

A Mystery Unravelled

George Christian # 0678F

December 1994

My brother and I have a large loose-leaf book containing the names of unconnected persons bearing the family name **Chrétien** [**Christian**]. Until recently, one of those names we carried for years was Hypolite Chrétien. A now-misplaced source indicated that he was a Huguenot in Louisiana, where some place or monument was named for him: *Chrétien Point*.

This name teased us for many years. In June 1993, the newspaper *France-Amérique*, published in San Francisco (CA) carried a brief article calling attention to the opening in Paris, France, of the offices of a new society dedicated to connecting French descendants in Louisiana with their continental "cousins." The following month, while in Paris, my brother and I decided to pay them a visit. We were well received by the management who were somewhat surprised to hear Americans speaking French so fluently. After introductions and details about our interest, we were ushered into the fledgling library. Only belatedly did the organizers of the society realize that they could not pursue their stated purpose without the medium of genealogy, and therefore of a genealogical library. It was in this small library that we discovered a new world of books dealing with Louisiana, and in particular, Southwest Louisiana Records, an ever growing collection of volumes, one of several series compiled and published by the Rev. Donald J. Hebert.

In the very first volume of this work (which begins in 1756), we found the birth and the Roman Catholic baptismal registration in Louisiana of a certain Hypolite, along with brothers and sisters. In addition, the parents were clearly identified: Joseph, the father, was "from Canada," and the mother, Josephte Magdeleine Sonnier "from Acadia." After our return home, we set about studying our holdings on the **Chrétien** / **Christian** families, descendants of three pioneers: Michel, Vincent and Jacques, to see if we could locate this Joseph Chrétien.

We believe we have identified him as the youngest child of François and M.-Louise Angélique Migneron (Milleron), born on 12 April 1725 at Trois-Rivières, in the line of Vincent Chrétien.

In June 1994, the Travel Section of the NEW YORK SUNDAY TIMES invited readers to visit Louisiana, detailing some of its charms and history. Additional information could be obtained from a number of groups, whose addresses were provided. This article prompted us to go all out in searching for Hypolite Chrétien, starting with a letter to the Louisiana Travel Bureau. Six weeks passed, with no word from Louisiana. Then one day, a large envelope arrived, with the intriguing return address: *Chrétien Point Plantation*. Our request had been forwarded to Mr. Louis Cornay, owner of the property. He thoughtfully included several booklets, newspaper clippings and a few pages from a book on the history of the plantation. For whatever reason, all of them agreed in stating that Hypolite and two of his brothers had emigrated from France. They were following an oral tradition, taken at face value, apparently unaware of the works of Rev. Louis Hebert, who gave evidence to the contrary.

In July 1994, we returned to the offices of *L'Association France/Louisiane* in Paris, in order to verify our previous findings and check all other sources available. After our return to the States, it was clearly time to contact the Rev. Hebert himself. He was very charming on the telephone and very helpful in providing us with oral and written details to clarify and expand our own finds.

A note in Vol. 1 of his Southwest Louisiana Records indicates that the marriage of Joseph Chrétien and Josephite Magdeleine Sonnier took place in Paciutiak in Acadia. Having studied other documents and maps, we believe the correct spelling of the town is *Petit Coudiac*, in New Brunswick. Judging from the birthdate of the eldest child, the marriage took place between 1765 and 1768. We may never find written proof, given the political and social upheaval of the *Grand dérangement*.

We have presented copies of our findings to Mr. Cornay so that he can have a more exact picture of his property's background, and a more solid foundation for the history given in the brochures for *Chrétien Point Plantation*, now a bed-and-breakfast establishment. We hope that he will be able to locate living descendants of this family so we can give them their rightful place in our large dictionary of Vincent Chrétien.

An unexpected visit to a Paris library gave us more precise details about an unknown individual in Louisiana, son of an equally unknown immigrant from Canada about whom we knew only his date of birth, and the names of his parents. The result is that Hypolite Chrétien, previously unknown and unconnected in our files, is now identified and placed.

We believe that our findings offer a needed correction to erroneous history. In addition, an experience such as this unravelling of the mystery of Hypolite Chrétien gives a certain zing to our research and encourages us to welcome new challenges with determination and optimism.

