

## **“ORIGINS OF THE THIBODAUXS OF BAYOU BOEUF”**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Thibodauxs of the Bayou Boeuf area of Assumption Parish in Louisiana have a well documented, thirteen generation ancestry back to the year 1600. Spelling of the name varied through the years; this booklet uses the spelling as recorded in history. Everett Cerix “Bob” Thibodaux provided most of the information pertaining to the last few generations and deserves huge credit for this booklet. He died March 12, 2008 -the 96 year old man had a phenomenal memory!

The “ORIGINS” booklet and the “EIGHT GENERATIONS” outline are in Microsoft Word for Windows 7 and can be copied easily to 3 ½ disks. The attached Ancestors of – charts and the outline “Descendants of Pierre Thibodeau” are in Family Tree Maker 11 for Windows and can also be copied to 3 ½ disks. Since all are computer products they can easily be corrected or added to at any time. None are copyrighted and are provided for the pleasure of readers and may be copied freely.

This booklet targets the Thibodaux family of Bayou Boeuf and was first produced in 1995. A massive 927 page “Famille de Thibodeau” computer generated 1999 book has far more entries but has errors and omissions re: the Bayou Boeuf Thibodauxs. The author has now incorporated my information in her book which is now online. Unfortunately, our third generation ancestor Pierre born 1710 is now identified by her as a son of Jean-Pierre rather than his brother Michel. This booklet and outline are incomplete in many respects and probably contains errors which are certainly not intended. After all, they span 400 years and list about 600 people. Updating has improved content and accuracy. Readers may wish to provide information for inclusion in future printouts. So, on to the earliest known family member -more or less!

### **MATHURIN THIBODOT**

The first known (we think) Thibodaux was born about the year 1600 and lived in Des Moutiers Les Maux Faits, Lucon Parish, Poitou Province, France. The town of Des Moutiers Les Maux Faits is a mere 10 miles from the west coast of France. His name was Mathurin Thibodot and he was married to Marie Dolbeau. There is no evidence that either ever came to America. As far as the story goes, they supposedly had just one child and that was Pierre Thibodeau. Because there is no proof of their parentage of the Pierre Thibodeau who came to America they are not recognized as family.

The “EIGHT GENERATIONS OF THE BAYOU BOEUF THIBODAux FAMILY” outline was prepared as a guide and to lessen confusion –I hope!

# “EIGHT GENERATIONS OF THE BAYOU BOEUF THIBODAUX FAMILY”

- 1 Pierre Thibodeau 1631 – 1704 + Jeanne Terriau
- 2 Michel Thibodeau 1678 – 1734 + Agnes Dugas
- 3 Pierre Thibodeau 1710 – 1755 + Madeleine Cormier
- 4 Charles Thibodeau 1740 – 1820 + Marie Landry
- 5 Jean Baptiste Thibodeau 1782 – 1824 <brothers> Pierre Olivier Thibodeau 1779 – 1831  
+ Marie Natalie Martin + Marie Genevieve LeBlanc
- 6 Jean Felicien Thibodaux 1813 – 1897 <1<sup>st</sup> cousins> Paul Silvain Thibodaux 1810 – 1869  
+ Celeste Courcier ^ + M. Seraphine Thibodaux 1816 – 1849  
Note: Jean Felicien’s sister Marie Seraphine married her 1<sup>st</sup> cousin Paul Silvain
- 7 Charles Melance Thibodaux 1844 – 1911 <2<sup>nd</sup> cousins> Celeste Felicie Thibodaux 1846 – 1901
- 8
  - 1 Charles Neal Thibodaux 1866 – 1946 + Elda Valerie Morvant
  - 2 Leon Eli Thibodaux 1867 – 1938 + Fannie Coleman
  - 3 Willie Paul Thibodaux 1870 – 1959 + Ada Murray
  - 4 Theoline Marie Thibodaux 1872 – 1948 + Wade H. Coleman
  - 5 George Alcide Thibodaux 1874 – 1931
  - 6 Clay Felicien Thibodaux 1875 – 1960 + Emma Mary Penisson
  - 7 Virginia Celeste Thibodaux 1877 – 1967
  - 8 Tilton Paul Thibodaux 1879 – 1971 + Novey Rogers
  - 9 Wiltz David Thibodaux 1880 – 1964 + Carrie Gonzales
  - 10 Wilson Daniel Thibodaux 1880 – 1905
  - 11 Felicia Ida Thibodaux 1883 – 1975 + William B. Furher
  - 12 Mary Cleona Thibodaux 1885 – 1889
  - 13 Charles Melance Thibodaux II 1887 – 1956

NOTE: Daniel & Mary Cleona died before Charles Melance; thus only eleven inherited



## 1<sup>ST</sup> GENERATION

### PIERRE THIBODEAU 1631 - 1704

Pierre Thibodeau was born in 1631 at Poitou in France and landed in l'Acadie, now Nova Scotia, in September, 1654 with Emmanuel LeBorgne of Belle Isle, France. Pierre Thibodeau is recognized as one of the 50 original founders of l'Acadie. Pierre Thibodeau settled at Port Royal on Baye Francaise, now the Bay of Fundy. He married Jeanne Terriault in 1660 and they had 16 children. At the time of the first Acadian census in 1686 there were 885 people total. Pierre Thibodeau owned 1 gun, 14 cattle, 5 sheep, 7 hogs, and 10 arpents of land.

