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Louise Destrehan Harvey: A Pioneer Business Woman in the Nineteenth Century New Orleans, Louisiana

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Louise Destrehan Harvey: A Pioneer Business Woman in the Nineteenth Century New Orleans,
Louisiana

A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
University of New Orleans
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts
In
History

By

Judy Henderson Pinter

B.A. Tulane University 2011
MLA Tulane University, 2013

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Acknowledgements

Louise Destrehan Harvey's introduction to me began when I worked as a historic interpreter at Destrehan Plantation. My original graduate school paper stimulated my interest to learn more about this exceptional nineteenth century woman. It has taken me years and hours of research to finish my thesis on Louise Destrehan Harvey. Many doors opened and welcomed me to explore various inventories for the completion of this project. Destrehan Plantation's director, Nancy Robert and the educational director, Angie Matherne, gave me open access to the numerous books, documents, and photos on the Harvey family. The River Road Historical Society employed Dr. William Reeves who wrote the informative *Destrehan Manuscript* that invigorated me to further research on this topic. Mr. Michael Liebaert and the Harvey Canal Land and Improvement Company allowed me to review the numerous historical files that were available. The assistance of archivist Theresa Grass of the Academy of Sacred Heart in St. Charles, Missouri, who investigated Louise's record as a student gave me information on her during that period of her life. I spent many hours at the Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court Annex Building on the numerous legal cases documented for Louise Harvey and the office employees were continuously pleasant and helpful to me. Sara Pic, reference librarian of the Supreme Court of Louisiana always had time to aid me. The critical eyes of my history professors at the University of New Orleans made me investigate, question, focus, and rewrite this paper until I had a coherent story. In particular, my thesis chair Dr. Mary Mitchell, and my other committee members Dr. Andrea Mosterman, and Dr. Charles Chamberlain gave advice and stimulation to finish this story. Lastly, I have to thank my husband Karl who endured leftovers and late meals, an unkempt house at times, and my frequent absences to do hours of research without complaining very much. My sons and their families gave me encouragement and love. To my extended family (you know who you are) for your reassurance and faith given that I could finish

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Timeline

1739-Jean Baptiste Destrehan, the first member of the Destrehan family, arrived to Louisiana.

1793-Nicholas Noel Destrehan, Louise Destrehan's father, was born.

1825-Nicholas Noel Destrehan purchased land on the west bank of the Mississippi River.

1826-Nicholas Noel Destrehan married his second wife, Henrietta Louise Navarre.

1827, August-Louise Marie Destrehan was born.

1835, October 11-Henrietta Louise Navarre Destrehan died from yellow fever.

1836, August 28-Louise Marie Destrehan and a sister started Sacred Heart School in St. Charles, Missouri.

1842-Louise Marie Destrehan returned home from boarding school to assist her father in his business ventures.

1839-1845-A narrow canal dug that connected the Mississippi River with Bayou Barataria on Nicholas Noel Destrehan's property; later called the Harvey Canal.

1845, August 9-The marriage contract between Louise M. Destrehan and Joseph H. Harvey accepted and once legally recorded their wedding followed.

1846-James Furman, tutor, lived with Nicholas Noel and the Joseph Harvey families.

1848, June 16-Nicholas Noel Destrehan died at age 57.

-Seven months later, Louise D. Harvey purchased the Destrehan Canal and property surrounding through a succession and sales of her father's estate.

1848-1896-Harvey Brickyard Company established and located along the downriver side of the Harvey Canal.

1882, March 20-Captain Joseph H. Harvey died at age 66.

1898, May 9-Harvey Canal Land and Improvement Company chartered.

1903, November 15-Louise Destrehan Harvey died at age 76.

1907-Harvey Canal locks operational.

1924-The U.S. government purchased the Harvey Canal.

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Abstract

Louise Destrehan Harvey (1827-1903) followed her father, Nicholas Noel Destrehan's dream of completing a navigational canal, eventually purchased by the United States Government that became part of the Intracoastal Waterway. This canal linked the Gulf of Mexico to the Mississippi River grew of importance as the city of New Orleans expanded needing more trade and transportation routes. Louise received the credit of completion of the Harvey Canal locks. No personal correspondences are available from Louise. However, newspaper articles, court cases, parish records, wills, and family recollections detailed Harvey's personal life and business dealings. Nicholas Noel recorded a marriage contract protecting Louise's personal wealth. This thesis argues that Louise Harvey's success came from her harnessing of the profit-making potential of the canal and her creative adaptation to the shifting economic climate in the mid-nineteenth century. She modified her business practices to fit the demands of the nineteenth century transportation needs of Louisiana, despite her limited power as a woman before the law.

Keywords: Woman in New Orleans nineteenth century; businesswoman; Harvey Canal

Introduction

The New Orleans *Times-Picayune*'s death notice stated that Mrs. Louise Harvey's family had a hand in making Jefferson Parish a commercial hub in southwest Louisiana. Louise Destrehan Harvey played a particularly prominent role. She owned, widened, and improved her family's Destrehan Canal and in the 1860s renamed it the Harvey Canal, a waterway that facilitated the movement of goods from inland to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. The canal became important for the local timber industry and it gave importance to not only Jefferson Parish but to the state, and was of financial importance to New Orleans. The settlement by the Harvey Canal bears her name today. At her death, the newspaper reported, she had eight children, and over sixty descendants. One of her sons remarked after her funeral that he received a liberal education living with his mother and many shared this sentiment.¹

In 1803, business opportunities for women were limited. The Louisiana Purchase brought Northerners south to the lower Mississippi River valley seeking their fortunes in the sugar business and trade. Rich male planters and merchants ran the economy and gained notoriety with great success along this navigational corridor. The patriarchal system of governing set no limits for the elite white men to achieve wealth and power in the time of the antebellum South. Fewer such opportunities existed for white women, whose expected purpose to perform their domestic duties in the home and not interfere in their husband's business dealings. For a certain economic class before the Civil War, a woman's foremost role portrayed to be wife and mother. Yet, many women had the responsibility to supervise work on the plantations while their husbands traveled on business trips. Still others became widows and

¹ *Times Picayune Newspaper*, 11, November 1903, "Death Notice", 5.

inherited both family debts and businesses. Hence, some white and free women of color met these challenges well before 1861.

The lives of most white Southern women, both upper and middle class, changed with the Civil War both economically and socially. These women no longer enjoyed the carefree afternoons provided by the help of household slaves to do the work of childcare, cooking, cleaning, shopping, and washing. Urban slaveholders also enjoyed domestic help with household chores and marketing.² In wartime, many of these Southern women became participants in sewing clubs, making uniforms for sons, husbands, lovers, and strangers. Other women took over the management of businesses and plantations while their men were at war, and gave support to elderly relatives. Then, a great number of them received the sad news from the battlefields that their men died and will never return home. Plantations homes and fields burned to the ground and their livestock stolen as punishment for supporting the Confederacy by Union supporters. Debts, payments, and ultimate decisions of filing for bankruptcies followed. Widows became the backbone for the society while forced to deal with all the decisions needed in maintaining life and business that they never experienced before.

The trials of life in the South following the Civil War brought another set of challenges for elite women. With collateral in enslaved people gone, and relatively little industrial infrastructure, southern landowners had to look for new ways to sustain their property and their families. Following Reconstruction, New Orleans's business elites began to look toward the city's future by hosting a World Exposition that included women's participation. Samuel C. Shepherd, Jr. wrote in an article, "A Glimmer of Hope: The World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition, New Orleans, 1884-1885" about the city leaders desire to stimulate

² Richard C. Wade, *Slavery in the Cities: The South 1820-1860* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1964), 28-29.

economic growth. Many reporters felt afterwards that this event was a financial failure, but the Exposition did bring national and international exposure to the port city on the Mississippi River. Miki Pfeffer's book *Southern Ladies and Suffragists: Julie Ward Howe and Women's Rights at the 1884 New Orleans World's Fair* describes the challenges the organizer of the women's department faced and their successes. The Women's Department within the exhibition brought lecturers, artists, and entrepreneurs to the city thus inspiring many females to participate in social activities.³

Born in 1827 Louise Destrehan Harvey lived through periods of change and experienced an increase of opportunities for trade and river transportation of the city. She witnessed the Civil War and Reconstruction as an adult and became a widow shortly after the war. Fortunately, for Louise Destrehan Harvey living in the nineteenth century New Orleans she did not experience widowhood during the Civil War. Her husband continued to act as her voice in court cases, which was an advantage, since the claims of men commanded more respect in the court of law and women relied on male representors in business dealings. Louise Harvey developed into an astute businesswoman, first groomed by her father, and then working alongside her husband in the family businesses with Louise as his tutor. After she became a widow, she depended on her sons and attorney Henry P. Dart, Sr. who served as her voice in legal matters. Despite some opposition from neighbors and financial hurdles, she overcame both to build a set of locks on a navigational canal on the west bank of the Mississippi River. She also engaged in subsidiary trading along this waterway, including marketing flowers, citrus fruit, and dairy products. The

³ Samuel C. Shepherd, Jr., "A Glimmer of Hope: The World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition, New Orleans, 1884-1885," *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* (Summer, 1985), 271-290. Miki Pfeffer, *Southern Ladies and Suffragists: Julie Ward Howe and Women's Rights at the 1884 New Orleans World's Fair* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014).

following legal cases and newspaper articles give a glimpse of her involvement in the family businesses and the importance of court proceedings during the different periods.

Perhaps the woman whose experience was most comparable to Louise Harvey was Margaret Haughery, a successful baker in New Orleans. The two women came from different social and economic backgrounds, but both did business in and around New Orleans in the nineteenth century, taking advantage of the region's needs and resources. Their experiences in business seemed similar due to the limitations placed on women before the law. Haughery kept her business simple and expanded when a need arose. Harvey continued the family businesses and focused on the development of the canal's increased trade potential. Both women gave loans to people and collected interest on the financial arrangements. Haughery relied on her attorney John M. Lee for legal representation until there was a lawsuit between them. Harvey's husband then sons represented her in court cases. However, with no family of her own, Haughery considered the orphans and Catholic nuns her relatives and was devoted to their maintenance and well-being. Harvey raised nine children with her husband and had to make daily decisions about their household. Haughery and Harvey both succeeded because their exploitation of the economic opportunities the city afforded them. A statue of Margaret Haughery on Prytania Street, near the site of her bakery, reminds us daily of her contributions to our society. Louise Harvey's canal is a monument to her innovation in directing and exploiting access to the city's waterways.⁴

⁴ Laura D. Kelly, *The Irish in New Orleans* (Lafayette: University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press, 2014), 124-127. Katherine A Luck, "Finding Margaret Haughery: The Forgotten and Remembered Lives of New Orleans's 'Bread Women' In the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries" (Master Theses, University of New Orleans, Spring, 2014), 18.

