

The John and Jean Rousseau Collection

RG 115

Louisiana State Museum Historical Center

May 2013

Descriptive Summary

Title:	The John and Jean Rousseau Collection
Dates:	1814-1838
Abstract:	Married free persons of color. Collection include legal documents regarding purchase and ownership of slaves, tutorship of their children after their mother's death, statement of parents' separate and joint assets. Most documents in French.
Extent:	12 folders
Accession:	T025.2003.44.01-13

Biographical / Historical Note

The purchase of slaves by free persons of color was common practice in New Orleans in the early 19th century.

Scope and Content

Married free persons of color. Collection include legal documents regarding Purchase and ownership of slaves, tutorship of their children after their mother's death, statement of parents' separate and joint assets. Most documents in French.

Subjects

Jean Rousseau
Inheritance law
Free persons of color

Access of Use Restrictions

Access

Collection is **open** for research

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

The John and Jean Rousseau Collection, Louisiana State Museum Historical Center

Notes

All documents in French, unless marked otherwise.

Contents List

Folder 1: Succession of Hyacinthe Demazilieres (FWC)

Before Marc Lafitte, Notary Public. Distribution of inheritance among the children of Hyacinthe Demazilieres, wife of Augustin Mallet. Marie Antoine Mallet (a minor accompanied by her grandmother, Therese Dufau), Jeanne Marie Mallet (wife of Jean Rousseau), and Bernard Mallet each received \$1,048.75. Also present was Louis Simon, the heirs' tutor and guardian, who liquidated Hyacinthe Demazilieres' assets. This document constitutes a receipt issued by the heirs to Louis Simon. Witnesses were Jean Baptiste, G. Vernon and Michel J.B.L. Fourcisy. *March 21, 1814.*

Folder 2: Sale of the slave "Charity"

Before Felix de Armas, Notary Public. Sale of a slave girl named Charity, aged about 15 years old, by Abner Robinson to Jeanne Marie Mallet (wife of Jean Rousseau), for the price of \$430. Witnesses were Felix Pedesclaux and Charles Aguiet. *May 22, 1826.*

Folder 3: Sale of the slave "Henriette"

Before Felix de Armas, Notary Public. Sale of a slave girl named Henriette, aged about 11 years old, by Marie Antoine Mallet to Jeanne Marie Mallet (wife of Jean Rousseau) for the price of \$280. Witnesses were Felix Pedesclaux and Charles Aguiet. *June 6, 1826.*

Folder 4: Power of Attorney granted by Jean Rousseau to his wife

Before Felix de Armas, Notary Public. Power of Attorney granted to Jeanne Marie Mallet by Jean Rousseau giving her full power to act on his behalf during his absence. Witnesses were Felix Pedesclaux and Charles Aguiet. *June 21, 1826.*

Folder 5: Court plea naming Jean Rousseau as natural tutor (English)

Court plea to name Jean Rousseau as natural tutor to his minor children: Joseph Rousseau, Eliacinthe Rousseau, Roussoline Rousseau, Doralice Rousseau,

Lancelin Rousseau, and Jean Rousseau. Filed in court of Probates, accepted by Martin Blache, Register of Wills.

Folder 6: Court plea naming Louis Hazeur as *curator ad lites* (English)

Court plea to name Louis Hazeur as *curator ad lites* (husband) of Therese Lucette Rousseau. Filed in court of Probates, accepted by Martin Blache, Register of Wills. *Entered February 1, 1828 and accepted February 5, 1828.*

Folder 7: Court plea naming Jean Rousseau as *curator ad bona* (English)

Court plea to name Jean Rousseau as *curator ad bona* of Therese Lucette Rousseau. Filed in court of Probates, accepted by Martin Blache, Register of Wills. *Entered February 1, 1828 and accepted February 5, 1828*

Folder 8: Court plea naming Louis Hazeur as undertutor (English)

Court plea to name Louis Hazeur as undertutor to Joseph Rousseau, Eliacinthe Rousseau, Roussoline Rousseau, Doralice Rousseau, Lanceline Rousseau and Jean Rousseau. Filed in court of Probates, accepted by Martin Blache, Register of Wills. *Entered February 1, 1828 and accepted February 5, 1828.*

Folder 9: Statement of Jean Rousseau and Jeanne Marie Mallet's separate and joint assets.