Pierre Thibodeau became prominent in Acadia. In 1698 he was granted a "Seigneury" at the head of the Baye Francaise. He became Sieur Pierre Thibodeau and as such controlled the area. He, with his sons Pierre "l'aine", Jean-Pierre, Antoine, Pierre "lejeune" and Michel in 1698 there founded the town of Chipoudie, now renamed Riverside-Albert, 100 miles east of Port Royal. By building dikes and installing drains they reclaimed land from the 90' tides in the same manner as employed in Pierre's native Poitou Province in France. The 90' tides of the Bay of Fundy are recognized as the largest in the world! With advancing age, Pierre Thibodeau returned to Port Royal and died there December 26, 1704 at age 73.

Pierre Thibodeau and Jeanne Terriault had 16 children. The children and their year of birth are: Marie 1661 (died as infant), Marie 1663, Marie Jeanne 1664, Anne Marie 1665, Catherine 1667, Pierre "l'aine" (older) 1670, Jeanne 1672, Jean-Pierre 1673, Antoine 1674, Pierre "lejeune" (younger) 1676, **Michel 1678**, Cecile 1680, Marie Ann Louise 1682, Claude 1684, Catherine-Josephe 1686, and Charles 1689.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> GENERATION

### MICHEL THIBODEAU 1678 - 1734

Of the 16 children, it is Michel Thibodeau, born in 1678, who is the forebear of the Bayou Boeuf Thibodauxs. Curiously, Michel's older sister Marie in 1683 married Antoine Landry who is a forebear of John Landry Skolfield, author of this booklet. As a result, John is an eight cousin to his wife Helen Thibodaux Skolfield. Their children -Kay, Julie, and Stacy -are 11<sup>th</sup> generation descendants of Pierre Thibodot.

Michel Thibodeau's older brother Pierre "l'aine" married Anne Bourg in 1690 at Port Royal. A son of theirs, Alexis Thibodeau, 1<sup>st</sup> married in 1745 Anna Blanchard in Pigiguit, Nova Scotia and then 2<sup>nd</sup> married in 1762 Catherine LeBlanc in exile in Philadelphia. In 1763 they and two of his brothers made their way via Albany and Lake Champlain to the Montreal area. Their son Henry Schuyler Thibodaux was born about 1769; he was named for Philip John Schuyler who in 1768 as the representative of Albany strongly argued the colonist's side in the Colonial Assembly. Philip John Schuyler died November 18, 1804 in Albany. An unlikely version of Henry Schuyler Thibodaux's origins is that he was a son of Claude Thibodeau and that he was adopted by Schuyler. Henry Schuyler Thibodaux arrived in St. James Parish, Louisiana in 1794. By then, Acadians including Charles Thibodeau had been in Louisiana nearly 30 years. Henry Schuyler Thibodaux later donated land for the founding of the town of Thibodaux.



Michel Thibodeau married at Port Royal November 13, 1704 Agnes Dugas, the daughter of Claude Dugas and his wife Francoise Bourgeois. Michel and Agnes had 15 children: Marguerite 1705, Agnes 1706, Michel 1708, **Pierre (our ancestor) 1710**, Joseph 1711, Charles 1713, Marie Magdeleine 1714, Marie Josephe 1716, Isabelle 1718, Francois 1720, Benjamin 1721, Jean Baptiste 1723, Amand Gregoire 1724, Claire 1726, and Anne 1728. Michel died November 27, 1734 at Port Royal, Acadia at age 56. Several of his descendants would make their way to Louisiana; as would sons and daughters of his siblings.

Michel's daughter Marguerite Thibodeau married in 1724 Alexandre Brossard; her sister Agnes Thibodeau married in 1725 Joseph Brossard. Alexandre and Joseph were brothers who shortly moved their families to the Chipoudie area where they founded the town of Beausoleil. Joseph "dit Beausoleil" Brossard would in time become a hero of the French resistance and would later be famous in folklore as 'Beausoleil'. Michel's son Charles Thibodeau married Brigitte Breau and lived at nearby Petitcodiac. His sons Oliver and Amand made their way also to Louisiana.

