



the **guitrau** family

a biographical review in words and pictures

Foreword

May, 1999

Webster's Dictionary defines family as a group of persons of common ancestry; history as an established record of significant events and genealogy as an account of the descent of a person, family or group. This document represents a "first" attempt to organize an account of the family "Guitrau."

This idea originated from the Guitrau reunion held Memorial weekend, which had its beginning as a gathering honoring the birthday of Catherine Brown Guitrau (Maw Maw). From there, pictures were contributed by family members and scanned into a computer. Genealogy data organized, updated and entered into a special genealogy program. Many family members contributed written narratives for publication in this journal. Unfortunately, the information to follow is by no means complete or completely accurate. Genealogy can be a life long process. Hopefully this project will continue and the history of our family expanded. I apologize to any one or family not included, for any errors, and anything else that may need an apology. Any mistakes made were made unintentionally.

I would like to acknowledge that much of the information about the history and families of Livingston Parish, Louisiana was taken from the book "Livingston Parish History," compiled and published by the Edward Livingston Historical Association in 1986. Also, much of the Guitrau genealogy was previously researched and documented by Mrs. Marietta L. Lambert.

A special thanks to Al Guitrau, Shirley Gabriel and Carol Guitrau Whittington for their hospitality in hosting my family during fact finding trips. A special thanks to my son Christopher, who at five years old, was a real "trooper" to go with dad to courthouses and cemeteries. It is to be hoped that, the sense of "family" rubbed off on him during this time.

So enjoy. Teach your children and grandchildren your heritage. Let them know to be a Guitrau is to be Christian, proud, honest, hard working, and most of all - loving.

David Gillespie

*Angela Guitrau
Pamela Guitrau*

The following paternal lines have been traced in this document.

Paternal - Maternal Paternal Date of Birth
Paternal Place of Birth

Pierre Guidroz - Unknown About 1620
Moudon, Switzerland

Claude Guidroz - Medeleine Gavin August 23, 1641
Moudon, Switzerland

Bastien (Sebastian) Guidroz - Susan Megevan About 1665
Moudon, Switzerland

Jean Pierre Guidroz - Jeanne Ursule Porterline About 1700
Moudon, Switzerland

Abraham Daniel Guidroz - Catherine Buquoy November 12, 1730
Moudon, Switzerland

Paul Carlos Guitrau - Marie Josephine Rosa Vickner January 17, 1773
New Orleans, Louisiana

Paul Guitrau II - Marie Marguerite Magdelaine Brignac About 1794
False River, Louisiana

Zenon Durson Guitrau - Felice Angeline Scivicque January 3, 1831
French Settlement, Louisiana

Vincent Paul Guitrau - Feliska Marie LeBourgeois December 24, 1861
French Settlement, Louisiana

Edgar Paul Guitrau - Marie Catherine Brown June 13, 1895
French Settlement, Louisiana

And all subsequent generations.

**Moudon, Switzerland
Houses of Town Farmers**



Guidroz, Guitrau, Guitreau, Getro,... It really doesn't matter.

In doing research for this project, it became evident that the spelling of our family name appears differently in many official and non-official documents. Research has indicated the oldest official spelling was Guidroz. Quite often, it was spelled as it sounds - Getro. In the Livingston Parish courthouse, documents prepared for Edgar Paul Guitrau, Guitrau is spelled with out an "e" and with an "e".

The spelling of the name really doesn't matter. There is enough documented sources to identify the blood lines. Church birth, baptismal, wedding, and death records of the Catholic church are a primary source to research the Guitrau family. The courthouse in Livingston Parish has good records from the late 1800's to present. It was utilizing these sources that genealogists researching our family have been able to construct a good document of our lineage. The main emphasis of this genealogical project has been the paternal side of our family - Guitrau. I have included limited information on the maternal side of each generation. So, lets get started on the first six generations included this project.

The Guidroz family were residents of Moudon, Switzerland. Moudon is located in the midland, along the plains and plateaus, in a valley between the Alps and the Jura in the canton of Bern. Moudon is situated approximately 20 miles north of Lake Geneva, therefore only about 30 miles from the French border. Most likely, the Guidroz were Roman Catholic. From an analysis of the Last Will and Testament of Claude Guidroz, they were not poor, but probably of middle to upper class. A family crest or coat of arms has not been found, therefore, the Guidroz were probably not of royalty or noblemen.

