

SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF THE LOUISIANA DEMOURELLE ANCESTRY

(Cathy Lemoine Sturgell, July 2023; Addendum added January 2024)

In the spring of 2022, I was asked by Donna Demourelle Johnson if I would be willing to perform a targeted search of the sacramental records of France to see if I could determine the ancestry of **Humbert De Mourel / de Moyrue**, her 5th great-grandfather. As Donna explained at that time, very little was known about the origins of Humbert although she was able to provide the following facts that she'd gathered through her research:

- Humbert was believed to have been born about 1710 in the French department of Savoie;
- In his 1735 marriage record to Jeanne Elisabeth Boissinot recorded at Mobile, his parents were identified as *Jacques de Moyrue and of Françoise Chevalier of St. Jean de Maurienne, Bishopric of Annecy in Savoy*;
 - The groom was identified as *Hubert de Moyrue*;
- The father of Humbert was sometimes identified with the first name of "Santiago" which had led to some speculation that his origins could have been from somewhere other than France;
 - One researcher had also provided information to Donna that the surname Demourelle was of Spanish origin;

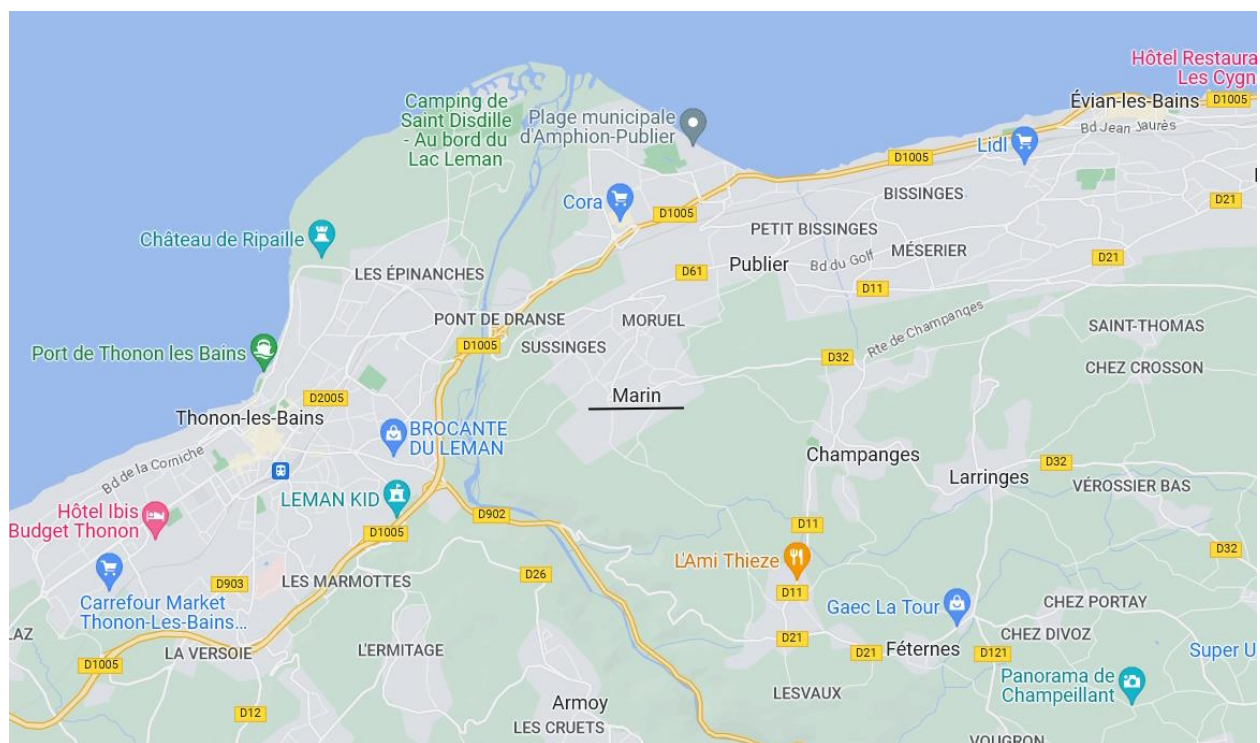
Due to other projects and commitments, I didn't begin my research on this family until very recently. My first task was to search for additional information that might be of assistance in my research. Some of the items I focused on were as follows:

- A 1739 Mobile baptismal record of his son, "Louis Demarue" in which Louis' father was identified as *Hubert Demarue, native of Mann in Savoy, Diocese of Annecy*;
- A 1773 New Orleans document in which François Humbert was identified as *Humberto de Mourel called Sanquartier (St. Cartier)*;
- The 1790 New Orleans burial record of Humbert was identified as *Humberto de Mourelle, son of Santiago de Mourelle, native of Sancartie of the parish of Marain, in the province of Sabre in Savoy*;

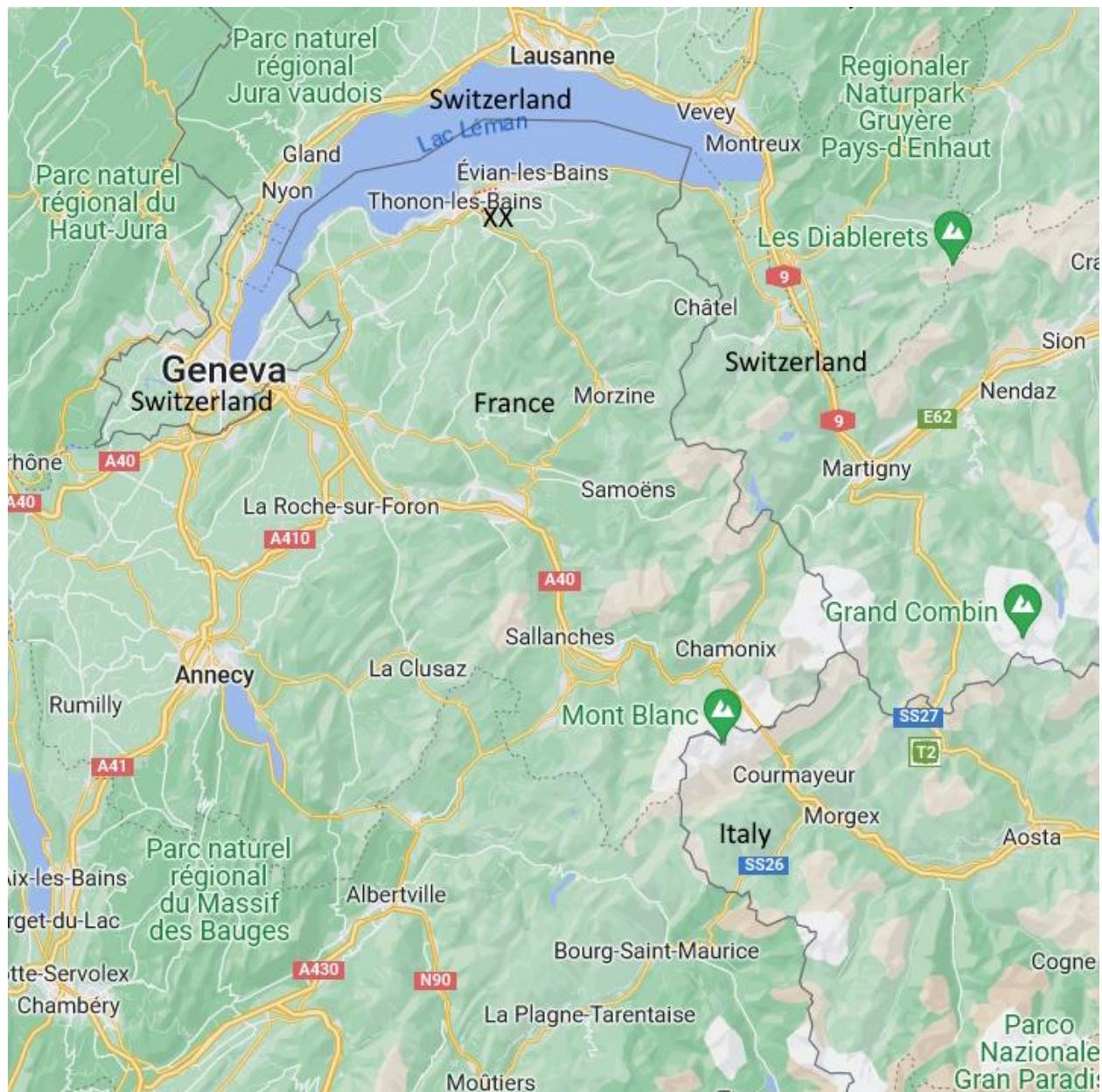
After gathering this information and determining that there weren't any existing towns named Mann or Sancartie/Marain in Savoie, I began my research in the town of Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne – the town identified in the 1735 marriage record of Humbert to Jeanne Boissinot. I was quickly able to determine that neither the Demourelle or Chevalier surname (or a variation thereof) existed in Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne during the

timeframe of about 1700-1715. I then searched through several nearby towns with the same results.

Upon reexamining the small bits of information that I had about Humbert, something caught my eye: the 1739 Mobile baptismal record of Humbert's son Louis which states that his father was a native of Mann. Although I couldn't find a digitized copy of that baptismal record in order to examine it, it occurred to me that possibly the first 'n' in the name Mann might be, instead, 'ri' as in Marin. I had seen this type of translation error in the past. I searched for a town by that name and found that one existed in the French department of Haute-Savoie, approximately 75 miles due north of Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne. Upon looking at a map, I discovered that there was a town called Moruel slight less than one-half mile away. I suspected that I was in the right place, and, within a few minutes of searching the sacramental register of Marin for the appropriate time period, I found Humbert's baptismal record.



Marin is located about 2 miles south of the shore of Lake Geneva (sometimes called Lac Léman in French). It is in the middle of this lake that the borders of France and Switzerland meet although, as you can see in the map on the next page, Switzerland surrounds Marin on three sides. Approximately 40 miles southeast of Marin is the country of Italy.



