

CORRECTING THE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED ERROR IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF AND ANCESTRY OF THE COUVILLION LOUISIANA PROGENITOR

(Cathy Lemoine Sturgell, June 2023)

I've seen the surname COUVILLION/COUVILLON/QUÉVILLON mentioned on the Avoyelles Genealogy Connections FB page a few times recently so I wanted to pass this info on to those who have this surname in their pedigree.

A number of years ago, I posted a document explaining a major error that existed in a book regarding the identification of the Louisiana Couvillion/Couvillon progenitor and, as a result, his ancestry. That error originated in a 1966 book entitled *To Avoyelles with the Couvillons*¹. Unfortunately, that error has been accepted thru the years as fact and a large number of Ancestry trees have been developed using the incorrect ancestral line for this family. Below is the pedigree shown in the 1966 book and the correct ancestry of this family.

(Note that this is not an attempt to disparage the author of the book in question but simply an endeavor to correct the errors found in it and provide the correct ancestry for those with Couvillion/Couvillon lineage.)

Incorrect Couvillion/Couvillon ancestry per the book "To Avoyelles with the Couvillons":

Adrien Quévillon/Jeanne Hunault →

Jean Baptiste Quévillon/Jeanne Moineau →

(Petit) Jean Baptiste Quévillon/Marie Cadieu →

Louis Amable Quévillon (Supposed Louisiana progenitor of Couvillion/Couvillon family)

Here's a few important items regarding the errors in the lineage displayed above:

- Although Jean Baptiste Quévillon and Jeanne (name is actually Marie Anne) Moineau had a son named Jean Baptiste (he was baptized as Louis and took on the name of Jean Baptiste periodically likely in memory of his older brother of the same name who died shortly after birth in 1711), their son was not the Jean

¹ Ira S. Couvillon. "To Avoyelles with the Couvillons", (Simmesport, Louisiana, Mardi Gras Publications: 1966)

Baptiste Quévillon who married Marie Cadieu on 27 July 1744². According to the 1744 marriage record, the Jean Baptiste Quévillon who married Cadieu was the son of François Quévillon and Marie Louise Villeray;

- François Quévillon was the son of Adrien Quévillon and Jeanne Hunault and, therefore, the brother of Jean Baptiste Quévillon (husband of Marie Anne Moineau). François married Marie Louise Villeray on 2 December 1713 at Notre-Dame in Montréal³;
- Jean Baptiste Quévillon (aka Louis), son of Jean Baptiste Quévillon and Marie Anne Monieau, married Marie Anne Godin/Gaudin in 1736. He was still married to Godin/Gaudin at the time of his death in 1766;
- Louis Amable Quévillon who was born on 14 October 1749⁴ and identified in the book as the Louisiana Couvillion/Couvillon progenitor was, indeed, the child of Jean Baptiste Quévillon (son of François Quévillon and Marie Louise Villeray) and Marie Cadieu. It's also true that he was an incredible carpenter and wood sculptor as described in the book. However, the Louis Amable who was born in 1749 never left Canada nor did he ever marry⁵. He died on 9 March 1823 and was buried on 11 March 1823 at Laval (Saint-Vincent-de-Paul) (Québec Province), Canada⁶. The burial record identifies him as Sieur Louis Quévillon and states that he was a master sculptor of that parish. Therefore, Louis Amable Quévillon was not the Louisiana progenitor of the Couvillion/Couvillon family.

Correct Couvillion/Couvillon lineage proved via documentation:

Adrien Quévillon/Jeanne Hunault →

Jean Baptiste Quévillon/Marie Anne Moineau →

Adrien Quévillon/Marie Françoise Boullierise →

Adrien Amable Quévillon (Louisiana progenitor of Couvillion/Couvillon family)

² "Québec, registres paroissiaux catholiques, 1621-1979." Index and images. Historical Record Collections; Canada; Quebec; FamilySearch. <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1321742>; Montréal; Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rivière-des-Prairies; Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures 1687-1795; Image 329 of 934;