In 1916, a fire burned the Harvey Canal Company offices that destroyed all the personal papers and blueprints of the past transactions stored within that building and the company office flooded several times.⁵ The Historic New Orleans Collections received some remaining documents on the Nicholas Noel Destrehan and Joseph Harvey family. There were no personal letters or diaries from Louise Harvey to review. Numerous family members recalled discussions with Louise Harvey and wrote books about her and the family. James Furman, a family tutor, lived within their household and wrote a book including his experience with them. Court cases written in script made reading problematic; moreover, the deteriorating official papers made interpretation difficult at times. In future years, these legal documents will not be legible; they are not stored in a climate control atmosphere. Many but not all legal cases involving Louise Harvey are included in this research paper. Louise ran successful family multi-businesses that used the Mississippi River and the tributary the manmade Harvey Canal. She adjusted her emphasis in business to the met her family's financial requirements and the community's needs. This thesis focuses on her life, the problems, and resources used by Louise to achieve the completion of building a set of navigation locks on the Harvey Canal that eventually became part of the Intracoastal Waterway of the United States Government.

Historiography

Leading up to the Civil War some white men in the South developed the patriarchal authority into individual privileges that neglected the legal rights of women. Laura Edwards in

⁵ Louise Destrehan Rog r D'Oliveira, Horace H. Harvey, and Katherine Harvey Rog r, *Legacy of Old Louisiana: Destrehan and Harvey Families* (Clearwater: Louise D. R. D'Oliveira, 1983), 41.

her book *The People and Their Peace: Legal Culture and the Transformation of Inequality in the Post-Revolutionary South* addressed the expanded advantage of white men that became part of the legal system. Edwards wrote “White women, African Americans, and the poor found it difficult to make themselves heard within the state law, because they were excluded from the category of people with rights...”⁶ The legal entitlements of white women during antebellum South limited their control over properties brought by them into a marriage. The title of property remained in the wife’s name, but control and management belonged to the husband excluding the wife’s desires. A husband could seize his wife’s assets to pay off his debts. Peter Bardaglio wrote in his book *Reconstructing the Household: Families, Sex, & the Law in the Nineteenth-Century South* that the only protection for woman controlling her property after marriage to have it remain in a separate in a trust or prenuptial agreement. Then, the husband could not interfere or claim his wife’s estate.⁷

Bardaglio also described the economic and emotional toll that the citizens of New Orleans experienced upon the arrival of General Benjamin F. Butler during the Civil War. Butler instituted a system of military courts unfamiliar to the citizens upon his occupation of the city of New Orleans, once stability occurred in the civilian government, then criminal and civil cases resumed in the area.⁸ Scott Marler’s book *The Merchants’ Capital: New Orleans and the Political Economy of the Nineteenth-Century South* also explore the economic and legal changes brought by occupation. Butler devalued Confederate currency, which made it difficult for businesses to operate. In addition, he confiscated personal property if a citizen did not give a

⁶ Laura F. Edwards, *The People and Their Peace: Legal Culture and the Transformation of Inequality in the Post-Revolutionary South* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2009), 9.

⁷ Peter W. Bardaglio, *Reconstructing the Household: Families, Sex, & the Law in the Nineteenth-Century South* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1995), 31.

⁸ Ibid, 123.

“Loyalty Oath” to the Union. Marler wrote “Butler’s contempt for resident merchants of New Orleans, Americans, and foreign nationals alike” made him seek this community as the scapegoats for the city.⁹ Bardaglio and Marler both cited trouble with trade under Butler’s control. After eight months of the tyrant’s reign of Butler, President Lincoln relieved him with General Nathaniel Banks.

Historians Catherine Clinton and Nina Silber are co-editors of a book of essays titled *Divided Houses: Gender and the Civil War* that focused on the social and political “experiences of the Civil War on men, women, children, black and whites, elites, and ordinary people.”¹⁰ Historian Lee Ann Whites in chapter one of this book stated the South in the mid-nineteenth century faced a “critical racial and gender imbalance, pushed to the brink of changes.”¹¹ As the Union troops advanced into the South, the family chores and gender roles continued to change. Often, southern women dealt with family, business responsibilities, and challenges alone. Many of these men, sons, and lovers never returned leaving the females to attend to their estates and families.¹² Some of these women uneducated in business, finance, and moneyless had to rely on the advice of others. Therefore, the period of rebuilding the economy in post-Civil War Louisiana found some women unprepared to support themselves and their families. The general expectations of working females were that they must put their families before any career.

Historians documented a positive outlook for women’s careers and opportunities in New Orleans at the end of the nineteenth century. Patricia Brady wrote in “Literary Ladies of New

⁹ Scott P. Marler, *The Merchants’ Capital: New Orleans and the Political Economy of the Nineteenth-Century South* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013), 150-155, 161.

¹⁰ Catherine Clinton and Nina Silber, *Divided Houses: Gender and the Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), xv-xvii.

¹¹ Ibid, LeeAnn White, 8.

¹² Ibid, 16.

Orleans in the Gilded Age,” that the profession of teachers was the most acceptable and achievable for women. In New Orleans, two local newspapers merged the *Daily Picayune* and *Times-Democrat* and gave females opportunity to write articles. The general use of pseudonym for women writers acted as a barrier keeping their private lives separated from their public careers. The publisher, Eliza Jane Nicholson, not only encouraged women authors, but also hired and promoted them.¹³ Another view by B. H. Gilley article “A Women for Women: Eliza Nicholson, Publisher of the New Orleans Daily Picayune” focused on the challenges women writers dealt with during reconstruction in the South. Some men resented female writers. Gilley referenced the “little mistake” that the editor from *Forest and Stream* magazine in 1886 made when he presumed that the *Times-Picayune* editor, E. J. Nicholson, thought to be a male and invited her to be a vice-president of the Audubon Society. He retracted his invitation upon realizing her sex.¹⁴ Nicholson’s first year as owner of the *Daily Picayune* was difficult. “Chivalrous” men tested and at times confronted her. The Reverend R.A. Holland of Trinity Church criticized women who worked outside their home. Holland expressed that a woman lost her grace of sex when she took on a job meant for a man. Nicholson’s responded to him in her “Society Bee” column when she wrote, “Are you quite sure of this, my dear sir? Do you personally know any of the women who have been forced into public careers, and have you found them wanting in grace and sweetness?”¹⁵ Eliza Holbrook inherited the *Times-Picayune* newspaper when widowed by her first husband, Colonel Holbrook and on the verge of the papers bankruptcy. She not only restored the paper’s solvency but also increased the circulation. She

¹³Patricia Brady, “Literary Ladies of New Orleans in the Gilded Age,” *Louisiana History: Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, Vol. 33, No. 2 (Spring, 1992), 148-149.

¹⁴B.H. Gilley, “A Women for Women: Eliza Nicholson, Publisher of the New Orleans Daily Picayune,” *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, Vol. 30, No.3 (Summer, 1989), 233.

¹⁵*Ibid*, 243.

eventually married the newspaper's business manager; George Nicholson became her voice in legal cases. Nicholson became the first woman in the South to own and edit a newspaper. Gilley stated Nicholson defied expectations of the elite Northern businessman and affluent Southern planters that wanted women to stay home. Eliza stated in a public speech, "As the proprietor of a newspaper, my position is, in a way, lonesome and peculiar. Under the disadvantage of being a woman, the work of a man is mine with its wear and responsibilities. I miss the pleasure and encouragement men of our profession have in friendly association."¹⁶ She did champion some causes for women but never considered herself a feminist or suffragist. Nicholson hired Elizabeth Gilmer with a pen name "Dorothy Dix," Martha M. Field as "Catherine Cole," and several other notables in the female literary community. She helped achieve the changing of an industry.

An inspiring example of a businesswoman in the nineteenth century was Margaret Haughery (1813-1882) an illiterate Irish immigrant who understood the demands on how to succeed in New Orleans. Haughery's success came from her hard work and the proper choice of guidance for business advice. Haughery depended upon the assistance of men, the Catholic Church (Sisters of Charity) and female friends who helped her accomplish her goals.¹⁷ Margaret Haughery gained respect from the community due to her benevolent work with the orphans. Sally McMillen wrote "During the antebellum period, once a woman married she lost her *femme sole* status and became a *femme convert* meaning any property or wages attained by a wife belonged to her husband. Widows could keep their property and wages as *femme sole*."¹⁸ To prevent widows and families from failing to manage their own properties this law came into

¹⁶ B.H. Gilley, "A Women for Women...", 235,238.

¹⁷ Katherine A Luck, "Finding Margaret Haughery", iv.

¹⁸ Sally G. McMillen, *Southern Women Black and White in the Old South* (Wheeling: Harlan Davidson Inc., 2002), 48.

effect. However, often men helped unmarried women with the legalities of owning property. Haughery profited from her legal status as *femme sole*. The legacy that Haughery left upon her death to the orphans was a fortune valued at \$35,000, donations to other facilities, and a reputation for her generosity and charitable deeds. In 1884, a statue built of her likeness with a child rest in the Lower Garden District, where it remains.¹⁹ The laws gradually changed so women could gain more independence for themselves and their families.