Parishes: Natchitoches
Owatchita
Catahoula
Rapide
Concordia
St. Landry
Pointe Coupé
Avoyelles
Baton Rouge
Iberville

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

(At least 7 vols.) Archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans
1100 Chartres Street
New Orleans, LA 70116-2596

(Fire in 1788: some records lost.)

St. Martin Parish History.

Betty Pourciau: Ed., Compiler and Project Coordinator
1985 (Curtis Media Corp.)
Le Comité des Archives de La Louisiane.
Baton Rouge, LA

Bibliothèque: Association France-Louisiane. (28, blvd de Strasbourg
-- 75010 Paris. France). Visites: juillet 1993, 1994, 1995.

Vincent Chrétien

et / and

Anne Leclerc

by

George and Richard Christian

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DESCENDANCE DE
Vincent Chrétien et Anne Leclerc
Branche de la Louisiane

DESCENDANCY OF
Vincent Chrétien and Anne Leclerc
Louisiana Branch

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

I - Vincent: -

Né environ 1643, d'origine incertaine. Peut-être du village St-Ours-des-Roches, canton Pontgibaud (Puy-de-Dôme), France.

L'acte de baptême de Vincent ne se trouve pas dans les registres à Loches en Touraine (Indre-et-Loire), France. [Cherches de GEC et RLC]

Parents inconnus.

Émigré au Canada en 1663.

Recensement de 1667: - âgé de 26 ans (?)

Établit sur l'Île d'Orléans: 5 arpents en valeur.

Voisins: Pierre **Duchesne** et Pierre **Offroy**.

m.: prob. Sillery, 1668.

Anne Leclerc n.: env. 1645.
+: 16 mai 1716.

(Jean et Perrette **Brunet**) [**Brunel**]

- de St-Rémi, Dieppe. (Normandie), France

+/s: 6 mars 1700. Hôtel-Dieu, Québec

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

Enfants de Vincent Chrétien et Anne Leclerc: -

1. M.-Anne: - m.: 22 novembre 1687. Ste-Famille, I.O.
Nicolas **Grogner** [Groignier / Grenier / Garnier]
2. Vincent: - m.: 27 juillet 1699. St-Thomas, Montmagny
M.-Madeleine **Blanchet**
3. Catherine: - n./b.: .. /15 février 1673. Ste-Famille, I.O.
4. Jean-Bte Vincent: - m.: (1) 22 août 1701. N.-D., Québec [Ste-Famille?]
Madeleine **Louineau**

(2) 20 avril 1716. St-Thomas, Montmagny
Marie **Lefèbvre-Boulanger**
5. M.-Madeleine: - m.: 4 février 1697. Ste-Famille, I.O.
Charles **Guérard** [LeGrapt-Guérard]
6. Thomas: - m.: (1) 19 novembre 1710. Ste-Famille, I.O.
Reine **Marquis** [Canac dit le Marquis]

(2) 5 mai 1738. Ste-Anne de Beaupré
Agathe **Bélanger**
7. François: - m.: 20 février 1713. St-Joachin, Côte de Beaupré
M.-Louise Angélique **Migneron** #
8. Jacques: - m.: (1) 20 février 1713. St-François, I.O.
M.-Josephte **Baudon dit Larivière**

(2) 10 février 1727. Rivière-du-Loup en Haut, Maskinongé
Marguerite **Banhiac** [Bajac / Benjac]

L'Institute Drouin a confondu François avec Jacques.

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

II - François: -

n.: 27 fév. / b.: 1 mars 1682. Ste-Famille, I.-O.

(Vincent et Anne **Leclerc**) - Abbé François Lamy

P/M: Esprit Carbonneau, Marie Boileau
(épouse de Simon Chamberland)

m.: 20 février 1713. St-Joachim, Côte de Beaupré

M.-Louise Angélique **Mignerou** **[Milleron]**

(Jean et M.-Geneviève **Brisson**)

†: . . .