In following just the paternal side of our Guitrau family, the earliest ancestor found for this publication is Pierre Guidroz, born around 1620. He had a son, Claude Guidroz, born in 1644. Claude had a son, Sbastian Guidroz, born in 1665. Sbastian had a son Jean Pierre Guidroz, born in 1700 and Jean Pierre had a son, Abraham Daniel Guidroz, born in 1730.

The first Guitrau immigrant to the United States, landing in New Orleans, was Abraham Daniel Guidroz, born 1730 in Moudon, settling in New Orleans in 1752. Abraham Daniel Guidroz was in the French Army. He was probably sent to New Orleans due to the Seven Year War that pitted Britain and Prussia against Austria, France, Russia, Saxony, Sweden, and (after 1761) Spain.

Louisiana was under French rule from 1699 until 1763. During this period, New Orleans was the capital of the new world for France. As the French and Indian War (Seven Year War - 1756 - 1763) drew to a close, France saw its New World empire threatened with loss to the British. It therefore engineered a transfer of Louisiana to Spain by means of the secret Treaty of Fontainebleau in 1762. The Treaty of Paris (1763) ceded Canada and Louisiana east of the Mississippi to Britain. To compensate Spain for its losses after entering the war in 1761 (and also to keep it out of British hands), France had ceded Louisiana west of the Mississippi, plus the Isle of Orleans, to Spain by the secret Treaty of Fontainebleau in 1762. (The Isle of Orleans comprised that portion of Louisiana east of the Mississippi River which lay south of the Iberville River [Bayou Manchac] and a line drawn across Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the Gulf.) It was during this time that Abraham Guidroz lived in New Orleans. He was listed in the Louisiana Census and militia list of 1770 as Sargeant in the Third Company of the Militia of New Orleans, residing in House No. 28 of Dauphine Street.

Abraham Daniel Guidroz is deceased by 1777 and included in this publication is his last will and testament. From here, the paternal lines starts in the United States beginning with the birth of Abraham's sons and our paternal line - Paul Guitrau I.

It is easy to see how the Guitrau's finally settled in Livingston Parish. By water, they left New Orleans, crossed Lake Pontchartrain, went through Bayou Manchac, across Lake Maurepas and finally settled up the Amite River in French Settlement. It is here that you will find most of the graves and records of the Guitrau family.

Beyond Paul Guitrau, starting with Paul Guitrau II, you will find family sheets on each generation. Enjoy the history, genealogy and most of all the pictures.

Descendants of Pierre Guidroz

Generation No. 1

PIERRE GUIDROZ was born Abt. 1620, and died Unknown. He married UNKNOWN.

Child of PIERRE GUIDROZ and UNKNOWN is:

CLAUDE (2) GUIDROZ, b. August 23, 1641, Moudon, Switzerland; d. Aft. 1722, Moudon, Switzerland.

Generation No. 2

CLAUDE(2) GUIDROZ (PIERRE1) was born August 23, 1641 in Moudon, Switzerland, and died Aft. 1722 in Moudon, Switzerland. He married MADELEINE GAVIN.

Children of CLAUDE GUIDROZ and MADELEINE GAVIN are:

- i. **BASTIEN (SEBASTIAN)(3) GUIDROZ**, b. Abt. 1665, Moudon, Switzerland; d. Bef. 1722, Moudon, Switzerland.
- ii. SUSANNE GUIDROZ, b. Unknown; m. PIERRE FAVRE.

Sebastian Guidroz
Sebastian Guidroz (~1665- unknown)
Source: notary record, 1698

Please see the following Will and Testament of Claude Guidroz and Madeleine Gavin dated August 25, 1722.

Generation No. 3

BASTIEN (SEBASTIAN)(3) GUIDROZ (CLAUDE(2), PIERRE(1)) was born Abt. 1665 in Moudon, Switzerland, and died Bef. 1722 in Moudon, Switzerland. He married SUSAN MEGEVAN, daughter of ALEXANDRE MEGEVAN and ELIZABETH BURNIER.