### 3<sup>RD</sup> GENERATION

#### THE SECOND PIERRE THIBODEAU 1710 - 1755

Of the 15 children of Michel Thibodeau and Agnes Dugas, it is Pierre Thibodeau born in 1710 who is the forebear of the Bayou Boeuf Thibodeauxs. Pierre Thibodeau married at Chipoudie in 1731 Magdeleine Cormier; thus Pierre Thibodeau and the Brossard (Broussard) brothers were together in the Chipoudie area. Pierre Thibodeau's wife Magdeleine Cormier was the daughter of Pierre Cormier and his wife Catherine LeBlanc.

The 6 children of Pierre and Magdeleine are Anne born 1732, Oliver 1733, Jean Baptiste 1736, Agnes 1738, **Charles 1740**, and Magdeleine 1741. Of these six children, only Jean Baptiste and Charles would in time make their way to Louisiana; Charles is the forebear of the Bayou Boeuf Thibodeauxs. Charles had been born February 3, 1740 and baptized February 25, 1740 at Ste. Anne Church at Beaubassin, Acadia. Charles would, in time, father eleven children. Luckily for us, the baptismal record of his last son, Louis Joseph Thibodeau, identifies not just the parents but also the grandparents!

#### "LE GRAND DERANGEMENT"

Pierre and Magdeleine have an unknown end, but, it likely was terrible. They are last noted "refugies, d'abord, "Au-Lac", Beausejour". They had resided at the town of Au-Lac adjacent to the French fort of Beausejour. The fort was on the border near Chipoudie between French New Brunswick and British Nova Scotia. The British attacked and conquered Fort Beausejour on June 16, 1755 then drove all the French out and pursued them north into the wilderness. Three months later, on September 5, 1755, the British began the forced removal of all the French from Acadia which they renamed Nova Scotia. Many of the inhabitants of the area around Fort Beausejour had escaped to the north -some to the upper reaches of the Petitcodiac River where the English in the fall of 1756 pursued the settlers and burned their houses; some further north to the Miramichi River area where in 1757 many starved and died of disease; some even further north



to the Baie des Chaleurs area. By 1760 the English had won even Quebec and Montreal; the French government was gone from the entire area.

In 1761 the English still were pursuing in the Baie des Chaleurs area resistant Acadians; several boarded the schooner of Joseph Gauthier which he had hidden from the English. Jean Baptiste Thibodeau and Charles Thibodeau seem to have been in this group. They went first to Saint Domingue Island in the Caribbean, then in mid 1764 came to the haven of the new Spanish government in New Orleans. Quickly they were settled above the German Coast on the Mississippi in what is now St. James Parish. They were among the first Acadians to arrive in Louisiana.

Four families -including that of our ancestor Olivier Landry -were the very first Acadians to arrive in Louisiana and to also have their names recorded. The family of Jean Baptiste Cormier, a brother of Magdeleine Cormier, and that of Olivier Landry were among the four. All had been deported in 1755 from the Beaubassin -Chipoudie area and sent to Georgia. Per a register, by August of 1763 they had relocated to Charles Town (Charleston), South Carolina. Within weeks, the group embarked on a ship which sailed first to New York then to Mobile where they arrived February, 1764. From there they were quickly relocated to Cabannocoe' (St. James Parish). The Spanish land grant plantation of Jean Baptiste Thibodeau -by 1764 now 28 years old, is there on the left bank, a good indicator that he was, as a ward of his uncle Jean Baptiste Cormier, among this very first group of Acadians to arrive in Louisiana.

While many of the Acadians in the area around Fort Beausejour had escaped to the north, some, notably the Broussard brothers, their brother-in-law Charles Thibodeau (not our Charles), his brothers Amand and Olivier Thibodeau, for years harassed the British from their forest retreats.

In November 1764 Joseph Broussard led a group of 193 Acadians to Saint Domingue island where they changed ships then arrived in New Orleans in February 1765 and went on to the Attakapas area that same month. By then, Olivier Thibodeau, the other Charles Thibodeau's older son, had married Madeleine Broussard. Their daughter Marguerite Anne Thibodeau was christened May 10, 1765 at the "Poste des Attakapas" (St. Martinsville) by Father Jean Francois as "cure' de la Nouvelle Acadie des Attakapas". This was the 1<sup>st</sup> recognized christening of an Acadian child in Louisiana. Olivier Thibodeau remained in the Bayou Teche region. He, his brother Amand, and the other children of that Charles Thibodeau are the patriarchs of most Thibodeauxs in that area of Louisiana.