³ "Québec, registres paroissiaux catholiques, 1621-1979." Index and images. Historical Record Collections; Canada; Quebec; FamilySearch. <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1321742>; Montréal, Notre-Dame, Baptêmes, mariages, sépultures 1713-1733, Image 38 of 827;

⁴ "Québec, registres paroissiaux catholiques, 1621-1979." Index and images. Historical Record Collections; Canada; Quebec; FamilySearch. <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1321742>; Montréal; La Visitation-du-Sault-au-Récollet Index 1736-1876 Baptêmes,...ges, sépultures 1736-1813; Image 211 of 911;

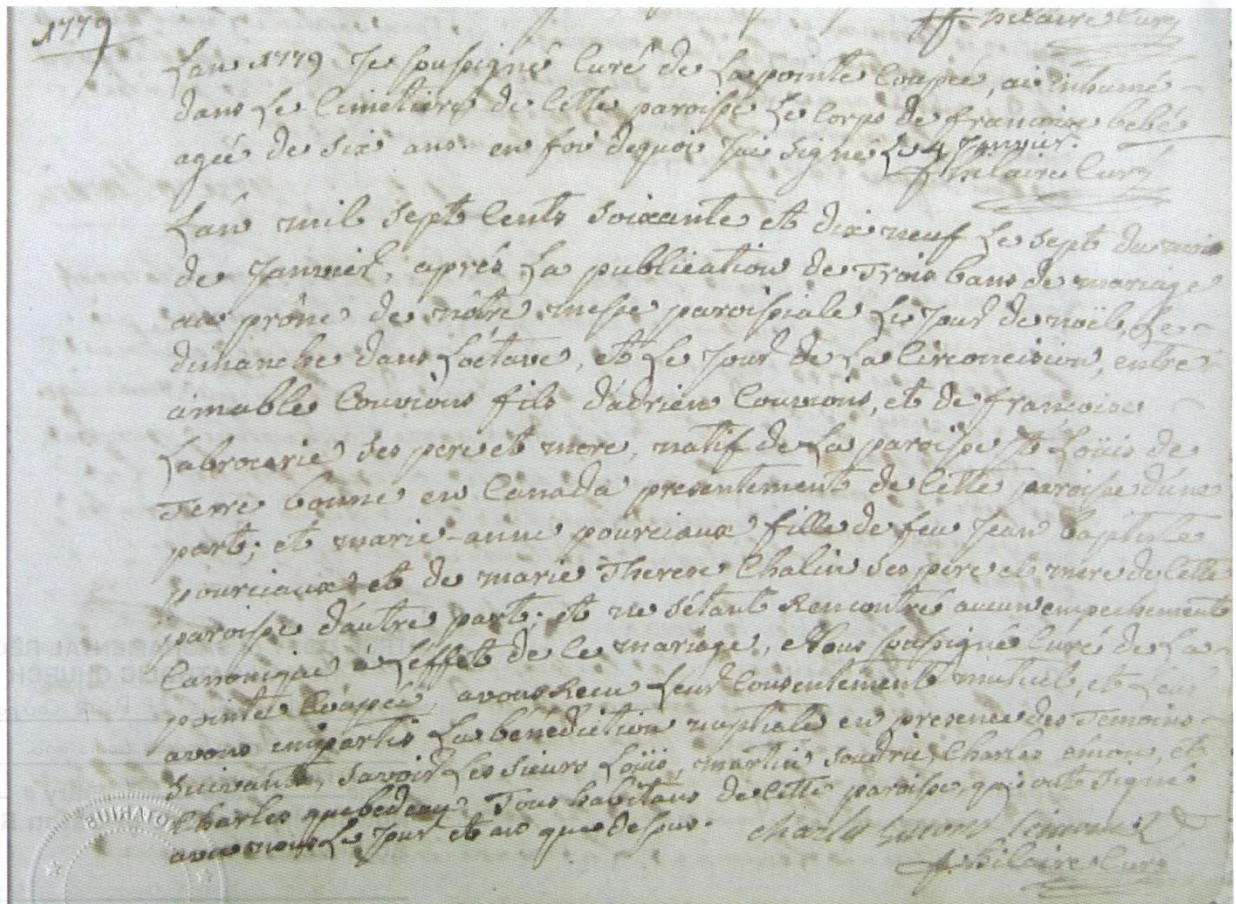
⁵ http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?id_nbr=3088

