

Opelousas Poste Records

There were numerous St. Landry Parish documents filed by both André Nerault and Francois Nerault around 1803–1804. The following are some of those complaints that were filed.

April 14, 1804

Guillaume Lalonde vs. André Nerault, condemnation.

July 10, 1804

I the undersigned hereby declare that at the request of M. Johnson, I went to the place under discussion on the 8th of this month and examined and recognized that the fences of M. André Nérault's lot were always open to Mr. Johnson's pigs, that ever since the month of March the fences were worthless and left openings for animals, that the calves had passed through, that the gates are always negligently left open, that it is by no means surprising that animals can escape, that pigs can go in when there is food out which attracts them; I am prepared to declare this, in the presence of the authorities, who should know this. In good faith I hereby sign this declaration at Opelousas on July 10, 1804.

Francois Suire

July 10, 1804

I the undersigned declare that upon the request of M. Johnson I went to the place under discussion on the tenth of July and I examined and recognized that the fences and gates of Mr. André Nérault's lot were always open to entrance by Mr. Johnson's pigs, which I am ready to declare under oath in the presence of the authorities who should know this, and I hereby affirm this, in the good faith of which I sign this declaration; at Opelousas the 10th of July, 1804. I have also observed two places where the pigs could pass because of the bad condition of the fences.

**Signed with the mark of
Baptiste LaLonde
Oct. Roman, witness
S. Roman, witness**

July 10, 1804

I the undersigned declare that upon the request of Mr. Johnson I went to the place under discussion on the eighth of this month and examined and recognized that the fences and gates of Mr. André

Nérault's lot are always open so that Mr. Johnson's pigs enter, which I am ready to declare under oath in the presence of the authorities who should know about this and I hereby affirm in good faith of which I sign this present declaration. At Opelousas, the 10th of July, 1804.

I declare, not knowing how to write, that I have made my mark below...

**Signed with the mark of Guillaume LaLonde
Witnessed by (?) Roman and Oct. Roman**

July 10, 1804

An account for what André Nérault owes to Johnson for the days taken up in recognizing the animals which had been marked (branded) by the aforementioned Nérault, which is why he was sentenced to a fine and the expenses which must be paid by him; this is why I am claiming five days taken up by this work of identification. This brings the sum owed up to fifteen piastres for which I request an order to be paid immediately. At Opelousas, the 10th of July, 1804.

William Johnson

To M. De la Chaise, Commandant of the Post of Opelousas, the 15th of **July, 1804.**

In response to the letter which you have honored me by writing to me on the 11th of this month, I have the honor of sending to you attached to this the account statement which you have instructed me to send to you. I have not specified the sum of my lost crops, leaving that to be pronounced by you in your justice.

I have the honor to be, with my respect, Mr. (Signature illegible, followed by "Your humble servant")

Witnessed by the mark of Guillaume LaLonde

July 15, 1804

William Johnson, residing in the District of the Grand Chevreuil has the honor to state to M. Le Commandant that M. André Nérault, a resident of the same place, has killed two pregnant sows, maimed a pig, and that I am missing four others; that the conduct of M. Nérault convinces me that he has also killed them; he is my neighbor and my enemy; for such damages and two days of lost time, I wish to be paid, and this will necessitate my coming to the Post. I pray M. Le Commandant to rule with wisdom in this case for my expenses, the cost of my lost animals, and the time I have lost because of this wickedness.

**Opelousas, the 15th of July 1804
William JOHNSON**

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the letter that you honored me by sending, ordering me to have André Nérault arrested, I sent word to him to come to my house; he did not come. I went myself to his home, and I spoke to his wife, telling her that her husband had to come to my home. Two days passed without his coming; I then presented to him the statement of account; he refused to pay, stating that he did not want to pay M. Guillaume LaLonde, pretending that he had an account directly with him, but not producing it. I offered to have LaLonde come immediately. He refused again. This is why, seeing his bad faith, I ordered that he be immediately arrested and taken to prison.
With respect and greetings,

W. Johnson

Opelousas, the 25th of July 1804

To M. De La Chaise, Commandant, Post of Opelousas
Sir,

I hereby have recourse to your authority so that it may sustain within the bounds of respect that one owes to property the following:

Here are the facts that I allege against M. André Nérault. He promises to pen my animals on his property. A horse who had a broken leg was found at a short distance from M. Nérault's home. It belonged to M. Honoré Fortier, who had left it in my keeping. I had someone look at it immediately in order to determine the facts. I also declare since last Spring, he promises to enclose both in daytime and at night, a certain number of my animals; among these, there are two who have broken horns, which proves some act of violence. This is the reason which I ask you, Sir, to forbid M. Nérault from having any access to any of my property, and in case of recidivism, I promise to make a case against him before the authorities.

It seems that M. Nérault is not at all afraid of what has happened, relative to the case last year of two calves which he branded, since he allowed himself to brand others this year; such an offense to the tranquility of this Post deserves to get him kicked out. This will doubtless be the result of his conduct, Sir, since he is already known to you for such excesses of all kinds.

