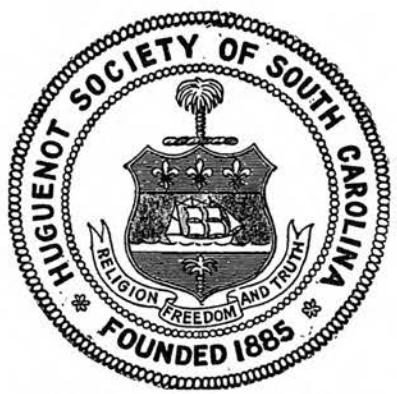


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No. 55

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## THE FRENCH SETTLEMENT AT NEW BORDEAUX

(Formerly in Abbeville County, now in McCormick County since 1916)

NORA MARSHALL DAVIS

Troy, South Carolina

Of the seven<sup>1</sup> French Protestant (Huguenot) Settlements in South Carolina, only that of New Bordeaux was in the upper part of the State. In discussing this New Bordeaux settlement, formerly in Abbeville County, now in McCormick County since 1916, we must consider two main groups of refugees under separate leadership: the first group under the Rev. Jean Louis Gibert and the Rev. Pierre Boutiton in 1764; the second group under Jean Louis Dumesnil De St. Pierre in 1768.

Encouraged by His Majesty of England about 1760 in regard to the establishment of a colony of French suffering religious persecution by the Roman Catholics, in some of the territories of America under His Majesty's government, the Rev. Jean Louis Gibert on July 6, 1763, petitioned the Lords of the Treasury "for 30 square miles of land, on which they propose to live all together and to apply themselves chiefly to the culture of the vines and silk-worms and also to such other departments of agriculture as may seem most adapted to the lands assigned them."<sup>2</sup> Mr. Gibert's preference was a tract along the banks of the Ohio River, "upon which he first set his mind"; but having been told by Mr. Jenkinson, Secretary of the Treasury, that for him to apply for lands elsewhere than in Carolina was useless, he was "quite disposed to be satisfied with that, but he (the Memorialist) cannot help observing, at the same time, that the climate being so warm, the Government will not obtain so great or so prompt returns from the culture of vines and mulberry trees as it would have been able to promise itself in a climate somewhat colder such as prevails on the banks of the Ohio."<sup>3</sup> He therefore requested that the Council "confirm the grant to him, have the surveys made, and issue the strictest orders, in order that the Colony may be put in possession from the moment of its arrival, of thirty square miles of land on the east bank of the Savannah River, as may be chosen between the town of Purysburg and Fort Moore."<sup>4</sup>

The various requests in this petition show that Mr. Gibert "had given

<sup>1</sup> The other six were at Charleston, Goose Creek, Orange Quarter (St. Denis), French Santee, St. John's Berkeley, and Purysburg.

<sup>2</sup> Translation of Gibert's Memorial in *Transactions of the Huguenot Society*, No. 19, (1911), pp. 18-23.

<sup>3</sup> *Id. loc.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id. loc.*

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careful study to the whole subject, foreseeing all the probable difficulties of the venture and with sound judgment devising in detail the methods by which they might be overcome."<sup>5</sup>

Subsequently the Earl of Hillsborough, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for America at Whitehall, England, wrote Governor Boone that the King thought it advisable that the French "should be established in His Province of South Carolina where from their knowledge in the culture of Silk and Vines it is hoped they may be particularly Usefull to the Colony and to the publick and the Lords Commiss.<sup>rs</sup> of His Majesty's Treasury, having accordingly entered into an agreement with Mr. Alex.<sup>r</sup> McNutt for the passage of these People to Charles Town it will be your duty immediately on their arrival to give them every Countenance Support and Protection in your Power."<sup>6</sup>

The Earl of Hillsborough further instructed Governor Boone to lay out a proper Township for them either upon the river Savanna which is the Situation they seem most to covet or if there are no vacant Lands there within a reasonable distance then upon some other Convenient river and upon such a spot as they shall upon examination find to be most proper for the object they have in view."<sup>7</sup>

On August 9, 1763, Mr. Gibert and a large group of French Protestants from the Southern part of France left France and arrived at Plymouth, England, on August 25th. Unexpectedly they delayed at Plymouth from August 25th until December 25th.<sup>8</sup>

