 1740. This corresponds closely with the 1737 baptism date identified in #B above for Joseph which would lend credence to the suspicion that his father was Claude Silvestre/Sylvestre.
- E. Although the 1816 marriage record of Pierre Silvestre, s/o Joseph Silvestre and Catherine Hayes/Hayer erroneously identifies Pierre's father as Pierre Silvestre rather than Joseph Silvestre, the record states that the groom's father was from "des Alibamons" (likely Mobile) which would lend further credence to the suspicion that he was the Joseph born to Claude Sylvester and Charlotte Paulinet: "Pierre Silvestre - native of this parish (major son of Pierre -

native of des Alibamons & Catherine Haysel [Hay] - native of the river and inhabitants of this parish) m. 7 May 1816 Jeanne O'Connor - native of this parish (minor daughter of Peter O'Connor - native from Ireland in the province of Connought Eyres Court & Eleonore Mills - native of la pointe couppee - inhabitants of this parish). Wits: John Hudspeth, David Hudspeth, Thomas Collins, Peter O'Connor. Fr. Michel Bernard Barriere"; (Opel. Ch.: v.1-B, p.284)]; [Source: *"Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 2A (1811-1818)"*, Page 855].

- F. The 1815 burial record of Françoise Silvestre, d/o Joseph Silvestre and Catherine Hayes/Hayer is another source which states that her parents were originally from Mobile: *"Francoise Silvestre - native of this parish (Joseph Sylvres & Catherine --- - originally from Mobile). She was married to Pierre Ocoing [Aucoin]; they lived in the area of la grande prairie in this parish. bur. 26 Aug. 1815 at age about 36 years, in the parish cemetery. Fr. Michel Bernard Barriere"*; (Opel. Ch.: v.1, p.146)]; [Source: *"Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-A (1750-1800)"*, Page 709].

Based on the information outlined in items A-F above, we feel that it's logical to conclude that the Joseph Silvestre mentioned in #B above was very likely the same person who married Catherine Hayes/Hayer. This would seem to suggest a tie between Catherine Hayes/Hayer and Magdelaine Hayes/Hayer since the man we believe to be Catherine's father-in-law was living with Magdelaine in 1777. Although this does not confirm that they were sisters, it does provide a degree of circumstantial evidence that the families were closely tied.

Regarding the origins of the three Hayes/Hayer women, we know that the Hayes/Hayer family was not in Mobile at the time of the November 1763 census of French citizens. The only inference that both Joseph Silvestre and Catherine Hayes/Hayer might have been in Mobile at any time was the 1815 burial record of Francoise Silvestre (#F above). However, we've often seen documents in which a reference to the origins of a couple was, instead, referencing the origins of only one of the two married individuals. We suspect, therefore, based on all information collected so far, that this was strictly a reference to the origins of Silvestre rather than his wife. We did find a document, however, dated 15 October 1774 in which Joseph Silvestre purchased land in Opelousas from Nicolas Lamatte which appears to indicate that Joseph was already in the Opelousas area by this time or some time prior to this 1774 date [Source: Ancestry.com; Collection: Louisiana, Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984; St. Landry Parish; Papers, 1766-1787; Images 97 thru 99].

### **Perrine "Marguerite" Hayes**

It should be noted that there was also a reference to a Perrine Hayes in the records of Opelousas during the time that our Hayes/Hayer family was there. Perrine married Joseph Lejeune and was referred to as Marguerite from Mobile in at least two St. Landry records. Perrine was most likely born in Mobile, as she was the daughter of Gilbert Hayes and Jane Jackson of Mobile. It is possible that this misidentification of Perrine as 'Marguerite' has been the source of the belief that Marguerite Hayes/Hayer was born there. Here are references to several records which highlight this point:



“Celestine Fontenot – native of this parish (minor daughter of Jacob Fontenau – native of des Alibamons & Rosalie Jeanson – native of the Mississippi and also inhabitants of this parish) m. 18 April 1814 **Hubert LeJeune – native of this parish (minor son of Joseph – native of Acadie – Marguerite Hay [Hayse] – originally from Mobile – inhabitants of this parish)** Wits: Jean Baptiste LeJeune – representing the bride’s father, Antoine Fontenau – brother of the bride and representing for her father, William Hergeroeder – all inhabitants of this parish, also with Vital Estilet – “changre de cette paroisse” [chorister or church singer of this parish] and William Hergeroeder – “mon sacristain” [my sacristan], Henry Alexandre Peter Comtesse. The girl having been taken from the home of her father – was reinstated and pardoned by her father and mother before the marriage. This is why I demanded this written consent of the parents – signed by them and two witnesses who are the grandfather and the uncle of the girl.” ... “We consent for our daughter to marry Huber LeJeune – we ask Monsieur L’Abbe Barriere to marry them. ... Signed... Jacque Fontenau, Rosalie Jeansonne, Baptiste Jeanson, Jean Jeanson. Fr. Michel Bernard Barriere (Opel. Ch.: v.1-A, p.251 #6)”; [Source: “*Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 2-A (1811-1818)*”, Page 371].

Also ..... “Eugenie Lejeune (Joseph & **Perrine Hayes**) bt. Sunday, 15 July 1798, Pats: Jean Baptiste LeJeune & Marguerite Trahan; **Mats: Gilbert Hayes & Eugenie Jackson** ....”; [Source: “*Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-A (1750-1800)*”, Page 517].

The same maternal grandparents are listed for another child of Joseph Lejeune and Perrine Hayes. [Source: “*Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-B (1801-1810)*”, Page 466]. There is also a 3<sup>rd</sup> confirmation regarding the parents of Perrine Hayes on page 468 of the same reference book. The baptism record of Zenon Lejeune identifies his mother as Perrine Hayze, his maternal grandparents as Gilbert Haize & Jenny Jacson [Jackson] and indicates that his parents are “natural del norte [natives of the north]. Finally, on page 621 of “*Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 2-A (1811-1818)*”, Perrine “Hay” is listed as being from Pensacola although other records list her as a native of Mobile. Page 623 of the same book indicates that Marguerite Hay (Perrine) & Joseph LeJeune are inhabitants of the area of La prairie Faketaic (?). Therefore, it is obvious that Perrine Hayes was not a sibling of Marguerite, Magdelaine, and (likely) Catherine.

## **The Two Sisters of Marguerite Hayes/Hayer and their ties to Cote des Allemands (German Coast) or la Rivière des Alibamons**

Although we feel that there was little likelihood that the Hayes/Hayer family had ties to Mobile, we did find several records which tied the women to the area of the German Coast of Louisiana:

- A. “Adelayde Fontenot – native of this parish (major daughter of Joseph Fontenau dit LaRose – native of La Riviere des Alibamons & Magdelaine Hayser – **native of the river – Cote des allemands [ German Coast ]** and inhabitants at La grande Prairie in this parish) m. 14 May 1816 Pierre Vidrine ...”; [Source: “*Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 2-A (1811-1818)*”, Page 367].

- B. "Alexandre Fontenot – native of this parish (minor son of Joseph Fontenau dit LaRose – native of LaRiviere des Alibamons & Marie Hayser – **native of St. Jean Baptiste on the Mississippi** and inhabitants of the area of La grande prairie in this parish) m. 11 Feb. 1817 Eugenie Deshotels...."; [Source: "*Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 2-A (1811-1818)*", Page 368].
- C. In the previously-mentioned 1816 marriage record of Pierre Silvestre, Catherine Hayes/Hayer was identified as a "native of the river". Is that a reference to the German Coast or la Rivière des Alibalmonts?

Here's another document, however, which seems to show that Magdelaine Hayes/Hayer was from Alabama:

"Cyprien Fontenot – native of this parish (Joseph Fontenau dit Larose – **native of la Riviere des Alibamons** & Magdelaine Hayser – **native of the same river** and inhabitant of this parish in the Grand Prairie area) m. 22 April 1816 Silesie LaFleur ..."; [Source: "*Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 2-A (1811-1818)*", Page 374].

There are, at least, two other marriage records for children of Joseph Fontenot dit LaRose and Magdelaine Hayes which show her as a native of Mobile. However, as we've already stated, there is no evidence that the Hayes/Hayer family was ever in Mobile. We will address this further in the next section.