I am honored to greet you, Sir. I remain your humble servant.

(?) Roman

Aug. 14, 1804 Opelousas

Honoré de la Chaise judges that André Nérault must pay LaLonde 55 piastres. He has an eight-day grace period.

Sept. 3, 1804 Opelousas

I send Mr. Francois Suire with my negro to do my work in the woods, and Mr. Francois Suire appeared before me and declared that Mr. Francois Nerault came to him and attacked Suire at the back of a large farmhouse and stripped off his shirt inviting him to fight. Francois Suire informed Nerault I am a ...and I can not fight and I don't come here for to fight. I come here to work for my employer. Francois Nerault said put down your ax, accordingly Suire put down the ax and told Francois Nerault I can not fight, but maybe I can find you a man. I told Francois Nerault why don't you come to me at my house where I live at William Johnson or among people, and Francois Nerault said he does not care for Johnson nor for nobody else and wife said since today (?) and this is the third (or thirteenth) time Francois Nerault have attacked me, and also treat me with the horse whip (in French he says beat with a whip) if ever I go to the river. Therefore I hope the authority will give me justification for the reason I have not want for myself in the woods (this last sentence is unclear).

**Most humble servant, Francois Suire
Co-signed by William Johnson**

Sept. 7, 1804 Opelousas

In conformity with the order which you have given mel began the census last Saturday. I also asked M. André Nérault about the enclosure the repayment for which he was judged responsible by your judgement during the month of August; he asked me if it was M. Duralde's order that I had demanded, to which I answered that I had demanded for the public good; he refused to pay the order specifying the sum which your judgement required of him; he called me a rascal at my home because of this demand, and that was witnessed by Guillaume LaLonde Jr. It is for this reason that I am asking you for justice.

I am also asking, M. Le Commandant, for a new warrant against M. Francois Nérault, who, in front of a witness, attacked in the woods, in a place not far away, my hired man Francois Suire, whose declaration is attached to this, and who because of this attack no longer wants to go and work in the woods, which is causing me a real problem. I am requesting also, M. Le Commandant, that you force André Nérault to prove that I am a rascal, calling him for reparations before your tribunal.

William Johnson

Sept. 11, 1804

To M. Honoré De La Chaise, Commandant at Opelousas for the United States of America

Sir,

Francois Nérault, merchant in this Post and citizen of the United States of America, has the honor to request that you have Michel LaLora arrested; he is here at present and is about to leave this place. I want this so that he will repay the sum of forty piastres which he owes for a horse that he sold to me although it was rented from M. Chabot who proved that it was his property. Since I cannot remain here very long, I want his property seized if he defaults on the payments. I ask your assistance in helping me to obtain justice.

Opelousas the 11th. of September, 1804

F. Nérault

On Sept. 28, 1804, Francois Nerault charges Louis Chevalier de Villier for money owed him (more money that Francois owed him, he states), presenting to Honoré de la Chaise, civil commandant of Opelousas, a detailed copy of charges to the amount of \$257.24 on Oct. 10, 1804. Francois claimed that Villier retorted to his charges with “abuse” and “ill language,” and insulted him by calling him “a retailing store keeper.”

On Oct. 11, 1804, Mary Emmanuel Meusnier, who “lived with M. Francois Nerault in the capacity of a Clerk,” testified on the conditions of their cabin, apparently owened by Villier but rented by Francois Nerault at a sum subject to the debts Villier owed him.

“M. Nerault would never get an answer from Mr. Villier respecting the hire of his cabin. Mr. Nerault never burnt or suffered any of his tenants to burn any rails or fences of Mr. Villier. He employed somebody to cut fire wood about a hundred yards outside of the (environs?). The few rails which I ever saw about the house were almost rotten; he disposed of them to fence in a small field close by intended for potatoes. M. Villier took up one fourth of the cabin’s yard to make a garden which as it stood and yet stands was very much in the way and unpleasant to M. Nerault who was in that situation for five months. To my knowledge M. Nerault did as much good to the cabin and premises as could be. The house was in a leaky condition. A great portion of the gallery corners

stood ... and the cabin being unfinished and opened to great many parts to the weather, having no floors, hardly any good doors and the door locks having been supplied by M. Nerault. To my knowledge great many of his goods were damaged, such as blankets, twine, sugars, etc. I never knew perceived that M. Nerault had applied directly or indirectly to M. Villier for any provisions such as geese, hogs or hearthenware of any kind, the intercourse between Mr. Nerault and Mr. Villier being very uncommunicable. Mr. Villier being seldom at home and seeming to incline to avoid the calls of Mr. Nerault by comparing said cabin to houses hired by gentlemen in this neighborhood. My opinion is that eight dollars a month is an extraordinary price for it. It is built in a low ground and was at different times overflowed in the best rooms.”

Mary Meusnier
(André Prudhomme as witness or possible translator)

On Oct. 11, 1804, the “cabin” is blown down by the wind. On Oct. 12, 1804, D.J. Sutton declares the house in bad shape.