Louise Destrehan Harvey's Ancestors and Childhood

The family of Louise Destrehan Harvey began leaving their footprint on south Louisiana in the eighteenth century. In 1739, the first ancestor arrived to Louisiana, Jean Baptiste Destrehan. He served first as the clerk in the office of *ordonateur* (treasurer) and ran the finances for the new French colony. Eventually, he received the title of Louisiana Treasurer and his responsibility included collecting fees and taxes, lending money for expeditions, and managing of transactions for France.²⁰ In 1745, he married Catherine de Gauvry and together they had ten children. Some of the Destrehan children married into prominent Louisiana families such as the Borés, Marignys, and D'Aunoys. Jean Baptiste Destrehan acquired landholdings on both sides of the Mississippi River and left a sizeable inheritance of properties that included three plantations with livestock and slaves.²¹ Upon the death of Jean Baptiste, the

¹⁹ Katherine Luck, "Finding Margaret Haughery", 22, 25.

¹⁹ Eugene D. Cizek, John H. Lawrence, and Richard Sexton, *Destrehan: The Man ~The House ~The Legacy* (Singapore: River Road Historical Society, 2008), 37, 38, 40. The name Destrehan originally written as d'Estréhan. Eventually the "d" was absorbed into the name omitting the accent.

²⁰ William D. Reeves, *Destrehan Manuscript* (New Orleans: 2000), 32. The River Road Historical Society owns this manuscript.

²¹ Cizek, et al, *Destrehan*, 37.

youngest child, Jean Noel, returned to France and attended school until he reached the age of seventeen. Jean Noel's brother-in-law, Étienne Boré, served as his *curator* once he returned to Louisiana and until emancipation. Young Jean Noel inherited a plantation in St. Charles Parish known as the "German Coast." Robin de Logny, the Commandant on the "German Coast." In 1786, his daughter, Eleonore Celeste Robin de Logny, married Jean Noel. In 1792, at a succession auction they purchased her father's property today known as Destrehan Plantation. Jean Noel and Eleonore Celeste had fourteen children with eleven surviving into adulthood.²²

The Destrehan family upgraded to a more profitable agricultural produce. Indigo became harder to grow in Louisiana in the early 1790s since blight affected the plants. Then, sugar cane production became the new cash crop. Etienne Boré in the West Indies learned how to granulate sugar and this process revolutionized the production of sugar.²³ Jean Noel used the *bagasse* (left over sugar cane after grinding) for burning to boil the raw syrup. Jean Noel's idea of the labor system of shift work became popular during the harvesting of sugar cane. The slave labor changed every six hours, and the workers could decide to work longer hours for overtime pay.²⁴

The wealth of the Destrehan family allowed them to participate in more community and political functions. Thomas Jefferson appointed Jean Noel as First Deputy to Etienne Boré, Mayor of New Orleans. Jean Noel also served in the State Senate but lost in the gubernatorial race to William Claiborne. He won the seat of a U.S. Federal Senator but he never served in that capacity. In the last twenty years of his life, he spent most of his time in New Orleans working

²² Cizek, et al, *Destrehan*, 43.

²³ Richard Follett, *The Sugar Masters: Planters and Slave in Louisiana Cane World, 1820-1860* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2005), 17.

²⁴ *Ibid*, 17.

with investments. Upon his death, Jean Noel was one of the wealthiest men in Louisiana. Only five of his eleven children outlived him.²⁵

Jean Noel introduced his son to travel and trade. Nicholas Noel Destrehan the fourth child of Jean Noel and Eleonore Celeste became his journeying companion. Nicholas Noel took trips to Europe with him and collected art treasures. Jean Noel introduced him to out-of-state trade, selling products from their plantation to St. Louis and Louisville. In addition, Nicholas Noel became knowledgeable in oyster harvesting and brick making. His first wife, Victoire Fortier, died after childbirth and their first-born twins did not survive. Distraught Nicholas Noel traded his townhouses in New Orleans to Bernard Marigny in exchange for some swampland outside of the city. This development of New Marigny later became quite profitable for him by selling lots. He owned property in St. Louis and Chicago as well.²⁶ Nicholas Noel could be aggressive in business conflicts. Often, he served as his own attorney, winning and losing several lawsuits for various reasons. In addition to his visions and legal activities, he studied astronomy, invented a ten-hour calendar, had interest in agriculture, land developer, and as an entrepreneur served as a personal lender, loaning people money and charged interest on the loans.

²⁵Cizek et al, *Destrehan*, 41, 43, 45-46.

²⁶Cizek, *Destrehan*, 47, 50.

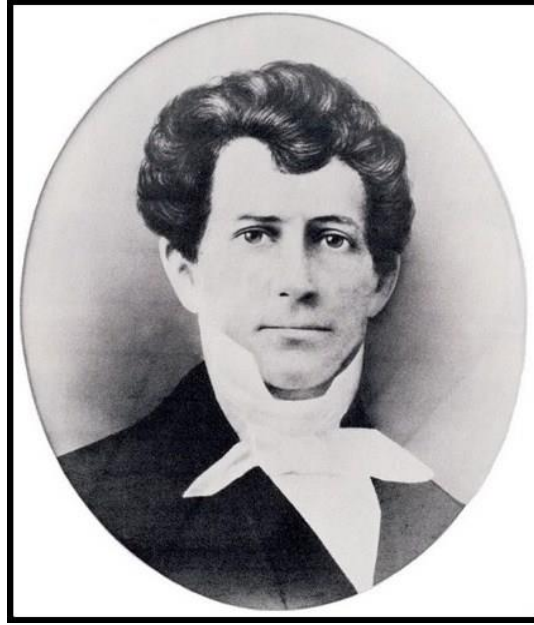


Figure 1. Nicholas Noel Destrehan.
Courtesy of the River Road Historical Society.

Nicholas Noel second marriage gave him an impetus for a different lifestyle. In 1826, he married sixteen-year-old Henrietta Louise Navarre in France. Shortly thereafter, she became pregnant with their first child Louise Marie born in August 1827. Henrietta delivered four more children resulting in the death of one at childbirth. Her husband became so excited with his new family they built a house called the “Louisiana Lyceum and Museum” on his west bank property.²⁷ He now had an elegant home to display his family paintings and numerous art collections from Europe. As a child, Louise Marie saw these images and sculptures around their household and received lectures on the artwork. As a youth, Louise rose early, when the bells rang to wake up the hired laborers and enslaved. After a hearty breakfast, with chores completed, then studies began. The Louise and her sisters used a miniature house as they

²⁷ Reeves, *Destrehan Manuscript*, 97.

received lessons on cooking, washing, ironing, and proper cleaning from the retired servants that often were older freed slaves of Nicholas Noel.²⁸ Louise Harvey came from a family that made some of New Orleans history and she experienced it firsthand. Louise told her grandchildren of her impression of riding on the first train from the Mississippi River to Lake Pontchartrain. Her family took the ferry to New Orleans from Algiers that day. The men wore high hats and the women dressed elegantly. Her father, Uncle Prosper deMarigny, and other dignitaries addressed the crowds before the train trip. She and her cousin held her aunt's hand tight because the noise and sounds of the engine frightened them. The engine whistle roared like an angry bull puffing. The train cars were made of wood. Louise also recalled that schoolchildren along the train route held flags and waved as they passed and bands played. In the late 1930s, the discontinuation of this train that was later known as "Old Smokey Mary."²⁹

In 1834, Louise Destrehan almost lost her father in a near fatal accident. The steam engine driving the sugar cane grinding machine one day caught his cloak sleeve with his hand in the machine. He ordered a slave to cut off his arm with a hatchet. Nicholas survived the ordeal and thereafter he signed all documents as "Destrehan maimed." His sugar production however was small. He expanded his business to brick making, oysters, selling timber, vegetables, flowers, citrus plants, and land developing. October 11, 1835, Nicholas life changed again when Henrietta died of yellow fever leaving him with four young children.

Nicholas Noel prioritized the upbringing and education of his daughters by enrolling them in a Catholic boarding school. On August 28, 1836, the widowed Nicholas Noel sent two of his daughters, Louise and Adele to be educated at the Sacred Heart convent in St Louis. The

²⁸ D'Oliveira et al, *Legacy of Old Louisiana*, 72.

²⁹Ibid, p. 72-74. Nicholas Noel Destrehan donated part of the railroad property to have a better access to his land near the lake. His contract with the city ended when they stopped using the train and this property was to revert to the family. After several years and lawsuits, the city did return ownership back to the Destrehan heirs.

founder of the order of the Sisters of Sacred Heart in America, Mother Duchene, was in direct charge of the education of the two Destrehan girls. The little siblings learned reading, writing, math, prayers, catechism, and stitching.³⁰ In later years, Louise Marie expressed her dislike for stitching to her granddaughters. In addition, Louise Marie spoke kindly of Mother Duchene for her patience and kindness with them. She remembered that the Mother Superior had corns on her fingers from saying the rosary so often. The Chouteau's, founders of St. Louis, befriended the Destrehan's for generations ever since great grandfather Jean Baptiste traded furs up river. The Destrehans owned a house with property in St. Louis and Nicholas Noel purchased up to 256 acres that eventually sold into suburban lots. The Chouteaus served as trade brokers upriver for the Destrehans for several decades.³¹ The Chouteau family became participants in the lives of widower Nicholas Noel's children when they attended boarding school in St. Louis and often brought them presents from their father in New Orleans.

Nicholas Noel's commitment to providing his daughters with both a liberal and a practical education is clear in letters he wrote to them while they were at school. One letter dated April 12, 1838, stated that Mr. Chouteau would bring them a barrel of oranges and two French grammar books that belonged to him, Girard's "*Dictionnaires des synonymes*," eight French songs, Abbe Gautier's "*Geographie*," 6 bars of extra fine toilet soap and more items that are personal. Another letter Nicholas Noel sent dated, July 15, 1839, and described a pleasant journey going back home from visiting them on the steamer *Hannibal*. He mentioned the river

³⁰ Theresa Grass, emailed message to author, January 13, 2014. Theresa Grass is the archivist for the Academy of the Sacred Heart in St. Charles, Missouri. A glimpse of Louise childhood from her grandchildren's recollection: Nicholas Noel built a treehouse from branches of a live oak tree for his children to play. Their family traveled the river road in a carriage driven by the family coachman, Washington, or her father. The Destrehan family crossed the river on a ferry to visit friends, relatives, or the St. Louis Cathedral in the French Quarter as a youth.