### **The Immigration of the Hayes/Hayer Family**

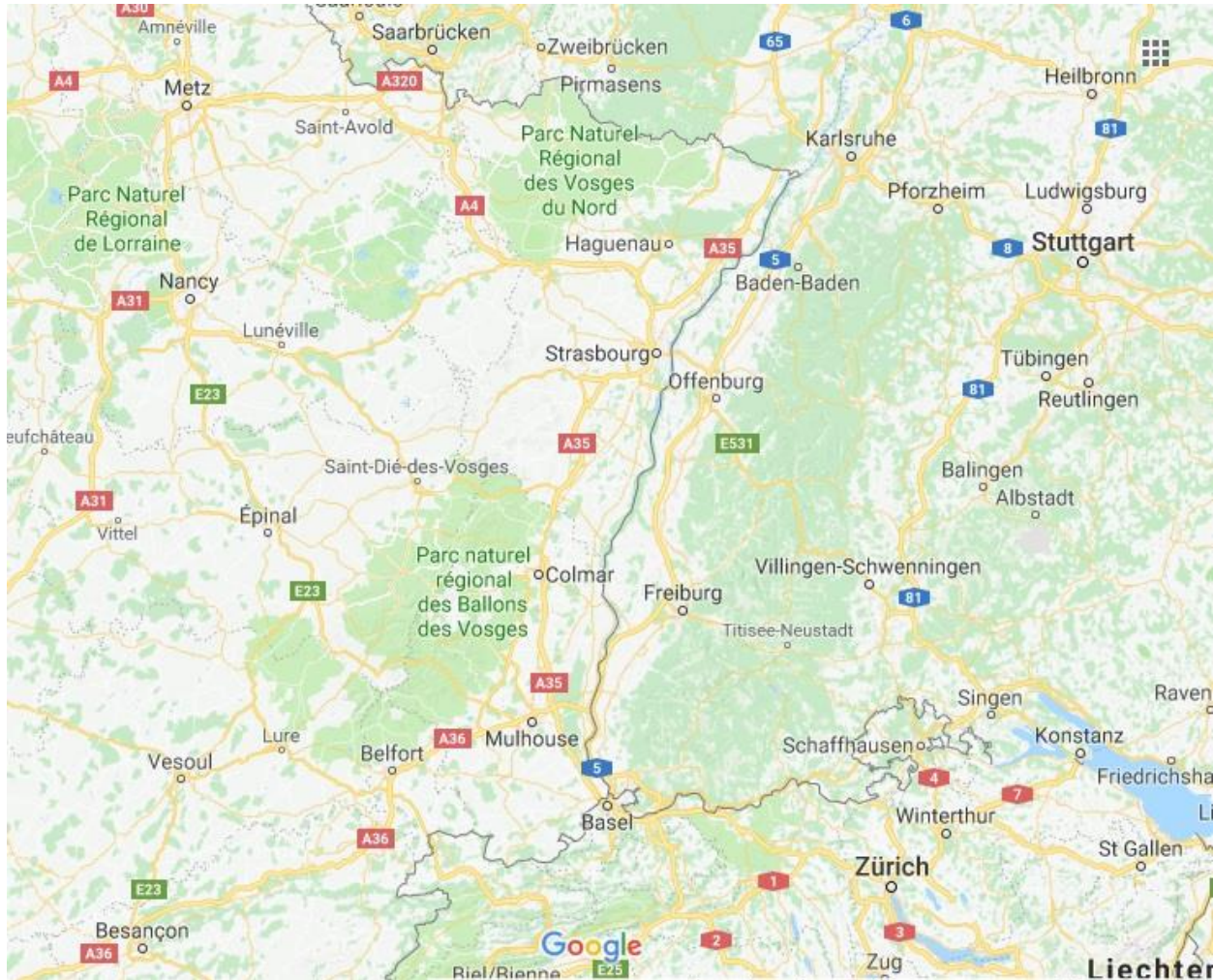
At this point in our research, having not found baptismal records for Marguerite, Magdelaine, or Catherine Hayes/Hayer, we focused once again on the origins of these three females and their parents, Nicolas Hayes/Hayer and Marguerite Folchs/Joles. This led to the discovery of an article entitled "Alsatian Emigration to Louisiana 1753-1759". [Source: "*The Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Series in Louisiana History: The French Experience in Louisiana*"; Edited by Glenn R. Conrad]. The article reveals the story of the Hayes/Hayer family of Alsace.

