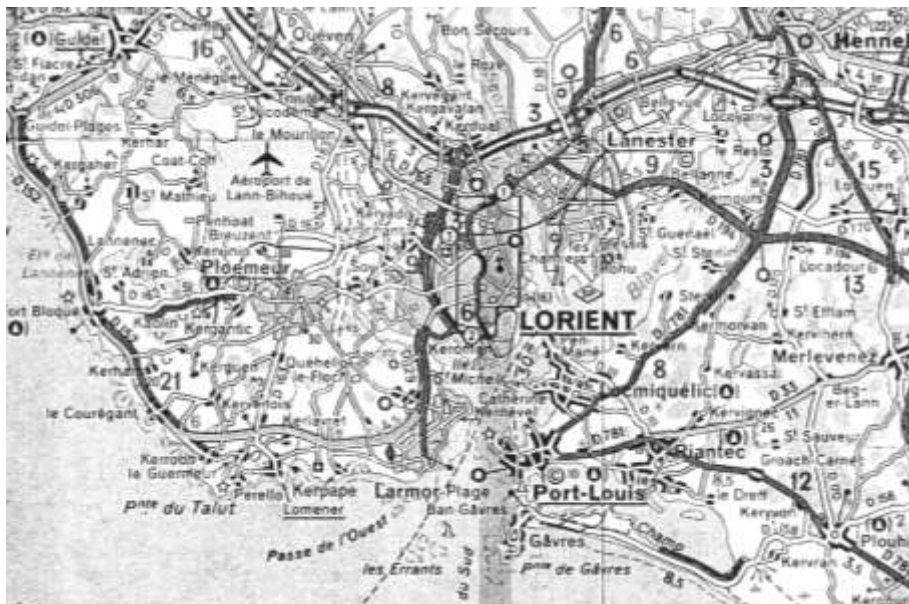


The Other Bienvenu Family of Kaskaskia in present-day Illinois: Philippe Bienvenu (and Françoise Allaire)

Part 1: Ploemeur and Lorient, Morbihan, France

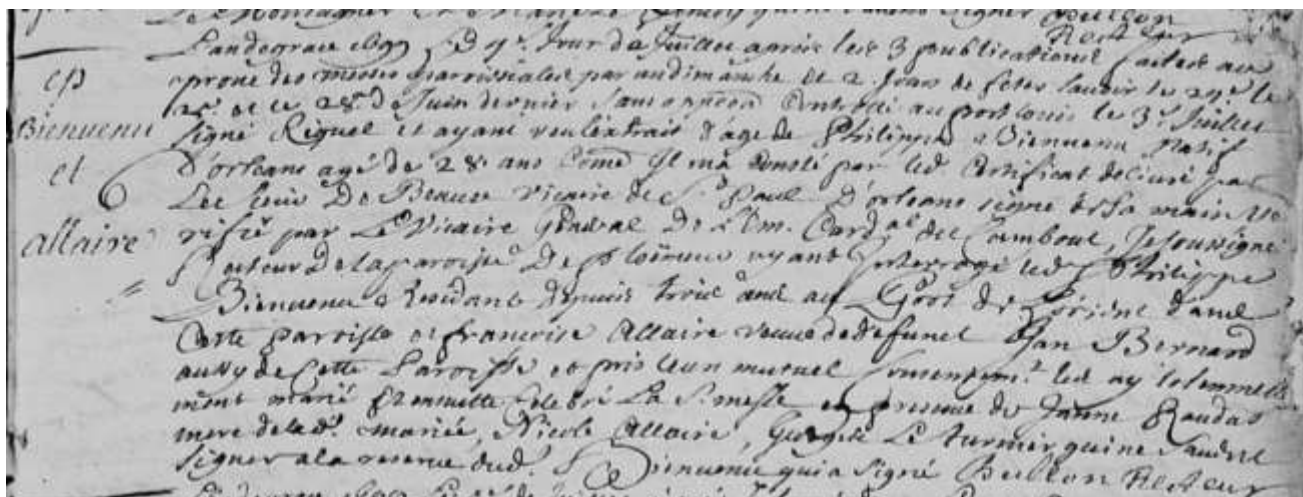
Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, FCHSM member (gfmoreau1@aol.com)



Ploemeur, Lorient and Port-Louis.

In the April 2013 issue of *Michigan's Habitant Heritage*, Editor Michael Burke in his article “Two Bienvenu Families of Kaskaskia, Illinois in the 1750s” indicated the existence of two families with the same surname – Bienvenu – whose origins were not the same. The ancestor of one family was **François Bienvenu dit Delisle** who was baptized 19 September 1666 in St-Pierre-le-Vieux, department of the Vendée, France.¹ The ancestor of the second family was **Philippe Bienvenu** from Ploemeur and Lorient, Department of Morbihan, France. Based on his marriage act on 4 July 1699 in the parish of Ploemeur, **Philippe Bienvenu** was a native of Orléans (present-day department of Loiret, whose archives are not online), aged 28 years, from the parish of St. Paul, had resided three years in the parish of Ploemeur in the Port of Lorient. His parents were not named in the marriage act below. Philippe Bienvenu married **Françoise Allaire**, widow of **Jan (Jean) Bernard**. Her mother **Janne (Jeanne) Raudas** was present as was her sister **Nicolle Allaire**. It was indicated that Philippe Bienvenu signed.

¹ www.fichierorigine.com, #240372, researched by Christian Soulard and Lise Dandonneau, accessed 16 November 2013.



www.morbihan.fr/archives État civil- Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1698-1712, image 41 of 660
 Marriage of Philippe Bienvenu and Françoise Allaire.

Because, at the present time, parish records for the city of Orléans in the Department of Loiret, France, are not available, either online or on film from the Family History Library, it is not possible to give any reliable information on Philippe Bienvenu's family. This is not the case for Françoise Allaire and her family. Their story will be told in the following outline. The parish records (baptisms) for Ploemeur begin in 1608.

Matrilineal line of **Françoise Allaire / Aller**, daughter of **François Allaire / Aller** and **Jeanne Raudas**

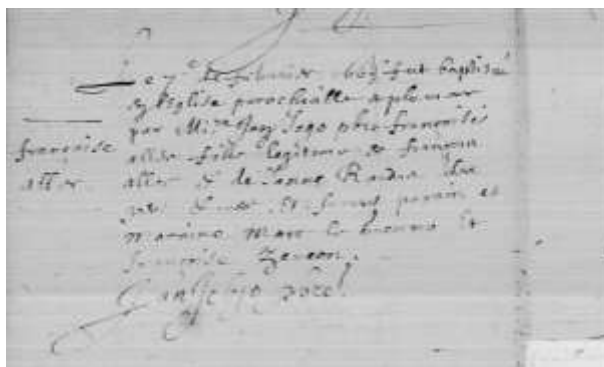
I	Françoise Scolan (Jacques/Louise Deliat/Delhiat)		François [Jan in one record] Raudas
II	Jeanne Raudas (François (Jan)/Françoise Scolan)		François Allaire (Jan/Catherine le Hunsec)
III	Françoise Allaire (François/Jeanne Raudas)	14 Oct 1682 Ploemeur	(1) Jean Gillet
		29 Oct 1692 Ploemeur	(2) Jan Bernard (Guillaume/Catherine Contereau)
		4 July 1699 Ploemeur	(3) Philippe Bienvenu

13 April 1611, Ploemeur – Baptism of **Françoise Scolan**, daughter of **Jacques Scolan** and **Louise Deliat** [Ploemeur, Morbihan, baptêmes, 1608-1649, image 32 of 703].

22 December 1632, Guidel – Baptism of **François Aler / Allaire**, son of **Jan Aler** and **Catherine le Hunsec** [Guidel, Morbihan, baptêmes 1567-1637, image 531].

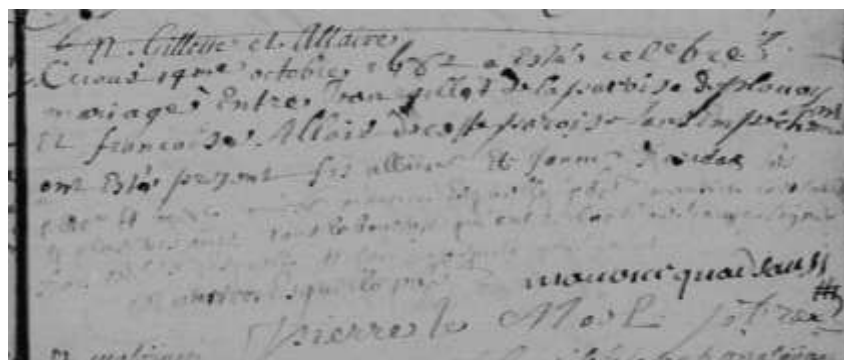
24 March 1633, Ploemeur – Baptism of **Jeanne Raudas**, daughter of **Jean** [François in other baptismal records for his children] **Raudas** and **Françoise Scollan** [Ploemeur, Morbihan, baptêmes 1608-1649, image 330 of 703].