The following, dated November 22, 1763, is the "Liste des Protestants Refuge's actuellement a' Plymouth pour se rendre en Amerique dans les possessions de sa Majest' George troisieme Roy de la Grande Bretagne sous la conduite & direction de Jean Louis Gibert Pasteur:

	Age
1. Jacques Touzeau .....	30—Catechiste
2. Daniel Duc (Due) .....	31—Capitaine de Navire
3. Pre Pierre Don .....	25—Dr. en Medicine ou Chisurgia
4. Barthelemy Bouigue .....	22—Chirurgien
5. Jacques Boutiton .....	51—Laboureur
6. Pierre Boutiton .....	20—Laboureur
7. Jean Roger .....	45—Commercant
8. Pierre Roger .....	21—Laboureur
9. Jean Roger .....	20—Laboureur
10. Matthieu Bereau .....	35—Laboureur

<sup>5</sup> *Transactions*, etc., p. 23.

<sup>6</sup> *Council Journal*, 16 April 1764.

<sup>7</sup> *Id. loc.*

<sup>8</sup> *Journal of Pierre Moragne*, New Bordeaux, through courtesy of the Charleston Historical Society Library, Charleston, South Carolina.

	Age	
11. Jean Bereau .....	32—	Tonelier
12. Matthieu Bereau .....	23—	Tonnelier
13. Jacob Chardavoine .....	17—	Marin
14. Pierre Moragné .....	22—	Labourer
15. Paul Nino .....	19—	Perruquier
16. Louis Villaret .....	26—	Boulangier & cultivr. de Muriers
17. Jean Gout .....	19—	Perruquier
18. Pierre Lioron .....	27—	Jardinier & cultr. de Muriers
19. Jean Frisille .....	48—	Pillote
20. Pierre Gollin .....	31—	Marin
21. Pierre Gollin .....	7—	
22. Andre Audouin .....	24—	Marin
23. Jacob Baylard .....	23—	Masson
24. Jacob Langel .....	45—	Charon
25. Jean Faveraud .....	24—	Laboureur
26. Jacques Labrousse .....	35—	Labr.
27. Etienne Labrousse .....	7—	
28. Francois Gross .....	26—	Labr.
29. Etienne Favereau .....	30—	Labr.
30. Pierre Rolland .....	30—	Menuisier
31. Pierre Roquemore .....	22—	Bonnetier
32. Jean Bonneau .....	28—	Labr.
33. Jean Boutin .....	24—	Menuisier
34. Jean Vidau .....	23—	Labr.
35. Louis Vidau .....	22—	Vigneron
36. Pierre Dumas .....	30—	Tonnelier
37. Pierre Renond .....	36—	Menuisier
38. Jacques Gereau .....	34—	Menuisier
39. Joseph Rolland .....	27—	Tailleur
40. Jean Audibert .....	22—	Vigneron
41. Pierre Clusau (Cluseau) .....	34—	Tisseran
42. Pierre Lartigue .....	18—	Masson
43. Jean Boyer .....	20—	Vigneron
44. Jean Priot .....	24—	Vigneron
45. Jean Brieau .....	24—	Charon (Spelled <i>Brew</i> in Index to Memorials)
46. Pre Roquemore .....	18—	Fabrig en Bas
47. Francois Bayle .....	24—	Tailleur
48. Jean Bouchillon .....	19—	Labr.
49. André Guillebeau .....	25—	Charpr.
50. Francois Pouillac (Prouillac?) .....	18—	Vigneron
51. Jean Roquemore .....	36—	Taneur
52. Jacques Langel .....	40—	Vigneron
53. Denis Langel .....	3—	
54. Jacques Langel .....	2—	
55. Jean Dupuis .....	12—	Cordonnier
56. Pierre Bayle .....	19—	Vigneron (See Plat of Gabau, Marie F.)
57. Joseph Bouchillon .....	22—	Vigneron
58. Jean Antony .....	20—	Sciller