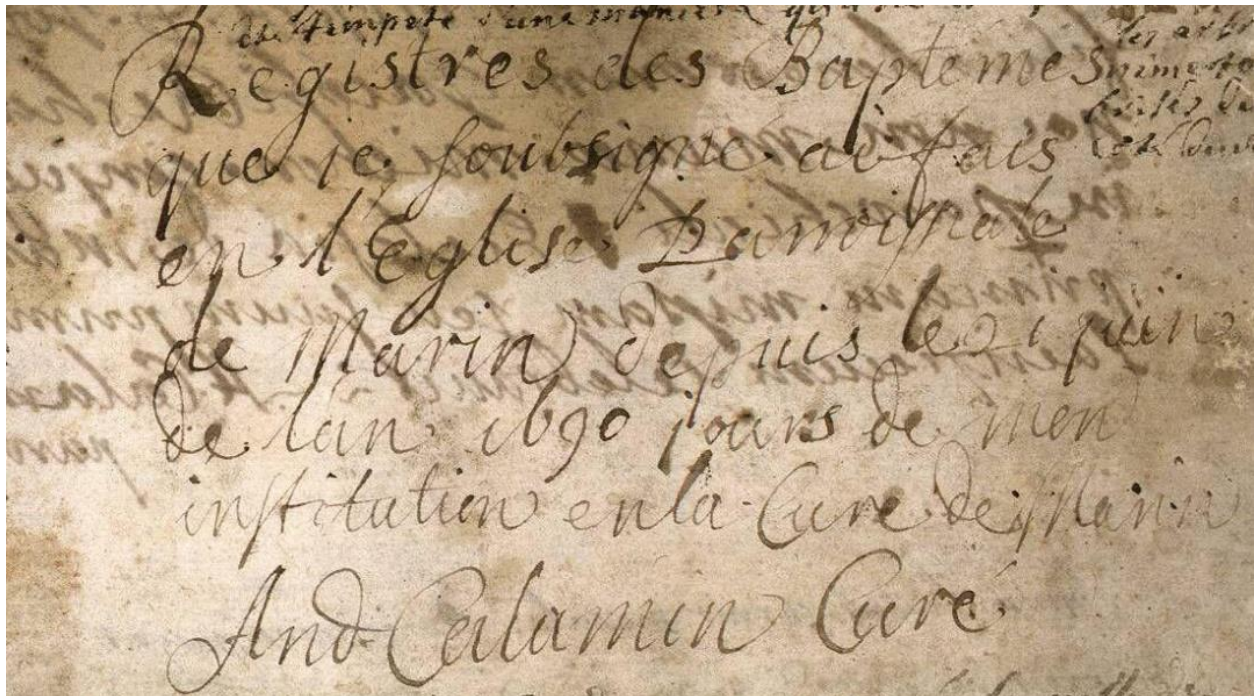
'XX' marks the approximate place of the town of Marin.

While reading this document, please keep in mind that the towns and villages which were the home of the Demoeruel clan during the scope covered by this document were part of the Duché de Savoie. The Duché was a stronghold of the Holy Roman Empire from the 15th to the 18th century, and corresponded to all territories obtained by the House of Savoie since its emergence in the 11th century. In the 18th century, it was subdivided into provinces and municipalities including the province of Chablais which corresponds to the area of the current French department of Haute-Savoie directly south of Lake Geneva (Lac Léman). (To understand the lives of this family, you might check here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Savoy)

FINDINGS AND DISCOVERIES

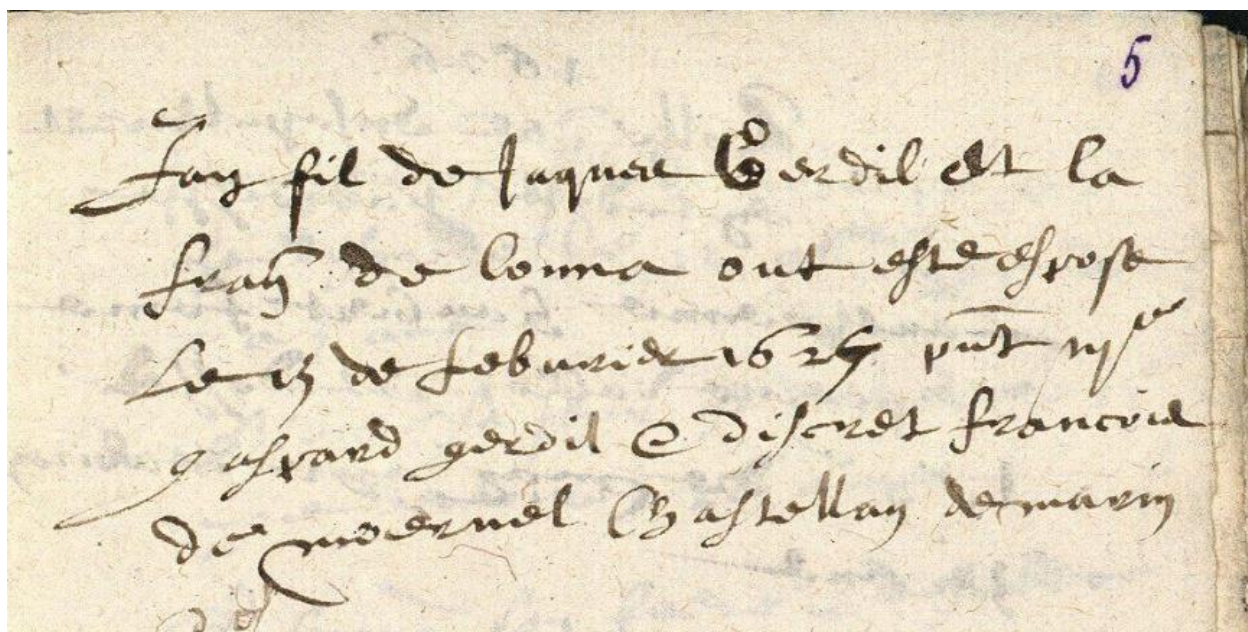
THE SURNAME

- Humbert's surname on his baptismal record was written as DEMOIRUEL;
 - Upon further inspection of the Marin sacramental register which covered the period of Humbert DEMOIRUEL's birth and other significant religious events which also occurred during that time, it became readily apparent that the surname was consistently spelled as DEMOIRUEL in that register during the period from 1690 until 1737 at which time the Catholic Parish of Marin was served by a single Priest by the name of A. Calamin (Register E DEPOT 166/GG 4, 1690-1783);
 - The Priest who replaced Father Calamin at the beginning of 1738 appears to have spelled it as DEMOERUEL;



First page of Marin sacramental register in which Humbert's name appears

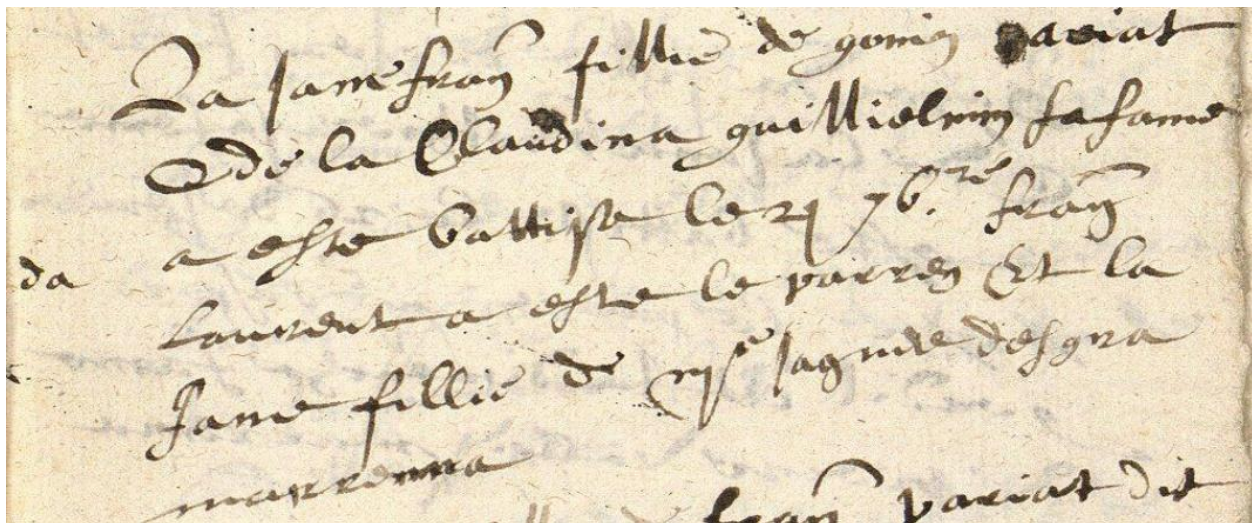
- One of the first occurrences of the surname appears in another Marin sacramental register which covers the years 1626-1791. This is the only other register available in Marin for the years prior to 1690. (This register - 4E20 - is not a true register, but, instead, it appears to be a collection of loose pages from wide range of years.) One of the first, if not the first, occurrence of the surname is dated 15 February 1627. In the record below, *Francois de Moeruel Chastellan de Marin* was a witness to a marriage;



- In the majority of the early documents found in the 4E20 register, the surname was spelled as DEMOERUEL or DE MOERUEL;
 - There were a few instances in which the surname was spelled de Morel, but this was not typical (although there is always the possibility that this was another family although I have my doubts about that);
- There were also multiple occurrences in 4E20 in which an unrelated first and last name appear followed by *de Moeruel* (or a slight variation) likely indicating that this person lived in the nearby village of Moruel but was not a member of the DEMOERUEL family;
 - Examples: François Pariat de Moeruel and Claude Laurent de Moeruel;
- I also used notarial records in my research. These records cover the period from 1697-1723;
 - The surname was almost exclusively written as DEMOERUEL in those documents;
- I believe that the original surname was likely **DEMOERUEL**;
 - Note that the surname sometimes appeared in the sacramental registers with a French tréma accent mark (two dots above a vowel) although it often appeared above different vowels depending on the author of the record. The French tréma is found over three vowels - ë, ï, ü - and usually indicates that the vowel preceding it is pronounced distinctly from the vowel containing the tréma. (Example: Noël is pronounced as NO-L.) Since the tréma appeared on this surname on various letters of the name depending on the originator of the document, and there was no consistency in the

placement of the tréma in the surname, I've did not include it in this document.

- In the Demoeruel ancestry presented in the following pages, you will see an alias name of DeGras (sometimes written as DeGraz, DeGroz, DeGraux, etc.) attached to the Demoeruel surname. An alias or 'dit' name indicates that the person was called' or 'known as' that name, and it is often used to differentiate one person from another or one family line from another. It can also be a reference to a place, occupation, etc.;
 - Attempts to identify the origins of the DeGras 'dit' name were not successful;
 - Most interestingly, however, there were multiple entries in the first Marin sacramental register (4E20) in which the surname of DeGras (or variation thereof) appeared without the name of Demoeruel. In the baptismal record below, the following appears at the end of the document: "Jance (or Janne) fille de ___ Jaques(?) **Desgra** marranna (sic)";
 - In some instances, those with the DeGras surname also appear to be the same people who appear with the Demoeruel surname in other documents;
 - Some of those who appear with the DeGras surname are as follows: Jean, Jacque, François, Jean Louis, Pierre, and Anthoine;
 - Therefore, is it possible that the original surname was a variation of DeGras rather than Demoeruel (which might have simply provided the place in which they were living)?