Charles Thibodeau (our Charles) was 15 years of age and his brother Jean Baptiste Thibodeau was 19 years of age when the deportation occurred in 1755. Jean Baptiste Thibodeau is listed in the census of 1766 born about 1736, alone, and owner of one gun and six arpents of land on the left bank of the Mississippi. Let me explain: An arpent is close to an acre. The left bank means on the left bank descending as used in history. Prior to the advent of steam boats in the mid 1800's rivers had been used almost 100% for downstream traffic. Consider: London is mainly on the left bank of the Thames so reference is made to the other side as the right bank. Paris is on the right bank of the Seine so the other side is called the left bank



## 4<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

### CHARLES THIBODEAU 1740 - 1820

Charles Thibodeau (our Charles) -shown as married -is in Louisiana first noted along with his brother Jean Baptiste Thibodeau -single – in 1764 and again on January 3, 1770 as members of militia on the left bank of Cabannoc (St. James Parish). Charles is noted in the first Spanish census of January 1, 1777 as being age 36 and a resident of the left (east) bank of the Mississippi in what is now St. James Parish. Jean Baptiste and Charles Thibodeau are listed in the militia with Spanish Governor Bernardo de Galvez on August 27, 1779 when he defeated the British at Manchac and Baton Rouge and are thus Revolutionary War Veterans and ancestors for DAR purposes. This is the last report of Jean Baptiste Thibodeau. It appears that Charles acquired the 6 arpents of his brother Jean Baptiste Thibodeau. Charles would in 1782 name a son (our ancestor) for his brother Jean Baptiste Thibodeau. In time Charles' older son Paul would own that land near Convent as shown on Persac's famous map of 1855. Per the January 1, 1777 census, Charles was married to Marie Landry, age 25; their children were Marguerite 7, Magdelaine 5, Jean Charles 2, and Marie infant. Thus, Charles seems to have married Marie Landry about 1768 in Louisiana. She was the daughter of Olivier Landry and Marie Cecile Poirier who as noted earlier are one of the four Acadian families first arrived and recorded by name in Louisiana. Seven more children of Charles and Marie were yet to arrive. Their daughter Marguerite seems to have died young. Charles was successful not just at having children; at the 1<sup>st</sup> American census in 1810 he was recorded as a farmer and owned 16 slaves.

Four documents obtained by me from the St. James Parish courthouse have been reviewed for information. The courthouse is in Convent on the left (east) bank of the Mississippi. The author of this booklet notes that these documents had not been researched by published Thibodeaux genealogists. As a result, their findings were confused and in error. My attempts to set the records straight have been fruitful; Shirley Thibodeaux LeBlanc in June, 2001 incorporated this data of mine in her now online huge "Famille de Thibodeau" book. The four documents are in French and inform as follows:

No. 193 is the Succession of Charles Thibodeau dated November 8, 1820. Charles Thibodeau had died September 25, 1820 at age 80. As noted in the document, his wife Marie Landry had preceded him in death. The Succession identifies ten children (recall that Marguerite died young) in birth order as: 1. Marie Magdeleine Thibodeau who is married to Paul Bourgeois; 2. Jean Charles Thibodeau; 3. Marie Thibodeau who is deceased but is survived by her husband Jean Louis Bourgeois and five children; 4. **Pierre Olivier Thibodeau**; 5. Louis Bazile Barthelemy Thibodeau; 6. **Jean Baptiste Thibodeau**; 7. Marie Anasthasie Thibodeau; 8. Marie Celeste Thibodeau who is married to Joseph Caillouet; 9. Paul Thibodeau; and 10. Louis Joseph Thibodeau. The Succession appoints Jean Charles Thibodeau as Curateur ad-bona and identifies Marie Anasthasie Thibodeau as an incompetent and appoints Paul Thibodeau her guardian and provides Creole slaves Margeline and Louise to care for her. The nine other siblings defer receipt of benefits from the estate of Charles Thibodeau.



No. 119 is the June 1, 1825 Succession of Marie Anasthasie Thibodeau who died December 18, 1824 at age 36. The document is signed by Jean Charles Thibodeau and Paul Thibodeau.

No. 120 is the June 1, 1825 listing of the deferred assets of Charles Thibodeau totaling \$1,874 piastres. Succession proceeds of \$208.27 piastres go to each of the 9 remaining siblings or their estates and were distributed by Paul Thibodeau. By then, in addition to Marie Thibodeau Bourgeois who had died earlier, **Pierre Olivier Thibodeau** and **Jean Baptiste Thibodeau** are also dead.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

### JEAN BAPTISTE THIBODEAU 1782 - 1824

The 4<sup>th</sup> document mentioned above is actually the earliest document. It is a Civil Contract dated February 14, 1809. The contract provides the terms of marriage between Jean Baptiste Thibodeau, son of Charles Thibodeau and Marie Landry (deceased), and Marie Natalie Martin, daughter of Joseph Martin and Marie Charpentier. The contract was signed by Jean Baptiste Thibodeau in his own hand and by Marie Natalie Martin with an "X". It was witnessed by Jean Landry, Jean Baptiste Caillouet, and Paul Bourgeois and by the Notary Ex Officio, Michel Cantrelle. Jean Baptiste and Marie Natalie are ancestors of the Bayou Boeuf Thibodauxs.