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	Age	
59. Pierre Sudre.....	20	Tonnelier (See Plat of Garribeau, Pierre)
60. Jean la Faye.....	27	Vigeron
61. Jacques la Faye.....	7	
62. Jean la Faye.....	5	
63. Jean la Faye.....	3	
64. Antoine Farastau.....	34	Vigon.
65. Antoine Gabeau.....	7	
66. Colas Bordajeau.....	33	Labr.
67. Pierre Bordajeau.....	6	
68. Jean Bordajeau.....	8	
69. Mathieu Festal.....	35	Preceptr.
70. Charles Bouchonau.....	19	Pilotn.
71. Nic. Bouchonau.....	15	Marin
72. Jean Bellefaye.....	56	March.
73. Jean Dom.....	16	Marin
74. Pierre Reigne.....	36	Marin
75. Jean Castan.....	18	Vigeron
76. Pierre Clareau.....	24	Charpr.
77. Jean Bellotte.....	50	Fabr. d'etoffe
78. Pierre Elie Bellotte.....	19	Marin
79. Jean Arnaud Bellotte.....	3	
80. Theodore Guay.....	23	Jaedr. & Potier
81. André Wagnon.....	37	
82. Abram Jacob.....	37	Cordonr.
83. Daniel Jacob.....	3	
84. Jean Bte. Gautier.....	45	Tailleur
85. Theodore Gautier.....	7	
86. Samuel Bollomay.....	23	Cordr.
87. Jn. Bte. Delonay.....	45	Tisserant (Tisserand?)
88. Jn. Bte. Delonay.....	10	
89. Antonio Delonay.....	4	
90. Jacques Delonay.....	1	
91. Jn. Bte. Petit.....	27	Tailleur
92. Antoine Billaud.....	36	Vigeron
93. Nichs. Basson.....	23	Vigeron *
94. Pierre Barbier.....	23	Marin
95. Etienne Thomas.....	12	Vigeron
96. N. Labrousse.....	1	
97. Pierre Langel.....	11	
98. Antne. Herport.....	26	Notaire
99. Francois Branton.....	23	Labr.
100. Jean Pierre Beillard.....	33	Boulr.
101. Pierre Boyer.....	20	Boutonnier
102. Jean Eymery.....	32	Relieur
103. Pre. Galinau (Garrineau?).....	26	Masson
104. Jn. Pre. Nicholas.....	27	Marin
105. Pierre Boutiton.....	50	Pasteur
106. Louis Villaret.....	45	Pr. les Murrs. & c
107. Ant. Jos. Labbe.....	34	Precepteur

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	Age
46. Francoise Sacbouille.....	32
47. Marie Bordajeau.....	10
48. Jeanne Bordajeau.....	1
49. Marie Vilke.....	16
50. Susanne Isabeau Joly.....	37
51. Marie Judith Jacob.....	5
52. Francoise Favereau.....	26
53. Marie de la Mare.....	33
54. Marie Delaunay.....	12
55. Marie Reparon.....	22
56. Marie Thomas.....	31
Suite contenant celles qui sont actuellement á Londres.	
57. Anne Julne. Morin.....	35
58. Ane. Julne. Poitevin.....	7
59. Jeanne le Fevre.....	24
60. Marie Husson.....	1
6. Mel Guilliame.....	—

[Ed. note—For the husbands of these see Transactions 5 of this Society]

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Males	112 <sup>9</sup>
Females	61

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The group commenced going aboard their ship on December 25, 1763. Before the vessel was out of the channel, a great tempest on the 27th, the 28th, and the 29th caused the vessel to be stranded on some rocks, and forced it "to lay to, in the road-stead of Farbret", says Peter Moragne's *Journal*, where it remained until February 14, 1764. Because of some trouble among the passengers, the ship returned to Plymouth on the 17th and remained there until February 22nd, at which time it again set sail.

After forty-seven days on water "without the sight of aught but the heaven and the waters", the French refugees began to see the shore of America on the 10th of April. After another short delay because their vessel ran aground on a bank of sand, which it struck with great force, they reached Charlestown on April 12, 1764. By April 14th, they were temporarily lodged in the Barracks. While awaiting the Bounty of the Province, they received a "hogshead of crackers (biscuits) and other lib-eralities" from the French Church in Charlestown.

These French Protestants took the oath of allegiance on April 18, 1764, and prayed for bounty and land according to their Family Rights (100 acres for the head of the family and fifty acres for each dependent) as follows:

	Acres
Jean Louis Gibert.....	200
e Curreau (Courneau) Bouchonneau.....	150
idow of Charles Bouchonneau.)	

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<sup>9</sup> *Public Records*, Vol. 29, pp. 383-387.

