

The Perez-McKernan Family

Etienne Perez was born in 1822, a native of Haute Pyrénées, France. He first saw the lights of New Orleans while sailing up the Mississippi River on Dec. 29, 1851, aboard the ship Uttica out of Bordeaux.

Ironically, like many other French-New Orleans Perez men and French immigrants from the southern region of France, Etienne Perez was a grocer. In the New Orleans City Directory, Etienne Perez worked as a grocer at 212 St. Ann St. in the Vieux Carré and at the corner of Bayou Road and Marais Street.

His residences included:

- 1855 St. Ann and Burgundy
- 1859 St. Ann and Burgundy
- 1863 Bayou Road, corner of Marius Street
- 1867 Burgundy and Marius

Etienne Perez worked at:

- 1854 grocer at St. Ann and Burgundy
- 1855 “ “ “
- 1858 “ “ “, plus grocer Bagatelle and Morales
- 1859 St. Ann and Burgundy
- 1860 grocer, 212 St. Ann
- 1861 grocer at 212 St. Ann
- 1867 grocer at 228 Bayou Road
- 1882 61 St. Anthony

The date is unknown, but Perez married Mary McKernan, possibly a refugee of Ireland's Potato Famine. Mary McKernann was born in 1836.

She could possibly be the daughter of Bernard McKernan of County Leitrim, Ireland, according to naturalization papers (1857 or a few years later) offered by Charles Garrick. Bernard arrived in New Orleans around the age of 15 and later married Ann McGirl and had around 8–12 children, according to Garrick, including a son named William (Garrick's ancestor) and a daughter named Mary.

Bernard McKernan lived around Esplanade, Garrick wrote by email in 2000.

“He lived at one time on N. Rampart, at another in the 200 block of Chartres, or one of those streets in the Quarter near the river — that do not exist anymore because they were swallowed up by the River, or are under the levee,” Garrick wrote.

The children of B. McKernan and Ann McGirl, according to Orleans Parish birth records:

Mary Ann 12/3/1854 (58/670)

Henry 6/7/1862 (58/671)

William 9/5/1865 (41/288)

Emma 9/5/1866 (58/671)

Albert 1/26/1868 (58/672)

Louisa 12/7/1870 (58/672)

Etienne Perez and Mary McKernan had the following children:

1. Melic Perez, born Nov. 20, 1855;
2. Delphine Brezina Perez, born Feb. 2, 1859;
3. Dominique Léon Perez, born Jan. 12, 1863;
4. Lucie Louise Perez, born April, 23, 1865;
5. Marie Clothilde Perez, born Oct. 7, 1867;
6. Adolphe Victor Perez, born Feb. 13, 1872 and
7. Amelie Perez, birth date unknown.

During this time, a Baptiste Perez, married to Delphine Jouban, lived and worked nearby. It is likely Baptiste was Etienne’s brother.

Baptiste and Delphine Perez had the following children:

1. Bernard Perez, born Dec. 24, 1860
2. Jean, born June 22, 1863
3. Lucy Johanna Perez, Dec. 16, 1865
4. Dominique Perez, Nov. 17, 1873 (a Domenick Perez died on March 16, 1874)
5. Marceline Perez
6. Amelie Perez

Their addresses included:

- 1860 grocer, 290 Bayou Road
- 1861, grocer at 290 Bayou Road
- 1867, works at 29 French Market, r. Hospital at N. Claiborne
- 1880 Robertson and Marais (Delphine and children only)
- 1882 Mrs. Delphine Perez, dressmaker, lives at 28 Orleans
Listed as widow of Baptiste Perez

Census records of Baptiste and Delphine include:

1870 – New Orleans

Baptiste Perez, 34, butcher, native of France as is parents
 Delphine, 38, native of France as is parents
 Marceline, 11
 Bernard, 9
 John, 7
 Lucy J., 4
 Emily, 2

1880 – New Orleans, Ward 5

Delphine Perez, 47
 Marcelin, 21, clerk in grocery
 Bernard, 19, bartender
 John, 17, at home
 Lucie, 14, at school
 Amelie, 12, at school

A Bernard Perez death notice is filed for July 23, 1877, possibly Delphine Perez's husband, as he is not listed in the 1880 census. He is buried as Baptes Perez, a native of Haute Pyrénées, France. in St. Vincent de Paul in Vault Ally,

No. 6, left, with the inscription: "Your spouse and children pray to God for you."
A Delphine Perez died in New Orleans on Feb. 18, 1900.

Delphine Brezina Perez married Firmin Pierre Dastugue, a French butcher from Duffort, France, on Oct. 21, 1880. Amelie Perez married Firmin's brother, Eugene, also a butcher, on April 24, 1875, at St. Augustine Catholic Church on 1210 Gov. Nicholls St. The two brothers and their sister wives resided at the corner of Esplanade and Marais streets.

At Eugene and Amelie's marriage, witnesses were Bernard and Baptiste Perez, possibly Etienne Perez's brothers. A Bernard Perez, native of Trie, arrived in New Orleans on Nov. 10, 1849, at the age of 17.