CHALLENGES OF ESTABLISHING FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS

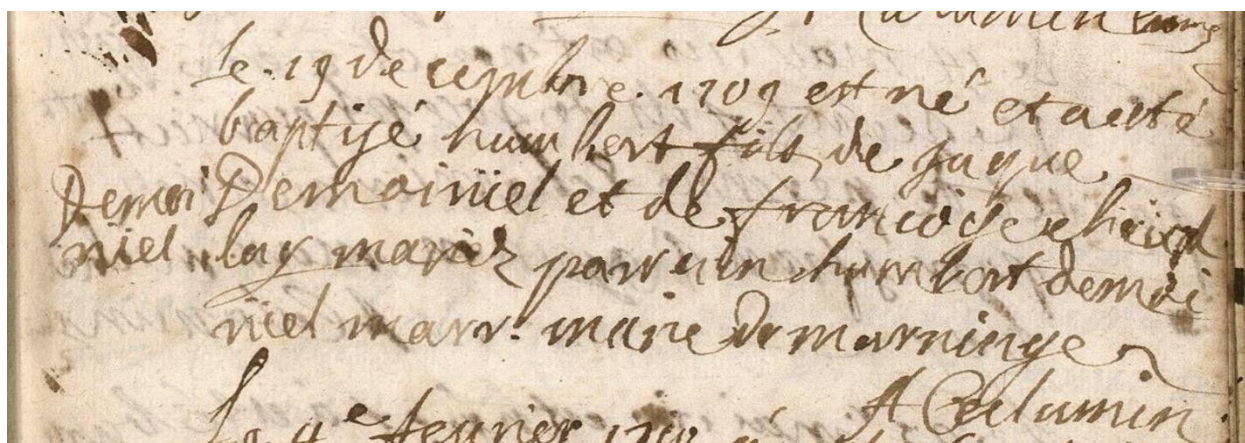
- One of the biggest issues encountered which created roadblocks to fully establishing the ancestry of Humbert was the missing sacramental records;

- Large sections of the Marin sacramental records are missing including the crucial timeframe of about 1640-169x with only a few exceptions in the 1640s and early 1660s (those are found in 4E20);
 - Missing documents in Marin also means that familial relationships in small villages such as Moruel, served by the Catholic Church in Marin, could not be fully established either;
 - Therefore, there were very few sources which provided clues to familial ties to the early period or generation prior to Humbert Demoeruel;
 - In addition, there are other nearby towns such as Publier which, although the records from the critical time period appear to exist (in some cases), they are not found on-line;
 - Other important locations are also missing some documents such as the town of Larringes which served the village of Champanges prior to the 1720s;
- In the available Marin sacramental records, the names of the wives and mothers were almost always missing from sacramental records for the time periods covered in this document. This is fairly unusual. Of course, this made it tremendously difficult to place families into groups even during timeframes in which sacramental documents were available on-line – especially when many of the given names appear to have been used from one Demoeruel family to the next or from one generation to the next.
 - Also, in almost no instances did the records state the relationship of one person to another (such as brother, uncle, etc.) on the sacramental records in Marin although the relationship would appear on occasion in the notarial documents;
- For the most part, I had to rely exclusively on the notarial records to establish the family groups that I was able to determine;
 - As I will address later in the document, there are some groups or relationships that will require further, detailed research of the notarial documents to positively establish familial relationships (Third Generation);
 - However, without doubt, those with the surname of Demoeruel in the town of Marin are closely related;
- One of the final issues that may or may not have had a bearing on the documentation that is available for research is the fact that Haute-Savoie was once part of the Duché de Savoie. At the time that documents of this area were transferred to France from Turin (I believe in 1947), it's very possible that some of the data was missing or not transferred as it should have been. I know that some of the older records found at Haute-Savoie contained in a group called Series SA are records pertaining to the Duché de Savoie. At this time, Series SA records are not available on-line but a listing of them can be found here:
https://archives.hautesavoie.fr/data/etat_sommairead74_sa_1.pdf

ANCESTRY OF HUMBERT DEMOERUEL

FIRST GENERATION

1. **Humbert DEMOERUEL** was born on 19 Dec 1709 and was baptized the same day at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Marin (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France.¹ Humbert became the progenitor of the Demoeruel (now Demourelle) surname in Louisiana.



TRANSCRIPTION

The 19th December 1709 was born and baptized Humbert son of Jaque Demoiruel and of Françoise Chevally, married, godfather Humbert Demoiruel, godmother Marie Demarninge. A Calamin.

SECOND GENERATION

2. **Jacque DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAZ (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ)** was born about 1680. The fact that his baptismal record has not been found is likely due to the missing sacramental registers in the town of Marin. The fact that he was a Marin resident, however, was confirmed in several documents.

¹ France Archives, "Registres paroissiaux et d'état civil (by Departments)," church sacramental registers & civil registers by french departments. Haute-Savoie Department; Marin; Registres; E DEPOT 166/GG 4; Naissances, Mariages, Décès 1690-1783; Image 64 of 382;

Note that the first name of Jacque was almost always spelled as Jacque or Jaque in the records in which his name appears in the French department of Haute-Savoie.

Jacque signed a marriage contract on 20 February 1708 with Péronne BROUTHY (BROTHIER), the daughter of deceased Pierre BROUTHY (BROTHIER) of Marin. In the absence of her father, she was represented by her two brothers – Jean and Jean Claude. In this document, Jacque's father was identified as *Pierre Demoeruel dit Degroz (sic) du Sougey*. The name of his mother did not appear in the contract. The contract was registered by the Tabellion Bureau at Thonon-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), France.²

In the contract, Jacque was referred to as an honest man as was his father, Pierre. The contract, signed at the home of his father, provides proof that his father was still alive in 1708.

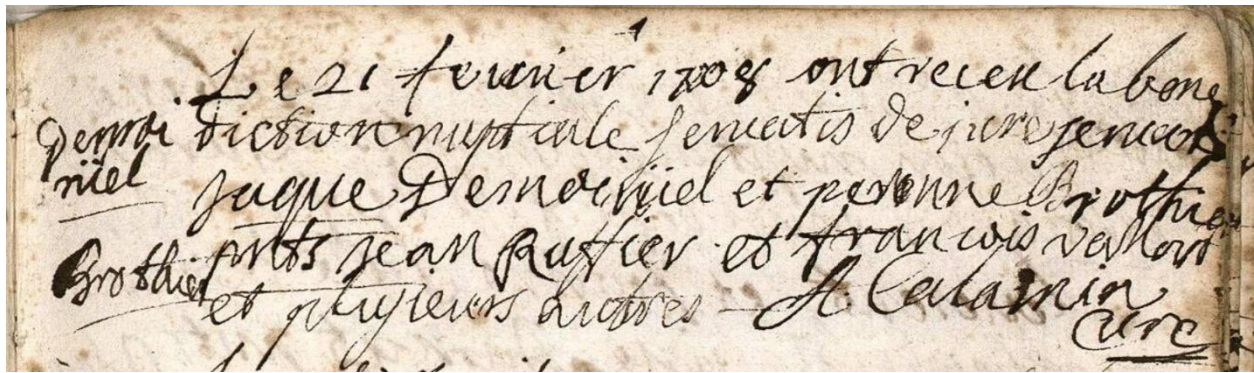
Jacque married Péronne the following day at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Marin (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France.³

Although the current church structure was built in the 1870s, it was built on the site of the Chapel of Sainte-Anne which had existed since, at least, the end of the 12th century. It appears that the Chapel of Sainte-Anne had been placed under the patronage of Saint-Jean-Baptiste by 1480 or earlier. Amazingly, the existing church houses a magnificently sculpted baptistery dating from the 14th century, as well as relics of Sainte-Anne (mother of the Virgin Mary). Therefore, it's likely that this was the baptistery at which some members of the Demoeruel family were baptized.



² France Archives; Haute-Savoie Archives Départementale; Tabellion D'Ancien Régime (1660-1798); Bureau de Thonon-les-Bains; Acte Civil Public/Acte Sous Seing Prive; 1708-1743 / 6 C 1165; 1708 I, Folio 123; Images 276/277 of 1142; Contrat de Mariage entre Jacque demoeruel et Peronne Brouthy de 450 __ de dotte; <https://archives.hautesavoie.fr/ark:/67033/a011400141514XnADQM/daogrp/0#id:300930893?gallery=true&brightness=100.00&contrast=100.00¢er=1120.000,-480.000&zoo>

³ France Archives, "Registres paroissiaux et d'état civil (by Departments)," church sacramental registers & civil registers by french departments; Haute-Savoie Department; Marin; Registres; E DEPOT 166/GG 4; Naissances, Mariages, Décès 1690-1783; Image 336 of 382;

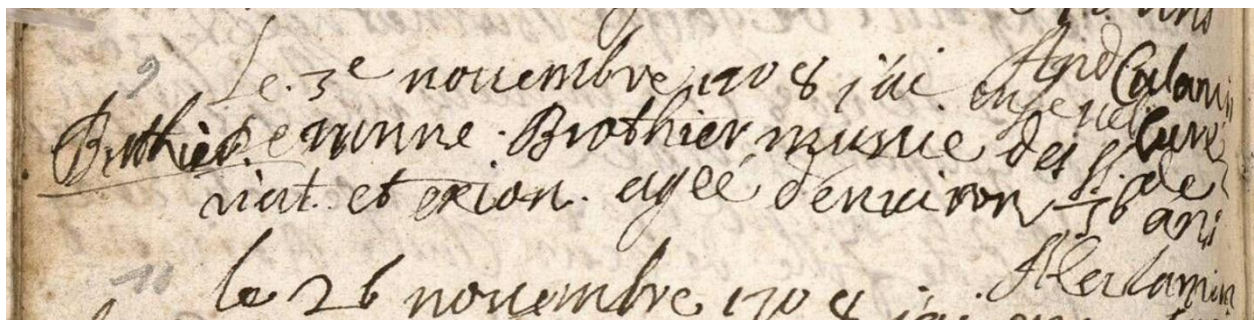


TRANSCRIPTION:

The 21st February 1708 have received the marriage blessing within the law, Jaque Demoiruel and Peronne Brothier, pnts. Jean Ruffier, Francois Vallou, and several others. A. Calamin, Priest.