Enfants: -

1. François: - n.: 24 mars 1714. St-François, Montmagny

2. M.-Anne: - m.: 23 juin 1749. Montréal
Claude **Bourguignon-Treblé** **[Lieblé / Tieblé]**

3. Angélique / Angèle: - m.: 12 février 1749. N.-D., Montréal
Nicolas-Pierre **Lameraux dit St-Sauveur**
[Lomeraux / Tomereau]

4. M.-Joseph: - b.: 30 novembre 1728. Varennes, Verchères

5. M.-Louise Marguerite: - m.: (1) 9 septembre 1749. N.-D., Québec
Jean **Amiot**

(2) . . . Opelousas (St. Landry Parish), LA
Gaspard **Doré** **[créole de St. Charles]**

(Suite . . .)

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

(Suite . . .)

Enfants de: II - François et M.-Louise Angélique Migneron: -

6. Jeanne Charlotte: - m.: 4 août 1750.

Pierre-Louis Leroux

7. Louis: - m.: (1) 1 février 1751. N.-D., Montréal
Françoise Rapin

(2) 5 août 1754. Pointe-Claire
Suzanne Amable Pilon

8. M.-Amable: - m.: 12 février 1753. Montréal

André Baheu

[Babeu / Barbe]

9. Joseph: - m.: . . . 1779 (?) Église St-Martin. Opelousas
(St. Landry Parish, LA)

Josephite Magdeleine Saulnier

[Sonnier / Soigné]

Ord. 1725.

Aveu et dénombr.

Possède 2 arpents de front (Argentenay)

Chargé de 9 deniers de cens, 3 sols de fr., 2 chapons de rente.

A: maison, hangard, 8 arpents labourables.

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

III - Joseph: -

n./b.: 12/13 avril 1725. Trois-Rivières, Québec. Canada

(François et M.-Louise Angélique **Migner**on)

m.: . . . 1779 (?). Opelousas, Louisiane [m. civil avant?]

Josephite Magdeleine **Saulnier** [Sonnier / Soigné] - de l'Acadie

(Etienne et [2] M.-Jeanne Anne **Darois**)

+: 4 août 1812. Opelousas, LA

Enfants: - (nés à Opelousas, LA)

1. Angélique: n.: ca 1767.

+: 15 février 1789, à 22 ans.

2. Céleste: - m.: 22 novembre 1788. Opelousas, LA

Honoré De La Chaise

3. Pierre [A]: - n.: vers 1774; - célibataire de la paroisse St. Martin, Opelousas

+: 12 février 1816, à 42 ans

(Suite . . .)

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

(Suite . . .)

Enfants de: III - Joseph et Josephte Magdeleine **Saulnier**: -

4. Joseph [A]: - n.: vers 1776. - Célibataire
+: 25 juin 1802, à 26 ans. St. Martin

- Reçu les sacrements de Pénitence, Estreme Onction et ne peux recevoir le Très-Saint-Sacrement (Viatique) qu'il désire à raison de l'impossibilité d'ouvrir la bouche et d'avaler. Étant mort de la terrible maladie du tétanasse. Ce qui lui occasiona fut un coup de fouette porté à faux lui frappa la jambre et lui fit une entaille profonde.

Rév. Michel Bernard Barrière
Église St. Martin: v. 4, #264 [registre en espagnol]

(Hebert: South Louisiana Records. Vol. 1, p. 196)

5. Hypolite (I): - m.: 28 juillet 1818. Opelousas
Françoise **FÉLICITÉ Neder** [Nedar / Neda]

6. Joseph [B]: - n.: 15 août 1783. [jumeau]
+: 21 août 1813, à 30 ans. Opelousas

7. Louis: - n.: 15 août 1783. [jumeau]
+: . . .

8. François: - n.: 15 septembre 1790.
+: . . .

9. Gérard: - m.: 30 décembre 1822. Église St. Martin
Basilde (De) Ternant [Tennant / Terman]
- vve Gabriel De La Clair **Fuselier**

(Suite . . .)

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

(Suite . . .)

Enfants de: III - Joseph et Josephine Magdeleine **Saulnier**: -

10. François "D'Azincourt": -

m.: (1) 26 décembre 1822. Église St. Martin
M.-Zéline Thérèse **Halphen** [Halphène / Alphine]

(2) 31 décembre 1845. Église St-Martin, Opelousas
Éléonore Virginie **Briant** [Bryant / Bayant]
- vve Ferjus ["Fursey"] **Fuselier**

12. Magdeleine: - m.: 7 (ou 13) janvier 1800. St. Martin, Opelousas
Louis **Judice**

13. ? - Bernard: - n.: ca 1780.
+: 17 janvier 1840, à 60 ans. Grand Coteau?