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	Acres
Pierre Hili (Elie) Belot .....	100
Jean Bell Hay (Jean Bellefaye) .....	200
Joseph Bouchelon .....	150
Jean Baptiste Petit .....	150
Jean Roger .....	150
Piere Regnew (Reigne) .....	150
Piere Nichola (Nicholas) .....	150
Colas Bodazeau .....	300
Jean Bellot .....	250
Jean Baptiste De Laune .....	350
Jean Baptiste Gautier .....	250
Jean Lefay (Lefaye) .....	200
Marie Farasteau Gabau .....	150
Abram Jacob .....	250
Piere Roque Mow Ayne .....	250
Jacque Labruese .....	250
Jacques Langel .....	300
Jean Fresille .....	300
Jaque Boutiton .....	150
Anne Beraud Brien Ayme (Beinayme) .....	150
(Widow of Peter Beinayme)	
Matthew Beraud .....	250
Daniel Louis Jennerett .....	100
Pierre Boutiton .....	100
Pierre Boutiton .....	100
Francis Bayle .....	100
Piere Leoron .....	100
Louis Villerett .....	100
✓ Nicholas Basson .....	100
Antoine Billaw .....	100
Marie Magdale Belott .....	100
Jean Aitmerii (Eymery) .....	100
Marie Roger .....	100
Jeremiah Roger .....	100
Piere Roger .....	100
Daniel Duc (Due) .....	100
Theodore Gay .....	100
Jean Don .....	100
Jean Cartau .....	100
Jean Pierre Bellier .....	100
Pierre Garrineau .....	100
Nicholas Bouchonneau .....	100
Charles Bouchonneau .....	100
Anthoine Tanasteau .....	100
Andre Guilhibau .....	100
Francois Prouvillac .....	100
Jean Anthony .....	100
Jean Bouchillon .....	100
Marie Bayle .....	100
Cecilly (Cecile) Bayle .....	100

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pressed a desire to be settled upon the River St. John in East Florida, and that Lord Halifax approved the same, but on 18 November terms were agreed upon by the Lords of Treasury with Mr. McNutt for transferring of these French Protestants, about two hundred in number, to South Carolina.<sup>14</sup>

Even not all of these settled at New Bordeaux. A tailor, whose family numbered four remained in Charles Town; fourteen, "through disgust or Quarrels" having separated, were sent to Purysburg;<sup>15</sup> and six men and their wives settled elsewhere at the advice of the Council, because the wives had made a complaint which the Council thought "groundless and unreasonable"—that "the People who had the Charge of distributing provisions had stop'd the rum from the Children which they had desired to be allowed to them instead of a Quantity of meat allowed them."<sup>16</sup> In September, 1770, Jean Louis Gervais stated that some of the settlers had died, and that some others had left the Province.

As the Colony arrived too late in the spring to plant provisions for their subsistence the ensuing winter on lands eventually to be allotted them, the Governor and Council decided to send them to Fort Lyttleton, near Port Royal, for four months, because the barracks there would furnish "sufficient lodging room" for the whole Colony, and because it was near the sea coast, where "they may take Large Quantities of fish", and because "there is ground already cleared to plant some Corn, Potatoes, Pumkins, Peas, &c., which will help to contribute towards their sustenance." They were to be given one pound of flour or one quart of Indian corn for each person a day, and four steers each month for the whole colony.

The following is the estimated cost of their maintenance for the four months:

4000 Wt: of flour @ £ 4/10 pr Cwt.....	£180
400 Bush:ls of Corn @ 12/6 pr Bushl.....	250
16 Steers @ 12:10 each.....	200
20 Bushels of Salt @ 10/.....	10
A Corn Mill.....	15
A Canoe.....	30
Hooks and Lines.....	20
Hire of 4 horses and a Guide for the Deputies to view the Land they choose to pitch upon	280

<sup>14</sup> *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society*, p. 75. Volume II.

<sup>15</sup> *Public Records*, Vol. 30, p. 185—.

<sup>16</sup> *Council Journal*, 31 July 1764.

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Charge of Transporting the Colony to }  
 Fort Lyttleton } ..... 232:10<sup>17</sup>

During the first part of May they were transported to Fort Lyttleton "in Vessells at the King's Charge". The Council gave them instructions intended for their comfort, peace, and protection.

