

Explaining the confusion surrounding the family/ancestry of Marie Françoise Mader, wife of Daniel Normand dit Gaspard, and proof of the family connection to the Materne family of the German Coast

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*There is a lot of conflicting info on-line (especially Ancestry) regarding the parentage of **Marie Françoise Mader**, wife of Daniel Normand dit Gaspard I, and the family connection to the Materne family of the German Coast. I hope this limited-scope document will provide some basic facts and clear up a bit of the confusion.*

As many of you may be aware, it has often been speculated that Jean Mader dit Jean des Jean, father of Marie Françoise Mader, was a son of Jean Adam Materne and Regine Konig of the German Coast. However, this is not true. It may come as a surprise to some, however, to find out that the mother of Marie Françoise Mader, *Marie Materne called Thily*, was actually the child of Jean Materne and Regine Konig.

This revelation may seem obvious to many based on the surnames of Marie Françoise's parents as listed in the paragraph above. However, these two surnames were often written erroneously in original records and are often misinterpreted or misrepresented in more recently published works. Although some of the primary source books such as Elizabeth Shown Mill's excellent book entitled "*Natchitoches: Abstracts of the Catholic Church Registers of the French and Spanish Post of St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches in Louisiana: 1729-1803*" correctly identify the surnames of Marie Françoise's parents (Mader and Materne), I think the confusion in other instances has come from the fact that the two surnames of her parents are very similar to each other.

Baptized as **Marie Françoise Mader** on 29 June 1755 at Natchitoches Post, she was the daughter of Jean Mader (Madere, Madert) dit Jean des Jean and Marie Materne (Thily). The surname of her mother was erroneously spelled as Maderne – essentially a combination of the surnames of both of her parents – in Marie Françoise's baptismal record although it was overwritten with the name 'Thily'. To date, I have not identified the origins of the name 'Thily'.

Although little is known about the origins of Jean Mader dit Jean des Jean, he likely married Marie Materne (Thily) sometime between 1740 and 1742 although the marriage record has not been located.

Jean Mader (Madere, Madert) dit Jean des Jean and Marie Materne (Thily) had seven known children:

1. Reine Jeanne Mader was born 6 Feb 1743, baptized 7 Feb 1743 and buried 4 April 1743 - all at Natchitoches;

2. Jean Mader was born 6 August 1744, baptized 7 August 1744 and buried 1756 - all at Natchitoches;
3. Jeanne Mader was baptized 18 Jan 1747 at Natchitoches. She signed a marriage contract there on 23 March 1761 with François Carles and married him there two days later. Jeanne appears to have died some time in 1767 and her husband remarried sometime in the summer of that year;
4. Marie Jeanne Mader was baptized 22 September 1749 at Natchitoches. She signed a marriage contract on 13 November 1764 in St. Charles Parish (First German Coast) with François (Le) Vasseur and married him there the same day. She was buried on 29 December 1783 at Natchitoches;
5. François Daniel Mader was baptized on 6 January 1753 at Natchitoches. He married Marie Perillou(x) on 21 January 1777 at St-Jean-Baptiste Church in Edgard (St. John the Baptist Parish)(Second German Coast). He then married Magdeleine Kerné there on 25 May 1787;
6. Marie-Françoise Mader's marriage to Daniel Normand dit Gaspard likely took place in late 1772 or early 1773. She sometimes used the 'dit' name of her father, 'Jean des Jean' or 'Des Jean', as her surname. The couple later moved to Avoyelles Parish.
7. Cécile was baptized on 1 December 1758 and was buried on 5 February 1761 – both at Natchitoches.

Sadly, Jean Mader dit Jean des Jean was buried on 21 April 1758 at Natchitoches and his wife, Marie, was buried there on 20 March 1761.

At the time of Marie's 1761 death, she left four young children: Jeanne, Marie Jeanne, François-Daniel, and Marie-Françoise. Three days after her death, her 14-year-old daughter, Jeanne, signed a marriage contract with François Carles at Natchitoches. The couple married on 25 March 1761 at Natchitoches – only five days after her mother's death.

Marie's succession was opened immediately after her death in order to settle her estate and select a tutor for her young children. François Carles was selected as the tutor of the Mader children (including his new wife, Jeanne) and Jacques Lambre, identified as a cousin of the deceased Marie Materne, was selected as sub-tutor although based on a statement in one of the documents, it appears that they were selected as tutors due to lack of nearby family.

One of Marie's succession documents dated 14 December 1761, almost eight months after her death, is particularly important in identifying her family. The document contains a statement which specifically states that the brothers of Marie Materne are Nicolas and Jacques Materne – both of whom were then present at Natchitoches after likely traveling there from the German Coast to oversee Marie's succession. Nicolas and Jacques were the sons of Jean Adam Materne and Regine Konig of the German Coast. Here is a transcription of the first few lines of that succession document:

*“Before the undersigned notary and clerk of the post of Natchitoches, appeared in person François Carles, tutor, Jacques Lambre, sub-tutor, and **Nicolas and Jacques Maternes, legitimate brothers of the deceased Marie Materne, widow of Jean Madert, called Jean des Jean.** They were at this post to complete the business of the succession of the minor children of said deceased Jean des Jean....”*

Below is a copy of the 14 December 1761 document:

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Pardevant le notaire greffier du poste de marais
Ayant sous signe, furent proposés lesdits papiers
Les hommes ^{Anglais les Turcs} Jacques materno ^{libre} Lambra tuteur et c. de la
Es Jacques materno freres legitime de la femme
marie materno veuve de Jean madert dit Jean
monte dans ce poste pour terminer les affaires
de la succession des Enfans mineurs de la dite
deffunte Jean de Jean, lesquels vu la difficulté
Et l'absence de ne gre et de la ne gratte provenant
de la dite succession qui ne valent pour porter
de ce poste, sur lesdites parties intervenues
Entre eux que ledit ne gre et ne gratte seront
vendus a blanc dans ce poste, au foy de quoy
ont lesdits p. nommés signé ou fait leur
marques ordinaires sur la présente et ce
fait aux Natchitoches le quatorze du
mois de décembre mil sept cent soixante un
ainsy signé ^{marque de} ^{marque de} ^{marque de}
^{marque de} ^{marque de} ^{marque de}
Nicolas materno Jacques materno Lambra tuteur
sous le sceau de blanc Ch. de la Vigne Notaire
de bordre royal et primitif de la Vigne greffier
de St Louis, Commandant pour le roy du poste des
Natchitoches de la riviere rouge et autres y
affluentes vu l'absence des de nommés et de l'absence
parmettons qu'il soit fait au lieu des ne gres et ne grattes
provenant de la succession de la deffunte Jean de Jean
donné aux Natchitoches le 14^e Dec. 1761
D. de la Vigne

There is also a second succession document dated two days later - 16 December 1761 - which identifies Nicolas and Jacques Materne as the uncles of Jeanne, wife of François Carles.

It appears that (at least) several of the orphaned children of Jean Mader dit Jean des Jean and Marie Materne moved to the German Coast area sometime after Marie's death although the date is unclear. It is possible that François Carles, initially serving as tutor of the Mader children, moved them there to ensure that they were near other Materne family members. The other possibility is that the two uncles of the orphaned children – Nicolas and Jacques Materne – facilitated the move after, possibly, being renamed as the tutor of the children. However, it can be confirmed that Marie Jeanne Mader was at the German Coast by 13 November 1764 when the 15-year-old married François Le Vasseur at St. Charles Borromeo Church. I was unable to confirm that Jeanne Mader and François Carles ever moved to the German Coast although it's possible that they did for a period of time after their marriage. However, Jeanne appears to have died within a few years of their marriage (although her burial record has not been found) and François Carles married for the second time in the summer of 1767 at Natchitoches. One of the other Mader children, François Daniel, began appearing in civil records of St. Charles and St. John the Baptist Parishes c1773 (he would have been 20 years old at this time) and appears to have lived the remainder of his life in the German Coast area. Finally, Avoyelles ancestor Marie Françoise likely married Daniel Normand dit Gaspard on the German Coast and, eventually, the couple moved the family to Avoyelles.

As mentioned above, both Nicolas and Jacques Materne were the brothers of Marie Materne (Thily) and, therefore, children of Jean Adam Materne and Regine Konig.

The children of Jean Adam Materne and Regine Koenig were as follows:

1. Marie Materne (Thily);
2. Marguerite Materne married Thomas Leger on 8 January 1743 at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. She then married Joseph Schwitzer there on 20 January 1750;
3. Jacques Materne married Marianne Mayer. He died before 29 June 1778 – the date of his succession. (Note: Occasionally, he was referred to as Jacob);
4. Jean Materne married Anne Marguerite Huber on 28 May 1748 at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in St. Charles Parish. Jean was buried at Saint Charles Borromeo on 7 March 1751;
5. Catherine married Nicolas Troxler (Droezeler) on 28 April 1750. She married for a second time to Thomas Dorvin (Dervaine);
6. Nicolas Materne was born about April 1736 at Edgard (St. John the Baptist Parish). He married Regine Reine Rome there in 1759. He was buried at Cabanocé (St. James Parish) on 13 October 1797;

Jean Adam Materne was buried on 16 November 1739 at Saint Charles Borromeo in St. Charles Parish (First German Coast). His widow, Regine, remarried on 6 June 1741 at the same church to Barthelemy Zifert (Sipher). According to her succession records, she died on 3 December 1764. One of her

succession documents stated that she had six heirs at the time of her death. Both Nicolas and Jacques were identified as her children in the succession documents.

Once again, this was a limited scope document written to clarify and provide proof of the parentage of Marie Materne (Thily). Please keep in mind when researching this family that the Mader and Materne surnames continued to be misconstrued in German Coast documents in the later-half of the 18th century. Hopefully, this document will provide clarification of the family members in each family and, as a result, will provide guidance as needed to allow accurate research.

SOURCES:

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- "*Natchitoches, Abstracts of the Catholic Church Registers of the French and Spanish Post of St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches in Louisiana 1729-1803*"; Elizabeth Shown Mills
- "*The Natchitoches Registers 1734-1764, Volume One*"; Blaise D'Antoni
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- "*The Normand Family of Louisiana: The History from Normandy to Avoyelles*" (2 volumes); Mark J. Normand
- "*Archdiocese of New Orleans, Sacramental Records...*" (Various volumes); Earl Woods/Charles Nolan