³¹ Reeves, *Destrehan Manuscript*, 95.

water level was so high that a possibility of the Mississippi River spilling over its banks and destroying crops might occur. Nicholas Noel also sent them a copy of Eugene S[ne]'s work on Paris. He bought it in the French language and with the best English translation.³² Louise Marie spoke and read fluent French and English.

Louise Marie never graduated from Sacred Heart or any other traditional school. Her father needed her home to help run the family business once his accident hindered him. As a 15 year old, Louise Marie became his secretary and bookkeeper. Nicholas Noel trained her to manage his multiple businesses and the family navigational canal on the west bank of the Mississippi River. Often in the middle of the night, Nicholas Noel had an idea and woke up Louise Marie for dictation. Portrayed to have an oval face, short height, and long straight hair Louise has few pictures of her. Louise Marie joined the adults at formal dinner parties of her father as the host of the house. She wore elegant dresses from Europe. Their guests included neighbors, a mixture of Creoles, Americans, Europeans, relatives, and public officials. She met many influential people of the area.³³ Louise Marie learned business practices from Nicholas Noel just as he did from Jean Noel. She was a good student and gained his confidence in administrating various ventures.

Louise's Marriage and Adult Life

³²*Destrehan Family Papers*, MSS, 490, Williams Research Center, The Historic New Orleans Collection. No documents are available that give a definite age to Louise's return home to assist her father. This is an estimated age.

³³Louise Destrehan Rog  r D'Oliveira, Horace H. Harvey, and Katherine Harvey Rog  r, *Legacy of Old Louisiana: Destrehan and Harvey Families* (Clearwater: Louise D. R. D'Oliveira, 1983), 44-45. Family members wrote this book, some recollections maybe romanticized.

Nicholas Noel discouraged many suitors interested in young Louise Marie. Eventually, he chose as a husband for her: a sea captain named, Captain Joseph Hale Harvey, from Virginia, 11 years older than Louise Marie. Speculation remains of where Nicholas Noel met Captain Harvey and how the two men from different backgrounds became friends. There are no written data or conjecture of when their relationship started. Scott-Irish Captain Joseph Hale Harvey started his maritime career as a whaler, later he began traveling on broad horn produce boats (flatboats) from the Ohio River down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. These trips became dangerous due to river pirates and robbers waiting for these boats, often killing the victims. Once Harvey arrived in New Orleans, the boats sold for wood, and then he worked as a crewmember on ocean sailing vessels and returned to Virginia. In 1812, the arrival of the steamboat revolutionized river travel. The steamboats replaced the flat boats for trade and travel. As a young man, Harvey learned navigation by use of a sextant and stars. Harvey perfected skills of harpooning and controlling small whaleboats while chasing whales.³⁴ Joseph Harvey enjoyed poker and card games. After one night of winning a poker game, the loser challenged him to a duel. Harvey selected the harpoon as his weapon according to the duel code. The challenger questioned if he knew how to use this device. Harvey placed a white small target attached to a big magnolia tree and stepped off more paces than required by a pistol duel. He aims the harpoon perfectly hitting the target on the tree. At this point, the proposed duel was cancelled by the challenger.³⁵ Nicholas Noel, a prominent Louisiana Creole entrepreneur, and Captain Joseph Harvey, adventurer, from a wealthy Virginia family formed a lifelong bond that remained until the death of Nicholas Noel.

³⁴ Louise D'Oliveira, et al, *Legacy of Old Louisiana: Destrehan and Harvey Families*, 62.

³⁵Ibid, 63.

Nicholas Noel required a marriage contract for Louise Marie that demonstrated the family's wealth by protecting her female rights. August 9, 1845, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the matrimonial agreement confirmed between Joseph Hale Harvey and Louise Marie Destrehan. It started with the description of Joseph H. Harvey the legitimate son of Henry Bowyer Harvey, deceased, and Sarah Smith Harvey of Mason County, State of Virginia. It then stated, Louise Destrehan, legitimate daughter, and under aged at 17 years old, of Nicholas Noel Destrehan and deceased Madame Henrietta Sousa de Navarre. She resided with her father within the parish of Jefferson, Louisiana.³⁶

The marriage contract rich in details consisted of six articles and stated this document became effective upon their official marriage. Louisiana laws prevailed regardless of their residence. This contract stated that Nicholas Noel Destrehan agreed in his daughter's name to the marriage of Joseph H Harvey. August 11, 1845 the document recorded and sealed in the City of Lafayette, Louisiana.³⁷ (The marriage contract is Appendix 1 on page 36-37).

Repeated romanticized stories circulated about the marriage. A legend told about Louise Marie and Joseph Harvey's wedding is that she did not know about their nuptials until the day of the ceremony, but documents suggest otherwise. Her original signature is recorded on the marriage contract with Destrehan maimed, P.A. Rost, Louise's uncle, a Louisiana Supreme Court Judge, G. Villars, Joseph H. Harvey, along with some other signatures. This document signed, and notarized before any ceremonies occurred. After the finished legalities, a wedding took place for Joseph Harvey and Louise Destrehan first at the Congregational Church of New

³⁶Lawrence Richard Kerry Notary Public, No. 6114, *Succession of Joseph Hale Harvey: A Marriage Contract between Louise Destrehan and Joseph Hale Harvey*, signed August 11, 1845. New Orleans Library in the Louisiana Division, New Orleans, Louisiana.

³⁷ Lawrence Richard Kerry Notary Public, No. 6114, *Succession of Joseph Hale Harvey: A Marriage Contract between Louise Destrehan and Joseph Hale Harvey*. The City of Lafayette incorporated in 1833 and annexed to New Orleans in 1852.

Orleans, the groom's preference, and then a blessing in the St. Louis Cathedral, Louise's church. The Harveys honeymooned in Europe for almost a year with their first stop in Havana, Cuba, and then returned home in early 1846. Nicholas Noel trusted and relied on them both for managing his vast businesses and they shared a home with him on the west bank of the Mississippi River.

The energetic Harvey couple began to put down their roots on the West Bank of New Orleans. Upon returning from their honeymoon, Captain Harvey contracted builders and artisans to build a Scottish Castle, known as the "Harvey Castle" near the vicinity of the now Harvey Canal. The Gothic Revival building had two octagonal towers at either end of the façade. The house featured twin walnut staircases, marble mantels, and elegant fixtures. They lived here for near twenty-five years. Captain Harvey served on the Police Jury of Jefferson Parish from 1870-1871.³⁸ Joseph and Louise along with some of their children moved to 55 Prytania Street in New Orleans around the early 1870s. Then, the Jefferson Parish Police Jury rented this building and turned it into a courthouse (1874-1884) and it became the first Jefferson Parish Courthouse. The Harveys received \$600.00 rent annually from the police jury for the use of the house. Years later, the dwelling became a tenement house and finally the federal government demolished the "Harvey Castle" for the expansion of the Intracoastal Waterway System in 1924.³⁹

Nicholas Noel Destrehan placed importance on education for his children. His daughters went to boarding school in Missouri and his son received tutelage at home until he attended school out of town. His only son Nicholas Azby had a tutor, by the name of James L. Furman. In 1846, he kept a diary of the Destrehan household that captured the dynamics of the Destrehan

³⁸ Book 4, Mortgage and Conveyance records, Jefferson Parish Courthouse, Records Department, Jefferson, Louisiana. The parish police jury became the city council. Voters elected the Jurors.

³⁹ U.S. Army Corps of Engineer New Orleans District, *Final Report Cultural Resources Survey of Gretna Phase II Levee Enlargement Item M-99.4 to 95.5-R, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana* (New Orleans: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, January 1990), 13.

and Harvey family. Furman described the lush home gardens, the evening formal dinners that always had plentiful seafood, jambalaya, daube beef, and meat dishes served in the “French Style.” Dinners ended with sherry, Madeira wine, and “fresh pond ice” (chipped ice) topped with café noir (black coffee). Nicholas Noel and Louise sat at the head of the dining table. Captain Harvey took the place next to Louise. The head of the household sat at the prominent place at the dining table and Nicholas placed Louise opposite to him instead of Joseph Harvey. The Destrehan family spoke fluent French and English. If their guest did not speak French then, they spoke English. Furman wrote about the genteel manner in which they lived.⁴⁰

June 16, 1848, the patriarch of the family, Nicholas Noel Destrehan died at the age of 57 at his home in Cosmopolite City on the west bank of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.⁴¹ In his succession, he willed Adele, Eliza, and Azby each cash of \$5,265.00; all three children were under-aged at the time of his death. A large plot of land known as Nicholas Noel Destrehan’s Plantation, purchased from Stephen Henderson, ran 192’ front by 15,056 deep; and divided into four parcels for Louise, Adele, Eliza, and Azby. All lots sold were located in the Village of Mechanickham, Jefferson Parish. Nicholas Noel’s Jefferson Parish succession yielded \$173,000 at auction from movables and unmovables, all proceeds equally distributed amongst the legal heirs.⁴² He also owned land and investments in Chicago and St. Louis inherited by his heirs. Nicholas Noel’s tomb is located in St Charles Parish, Red Church Cemetery; at his request, the burial site was next to the first wife’s tomb. After Nicholas Noel’s death, Louise and Joseph Harvey asked to divide the estate of the Destrehan Plantation property on the West Bank of New

⁴⁰James L. Furman, *Reminiscences of an Octogenarian or Auto-biography of a School-Teacher* (Office Baptist Visitor, 1904), Chapter, Destrehan.

⁴¹Eventually Cosmopolite City, Louisiana, becomes Harvey, Louisiana, after the Civil War as stated in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers *Cultural Resources Survey of Gretna*, p. 31. Mechanickham becomes Gretna, Louisiana.

⁴²No. 20534, Second District Court, Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, *Succession of Nicholas Noel Destrehan*, April 7, 1849.

Orleans between the legal heirs. Then, they purchased Nicholas Noel's house on the West Bank, the Destrehan canal, and the surrounding property for \$38,200. Eventually this area was renamed Harvey, Louisiana. The Harveys owed Azby about \$12,000 for lots located near the canal. They constantly delayed payment due to lack of funds. Captain Harvey arranged to give Azby a set of lots valued \$10,850 for his payment of Nicholas Noel's succession; however, the lots had liens on most of them and not sellable. In the final negotiations for the land, Azby received only part of the initial amount owed to him.⁴³

Soon after her father's death, Louise acquired the sole control of the Harvey Canal. Seven months from settling the succession of her father's estate, Louise bought the canal and land from her husband's share of community property for the original purchase price. She continued to operate the canal and the businesses just as she had done for her father. The force behind the future development of the canal and its everyday operations became Louise's responsibility.⁴⁴

⁴³ D'Oliverira et al, *Legacy of Old Louisiana*, 58.

