The Menard family came from Southern France about 1662 and settled in Canada. In 1673, the old French town of Kachiacia Ill. was settled, and many of the families moved there. For nearly 200 years, Kachiacia was believed to be destined to be the great metropolis of the Middle West. Colonel Pierre Menard, first mayor, G. W. Ill. of home, still stands (1918) in the fair state of preservation. In 1825, General Lafayette was a guest in the "Old Menard Home" and praised its hospitality.
CONTENTS

In the order of insertion

MICHEL BRANAMOUR MENARD

Sketch from the Galveston Directory for 1936-1967

As to: The Galveston City Company
The Galveston Harp Company
The Galveston Memorial Tower

From The Galveston Daily News of February 16, 1925

Biography by Sue Menard McIvor
CONTENTS

In the order of insertion

Sketch from the Galveston Directory for 1966-1967

As to - The Galveston City Company
    The Galveston Wharf Company
    The Menard Memorial Tower

From The Galveston Daily News of February 14, 1915

Memorandum by Sue Menard McCaleb
MICHIEL B. REHAUD

The Founder of Galveston

This sketch was published in the Galveston Directory for 1886-87, published by W. Richardson & Co., at the nine book and job office at Galveston.
MICHEL B. MENARD

The Founder of Galveston

This sketch was published in the Galveston Directory for 1866-67, published by W. Richardson & Co. at the News book and job office at Galveston -
The Founder of Galveston

Prominent among the gifted who exercised a leading influence in the affairs of Texas during its early days, and the chief spirit of those who founded the City of Galveston, was Michel B. Menard.

Born of French parentage, at La Prairie, near Montreal, in Canada, on the 5th day of December, 1805, he left home at the early age of fourteen. The tales of wild adventure in the West, narrated by the Canadian voyageurs and trappers, inflamed his youthful imagination, and led him to seek peril and fortune amid the rivers, prairies and lakes of that region, where the light of civilization had not yet dawned.

Entering the service of the North West Fur Company, he led, during four years of boyhood, a life of hardship and danger, which contributed to develop the strong germ of his nature, giving vigor and activity to his frame, and energy, boldness and decision to his character. In these early years he had acquired some renown among the hardy men engaged in the Indian trade, and the rumor of his capacity and qualities having reached his uncle, Lieut. Gov. Pierre Menard, of Missouri, who then held the position of Indian Agent for the Government of the United States, this gentleman sent for him to come to Kaskaskia, Illinois, where he then resided.

When young Menard reached Kaskaskia in 1823, he was an adept in all the accomplishments which confer distinction among the hardy dwellers of the wilderness. Few equaled him in physical power and ability, or in mastership in the practice of woodcraft and Indian guile. His education, in the usual acceptance of this term, had been entirely neglected, and in later years, when success had crowned his labors, he was fond of narrating, in ludicrous terms, the mortification he felt before his well-read cousins, when he remembered that he could not yet read. This feeling was to him a new stimulus to exertion, and burying himself in
obscenity in the country, in three months he mastered the rudiments and the English language, sufficiently for the common needs of discourse, and ever after was a close student. At home or abroad, at the trading post or traversing the wilderness with his pack on his back, a small number of carefully selected books were his constant companions. Possessing a retentive memory, his later diligence amply made up for the neglect in early years, and retaining through life a love of study, his information became of the most varied, and, at the same time, the most exact and thorough character.

After this short stay in the vicinity of Kaskaskia, he entered the employment of his uncle as an Indian trader. The Government was then transferring the Indians west of the Mississippi River, and the then Territory of Arkansas was the scene of active movement. Establishing himself among the Shawnees, on White River, young Menard soon acquired great influence with them, through the truth, justice, honor and courage which were instinct in his character. In accordance with the Indian custom he was adopted by the tribe, and became a chief. Long after he had left them his memory was cherished, and their common expression when speaking of him, "Michel never told a lie", shows the estimation in which they held him.

Many years afterward, when Col. Menard was living in Galveston, then a prosperous city, a brother of Tecumseh, with several other Shawnees came to see him. Their meeting was affecting. They went to his house but would not enter. He passed the day with them, sitting upon the grass in the yard, and they begged him to return with them, and carry with him "his squaw and the little chief", alluding to Col. Menard's son, then an infant. But to return.