7 February 1663, Ploemeur – Baptism of **Françoise Allaire / Aller**, daughter of **François Allaire / Aller** and **Jeanne Raudas** [Ploemeur, baptêmes, 1650-1669, image 314 of 458]. See below.



13 March 1663, Ploemeur – Baptism of **Jean Bernard**, son of **Guillaume Bernard** and **Catherine Contereau** [Ploemeur, baptêmes, 1650-1669, image 317 of 458]. His parents were married in Ploemeur 8 February 1652 [Ploemeur, mariages 1637-1664, image 50 of 106].

14 Oct 1682, Ploemeur – Marriage of **Jean Gillet**, from the parish of Plouey and **Françoise Allaire**, daughter of **François Allaire** and **Jeanne Raudas** [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1677-1689, image 269 of 559].



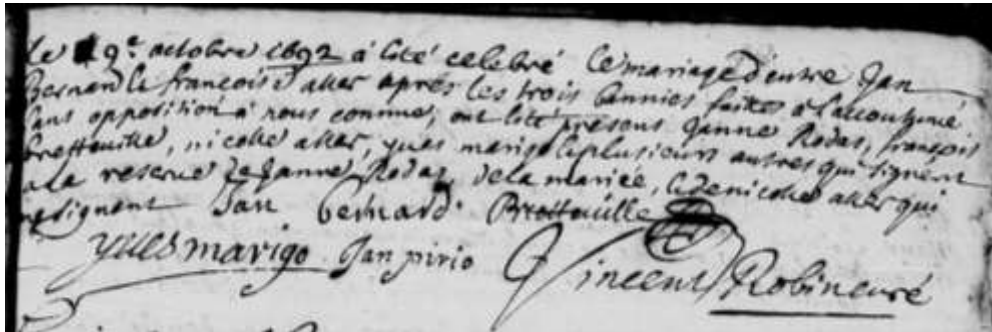
22 September 1683, Ploemeur – Baptism (and born the same day) of **Marie Gillet**, daughter of **Jean Gillet** and **Françoise Aler / Allaire** [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sepultures, 1677-1689, image 311 of 559].

19 February 1691, Ploemeur – **Françoise Aller / Allaire**, her sister **Nicole**, and their mother **Janne Raudas** were present at the marriage of **Louise Aller / Allaire** and **René Devally** from the parish of Guidel. Because there is no mention of her father François Aller / Allaire, as there was in 1682 when her sister Françoise, it is possible he was deceased by this date. [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1690-1697, image 56 of 337].

27 October 1691, Ploemeur – **Françoise Aller / Allaire** was godmother to **François LeVari**, son of **René LeVari** and **Louise Aller** from the bourg [of Ploemeur]. The baby died on 6 November 1691 [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1690-1697, image 90 of 337].

31 October 1691, Ploemeur – **Françoise Aller / Allaire**, her sister **Nicole**, and their mother **Janne Raudas** were present at the burial of **Louise Aller / Allaire**, wife of **René Vary** [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1690-1697, image 91 of 337].

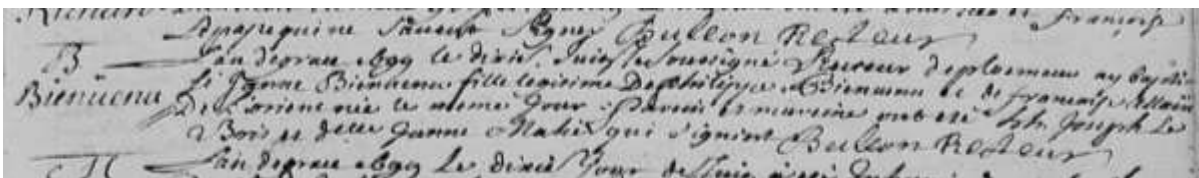
29 October 1692, Ploemeur – Marriage of **Jan Bernard** and **Françoise Aller / Allaire**. Her mother **Janne Rodas**, her brother-in-law **François Bretteville** and her sister **Nicole Allaire / Aller** were present [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1690-1697, image 146 of 337].



1 June 1693, Ploemeur – Baptism of **Madeleine Bernard**, daughter of **Jan Bernard** and **Françoise Aller / Allaire** [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1690-1697, image 174 of 337].

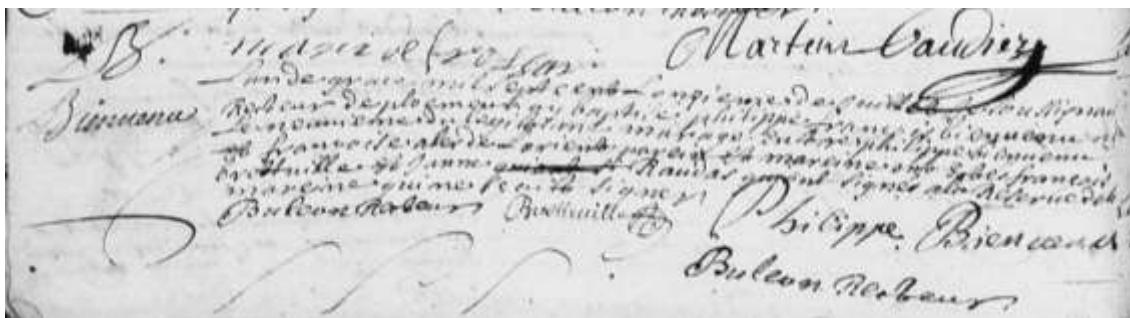
3 May 1695, Ploemeur – Baptism of **Angélique Françoise Bernard**, daughter of **Jan Bernard**, *pilot de L'orient*, and **Françoise Aller / Allaire** [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1690-1697, image 247 of 337].

10 June 1699, Ploemeur – Baptism (born the same day) of **Janne Bienvenu**, legitimate daughter of **Philippe Bienvenu** and **Françoise Allaire**, from L'orient [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1698-1712, image 41 of 660].

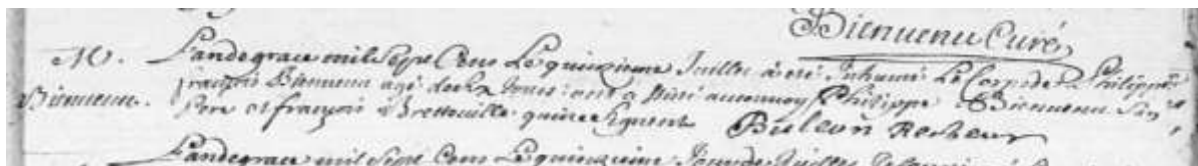


4 July 1699, Ploemeur – Marriage of **Philippe Bienvenu** and **Françoise Allaire**, widow of **Jean Bernard** [see above].

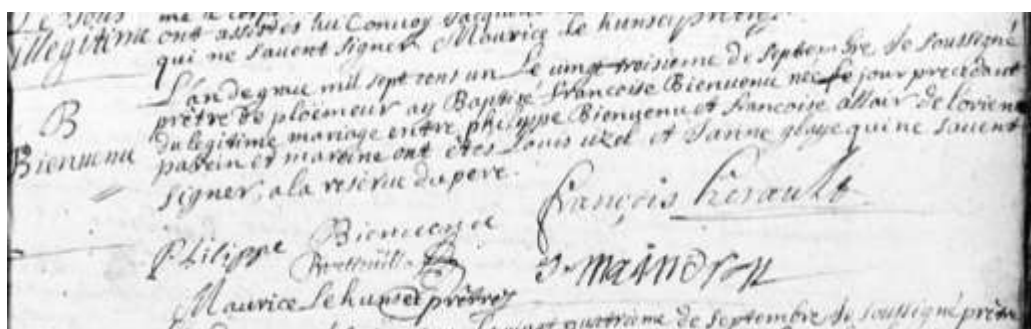
11 July 1700, Ploemeur – Baptism of **Philippe François Bienvenu** (born 9 July 1700), son of **Philippe Bienvenu** and **Françoise Aler / Allaire** of Lorient. The godparents were **François Bretteville**, Françoise's brother-in-law, and **Janne Raudas**, her mother [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1698-1712, image 73 of 660 – baptism].



15 July 1700, Ploemeur – Burial of **Philippe François Bienvenu** [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1698-1712, image 73 of 660 –burial].