Amelie Perez Dastugue died Oct. 13, 1879 and is buried in St. Vincent de Paul cemetery in New Orleans, Vault Ally #6, right.

Mary McKernan Perez died on Dec. 3, 1884. Etienne Perez died of heart failure on June 4, 1894, at the age of 72. His death certificate listed his profession as butcher. He is buried in St. Vincent de Paul cemetery in New Orleans, Piety Ally, right, and it's likely Mary is with him. His burial record states "Société Francaise de Bien Faisance et d'Asso Mait de La. N.O.") In the tomb is their son, Adolph Victor Perez, who died Feb. 4, 1894 at the age of 21.

Etienne and Mary Perez's daughter, Delphine Brezine Perez Dastugue, died on Jan. 26, 1888. She is buried in St. Vincent de Paul in an unknown vault, possibly next to her parents or the Ibos family vault.

Other Perez's buried in St. Vincent de Paul include:

Jean Perez, died July 19, 1883, age 62

Marie Perez, died Dec. 3, 1884, age 48

D.F. Perez, died Feb. 4, 1886, age 3 (probably Dominique Léon Perez, born Jan. 12, 1863, son of Etienne and Mary Perez)

John Perez, died May 3, 1887, age 30

Jules M. Perez, died Aug. 27, 1888, age 28

Catherine Perez, died Nov. 7, 1890, age 82

Joseph B. Perez, born Feb. 27, 1887, died 1899

McKernan Family Notes:

B. McKernan in City Directory:

1854, 24 Delord (first street of St. Mary's Market, river to Tivoli Circle;
runs river to New Basin Canal)

1855, 24 Delord and 3 Bagatelle (Pontchartrain Railroad from Esplanade
to Woods)

1858, 24 Delord and 87 Esplandade Fields

1859, 24 Delord

1860, cabman, 534 Rampart, d. 3

1867, cabman, 79 Elysian Fields

1869 Poll Tax (8-112_ Bernard McKernan)

Other McKernans in New Orleans City Directory (from Charles Garrick):

McKernan — N.O. City Directories:

1841 D.B. McKernan

1842 Jerimiah McKernian

1843 Duncan McKernan

1846 Samuel McKernan

Orleans Parish deaths:

Ellen McKernan, 10-17-67, age 17 (30/78) buried St. Patrick No. 2

Elizabeth McKernan, 5-28-1869, age 61 (45/125)

John McKernon, 12-21-1871, age 27 (53/218)

Mary Ann McKernan, 4-2-73, (41/391) buried St. Patrick No. 2

Joseph McKernon, 7-25-1873, age 15 days (58/864)

Michael McKernon, 8-15-1875, age 24 (64/350)

Isaac McKirnan, 3-1-1875, age 48 (63/146)

Isaac was a laborer who lived at 311 Derbigny in 1860

M.L. McKernon, 6-30-1880, age 5 (77/3)

James J. McKernan, 1-1-1884, age 41 (86/474)

Mary A. McKernan, 7-20-1933, St. Roch #2, Square C, section 2

Thomas McKernan, 5-23-1992, age 2 buried St. Patrick No. 2

To Patrick McKernan and Ellen Faughan

James B. 12/6/1863 (65/979)

Sarah Jane 1/22/1867 (55/979) married Manuel August Madrara, 7-19-1888

Patrick 9/10/1868 (65/980)

Catherine 2/10/1872 (65/980)

To Michael and Mary Durthig

Bernard 7/20/1871 (59/186)

Joseph 1/10/1873 (61/157)

To Isaac and Marie Lang

Charles Eric McKiernan 3/31/1873 (65/948)

1860 Census- New Orleans

William McKernan, Orleans 579

John McKernan, p. 284, 10 W. New Orleans

1880 Census - New Orleans

Catherine McKernan, 66, native of Ireland as is parents

Mother-in-law of Sara Malvin, 27, native of Ireland

Thomas Malvin, 37, grocer, native of Ireland

Children: Maurice, 4 and Mary Helen, 3

1880 Soundex (from Charles Garrick):

Mary McKiermann — 25, dressmaker

Mary McKernan, 21, seamstress, in the household of "Barney" and Ann (Vol 10

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Dublin Directory of 1850

Patrick McKernan, 56 Capel St. (law and general stationer, printer, account book manufacturer and licensed vendor of law and mercantile stamps) and William, 2 John St. South (tanner) (spelt McKenn in street listing)

McKernan (from a book on Irish names)

“While the Kernan family traces its roots back to the Mac Tiernan sept, it is also spelled as Keirnan, etc. The main family originated in the area of Breffny, another is in Connaught and is affiliated with the O’Connors, a third branch is found in Fermanagh. It is in Fermanagh that the family spells the name most often as ‘Kernan’ or ‘MacKernan.’ Supporting this claim the name of McKernan is found as a principal name in county Fermanagh on the 1659 census, as is the name of O’Kernan. At this time Kernan was a principal name in Dublin city, also found in Longsford and Westmeath. The 1890 birth index records 12 births, all in Ulster. Under other spellings of the name, counties Cavan and Leitrim rank as the most numerous McKiernan territory. Kernahan is also another spelling related to the name.”