In case of private disputes or difficulties, they were "recommended to apply to Mr. De La Gay, a Frenchman who resided near Ft. Lyttleton," and who would "conduct them to the civil Magistrates to whose care and Protection they will be recommended to compromise their Differences and do justice to all Party's agreeable to the Law of the Land."<sup>18</sup>

Because of their large number, the Council recommended also that they "have a constant Guard of six Men to stand Centinals, 2 at a Time Night and Day as well for the better securing their Property's as the Prevention of any Fatal accidents by Fire."<sup>19</sup>

The Council further desired them "to choose five of their Number, who are to have the Direction of their Domestic Oconomy [Economy] in Distributing their Provisions, overseeing their Works, and to preserve Peace and good Order among them. . . ."

They were requested also "to pitch upon three of their Number who are best acquainted with the sort of Land proper for raising Manufactories they intend to go upon."

Lt. Governor Bull reported to the Council on May 28, 1764, "that Mr. Boutiton and the Deputies from the French Colonists to view the land proper for them to settle upon had returned and that Patrick Calhoun had come to Town with them, "bringing with him three plats of different tracts of land, which His Honour produced to the Board." The Frenchmen, who were then called in, "explained on the Platts the Situation that they esteemed Best and most proper for them but desired before they made final Choice that they might Consult the Colony."

Pursuant to an order from Lt. Governor Bull, dated July 14, 1764, Patrick Calhoun laid out "for the use of French Protestants a Tract or Parcel of Land containing 26,000 acres to be called and known by the name of Hillsborough Township, and the Town NEW BORDEAUX<sup>20</sup> with an allowance of 2,000 acres for former surveys. The area containing 28,000

<sup>17</sup> *Council Journal*, 24 April 1764.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, 26 April 1764.

<sup>19</sup> *Id. loc.*

<sup>20</sup> Lt. Gov. Bull had previously stated, 20 August 1764, that the Township would be called Hillsborough—named in honor of the Earl of Hillsborough—and that the town would be called New Bordeaux "from whence many of them came." (*Public Records*, Vol. 30, pp. 185-186).

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acres, Situate on the two main forks of the Long Cane Creek, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles extent off Savannah River 40 (computed) miles above Augusta and about 9 miles Southward of Fort Boone."<sup>21</sup>

Patrick Calhoun began surveying the outlines of this Township on September 20, 1764; and began on the 25th of September to lay off the  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre lots in the lower part of the town, which work he completed on the 5th of October. Each settler was to receive also a four-acre vineyard lot and a land grant proportionate to his or her Family Rights. For the town of New Bordeaux, Mr. Calhoun purchased from James Davis 150 acres, for which he paid £ 250.

For the comfort and well-being of the French Colonists, Lieut. Governor Bull sent Patrick Calhoun the following instructions:

I have given Commissn. of Capt. to Mr. Due Lieut. to Mr. Leoron and Ensign to LeViolette that they may do Militia Dutys by themselves and not be liable to Mis-understandings with Officers who cannot give their Order in a Language at present understood by the Colonists.

Some Persons with the Name of Commissary must be chosen by them to take care of and Issue their Provisions once a Week at the rate of 1 lb. of wheat flour or one quart of Indian Corn a day to each Person.

Upon there (their) arrival as I hope you have executed my orders in purchaseing the Lands at the Fork of Long Canes at a reasonable rate you are to sett out 800 acres in a square for the Town in the following manner.

The Town to be Laid in 200 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre Lotts and all Numbered is.....	100
For the Fort Church Yard Parsonage in Town Market Place which will serve as a Parade Public Mill ea $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and Land taken up in the Street will be about.....	25
For a Common out of which must be reserved to the Government a right of granting 50 acres to make 100 more Lotts if the increasing of the Town renders it necessary.....	200
For a Glebe for a Minister of the Church of England.....	300
To be disposed of in 4 acre Lotts for the Cultivating their vines and olives in the Infancy of this Colony which they are very solicitous to obtain while they are affraid to go to their Plantations these Garden Lotts to be Numbered.....	175

Total—800

There shou'd be three or four roads Leading from the Town Laid out two or three miles whose Courses being known may prevent the Tracts being Cut in two by the roads to be run afterwards.

They are to build Houses in their Town and a Fort in it not Less than 120 feet square of Palisades for their Common Security to which they may retire on any alarm and not abandon their Settlement in which must be kept there [their] Store of Provision, arms, and ammunition.

As soon as these Works are almost finished you are to begin Surveying their Lands

<sup>21</sup> Ms. Plat in Office of the Historical Commission of South Carolina, World War Memorial, Columbia, South Carolina.