14. Benjamin: - n.: 15 août 1783.
+: 21 août 1813, à 30 ans. Opelousas

15. Joseph [C]: - n.: ? . . .
+: jeune, le 21 décembre 1788.

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

(Suite . . .)

III - Joseph et Josephte Magdeleine Saulnier -

- Alias: Sonnier, Sonier, Saunier, Sauné, Saunée, Sogni, Sonia,
Soigné, Languedoc, Lacouline

A - Saulnier, Etienne (Louis Pierre et Louise Bastineaux [Bastinaud] dit Pelletier)

n.: ca 1702. Petit Coudiac [Beaubassin] Acadie. Canada

m.: (1) . . . 1728. Petit Coudiac
Jeanne **Comeau** [Comeaux]

(2) 4 juin 1740. Petit Coudiac [Beaubassin], Acadie
M.-Jeanne Anne **Darois** [D'Aroy / Daroy / Desroy]
(Jérôme et Marie **Garot**)
n.: ca 1717. Grand Pré, Habitants River. Acadie

B - Saulnier, Louis Pierre:

n.: ca 1663. Vitre, Bretagne. France

m.: ca 1684. Grand Pré, Acadie. Canada
Louise **Bastineaux [Bastinaud] dit Pelletier**

+: . . . Grand Pré, Acadie.

C - SAULNIER: famille noble de la Bretagne, France. Louis s'établit à St-Charles-aux-Mines en Acadie [Kings County, Nova Scotia], vers la fin du 17^e s. Les archives de l'Hôpital de Port-Royal, Acadie, le dit de Vitre en Bretagne, France.

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

IV - Hypolite [I]: -

n.: 30 mai 1781. Opelousas (St., Landry Parish), LA

(Joseph et Josephte Magdeleine **Saulnier**)

m.: 28 juillet 1818. Opelousas, LA

Françoise FÉLICITÉ **Neder** [Nedar / Neda]

(Francisco / François Antoine et Marie **Gravel**)

- de la paroisse Sainte Croix, Nouvelle Orléans

+: 19 septembre 1839. Opelousas

s.: Cimetière de l'Église St-Charles. Grand Coteau, LA

Enfants: -

1. Françoise Marguerite Félicia: -

m.: 20 octobre 1836. Opelousas
Charles A. **Olivier**

2. Hypolite [II]: - m.: . . .

Célestine **Cantrelle**

3. Joseph (Jules): - b.: 13 mai 1828. Opelousas

+: 21 octobre 1837, à 9 ans, cinq mois

4. Zulima: - b.: 17 juin 1830. Opelousas

5. M.-Xavier Aténaïs: - m.: . . .

. . . **Le More**

6. Lucille: - b.: 26 juillet 1835. Opelousas

(Suite . . .)

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

(Suite . . .)

IV - Hypolite et Félicité Neder: -

CHRÉTIEN, Hypolite, planter. Born near Opelousas, LA, May 30, 1781; son of Joseph and Magdalen Sonnier Chrétien. Married: Félicité Neda [Neder], daughter of François Antoine and Marie Gravel Neda, July 28, 1818.

Children: Françoise Marguerite Félicia (b. 1820), Joseph (b. 1828), Zulima (b. 1830), Marie Xavier Aténaïs (b. 1832), Lucille (b. 1835).

Career: was owner of a 1,200-acre sugar plantation near Opelousas; his plantation mansion, Chrétien Point, was built by Samuel Young and Jonathan Harris between 1831 and 1835 at a cost of \$7,000.

Died, September 19, 1839.

In 1863, the plantation was the scene of a skirmish between Confederate and Union troops; allegedly, the house was spared destruction because the owner was a Mason. Chrétien Point fell into disrepair in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It was purchased by the Louis J. Cornays in 1975 and after restoration was opened as a tourist attraction. JBC

Sources: Carl A. Brasseaux, "Chrétien Point," *Attakapas Gazette*, XII (1977); Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, 33 vols. (1974 - 1984).