Children of BASTIEN GUIDROZ and SUSAN MEGEVAN are:

- i. **JEAN PIERRE(4) GUIDROZ**, b. Abt. 1700, Moudon, Switzerland; d. September 21, 1746, Moudon, Switzerland.
- ii. JEANNE GUIDROZ.
- iii. MARIE GUIDROZ.
- iv. PHILIPPE GUIDROZ.

Generation No. 4

JEAN PIERRE(4) GUIDROZ (BASTIEN (SEBASTIAN)(3), CLAUDE(2), PIERRE(1)) was born Abt. 1700 in Moudon, Switzerland, and died September 21, 1746 in Moudon, Switzerland. He married JEANNE URSULE POETERLINE November 28, 1724, daughter of DANIEL PHILIPPE POETERLINE.

Child of JEAN GUIDROZ and JEANNE POETERLINE is:

- i. **ABRAHAM DANIEL(5) GUIDROZ**, b. November 12, 1730, Moudon, Switzerland; d. September 30, 1777, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Generation No. 5

ABRAHAM DANIEL (5) GUIDROZ (JEAN PIERRE(4), BASTIEN (SEBASTIAN)(3), CLAUDE(2), PIERRE(1)) was born November 12, 1730 in Moudon, Switzerland, and died September 30, 1777 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He married CATHERINE BUQUOY July 20, 1762 in St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, Louisiana, daughter of HENRY BUQUOY and CHARLOTTE TEVENAR.

Abraham Guidroz
Abraham Daniel Guidroz (1730-1777)
Source: last will and testament, 1777

Children of ABRAHAM GUIDROZ and CATHERINE BUQUOY are:

- i. LOUIS (6) GUIDROZ, b. September 05, 1763.
- ii. ETINNE GUIDROZ, b. March 05, 1766, New Orleans, Louisiana; d. Abt. 1835, Lafourche Parish, LA.
- iii. JEAN BAPTISTE GUIDROZ, b. November 23, 1768, New Orleans, Louisiana; d. November 10, 1821, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- iv. JEAN PIERRE GUIDROZ, b. April 07, 1771, New Orleans, Louisiana; d. Abt. 1818, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- v. **PAUL CARLOS (GUIDROZ) GUITRAU**, b. January 17, 1773, New Orleans, Louisiana; d. Abt. 1810.

An extract of the marriage record of Abraham Guitrose (Guidroz) and Catherine Buquoy from the original French entry of the St. Louis Cathedral Archives, Orleans Parish, Louisiana follows these pages.

Louis Guidroz must have died before April 7, 1776. Louis Guidroz is found in the "Sacramental Records of the Archdiocese of New Orleans from 1751 to 1771". He is not mentioned in the attached last will and testament of Abraham Guidroz. Abraham Guidroz states he has four sons. Also, note there is some confusion about whether the "Claudio" mentioned in the last will and testament is Paul Carlos Guidroz. This is a period of Louisiana under Spanish control. Claudio may have been named for his great-great grandfather Claude. This author and many other family genealogists believe that Claudio and Paul are one in the same person. Please see the Marriage Record from the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana for Paul Guitrau and Josephe Wickner, in which Paul states his parents were Abraham Guidroit (sic) and Josephe Wickner.

Generation No. 6

PAUL CARLOS (GUIDROZ)(6) GUITRAU (ABRAHAM DANIEL(5) GUIDROZ, JEAN PIERRE(4), BASTIEN (SEBASTIAN)(3), CLAUDE(2), PIERRE(1)) was born January 17, 1773 in New Orleans, Louisiana, and died Abt. 1810. He married MARIE JOSEPHINE ROSA VICKNER April 28, 1802 in St. Ann's Church, Morganza, Louisiana, daughter of NICOLAS VICKNER and MARIE HELFRE.