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according to their Family Warrants to prevent Tumult and Confusion in this Work you are to begin running according to your Surveying Instructions. In the 1st Place for Mr. Roger the Justice 2d. Mr. Boutiton the Minister 3d. Capt. Due 4th Lieut. Lioron 5th Ensign Le Violette unless he gives his right to his Father 6th. The Commissary of Provisions 7th. the Physician 8th Schoolmaster if any after these the remainder are to take their turn by Ballan [ballot?] to be determined in presence of the 5 first named who are to serve as a Council to the Colony in all difficulty Cases and take order therein till the matter can be referred to the Govr. in Council for their future direction.

You are to purchase immediately a good Cow and Calf for every 5 Persons taking care that they are branded and marked in such a Manner to prevent disputes with any English Neighbour . . . . let their Horses also be branded.

A Public Mill ought to be Erected as soon as Conveniently Cou'd they may by hunting (not looseing time from their Work) in Company of some rangers procure some Venison this will save their Money which their Eating of Beef will Consume too fast.<sup>23</sup>

On July 17, 1764, the advancing party of the French Protestants, en route to New Bordeaux, set out "in great spirit" from Floods, about 10 miles from Charlestown, where they had stopped for nearly a week because the horses were unable "to draw the Waggon forward"; the second division set out either the 18th or the 19th following. Their baggage was carried to their settlement by the waggoners, Michael Smith, Jacob Bach, Martin Summerman, Nicholas Beekler, Thomas Grumblack, Andrew Houser, and Peter Bach, for £ 840. The remainder of the Colonists, mostly women, Lt. Gov. Bull kept in Charlestown "till the Colony have made some shelter for their reception."

The two divisions arrived at New Bordeaux on the 5th and 7th of August respectively, and "immediately stored away their Arms, Baggage, &c., in the Buildings on Davis's grounds."<sup>24</sup> Very soon after their arrival they began clearing and cutting down timbers for their houses. By October 17, they had six houses already "set up" and frames, &c., ready to set up fourteen more.<sup>25</sup> Lt. Gov. Bull ordered a detachment of a Company of Rangers, at that time covering the Long Canes settlers who constantly feared hostile Indians, to cover and assist the French Colonists on their first settling.

The following French refugees in England petitioned on April 30, 1765, "if possible to join the Colony which went into Carolina with Mr. Gibert now inspected by Mr. Boutiton:

Claude Chabar sa femme & quatres Enfans. Laboureur de Terre.

Pierre Boyan, Charpantier

Jean Jacques Gransar sa femme & quatres Enfans. Tisserand & Ouvrier de Terre.

<sup>23</sup> *Council Journal*, 13 July 1764.

<sup>24</sup> *Council Journal*, 17 October 1764.

<sup>25</sup> *Id. loc.*

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Paul Chauvet, Ouvrier de Terre.  
 Claude Barnier, sa femme & un fils. Laboureur de Terre.  
 Pierre Le Riche, sa feme & cinq Enfans. Tisserand.  
 Jean Dron, sa feme & un Enfant. Tisserand.  
 Jacques Chamberland. Jardinier & Boulanger.  
 Claude Chauvet, sa feme & un Fils. Laboureur de Terre & Fabriquant en Lame.  
 Jean Pierre Blanchet, & sa feme. Jardinnier.  
 Jacques Le Gros, sa femme & Quatres Enfans. Jardinnier.  
 Pierre Chenton, Laboureur de Terre.  
 Pierre Vaillant, Travailleur de Terre & Tailleur.  
 Louis Salleri, sa femme & trois Enfans. Ouvrier de Terre.  
 Matthieu Poitbin & sa femme. Laboureur de Terre.  
 Jean Plisson, sa femme & un fils. Tisserand.  
 Joseph Roulland, & sa femme. Jardinnier & Ouvrier de Saltpêtre.  
 Jacques Paulet, Tonellier.  
 Louis, Marechal, . . . . .  
 Pierre Villaret, & sa femme. Jardinier.  
 Jean Beraud, Charpentier.  
 Pierre Commer. Boulanger.  
 Laurant Augustin. Boulanger.<sup>26</sup>

(A total of 60 persons)

The first recorded marriage in this settlement was that of Pierre Moragne, son of Pierre Moragne and Marie Paris, and Cecille Bayle, daughter of Jean Bayle and Marie Seyral, on July 16, 1765, "after the publication of three banns." They were married by "Monsieur Boutiton, Minister of the Gospel," with Pierre Bellot and son Helie Bellot, and other persons of New Bordeaux as witnesses.