23 September 1701, Ploemeur – Baptism of **Françoise Bienvenu** (born the day before), daughter of **Philippe Bienvenu** and **Françoise Allair / Allaire**, from Lorient [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1698-1712, image 122 of 660].



8 December 1701, Ploemeur – Burial in the church of Ploemeur, **Jeanne Raudas**, aged about 75 years [actually 68 years old], died 7 December 1701. Her daughter **Françoise Allaire** and her sons-in-law **François Bretteville** and **Philippe Bienvenu** attended the burial. Philippe Bienvenu signed [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1698-1712, image 131 of 660].

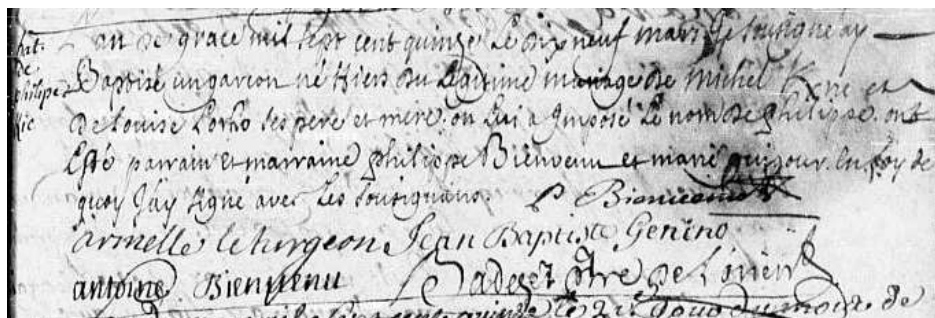
22 November 1703, Ploemeur – Baptism (and born the same day) of **Antoine Bienvenu**, son of the *honorable personnes* **Philippe Bienvenu** and **Françoise Allaire**, of Lorient [Ploemeur, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1698-1712, image 218 of 660].



11 November 1706, Lorient – Baptism of **Marie Janne Bienvenu**, born 1 November 1706, daughter of the *honorable personnes* **Philippe Bienvenu** and **Françoise Allaire**. At the time of this birth, Françoise Allaire was 43½ years old and had given birth to eight known children in a 23-year-period [État civil, Lorient, Commune de Lorient, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1706, image 26 of 31]. Below.



9 March 1715, Lorient – **Philippe Bienvenu** was godfather to **Philippe Kie** [sic], son of **Michel** and **Louise Lorho**. His son **Antoine Bienvenu** signed as a witness – his first known signature [État civil, Lorient, Commune de Lorient, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1715, image 10 of 36].



17 October 1715, Lorient – **Philippe Bienvenu** signed as a witness to the marriage of **Benoît Bonon** and **Gillette Leslique** [État civil, Lorient, Commune de Lorient, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1715, images 25 and 26 of 36].



Carte de Lorient et de sa rade, réalisée en 1750 par Georges-Louis Le Rouge pour le Ministre et Secrétaire d'État de la Guerre. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Les_environs_de_lorient_et_du_Port-Louis_par_Georges-Louis_Le_Rouge.jpeg

Part 2: Lorient, Morbihan, and La Rochelle, Charente-Maritime, France

Based on the information found to date, **Philippe Bienvenu**, from the parish of St-Paul in Orléans, modern-day department of Loiret, and his wife **Françoise Aler / Aller / Allaire** from Ploemeur and Lorient, modern-day department of Morbihan, were the parents of five children: **Jeanne**, born 10 June 1699; **Philippe François**, born 9 July 1700 and buried 15 July 1700; **Françoise**, born 22 September 1701; **Antoine** (never known as Pierre Antoine in the records in France) born 22 November 1703; and **Marie Jeanne** (known as Marie Anne / Anne Marie in the New World), born 1 November 1706. Their half-sisters were **Marie Gillet**, born 23 September 1683 (fate unknown); **Madeleine Bernard**, born 1 June 1693; and **Angélique Françoise Bernard**, born 3 May 1695.



Le port et la rade de Lorient vers 1800, Growth under the Company of the Indies,
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Le_port_et_la_rade_de_Lorient_vers_1800.jpg

In 1664 **Jean Baptiste Colbert**, **Louis XIV**'s chief minister, created the French East Indies Company so that France could be supplied with products from the East. In June 1666, an ordinance signed by Louis XIV granted lands from Port-Louis and Faouédic (the Breton name for the site of present-day Lorient) to the Company, thus creating a new town – L'Orient or Lorient – which was to have a great influence on the settling of Louisiana, and, consequently, Kaskaskia. In the beginning, it was a *chantier de constructions navales* (ship-building yard) and was an annex to Port-Louis where the offices and stores of the Company were located. As time went on, a chapel, workshops, forges, stores and offices were erected and then enclosed into an area called *L'Enclos* (see the above picture). Carpenters, workman, clerks and shop owners settled there and by 1700 what was to become the town of Lorient was entirely in *L'Enclos*. A few homes were soon erected, and the port of Lorient then served as an arsenal, a *port de guerre* (war port), a *port de commerce*, and the *entrepôt* (depot) of the Orient. By 1702 there were about 6,000 inhabitants of *L'Enclos* and the *Bourg de Lorient*, which contained the homes. They were dependent on the parish of Ploemeur – the parish of the Bienvenu family who lived in Lorient. In 1709, the parish of Lorient was created, and, by 1710, the young city had its own church, its own police, court, and markets.

The town and area were now completely independent of Port-Louis and Ploemeur. However, by 1710, the *Compagnie des Indes* was dying and the *marine de guerre* (navy) was in complete decay. In fact, up to 1719 the *magasins* (stores) in Lorient were empty, the wharves deserted, the *cales* (slips) unoccupied, and many families left the city because of lack of work.² Perhaps this is why Philippe Bienvenu and his son Antoine left by 1718.

Prior to the Bienvenu's departure, the parish register of St-Louis in Lorient recorded many baptisms and marriages of men and their families whose lives were influenced by *La Compagnie*. The signatures on these records are from people who represented many levels of French society. The signers of these records include the following people who had an influence on New Orleans, La Mobile, Natchez, and Kaskaskia:

On 8 April 1716, in Lorient, *noble homme* **Pierre Melicque**, *officier de la Marine*, was godfather to **Marguerite Lorain**, [born in February 1716 and buried 10 April 1716], daughter of *noble homme* **Gerard Pellerin**, *écrivain du Roy* (scribe), and **Catherine Angélique LeCozique / Le Cozic**.



<http://recherche/archives.morbihan.fr/archive/recherche/etatcivil/n:6>
État civil, Lorient, Commune de Lorient, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1716, image 10

To date, this is the only reference to Pierre Melicque found in Lorient, France. He is normally associated with Kaskaskia in present-day Illinois. Several records have been found for Pellerin, from 1716 to 1718, in the parish register of St-Louis de Lorient.

In addition to their daughter Marguerite Lorain, Gerard Pellerin and his wife Catherine Angélique Le Cozic / Le Cozique were the parents of two sons: (1) **Jean Baptiste Antoine**, born 29 January 1717 [1717, image 3] and baptized the first of February 1717 in St-Louis de Lorient. His godparents were **Jean Baptiste Moreau**, *chirurgien du Roy*, and *Demoiselle* **Petronille Cozic** who signed as **Louise Cozic**; (2) **Pierre Louis**, born 15 June 1718 [1718, image 12] and baptized the 16th in St-Louis de Lorient. His godparents were *noble homme* **Jacques Kreal**, a royal notary, and *demoiselle* Louise le Cozic. Gerard Pellerin was present for both baptisms and signed. No death record has been found, to date, for either son.

On 15 October 1715, in St-Louis de Lorient, *sieur* **Louis Ossement** [Ozement in the margin and signed L. Osseman] married **Andrée Roberte Guillet** [1715, image 27]. No parents were named, but both parties were of age and of that parish. On 1 August 1716 their first daughter was born – **Marie Louise** [1716, image 19]. Her godparents were *sieur* Gerard Pellerin and **Marie Guillet**. One of the witnesses

² See <http://en.wikipedia.org/Lorient>; www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/abpo_0003-391X_num_46_1_1788 Louis Chaumeil, “Abrégé de Lorient de la fondation (1666) à nos jours (1939),” *Annales de Bretagne*, Tome 46, numéro 1-2, 1939, 66-87. [The information in this section was translated by me from this article.]

who signed was Catherine Le Cozic. When Marie Louise Osseman *dite* Bourbon was buried on 30 September 1718 [1718, image 22], one of the witnesses was her godfather Gerard Pellerin. A second daughter named **Roberte** was born 16 July 1717 [1717, image 15] and baptized the next day in Lorient. Her fate is unknown. She was not enumerated with her parents on the ship's list of passengers for the Pellerin Concession.