*A little background ...* In 1685, King Louis XIV revoked the 87-year-old Edict of Nantes. The Edict had granted Calvinist Protestants of France (Huguenots) substantial rights in the mostly-Catholic country and also ended the religious war which had plagued France during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. After the revocation, the religious wars did not re-ignite, but intense persecution of Protestants took place. Protestant churches were destroyed and pastors were sent into exile. The prohibition to practice the Protestant religion applied to all of France except Alsace – a historical region in northeastern France on the Rhine River plain bordering Germany and Switzerland – only because Alsace had just been attached to France in the recent past (1648-1678) which wisely led the King to decide to agree to the right of existence of the German-Lutherans in this area. However, soon after the revocation, the Germans offered the French Protestants land and livestock if they wanted to settle in Germany. Louis XIV quickly

reacted to this German offer by announcing that any Huguenot arrested for attempting to leave France without a permit would be sentenced to life in prison - the men in the galleys, the women in a jail cell. In addition, their property would be confiscated by the King. At the same time, the government lured citizens to become whistleblowers against those trying to flee by offering bonuses to the whistleblowers.

According to Conrad, *"following a concerted government effort against the Protestants in the early eighteenth century, generally known as the War of the Camisards, persecution of Huguenots intensified only at irregular intervals. In May, 1724, for example, several years after the death of Louis XIV, the prime minister of France, the duc de Bourbon, issued a declaration which injected new vigor into the conflict by demanding that all children of Protestant parents be taught the Catholic catechism until they were twelve years of age and that they attend Catholic services until they were twenty. Consequently, a concurrent wave of persecution and emigration swept France for the next year or so, but soon ebbed and was followed by a twenty-year era of comparative laxness on the part of authorities to enforce the law."* Apparently, the Lutherans of Alsace-Lorraine began to be subjected to short periods of harassment beginning in about 1745. It was during one of those periods of harassment, 1752-1754 (probably in December, 1752) that 22 Lutherans, along with their 25 children, decided to restart their lives in Germany, probably seeking land and livestock more than escaping religious oppression. Included in this group was the family of Nicolas Hayes/Hayer. As bad luck would have it (or, possibly, due to a whistleblower), the group was stopped at the border and immediately made to appear before the Parliament of Metz, the highest court of Lorraine. Their guilt was undeniable and all were imprisoned. Their future appeared very grim.

Although these individuals were tried at Metz, they weren't necessarily from that area. The Conrad article provides some info that had to have been derived from the transcripts of the trial, suggesting the existence of more detailed info on the families, but, unfortunately, he didn't identify his source. We do know, however, that two of the Alsace families mentioned later in Louisiana sacramental records identified their place of birth as Schillersdorff, Alsace, now located in the Bas-Rhin department in Grand Est. An examination of the available on-line sacramental records for both the Lutheran and Catholic churches in that area of France failed to turn up anything of significance. However, there are a number of Volz families in the area of Schillersdorff and Haguenau but nothing has been found for Marguerite Volz and nothing has been found for the Hayer family anywhere that has been searched. Perhaps Nicolas was originally from Germany.



Map of historical region of Alsace on the eastern border of France adjacent to Germany and Switzerland

However, the chancellor responsible for religious laws decided that these farmers would be more useful as settlers and that exile to Louisiana would lead *“to the same end, an early death”* anyway. The proposition was put to the prisoners in late January or early February 1753 with the condition that they agree to renounce their Lutheran religion and become Catholic. Of course, they truly had no other option. After the Alsatians agreed to the religious conversion and Louisiana exile in lieu of life imprisonment, it was decided that they would be settled among the Germans of the German Coast in Louisiana. Under police escort, the 47 Alsatians left Metz for Rochefort (Charente-Maritime) on 10 June 1753 in the first leg of their perilous trans-Atlantic journey. After arriving there, and as the group boarded the ship *Le Caméléon* at Rochefort, the name of each passenger was checked off of a list that had been forwarded by the Minister of the Navy. The exiles were identified as:

*“Michel Bernhard, his wife Anne-Marie Hess, a son and four daughters; Philippe Conrad, his wife Christine Beauviz, and their son; Andre Fichter and his wife Marie-Magdelaine Reinard; **Nicolas Hayer, his wife Marguerite Volz, their son and daughter**; Christian Jacob, his wife,*

*Marguerite Mehl, their two sons and four daughters; Philippe Philippy, his wife Catherine-Barbe Frantz, and their two sons; Henry Reutnaver, his wife Marguerite Gassner, and their two daughters; Solomon Ritz; George Roucke; Nicolas Scheffer, his wife Barbe Schenep, and their daughter; Henry Vespeman, his wife Christine Reinard, and their two sons; Nicolas Wollion, his wife Eve-Elisabeth Kidel, their three sons and daughter"*

The group sailed from Rochefort on 3 July 1753. The trip was expected to take six-weeks. They traversed a route that took them through Saint-Dominique and landed at New Orleans on 8 September 1753. They were settled on government land on the West Bank of the Mississippi River just above the capital. Each family received the rudimentary equipment requirement for survival on a farm, and they were given sufficient provisions to help them through the winter. German families already established in the area did their best to facilitate life for the new arrivals. In early December, the Governor of the French colony of Louisiana, Louis Belcourt, Chevalier de Kerlérec, wrote that *"he had settled the group together, for to separate them would only have made their already difficult existence increasingly unbearable"*.

More than half a year later, on 4 July 1754, Kerlérec wrote to the Minister of the Navy stating that he had been able to supply the new colonists sufficiently to the point that they were self-sustaining until the harvest in the fall. Each family had received 400 livres. Kerlérec also stated that, during a visit with the new colonists in February, he *"found them to be quite contented, working courageously and ambitiously to house themselves and to prepare the land for sowing"*. Furthermore, Kerlérec stated that the Alsatians *"were beginning to sell chickens, eggs, and vegetables in New Orleans"*. The Governor went on to describe them as hard-working farmers who led a quiet life.

### **Other Hayes/Hayer Documents – This family or another?**

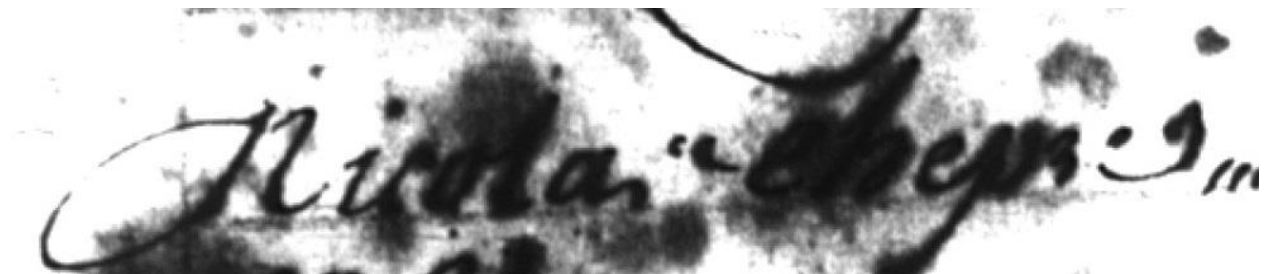
Based on the information in Conrad's article, we know that the Hayes/Hayer family had arrived from France in September 1753 at which time they settled at the German Coast. The family surname was identified as Hayer on the transcribed list of colonists and the wife of Nicolas Hayer was identified as Marguerite Volz. Since the family had originated near the border with Germany, it is logical to deduce that the spellings of the Hayer and Volz surnames were often misrepresented due to the German accent that members of the Hayer family likely had and which was almost certainly misunderstood by the French. The family had two children at the time of their arrival – a son and a daughter. Could the daughter have been Catherine who appears to have been born in about 1747? We believe that this was likely the case. The fact that the Hayer family arrived in 1753 eliminates the possibility, however, that the female child was Marguerite since we have established that she was born in the 1756-1757 timeframe.