Though the Rev. Jean Louis Gibert was the leader of the French exodus to America, his activities in America center in Charleston; and his brother-in-law, the Rev. Pierre Boutiton, was pastor and leader of the group at New Bordeaux.

The Rev. Mr. Gibert did not accompany the group in August to New Bordeaux—he remained in Charlestown. He did, however, get his Bounty land there: his town lot Warrant for survey of  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre (No. 178)—on the Bounty—was dated 7 February 1769; his Warrant for a vineyard lot (No. 45) of 4 acres was dated 1 March 1768; and his grant of land on Family Rights, 200 acres, on Bounty, on Buffalo Branch, was dated 10 March 1768. In addition to this Bounty property, he had a grant of 500 acres "nere Hillsborough Township", dated 22 September 1769.<sup>27</sup>

In his letter to the Governor and Council, June 24, 1766, Mr. Gibert said "that upon his first arrival in this Province, he found that no Country in the World is better adapted for the Culture of Silk, which induced him immediately to make some attempts towards it, with the assistance of

<sup>26</sup> *Public Records*, Vol. 30, pp. 261-263.

<sup>27</sup> Manuscript plats, Historical Commission Office, Columbia, South Carolina.

17k

to go into any expence upon the Plan therein proposed, but recommended that the Committee or Supervisors of the silk Manufacture be directed to write Mr. John Delamore of London, to procure from France, and send hither such a quantity of Grape Cuttings and Plants as they should think necessary: And that the House do provide for the Expence thereof";<sup>37</sup> and on the 11th following resolved that the sum of £ 700 be appropriated "to procure from France a quantity of Grape Cuttings and Plants."

In June of the following year, 1770, Bull reported to Hillsborough that most of the vines he "sent there [to New Bordeaux] last Spring . . . have taken root, and the French and Germans may now contend for the honor of first introducing wine into the Province."<sup>38</sup> This comparative reference is to those Germans who had settled on Broad River, and were there cultivating grapes. In the following November, when again writing of the success of the Germans in cultivating the vines, Bull remarked that "the ke success is expected at New Bordeaux, where the vegetation in their rich soil was so vigorous as to produce several bunches of Grapes, last summer, from vines with roots that came last spring from Lisbon. A little experience in the method of dressing them, and of fermenting the liquor will soon discover the kind of wine most suitable to our climate."<sup>39</sup>

In 1771 Bull sent up to Hillsborough and to Londonborough "a large Parcel of Vines lately arrived from the Island of Madeira."<sup>40</sup>

Sometime during 1771 St. Pierre returned to England and to France to secure the best plants he could and to hire trained vine dressers. His Memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, February 20, 1772, states that "he has already at the Expence of his whole little Fortunes established and brought to perfection the growing and making of silk, the Culture of Vines, and the making of Wine, at New Bordeaux, and that the Honourable Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce have, in testimony of their intire approbation, given a Premium of Fifty pounds Sterling for the Wine already produced, and were also pleased upon the 15th of January last [1772] to honour your Memorialist with a Gold Medal. . . ."<sup>41</sup>

St. Pierre stated further "that the Settlement at New Bordeaux doth now consist of about one hundred and Ten French Protestant Settlers";<sup>\*</sup> That your Memorialist "now has one hundred thousand vine plants (Exclusive of Sixty thousand already sent by the Carolina Packet to New Bordeaux) and above twenty families of French Protestants, all Vine Dressers, now ready to embark with him for New Bordeaux; but before

<sup>37</sup> *Journal of the Commons House of Assembly*, 8 August 1769.

<sup>38</sup> *Public Records*, Vol. 32, pp. 282-283.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 399.

<sup>40</sup> *Public Records*, Vol. 33, pp. 53-54.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. 32, pp. 122-123.

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extensive plans for wine making, one can only speculate as to what would have happened had St. Pierre lived.

Strange to say, almost nothing is known of St. Pierre's death. On the eve of his departure for the Cherokee Nation in the Expedition under Andrew Williamson in 1776, St. Pierre, "being uncertain" of his living, "as War is Subject to accidents," made his will on July 10, 1776. One of the early historians states that he and Francis Salvadore were killed in the same skirmish with the Indians on this expedition. This statement is given support by the fact that St. Pierre's will is in the Charleston Will Book 1774-1779.