Chronology of Opelousas Poste Documents

Re: Nerault/Lanclos families

- Jan. 20, 1790: Petition for land by Antoine Lemlos
- March 10, 1796: Antoine Lanclos to Andre Nerault
- July 23, 1802: Andre Nerault, acting for Antoine Lanclos and Magdeleine Molinos, sell to Francois Suire
- Aug. 27, 1802: Exchange of land between Baptiste Nerault and Francois Suire
- Dec. 1, 1802: Land sale from Suire to William Johnson
- Dec. 1, 1802: Baptiste Nerault sells to James Mullins of Attakapas
- Dec. 10, 1802: Baptiste, acting for Antoine Lanclos, to Andre Nerault
- Dec. 24, 1802: Exchange of land between Andre Nerault and James Mullins
- March 28, 1803: Sales of slaves from Honore Fortier to Andre Nerault
- April 11, 1803: Andre Nerault vs. Onezin Roman, Guillaume Lalonde, fils and others
- Aug. 10, 1803: Complaint and sentence concerning the cattle brand of Andre Nerault.
- Sept. 20, 1803: Letter from Jean Baptiste Nerault to Martin Duralde pertaining to the case of Claude Bougaud and Sylvestre Bossie.
- Feb. 3, 1803: Antoine Chenier sells land to Jean Baptiste Nerault, 10X40 arpents on Bayou Teche bounded by lands of Depanet and public domain.
- Oct. 18, 1803: Copy of notes due Francois “Herault”

1804 Francois Nerault vs. Lewis Villier, his debtor and Jean Baptiste Lienard, agent for Villier.

Jan. 9, 1804: Claude Bougaud vs. Sylvestre Bossie, letter from Francois Nerault to de la Chaisse.

Jan. 30, 1804: Sales of land from Dame Marie Catherine, widow of Jacques Mollins, to Jacques Roman, officer of the legion, three arpents (part of six) purchased from Baptiste Nerault.

March 10, 1804: Request for opinion

April 2, 1804: Sales of land from Baptiste Thisonau, free mulatto, to Francois Nerault, a portion of land at Grosse Pointe at Bois de Mallet.

April 9, 1804: Sale of land from Antoine Lanclos to Francois Nerault, 12X40 arpents at Plaquemine Brulée, bounded by lands of Michel LeDoux and Chiasson.

April 12, 1804: Deposition of D.I. Sutton concerning the condition of Francois Nerault's cabin, the one he rents from Villier.

April 14, 1804: Guillaume Lalonde vs. Andre Nerault, condemnation.

July 10, 1804: Andre and problem with pigs.

July 21, 1804: Petition by Andre concerning a debt owned Guillaume LaLonde.

July 22, 1804: Letter and account of William Johnson against Andre Nerault.

July 24, 1804: Andre Nerault and Guillaume Lalonde, sentence.

July 25, 1804: Letter to Chaise about Andre, signed by Roman.

Aug. 14, 1804: Concerning the sentences of Guillaume Lalonde and Andre Nerault, Judgement of Honeré de la Chaise, Commandant, that Nerault pay Lalonde 55 piastres.

Aug. 25, 1804: Statement of Andre that the 8-day grace period allowed Guillaume Lalonde for payment of his debts has passed.

Sept. 3, 1804: William Johnson vs. Francois Nerault

Sept. 7, 1804: Letter from William Johnson to Chaise regarding Andre Nerault.

Sept. 11, 1804: Francois Nerault vs. Michel Lacaze, request of Francois to stop Lacaze from leaving because he owns Nerault 40 piastres.

Sept. 28, 1804: Francois Nerault to Louis Chevalier de Villier, complaint of faulty housing.

Sept. 28, 1804: Francois Nerault vs. Villier concerning conditions of cabin which caused sickness. Invoice included.

Oct. 10, 1804: Certified copy of bill.

Oct. 10, 1804: Villier gives Jean Baptiste Lienard power of attorney.

Oct. 11, 1804: Deposition by Mary Emmanuel Meusnier, clerk who lives with Francois Nerault.

- Oct. 11, 1804: Deposition of Roger Ouest. House was blown down by wind.
- Oct. 28, 1804: Francois Nerault vs. B. Tissoneau, petition for payment of debt.
- Nov. 29, 1804: Villier appoints Jean Baptiste Lienard to represent him.
- May 12, 1805: Sale of land from Francois Joseph Dubuisson to Francois Herault, 6X40 arpents on Grand Bayou at Grand Prairie, formerly belonging to Steven de Lamorandier. Bounded by lands of Madam Fusilier and Gross Etienne.
- May 25, 1813: Guillaume Lalonde fils vs. Antoine Lanclos petition.
- Aug. 23, 1813: Estate of Antoine Lanclos, sale at auction.

**St. Landry Parish Successions
For Nerault Family**

- April 12, 1813: Estate of Francois Hereaux
- 1814 Jean Baptiste
- 1828 Felicite Prejean Nerault
- 1831 Marie Adeline Nerault
- 1834 Eveline Nerault
- 1836 Francois Nerault
- 1846 Marie F. Nerault
- 1847 Andre Nerault