There is an older, incomplete version of the origin of the Thibodauxs of Bayou Boeuf. That version holds that there were five brothers who arrived in Louisiana, married, and raised families. That version is sort of true, but as we have seen, only brothers Charles Thibodeau and Jean Baptiste Thibodeau arrived in Louisiana. What we know now is that the five brothers were born in Louisiana and were sons of Charles Thibodeau. In that older version the 5 were named Charles, Joseph, Olivier, Paul and Jean Baptiste; Charles is really Jean Charles, Joseph is Joseph Louis, Olivier is Pierre Olivier and Jean Baptiste is correct. It is true that these five brothers married and had families. But, in addition, there was brother Louis Bazile Barthelemy Thibodeau who either did not marry or had no children. And there were sisters Marie Magdeleine, Marie, and Marie Celeste who married and had children and sisters Marguerite and Anasthasie who did not marry. Thus there were 11 children, not 5. Clearly, the older version, while valid, limited itself to the five Thibodaux males who had offspring.

The census of 1810 had identified the newly wed Jean Baptiste Thibodeau in St. James Parish with his wife. His father and his brothers Jean Charles and Pierre Olivier are also shown in 1810 as head of households in St. James Parish. By 1820, however, Jean Baptiste and Pierre Olivier had moved to Lafourche Interior. Records show all the others remained on the east bank of the Mississippi in St. James Parish. Considerable information is available on the descendants of the 8 children of Charles Thibodeau who married and had children; however, only information on the families of Jean Baptiste Thibodeau and Pierre Olivier Thibodeau is presented here. Somehow, also in 1810 these two brothers had jointly acquired a tract of land on the left bank of Bayou Lafourche between Thibodaux and Raceland near Lafourche Crossing. By 1814 Jean Baptiste Thibodeau had acquired a tract near Raceland across Bayou Lafourche from the Catholic Cemetery; Pierre Olivier Thibodeau retained the earlier tract. The 1820 census identifies Jean Baptiste Thibodeau in Lafourche Interior with his wife, two male children less than 10, one male



10-16, one female 10-16, and 8 slaves. Jean Baptiste Thibodeau died July 12, 1824 at age 42 in Lafourche Parish.

### “ROSELLA” 1814

Marie Natalie Martin, widow of Jean Baptiste Thibodeau, later married Evariste Lepine and had 5 more children. Their son Oscar Lepine was born in 1835 and later married Rosella Folse. The plantation house “Rosella” located at 3515 Hwy 308 on Bayou Lafourche near Raceland is reported to have been built in 1814 by Jean Baptiste Thibodeau on the land he had acquired in Lafourche Interior. Indeed, the house is also known as the “Jean Baptiste House”. The 1980 copyrighted book “The Longest Street” pictures the house on page 15 and describes the house and its history. Present owners Louis and Linda St. Martin have gracefully restored the house and grounds. Further, they have registered the eight magnificent live oaks as members of the Live Oak Society. The two largest (Registry numbers 3857 & 3858 on [Louisianagardenclubs.org](http://Louisianagardenclubs.org) LIVE OAK SOCIETY) have been named by the St. Martins for Jean Baptiste Thibodeau and Marie Natalie Martin. The “Jean Baptiste Thibodeau” is 27 feet in girth and ranks as 55<sup>th</sup> largest in the now 6,205 member Live Oak Society. Jean Baptiste Thibodeau’s property is enclosed now by a high white fence and is visible from the St. Mary Pamela Catholic Cemetery where Jean Baptiste Thibodeau and his wife Marie Natalie Martin are buried. The cemetery is directly across Bayou Lafourche.

### ST. MARY PAMELA CEMETERY NEAR RACELAND

This cemetery is unusual in that it is not in Raceland but a mile upstream on Bayou Lafourche. And, the cemetery is unique in that it was founded in 1797, more than fifty years before the Church founding. Surely Jean Baptiste Thibodeau and his wife are buried there. There are iron crosses now imbedded in concrete but which earlier had marked graves now lost. Likely two of the crosses are for Jean Baptiste and Marie Natalie. The Oscar Lepine - Rosella Folse Tomb is the largest in the cemetery and is near the Charles Melance Thibodaux And Family tomb. Both tombs face the lands pioneered by Jean Baptiste.