⁴⁴ Swanson, *Historic Jefferson Parish*, 90.



Figure 2. Louise Destrehan Harvey.
Courtesy of The Historic New Orleans Collections

Captain Joseph Harvey and Louise had eleven children together, two died during their infancy.

The Harvey Children

Nicholas Harvey 1846, June 21-unknown	Sarah Sallie Harvey 1847-1920
Henrietta Louise Harvey 1849-unknown	Horace Hale Harvey 1850-1938
Henry Azby Harvey-1851, Sept. 16-unknown	Laura Harvey 1854-unknown
Joseph Hale Harvey 1855-1857	William Harvey 1858, Jan. 11-unknown
Virginia Harvey 1862- unknown	Robert Lee Harvey 1864-unknown ⁴⁵

The prosperity of the Harvey businesses productivity depended on the labor of enslaved men, women, and children. The 1850s U.S. Federal Census stated that J. H. Harvey recorded 31

⁴⁵ http://www.ancestry.com/genealogy/records/louise-destrehan_4106907. November 4, 2015. Birth records verified with New Orleans Archdiocese records and the U.S. Federal 1850 and 1870 census report.

slaves of both genders with two under the age of ten. The 1860s U.S. Federal Census recorded that a J.A. Harvey (most likely a clerical error) shown listed as the owner of 63 enslaved people.⁴⁶ With this enslaved labor force, the couple continued to make improvements on the property. James Furman, a schoolteacher who lived on the property for a time, wrote in his journal that the enslaved owned by the Harvey's lived in brick shelters shaded by trees. According to Furman, the laborers cut, split, and piled a cord of wood daily using the canal boats to transport the wood to the Mississippi River for sale to passing steamboats. On Saturdays, these workers received extra cash for their work often acquiring money for their freedom. The annual income for Nicholas Noel and the Harvey family came from the brickyard, seasonal truck farming, citrus orchards, dairy, wood-yard, seafood, and tolls from the canal.⁴⁷

Louise Harvey's activities in the slave trading included selling and purchasing of enslaved people and litigations sometimes followed. *Louise Destrehan, wife of J.H. Harvey*, initiated an 1847 lawsuit because she wanted her money returned for buying a slave who died within 71 days after purchase. The slave appeared well when purchased only to perish after a 48-hour illness. The *post mortem* examination discovered that the person suffered from a chronic liver disease. Louise felt the sellers knew about his sickness before the sale and wanted her money returned with expenses for the treatment of the ailment and death. The court ruled for the defendants (R.B. Kendall and J.F. Ayres) because at the time of the sale the sellers had no knowledge of this illness. Louise did not receive any reimbursements.⁴⁸ In 1850, John McHenry, acting as power of attorney for his mother widowed Elizabeth McHenry from Arkansas, claimed that Louise owed \$3000 for five slaves purchased. The enslaved were a

⁴⁶ <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=slaveschedules&gss> (1/29/2014).

⁴⁷ Furman, *Auto-Biography*, 55-56.

⁴⁸ *Times Picayune*, 22 June 1847, 2.

mother and her four children. Louise had twelve months to pay off the loan with an eight per cent interest charged. She only paid \$2400 of the promissory note on October 2, 1851. The McHenrys accepted the payment and closed the case.⁴⁹

As women's status improved, they could own and sell real estate, and dispose of it as they wished. Louise for instance, sold the land that she received from her father's estate, to the trustees of St. Joseph Church located in Mechanikham City, Louisiana. She stipulated that the property's only use be for building a Catholic church. However, the most significant improvement upon the investments of her father, in terms of personal wealth, was Louise Harvey's work on what would become the Harvey Canal.⁵⁰

In the early 1800s, some documents suggest Jean Baptiste Destrehan owned land as well on the west bank of the river. An early 1815 Latour map shows an "old Destrehan Ditch" located upriver from Nicholas Noel's property. This site eventually sold and the ditch no longer appeared on surveys. In 1835, Nicholas Noel purchased land on the west bank of the Mississippi River across from the city of New Orleans from his brother-in-law Stephen Henderson. After acquiring this new property, Nicholas Noel established a drainage ditch from the river to Barataria Bay called the Destrehan Canal between 1839 and 1845. This small dredged channel developed from swampland and eventually turned into a navigation canal. He hired German workers to excavate the navigable canal; it was only twelve feet wide, six feet deep. It ran approximately five and one-half miles. The laborers received wages and land for their efforts

⁴⁹ Philippe Lacoste Notary Public, No.4196, *Mrs. Elizabeth McHenry vs Louise Destrehan Harvey*, signed December 2, 1851. Third Judicial District of Parish of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, Louisiana.

⁴⁷ John French Coffey Notary Public, No. 1990, *Louise Destrehan Harvey vs Trustees of St. Joseph Church*, dates 1853-1862. Third Judicial District of Parish of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, Louisiana. Mechanikham City, known today as Gretna.

and settled in Mechanikham City.⁵¹ After the completed of this waterway, Nicholas Noel engineered the construction of a “submarine railroad” that lifted and lowered boats and ships from the canal to the Mississippi River by mule power. On the railroad track that began underwater, the craft gradually lifted onto a wooden platform pulled by mules. A series of counter weights helped the skiff progress on the wooden platform, and then the platform lowered the boat into the *batture* on the riverside. The craft then pushed into the river; however, the water level affected the work once on the *batture* and this process took time and patience for each vessel. In the nineteenth century, the only means for boats lifted over the Mississippi River levee were by the use of the “submarine railroad” and mules on the Destrehan Canal that became eventually became the Harvey Canal. The economy for this area initially produced sugar, operated sawmills, brick kilns, trapping for fur and food, and truck farming. As the city of New Orleans grew, building and food supplies increased.⁵²

⁵¹ U.S. Army Corps of Engineer New Orleans District, *Final Report Cultural Resources Survey of Gretna Phase II Levee Enlargement Item M-99.4 to 95.5-R, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana* (New Orleans: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, January 1990), 17, 22, 23.

⁵²Betty Swanson, *Historic Jefferson Parish from Shore to Shore* (Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, 1975), 90. *Batture* is the land between the river levee and Mississippi River.

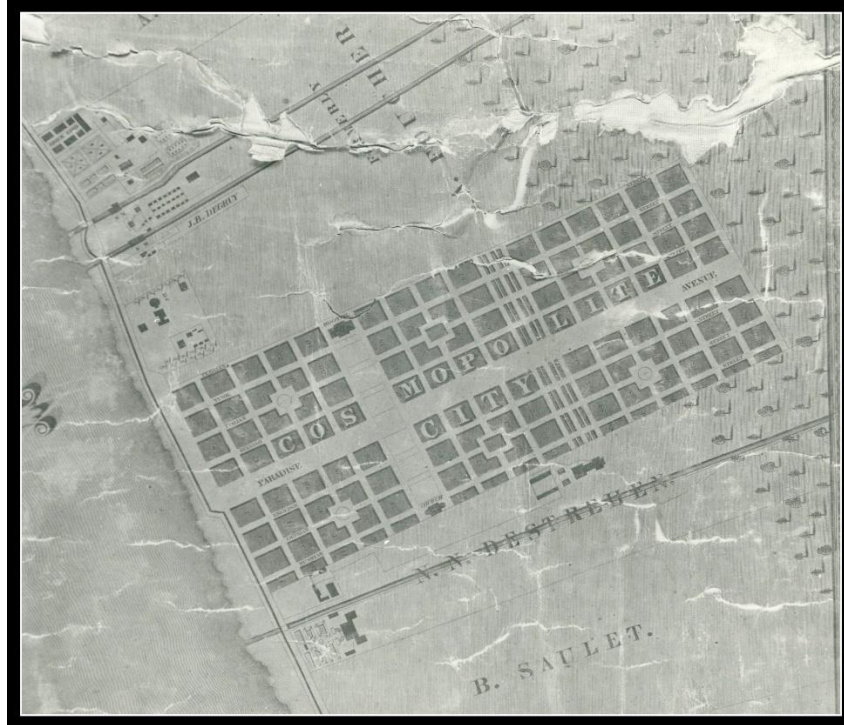


Figure 3. Excerpt from Springbatt and Pilie's 1893 map showing Destrehan property and Cosmopolite City. (Louisiana Collection, Tulane University Library)

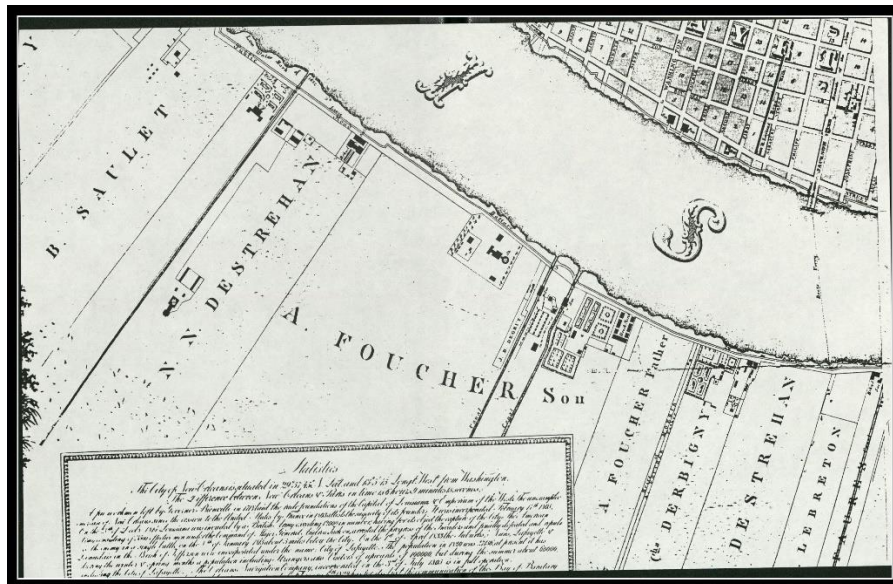


Figure 4. Excerpt from Charles Zimpel 1834 map, showing N.N. Destrehan's properties. (Louisiana Collection, Tulane University Library)



Figure 5. Destrehan Canal. Hydrographical and Topographical map of Parts of the States compiled (1861) from U.S.Coast Surveys, Published by Messrs, Holle, and Company, New Orleans. (Louisiana Collection, Tulane University Library).