From: DICTIONARY OF LOUISIANA BIOGRAPHY, by ... Conrad.



Chrétien Point Plantation

Route 1, Box 162

Sunset, Louisiana 70584

Louis J. Cornay, President

(318) 662-5876

1-800-880-7050

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

V - Prosperè ("Cadai" / "Cadet"): -

n.: . . mars 1837.

(Gérard et Basilde [De]Temant)

m.: (1) ? . . .

Arsène Fontenot

(. . .

n.: . . .

+: . . .

(2) 27 mars 1849. (Opelousas) St. Tammany Parish

Déliima Henriette Ramelle [Hormel] (mulâtresse)

(. . .

n.: . . .

+: . . septembre 1889. St-Martin, Opelousas

(3) ? . . .

Constance Fisuleau [Lewis / François]

(. . .

n.: . . .

m.: . . .

+: . . .

s.: . . . Chrétien Cemetery. Elton, LA

(Suite . . .)

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

(Suite . . .)

Enfants de: **V- Prospère et (1) Arsène Fontenot: -**

1/1. Prospère: - m.: 21 janvier 1868. Sacred Heart Church. Ville Platte
Victorine Simon

V - Prospère et (2) Délima Henriette Ramelle: -

2/1. Privot: - m.: 9 novembre 1878 (civil)
3 décembre 1878 (rel.). St. Landry Parish
Marie Mary Nina Simms

2/2. François: - m.: . . .
Marie Idéa Vavasseur

2/3. Paul: - m.: (1) 7 juin 1893. St. Martinville
Marie Carter

(2) ? . . .
Estelle Gobert

2/4. Épiphanie: - m.: ? . . .
Nicholas Garbarini

(Suite . . .)

CHRÉTIEN - Vincent

(Suite . . .)

Enfants de: **V - Prospère et (3) Constance Fisuleau: -**

3/1. Cadet: - m.: 4 juin 1878. Eunice, LA
Bathilde A. **Guillory**

3/2. Amélie P.: - m.: 6 février 1877.
Jean **Malveaux**

3/3. Hypolite [III]: - m.: 16 février 1885.
Angélique **Prade**

3/4. Mathilda: - m.: ? . . .
Edmond **Guillory**

3/5. Aglâé: - m.: ? . . .
Louis **Gradenigot** [Gradgo]

Ascendance de l'Honorable

Jean Chrétien

PREMIER MINISTRE DU CANADA DEPUIS LE 25 OCTOBRE 1993

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| I | Joseph-Jacques "Jean" | 10/IX/1957 | Shawinigan | Aline Olive Chainé |
| II | Willie | 27/V/1909 | Sacré-Coeur Shawinigan Falls | Marie Boisvert |
| III | François | (1) 6/X/1885 | St. Augustin Manchester, NH | Olivine Laforme-Bournival |
| IV | François-Régis | (2) 10/II/1865 | St-Barnabé | Elisabeth Blais |
| V | François-Régis | (1) 27/VIII/1831 | Louiseville | M.-Louise Marcotte |
| VI | François-Régis | (2) 2/V/1808 | Yamachiche | Amable Rivard-Loranger |
| VII | François | 9/VIII/1773 | Louiseville | M.-Marguerite Bergeron |
| VIII | François | 14/X/1738 | Trois-Rivières | M.-Charlotte Labécasse-Bonneau |
| IX | Jacques | (1) 20/II/1713 | St-François Île d'Orléans | M.-Joseph Baudon dit Larivière |
| X | Vincent | prob. 1688 | Sillery | Anne Leclerc |

Vincent Chrétien

Né environ 1643, d'origine incertaine. Peut-être du village St-Ours des Roches, canton Pontgibaud. [Puy-de-Dôme] France.

Émigré au Canada en 1663.

m.: prob. Sillery, 1668. Anne **Leclerc**

n.: env. 1645.

+: 16/V/1716.

(Jean et Perrette **Brunet**) - de St-Rémi. Dieppe, [Seine-Maritime] France

+: 6/III/1700. Hôtel-Dieu, Québec.