Gerard Pellerin received a concession in Louisiana and went there on board *Le Comte de Toulouse* on 15 November 1718. The 10 people in his party were: Sieur Pellerin; Madame Pellerin; one son [there were possibly two sons alive at this time]; **Pierre Guezo**, his nephew; **Noel Soileau**, his nephew; **Louis Bourbon dit Ossement** [possibly Ozement / Ossement / Osseman *dite* Bourbon]; his wife **André Roberte Guillet / Guillette**; **Annette Guillette**, a servant; **Marie**, a free Negresse servant; and **Marguerite Argere**, a servant.³

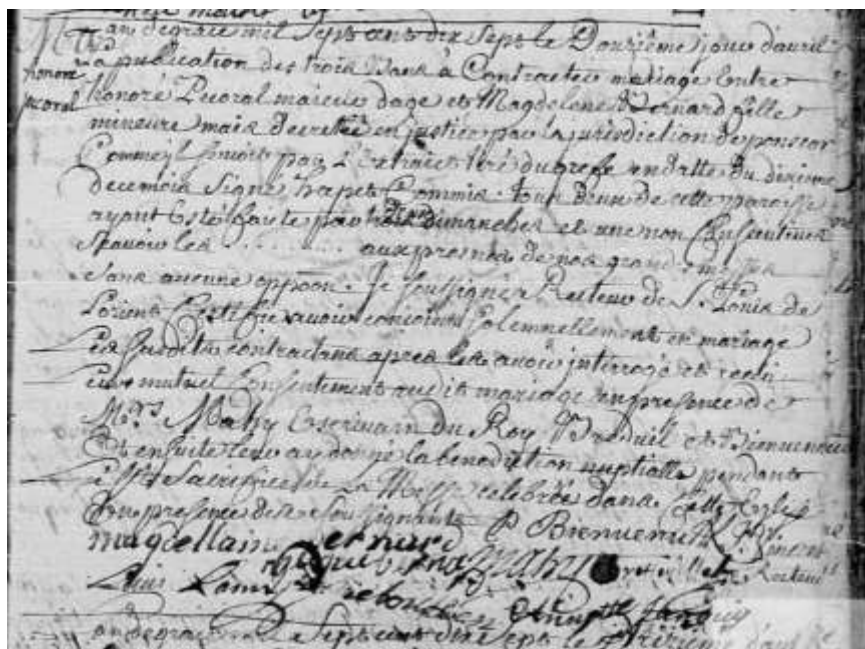
Both Gerard Pellerin and Louis Osseman *dite* Bourbon / Bourbon *dite* Osseman were early settlers in Louisiana. In various census records before 1729, Gerard Pellerin's wife and son were never mentioned. In the 13 May 1722 census of Concessions along the Mississippi taken by **Diron** (d'Artaguiette), specifically in the area of Natchez, Pellerin and **Cache**, associates, were enumerated. Nearby were Noel Solau and wife. In the 1726 census, Pellerin was enumerated as an inhabitant of the area of Natchez, on his own concession with his associates. Nearby were Noel Soileau and his wife. However, Gerard Pellerin did remarry 24 March 1729, in New Orleans, to **Françoise Ruelan**, daughter of **Pierre Ruellan** and **Françoise Henon**, from the parish of Pleneuf, Diocese of St-Brieuc, France, and widow of **Jean Baptiste Scolan**, a former notary and procurator of St. Malo, department of Côte-d'Amor, France. In the marriage record Gerard Pellerin was said to be the magazine-intendant at the general control of the province of Louisiana and trustee of the Parish of New Orleans.⁴ In the census of 1732 he was said to be a "warehouse guard" who had a wife and two children and owned three Negro slaves, three Negro children and one mulatto. In the June 26, 1721 census of the inhabitants of Fort Louis de la Mobile, Louis Bourbon and his wife were enumerated. They were also enumerated in the 1726 census as inhabitants of Mobile. In the January 1732 census for New Orleans, Bourbon was enumerated with his wife and one orphan living on Ste. Anne Street.⁵

Meanwhile, Philippe Bienvenu and his family were still in Lorient. His stepdaughter, **Magdelene Bernard**, aged 23 years, daughter of **Jan Bernard** and **Françoise Allaire**, married **Honoré Pecoral** on 12 April 1717. Philippe Bienvenu was present and signed. No mention was made of her mother Françoise Allaire, only that permission had been given from the court for Magdelene to marry. Her sister **Angélique Bernard**, as well as her maternal uncle **François Bretteville** were present and signed.

³ <http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/e/e054/e001349575.jpg> and e001349576.jpg

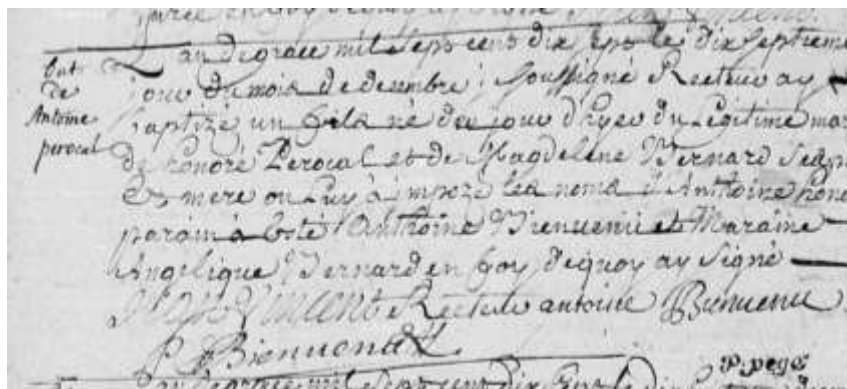
⁴ Reverend Monsignor Earl C. Woods and Dr. Charles E. Nolan, editors, *Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans*, Volume I, 1718-1750 (New Orleans: Archdiocese of New Orleans, 1987), 202, 231, 232.

⁵ Charles R. Maduell, Jr., compiler and translator, *The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 Through 1732* (Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc.: Baltimore, Maryland, 2008 –reprint), 30, 56, 124 – for Pellerin and Soileau; 23, 63, 137 for Bourbon.



État civil, Lorient, Commune de Lorient, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1717, image 8

On 17 December 1717, **Anthoine Honoré**, son of Honoré Perocal and Magdelene Bernard was baptized in St-Louis de Lorient. His godfather was his uncle **Anthoine Bienvenu**. His godmother was his aunt **Angélique Bernard**. No mention was made of his grandmother Françoise Allaire. The record below is the last time Philippe Bienvenu and his son Antoine signed the parish register of Lorient. Antoine Bienvenu was 14 years old.



État civil, Lorient, Commune de Lorient, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1717, image 26

Between 17 December 1717 and 13 May 1718, Philippe and his son left Lorient forever, never to return. Perhaps, they were among the people previously mentioned who were unemployed. They would never again see Françoise Allaire, Magdelene Bernard and Angélique Bernard with their families. However, Philippe would again see his daughters Jeanne Bienvenu, Françoise Bienvenu and Anne Marie Bienvenu.

By 13 May 1718, Philippe Bienvenu and his 14-year-old son Antoine were in La Rochelle and were hired, for three years, by Sieur Melicque, *officier de la Compagnie de l'Occident*, to go to the place called *Louisiane* located in the lands of *la Merique*. One can only speculate if they had met Melicque when he was in Lorient in 1716. A few days before, on 10 May 1718, Pierre Melicque had hired **Charles Gautron/Gaudron**, for three years, as a *serrurier* [locksmith]. On the next page of this article is the

contract that Philippe and Antoine Bienvenu signed that would change their lives and the lives of their family still in Lorient.⁶

The summary of this contract is as follows:

Philippe Bienvenu was a native of Orléans but had been living in the port of Lorient. He was a *menuisier* (joiner/carpenter) by profession. Father and son were hired by Sieur Melicque, a *noble homme*, for three consecutive years, for the salary of 1400 *livres*, to work at their trade for his profit, beginning the moment they set foot in the new land. They would follow the orders of Melicque or his clerks. They would be fed and housed for those three years but had to provide their own tools. They would leave with Melicque on the first available boat. If the work required of them was done before three years were up, Melicque's contract with them would be ended.

They left La Rochelle on 23 May 1718 on board *la Victoire*. The people considered as “M. de Melique’s People” were: Philippe Bienvenu from Port Louis; Antoine Bienvenu from Port Louis, son of Philippe Bienvenu; **Pierre Henry Solo** from Nantes; **Charles Gautron** from La Rochelle; **Estienne Cousteaux** from l’île de Ré; **Simon Balange** from l’île de Ré; **Jacques Flamand** from l’île de Ré; **André Doyron** from l’île de Ré; **Jean de Beaune** from Paris; **Catherine** (no surname) from La Rochelle; and **Jean L’Allemand** from Angers.⁷



⁶ This document can be found online at: <http://bd.archivescanadafrance.org> In the “faire une recherche” link, put “Melicque” and “1718”. This will bring up the documents for both Charles Gautron/Gaudron and the Bienvenus. The source is: Archives départementales de la Charente-Maritime (France), 3 E art, 573, folios 94-94v.