Figure 6. Mrs. Harvey's property. Survey of the Mississippi River; Chart No. 73, U.S. Coast Survey (1875). (Louisiana Collection, Tulane University Library).

As an adjunct to her interest in the canal, Louise Harvey developed a number of businesses, such as a profitable brick company begun in 1848. She is listed as the contact person for “The Old and Original Harvey’s Canal Brick Manufactory” in newspaper advertisements before the Civil War, and remained in the brick business until 1896. Water is necessary for making bricks and the Harvey Canal supplied that need.⁵³

A major financial appreciation of the value of Louise Harvey’s canal occurred after the Civil War. Riverfront property became more valuable for commercial activities. Shipping and transportation businesses expanded. Railroad companies, riverfront warehouse, wharves, freight yards became in demand. The industrial activity grew and so did the need for a navigable canal from the swamps to the Mississippi River to transport raw goods. The Harvey Canal developed in importance along with economic opportunities of leasing land and buildings, and collecting tolls along this waterway. In addition, the swampland provided the natural resources for the city and the canal served as the transportation corridor.⁵⁴

⁵³ *Times-Democrat*, 1882, 5, c4.

⁵⁴ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Cultural Resources Survey*, 17, 24.



Figure 7. Harvey's Canal and Harvey's Castle.
Courtesy of The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Tolls for the Harvey Canal, 1863.

Skiffs...25 cents each way
 Pirogues...35 cents
 Coach, carriage, or omnibus, passing down canal for pleasure...30 cents
 Buggy or two-seated vehicle...20 cents
 Cart or dray...10 cents
 Parties going fishing or hunting...10 cents
 Each promenade on foot...10 cents
 Each hunter on horseback...15 cents
 To cast a net...50 cents ⁵⁵

The State government recognized the importance of a navigational canal near New Orleans. The Louisiana Legislature authorized the Harveys to build a set of locks from bricks and iron connecting their canal to the Mississippi River (Acts of Louisiana No.142, 1854). All expenses and maintenance of the locks belonged to the Harveys personally. However, the locks were condemned shortly after due to the surrounding soil conditions.⁵⁶ The Harvey locks

⁵⁵ Swanson, *Historic Jefferson Parish*..., 90.

⁵⁶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Cultural Resources Survey*, 37.

remained a problem with its construction. In 1881, the Morgan Louisiana and Texas Railroads filed a petition and stopped the Harveys from working on the locks situated near the Mississippi River. At this time, the river level rose extremely high and fear of a breakthrough of the construction site caused concern for the possibility of massive flooding in the area. The railroads used land belonging to Louise Harvey for their transportation roads and a crevasse in the levee would result in a loss of revenue. The newspaper article stated that Joseph H. Harvey acted as Louise's agent in the negotiations. The work stopped and the bulkhead reinforced with soil from another site.⁵⁷

The successful management of the Harvey Canal as a business often led the Harveys to court. Recorded are numerous cases in Jefferson Parish Court system that listed suits by J.H. Harvey and his wife to defendants that owed the Harveys money. One legal case involved Mr. Friend and Lethieque that owed the Harveys \$150 for fees of usage of the canal for skiffs, flat boats, and lumber. The court stated the Harveys were the exclusive owners of the Harvey canal and its banks. Mr. Friend and Lethieque to pay the Harveys a fine for tolls they collected.⁵⁸ In another suit, *J. H. Harvey and wife vs Williams Evans* received a judgement against the Harveys. The plaintiffs claimed that William Evans had his barge docked in the Harvey Canal and did not pay for storage for some days. However, the defendant proved that his barge instead moored in the Barataria Bay and the verdict was in favor of Evans.⁵⁹ In another legal case, the judgement of *Joseph H. Harvey and Wife v. Jonathan Potter* upheld in the Supreme Court of Louisiana, New Orleans. Potter, a boater, did not want to pay the Harveys for use of the canal for shipping

⁵⁷ *The Daily Picayune*, 10, March, 1881 (New Orleans: Louisiana), 1.

⁵⁸ No. 2419, *J H Harvey and wife vs Friend and Lethieque*, July 23, 1864. Second Judicial District Court of Parish of Jefferson, Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, Louisiana.

⁵⁹ No. 2398, *J H Harvey and wife vs William Evans*, March 8, 1864. Second Judicial District Court of Parish of Jefferson, Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, Louisiana.

wood and lumber to market. He argued that the Harveys vested by an act of the legislature to collect tolls on the Harvey Canal. The court ruled that the Harveys could charge fees, since this waterway was not a public highway and the owners maintained it with their own expenses. The public cannot use private property without compensation.⁶⁰ In 1864, a similar case went to trial; the Harveys sued Joseph Kaiser, for building unauthorized shanties on the banks of the Harvey Canal. In addition, Kaiser piled up lumber and core wood on the canal banks. The sawdust and trash tended to fill up the canal. He built a raft across the canal as well that obstructed the navigation of the waterway. The verdict for Kaiser was to remove the barge, structures, and all items at his cost. If he did not comply, then the Harveys would remove all objects and charged him for the expenses.⁶¹ In the lawsuit *J. H. Harvey and wife vs Paul Cox*, dated July 28 1863, the couple claimed that Cox had not paid rent on a lease property on the lower side of the Harvey Canal and owed them \$700 as balance due over a sixteen-month period. A house on the property built with bricks for the foundation and wooden weathered boards, and according to the contract, all items purchased from the Harveys. The bricks cost \$12 per thousand and weather boarding \$25 per 1000. Cox's responsibility was to pay the appraised value of the whole property at the termination of the lease. A ditch at both sides of the said house would allow drainage of the property by the Harveys. All trees and shrubs planted became free of charge to the Harveys at the end of the lease. Unfortunately, for Cox some of his plants failed. The Harveys did not drain the land so the crops went under water. The last day of the month Cox had to pay the lease or

⁶⁰ No. 964, *Joseph H. Harvey and Wife v. Jonathan Potter*, May 1867, Supreme Court of Louisiana, New Orleans. This judgement was from the Appeal Court of the Sixth District Court of Orleans, Louisiana. Lexisnexis.com, accessed August 13, 2014.

⁶¹ No. 2422, *Harvey and Wife vs Joseph Kaiser*, August 17, 1864, Second Judicial District Court, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, Louisiana.

evicted. Cox had fifteen days to vacate the land and sell all crops. The court decided that Cox owed the Harveys \$700, plus legal fees. He lost both his house and revenue of the crops.⁶²

The Civil War ruined the economy of Jefferson Parish and surrounding parishes. During the war, the Harvey family lived in the “Harvey Castle” by the canal. Louise pledged her alliance to the United States early so the family could continue to operate their business as usual. They continued selling bricks, flowers, citrus, seafood, timber, vegetables, dairy products, and usage of the navigation canal. The war brought opportunities to the Harveys. The increased population into the city required more building materials and food. Daily trips occurred from the West bank to the city to sell their goods at market and to suppliers. The Harvey Canal saw an enhanced shipping and transportation business that added to its importance. Entrepreneur Captain Joseph Harvey and his developer partner bought a Barataria Plantation renamed it “Grand Isle Hotel” on Grand Isle in Jefferson Parish. Their vision became the first resort on Grand Isle, and they converted the slave quarters into cozy cabins. Excursions ran from the Harvey Canal to the island three days a week for \$7.50 per passenger that included transportation fare, weekend room and board. Later, the investors sold this property. However, trips to Grand Isle continued on the steamer *Louise* from the Harvey Canal. In 1893, a horrific hurricane hit Grand Isle that sent a 30-foot tidal wave destroying everything in its path.⁶³ Louise Harvey provided and furnished homes for eight homeless families; forty-two people totaled. A newspaper article credited Louise Harvey for helping some of the unfortunate refugees from Grand Isle.⁶⁴

⁶² No. 2335, *J.H. Harvey and wife vs Paul Cox*, July 28, 1863. Second Judicial District Court of Jefferson Parish, Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, Louisiana.

⁶³ U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, *Cultural Resources Survey...*, 25, 31.

⁶⁴ *New Orleans Item*, 7 October, 1893, 4.

Widowhood brought more responsibilities and decisions for Louise. Captain Joseph Hale Harvey died March 20, 1882, at the age of sixty-six. The marriage of Louise and Joseph Harvey lasted for thirty-eight years. His funeral ceremony performed at their residence No. 55 Prytania Street, New Orleans. There were nine Harvey children living and the two youngest were emancipated (both over eighteen years old) before the succession was settled. Louise received her half of the estate, plus the usufruct over her share of Joseph Harvey's property.⁶⁵ (Joseph Harvey's succession, Appendix 2 is on page 38).

Widowed Louise continued operating the Harvey Canal and the various family businesses on her own. The legal suits did not end. *Louise Harvey v. George Pflug* was decided in the Supreme Court of Louisiana in 1885. George Pflug a lessee of Louise would not vacate the premises he rented from her so she served him an eviction notice. The lessee's rental agreement had terminated. Louise had a prospective tenant willing to pay her more rent for the facility. The Civil District Court ruled that once the ejection notice served Pflug's tenant rights ended. The Supreme Court confirmed the lower court's decision.⁶⁶ In 1893, the Louisiana Supreme Court decided the case of *Louisa Destrehan widow of Joseph H. Harvey vs. Louisiana Cypress Lumber Company*. Louise felt that the lumber company was not paying for the proper length of the timber shipped through the canal nor did they pay for the vessel that transported the logs. The original contract between the lumber company and Louise stipulated the price for the

⁶⁵ No. 6114, *Succession of Joseph Hale Harvey*, June 17, 1882, Civil District Court of Parish of Orleans (Division A), New Orleans Library Louisiana Collection, New Orleans, Louisiana. Minors are under the control of their parents or legal guardians, until they attain the age of majority, at which point they become legal adults. In most states, this is upon turning 18 years of age. Emancipation allowed the Harvey children to inherit their portion of their father's estate.