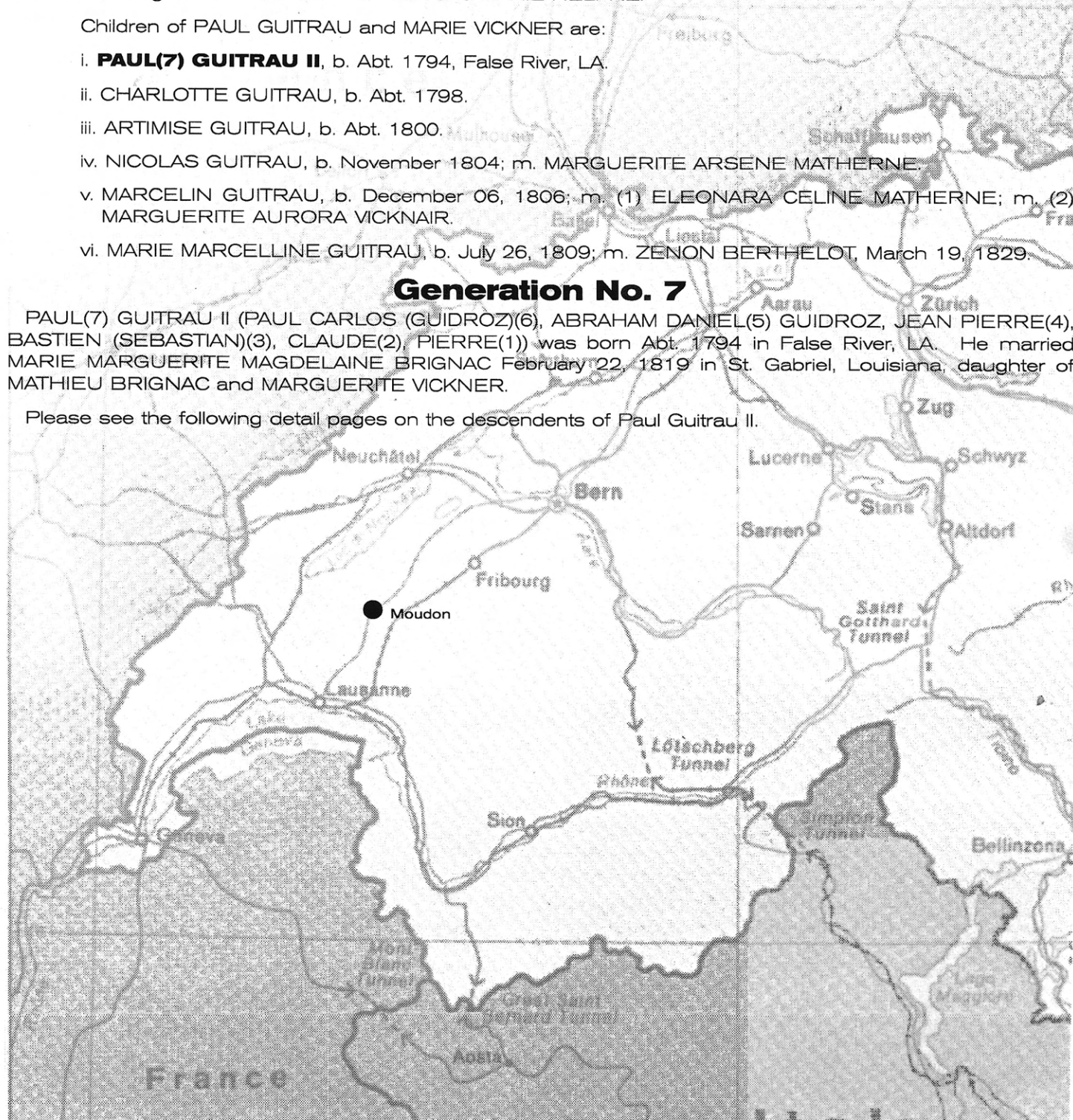
Children of PAUL GUITRAU and MARIE VICKNER are:

- i. **PAUL(7) GUITRAU II**, b. Abt. 1794, False River, LA.
- ii. CHARLOTTE GUITRAU, b. Abt. 1798.
- iii. ARTIMISE GUITRAU, b. Abt. 1800.
- iv. NICOLAS GUITRAU, b. November 1804; m. MARGUERITE ARSENE MATHERNE.
- v. MARCELIN GUITRAU, b. December 06, 1806; m. (1) ELEONARA CELINE MATHERNE; m. (2) MARGUERITE AURORA VICKNAIR.
- vi. MARIE MARCELLINE GUITRAU, b. July 26, 1809; m. ZENON BERTHELOT, March 19, 1829.