Note: The term *servatis de jure servandis* which is found in this marriage record and some of the others which took place in Marin meant 'within the norms of the law' or 'in observance of the law'. In the case of a marriage record, this was likely a reference to the observance of the publication of the three required marriage banns which had to take place before a marriage was performed in the Catholic Church.

Eight and one-half months later on 3 November 1708, Péronne BROUTHY (BROTHIER), wife of Jacques DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ), was buried at Marin in the same church in which the couple had celebrated their marriage earlier that year.⁴ It's very possible that she died in childbirth or from complications late in her pregnancy.



⁴ France Archives, "Registres paroissiaux et d'état civil (by Departments)," church sacramental registers & civil registers by french departments; Haute-Savoie Department; Marin; Registres; E DEPOT 166/GG 4; Naissances, Mariages, Décès 1690-1783; Image 247 of 382;

TRANSCRIPTION:

The 3rd November 1708, I buried Peronne Brothier, endowed with the sacraments of viat(icum) and exion (extreme unction), age of about 36 years. A. Calamin. Priest.

Three months later, Jacque married again.

3. **Françoise CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY)** was born about 1673.

Françoise CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY) and Jacque DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ) signed a 'contrat dotal' (dowry contract) on 6 Feb 1709. Just like the contract Jacque signed with his first wife, this one was also registered by the Tabellion Bureau at Thonon-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), France.⁵

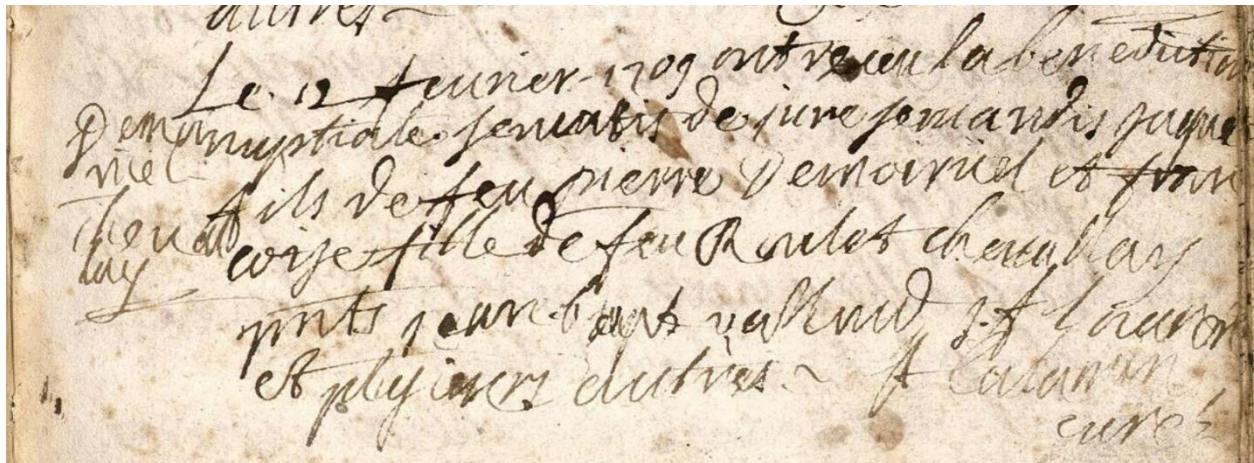
Françoise's father was identified in the contract as "*Roulet Chevalley de Champenge*". 'Champenge' was almost definitely a reference to the nearby village of Champanges.



The couple married on 12 February 1709 at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Marin (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France.⁶

⁵ France Archives; Haute-Savoie Archives Départementale; Tabellion D'Ancien Régime (1660-1798); Bureau de Thonon-les-Bains; Acte Civil Public/Acte Sous Seing Prive; 1709-1769 / 6 C 1166; 1709 II, Folio 66; Images 751 thru 753 of 1250; 2 documents;
https://archives.hautesavoie.fr/ark:/67033/a011400141514TiMSPn/daogrp/0/layout:table/idsearch:RECH_58fa65b7dec39b40d523c1ec99b8097d#id:216112397?gallery=true&brightness=100.00&contrast=100.00¢er=1180.000,-2166.000&zoom=9&rotation=0.000&lock=true

⁶ France Archives, "Registres paroissiaux et d'état civil (by Departments)," church sacramental registers & civil registers by french departments; Haute-Savoie Department; Marin; Registres; E DEPOT 166/GG 4; Naissances, Mariages, Décès 1690-1783; Image 336 of 382;



TRANSCRIPTION

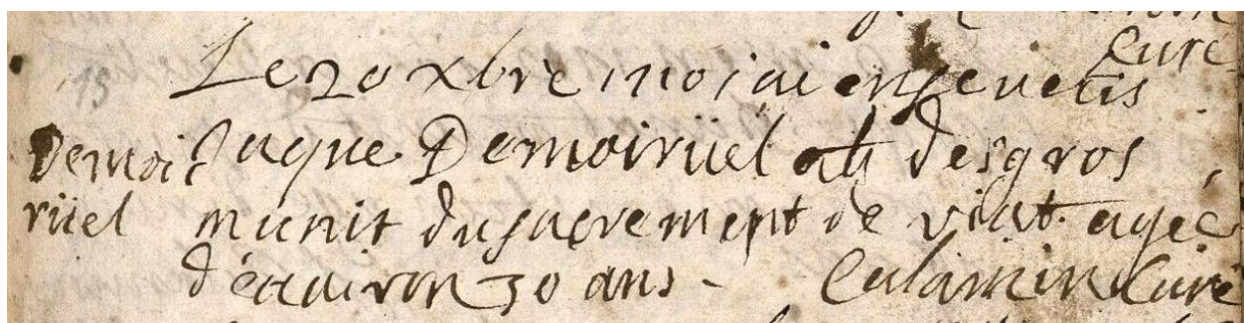
The 12th February 1709 have received the marriage blessing within the law, Jaque, son of deceased Pierre Demoiruel, and Françoise, daughter of deceased Roulet Chevallay, (pnts.) Jean Bapt. Valloud, J. A. (or St.) Lauren (?) and several others. A. Calamin, Priest.

Note that Pierre DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ) was identified as deceased in this marriage contract although he was, without doubt, alive when Jacque signed his marriage contract a year earlier with Péronne BROUTHY (BROTHIER).



The couple's son, Humbert, was born 10 months after their marriage. Sadly, Humbert would not have the opportunity to know his father. One year and one day after the birth of Humbert, Jacque DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ) was deceased. He was buried on 20 Dec 1710 at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Marin (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France.⁷ According to his burial record, he was about 30 years of age at the time of his death.

⁷ France Archives, "Registres paroissiaux et d'état civil (by Departments)," church sacramental registers & civil registers by french departments. Haute-Savoie Department; Marin; Registres; E DEPOT 166/GG 4; Naissances, Mariages, Décès 1690-1783; Image 250 of 382;

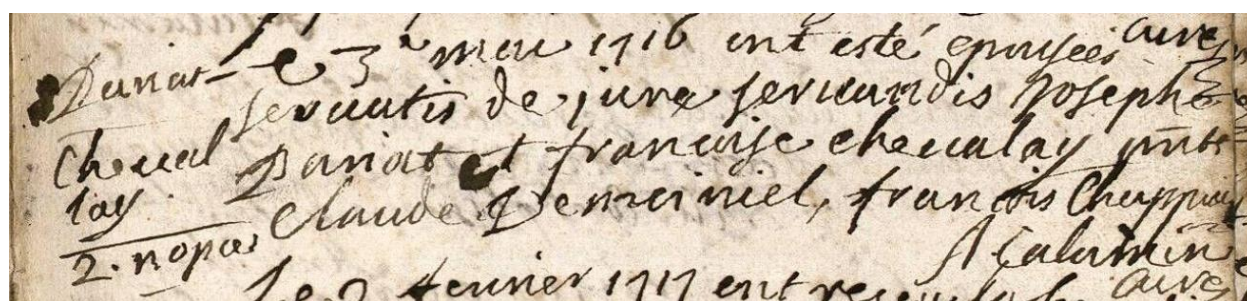


TRANSCRIPTION:

The 20th of December 1710, I buried Jaque Demoiruel (dit) Desgros, provided with the sacrament of Viat(icum), age of about 30 years. Calamin, Priest.

On 14 April 1716, Françoise CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY) signed a notary document with Joseph PARIAT of Marin, son of Jean François PARIAT. The document, registered by the Tabellion Bureau at Thonon-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), France, was identified as an “Obligation for honest Joseph Pariat vs. Françoise Chevalley” and was likely written in preparation for their upcoming marriage. (Humbert DEMOERUEL was not mentioned in this contract.)⁸

The couple married on 3 May 1716 at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Marin (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France.⁹



⁸ France Archives; Haute-Savoie Archives Départementale; Tabellion D'Ancien Régime (1660-1798); Bureau de Thonon-les-Bains; Acte Civil Public/Acte Sous Seing Prive; 1716-1719 / 6 C 1176; 1716 Book I, Folio 174; Image 381 of 1280; "Obligation pour hon(es)te Joseph Pariat contre la Françoise Chevalley"; https://archives.hautesavoie.fr/ark:/67033/a011400141514Rfud9I/daogrp/0/layout:table/idsearch:RECH_99e80ad83eb879a96b62da64b5587065#id:211615080?gallery=true&brightness=100.00&contrast=100.00¢er=121

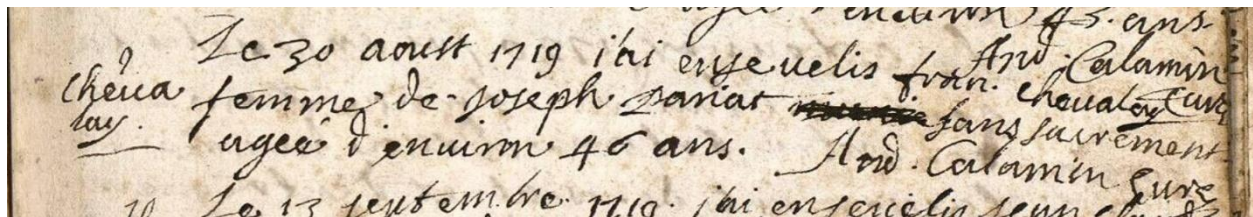
⁹ France Archives, "Registres paroissiaux et d'état civil (by Departments)," church sacramental registers & civil registers by french departments; Haute-Savoie Department; Marin; Registres; E DEPOT 166/GG 4; Naissances, Mariages, Décès 1690-1783; Image 344 of 382;

TRANSCRIPTION:

The 3rd May 1716, have been married within the law, Joseph Pariat and Francoise Chevalay, (pnts.) Claude Demoiriel, Francois Chappise. A. Calamin, Priest.