### JEAN BAPTISTE THIBODEAU’S THREE CHILDREN

Jean Baptiste Thibodeau and his wife had three children: Charles Gratien Thibodaux, Jean Felicien Thibodaux (forebear of the Bayou Boeuf Thibodauxs), and Marie Seraphine Thibodaux (also a forebear of the Bayou Boeuf Thibodauxs). Gratien and Felicien were obviously named for those Saints on whose feast days they were born. Their sister was named for the Seraphim, the highest order of Angels. Charles Gratien Thibodaux seems to have married twice. By wife Mary Ann Smith he had Charles Stanhope Thibodaux who died at age 16. Mary Ann Smith died May 27, 1871. Then, by wife Florida Edrington he had Alida Thibodaux and Baptiste Charles Thibodaux who obviously was named for his grandfather and father and –perhaps unwittingly – his great grandfather. The descendants of Batiste Charles Thibodaux are described by Diana Monson Thibodaux in her February, 2000 Thibodaux booklet. Seraphine married in Lafourche Parish on October 16, 1830 Paul Silvain Thibodaux who was a son of Pierre Olivier Thibodeau - 1<sup>st</sup> cousins married. Paul and Marie Seraphine then had eight children, one of whom was Celeste Felicie Thibodaux born February 15, 1846. Confused? –My separate eight generation table will elucidate! Another child of Pierre Olivier and Marie Seraphine was Marie Caliste Thibodaux born October 11, 1836..



## 6<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

JEAN FELICIEN THIBODAUX 1813 - 1897

Spelling of the family name varied until the middle of the 1800's and then settled on the present day Thibodaux so that spelling is used in the balance of this booklet. A glance at the documents shows how the x came to be added to the name. Many documents in French show that the u at the end of names displays a flourish that looks like an x. Indeed, the signature of Jean Baptiste Thibodeau displays a large clear x at the end! Jean Felicien Thibodaux was born in 1814 and married Celeste Courcier in Lafourche Parish October 17, 1833. Celeste was the daughter of Auguste Courcier and Marie Louise Cadeau. Jean Felicien, known as Felicien, died June 13, 1897 at age 83 at Coteau Folse –near Raceland –in Lafourche Parish.

Jean Felicien Thibodaux and his wife Celeste Courcier had 7 children as follows: 1. Felix Felicien who married Marie Caliste Thibodaux –they had seven children; 2. Joseph who married Emma Birdsall –they had three children; 3. Celestine who married 2/3/1855 Louis Nicolas –they had thirteen children; 4. Anastasie who married 6/2/1860 Alidor Robichaux –they had five children; 5. **Charles Melance Thibodaux** who married **Celeste Felicie Thibodaux** –they had thirteen children; 6. Marie Louise who married 5/10/1870 Charlie Rome –they had three children; 7. Celina who married Charles Alidor Folse –they had five children. Felix Felicien and Charles Melance are the forebears of the Bayou Boeuf Thibodauxs.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION (AGAIN)

PIERRE OLIVIER THIBODEAU 1779 – 1831

Pierre Olivier Thibodeau was born January 31, 1779 in St. James Parish. He was a son of Charles Thibodeau and Marie Landry. He married August 2, 1802 in St. James Parish Marie Genevieve LeBlanc who had been born in 1780. She was a daughter of Ezac LeBlanc and Marie Rose Theriot. Pierre Olivier Thibodeau and his wife Marie Genevieve LeBlanc were to have one daughter then six sons. The seven children were : 1. Marie Seraphine born 9/1/1803, 2. Pierre Olivier II born 12/8/1805, 3. Jean Adrien born 6/19/1808, 4. **Paul Silvain** (forebear of the Bayou Boeuf Thibodauxs) born 6/19/1810, 5. Joseph Edmond born 9/15/1812, 6. Michel Aurelien born 4/16/1826, & 7. Augustin Emilien born 2/13/1821. Pierre Olivier Thibodeau like his father and brothers Jean Charles and Jean Baptiste was recorded in St. James Parish in the first American census in 1810 as head of household. By 1820, however, brothers Pierre Olivier Thibodeau and Jean Baptiste Thibodeau had moved to Lafourche Interior. When his brother Jean Baptiste Thibodeau acquired a tract of land close to Raceland, Pierre Olivier Thibodeau became sole owner of their original tract near Lafourche Crossing. Pierre Olivier Thibodeau later sold that tract which later yet became part of the storied Reinzi Plantation.

Pierre Olivier Thibodeau died November 29, 1821 at 42 years of age. Oddly, his younger brother Jean Baptiste Thibodeau also died at age 42. Marie Genevieve LeBlanc, wife of Pierre Olivier died January 5, 1876 at the ripe old age of 96. The seven children of Pierre Olivier Thibodaux and Marie Genevieve LeBlanc were destined to provide many grandchildren. Only the family of their son Paul Silvain Thibodeau (forebear of the Bayou Boeuf Thibodauxs) and his wife Marie Seraphine Thibodeau (also a forebear) is described here.