⁶ "Québec, registres paroissiaux catholiques, 1621-1979." Index and images. Historical Record Collections; Canada; Quebec; FamilySearch. <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1321742>; Laval; Église Saint-Vincent-de-Paul; Baptêmes, Mariages; Sépultures 1815-1838; Image 204 of 748;

THE PROGENITOR

There are many people with Avoyelles ancestry who are descended from Amable Couvillion and Marianne Pourceau who married at Pointe Coupée Post on 7 January 1779⁷. The couple had nine children: Véronique, Marie Barbe Amable, Pétronille, Pierre, Gertrude, Amable, Adrien, Céleste, Elizabeth (Elize). I'm directly descended from four of these children.

It is from this 1779 marriage record that we find the correct parents of Amable Couvillion/Couvillon.



TRANSCRIPTION:

The year 1779, the 7th of the month of January, after the publication of three banns of marriage, at the prône(*) of our parish mass the day of Christmas, the Sunday in Laetare (**), and the day of the Circumcision (***), between Amable Couvions son of Adrien Couvions and of Françoise Labrocarie, his father and mother, native of the Parish of Saint-

⁷ "Diocese of Baton Rouge, Catholic Church Records, Volume II, 1770-1803" (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge, 1980), Pg. 206; "Amable Couvillion of Parish of St. Louis de Terrebonne in Canada (Adrien & Françoise Labrocarie) m. 7 Jan. 1779, Marie Anne Pourceau (Jean Baptiste & Marie Therese Chalin) wit. Martin Soudrie & Charles Emon"; Record: PCP-2, part 2, 204 also PCP-4, 149;

Louis-de-Terrebonne in Canada, presently of this parish, of one part; and Marie Anne Pourciaux, daughter of deceased Jean Baptiste Pourciaux and of Marie Therese Chalin, her father and mother, of this parish, of the other part; and having not encountered any canonical impediments to affect the marriage, we the undersigned of Pointe Coupée have received their mutual consent and have administered the marriage blessing in the presence of the following witnesses named Mr. Louis Martin Soudrie, Charles Emon, and Charles Quebedeau, all residents of this parish, who have signed with us the day and year above.

* Old expression indicating all the instructions and announcements that the priests made during the parish mass which is, today, the same as the homily;

** Latin word 'Laetare' means to rejoice; In this case, the 2nd marriage bann took place on a Sunday during the Christmas season and was considered to be a Sunday to rejoice in the joy of Christmas;

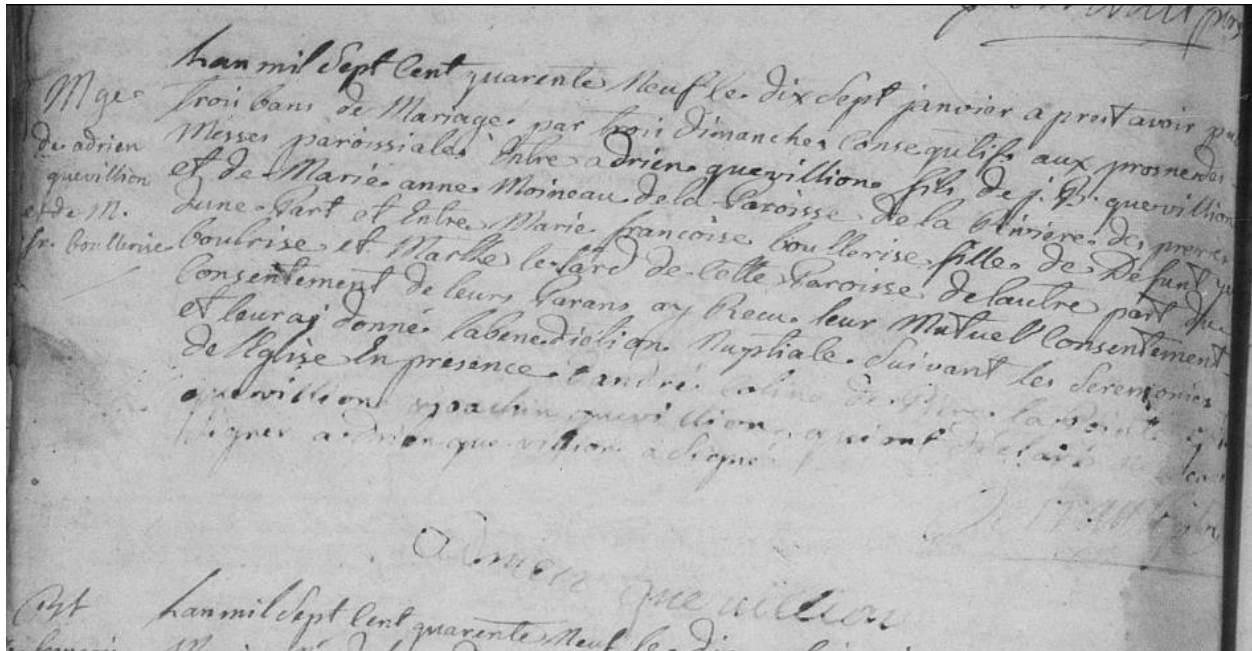
*** Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus - January 1st;