On 6 September 1717, a daughter, Claudine, was born to Françoise CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY) and Joseph PARIAT. She was the half-sister of Humbert DEMOERUEL. Claudine was baptized the same day at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Marin (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France.

Almost two years later on 30 August 1719, Françoise CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY) was buried in the same church. According to her burial record, she was about 46 years of age at the time of her death.¹⁰



TRANSCRIPTION:

The 30th August 1719, I buried Fran. Chevalay, wife of Joseph Pariat, without sacrement, age of about 46 years. And. Calamin, Priest;

Françoise left behind a daughter who was almost 2 years old and Humbert who was not quite 10 years of age.

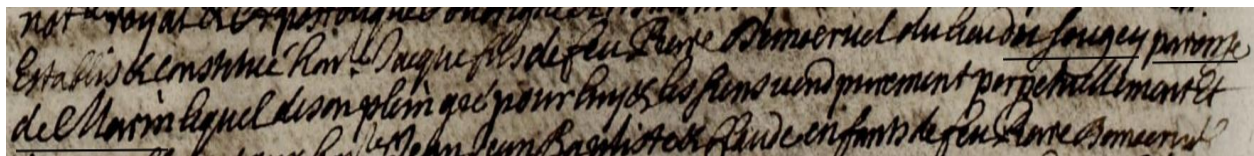
Note that Françoise's surname was consistently spelled as CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY) rather than Chevalier. This surname was spelled this way in the Marin notary and sacramental records as well as in records of Larringes (which religiously served the community of Champanges prior to the 1720s).

¹⁰ France Archives, "Registres paroissiaux et d'état civil (by Departments)," church sacramental registers & civil registers by french departments; Haute-Savoie Department; Marin; Registres; E DEPOT 166/GG 4; Naissances, Mariages, Décès 1690-1783; Image 260 of 382;

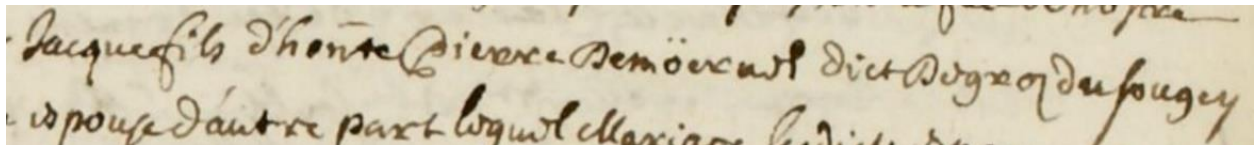
THIRD GENERATION

4. **Pierre DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ)** was born about 1649. To date, his baptismal record has not been found although this could be due to the missing sacramental records in Marin.

In a number of the notarial documents in which Pierre is mentioned, he is referred to as *Pierre Demoeruel (dit) DeGras du Sougey* (of the Sougey). A number of those documents also refer to him as being from the parish of Marin but it's unclear if 'the Sougey' was part of Marin or if it was a distant place of his origin. Research regarding the existence of a place called Sougey turned up several locations in Haute-Savoie with that name, but there was not enough information found of any kind from which to form a conclusion.



"Jacques fils de feu Pierre Demoeruel du lieu du Sougey paroisse de Marin"



"Jacques fils d'honte Pierre Demoeruel dict Degroz du Sougey"

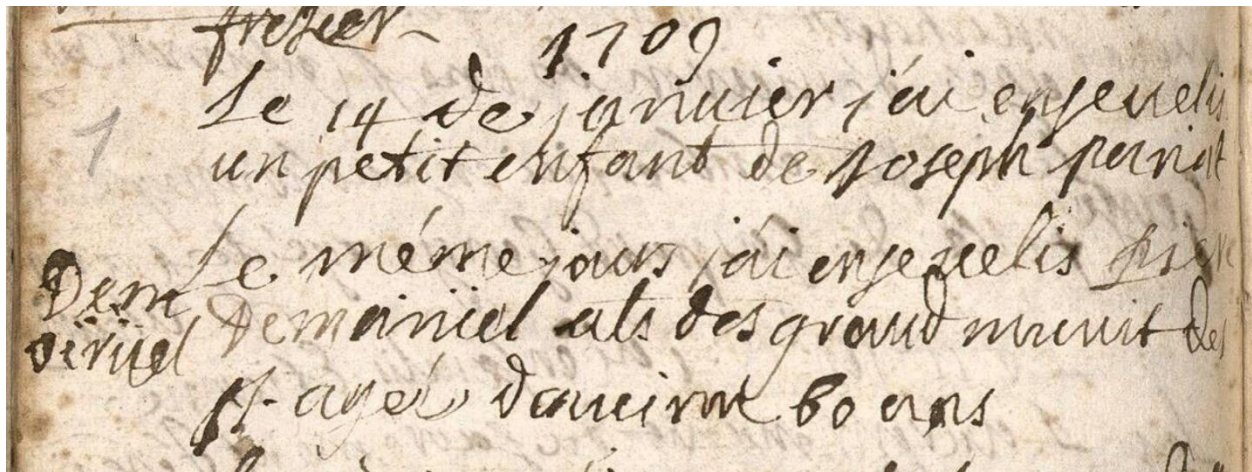
On 17 Jun 1698, he went before a *notaire ducal royal* (royal ducal notary; 'ducal' means relating to a duke or dukedom) in the Tabellion Bureau in Thonon-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), France, in order to document an 'Obligation by Pierre Demoeruel against Louÿs Vernas of Publy' (likely referring to the nearby commune of Publier). Although the document is not extraordinary in any way, it does contain one significant bit of information. Pierre is described as '*Pierre, son of deceased Gabriel Demoeruel of the parish of Marin*'.¹¹

Pierre signed a will on 30 Nov 1707 although I was unable to find a copy in the Tabellion Bureau at Thonon-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie). However, a notary document dated 2 November 1723 mentions the 1707 will and provides some of the family connections

¹¹ France Archives; Haute-Savoie Department; Tabellion D'Ancien Régime (1660-1798); Bureau de Thonon-les-Bains; Acte Civil Public/Acte Sous Seing Prive; 1698-1740; Cote 6 C 1154; 1698 Book 1; Folio 289; Obligation by Pierre Demoeruel against Louÿs Vernas of Publy; Image 635 of 790; https://archives.hautesavoie.fr/ark:/67033/a011400141514crrDzQ/daogrp/0/layout:table/idsearch:RECH_e9d0c251701ae8033de1f2fe6c8ec128#id:441369236?gallery=true&brightness=100.00&contrast=100.00¢er=1161.000,-1524.000&zoom=4&rotation=0.000

that I was searching for.¹² Unfortunately, the missing 1707 will is a considerable loss because it would have likely outlined relationships that are unclear on other sources due to the missing Marin sacramental records.

Pierre was buried on 14 Jan 1709 in Marin at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France.¹³



TRANSCRIPTION:

The same day (14 January 1709), I buried Pierre Demoiruel (dit) Des Graud, provided with the sacraments, age about 60 years;

Jacque DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ) lost his wife and father within two and one-half months.

Approximately three weeks after the death of his father, Jacque initiated two notarial documents that were recorded in the Tabellion Bureau in Thonon-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), France. One of these documents was the 6 February 1709 marriage contract for his upcoming marriage to Françoise Chevallay that was already discussed in this document. The other one was likely written due to the recent

¹² France Archives; Haute-Savoie Department; Tabellion d'Ancien Régime (1660-1798); Bureau de Thonon-les-Bains; Date 1723-1752; Cote 6 C 1183; 1723 Book 2, Folio 199; Cession e faveur d'honte. Alexis Demoeruel dit degrauese par le Pernette demoeruel dit degraux..."; Image 940 and 941 of 1102; https://archives.hautesavoie.fr/ark:/67033/a011400141514FuIDqO/daogrp/0/layout:table/idsearch:RECH_cfcbl95c5611e653b3697e2d3616ad50#id:787373497?gallery=true&brightness=100.00&contrast=100.00¢er=1262.578,-491.565&zoom=9&rotation=0.000.

¹³ France Archives, "Registres paroissiaux et d'état civil (by Departments)," church sacramental registers & civil registers by french departments. Haute-Savoie Department; Marin; Registres; E DEPOT 166/GG 4; Naissances, Mariages, Décès 1690-1783; Image 247 of 382;

death of his father. That document, authored on 5 February 1709, was a wonderful genealogical discovery.

As I scanned through the February 5th document, I realized that it outlined several additional generations of the Demoeruel family that I was not aware of – especially due to the lack of sacramental records - as well as other families which were tied to the Demoeruel family. I made a simple drawing of my interpretation of these relationships to assist me in my research and have included the drawing in this report (see FIGURE 1). The information gained from that document is included in the later generations of this ancestry report. Without that notarial document, these relationships would not have been revealed.

There are also multiple notary documents from various years which identify other children of Pierre including a son named Jacque who was mentioned in the 5 February 1709 document discussed in the previous paragraph. In addition, other documents state that some of Pierre's children were François, Jean, Jean Baptiste, Claude as well as Pernette who was living in *Fallant near Dole in the Count of Burgundy* in 1723. There are a few others also. However, due to inconsistencies discovered in other notarial records as well as some burial records associated with his *supposed* offspring, I consider the research into the children of Pierre (and his unnamed wife or wives) unresolved at this time. For instance, in some of the children's burial records, the stated age of the person at the time of death would make it impossible for them to have been the offspring of Pierre. As stated above, Pierre's birth is estimated to have been 1649 based on his age at the time of his death as stated in his 1709 burial record. Therefore, several questions come to mind:

- Could Pierre DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ), confirmed father of Jacque and son of Gabriel, have been older than 60 years of age at the time of his 1709 death?
- Could some of the supposed burial records of Pierre's children actually be burial records of Pierre's siblings who had the same first names as some of Pierre's children?

Therefore, until further research can be carried out regarding the other children of Pierre and his unnamed wife (or wives), this issue will remain open.

6. **Roulet (Rolet) CHEVALLAY** was the father of Françoise CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY) as per her 6 February 1709 marriage contract to Jacque DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ). He possibly died on 12 Dec 1692 in Champanges (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France, but sacramental data from Champanges (a town which appears to have been served by the church in Larringes during this time period) does not appear on-line for this timeframe.

7. **Andréa CHESSEL dite CATELLAZ** was the mother of Françoise CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY) as per her 6 February 1709 marriage contract to Jacque DEMOERUEL dit

DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ). She possibly died on 25 Jun 1692 in Champanges (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France, but sacramental data from Champanges (a town which appears to have been served by the church in Larringes during this time period) does not appear on-line for this timeframe.