Generation No. 7

PAUL(7) GUITRAU II (PAUL CARLOS (GUIDROZ)(6), ABRAHAM DANIEL(5) GUIDROZ, JEAN PIERRE(4), BASTIEN (SEBASTIAN)(3), CLAUDE(2), PIERRE(1)) was born Abt. 1794 in False River, LA. He married MARIE MARGUERITE MAGDELAINE BRIGNAC February 22, 1819 in St. Gabriel, Louisiana, daughter of MATHIEU BRIGNAC and MARGUERITE VICKNER.

Please see the following detail pages on the descendents of Paul Guitrau II.



Will and Testament of Claude Guidroz and Madeleine Gavin

In the name of God, Amen. Let it be recorded that Claude Guidroz and Madeleine Gavin from Moudon, being by the grace of God of an advanced age, and before preparing to die, want to bequeath to their children and grandchildren the following, in order to do so have appeared this day of 25 August, 1722 in the presence of myself the Notary and in the presence of witnesses, and have of their own free will declared that to Susanne Guidroz, their daughter, widow of the now deceased noble Pierre Favre of Moudon will receive what is legitimately and legally her part of her father's and mother's estate.

Besides the furniture and the sum of 1000 florins, which she had received at the time of her marriage, she will receive the house where she now lives, which is located on the main street by the "Messine". She will receive the house as is and will be responsible for the maintenance of the above mentioned house as well as its barn and the hay loft.

Of course, no one will be allowed to keep her from enjoying this property after the death of the principals. She also will receive the following which the principals still reserve for themselves the right to enjoy until the time of their death:

- A parcel of land close to the dairy which is adjacent to the Riondaz lot.
- The profit from the sale of two loads of hay.
- A parcel of land known as the "lost lot" located on the way to Lucent.
- Two parcels of land located at "la Presa", one of them having on it a farm known as the farm of "disrons" and the other having on it a farm known as the farm of "deux coups".
- Half of the barn and the hayloft which is located on "weaver's lane". She will have the front of the hayloft located above the barn and the front of the barn, which barn is known as "la Courtille".

The children of the deceased Sebastian Guidroz, their son, named Jeanne, Marie, Philippe and Jean Pierre Guidroz, their grandchildren, will receive as their inheritance, through their deceased father Sebastian Guidroz, the rest of the possessions which will consist of:

- The other half of the hayloft and barn. They will have the back of the barn and will use the back entrance as well for the people as for the cattle. They will have half of the barn and half of the hayloft.
- They will have the area to thrash the grain in the hayloft. They will be responsible to maintain the hay loft and the barn and keep everything in proper working order.
- The grain silo located on "Rue du Pont" under the house of Isaac Dupont.
- Their house next to the Broye, where they now live.
- A piece of land behind the church and a rent of 100 silver coins payable by Jacob Jossevel. This rent will be paid by Joseph Lanutier after the death of Jacob Jossevel.
- Philippe and Jean Pierre will be responsible for all this property. One brother will not be allowed to dispose of any property without the consent of the other. Jean Pierre will have the deciding word.

To Jean Pierre will be given:

- A piece of wooded land which is located next to "bize" and which goes straight down to "Tizer" following the canal. The lot will be divided in the middle from the top of the lot to the bottom.

The brother Jean will take possession of the house and 200 silver coins including the furniture and the linen therein, but leaving the tenants in the upper floor unmolested, naming Susan Megevan, his mother who will live there the rest of her life, and his sisters who will live there until they are provided with a husband.

As far as Philippe is concerned, he already had received an advance of 500 silver coins. The principals leave to him to collect the rent of 100 silver coins owed by Jacob Jossevel. He also will receive an orchard located behind the church which was inherited from Catherine Brossard, but he will have to share the profit and crops from the orchard with his brothers and sisters.