Unfortunately little is known of the church at New Bordeaux. Instead of the planned Church of England, a church of the Calvinistic faith was established there. The prevailing opinion is that at first the Rev. Mr. Boutiton held divine services in the log building, the "Town Hall," on the square. On November 30, 1770, Lt. Governor Bull wrote that "between the Congarees, the Indian Boundary, and Saludy River . . . there are no less than six meeting houses built and ministers maintained by the poor Inhabitants, besides those of the French Protestants at Hillsborough and the German Lutherans in Londonburg, and not on [one] church of England congregation."<sup>50</sup> Evidently the French and the Germans worshiped *not* in regular meeting houses at that time, *but were organized congregations* and held their services in the storage buildings erected for the settlers. On the 7th of September, 1770, John Lewis Gervais was sent to Bordeaux to investigate the dispute between the colonists and the Rev. Mr. Gibert over "12 copper kettles for winding silk"; and in the discussions, reference was twice made to accounts settled by the *Vestry of the French Church*.<sup>51</sup> This proves beyond any peradventure of doubt that there was a *church organization* there; and the following petition proves that prior to 1771 there was no *church building*: "A Petition of several of the inhabitants living on the Long Cane Settlement, in and about Bordeaux, was presented to the House, and Read, setting forth—that a church may be built at New Bordeaux, and a Sum of Money allowed for the support of a Clergyman to preach the Gospel among them, in the English and French Languages."

This petition shows also that their former pastor, the Rev. Peter Boutiton, was now dead—by 1771. In his petition to the Lords, 4 June 1772, St. Pierre stated that the Rev. Peter Boutiton "died soon after" his, St. Pierre's, arrival. As previously stated, St. Pierre arrived February 10, 1768. In the above mentioned petition to the Lords, St. Pierre, "having

<sup>50</sup> *Public Records*, Vol. 32, pp. 365-371.

<sup>51</sup> *Council Journal*, 16 April 1771.

Of the schools taught by the teachers of the New Bordeaux settlement we thus far know almost nothing. Even with St. Pierre's other interests, he did not neglect the education of his colonists, although unlike Mr. Gibert, he did not bring teachers with him. George Wilks, who came to South Carolina from England about June, 1768, was soon after employed by St. Pierre "to keep a school" in Hillsborough Township. His tract of 100 acres was surveyed April 1, 1769, and granted July 28, 1769.

Just how long Mr. Wilks taught there is not known. By 1785 the French Protestants in and about Bordeaux "had by subscription erected a Grammar School (French and English) "with Peter Gibert as school master. The following is his interesting announcement TO THE PUBLIC:

✕ The French Protestant Settlement in and about New Bordeaux, Ninety Six district, whose exertions in support of our independence are well known, having by subscription erected a French and English Grammar School, on a plan approved of and countenanced by Gentlemen of the first note, and having appointed the subscriber Master of the said School, he begs leave to inform the public, that he proposes to take in pupils at the price of Ten Guineas per annum (to be paid quarterly) for boarding, washing, and tuition. The advantage of acquiring at so easy a rate, this useful as well as polite branch of education, in a part of this State, which for healthfulness of the air, and excellence of water, may with propriety have been named Montpellier, must be obvious; and the subscriber makes no doubt, but that, as nothing but French is in common spoke in his family, his pupils will be able to speak it with some propriety in the course of one year. His moral character and deportment, and of his whole family, he flatters himself, will bear the strictest scrutiny. He will pay particular attention to the morals as well as politeness of his pupils—and Mrs. Gibert to their cleanliness."<sup>60</sup>

Mrs. Gibert was, before marriage, Elizabeth Bienamè, of New Bordeaux. They were the parents of five boys and of five girls.

The next noted teacher in or near Bordeaux was Dr. Moses Waddel. In 1801, he removed from Columbia County, Georgia, to Vienna, Abbeville District, where he opened a school that year; and the following year, 1802, he accepted a call to Hopewell Church, becoming, as many ministers of that day did, both a pastor and a teacher.

At the request of the French Protestants at New Bordeaux, he removed from Vienna to Willington—midway between Vienna and New Bordeaux—and began the school which later made him one of the most noted teachers South Carolina has ever had. As a result of an agreement between leading citizens of the community and the Trustees of the Vienna Academy, the

<sup>60</sup> *State Gazette of South Carolina*, August 22, 1785.

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