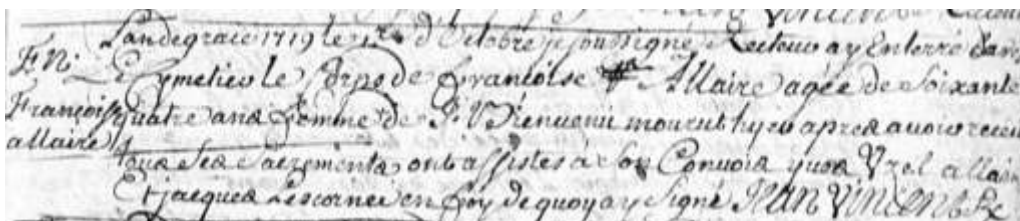
⁷ Glenn R. Conrad, *The First Families of Louisiana*, Volume 1 (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Claitor’s Publishing Division, 1970), 11-19.



Part 3: Lorient, Morbihan, Old Biloxi, and Kaskaskia

On 23 May 1718 **Philippe Bienvenu** and his son **Antoine**, in the employ of **Sieur Melicque**, *officier de la Compagnie de l'Occident*, left La Rochelle on board *la Victoire* for *Louisiane*. They left behind **Françoise Allaire** (wife and mother), **Jeanne Bienvenu**, **Françoise Bienvenu**, and **Marie Jeanne** (Anne Marie) **Bienvenu** (daughters and sisters).

Françoise Allaire, wife of Philippe Bienvenu, erroneously written as J. Bienvenu by the presiding priest Jean Vincent, was buried on 1 October 1719 in the cemetery of Lorient. She died on 30 September 1719, after having received all the sacraments, and was said to be aged 64 years [was actually 56 years old]. The witnesses to the burial were **Yves Uzel Allain** and **Jacques Lescornec**. No mention was made of any of her daughters being in attendance at the burial.



<http://recherche/archives.morbihan.fr/archive/recherche/etatcivil/Lorient>

État civil, Lorient, Commune de Lorient, baptêmes, mariages, sépultures, 1719, image 23 of 32

On 9 July 1720 an unnamed male **Perocal**, aged one year and six months [born *circa* January 1719?] was buried in the cemetery of Lorient in the presence of his mother **Marie Magdeleine Bernard** [wife of Honoré Perocal] and his aunt **Angélique Bernard**. No mention was made of their half-sisters Jeanne, Françoise and Marie Jeanne (Anne Marie) Bienvenu. Had they already left Lorient for Louisiana and the New World?

Marie Françoise Bienvenu, daughter of Philippe Bienvenu and Françoise Cla[ir?] [Allaire], married **François La Ferriere dit Bouillie** [Bouillier], son of **François Bouillier** and **Marguerite Rousseau**, 16 March 1721, at Old Biloxi [present-day Ocean Springs, Mississippi]. The witnesses to the marriage were: Jean Freeino, Claude Fortier, André Guentel, Jean Beranger, Marc Poirier, **Jeanne Bienvenu**, the bride's sister, and Étienne Giraud.⁸ François La Ferriere [possibly Bouillier Lafferiere] left for Louisiana, from La Rochelle, on 23/25 May 1718 on board *la Duchesse de Noailles*, under the command of Captain de la Salle. La Ferriere was one of 67 people "bound for the de la Houssaye concession in Louisiana who were furnished food at La Rochelle from March 29, 1718 to May 16, 1718, while awaiting the departure of *la Duchesse de Noailles*." He was served food for 49 days at the officer's mess. On the ship's manifest he was said to be from Mans [Le Mans, department of Sarthe?].⁹ No contract has been found to date which gave the conditions for his being part of the de la Houssaye concession. Could he have been hired for a period of three years and then free to go where he wished after that time was over? Or did he and his wife Françoise Bienvenu return to the concession and live there for a period of time?

One of the witnesses to the marriage was **Jean Beranger**, a naval captain who was buried in New Orleans on 18 June 1730.¹⁰ Another witness, André Guental, also known as **André Quenetal**, from Rouen, was part of the de la Houssaye concession.¹¹ **Étienne Giraud**, a joiner, may have been in New Orleans as early as 1721 or before.¹²

Even though no proof can be found for the name of the boat that the Bienvenu sisters [**Jeanne**, age 20; **Françoise**, age 19; **Marie Jeanne** (Anne Marie), age 14] arrived on in the New World, there are definite connections between them and several of the women who arrived on the small French flûte *la Baleine* on 8 January 1721 in the Gulf Coast near Mobile Bay. The women, on the list which follows, were said to be "from the Maison de St. Louis, of the Salpêtrière, who have been remitted to the *Sieurs De Lage* and Betouzet, Constabulary Guards on 12 June 1720, to be conducted to Painbeuf where they are to embark for Louisiana (source from Ardoin below).¹³

⁸ Reverend Monsignor Earl C. Woods and Dr. Charles E. Nolan, editors, *Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans*, Volume I, 1718-1750 (New Orleans: Archdiocese of New Orleans, 1987), 21, 144. The references to the marriages in the list are all from this source. [Author's note: I have not seen the original church acts to verify names and dates.]

⁹ Glenn R. Conrad, *The First Families of Louisiana*, Volume 1 (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1970), 4, 12 for François Laferriere/ La Ferriere.

¹⁰ Woods, 17.

¹¹ Conrad, I, 12.

¹² Woods, 2, 117.

¹³ The names, in alphabetical order, are taken from the online source provided by Rootsweb, Lastland-L Archives, Bryant W. Walker (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/LASTLAND/2002-10/1033957993>). This list is based on the article by Bruce Ardoin, "Notes and Documents: The *Baleine* Brides: A Missing Ship's Roll for Louisiana, 1721," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 75 (December 1987): 303-5. This source can be accessed free at: www.scribd.com/doc/213439827/La-Baleine-Brides-1721. The lists, as published, contain 88 names. However, for some reason, Jean Delanglez, *The French Jesuits in Lower Louisiana (1700-1763)* in Catholic University of America Studies in American Church History, XXI (Washington: Catholic University of America,

Denise Aleaume dite Voillot, age 18, married **Jacques Bernard dit St. Jacques**, 22 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. **The couple was in Kaskaskia / Fort de Chartres, circa 1726.**¹⁴ [Woods, 2, 18]

Catherine Bady, age 20, married **Nicolas Lepreux dit Montreuil**, 23 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 8, 166]

Marguerite Beganies [Beguine], age 15, married **Antoine Negrier**, 4 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 15, 197]

Margueritte Belanger, age 26, married **Joseph Dutro / Duera**, 6 May 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 16, 95]

Geneviève Billard, age 17, married **Pierre Santorin**, 23 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 21, 234]

Catherine Blanchard, age 18, married **Mathurin Roger**, 5 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 22, 226]

Marie Bled, age 20. Possibly **Françoise Bled / Blee**, native of Paris, widow of **Louis Pousset**, deceased at Natchez, who married **Pierre Le Sage**, 12 April 1730, place not specified. [Woods, 23-24, 168]

Marie Jeanne Blegnot, age 17, married **Jacques Keston**, 5 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 24, 140]

Agnès Bloy, age 18. Possibly **Louise Blois**, who married **Honoré Lambert**, 11 August 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 24, 147]

Marie Bocquet, age 22, married **Vivien/Vien Bailly**, 25 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 9, 27]

Madeleine Boulogne, age 19, married **Pierre de Vauvray/Vaubray**, 4 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 30, 80]

Geneviève Boyer, age 25. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Hélène Brière, age 14. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Marthe Burel, age 21, married **Jacques Valade**, 10 February 1720 (*sic* - the year is 1721), at Old Biloxi [Woods, 38, 252 – one of the witnesses was **Sister Gertrude**, a chaperon]

Marie Anne Charlotte, age 20, married **François Hupé**, 16 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 47, 133]

Catherine Chevalier, age 14. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Jeanne Chevet, age 15, married **Mathieu Avignon / Lavignon dit Provençal**, 3 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 7, 51]

Marie Claircatoire [Marie Claire Catoire], age 20, married **Léonard Billeron dit La Fatigue**, 23 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. **The couple was in Kaskaskia.** Léonard Billeron was the son of **Pierre Billeron** and **Marie Marthe Forcier** from Montréal.¹⁵ [Woods, 21, 43; Beauregard, 80]