⁶⁶ No. 9486, *Louise Harvey v. George Pflug*, December 1885, Supreme Court of Louisiana, New Orleans. This judgement was from the Appeals Court of the Civil District for the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana. LexisNexis Academic, accessed August 13, 2014.

length of logs included the rejection of hollow logs and not charged another fee for the towing vessels of lumber. The ruling was that Louise had to pay all court costs.⁶⁷

Louise and her family clearly commanded respect from the community, as evidence in a newspaper report. In 1887, Mrs. H. Peterson thanked Louise Harvey and members of her family in an advertisement in the paper for the rescue of Peterson's daughter, Dolares, from the sinking of the steamer *Corsair* near the Harvey Canal. Louise provided her and others from the vessel dry clothes. In addition, Louise's son drove several survivors from the sinking steamer home.⁶⁸

Years after the death of her father, Louise continued to pursue legal cases from his succession. The heirs of Nicholas Noel sued Michael Zayer, et al in 1886 for land they claimed belonged to their father. The proposed land of twenty-five feet located on the *batture* of the Mississippi River from Mechanickham City to English Turn approximately was one and one half miles. A survey showed the property deeded for a railroad line that never materialized and the heirs claimed this land should revert to the family. Michael Zayer wanted a public sale of said land and not have warehouses and dry docks built. The heirs won the decision in the court.⁶⁹

In 1888 a Chicago newspaper article "A Partition Suit," listed Louise D. Harvey as requesting to portion land in Lake View, Illinois, with an estimated value of \$200,000, belonged to her deceased father Nicholas Noel Destrehan. The article stated that her brother Azby would receive one-third of the estate as long as he does not come within the boundaries of Louisiana until he reached the age of 21. After Azby died at the age of twenty-six, his daughter became an heir. Along with Louise Harvey, her sisters, and the daughter of Azby they received the proceeds of

⁶⁷ No. 11,242, *Louise Destrehan, Widow of J.H. Harvey v. Louisiana Cypress Lumber Company*, May 1893, Supreme Court of Louisiana, New Orleans. LexisNexis Academic, accessed April 10, 2014.

⁶⁸ *Times-Picayune*, 17 April 1887, 4.

⁶⁹ No. 1798, *Heirs of Nicholas Noel Destrehan vs Michael Zayer, et al*, August 10, 1886, Third Judicial District Court of Jefferson Parish, Jefferson, Louisiana. Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court.

the sale. Once the partition recorded, the confirmation of this agreement by the court confirmed.⁷⁰

Louise moved back to the Harvey area on the west bank after the sale of the Prytania street home and started working with engineers and consultants for a new set of locks for the Harvey Canal. She took daily tours of the progress of the locks and climbed down the workers' ladders despite her age. The specialists decided to use concrete for the base of the locks instead of bricks they used earlier. During the summer months, she always wore a black trimmed straw hat and in the winter, a shawl covered her. Louise through a window in her home viewed the progress on the Harvey Canal locks from her leather brown chair. Often supervisors visited her, and spoke about the progress of the various projects.⁷¹

On May 9, 1898, the newspaper reported that Louise decided to charter the Harvey Canal Land and Improvement Company. The company capitalized for \$50,000.00. The corporation purchased the Harvey Canal and locks, all the rights, and operations, bridges, additional waterways, railroads, wharves, piers, etc. The stockholders listed were Louise Harvey, Mrs. J.H. McGuire, N.D. Harvey, H.P. Dart, R.D. Harvey, and Horace Harvey. In the future, the stockholders controlled the decisions of the canal. The money received from the stockholders gave Louise the equity needed to continue the building of the Harvey Canal locks.⁷²

Louise continued to be a landowner and involved in the properties she possessed. She ran advertisements in the newspaper for months and tried to sell her two beachfront residences in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. No list price given, however, "Louise Harvey, Harvey Canal" the noted contact person and her phone number appeared in the ad.⁷³

⁷⁰ *Daily Inter Ocean Newspaper*, 29 April 1888, "A Partition Suit". Chicago, Illinois, 15.

⁷¹ D'Oliveira et al, *Legacy of Old Louisiana*, 70, 79.

⁷² *Times-Picayune*, 17, May, 1898, 11.

⁷³ *Times-Picayune*, 5, October, 1903, 5.

Louise would not see the completed locks. She became bedridden and died November 15, 1903, at the age of 76. Louise's granddaughters read the Bible to her before she passed. Family legend claims that she begged her sons to carry her out to the locks to view it one last time. It never happened because she was too weak and sick. All her living children and grandchildren were present for her last breath.⁷⁴

Descendants recall Louise Harvey as a kind matriarch, well known up and down the canal. Her granddaughters recalled that she was always available and taught them cooking a cake from scratch. She spoke softly and they never heard her raise her voice. Louise had a close relationship with her grandchildren who visited often. Her descendants treasured her memories of playing along the canal as a child and she recalled hearing languages mixed with French, Spanish, Portuguese, Malay, Chinese, and the Caribbean from the fishermen, shrimpers, hunters, and travelers as boats, rafts, and ships passed along the mighty Mississippi River. Louise spent a lifetime meeting people from all parts of the world along the canal and river as a businesswoman involved in trade and service to these individuals.⁷⁵

Louise's obituary written by her attorney, Henry P. Dart, was detailed and respectful. It noted that she acquired throughout her life a reputation as a businesswoman and being fair with people. The article stated, "Every grade in life was represented and her colored servants and old retainers were there along with the highest and most prominent in the land. Her burial site is Metairie Cemetery in the family tomb."⁷⁶ Louise Harvey left a detailed will written at her home in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, dated January 1902. The will is in oleographic style (handwritten). Louise petitioner was Henry P. Dart. Her will and last testament was located in a

⁷⁴D'Oliveira et al, *Legacy of Old Louisiana*, 73, 74.

⁷⁵ Ibid, 72.

⁷⁶ *The Daily Picayune Newspaper*, 22, November, 1903, 5, Obituaries.

security box at Whitney National Bank in New Orleans, Louisiana. At the opening of the bank box, she wanted Henry P. Dart, Horace H. Harvey, Robert L. Harvey, and Henry A. Harvey to be present. (Louise succession is Appendix 4 on page 42-43).

The completion of the locks in Harvey Canal was eminent. The Harvey Canal Land and Improvement Company continued to operate the canal and finished the locks. In 1907, the final opening of the Harvey Canal locks and dedication occurred. The newspaper article stated the religious and civil ceremonies had blessings of holy water and champagne bottles cracked on the locks. These navigational gates of the canal compared to the locks of the Panama Canal in importance for trade to south Louisiana.⁷⁷ In 1924, the United States government bought the Harvey Canal from the Harvey Canal Land and Improvement Company for \$425,000 and made it part of the Intracoastal Waterway System. The Government widened the canal and built new locks. The dedication of the canal in 1934 and this sale ended the Harvey family from owning and operating the canal, which they had done for some one hundred years.⁷⁸

Conclusion

Louise Destrehan Harvey came from a wealthy influential Louisiana family. Louise's youth interrupted by the death of her mother was instrumental in the grooming of her as Nicholas Noel's business manager. She lived during the Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction periods, and witnessed the rebirth of New Orleans. Louise gave her alliance to the North so that her business could continue after the capture of the city during the Civil War. She lived through changes in the laws that eventually gave women more freedom from patriarchal control. Men

⁷⁷ *The Daily Picayune Newspaper*, 31, April, 1907, 4.

⁷⁸ Swanson, *Historic Jefferson Parish*, 91, 92.

played a crucial role in her life. She served as her father's assistant and learned the business trade. In addition, he executed a pre-marital contract that protected Louise's assets before her wedding. Captain Joseph Harvey her mate, business partner, and the person who acted as her agent in court cases assisted her. She raised nine children into adulthood and shared their achievements and tragedies along with her husband. She mentored her sons in the industry just as she, her father, and grandfather learned. Louise sold interest into the Harvey Canal Land and Improvement Company so that she had the needed equity to continue building the canal locks. She groomed her sons to carry out her wishes of finishing the canal locks that benefited trade along the lower Mississippi River. Louise paid the debts left by her late husband and increased her estate's wealth. She launched numerous court cases to aid in running her successful businesses and protecting her assets. Her father had a vision to connect his canal to the Mississippi River offering a shorter waterway to the city of New Orleans from the Gulf of Mexico for trade and transportation. Louise spent a lifetime trying to complete his wishes that became her own dream of finished locks and to improve the navigability for larger vessels in this canal. Louise, a diligent woman remembered for her business sense that secured her heirs to finalize the job. The Harvey Canal locks and the town of Harvey, Louisiana will always be associated with Louise Destrehan Harvey a woman who persevered and succeeded.

Appendix 1. A Marriage Contract between Louise Destrehan and Joseph Hale Harvey

August 9 1845, the matrimonial agreement between Joseph Hale Harvey and Louise Marie Destrehan approved in New Orleans, Louisiana. It started with the description of Joseph H. Harvey the legitimate son of Henry Bowyer Harvey, deceased, and Sarah Smith Harvey of Mason County, State of Virginia. Then stated, Louise Destrehan, legitimate daughter, and under aged at 17 years old, of Nicholas Noel Destrehan and deceased Madame Henrietta Sousa de Navarre. She resided with her father within the parish of Jefferson, Louisiana. Nicholas Noel was Louise natural guardian. This document had six pertinent articles.⁷⁹

“Article First, this document will be in effect once the marriage is celebrated. To enforce laws of Louisiana in the event the couple would leave Louisiana, regardless of their residence.

Article Second, all debt, by either parties before the marriage celebration are cleared by their own personal funds, so new chattel bought into the community will not be affected or impaired by payments of said debts.

Article Third, All actual properties and debts of the future husband invested in the Commercial Firm of J.H. Harvey and Coolidge of New Orleans excluded from the contract.