Roulet (Rolet) CHEVALLAY and Andréa CHESSEL dite CATELLAZ were possibly married on 4 October 1670 at Larringes (Haute-Savoie)(Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), France, although this could not be confirmed due to missing registers from Larringes for this timeframe.

It appears that the Chessel family was a noble family although, in the absence of additional documentation identifying the parentage of Andréa, that suspicion cannot be confirmed at this time.¹⁴ If so, she is possibly a descendant of the Famille de Seyssel.

FOURTH GENERATION

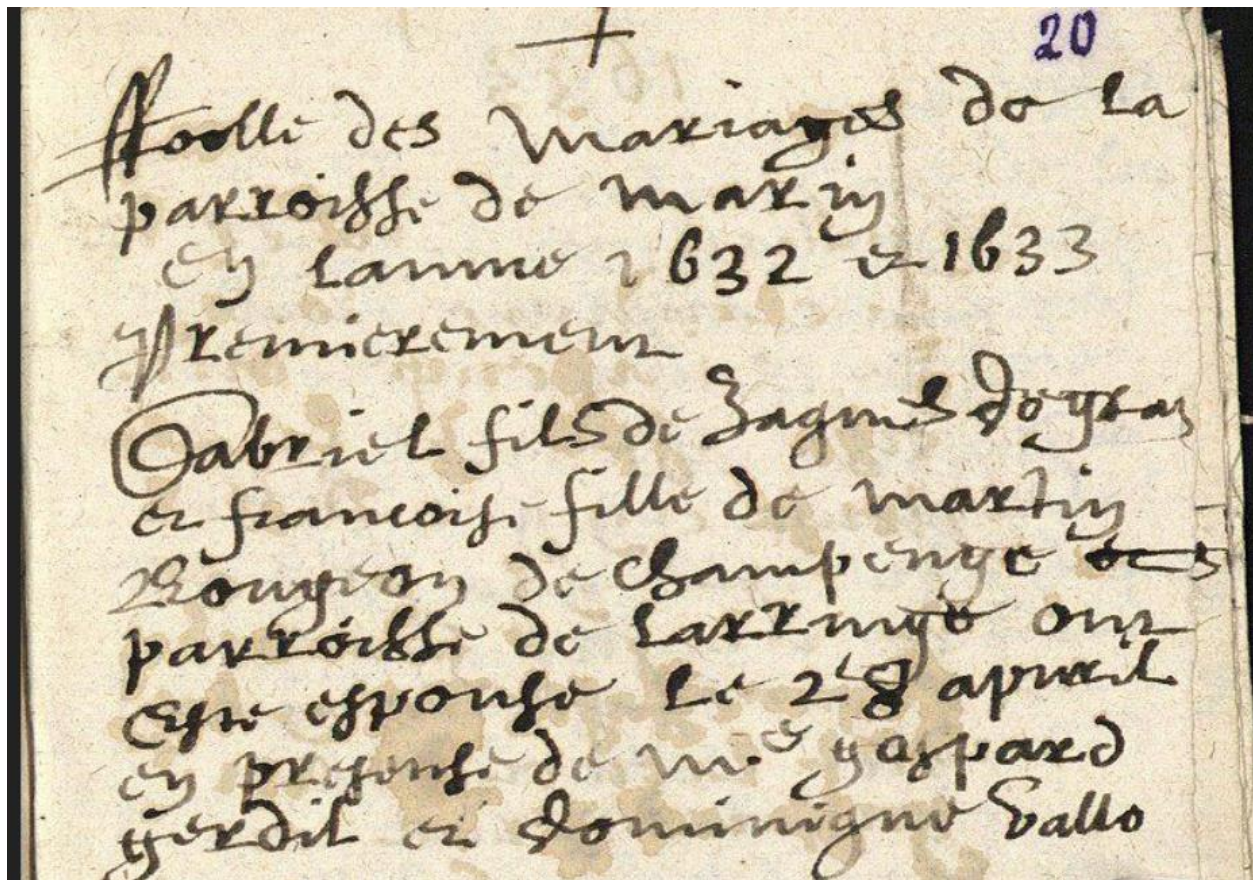
8. **Gabriel DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ)** was the father of Pierre DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ). This information is confirmed in more than one document.

I believe that the following 1632 Marin document is the marriage record of Gabriel although the surname on the document is DeGras rather than Demoeruel. The issue of Demoeruel vs. DeGras surname was covered earlier in this document.

Françoise BOUGEON (BOUGON) (BOUJON) and Gabriel DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ) were married on 28 Apr 1632 at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Marin (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), France.¹⁵

¹⁴ Armorial et nobiliaire de l'ancien duché de Savoie. Volume 1 / par le Cte E.-Amédée de Foras; continué par le Cte F.-C. de Mareschal Foras, Amédée de (1830-1899). Auteur du texte; Chapter: Chessel de Champange en Chablais; Page 403 and 404;
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k65800471/f436.item.r=CHESSEL>

¹⁵ France Archives, "Registres paroissiaux et d'état civil (by Departments)," church sacramental registers & civil registers by french departments. Haute Savoie Department; Marin; Registres; Cote 4 E 20; Naissances, Mariages, Décès 1626-1791; Image 39 of 278;



TRANSCRIPTION:

(Roll?) of the marriages of the parish of Marin in the year 1632 and 1633

First (Firstly)

Gabriel, son of Jaques **DeGras**, and Francoise, daughter o Martin Bougeon of Champenge (sic - Champagne), parish of Larringe, have been married the 28th April in presence of Mr. Gaspard Gerdil and Dominique Vallo.

9. **Françoise BOUGEON (BOUGON) (BOUJON)** was the wife of Gabriel DEMOERUEL dit DEGRAS (DEGRAZ) (DEGRAUZ) (DEGROZ).

12. **Rolin CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY)** was possibly the father of Roulet (Rolet) CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY).

13. **Antoinette BALLY** possibly died on 4 Apr 1672 in Thonon-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie) (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), France, and was possibly the mother of Roulet (Rolet) CHEVALLAY (CHEVALLEY).

14. **Jean Jacque CHESSEL dit CATALAZ** was possibly the father of **Andréa CHESSEL dite CATELLAZ**.

FIFTH GENERATION

16. **Jacque DEMOERUEL** is possibly the **Jacque** identified in the 4E20 Marin register as **Jacque DeGras**. If so, it appears he was deceased prior to 1635.

17. **Jeanne Françoise DUNAND (DUNAN) (DU NANT)** is believed to be part of a noble family.

18. **Martin BOUGEON**

SIXTH GENERATION

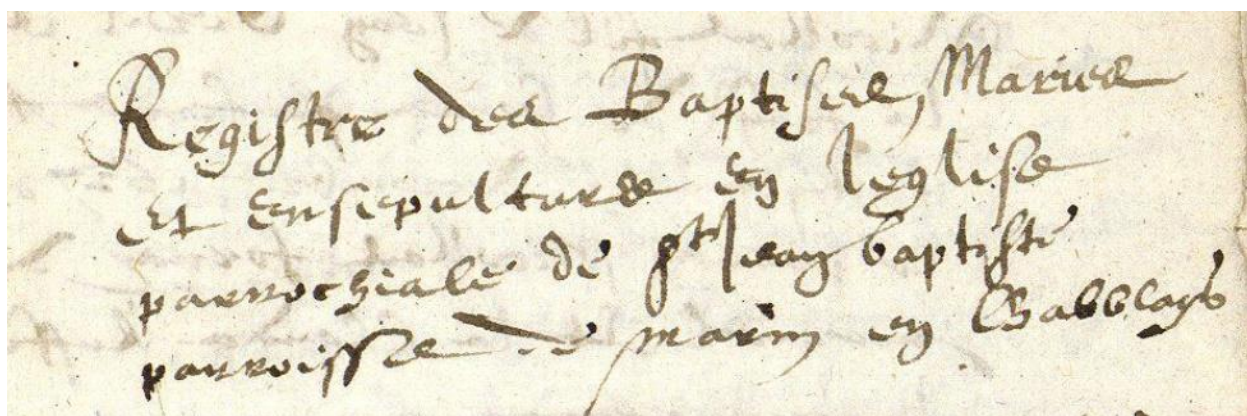
34. **Jean Louis (LOUYS) DUNAND (DUNAN) (DU NANT)** is believed to be part of a noble family.

SEVENTH GENERATION

68. **Louis (LOUYS) DUNAND (DUNAN) (DU NANT)** is believed to be part of a noble family.