A search of the records of Saint-Louis-de-Terrebonne (Québec Province), Canada, produced the marriage record of Amable's parents - Adrien Quévillon and Marie Françoise Boullerise (Boulerise) (Bourhis) (Boulerice). The couple was married there on 17 January 1749⁸.

Adrien was identified as the son of J. B. Quévillon and Marie Anne Moineau of the parish of Rivière-des-Prairies. The bride, Marie Françoise Boullerise, was identified as the daughter of deceased Y... (Yves) Boulrise and Marthe Letard - habitants of the parish in which the marriage took place - Saint-Louis-de-Terrebonne.

⁸ "Québec, registres paroissiaux catholiques, 1621-1979." Index and images. Historical Record Collections; Canada; Quebec; FamilySearch. <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1321742>; Saint-Louis-de-Terrebonne; Saint-Louis-de-Terrebonne; Index 1727-1876 Baptêmes,...ges, sépultures 1727-1765; Image 350 of 482;



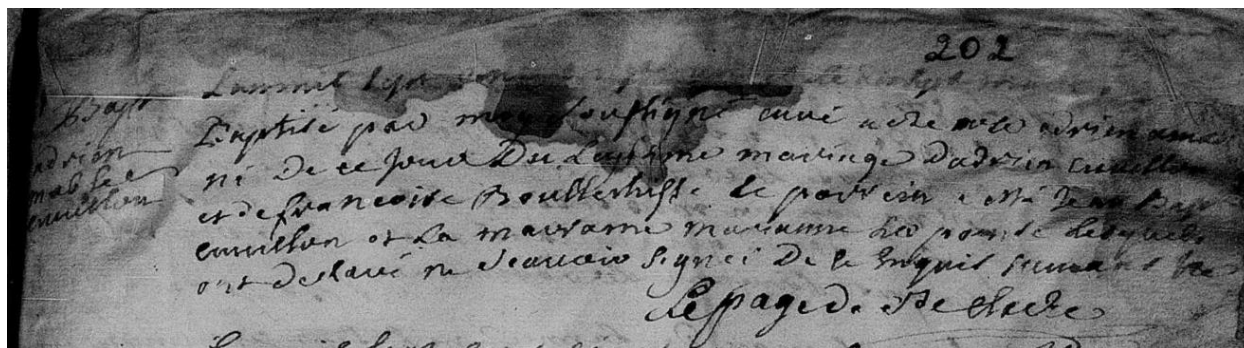
TRANSCRIPTION:

The year 1749, 17th of January, after having published three banns of marriage on three consecutive Sundays at the prône(*) of the parish mass between Adrien Quévillon, son of J. B. Quévillon and of Marie Anne Moineau of the parish of Rivière-des-Prairies, of one part; and between Marie Françoise Boullerise, daughter of deceased Y... (Yves) Boulrise and Marthe Letard of this parish, of the other part; and having given the marriage blessing following the ceremonies of the church in in presence of André Colin, of Pierre LaPointe, ___ Quévillon, and Joachim Quévillon who have declared not knowing how to sign, Adrien Quévillon has signed.