All the furniture and linen from the principals' estate will be divided equally among all the four children.

The principals will continue to enjoy their goods and properties as they have done in the past and this until the time of their death. If necessary, they reserve themselves the right to sell the above mentioned properties in order to meet their needs and take care of themselves for the rest of their days, but this does not and will not include what has been put aside for Susanne Megevan, their daughter-in-law and mother of their grandchildren.

ABRAHAM GUITROSE
with
CATHERINE BUQUOY

In this year of seventeen hundred and sixty-two and the twentieth of July, having published one Bann of marriage from the pulpit at the Parish Mass on the eighteenth of the same month, the seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, between ABRAHAM GUITROSE, a Swiss soldier in the Company of GRONDEL, a native of Moudon, Canton of Berne in Switzerland, legitimate son of JEAN PIERRE GUITROSE and of URSULE POTERLAIN, his father and mother, of the first part, and CATHERINE BUQUOY, a native of this Parish, Widow of the deceased LOUIS ROQUIGNY who, when living, was a pilot at the Balize, of the other part, there being no impediment to this marriage, I, the undersigned priest received the mutual consent of the parties, having obtained a dispensation of the other two Banns, have given them the Nuptial Benediction in the presence of these witnesses who have signed with me the day and year as above given.

(signed) F. Dagobert, Cap., Superior

(signed) Abraham Guidroz

(signed) Catherine Buquoy

(signed) Buquoy

(signed) Houbert

(signed) Michel Frilous

(signed) Jacque Reneu

(signed) Hubler

This is a certified direct translation (from the French) of the original entry of St. Louis Cathedral Archives.

Marriage Entry in Baptismal Book IV (1759 - 1762; Page 70; Act 93

Rev. Vincent Verderame, O.M.I.

Pastor

Alice D. Forsyth

Archivist

Originally submitted to the FSHR by Mercy A. Cambre

Last Will and testament of Abraham Guidroz

In the name of God all powerful and the Virgin Mary, his most blessed mother, born of the Immaculate Conception, our first and only hope, since the first instant of his being both prophetic and natural. Amen.

Appearing before this notary public to make my last will and testament, I, Abraham Guitroz (sic), resident of this city and native of Switzerland in the canton of Bern in the city of Moudon, am the legitimate and natural son of Jean Pierre Guitroz and Ursula Poiteslan, husband and wife.

Finding myself sick in bed and fearing death, which is natural, but, with divine mercy, in my whole mind, normal understanding, full free will, and memory, with disposition within my powers to state my feelings, which appear following within this document, notary and undersigned witnesses present, I make my last will and testament, (which I, the present notary, give faith, I understand) believing as firmly I do believe in the unexplainable mystery of the Sacred Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one, distinct yet one and only true God, and in all the other articles of faith. I believe in our Sacred Mother Catholic Church of Rome, humble though underserving as I am, under whose faith and belief I have lived and declare I will until I die, this deserving salvation of my soul, and thus making my testament in the following way.

First, I order and entrust my soul to our good Master that gave it to me and redeemed me with the price and infinite cost of His precious blood, pleading that, through His divine majesty, He will raise me to His glory with his chosen, for which I was created.

And also I order that, when the will of our God has ended my life raised me from this present life in chains, my body be returned to the ground from which it was formed, entombed most humbly in the sacred ground of this parish, and that my funeral and burial be done at the disposition of my executor, whom I will designate later.

And I also give and bequeath to the Charity Hospital of this city, twenty pesos, eight reales for one time only, so that the poor will praise my soul to God.

And also I declare that I owe nothing, and that, to the contrary, I am owed debts which will be found at my death in various amounts. Mr. Brunner owes me the sum of nine pesos for shoes that I made for his son and wife; for the same thing _____ Siellers owes me seven pesos. Bijon la Violeta owes me one and one-half pesos for a pair of shoes. Madame McNamara owes me one and one-half pesos for a pair of shoes. Madame Villemont owes six pesos, three reales for having five pairs of shoes made smaller, and than makes twenty-four from various accounts.