Of the Alsatian families that arrived at New Orleans on 8 September 1753, subsequent records for only 7, including Nicolas Hayer, have been found. Marriage and baptismal records of 1754-1756 at St. Charles Borromeo, for children of Bernhard, Jacob, Phillipy, and Conrad, can be found in the *"Archdiocese of New*

*Orleans Sacramental Records, Volume II, 1751-1771*" book of transcribed sacramental records. André Fernandes might have died shortly after arrival, and probably his wife, a 'Marie Magdelaine Reinhart', was interred at St. Charles on 1 December, 1754. Nicolas Wollion appeared to be married to Agnes Keteler by 1754, so it's possible that his first wife died and he remarried.

The dearth of sacramental records has made the search for these families in Louisiana quite difficult. This scarcity might be explained by the failure of some of the families to honor their agreement to convert to Catholicism and, as a result, not participate in the Catholic sacraments. (There is a baptismal record in St. Landry Parish, "*Southwest Louisiana Records, Volume 1-A (1750-1800)*", which includes a notation concerning the marriage of Joseph Silvestre/Sylvestre and Catherine Hayes/Hayer which states that they were "not married in the church". Perhaps the other two sisters followed suit, explaining the absence of marriage records for all three.) On the other hand, it is as likely that the lack of Louisiana sacramental records might be traced to the fact that almost all of the sacramental registers of St. Charles Borromeo Parish were destroyed by fire (other than one register which ends in 1755 – about 2 years after the arrival of the Hayes/Hayer family). We think it is very likely that the majority of the Alsatians were, indeed, living in the vicinity of the German Coast – at least for the first few years. It is very possible that some of them simply had no sacramental records recorded in the very short time between their arrival and the date of the last surviving sacramental register of that area.

It is important to note that we were able to obtain a copy of the 1766 Des Allemands census. In that document, there was only one entry that we believe COULD be the Nicolas Hayes/Hayer family (see below). However, the surname must be looked at very closely and with a dubious eye - keeping in mind that the surname has been documented with many different variations (Haryer, Haille, Ayez, Aill, Haiard, Kay, Ahieze, Kales, Heyter, Haie, and Ayer). In our opinion, the Hayes/Hayer surname was likely difficult for french officials and census enumerators to understand due to the German accents the family likely possessed. (Or could this census entry be, instead, one for Nicolas Scheffer who was also one of the Alsace immigrants? It is important to note that there was only one man and one female child living in this household. Scheffer's wife was Barbe Schenep, but if this entry was for Scheffer, Schenep was, apparently, deceased by 1766.) We're providing this and other info below in the event that future research on the Hayes/Hayer family may uncover additional details that would shed light on this census entry or other entries that someone else may find.

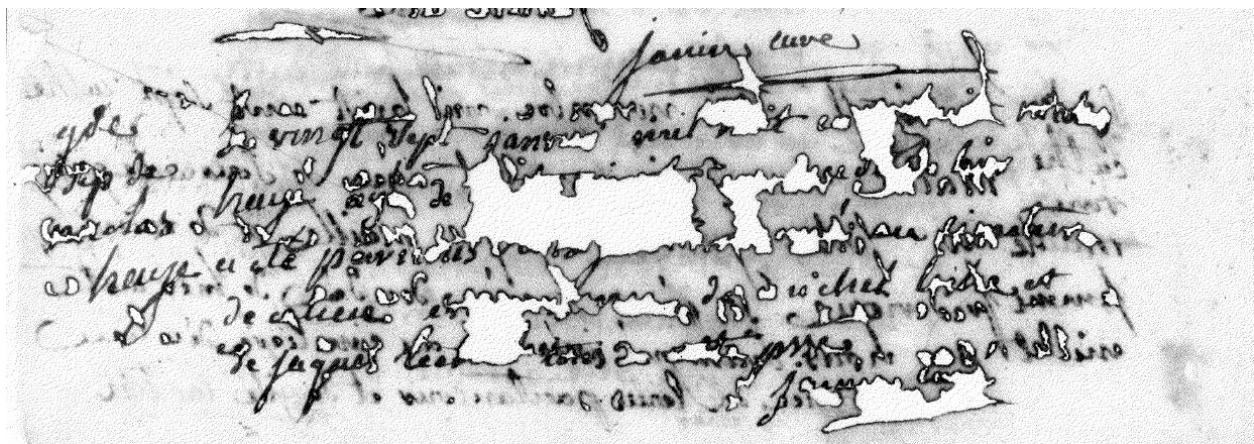
A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature appears to read "Nicolas Schenep". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with some ink bleed-through visible from the reverse side of the paper.