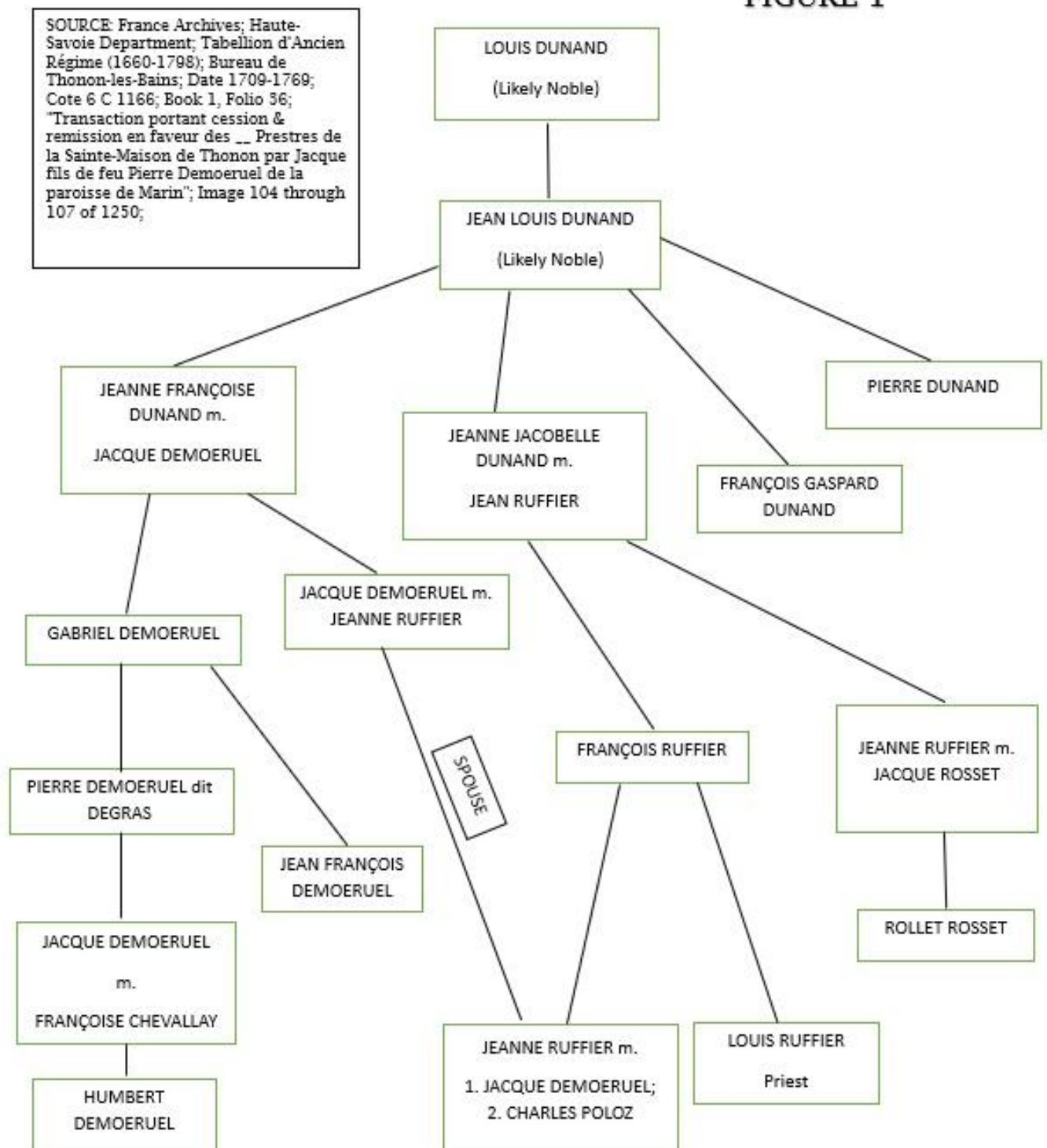
This is from the 1627 section of Marin register 4E20. Chablais was the province of the Duché de Savoie in which Marin was located.



TRANSCRIPTION:

Register of the Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in the parochial church of St-Jean Baptiste, Parish of Marin in Chablais

FIGURE 1



ADDENDUM – January 2024

Passage of Humbert Demoeruel from France to La Louisiane

I'm confident that I've located Humbert on a ship list. Here is the information.

Humbert came to the new world on the *Prince de Conti* – a ship owned by the Compagnie des Indes. He was identified on the ship list as **Hubert Moiriau dit Sans Quartier** and was one of a group of about 50 soldiers with the Company on-board. There was also about an equal number of sailors on board. Humbert would have been 20 years of age. The ship left the French port of Lorient (Morbihan) (Bretagne Region), France, likely on or shortly thereafter 3 May 1730, arrived at Cap-Français in Saint-Dominique on 14 June 1730, left that port nine days later, and arrived in Louisiana on 26 July 1730. (Cap-Français was the capitol of Saint-Dominique. Saint-Dominique was a French colony on western portion of the island of Hispaniola [modern-day Haiti]).

He disembarked in Louisiana on 26 July 1730, but the location is not specified. The 16-cannon ship/frigate was carrying 300 barrels of goods and was documented at New Orleans on 22 September 1730.

The *Prince de Conti* appears to have remained in Louisiana until the spring when it was shipwrecked on 8 April 1731 at La Balise at the mouth of the Mississippi River (in present-day Plaquemine Parish).

Ship passenger list:

https://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/fr/_depot_mdh/_depot_images/INDES/SHDLORIENT/TABLESPDF/ROLE2P24-I.9.PDF

Prince de Conti - Campaign details (open: Détail de la campagne)

https://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/fr/arkotheque/client/mdh/compagnie_des_indes/armement_navires_resu_rech.php

WHY WAS HUMBERT SENT TO LOUISIANA?

First, a little background....

From the time the French, led by Sieur Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, first set foot on the Mississippi coast in 1699, they were confronted by the Chickasaw Indians and quickly realized that they were allies of the English. Upon realizing that attempts to win over the Chickasaw was impossible, Bienville set about making allies of the Choctaw. That story is much too complex to review here, so I won't do that. However, the troubles suffered by the French and their allies at the hands of the Chickasaws, their allies, as

well as the Natchez Indians, would go on for years until culminated in a horrific attack in late November 1729 by the Natchez at the French settlement of Fort Rosalie in Natchez. The entire French settlement was destroyed and nearly all of the men were killed while hundreds of women, children and enslaved people were taken captive.

Approximately five months later, ancestor Demoeruel would set sail from Lorient to Louisiana.

So, how does that all fit together? This is my theory:

On his 1735 Mobile marriage record to Jeanne Élisabeth Boissinot, Humbert was identified as a soldier in the company of Chevalier Bertet. (Source: Jacqueline Olivier Vidrine, compiler, *"Love's Legacy, The Mobile Marriages Recorded in French, Transcribed with Annotated Abstracts in English, 1724-1786"* (Lafayette, Louisiana: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1985), Page 85 (Cites record: MOB. mb I:12a-1). The name 'Chevalier Bertet' is a reference to Jean Gasparde de Bertet de la Clue. Bertet, however, had been in the French army in Europe until 1732. Therefore, the earliest that Humbert could have been assigned to Bertet (also spelled as Berthet) was in 1733 when Bertet began serving as a Captain of the Mobile company.

So, assuming Humbert was assigned to Bertet's group sometime after 1733, where did he go after his mid-1730 arrival in Louisiana?

I suspect that information found on pages 442 thru 449 of the 1866 book entitled *"History of Louisiana: French Domination", Volume I*, by Charles Gayarré might tell part of the story of the early months in the lives of Humbert and other soldiers/sailors after their arrival in Louisiana. I encourage you to read it; it's attached below. Although there is nothing to positively connect Humbert's name directly to the events on those pages, I believe that these pages likely show a connection to the group of soldiers of which Demoeruel was a member.

Page 442 describes Governor Étienne Périer's intent to form an expedition to destroy the Natchez tribe after their attack of Fort Rosalie. Périer had come *"to the conclusion that their complete destruction was indispensable to the prosperity and safety of the colony."* In preparation for his expedition, Périer had gone to Mobile to renew treaties of alliance with the Choctaw in order to ensure that they would remain loyal to the French during the planned expedition. At the same time, since the French used Mobile as their primary location for conducting Indian affairs, Périer, without doubt, engaged in war planning with his field officers while there.

On page 443, the first paragraph states the following:

"On the 18th of November 1730, Périer returned to New Orleans, where he found that his brother Salverte had almost completed all of the preparations necessary for the contemplated expedition. On the 9th of December, Salverte departed with two battalions of marines he had taken from a ship of the line, with instructions to wait for the governor

at the village of Carlestin, where he was joined, on the 13th, by that high functionary, with all the ammunition, provisions, & etc., which were required, and **all the troops of the colony which could be spared.**" (Note: Carlestin, also spelled Carlstein or Karlstein, was one of the original German Coast settlements located above New Orleans on the west bank of the Mississippi River.)

Further down the same page, it states the following:

*"...The governor had divided his army into three corps in order to prevent conflicts and to produce emulation. The first, composed of one hundred and fifty marines and forty sailors, was commanded by his brother Salverte. **The second, consisting of the troops of the colony, was under the Baron of Cresnay;** and the third, the militia, was headed by Benac."*

(Note: Cresnay had been placed in command of Louisiana troops as Lieutenant Colonel in 1730 by Governor P rier after which he led a company of troops in the Third Natchez War which took place in the early part of 1730.)

At the top of page 444, the following statements are very interesting:

"...the whole army moved forward on the 22^d (December), and on the same day encamped at Manchac for the night. There, P rier left the army, and hastened to the Tunicas, in order to accelerate the movements of such of the warriors of that tribe as had survived the defeat they had suffered from the Natchez. On the 27th, Salverte, to whom P rier had left the command of the army, joined his brother at the Tunicas.

On the 28th, the army began its march for the mouth of Red River, where was the general rendezvous, and where the ship, Prince of Conti, had been sent with most of the articles necessary for the campaign...."

That, of course, was a reference to the 300 barrels of supplies on Humbert's ship.

A brief outline of the rest of the conflict in 1731 can be found on the attached pages.

Also, a further look at Baron de Cresnay might provide further theory as to Humbert's whereabouts in the years leading up to his 1735 Mobile marriage. Apparently, Cresnay became the Commandant at Natchez in 1731-1732 and was in-charge of completing construction of the new Fort Rosalie. He moved to Mobile in early 1733 and was made Commandant for about a year. Interestingly, as mentioned earlier, 1733 is the same year in which Bertet appeared on the scene at Mobile. It's possible that some of Cresnay's troops moved with him to Mobile in 1733 where they were transferred to the newly-arrived Captain Bertet. Therefore, it's possible (but not proven) that Demoeruel remained at Natchez under Cresnay's command until 1733.

Lastly, since Humbert was assigned to Bertet in Mobile in June 1735, it's very possible that Humbert participated in other military skirmishes between the French and the Chickasaws and he may have fought with Bertet in the disastrous 1736 French/Chickasaw War. Bertet was Captain (probably of Reserves under Jean Jadart de Beauchamp) in the field of the May 1736 battle of the Southern Force at Ackia.

SIXTH LECTURE.

EXPEDITION OF PÉRIER AGAINST THE NATCHEZ.—HE GOES UP RED RIVER AND BLACK RIVER IN PURSUIT OF THEM.—SIEGE OF THEIR FORT.—MOST OF THEM ARE TAKEN PRISONERS AND SOLD AS SLAVES.—CONTINUATION OF THE NATCHEZ WAR.—THE INDIAN COMPANY SURRENDERS ITS CHARTER.—ORDINANCES ON THE CURB OF THE COUNTRY.—BIENVILLE REAPPOINTED GOVERNOR.—SITUATION OF THE COLONY AT THAT TIME.—THE NATCHEZ TAKE REFUGE AMONG THE CHICKASAWS.—GREAT RISE OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND GENERAL INUNDATION.—EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER OF MAD DOGS.—EXPEDITION OF BIENVILLE AGAINST THE CHICKASAWS.—HE ATTACKS THEIR VILLAGES.—BATTLE OF ACHIA.—DARING EXPLOIT OF THE BLACK MAN, SIMON.—BIENVILLE IS WOUNDED AND FORCED TO RETREAT.—EXPEDITION OF D'ARTAGUETTE AGAINST THE CHICKASAWS.—HIS DEFEAT AND DEATH.—HISTORY OF JOHN PHILIP GRONDEL.—OTHER EVENTS AND FACTS FROM 1729 TO 1736.