The one named Joseph, butler for the above Madame Villemont, owes seven and one-half pesos for five pairs of shoes which at the time I received two pesos. The son of Madame Labbe owes likewise one and one-half pesos for a pair of shoes. Mr. Lamia one and one-half pesos for a pair. The values of anything else that is owed me will be found, and, if I owe anything, I want it paid.

I declare that the one named Burqui (sic) has instituted me as his heir in case that forced legal heirs are not found. They are obligated to appear within ten years. If, after my death but during the required interval, someone appears who can prove well his legitimate claim to overturn the fortune which the said Burqui (sic), I am obligated to release the said inheritance, which remains in my inventory, passed in the archive of the present notary. Should not one appear after the stated time, I want half to go to my heirs and half to my wife as profitable gains.

I declare that I have been married for fourteen years in the Sainted Mother Church to Catalina (Catherine) Buquoy, of which I have four sons: Estevan (Etienne), age ten, Juan (Jean Baptiste), age eight, Juan Pedro (Jean Pierre), age six, and another named Claudio (?), age three. All are less than twelve years, for which reason they are incapable of administering their estates, so, in the case of my death, I name and select as their tutor, the said Catalina Buquoy, because of the law and because of the confidence I have in her; to which effect I give recognition and substitute all the power that I have and that she has as mother, and whatever is necessary following the laws of Castille likewise to establish and tend to my estate.

I declare that I have received from the said Catalina Buquoy a dowry of 2875 pounds that I have carried during the said marriage on my accounts and which came to her from her legitimate paternal grandfather and from the money she had from the deceased Roquigny, her first husband. Which dowry makes up the total body of my estate, which will remain at my death, and which is to be divided for the use of my heirs.

From the rest of all my estate, debts, rights, and deeds, I institute and name as my testamentary executor Paul Buquoy, giving him all the power required by law so that my will is carried out satisfactorily, including my funeral, the possible public auction, and other ordinary things pertaining to my business, as if I were doing the work.

This testament finished and paid for, my estate, rights, and cessions included, I institute as my legitimate and universal heirs, the aforesaid Estavan, Juan Baptiste, Juan Pedro, and Claudio Guitroz (sic), my sons, and the said Catalina Buquoy, my wife, so that they may have and inherit equally with benediction of God and myself.

This is my final and last will and testament, that as such I want and I have its execution and completion. I trust that our father God, as I wish from his mercy, will carry me to a more abundant reward. I annul, revoke, and abolish any other wills or codicils that I have made, words I have said or written, or in any manner made by me, for they are of no value.

And now I swear for whatever it is worth in this city of New Orleans on the twenty-seventh of April, 1776, witnesses being Juan Caller, Jean Baptiste Wiltz, and Santiago Hillier, residents of this city.

The testator, whom I, the notary, give faith I know, cannot sign because of great trembling of his hand; the preceding witnesses sign.

Jacques Hillier

B. Wiltz

Jean Caller

Before me,

Jean Baptiste Garic

Notary Public

From the Notarial Acts of Jean Baptiste Garic (Volume VII/125ff)

Note: Abraham Guitroz death was on September 30, 1777.

PAUL GIDROIT (GUITREAU) AND JOSEPHE' WICKNER

"In the year of Our Lord, eighteen hundred and two (1802), the twenty-eighth day of April, after having published the three bans of marriage for three consecutive Sundays at this nuptial Mass uniting **Paul Guidroit**, legitimate son of deceased Abraham Guidroit and Catherine Ducoix (Buquoy) and Josephe' Wickner legitimate daughter of Nicolas Wickner and Appollonie Elfer residence of False River, having found no impediments and with their mutual consent, have also legitimized their three children namely - **Paul** age seven years, Charlotte age of four years and Artimise age of two years, adhering to the usual custom, in presence of the under-signed witnesses who signed with me, the couple not being able to write make their ordinary mark."

Witnesses _____Allemand

D. Allain

_____Lavergne

Signed by Father _____De St. Pierre

NOTE: This is a translated copy of the marriage record as it appears in the records of St. Ann's Church, Morganza, Louisiana, which are now in the Department of Archives of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Originally submitted to the FSHR by Marietta L. Lambert