Article Fourth, The properties of the future wife consisted within sixteen squares of ground lying and situated within the city of Cosmopolite, to a plan drawn on 24th of April 1840, by Allen D’Hemecourt civil engineer on which the estate of Nicholas Noel Destrehan resides within this state is partly represented, and to which both parties know about. The whole of the sixteen squares are valued at and received by the parties to this contractual sum of eight-thousand dollars cash. In addition, the balance of nine thousand one hundred and thirteen dollars and sixty-nine cents, which Nicholas Noel Destrehan as tutor and natural Guardian of his daughter were, paid in cash to Louise Marie for her share of her mother’s inheritance. Louise Destrehan and her future husband gave a receipt and granted full acquittal to her father. Then,

⁷⁹Lawrence Richard Kerry Notary Public, No. 6114, *Succession of Joseph Hale Harvey: A Marriage Contract between Louise Destrehan and Joseph Hale Harvey*, signed August 11, 1845. New Orleans Library in the Louisiana Division, New Orleans, Louisiana.

mentioned are different squares, the bounding streets of squares and dimensions. All measurements of the property are approximately two hundred fifty-five feet wide with varying depths.

Article Fifth, the future wife and her future children from the marriage in case renouncing the community will take back all that the future has brought in marriage and besides all the might befallen to her by donation or otherwise the completely free and encumbered of any charge or debt. Should the future wife *menounce* (leave) the community she will take back all movables, home furniture, clothes, jewels, and all other things allowed by the Laws and customs.

Article Sixth, in case one of the parties should die before conception of any child from their marriage, then the properties, goods, and chattels she or he might have brought to the community, as stipulated in the present contract or those later or by donation will revert to the family of the deceased.

Finally, Joseph H. Harvey released to Louise Destrehan all the lands he owned in the State of Virginia, approximately twenty-six thousand acres more or less all his rights to title from his inheritance from his paternal grandparents and his maternal grandfather in Virginia.

Then, the document stated that Nicholas Noel Destrehan acquiesced in his daughter's name to the marriage of Joseph H. Harvey. This document was signed and sealed in the City of Lafayette, Louisiana, August 11, 1845.⁸⁰

⁸⁰Lawrence Richard Kerry Notary Public, No. 6114, *Succession of Joseph Hale Harvey: A Marriage Contract between Louise Destrehan and Joseph Hale Harvey*.

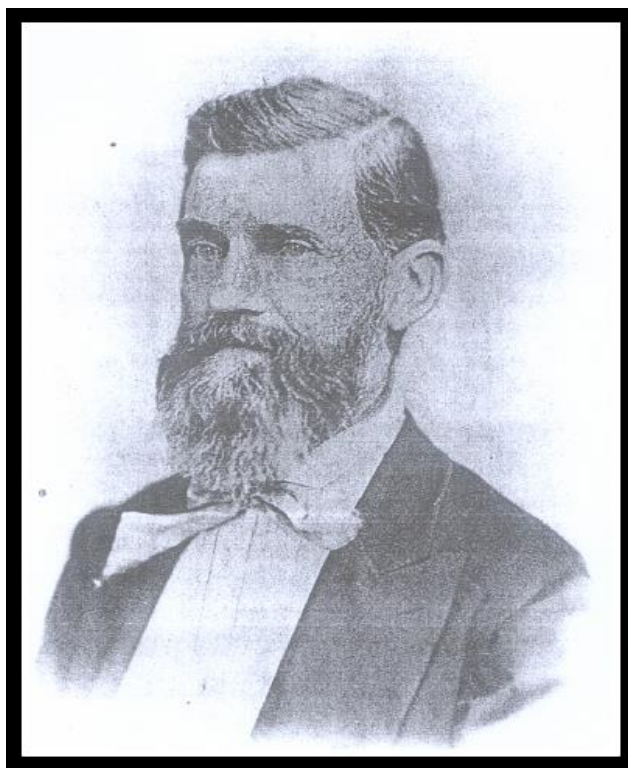


Figure 8. Captain Joseph Hale Harvey.
Courtesy of The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Appendix 2. Joseph Hale Harvey's Succession

1. Lot and grounds of a house moveables and unmoveables, 65 feet on Thalia Street by 120 feet on Prytania, 55 Prytania, bought August 1871.
2. Four lots around Masonic Cemetery bought January 21, 1870.
3. Five lots, grounds, buildings, and improvements in 5th District of City, Verret Ave and Thayer St on right bank of the Mississippi River, Brooklyn Warehouse Co., bought November 1858.
4. Various stocks and cash, no amount or value recorded.⁸¹

⁸¹ No. 6114, *Succession of Joseph Hale Harvey*, June 17, 1882. Civil District Court of Parish of Orleans (Division A), New Orleans Public Library, Louisiana Collection. Judicial Records, New Orleans, Louisiana.



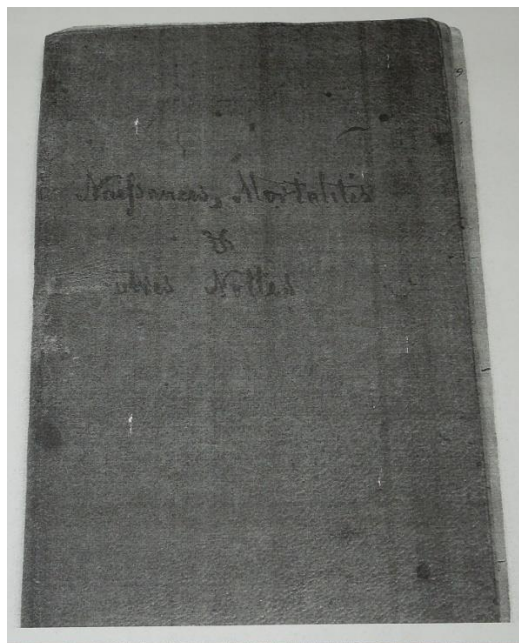
Figure 9. Aerial view of the Harvey Canal. *Courtesy of Harvey Canal.*



Figure 10. Aerial view of the Harvey Canal. *Courtesy of Harvey Canal.*



Figure 11. A Jefferson Parish land marker. *Courtesy of Jefferson Historic Society.*



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Figure 12. Nicholas Noel Destrehan Notebook.

⁸² *Destrehan Family Papers*, MSS, 490, Williams Research Center, The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Louisiana seceded from
the Union on the 26th
of January 1861. The Federal
vessels arrived at N. O.
on the 24th of April 1862.
five days afterwards,
the enemy landed, marched
to the municipal hall
and pulled down our
State flag, it was
several days, however,
before they dared to
haul up the Union
flag: as the people
were too indignant &
would have torn it down.

Appendix 3. An entry from Nicholas Noel Destrehan's notebook, explaining the feelings of the citizens of New Orleans once the Union soldiers occupied the city, possibly written by Louise Destrehan Harvey.

⁸³ Destrehan Family Papers, MSS, 490, 13

Appendix 4. Louise Destrehan Harvey's Succession

Louise declared in her will that "I am not indebted to my late husband, Joseph H. Harvey nor to his estate, neither he or his estate have any claims upon my property nor have his heirs have any claims upon me or my property real or personal. At his death, his affairs were much involved and that I have paid all his debts out of my personal effects and income." ⁸⁴

Sons; Henry H. Harvey (\$2125.00), Horace A. Harvey (\$2121.00) and Robert L. Harvey (\$204.00) all owed money to Louise's. The estate was to collect the debts due from her sons. They only paid the note not any interest on their debts. Louise's four daughters for one year received \$40.00 per month paid by the executor.⁸⁵

1. Louise donated to sons; Horace H. Harvey, a big Spanish armchair and New Orleans map of 1795; Robert L. Harvey, clock in dining room and desk in same room; Henry A Harvey, received an oil painting of his father in the dining room and little oak armoire in her room; William Harvey, a wooden bedroom clock that was an heirloom.
2. The remainder of Louise estate given to children and grandchildren and divided into nine equal parts; including the children of deceased son, Nicholas D. Harvey, or any deceased child before her to their heirs.
3. All personal apparel, linens, and household effects from Louise's late residence and in her summer home in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, divided between her four daughters, Sallie Harvey Stewart, Henritta Harvey DeGruy, Laura Harvey Seguin, and Jennie McGurie. She requested no sale of her items and begged the daughters to find some amicable way of dividing her items between them.
4. Most of the valuables of the estate were in stocks in the Harvey Canal Land and Improvements. She recommended to her heirs to preserve their shares as long as they could and that the executor be president for at least one year after her death. Louise felt that the stocks would yield revenue to maintain themselves.
5. Louise named and appointed, Robert L. Harvey to be executor of her estate. Compensation to her executor was \$1000.00. She also wanted Robert guided by her friend and legal advisor, Henry P. Dart.
6. Louise revoked all other wills made, particularly the one in Mississippi written December 20, 1899. She claimed she wrote this "will" in New Orleans January 15, 1902.

⁸⁴ No.355, *Succession of Louise Destrehan Harvey widow of the late Joseph H. Harvey*, January 30, 1904. Twenty-eight Judicial District Court, Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, Louisiana.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

7. Daughter Jennie McGuire had use of her late house; if she retained the use then her monthly stipend was \$20.00 per month. In addition, Clarence Joseph Harvey, secluded in a Louisiana Retreat, was incapable to manage his affairs and needed a tutor.
8. All of Louise's children received cash of \$115.75, stocks in Barataria Packet Oyster & Ice Co., stocks in South Louisiana Canal & Navigation Co., and the Harvey Canal Land and Improvement Co. as well as her personal items.

An inventory of all items in her houses recorded and appraised at a value of \$19,106.14. The appraised value of Louise stocks, cash, inventoried items, tomb in Metairie Cemetery all totaled \$71,378.64. This figure did not include the sale of her houses.

If any of Louise's heirs objected to her will, their removal from the will would take place and their share divided between non-contesting heirs. Louise's estate divided in nine equal parts between her heirs.⁸⁶



Figure 13. Louise Harvey buried in the family tomb in Metairie Cemetery, Metairie, Louisiana.
Courtesy of Raymond Johnson.

⁸⁶ No.355, *Succession of Louise Destrehan Harvey widow of the late Joseph H. Harvey.*

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Vita

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