* Old expression indicating all the instructions and announcements that the priests made during the parish mass which is, today, the same as the homily;

Adrien Quévillon and Marie Françoise Boullerise (Boulerise)(Bourhis)(Boulerice) had six known children - 5 girls and 1 boy. All five of their daughters were baptized at Saint-Louis-de-Terrebonne. The five daughters of Adrien and Marie-Françoise were: Marie Françoise born 1749 (died five days after her birth); Marie des Anges born 1752; Marie Anne born 1754; Marie Archange born 1756; Marie Arcange born 1758.

The second child and only son of Adrien and Marie Françoise was born on 17 March 1751⁹ and baptized the same day at Sainte-Rose-de-Lima at Laval (Québec Province), Canada. His name was Adrien Amable Quévillon. He is the 'Amable' who became the progenitor of the Louisiana Couvillon/Couvillon family.



TRANSCRIPTION:

The year 1751, 17th of March, was baptized by me, undersigned Priest at Ste-Rose, Adrien Amable born of this day of the legitimate marriage of Adrien Cuivillon and of Françoise Boullerhisse; the godfather was Jean Baptiste Cuvillon and the godmother Marie Anne Leopont (??) who have declared they do not know how to sign.

Based on the timing of the birth of each of the six children born to Adrien and Marie Françoise, there were likely no other children born to this couple prior to Marie Françoise Boullerise's death in April 1760 (although she may have died in childbirth).

CONCLUSION.... When comparing the inaccurate 4-generation lineage provided in *To Avoyelles with the Couvillons* found on page 1 of this report against the correct, documented 4-generation lineage provided on page 2, you'll notice that the first two generations of this family in Canada (Adrien Quévillon/Jeanne Hunault and Jean Baptiste Quévillon/Marie Anne Moineau) are the same. Changing your lineage to reflect the corrected 3rd and 4th generations should make this line correct in your ancestry. However, adding the correct lineage to your tree will require you to document a new female ancestor - Marie Françoise Boulerise (Boulerise)(Bourhis)(Boulerice), spouse of Adrien Quévillon. Although I am not covering her complete ancestry in this document, it can be found beginning at: <http://louisianalineage.com/b236.htm>.

⁹ "Québec, registres paroissiaux catholiques, 1621-1979." Index and images. Historical Record Collections; Canada; Quebec; FamilySearch. <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1321742>; Laval, Sainte-Rose-de-Lima, Baptêmes, mariages, sépul...795, 1785-1794, 1796-1808, Image 52 of 741;

ONE MORE THING.....

There is one more item in *To Avoyelles with the Couvillons* that I want to address. On page 24 of the book, we find the following paragraph:

“The party of seven young men who had dared to come to Louisiana sometimes shortly before 1762 were LOUIS AMABLE, PIERRE QUEVILLON, (These two were brothers. Their name became COUVILLON when they arrived in Pointe Coupee.), JEAN BENOIT and FRANCOIS BROUILLETTE (brothers), JOSEPH, PIERRE, and JEAN BAPTISTE GEOFRION (These three were brothers and their names changed to JOFFRION when they arrived in Pointe Coupee, all unmarried and ranging in age from sixteen to twenty-five years of age.”

On page 25 and 26 of the book, the **legend** of the group’s journey is explained in further detail. Of course, we’re all aware that legends often consist of many false stories, and I believe that’s likely the case regarding the arrival of the three ancestor families listed in the paragraph above. Here are some of the facts that lead me to believe that the Quévillon, Geofrion, and Brouillette families did not migrate together to Louisiana:

QUÉVILLON/COUVILLION/COUVILLON

- Of course, based on the documentation found in the first part of this report, we now know that Louis Amable was actually Adrien Amable and that he had no brothers although legend says that he traveled with his brother Pierre;
- We also know that Adrien Amable was born in 1751 which would mean he was only 10-11 years old in 1762 – much too young to have joined a trip to Louisiana;
- On page 26 of the book, the author indicates that Amable Couvillon purchased a parcel of land in Pointe Coupée in early 1762. Based on his age as mentioned above, this could not have happened. However, I did check the first Pointe Coupée Vendor Index book which contains a few docs as far back as 1762 as well as one other published book¹⁰ containing civil records of Pointe Coupée as far back as 1762, but neither of *these* sources contain a land sale to Amable Couvillon/ Couvillion/Quévillon or any other civil record earlier than 1783 for him;
- On page 39 of *To Avoyelles with the Couvillons*, the author states that Amable Couvillon as well as Pierre Couvillon “*signed a petition to accept the Spanish Catholic Government for that district on 18 August 1769*”. This is a reference to the Oath of Allegiance to Spain. The date specified in the book as the date of Amable’s signature is the date on which Governor Don Alexander O’Reilly ordered the oath. The oath was actually taken at Pointe Coupée and False River on 10 September 1769. More importantly, Amable’s signature or mark is not found on the oath document nor is there a mark or signature for a Pierre Couvillon. I

¹⁰ “Pointe Coupée Documents, 1762-1803: A Calendar of Civil Records for the Province of Louisiana; Author: Winston De Ville; Claitor’s Publishing Company, 2010, Baton Rouge, Louisiana”;

suspect the 'Pierre' that the author was referring to was Pierre Cuvillier who was not related to the Couvillion family. (See **ADDENDUM 1.**)

- On the other hand, Amable appears to have arrived at Pointe Coupée Post prior to 3 December 1776, and I suspect that his year of arrival is much closer to 1776 rather than 1762. On that date, his name appeared in a document which states that he was the purchaser of estate goods of the succession of Antoine Gosserand. I was not able to find any documents involving Amable prior to this date. Almost two years later on 8 September 1778, he added his mark to a petition distributed there in favor of a proposed common area for animal pasture and grazing¹¹;

GEOFFRION/JOFFRION

- Of the three families, the Geoffrion/Joffrion family is the easiest to place in Louisiana on a specific date. On 1 May 1752, Joseph Joffrion married Marie Jeanne Rabalais at Pointe Coupée. I believe that Joseph, born 1708, son of Jean Geoffrion and Catherine Millault/Milot engaged west in 1736 (likely after the death of his wife and, I believe, his newborn son), was living in Fort Chartres (Illinois) in 1744, and was likely at Arkansas Post in 1749;
 - It is possible that Joseph traveled with two other Geoffrions as mentioned in *To Avoyelles with the Couvillons* - Pierre and Joseph - or they arrived at a later date. All three names appear in the 1769 Oath of Allegiance to the Spanish Government found in **ADDENDUM 1.**
 - It's *possible* that Pierre and the 2nd Joseph (twins born 1715) were the half-brothers of Joseph (who married Marie Jeanne Rabalais) via his father's marriage to Marie Charlotte François/La François in 1709 because Joseph had no full brothers with those names;
 - Louisiana Couvillion/Couvillon progenitor, Adrien Amable, would have only been about one-year-old when Joseph Joffrion married Marie Jeanne Rabalais again confirming that Adrien Amable did not travel with this supposed group;

BROUILLETTE/BROUILLET

- The Brouillette/Brouillet family is a bit more elusive so it's more difficult to determine the exact time of their arrival in Pointe Coupée or Avoyelles of the Brouillette/Brouillet family;
 - The two known Brouillette/Brouillet brothers who settled in Avoyelles were François and Jean Baptiste;
 - The parentage of both can be found in their 1826 and 1827 Avoyelles marriage records which confirms their relationship as brothers;

¹¹ "Pointe Coupee Families in Colonial Louisiana: Abstracts of Civil Records, 1771-1782"; Author: Laverne Thomas III; Claitor's Publishing Company, 2009, Baton Rouge, Louisiana";

