

RECENSEMENT GÉNÉRAL
DU POSTE ET DISTRICT DE L'AVOYELLES
le 23^{ème} Mai 1785

1785 Census of Avoyelles Post, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana Submitted by the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society

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Published in the June 1981 volume of the Louisiana Genealogical Register, pages 121-125, this article was submitted by Judge Albert Tate, Jr., of New Orleans and W. N. Gremillion, Sr., of San Antonio, Texas.

Judge Albert Tate, Jr. of New Orleans acquired this 1785 Census of the Avoyelles Post from the General Archives of the Indies, Seville, Spain. Judge Tate has made this information available to us for publication. This is the first known census of the Avoyelles Post. It provides valuable insights into our French and Spanish colonial heritage.

Spanish colonial documents were transferred from New Orleans to Cuba about 1805-1808. Prior to the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Diocese of Louisiana was a suffragan see of the Archdiocese of Havana. They remained in Cuba for several years and were then deposited in the Archives of the Indies at Seville. The documents are known as *Papales Procedentes de Cuba*. Some are bound; others are in bundles of loose sheets called *legajos*. This Avoyelles census is found in *Legajo 198*.

The census was written in French. Translation and transcription was by Nelson Gremillion. The names of residents are transcribed as they appear. More recent spelling of some names is added in brackets as appropriate.

The census lists white and Indian residents. The names of Indians are not included because the transcriber was not familiar with those names.

COMMENTS ON THE CENSUS: The first column, headed "Homme," translated "Man," includes widows, since it more rightly refers to "Head of Household."

The Widow Bordelon, listed number four, cannot be further identified.

This is the first opportunity we have had to estimate the birth date of Dominique Coco I. His age is shown as 35; this means that he was born about 1750. [Confirmed in research by Cathy Lemoine Sturgell: Dominique Balduini dit Coco, born 27 June 1750 at La Trinité, Département des Alpes-Maritimes, Région Provence-Côte d'Azur, France.]

The Luis, surname unknown, listed after William Inrufty, cannot be identified because the writing is illegible.

The Widow Juneau is Françoise Lemoine, daughter of Guillaume Lemoine and Marie Sanmerine called l'Este, and widow of Claude Juneau called Latulippe. This entry gives us an estimate of the date of Claude Juneau's death, before 1785.

The Juneau family was well represented at Avoyelles at this time. Jacques Gagnard, Nicolas Châtelain, Mathurin Guillot, and Jean-Baptiste Duplechin were all married to daughters of Claude (Latulippe) Juneau and Françoise Lemoine. Augustin Juneau, their eldest son, is listed as a resident at Avoyelles. Augustin was married to Marguerite Duplechin, sister of Jean-Baptiste Duplechin. Six additional Juneau children are shown with the Widow Juneau.

RECENSEMENT GÉNÉRAL DU POSTE ET DISTRICT DE L'AVOYELLES - LE 23^{ème} MAY 1785
 General Census of the Post and District of the Avoyelles - May 23, 1785

Head of House	Age	Women	Children	Slaves	Arpents	House	Cattle	Horses	Swine	Planted Tobacco in feet	Familiar
Homme	Âge	Femme	Enfants	Esclaves	Arpents	Maison	Bêtes à Cornes	Chevaux	Porceaux	Pied de Terre Plantée	Familier
Cdt. J. Gagnard	42	1	2	3	20	1	20	7	80	6,000	Commandant Jacques Gagnard
Jh Rabalais	50	1	2	15	30	1	150	12	40	60,000	Joseph Rabalais
Pierre Ducotte	32	1	3	6	10	1	34	2	8	28,000	Pierre Ducôté
Veuve Bordelon		1	3	2	10	1	26	7	22	12,000	Widow Bordelon
Jbt Rabalais	26	1	3	2	15	1	30	10	40	20,000	Jean Baptiste Rabalais
Dominique Coco	35	1	1		10	1	5	4	20	4,000	
Nicolas Châtelain	23	1	3		10	1	6	4	20	4,000	Nicolas Châtelain
Lacroix	44	1	4	2	30	1	10	5	50	10,000	