[illegible][illegible]

There are also references to François Hayes in Conrad's book (*"Saint-Jean-Baptiste des Allemands: Abstracts of the Civil Records of St. John the Baptiste Parish to 1803"*) but there was nothing found to positively tie him to the Marguerite Hayes/Hayer family either.

In addition, there is also one other document (see below) that we discovered which could be a burial record for Nicolas Hayes – the father OR the son. As we've already documented via the list of 1753 exiles, Nicolas Hayes/Hayer and his wife came to Louisiana with a son and a daughter. However, it could also be the burial record of the Nicolas Hayt referenced in the previous paragraphs (widow of René Pate/Barde/Barte); this is our suspicion. This document was found in the sacramental records of Saint-Jean-Baptiste des Allemands in Edgard (St. John the Baptist Parish) and is dated 27 January 1808. [Source: Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives ([https://archives.arch-no.org/sacramental\\_records](https://archives.arch-no.org/sacramental_records)); St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edgard (St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana)," Funerals 1772-1815; Image 185 of 287]. It's a burial record for "Nicolas Heuje" or "Nicolas Heuze". Unfortunately, the record is in very bad shape and, as a result, the age of the deceased has been eaten away on the document. There is nothing else on this burial record which allows us to prove or disprove that this is the burial record of Nicolas Hayes/Hayer, husband or son of Marguerite Folchs, but we feel that it is worth noting.



In addition, an examination of the book entitled *"St. Charles: Abstracts of the Civil Records of St. Charles Parish 1770-1803"* (Conrad) did produce two references in 1773 indicating that Nicolas Hayer, or possibly a son named Nicolas Jr., was, indeed, in the area of the German Coast. The two references are as follows:

1. No. 62, 1-9-73; LAND SALE. Saintilly sells to Joseph Dussieau, former infantry officer, a piece of land 14 arpents wide by the customary depth, located about 30 miles above New Orleans and on the same side of the river, bounded above by the property of the vendee and below by that of **Hayze (Hayre ?)**, for 12,000 livres. Witnesses: Delhommer and Meuillion. Madama Marie Saintilly also signed the document.
2. No. 73, 4-25-73; LAND SALE. **Nicolas Hayzes (Hayer)** declares, in the presence of Kernion and Masicot, that he has sold to Louis Barbet a piece of land 3 arpents wide by the customary depth,



located about 22.5 miles above New Orleans and on the same side, bounded above by the land of Dusieau and below by that of Trépagnier, for 250 livres. (Note: It would appear that **Hayzes** spelled his surname "**Hayzen**", Barbet spelled his name "Barbay" and Masicot spelled his name "Massicot".)

Based on the two land descriptions above, it appears that Hayes/Hayer ( or his son) did purchase land at two separate locations in the years after his arrival – both on the east bank of the Mississippi River although we have not yet located the initial land purchases. We do believe that these two references are likely related to Nicolas, father or brother of Marguerite Hayes/Hayer.



German Coast c1775

### Marguerite's Move to Avoyelles

The name of "Jean B. Guillory" appears in the 1810 Census of Opelousas although no individuals are listed. Instead, the number "11" is in the column labeled "Not Tax". Three slaves were enumerated, however. This could indicate that he still owned the property in Opelousas but had moved to Avoyelles Parish. At the same time, there is a "Madame Guillory" in the 1810 Avoyelles Parish Census. It is unclear, however, if this was Marguerite Hayes since the adult widowed female was listed in the 25-44 age range. Based on her age in the 1777 Census, Marguerite would have been about 54 years of age in 1810. This could, however, have simply been an error on the part of the census taker. If this was, indeed, Marguerite Hayes, there were 2 males between the ages of 10-15, and 1 male between the ages of 16-25 living with her. In addition, there were 2 females between the ages of 10-15 living in the household. The family had 5 slaves. It is also important to note that three of the couple's sons - Augustin, Joseph, and Julien - were also enumerated in Avoyelles Parish in 1810. Also, Celeste had been baptized there in 1800, Julien had married there in 1806, and Augustin's 1805 marriage in St. Landry

Parish states that he was living in Avoyelles at the time which lends credence to the belief that the "Madame Guillory" was actually Marguerite Hayes regardless of the apparent error in her age on the 1810 Census.