- Both of these brothers are believed to have been born in Vincennes (Indiana) as were their other siblings. The baptisms of a number of their siblings are *documented* there beginning in 1779, and the last in 1794¹²;
 - It also appears that these brothers were born during the 1779-1794 time period which would indicate that they were born much later than the timeframe necessary if, as suggested in *To Avoyelles with the Couvillons*, they had traveled c1762;
- Based on marriage records of the two brothers in” Avoyelles, they likely lived in Natchez for a period of time prior to arriving in Louisiana;
- It is, therefore, easy to reach a logical conclusion that these two Brouillette/Brouillet brothers did not travel with the other two families to Pointe Coupée or Avoyelles;

Although it is possible that Adrien Amable Quévillon/Couvillion/Couvillon crossed paths with the *parents* of the two Brouillette/Brouillet brothers somewhere during their travel in the 1770s to Louisiana and Vincennes respectively, I’ve been unable to find any documentation at this point to prove this. Unfortunately, I believe that the legend of the travels of these three Louisiana progenitor families is nothing more than a legend without any basis in fact.

ADDENDUM 1

Oath of Allegiance to the Spanish Government by the Inhabitants of Pointe Coupee and Fausse Riviere Sept. 10 1769.

Translation:

Under the Government of Don Alexander O'Reilly, Commander of Benfayen, of the Order of Alcantara, Lieutenant General and Inspector General of the armies of His Catholic Majesty Captain General of the Province of Louisiana, We, the undersigned, and all others from Pointe Coupee and False River, now assembled by order of the King in presence of M. Duplessis Knight of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis, Captain, commanding for the King at the said post and of M. Alain, captain of Militia. We give full power to MM. Allain, George Baron and other notables of this establishment to take in our name, and in the usual form, the oath of allegiance to His Catholic Majesty. We promise from this time and swear fidelity, zeal and obedience to His Catholic Majesty, recognizing that we are his subjects and as such held to conform to all that may be ordered and prescribed

¹² “La population des forts français d’Amérique, XVIIIe siècle, Tome II”; Author: Marthe Fairbault-Beauregard; Éditions Bergeron, Montréal, 1984; Fort de Vincennes (Ouabache) Saint-Francois Xavier 1749-1786;

on the part of His said Majesty. By so doing we hope to become worthy of his favor and august protecton (sic) which we have been fortunate enough not to forfeit.

At Pointe Coupee Sept. 10, 1769.

X mark of Jean Cava.

Janriche.

X mark of Vincent Cava,

J. Batis Legros

X mark of Simon Piague.

Jh Bourgeat.

X mark of Joseph Mior.

Mehel Rieker.

P. Jarreau.

G. Lamothe.

Pierre Guebo.

X mark of Rousseau.

Jacques Halluys Derabun Subt.

X mark of Sr Desantel.

J. Porche.

Auguste Langlois D'Ormaro.

X mark of Joseph Porche.

J. Lafleur.

Joseph Patin.

X mark of Bte La Fleur.

X mark of Antoine Patey.

X mark of Sr Claise.

A. H. Allain, son.

GREMILLION.

Decouoz.

X mark of Sieur La Cour.

Joseph Turbert.

J. B. Lacour.

A. Metede.

X mark of Jean Toussin.

Tanonay.

Antoine Bordelon.

Meullion.

X mark of Antoine Poupard.

A. Olivier.

Jean Stephen.

Marieu.

Philippe Dagnieau.

Benoit Md.

Phe Guichard, surgeon
Messonnie B. C. sheriff and cryer
Le Doux, son.
Rivard de Rieutard, King's store
X mark of Milan the elder.
Francois Mayeux.
X mark of S. Emond.
Emond, son.
X mark of Sr Jean Decuir.
Francois Decuir
Louis Dezzerre.
Joseph Decuir.
Balquet.
Francois Le Geay.
Pepin.
Paul Moro.
Maure.
Martin Moro.
X mark of Verdon.
Joseph Roy.
Aubin de Gallory.
Noel R z
X mark of P. Dervus.
Jh Oderu.
P. Carmon.
X mark of Sr Gaudoz.
X mark of Pierre Romain.
Crouzes.
X Joseph Malus.
Duval.
X mark of Sr Neolas Lacour.
Jean
X mark of Pierre Cuvillier.
Surircup Zarue
X mark of Pierre Morin.
X - mark of Rendon
Tous saint Truberdean.
Pierre Ducote.
X mark of Augustin Gamache.
Pieer Ducote.
X mark of Claude Jommeau.
Joseph Carmane.
X mark of Pierre Geoffrion.