Elizabeth Clavier, age 17. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Marie Madeline Cordier, age 21, married **Louis Robillard**, 15 May 1721, at Old Biloxi. **The couple was in Kaskaskia.** [Woods, 56, 224; Beauregard, 135, 226]

Charlotte Couturier, age 12, married **Jean Charpillon**, 6 August 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 47, 58]

Marie Anne Daudessot, age 28, married **Jacques Blouin dit Lacroix**, 21 August 1722, place not specified. [Woods, 24, 64]

Elizabeth Delaunay, age 18, married **Louis Begnon**, 19 May 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 15, 73]

Margueritte Denis [Letellier *dite* Denis], age 23, married **Maurice Pigny**, 9 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 169, 209]

Geneviève Desrost [Dero], age 25, married **Albert Fondelay**, 4 February 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 77, 106]

Catherine Barbe Du Bis, age 22, married **Pierre François Doublin**, 2 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 64, 88]

Marie Gabriel Dubuisson, age 18, died 26 April 1721¹⁶

Thoinon Dumont, age 21 - Possibly **Elizabeth Le Faure dite Dumont**, who married **Jean Bourbeaux/Bourbeau**, 9 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. One of the witnesses was **Sister St. Louis**, one of the chaperons of the *Baleine* brides. [Woods, 30, 161]

Marguerite Duvet, age 17, married **Bernard Robillard**, 29 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 96, 224]

Marie Anne Fetique [Fetre], age 13, married **Jacques Charpentier**, 30 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 47, 103]

1935), 53 and note, stated there were 96 names. [Author's note: I have not seen this source.] This note was from Richebourg Gaillard McWilliams, translator and editor, *Fleur de Lys and Calumet, Being the Pénicault Narrative of French Adventure in Louisiana* (Tuscaloosa and London: The University of Alabama Press, 1988, 250 note.

¹⁴ Marthe Faribault-Beauregard, *La population des forts français d'Amérique (XVIIIe siècle)*, Tome II (Montréal: Éditions Bergeron, 1984), 211, 233.

¹⁵ René Jetté, *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec des origines à 1730* (Montréal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 1983), 103.

¹⁶ Conrad, Vol. II, 78 - said age 16

Marie Angélique Florent, age 23. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Madeleine Follet, age 25. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Marie Anne Foucault, age 17, married **Jacques Dupont**, 31 March 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 92, 108]

Marie Catherine Foucault, age 19, married **René Sabourin**, 22 March 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 108, 232]

Marie François, age 22, married **Norbert de Villeneuve**, 3 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 81, 109]

Marie Geneviève Garnier [Gernier], age 16, married **Samuel Bernard dit St. Cautin**, 7 May 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 18, 115]

Catherine Gauzalau [Gonzalu], age 19, married **Jean François Pomelle / Pomel**, 7 May 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 120, 211]

Anthoinette Gento, age 18. Possibly **Etiennette Genet / Genest** who married **Pierre Fugere**, 12 March 1721, at Old Biloxi. One of the witnesses was **Jeanne Bienvenu**, who, four days earlier, had witnessed the marriage of her sister **Françoise Bienvenu** to **François La Feriere** at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 111, 113]

Angélique Girard, age 22, married **Zacharie Rorbae / Robar**, 27 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 116, 228]

Elizabeth Girard, age 17, married **Jacques Blouin dit La Croix**, 23 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. See above his marriage to **Marie Anne Daudessot**. [Woods, 24, 116]

Marie Anne Giraudon, age 21, married **Louis Viger**, 13 March 1722, place not specified. [Woods, 117, 256]

Marie Jeanne Godefroy, age 22, married **Gilbert Bare / Barre**, 17 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 12, 118]

Marie Anne Goneau [Gonot] **dite Rose**, age 26, married **Claude Pierre Mareschal dit Villeneuve**, 1 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. **This family was at Kaskaskia.**¹⁷ [Woods, 120, 179]

Gabrielle Grandval, age 20. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Marguerite Claude Heriot, age 18 / 19 - No additional information has been found on her to date.

Catherine Hubert, age 22, married **René Jean**, 23 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 131, 135]

Jeanne Hubert, age 18. Possibly **Jeanneton Hubert** who married **Thomas Asselin**, 20 February 1722, place not specified.¹⁸ [Woods, 6, 131]

Thoinette Huly, age 26. Probably **Antoinette Eulie** who married **Charles Requiem**, 18 March 1721, at Old Biloxi. **Sisters Gertrude** and **St. Louis**, two of the chaperons from *la Baleine*, were witnesses. [Woods, 99, 219]

Marie Anne Jarnart, age 16. Possibly **Marieanne Jomar / Jomard / Jomer** who married **Antoine Loue**, 4 March 1721, at Old Biloxi. **Sister Gertrude** was one of the witnesses. [Woods, 137, 173]

Marie Jeanne Jelain [Gelain / Gelin], age 24, married **François Bourdon**, 21 February 1722, place not specified. [Woods, 30, 113]

Marie Kenel, age 18. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Marie La Pleine, age 19. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Anne Lange, age 18, married **François Hupé**, 16 August 1721, place not specified. See also his marriage to **Marie Anne Charlotte**, above. [Woods, 133, 149]

Melanye Laté, age 18. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Marie Catherine Laurent, age 17, married **Jacques Guerin**, 4 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 124, 233]

Marie Le Brun, age 17. No additional information has been found on her to date.

Barbe Le Comte, age 13, married **Jacques Robat / Roba**, 3 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 160, 224]

Marie Jeanne Le Grand, age 20, married **Jean Baptiste Besson**, unknown date and location. [Woods, 20]

Marie Marguerite Le Jeune, age 16, married **Charles Vincent**, 14 August 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 163, 257]

Louise Le Mire [Mire], age 16, married **Pierre Foure**, 26 July 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 108, 190]

Marie Claude Le Moine, age 18, married **Jacques Larchevesque/Archeveque**, 5 February 1721, at Old Biloxi. **Jacques Larchevêque** was the son of **Jean Larchevêque** and **Catherine Delaunay** from Québec. [Woods, 151, 165; Jetté, 653-654]

Jeanne Le Noble, age 15, married **François Touche**, 1 July 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 165, 247]

¹⁷ Natalia Maree Belting, *Kaskaskia Under the French Regime* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1948), 115.

¹⁸ Ardoin, 305, note #5 “It appears that Jeanne Hubert’s name was added to replace that of Marie Louise Le Tillier, whose name is crossed off. The name Marie Louise Le Tillier / Tellier is one of several on the foregoing list whose names also appear on the roll of the ship *Mutine*, which supposedly left France in December 1719 carrying an earlier load of female deportees. See A.C., F5b, 37; and Col. B, 42 bis. Fiol. 207, Archives Nationales.”

Marie Louise Le Roy, age 20, married **Michel Meruan**, 8 May 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 168, 188]
Marie Louise Le Tillier, age 17. No additional information has been found on her to date. [See footnote #10]
Louise Legain [Leguin], age 23, married **Jean Baptiste Fontaine**, 23 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 106, 163]
Marie Lembajoye [Lambagois], age 18, married **François Bouvet**, 10 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 32, 147]
Louise Benedic Lese [Lefel], age 18, married **Pierre Sebastien Lartau**, 28 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 153, 161]
Marie Thérèse Leveille, age 18, married **Pierre Tirel**, 4 June 1721, place not specified. [Woods, 169-170, 247]
Jeanne Madou, age 15. No additional information has been found on her to date.
Thérèse Maisonnette, age 20, married **Julien Harace**, 16 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 126, 175]
Anne Manny [Moni], age 19, married **Jean Caron**, 20 March 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 41, 191]
Marie Françoise Maroy, age 17, married **Pierre Richaume**, 19 April 1721, place not specified. Pierre Richaume was the son of **Jacques Richaume** and **Marguerite Gratiot** from Repentigny. [Woods, 180, 221; Jetté, 984]
Marguerite Masson, age 21. No additional information has been found on her to date.
Geneviève Mavre [Mandre], age 15, married **Antoine D'Engremont**, 23 April 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 76, 177]
Catherine Melier, age 18. She married **Jean Prudhomme**, unknown date and location, and **Pierre Alorges**, 13 February 1741, Natchitoches.¹⁹
Catherine Menu, age 28, married **Jacques Courtableau**, 27 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 58, 187]
Marie Madeleine Mercier, age 16, married **Simon La Caille**, 9 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 143-144, 187]
Geneviève Morline, age 18. No additional information has been found on her to date.
Marie Françoise Muguët, age 19, married **Charles L'Étimier**, 25 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 169, 195]
Marie Anne Nayon, age 25. No additional information has been found on her to date.
Catherine Paule, age 23. No additional information has been found on her to date.
Jacqueline Penard [Pinard], age 25, married **Joseph Pierre Castel**, 6 July 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 42, 209]
Françoise Rabu, age 25, married **Pierre Durand**, 10 February 1721, at Old Biloxi. **This couple was in Kaskaskia.** [Woods, 93-94, 215; Beaugard, II, 130]
Marie Louise Richard, age 16. No additional information has been found on her to date.
Françoise Savary, age 20, married **Barthelemy Madre**, 17 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 175, 234, 236]
Perrette Vaillet [Vailly], age 18, married **Alexandre Nicolas Capelle/Capel**, 3 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 40, 252]
Anne Vignernon, age 30. No additional information has been found on her to date.
Marie Villeroy, age 17, married **Guillaume Vivier**, 10 June 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 257, 258]
Louise Vollery, age 17, married **Noel Deprouond**, 10 February 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 77, 259]