There is one reference to a "Margaret Hays" on the 1820 Avoyelles census living north of the Red River. Living in the household was one male under 10, 1 male between the ages of 10 and 16, three females under age 10, and one female between the ages of 26 and 45. However, Marguerite would have been about 64 years of age which makes me think that this was not a reference to our Marguerite. Assuming that is the case, we were unable to find any reference to her in the 1820 census and believe she may not have been enumerated.

She was, however, enumerated in the 1830 census in Avoyelles Parish. She was identified as 'Margaret Guillory' and was listed as being between the ages of 70 and 80. She was living between two of her sons - Jean Baptiste Guillory and Joseph Guillory. Also enumerated in the household were the following: one male slave under age 10, two male slaves of 10 and under age 24, two female slaves of 10 and under age 24, and one female slave of 24 and under age 36.

### **Lastly ...The Death of Marguerite Hayes/Hayer**

The last item on our list of research items was the death of Marguerite Hayes/Hayer. There are numerous sources indicating that Marguerite Hayes/Hayer died on 16 June 1821 but this is not accurate. The burial register of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Mansura, Avoyelles Parish (formerly Notre Dame du Mont Carmel - Hydropolis) identifies her date of burial as 22 June 1835. According to the published register transcription, her burial is described as follows: "Margueritte Guillory, 22 June 1835, Marguerite Boyer, spouse of Jean Baptiste Guillory, Age of about 80 years". [Source: *"St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Mansura, Louisiana, Avoyelles Parish, Register of Burials, 1824-1850"*, 1835, Page 23.]

The succession sale of her property took place in Avoyelles Parish on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 1835. The record of this property sale was provided in the June 1999 issue of Louisiana Genealogical Register (Volume XLVI, #2) in an article entitled "*Marguerite Hayer, Widow Jean Baptiste Guillory: Her Avoyelles Parish Succession of 1835*" by Dowell Lafleur. Of particular interest in the transcribed succession document was the sale of "*one plantation situated in the area of the Avoyelles Prairie known as 'le coin' containing 5 arpents front and 40 arpents depth, bounded on the north by Jean Guillory, and south by Joseph Guillory awarded to Jean Guillory for .... \$500.00*". The notes at the end of the 1999 article state that "le Coin" (The Corner) is probably located in the Bunkie area of Avoyelles Parish and, based on information found in the succession records of Jean Baptiste Hooter (via microfilm deposited at the Louisiana State Archives, roll #25, dated 1 June 1836), the property appears to be located near the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of Township Four South of the 31st degree latitude North, Range 3 East. Proprietors of land adjoining Jean Baptiste Hooter's were J. B. and Maximilien Broussard and Auguste Landernau, all known to be genealogically-affiliated with the Guillory-Hayes family.

### **In closing...**

Although our research did not answer every question we had about Marguerite's origins and her life in Louisiana, we hope that this will provide the answers to some questions and provide background for researchers in the future in the event that additional documentation is found. We would appreciate any update or additions to our research.

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June 1999 issue of Louisiana Genealogical Register (Volume XLVI, #2) in an article entitled "**Marguerite Hayer, Widow Jean Baptiste Guillory: Her Avoyelles Parish Succession of 1835**" (Dowell LaFleur)(Publication of Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society)

Census records:

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- 1766 Census – Des Allemands
- 1777 Census – Opelousas Post
- *"Recensement General de la Parroisse St. Jean Baptiste de la Cote des Allemands fait le 15 Sept 1784"*

Ancestry.com; St. Landry Parish, Collection: Louisiana, Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984, St. Landry Parish, Papers 1766-1787

<http://louisianalineage.com/margarita.htm>; *"Guillory Family: The infamous Margarita Case"*