H. Peyroux.
Mark of Bap. La Cour.
Denis.
X Levoy.
G. Olivo.
X mark of Smon Lemoine.
Madir, Surgeon major of the King
X mark of Joseph Geoffrion
Jacque Firmain Sere.
X mark of Sr Estienne major
X mark of Re Gallot.
Allain son, Ofc'r of Militia
X mark of Josef Gallot
X mark of Pierre Major
X mark of Jean Assailly.
X mark of Jean Major
X mark of Francois Moron.
X mark of Andre Olivo.
X mark of Pierre Moron.
Guerem.
X mark of Francois Moron.
S. Armadie
X mark of Pierre Larches.
F. Jorlait.
X mark of Pierre Landremon.
Guiot.
X mark of Louis Huet.
X mark of Pierre Olivo.
X mark of Francois Deperata.
Mavre
X mark of Fcs Rixner.
Samson.
X mark of Andre Rocheau
X mark of La Vigueur.
X mark of Joseph Jofrion.
Marionnau.
X mark of Sr Huzerian.
Antoine Prevot.
X mark of Jacque Gobe
X mark of Sr. Leonnard.
X mark of Armand Morin.
X Martin Commagere.
Jacque Honhae.

Dubertrand.
X mark of Francois Meru.
X mark of Louis Marie
X mark of Perrot.
Joseph Collete.
Nicolas Belage
X mark of J. Himel.
X mark of Charles Robillard.
X mark of La Ville.
S. L. Ducrost.
X mark of Louis Destalles.
X mark of Joseph Wills.
X mark of Claude Destalles.
PUISSE.
X mark of Michel Lejeune.
X Antoine Guashevaud.
X mark of Charles Lejeune.
X mark of Sr Pernat.
X mark of Sr Du Gue.
X mark of Sr. Estienne.
X mark of Estienne, son.
X mark of Joseph Janisse.
X mark of Augustin Porche.
X mark of Louis Lamy.
X mark of Pierre Porche.
JEAN OLIVIER.
Martin Pette.
X mark of Martin Sondrigue.
LEMOINE.
X mark of Louis Sondrigue
X mark of Joseph Ledoux.
X mark of Pierre Eneza.
X mark of Pierre Bonhomme.
H. Jaba, engage
X Thomas Morin Volant.
X mark of Nicolas Prevot.
X Nicolas Dorion
X mark of Joseph Prevot.
X mark of Pierre Le Doux
SERVAT.
Pierre Pizani.
X mark of Pre St. Onge.
X mark of Joseph Bartelmy.

X mark of L. St. Onge.

We, the undersigned deputies of the inhabitants and all others established at Pointe Coupee and False River, in this province of Louisiana, now at New Orleans, in our name as well as in that of all those who are established in the said places and whose orders and full power we hold; On this day, twenty-first of September, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, of our own free will and pleasure, Swear to God to observe the most inviolable fidelity and obedience to His Catholic Majesty, our sole and legitimate sovereign, to reveal, without any delay, to the Governor of this Province all that we shall know of against his sovereign authority and service, and to oppose execution of same with all our strength and at the peril of our lives.

Signed: George Baron, officer of militia and syndic.

Joseph Decoux.

Louis Armand Decrest

X ordinary mark of Sr Jean Bavat, so-called Le Blond

x Ordinary mark of Jacques des Autels

Duplessis

Duplessis

The oath of allegiance which precedes was taken in the presence of His Excellency Don Alexander O'Reilly, Commander of Benfayan, of the Order of Aleantara, Lieutenant General of the Royal Armies and Inspector General of the Infantry, especially commissioned by His Majesty with the superior authority as Governor and Captain General of this city of New Orleans and the province of Louisiana etc. before us, as I here certify in due form and dated as above.

Signed: Fran. Xav. Rodriguez

Sno de la Expedizon (paraphe)

(Apparently) : Joseph Fermo (paraphe)

Cathy (Lemoine) Sturgell
Louisianalineage.com