Jbt Lejeune	30	1	3		10	1	6	3	5	4,000	Jean-Baptiste Lejeune	
Veuve Hauter		1	5		30	1	40	5	50	30,000	Widow Hooter	
Benjamin Milan	36	1	4		10	1	10	7	40	10,000		
Robert Looper	35						12	3	20	4,000		
Guillaume Rufty	36	1	1	1	16	1	5	3	30	4,000	William Inrufty	
Luis ?	33	1	3		6	1	6	3	20	4,000	Louis	
Frédéric Monjeu	30				10	1	9	3	12	4,000		
Daniel Bradly	32		4		10	1	15	5	45	4,000		
Jh Gofrion	75		5						5	1,000	Joseph Joffrion	
Jh Gofrion, fils	30	1	5	6	24	1	25	10	50	20,000	Joseph Joffrion, fils	
Veuve Gunaux		1	6		10	1	26	5	25	4,000	Widow Juneau	
Augustin Gunaux	27	1	3		16	1	14	5	17	8,000	Augustin Juneau	
Veuve Félice		1	2		10	1	10	2	10	15,000	Widow Félice	
Jh Guio	28	1	4		10	1	5	3	25	15,000	Joseph Guillot	
Mathurin Guio	22	1			10	1	10	6	12		Mathurin Guillot	
Jbt Duplechein	26	1	1		10	1	8	3	10	5,000	Jean-Baptiste Duplechin	
Jbt Malber	72	1	3		10	1	40	3	7	18,000	Jean-Baptiste Malbert	
Bt Tovier	26				10	1	11	7	40	25,000	Baptiste Tovier	
Simon Lemoine	50				10	1	8	4	8	6,000		
Bt Mayeaux	30	1	3		6	1	4	4	8	6,000	Jean-Baptiste Mayeux	
Pierre Mayeux	26	1		3	22	1	10	4	20	8,000		
Jh Mayeux	32	1	5		10	1	2	3	19	3,000	Joseph Mayeux	
Jacques Rouftie	72	1	2				10	2	20		James Inrufty	
Antoine Bordelon	50	1	4	3	50	1	8	10	20			
		Homme	Femme	Enfants	Esclaves	Arpents	Maison	Bêtes à Cornes	Chevaux	Porceaux	Pied de Terre Plantée	Familier
Whites		26	84	43	435	29	575	154	798	342,000	Accurate Total	
138 Whites	28	26	84	46	385	29	573	144	796	330,600	Census Total as Recorded	
101 Indians		22	56				87	98	78		Census Total as Recorded	

The Simon Lemoine listed was the son of Guillaume Lemoine and Marie Sanmerine called L'Este and brother of the Widow Juneau.

Simon Lemoine was baptized at Pointe Coupée on April 1, 1735, born October 20, 1734 (PCP-3,208). We have found no marriage for Simon and no further information prior to this census. Apparently he never married. This is the first evidence of his presence at the Poste des Avoyelles.

This census offers an estimate of Jean-Baptiste Malbert's birth date. His age is given as 72; this would place his birth at about 1713.

The Joseph Rabalais family is presented as a group. Pierre Ducôté and Dominique Coco married daughters of Joseph Rabalais. The Jean-Baptiste Rabalais listed was a son of Joseph Rabalais. Joseph Rabalais II, who married Louise Malbert, daughter of Jean Baptiste Malbert, is not shown. Joseph Rabalais II married Louise Malbert at Avoyelles in 1784. They moved to the Poste des Natchitoches prior to this census.

Joseph Rabalais I and Joseph Joffrion, the elder, were brothers-in-law. Jean-Baptiste Rabalais and Joseph Joffrion, fils, married Bouchard sisters. Also, Joseph Rabalais I was then married (his second) to Élizabeth Malbert, also a daughter of Jean-Baptiste Malbert. Élizabeth Malbert, Vve. Rabalais, later married Nicolas Châtelain, who was the widower of Catherine Juneau.

This is the first evidence we have of the presence of Antoine Bordelon at the Poste des Avoyelles. His burial, on November 25, 1785, is recorded at Pointe Coupée (PCP-5,1). The record states that "he died in the night without rites." Did Antoine Bordelon return to Pointe Coupée after the date of this census? Did the Catholic priest at Pointe Coupée learn, on a visit to Avoyelles, of Antoine's death and then enter it in the burial register? The burial of Antoine's widow is also recorded at Pointe Coupée, September 23, 1792 (PCP-5,12).

Only five residents appear to be "Americain" — Hooter, Inrufty, Milan, Bradly, and Looper (?). The westward rush of settlers from the United States had barely begun.

The relatively large numbers of cattle, horses, and swine owned by some of the persons enumerated could possibly indicate residence at Avoyelles for several years prior to this census.

The emphasis on tobacco as a cash crop reflects Spanish Colonial policy of the time, a replication of French Colonial policy. The cultivation and sale of tobacco was controlled by the government. The market was Mexico. Planting declined by 1792 and by 1800 cotton had replaced tobacco as a principal crop, along with sugar cane, which had been introduced by the Jesuits in 1751 as a crop better suited for Louisiana's climate. For a detailed study of this subject, see John G. Clark, ******New Orleans 1718 -1812, An Economic History****** (Louisiana State University Press: 1970), pages 188-192.