Two additional names of women who were not on the *la Baleine* list but who married in same time period, location, and went to Kaskaskia were: (1) **Catherine Delaunay** who married **Pierre Dirouche**, 24 February 1721, at Old Biloxi [Woods, 73, 82; Beaugard, II, 86 - under the name of Desrouches / Derousse *dit* St-Pierre-Laverdure] and (2) **Anne Rolais** [Rollet] who married **Antoine Sorel [dit Dauphiné]**, 15 July 1721, at Old Biloxi. [Woods, 226, 242; Beaugard, II, 151]

Part 4: Kaskaskia

On **23 May 1718**, **Philippe Bienvenu** and his son **Antoine**, in the employ of **Sieur Melicque**, *officier de la Compagnie de l'Occident*, left La Rochelle on board *la Victoire* for *Louisiane*. They left behind **Françoise Allaire** (wife and mother), **Jeanne Bienvenu**, **Françoise Bienvenu**, and **Marie Jeanne** (Anne

¹⁹ The information was originally found online on the site of Mildred Methvin [memethvin@gmail.com]. The Methvin-McManus-Swartz Family site which, because it is part of familytreemaker.genealogy, might not be available after 5 September 2014. However, the information concerning Catherine Melier can also be found in Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches: Abstracts of the Catholic Church Registers of the French and Spanish Post of St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches in Louisiana 1729-1803* (Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2007), 27. The original copyright is 1977.

Marie) **Bienvenu** (daughters and sisters). Françoise Allaire, wife of Philippe Bienvenu, was buried on **1 October 1719** in the cemetery of Lorient. Marie Françoise Bienvenu, daughter of Philippe Bienvenu and Françoise Cla[ir?] [Allaire], married **François La Feriere dit Bouillie** [Bouillier], son of **François Bouillier** and **Marguerite Rousseau**, on **16 March 1721**, at Old Biloxi [present-day Ocean Springs, Mississippi]. Her sister Jeanne Bienvenu was one of the witnesses.²⁰ Even though no proof has been found for the name of the boat that the Bienvenu sisters [Jeanne, age 20; Françoise, age 19; Marie Jeanne (Anne Marie), age 14] arrived on in the New World, there are definite connections between them and several of the women who arrived on the small French *flute* [a type of ship], *la Baleine*, on **8 January 1721** in the Gulf Coast near Mobile Bay.²¹

Between 23 May 1718 and 29 June 1721, there is no information, to date, concerning the activities of Philippe Bienvenu and his son Antoine.

Kaskaskia

On **29 June 1721**, in Kaskaskia, there was an inventory and valuation of the effects of the late **Pierre Roi** [Roy] and the division of his estate between his widow **Marianne Mascoutinie8e** and his minor children, **Marie Louise** and **Geneviève**. Only a fragment of the document remains. However, on that fragment were the signatures of **Le Gouverneur; Bourdon; D'Artaguiette; Renaud; Bienvenu; Melicque; l'Étoile; Provost; Bourbonnois; Le Brun; La Pointe; Pierre Glinel; Danis; La Rose; Poinchard**.²² It is very likely that this Bienvenu is the father Philippe and not the son Antoine who would have been 17 years old at the time.²³

1722 - No date given, marriage contract of **Charles Gossieaux** and Anne [Jeanne] Bienvenu.²⁴

On **24 May 1722**, a partnership was drawn up between **Pontual / Ponthual** and Bienvenu [most likely Philippe Bienvenu].²⁵

On **15 July 1722**, a marriage contract was drawn up between **Dupré** [Jacques Lecomte *dit* Dupré Terrebonne] and Marie [Anne Marie] Bienvenu.²⁶

1723 - No date given, marriage contract of Philippe Bienvenu.²⁷

²⁰ Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, "The Other Bienvenu Family of Kaskaskia in present-day Illinois: Philippe Bienvenu and Françoise Allaire – Part 3: Lorient, Morbihan, Old Biloxi, and Kaskaskia," *Michigan's Habitant Heritage (MHH)*, Vol. 35, #35, July 2014, 153.

²¹ Moreau-DesHarnais, 154.

²² <http://www.isas.illinois.edu/kaskaskia-manuscripts/home.shtml> *The Kaskaskia Manuscripts: 1708-1816. A Calendar of Civil Documents in Colonial Illinois*, Lawrie Cena Dean and Margaret Kimball Brown, 4. The excerpts concerning these manuscripts with an index can be downloaded from this site for free. "The Kaskaskia Manuscripts Collection is a heterogeneous group of over 6,000 original documents dating from 1708 to 1816. The collection includes marriage contracts, wills, inventories, deeds, depositions, partnerships, labor contracts, leases, and other transactions, which together form an extraordinary vivid chronicle of life in eighteenth-century Illinois."

²³ Gail Moreau-DesHarnais, "The Other Bienvenu Family of Kaskaskia in present-day Illinois: Philippe Bienvenu and Françoise Allaire – Part 1: Ploemur and Lorient, Morbihan, France," *MHH*, Vol. 35, #1, January 2014, 44.

²⁴ Dean and Brown, 10. The contract is missing and there are no details.

²⁵ Dean and Brown, 8. No details are given concerning this partnership.

²⁶ Dean and Brown, 8. No details are given concerning this marriage contract. See also Ann Dubuisson, *Dupré, Terrebonne, Fontenot, Garland, Stagg and Dubuisson, Including both the Life of Governor Jacques Dupré and the Santa Fé Expeditions of Pierre Mallet* (Knoxville, Tennessee: Tennessee Valley Publishers, 2009), 9, 13. The actual marriage contract is missing.

On **13 May 1723**, a contract was drawn up at Fort de Chartres by **Nicolas Chassin** between Philippe Bienvenu, a master joiner, and the Royal Indies Company, represented by **De Boisbriant** [Pierre Dugué, *sieur de Boisbriant*] and [Marc Antoine] **De la Loere des Ursins**, for the interior construction and woodwork in the company's building and counting house.²⁸ P (Philippe) Bienvenu signed the contract with Boisbriant and Desursins.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely reading 'P. Bienvenu', with a flourish underneath. The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

On **2 June 1723**, **Jean de Tharade dit La Rigueur** addressed the Council at St. François Xavier for payment from Philippe Bienvenu for a sum of 250 *livres* due to La Rigueur by the late Pontual, Bienvenu's business partner. If the sum was not paid, La Rigueur said he was entitled to Bienvenu's house. In his defense, Bienvenu said the house had nothing to do with Pontual. The house had been sold to Bienvenu in a contract from one named **Guillon**. In fact, Pontual owed Bienvenu 2000 *livres*. The Council examined the *contrat de société* [business agreement] between Pontual and Bienvenu. A decision was rendered on **23 September 1723** at Fort de Chartres: La Rigueur would have to deal with the heirs of Pontual for the money he felt he was owed.²⁹ While returning from Biloxy to New Orleans, *Sieur de Pontual* had been murdered near the *Isle aux Chats* by a trader named **la Borde** on 15 November 1722.³⁰

Also, on **2 June 1723**, an inventory and division of property between Philippe Bienvenu, master joiner, and his children, was executed by **Nicolas Ignace de Beaubois, S. J.**, in the house of the *honorable* Philippe Bienvenu. The division was executed on 3 June 1723 in the presence of **Girardot** [Jean Baptiste Girardeau], *Sieur de l'Étoile*, **Bourdon** and **L. Billeron dit La Fatigue**.³¹ The following is a listing of the property and effects of Philippe Bienvenu from the two combined documents drawn up at the same time:³²

- "A piece of land consisting of two *arpents* facing on the short range [*la petite ligne*] just as it is conveyed on the contract of the concession; 15 *arpents* of developed land [*terre en valeur*] in different places, running from the prairie up to the land on the short range - estimated at 2000 *francs* [the term that is used]
- one third of the house and the land that it is on [*son emplacement*] - 200 (*livres*)
- another *emplacement* adjoining the preceding one - 200 (*livres*)
- a horse with the cart, and all the horse trappings [*harnois*], and a plow - 350 (*livres*)

²⁷ Dean and Brown, 23. The contract is missing, and there are no details, including the bride's name, in the entry from Dean and Brown.