The French had at last taken possession of all the ancient domains of the Natchez; but Governor Périer, considering the depredations still committed by that indomitable tribe, came to the conclusion that their complete destruction was indispensable to the prosperity and safety of the colony. Accordingly, he departed for Mobile, to renew treaties of alliance which the French had with the Choctaws, and to take all the measures necessary to secure their neutrality, while he would be engaged in the prosecution of the war of extermination he had determined to carry against the Natchez. The Choctaws were so much pleased with the presents made to them by Périer, that they offered to join him in the new expedition he meditated against the Natchez. But Périer refused, because he thought it good policy to show the Choctaws that the French could, contrary to the belief of these barbarians, do very well without their aid.

On the 13th of November, 1730, Périer returned to New Orleans, where he found that his brother Salvarte had almost completed all the preparations necessary for the contemplated expedition. On the 9th of December, Salvarte departed with two battalions of marines he had taken from a ship of the line, with instructions to wait for the governor at the village of Carlestin, where he was joined, on the 18th, by that high functionary, with all the ammunition, provisions, &c., which were required, and all the troops of the colony which could be spared.

Before proceeding farther, Périer received the grateful intelligence that the Indian nations on the northern frontiers had remained faithful to the French, and were waging vigorous war against the nation of the Foxes, the hereditary foes of the Illinois, whose friendship to the French had made them valuable allies on all occasions. Périer was officially informed that a great battle had taken place between the Foxes and the Illinois, headed by some Frenchmen; and that the Foxes had been so completely routed, that they had lost from eleven to twelve hundred men. It was one of the fiercest Indian battles which was ever put on record.

On the 14th, Governor Périer proceeded to Bayagoulas, where he stopped four days to wait for the division of planters commanded by Benac, and for the larger boats which contained the provisions, and which were so unwieldy that they could not keep up with the army. The governor had divided his army into three corps, in order to prevent conflicts and to produce emulation. The first, composed of one hundred and fifty marines and forty sailors, was commanded by his brother Salvarte. The second, consisting of the troops of the colony, was under the Baron of Cresnay; and the third, the militia, was headed by Benac. This last corps

joined the rest, only at Bayagoulas, on the 19th; the whole army moved forward on the 22d, and on the same day encamped at Manchac for the night. There, Périer left the army, and hastened to the Tunicas, in order to accelerate the movements of such of the warriors of that tribe as had survived the defeat they had suffered from the Natchez. On the 27th, Salvete, to whom Périer had left the command of the army, joined his brother at the Tunicas.

On the 28th, the army began its march for the mouth of Red River, where was the general rendezvous, and where the ship, Prince of Conti, had been sent with most of the articles necessary for the campaign. Périer remained until the 3d of January, 1731, with the Tunicas, where his presence was required to make them join the expedition; which they were loth to do, because they were afraid to leave their village, their women and children, exposed to the fury of some of the marauding parties of the Natchez. They had indeed good reasons for apprehension, having just been informed that De Coulanges, whom Périer had sent in a boat, with some Frenchmen and a crew of twenty men composed of Indians and free blacks, to the fort lately built at Natchez, with orders to proceed as high up the river as the Arkansas, had been attacked, and that half of his companions had been killed or wounded. De la Touche, Beaulieu, and Cochart were among the former, and De Coulanges had received two severe wounds. This bold attack on the part of the Natchez had frightened all the small nations, and Périer could not gather round him more than one hundred and fifty of their warriors, but they were of the bravest.

On the 4th of January, 1731, Périer joined the army at the mouth of Red River, where he found all his forces united. The difficulty then was to discover the

stronghold where the Natchez had concealed themselves in those unknown regions. The French ascended Red River, went into Black River, from Black River into a stream they called *Silver River*, and from that stream into a small lake, not far from which they had been told the Natchez were. It is not improbable that the stream which is here mentioned is no other than the one now set down on the map as the Ouachita, and that the lake alluded to is the small one which is at a short distance from Trinity, in the parish of Catahoula. The French arrived at that lake on the 19th of January, after having met on that day a party of Natchez, of whom they killed two men and one woman. There, the French had happened to come very close to the stronghold of the Natchez, without as yet being aware of it. But on the 20th, they captured a Natchez boy, who was fishing, and who, under the influence of threats and promises of reward, showed the French the path which led to the Indian fort. Governor Périer sent forward French and Indian scouts and marksmen, supported by two companies of regulars commanded by De Lusser and De la Girouardiere. He next followed with the rest of the army, after having left behind the Baron of Cresnay with one hundred men, to protect the French camp and boats.

Governor Périer had hardly given the order to march, when he heard a brisk fire of musketry kept up between the fort and the skirmishers. After having marched an hour, the army came in sight of the fort. The Tunicas attacked some fortified houses which seemed to be intended as outposts, and drove the Natchez out of them. On the 21st, when the fort was completely invested, Périer ordered the Baron of Cresnay to join him. He then sent a flag to the Natchez, and summoned them to give up the negroes who remained in their posses-

sion. The Natchez fired at the flag, crying out that the French were dogs, and that they would have nothing to do with them. On this answer, the French began to cast grenades into the fort, and had succeeded in producing considerable effect, when the two mortars which they used, being of wood, burst, and wounded those who worked them. At half-past five in the evening, the Natchez made a sally, in which they killed a negro, a grenadier of the marines, and wounded a sergeant and De Laye, one of the militia officers. At eight o'clock the same evening, although the weather was very stormy, the French began to mine, and kept up their firing with muskets, one field-piece, and one mortar, which was their last one, and for which they had sent to the boats. The Natchez still retained possession of a fortified outpost, which enfladed the French workmen engaged in the trenches. On the 22d, Périer ordered it to be attacked by twelve grenadiers and twelve sappers. But on their being repulsed, he sent his brother, who carried it in a quarter of an hour, after a vigorous defense made by the Indians.

On the 23d, the French, under the protection of the redoubt they had taken from the Natchez, pushed on their trenches with more vigor, and approached more closely to the fort.

On the 24th, the Natchez perceiving that the French were preparing to storm the fort, and fearing the result, made propositions of peace. Périer answered that he would hold no communication with them, unless they did, as a preliminary proceeding, deliver up all the black slaves they had in their possession, and unless their chiefs came out to have a personal interview with him, midway between the fort and the camp. The Natchez immediately gave up nineteen negroes and one negress, and said that there remained only six negroes, who had

gone out on a hunting excursion with some of their people. After much hesitation, founded on misgivings which proved to be correct, it was also agreed that Périer's other demand should be complied with; and the Great Sun, the Little Sun, and the chief of the Corn Village came out, at four o'clock in the afternoon, to meet the French chief. After the usual exchange of mutual salutations had taken place, as it began to rain, Périer proposed to the Indian chiefs to enter into a cabin close by, which seemed to be deserted, but as soon as they crossed its threshold, they were surrounded by armed soldiers, and made prisoners. Night came on, the bad weather increased, and, at twelve o'clock, had become a frightful tempest. The chief of the Corn Village availed himself of that circumstance, and, although shut up in a tent under the guard of twelve men, contrived to escape, without being hurt by the shots which were aimed at him.

On the 25th, the storm continued to rage, and interfered very much with the evacuation of the fort, and the complete surrender of the Natchez, which at last had been agreed upon. However, in the course of the day, forty-five men, and four hundred and fifty women and children were, at different intervals, delivered up to the French, with all their baggage and effects. But the night having set in, the rest of the Natchez made a sudden sally, and taking the French by surprise, made their escape without one shot being fired at them, so dark the night was, so deluge-like the rain, and so little disposed were the French, and even their red allies, to move from their quarters, and to expose themselves to the pitiless fury of the elements. The next morning, only two sick men and one woman were found in the fort. Périer says, in one of his dispatches, that the party that thus eluded his vigilance and effected

such a successful retreat, in front of such overwhelming odds, consisted only of sixteen men and four women. But this was a willful misrepresentation of the truth, the object of which was to conceal his humiliation, and to impress his government with the belief that his success had been greater than it really was. It is not at all probable that the place where the Great Sun had taken refuge with so many women and children, was defended only, according to Périer's statement, by about sixty warriors. Other accounts inform us, that the number of warriors who thus baffled him, and slipped from his grasp, exceeded one hundred and fifty. Périer having, the next morning, sent his Indian allies in pursuit, they killed one Natchez, and took two whom they burned at the stake.

On the 26th and 27th, the army was employed in demolishing the fort, with its fortified outposts, and in burning all their materials. On the 28th, the French began their retrograde march, and encamped on the bank of Silver Bayou, or river. On the 29th, they embarked to return to the Mississippi, through Black River and Red River. In one of his dispatches, Périer bestows much praise on the conduct of all the men he had under his orders, and speaks in high terms of the emulation which existed among the several corps. But he skips very lightly over the manner in which he made the Indian chiefs prisoners. He, no doubt, felt that it was a shameful breach of faith, the mention of which would make him blush, and provoke indignation. However, he was a man of no half-way measures, and at least not over-scrupulous in his dealings with the Indians. As soon as he reached New Orleans, he sent the Great Sun, the Little Sun, the forty-five other male prisoners and the four hundred and fifty women and children to St. Domingo, where they were sold as slaves.

Among them was the princess "*Bras piqué*," who related all the circumstances of the conspiracy of the Natchez, in which she acted a part so friendly to the French.

With such stakes in his hands, it would seem that Périer might have played a better game with the Natchez, and have induced them to emigrate far beyond the French settlements, as a condition of his restoring to them their sovereign, their women and children. It is likely that these would have been considerations sufficiently powerful, to make them subscribe to all the conditions which would have been deemed necessary to secure the future tranquillity of the colony.

However, a different course of policy was pursued, and entailed upon the French a long train of ever-reviving difficulties. The Natchez, driven by their losses to the last stage of despair, instead of being cowed, were nerved to frenzy by their misfortunes. They thought of nothing but revenge, cost what it might, and they committed more depredations than during the past. Diron d'Artaguet, in one of his dispatches, said that the Natchez, far from being destroyed as it had been represented, numbered still three hundred warriors, who had escaped from the grasp of the French, and who panted for their blood. After their last defeat near Black River, some of the scattered remnants of that tribe having incorporated themselves with the Chickasaws, were incessantly engaged in marauding expeditions directed against their white foes. In the month of April, 1731, they attacked four boats which Governor Périer had sent up to Arkansas. At the first fire from the Indians, the commanding officer had two of his men killed and two wounded, and although he had seventy men under his orders, so numerous were the Indians, that he was obliged to fall back,

D D