## 6<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION (AGAIN)

PAUL SILVAIN THIBODAUX 1810 – 1869

MARIE SERAPHINE THIBODAUX 1816 – 1849

Refer again to the EIGHT GENERATIONS outline. Aha! First cousins married! And with much result! Paul and Marie Seraphine married October 16, 1830 and in time had in birth order eleven children: 1) Paul Jean Baptiste who married Odile Anastasia Breaux, 2) Theophile Olivier who married Julia Josephine Barras –two sons became Medical Doctors, 3) Marie Helena who married Victor J. Knobbloch, 4) Marie Caliste who married Felix Felicien Thibodaux (brother of Charles Melance), 5) Oscar, 6) Marguerite Eglantine who married Wellington F. Hebert, 7), Joseph Ulysse 8) Pierre Alcide, 9) **Celeste Felicie** who married **Charles Melance Thibodaux**, 10) Marguerite Olympe, and 11) Francois Thelesmar who married Marie Azelina Chauvin. Son Theophile Olivier Thibodaux married Julia Josephine Barras; they had three children two of whom became Medical Doctors.

### THE BAYOU BOEUF THIBODAUXS

Felix Felicien Thibodaux was born November 18, 1837 and married September 10, 1857 Marie Caliste Thibodaux, a daughter of Paul and Marie Seraphine Thibodaux. Charles Melance Thibodaux was born August 5, 1844 at Coteau Folse in Lafourche Parish and married October 7, 1865 Celeste Felicie Thibodaux, also a daughter of Paul and Marie Seraphine –brothers had married sisters who were their second cousins. Charles and his brother Felix sold most of their Coteau Folse property near Raceland, moved to Bayou Boeuf March 20, 1881 and began acquiring property along the Bayou. Their first acquisitions were from the Penisson family of Bayou Lourse. One unusual purchase was the real inheritance of Liz Lyons McKennelly, daughter of Daniel Morrison. She had defied her parents by marrying and sold her rights to inheritance to the Thibodaux brothers. All together, the brothers acquired about 3,500 acres or about 5.5 square miles of property. Their principal holding was 3,300 acres along the east bank of Bayou Boeuf from Lake Palourde on the north to Bayou Chene on the south.

In time, Charles and Felix divided their property; Felix kept the center part bounded on the north by a section line just north of the Southern Pacific Railroad and on the south by Bayou Caroline. That Bayou is very small and in 2011 almost unseen near the offices of McDermott. After Felix's July 6, 1894 death and burial in St. Mary Cemetery near Raceland his property was divided among his heirs. Later, portions were sold by the heirs.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

CHARLES MELANCE THIBODAUX 1844 – 1911

CELESTE FELICIE THIBODAUX 1846 - 1901

Charles Melance Thibodaux and his family in 1881 moved into the large plantation house which had been built in 1832 by the then owner George Schwing. When Charles first moved into the house it was as caretaker. In 1896 he bought the house and surrounding property from then owner Newell Tilton. He also bought property known as "The Crescent Farm" on the west side of the Bayou from the Coleman family. For good reason, the house became known as the "Hard



Times" plantation. Later the Charles Melance Thibodaux family came to call it "The Big House". In 2012 "The Big House" has been abandoned for many years and is near collapse. Charles and Celeste Thibodaux had parented 13 children in "The Big House". Celeste Thibodaux died January 1, 1901 at age 54. Charles Thibodaux on June 11, 1903 at age 57 married Laura Lejuene; they had no children. Charles Melance Thibodaux died December 30, 1911 at age 65. He and his wife Celeste, and other family members, are buried in the large, attractive, well maintained C. M. Thibodaux Family tomb in the St. Mary Pamela Church cemetery near Raceland.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

### PROGENY OF CHARLES MELANCE & CELESTE FELICIE THIBODAU

- |   |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1) Charles Neal Thibodaux                         | born 7/31/1866  | died 12/28/1946 |
| m Elda Valerie Morvant 7/11/1887 & had 5 children |                 |                 |
| 2) Leon Eli Thibodaux                             | born 10/18/1867 | died 1/18/1938  |
| m Fannie Coleman 12/19/1893 & had 4 children      |                 |                 |
| 3) Willie Paul Thibodaux                          | born 8/1870     | died 7/ /1957   |
| m Ada Murray & had 3 children                     |                 |                 |
| 4) Theoline Marie Thibodaux                       | born 4/8/1872   | died 10/01/1948 |
| m Wade H. Coleman, Jr. 1/8/1896 & had 6 children  |                 |                 |
| 5) George Alcide Thibodaux                        | born 1/2/1874   | died 7/29/1931  |
| 6) Clay Felicien Thibodaux                        | born 10/8/1875  | died 8/21/1960  |
| m Emma Mary Penisson 6/8/1906 & had 6 children    |                 |                 |
| 7) Virginia Celeste "Bougie" Thibodaux            | born 9/8/1877   | died 8/17/1967  |
| 8) Tilton Paul "Jim" Thibodaux                    | born 4/13/1879  | died 4/17/1971  |
| m Novey Rogers & had 7 children                   |                 |                 |
| 9) Wiltz David "Tavise" Thibodaux                 | born 12/24/1880 | died 5/7/1964   |
| m Carrie Gonzales                                 |                 |                 |
| 10) Wilson Daniel Thibodaux                       | born 12/24/1880 | died 1/1/1905   |
| 11) Ida Felicia Thibodaux                         | born 5/30/1883  | died 4/30/1975  |
| m William Burlison Fuhrer 1912 & had 2 children   |                 |                 |
| 12) Mary Cleona Thibodaux                         | born 8/5/1885   | died about 1889 |
| 13) Charles M. "Parrain" Thibodaux, Jr.           | born 6/5/1887   | died 11/18/1956 |