²⁸ Dean and Brown, 13; www.familysearch.org Family History Library (FHL) microfilm #956807, Kaskaskia Manuscripts, 1714-1816, Commercial Papers I, 1718-1759.

²⁹ Dean and Brown, 13; FHL microfilm #956800, Kaskaskia Manuscripts, 1714-1816, Public Papers I, 1720-1739. [The document is missing essential information that was written on the right margin of the first page and the left margin on the second page.]

³⁰ Newton D. Mereness, edited under the auspices of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, "Journal of Diron d'Artaguiette, Inspector General of Louisiana, 1722-1723," *Travels in the American Colonies* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916), 38.

³¹ Dean and Brown, 13, 14.

³² Dubuisson, 430, 431, 432; FHL microfilm #956801, Public Papers II-III, 1714-1779. The translation of the documents is based principally on the translation by David Lanclos and includes both documents. The items listed are essentially the same in both. In the second document from 3 June 1723 more details are given about the surviving children: Françoise, Anne Marie, Jeanne, and Antoine. [Author's note: I have compiled the information about the children into one document.]

- six medium-size pigs - 240 (*livres*)
- seven suckling pigs - 30 (*livres*)
- 20 poultry [*volailles*]: hens [*meres poulllets*] - 40 (*livres*)
- three large pots and a skillet - 250 (*livres*)
- three seals (stamps) bound with iron - 30 (*livres*)
- two sheds [*étables* – for animals] - 200 (*livres*)
- all sorts of joinery tools [*outils de menuiserie*] to be divided between the father and the son of which this will compensate them for the ~~greater part~~ of their share.
- two axes - no estimate given
- three hoes - 15 (*livres*)
- an adze [*herminette* – tool similar to an ax with an arched blade at right angles to the handle, used for cutting or shaping large pieces of wood] - no estimate given
- a scythe - 22 (*livres*) on one list; four scythes - 12 (*livres*) on the second list
- six sickles - 30 (*livres*)
- four chairs - 40 (*livres*)
- a folding table - 10 (*livres*)
- a case of salt and the rest of the salt in another barrel estimated to hold about five *minots* - (39 *livres*)
- an iron to press cloth [*un fer à flasquer*] - 40 (*livres*)
- 25 jars of oil - 50 (*livres*)
- tripod - 5 (*livres*)
- 5-1/4 (ells) of Limbourg (cloth) - 40 (*livres*)
- a stove (no estimate given)
- four dinner plates (no estimate given)
- two platters (no estimate given)
- a sauce pan made of iron (no estimate given)
- four spoons and a pitcher made of tin (no estimate given)
- eight *minots* of French wheat - 80 (*livres*)
- the value of 15 shelves of commodities - 30 (*livres*)
- that which is due by Ville-Neufve, the sum of 400 (*livres*)
- two benches - 120 (*livres*)
- the value of the account that is yet to be revised from the 400 (*livres*) which is due: 4562 (*livres*)
- and their share of the harvest [*récolte*], from this year 1723
- That which the two daughters had from the succession of their mother and which they kept upon their marriage. **Madame d'hebonne** (Terbonne) [Anne Marie Bienvenu]: four bed sheets, four napkins, three dinner plates and a platter; **Madame Maladette** [Françoise Bienvenu]: a half dozen bed sheets, a half dozen dinner napkins, four dinner plates and a platter.
- First, it was stipulated from the beginning of the partition that, that which the daughters of *Sieur* Bienvenu brought with them, their room and board through the gratuity that he made to them, and in order to compensate his son with a few benefits for the good services which he received from him, *Sieur* Bienvenu promises to share with him all of the tools. Further, *Sieur* Bienvenu has ceded to his son half of his land which is given to him with all the out-buildings for the sum of one thousand *livres*, of which he will make allowance for, without prejudice to his rights by the other half which is to be divided among the four children.
- The sum of the property total amounts to 6192 *livres* which is to be divided between *Sieur* Bienvenu and his four children. There remains to *Sieur* Bienvenu 3,076 [*livres*] and the same amount to the children.
- And their share from the above mentioned, of this year 1723, this day, the third of June, *Sieur* Girardot having been named and appointed guardian of the children – the two who are here named: Antoine [Philippe written above the name] Bienvenu and Jeanne Bienvenu, ~~as well as the other two married daughters who are now living on the coast~~, we proceeded with the division, and first there was settled that which the three daughters brought from France consisting of furniture and clothes coming from the succession of their mother which she gave to them without their being required to declare it on the account, but in order to compensate Philippe Antoine³³ Bienvenu *filz*, who received nothing from this,

³³ In the document drawn up by Father Beaubois, twice he refers to Antoine as Philippe Antoine.

- he will share equally with his father all of the tools and iron materials in the shop that his father has brought from France, and for that tools that are one-of-a-kind, *Sieur* Bienvenu promises to lend them to him if he should have need of them, or make some for him.
- *Sieur* Bienvenu is appointed guardian to the two children who are on the coast, to which he will keep for them an account in the amount of 1,830 *livres*, 10 *sols*, not including the half *arpent* of land which belongs to them, and which the oldest son Antoine Bienvenu is trustee, 1130 *livres*.
 - The rest of the land with a lot of one and a half *arpents*, now belonging to the oldest son, on condition of 153 *livres* of which the balance is 10 and to which he must reimburse his father, it being understood that which they did.
 - As a result of this ~~further the 242 *livres* that the said Bienvenu fils owes to his father~~, he is required to keep an account for his sister, Anne [Jeanne] Bienvenu, in the amount of 700 *livres*, which will then be regulated by the said *Sieur* Girardot, guardian of one and the other. All will be to the detriment of their claim to the crops, the debts of the account, and the number of days it is due.”



On **6 June 1723**, Philippe Bienvenu, a master joiner [*mâitre menuisier*] and widower of Françoise Allaire, married **Marie Ferret / Foret**, widow of **Pierre Verrier**.³⁴ Pierre Verrier had arrived on the *Marie* under the command of **M. Japye** bound for Louisiana from la Rochelle on 27 May 1719. He was part of the Party of **Prosper Drouot de Valdeterre**. In that same party were **Louis de La Haye** and his wife **Marie Fret**.³⁵ [Could this Marie Fret be the same as the widow of Pierre Verrier and then by 6 June 1723 the wife of Philippe Bienvenu?]

On **25 June 1723**, Philippe Bienvenu was on the list of debtors of **Jacques Bourdon** of Kaskaskia.³⁶

On **23 September 1723**, at Kaskaskia, Jeanne Bienvenu married **Charles Gossiau**, a master mason, son of **Philippe Gossiau** and **Anne Criche** from Avesne-sur-Helpe, Hainaut, diocese of Cambrai (Nord).³⁷

On **3 June 1726** (three years to the day of the division of Philippe Bienvenu’s property and possessions), Antoine Bienvenu married **Françoise Rabut**, widow of **Pierre Melet**. Both Antoine Bienvenu and Françoise Rabut signed the act with the witnesses: **Bonpart, Jmornan** (?), **Lalande, Lejeune, Marie Claire** [Catoire], **Girardot, Pottier, Vien, L. Billeron. J LeBoullenger, S. J.**, was the presiding priest.

³⁴ Marthe Faribault-Beauregard, *La population des forts français d’Amérique (XVIIIe siècle)*, Tome II (Montréal: Éditions Bergeron, 1984), 80; Natalia Maree Belting, *Kaskaskia Under the French Regime* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1948), 80. [Author’s note: I have not found a copy of the original record to verify the date and information.]

³⁵ Glenn R. Conrad, *The First Families of Louisiana*, Volume 1 (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Claitor’s Publishing Division, 1970), 50, for Pierre Verrier, and possibly, Marie Fret, wife of Louis de La Haye.

³⁶ Dean and Brown, 14.

³⁷ Beauregard, 91; Belting, 80. [Author’s note: I have not found a copy of the original record to verify the date and information.]



www.familysearch.org, Illinois, Diocese of Belleville, Catholic Parish Records, 1729-1956, Randolph County, Kaskaskia Island, Immaculate Conception, 1695-1833, Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, image 24.

To be continued: Françoise Rabut, Jeanne Bienvenu, Françoise Bienvenu, Anne Marie Bienvenu, Antoine Bienvenu.