

Nardini Traces History Of First Baby Baptized Here

by Louis Nardini, sr.

On January 10th the ENTERPRISE featured an article concerning Natchitoches first baptism, but the child's name was not given, so I thought I might supply the name of this child and some information concerning this child's family.

François Gaspard Barbier — Son of François Barbier dit "Marichal" and Françoise Prudhomme, baptised at the Adais Mission San Miguel Cuellarde Los Adais September 3, 1724 by Padre Bernardo Ballijo assisted by Padres Jose Marie Delagadillo and Manuel Gaitan. Parin — Louis Juchereau de St. Denis. Marin — Manuello Sanchez Y Ramone (wife of St. Denis.)

Note: There is a possibility that many other early Natchitoches and Adais Documents may be found at Stephen F. Austin College at Nacogdoches, Tex., in I. B. Bland's Translations of early Spanish documents of Nacogdoches, Texas.

He Owned Downtown

On Breutin's Map of Natchitoches 1732, the name Marichal is shown as owning a grant of land bordered on the south by what is now Bayou Amulet and on the east by the Red River and extending to the north, a distance in toises (Toises is an early French land measurement, one toise equaling six feet, English measurement, and to the scale on Breutin's map) of 254 toises or 1,526 feet or eight arpents riverfrontage, an arpent being 192 linual feet which was the French custom of granting land in 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10 arpents frontage on a stream or water and, in many instances, the depth of the land 40 arpents.

Thus the land of François Barbier dit Marichal comprised the business district of Downtown Natchitoches today.)

Concerning His Duel

Both François Barbier and Françoise Prudhomme were from Vence provence of Dauphine France, Bishopric of Valence. Natchitoches Court-house Records: November 20, 1733 in the hearing of Huberdeau Yatzin, Captain of the Militia at Post des Natchitoches, and concerning his duel with Doctor Louis Dejoux was killed

One of the witnesses and signers was François Barbier dit Marichal native and settler of Post St. Jean Baptiste de Natchitoches.

Six Children

François Barbier and Françoise Prudhomme had six children of which there are records, they were:

François Gaspard Barbier
Theresa Anne Barbier wed to Jacques Levasseur July 30, 1740. Theresa's dowry was three arpents frontage of land on the Red River.

Marie Barbier, who wed Louis Charles Juchereau de St. De-

nis in 1741.

Etienne Barbier, who wed Marguerite Dion Derbonne, September 14, 1742.

Marie Jeanne Barbier, who was wed to Pierre Huberdeau, November 21, 1739.

Anne Barbier, wed to Pierre de La Fosse. No record of the date of this marriage but de Da Fosse signed for his wife, sister of the groom, in the marriage of Etienne Barbier and Marguerite Dion Derbonne.

November 21, 1778; Louis Tontin, son of Charles Tontin and Jeanne Guedon, wed Silvie Huberdeau, daughter of Pierre Huberdeau and Marie Jeanne Barbier.

Five Spellings

Early Natchitoches Records show these spellings of the name: Barbier-Barbra-Barba-Barbee and Barbe.

Tutor's Request

Natchitoches Records, July 28, 1739.

Sieur de la Chaise was keeper of the King's Storehouse, and sub delegate and representatives of Sieur Solamon, superior of the Company of the West at New Orleans. Before Said de La Chaise, assigned to Post St. Jean Baptiste de Natchitoches and its jurisdiction, appears Pierre de La Fosse dit Tourangeau, inhabitant of this post and the Tutor duly assigned of the minors of the deceased François Barbier dit Marichal to act in a cause which I think will be just to the minors."

Sieur de La Fosse desires permission to sell at auction the cattle of the late Barbier so that they may not go astray or run wild and that all monies be set aside in a safe place for the benefit of the minors when they become of age or when they marry. If the cattle should become wild, all would be a total loss to the children.

All will be done under the direction of Sieur Doctor Jaubere. Signed: Pierre de la Fosse, dit Tourangeau; and de la Chaise, acting Notary for Sieur du Pain who is away.

Permission for the sale of the cattle of the minors of François Barbier, dit Marichal, granted. September 30, 1739. Done in Natchitoches.

Signed: de La Chaise.

To Father Dagobert
Natchitoches Records: December 6, 1743.

We, the Family of Jacques Levasseur and Theresa Anne Barbier and their heirs, present the Reverend Father Dagobert, Capuchin Cure, legal recanture and confessor with venue, "Cede, transfer and declare for the present and now and forevermore and always, promise and guarantee to be free of debt, notes, auctions or substitutions and in general agreement with the said family of Jacques Levasseur and Theresa Anne Barbier and their heirs, inhabitants of Post St. Jean Baptiste de

Natchitoches, this land, being in the jurisdiction of the said Post and which was part of the arpentages of land given in dowry as joint property to Theresa Anne Barbier, July 30, 1740, in marriage with Jacques Levasseur by her father François Barbier, deceased two years previous and will and desires executed by Pierre de La Fosse, dit Tourangeau, legal assigned tutor of the minors of the said François Barbier, dit Marichal."

The said family of Levasseur declares: "That the two arpents of land frontage on the west bank of the Red River, adjoining on the south extending in depth to the west twenty arpents, as assigned by the Council of the West." (In present day Natchitoches, this land area being the river frontage between Trudeau and St. Denis Streets).

This land shall be his, Father Dagobert, to enjoy after he pays the price of Twenty Livres. This sum to be paid before the year 1744.

Le Sieur declares that he cannot sign his name.

Signed:
Jacques Levasseur X places his mark before me, Michelle Besson, Notary.

Witnesses:
Etienne Barbier X Pierre de La Fosse
Pere Dagobert, Cure.

François Barbier's descendants are represented today in the families of Natchitoches: Levasseur, Derbonne, Bissot, Rambin, Chellette, and Bossier descendants in Natchitoches.

At Opelousas: The Debonne and Dupre families.

In Sabine Parish: The Barbee descendants.

In Nacogdoches: Descendants of Eusebia Gonzalez, Captain of the militia under General Herrera during the Neutral Strip period. He was a Lieutenant at the Natchitoches Post when Louis de Blanc was Lieutenant Governor under the spanish regime Gonzalez wed in 1796 Theresa Dion Barbier, granddaughter of Etienne Barbier and Marguerite Dion Derbonne and daughter of Louis Derbonne and Marieanna La Cour.

Powhatan Bible School Commencement Monday

Forty received certificates from the Powhatan Baptist Church Vacation Bible School at closing exercises Monday night.

Teachers and helpers had 100% attendance at the school, which began June 10, and only one absence was reported among the pupils. Refreshments were served nightly.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Services

Discontinued
until Fall!!

Old Lemet House