## C. M. THIBODAU CO., LTD

The C. M. Thibodaux Co., LTD. chartered November 17, 1912 is named for Charles Melance Thibodaux who at his December 30, 1911 intestate death left 11 children who formed the Company to avoid dividing C. M.'s property into 11 parts or selling all the land. There were 330 shares authorized at \$100 each representing 30 shares per sibling. The eleven siblings subscribed for 30 shares each initially; the Company was in business. George Alcide and Charles Melance, Jr. in short order sold their shares back to the Company. The nine other siblings—Charles Neal, Leon Eli, Willie Paul, Marie Theoline (wife of Wade H. Coleman), Clay, Virginia, Tilton, Wiltz,



and Ida (wife of William A. Fuhrer) continued to hold their shares. The 60 returned shares of George and Charles Melance, Jr. were later acquired by participants. Thus, all 330 authorized shares had been distributed.

When the Company was chartered in 1912 the eleven participants ranged in age from 46 to 29. Some had left Bayou Boeuf; some had married and had children. And, through the years there was much selling, giving, and leaving of shares between shareholders and descendants with the result that shares in 2012 are held by descendants of only five of the original eleven. The listing by Certificates reflects most of the transfers. Current shareholders are shown in GREEN. Updating of the current listing is deserved.

Charles Melance Thibodaux had raised sugar cane from about the year 1880. After his death, cane farming was continued by the C. M. Thibodaux Company until their last crop in 1929. The Company built about 37 houses along Bayou Boeuf for rent; land and a building for a school were also provided. It was the only school on the south end of Assumption Parish. The school and several of the houses were located opposite the St. Andrew Cemetery. The road along Bayou L'Ourse and south along Bayou Boeuf was part of the Old Spanish Trail. Long before that Indians (pardon me, Native Americans) camped along Bayou Boeuf. The middens at their campsites yielded many Palourdes (clam shells). Guess how Lake Palourde got its name!

It is hard to realize now that neither Bayou Boeuf nor Bayou Chene were anywhere near as wide then as they are now. A bridge was built across the very narrow Bayou Chene to Avoca Island and went on Avoca to another bridge at Morgan City. The children used Clay's Model T to get to high school in Morgan City. Clay Felicien Thibodaux and family lived in one of the houses; he also had a small country store adjacent. Later Clay's son Halley and his family lived next door. (An aside: Helen and this writer visited Clay and Emma in 1954 prior to our marriage. Naturally Emma's coffee was really strong. I took my coffee black and bragged on it to her -she allowed that I would make Helen a good husband! It's worked now for 57 years.) Those two houses and the store were located under what is now the new Highway 90 bridge.

Tenants farmed four Company tracts. The family's harvested cane was loaded by Thibodaux family members including George, "Parrain" (Charles Melance, Jr.), and Virginia who had continued to live in The Big House, and Ida who had returned with her two children to the Big House after the death of her husband William Burlison Fuhrer. "Tavise" (Wiltz David) and "Jim" (Tilton Paul) had also returned to Bayou Boeuf. They would load the cane onto barges using a mule driven winch pole. The barges were pushed by a paddle wheel steamboat down Bayou Boeuf to the Pharr landing on the Atchafalaya then to the Pharr Company refinery on Bayou Teche. Payment usually was made once a year after grinding and refining. The Company was not paid in 1928 and again in 1929 when Pharr went bankrupt. That ended cane farming. The Company then operated a syrup mill using regrowth cane for a few years and sold railway cross ties.

Then they bought three rail cars of cattle but lost their prize Brahma bull to ticks and ended by selling 165 head at \$11 per head. Next, they rented out land at \$3 an acre to Arthur Chapuis from Crowley for 17 years of rice farming. After Chapuis left, Halley Thibodaux had a go at rice



farming for a few years. Over time, none of the Company's endeavors were very successful. In time farming gave way to oil and the Company became a major lessor to builders and suppliers of the oil and gas industry. J. Ray McDermott in 1952 took a 50 year lease on 1,200 acres. That lease has been renewed. In 2012 most of the land along Bayou Boeuf is under lease. The discovery in 1999 of the deep, prolific C. M. Thibodaux Co. No. 1 led to the drilling of the C. M. Thibodaux Co. No. 2 which experienced a devastating blowout. After that was resolved more wells were drilled, completed, and produced to good effect.