Closing of accounts of separate and joint property belonging to Jean Rousseau and his wife Jeanne Marie Mallet:

Joint Assets	\$24,905.00	
Joint Liabilities	<u>\$22,234.15</u>	
Net joint Holdings	\$2,670.85	
Jeanne Marie Mallet's assets before marriage		\$2,838.00
Jean Rousseau's assets before marriage		<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Separate Assets (not community)	\$5,838.00	
Jeanne Marie Mallet's assets before marriage		\$2,838.00
Debts related to Jeanne Marie's death and succession		<u>\$1,254.32</u>
Amount to be divided among heirs		\$1,583.68

This proved that when Jean Rousseau reclaimed his \$3,000 assets from the net joint holdings, there would not be funds from which Jeanne Marie's heirs could claim their inheritance.

This document is undated [circa 1828].

Folder 10: Chronological list of sales made by Rousseau, June 20, 1814 to Jan. 15, 1828

- March 21, 1814 Succession of Hyacinthe Demazillieres.
- June 20, 1814 Sale by Bernard Mallet to his sisters Jeanne Marie Mallet of his one third interest in a property in Faubourg Clouet (valued \$350), and his one third interest in a slave named Helene (valued \$150). Both had been acquired as part of his inheritance from his mother.
- November 5, 1819 Acknowledgment by Jean Rousseau of his wife's (Jeanne Marie Mallet) separate assets.

Rosalie (slave)	\$500.00
½ interest in property in Fbg Clouet	\$600.00
Her own moneys	\$400.00
Succession of her brother Bernard	<u>\$200.00</u>

	Total separate assets	\$1,700.00
• April 5, 1826	Sale of property in Fbg Clouet for \$1,000	
• May 26, 1826	Purchase by Jeanne Marie Mallet of the slave Charity, aged 15, \$440.	
• June 6, 1826	Purchase by J.M. Mallet of the slave Henriette, aged 11, \$280.	
• December 23, 1826	Purchase by Jeanne Marie Mallet of the slave Victoire, aged 37, & her child, aged 4, \$460.	
• January 15, 1828	Purchase of a lot (with some buildings) on Bourbon St. by Jean Rousseau from Antoine Carraby for \$3,800, to be paid over 5 years at 8% interest.	

Folder 11: Request for information from the Court of Probates regarding the statement of Jean Rousseau and Jeanne Marie Mallet's separate and joint assets submitted to the court.

The court requested the following clarification for the succession of Jeanne Marie Mallet:

1. Inventory value and proceeds do not match.
2. How and when effects were evaluated.
3. Was there a pre-nuptial agreement.
4. When and where the marriage took place.
5. Date of Jeanne Marie Mallet's death.
6. Statement of liquidation.
7. Act of succession for Bernard Mallet.
8. Original title of property in Fbg Clouet (Louisa St)
9. At the time of her death, was Jeanne Marie Mallet the owner of :1/2 in the [Louisa St] property; the slave Helene; the slave Henriette; the slaves Victoire and Azenor; the slave Rosalie.
10. The ages of Jeanne Marie Mallet's children.

Folder 12: Registration of sale of property by Antoine Carraby to Jean Rousseau

Sale of a property of Antoine Carraby to Jean Rousseau. The property was on Bourbon St., between St. Peters, Orleans and Dauphine. Buildings on the property included a wooden house and a wooden kitchen. Sale price \$3,800 payable over 5 years at 8% interest.

Original record made January 15, 1828, registering document made January 23, 1828.

Folder 13: Curatorship of Aurore Rousseau (English)

In the succession of Anne Desnos, Louis Clovis Lefebvre seeks curatorship of his wife, Anne Rousseau (a minor). Anne Desnos legacy after probate was \$454.

Original record made February 16, 1838.