The migratory movement of the Indians westward continued, and accompanying them Col. Menard transferred his residence in 1826 to Shreveport. The Shawnees, with other associate bands, pushed forward into the country bordering the Trinity, and between that stream and Red River, then a portion of the territory of Mexico. In 1826 they made application to the Governor at Nacogdoches to permit Menard to settle there and transact business for them. The permission being granted he removed to that place, where he remained four years. During this period he engaged largely in land transactions in Texas, and took a lively interest in the affairs of the American colonists. In 1833 he removed to a stream, which still bears his name——Menard's Creek——on the Trinity, about forty miles above Liberty, where he erected mills and made other improvements.
When the colonists began to entertain the idea of resistance to Mexican oppression, Col. Menard was one of the earliest and most earnest advocates of freedom. He was elected a member of the Convention by which Texas seceded from Mexico, declared her independence, and adopted a republican Constitution. In all these proceedings, Col. Menard took an active and leading part. When the war broke out, efforts were made by the emissaries of Mexico to induce the Indians to ravage the frontier and murder the inhabitants, and during the panic and flight of 1836 the liveliest fears were entertained for the safety of the defenseless women and children from Indian massacre.

The familiarity of Col. Menard with the language and habits of the Indians, his friendly relations with many of the chiefs, and the well known trust they reposed in him, pointed to him as the fittest man to meet the emergency. He was commissioned by Gen. Houston to visit and treat with the Indians, and at once accepted the mission. Gen. Gaines, then commanding the United States forces on the frontier of Texas, proffered him an escort of United States dragoons, which he declined to accept, believing it better to rely on his own personal influence. Alone he visited the Shamaras, Cherokees, and others of the most formidable tribes, and happily succeeded in thwarting the efforts of the Mexican emissaries and preserving the country from the accumulated horrors of a hostile Indian invasion.

After his return from this important service, he was appointed commissioner, in conjunction with A. J. Yates, Esq., to negotiate a loan of five millions of dollars for the new Republic. On this duty, he visited the United States, but through causes beyond the control of individuals, the principal object of this mission was not obtained.

In 1838 Col. Menard removed to Galveston, and in 1840 was elected to represent the District in the Congress of the Republic of Texas, and served the term of two years. He held a leading position in that body, and his speeches on the complicated question of land titles in the then infant Republic, were pronounced by competent authority to surpass in depth of research and acuteness of reasoning, anything which had then been elicited on these questions. In view of the financial embarrassments then attending the Government of Texas, he at this time brought forward a scheme for its relief, similar to that afterwards adopted during the second Presidential term of Gen. Houston, known as the exchequer system, and which was ultimately the means of saving the country from utter bankruptcy. This was his last public employment.
In the Summer of 1856, shortly after returning from a journey in the interior, he was seized with his last illness and departed this life on the second day of September, in the fifty-second year of his age. He left issue one son, Michel Doswell Menard, born in Galveston, in November, 1850, and is still living.

For the following sketch of his character, we are indebted to an obituary notice from the pen of an able writer who had known him well:

"Col. Menard perceived at an early date the importance of Galveston Island as a mart for the future commerce of Texas. He located a Mexican title on the present site of the city in 1833, and in 1836 purchased a relinquishment of the title of the Government of Texas to the same for the sum of fifty thousand dollars. He formed the original City Company, and was the leading spirit in all its operations. He was a man of great financial tact, a bold and ready operator, and a man who never erred in matters of the kind where he pursued his own plans. He sustained a reverse recently by the errors of a commercial house in which he was a passive partner, and his health was doubtless somewhat impaired by the travel, labor and anxiety involved in his efforts to adjust its affairs.

"No man was more thoroughly identified with the history of Galveston than Col. Menard. From the inception of the city until the time of his death he took a leading part in all measures for the promotion of its growth and prosperity, using his means and influence freely whenever they could be of service.

"In natural gifts, practical good sense, and a knowledge of men and their springs of action, Col. Menard had few superiors. Although his early education, from his course of life, was necessarily limited; he was an extensive reader, and his reasoning powers were clear and strong. Sanguine, bold, and impulsive in his temperament, he was yet placable, kind and affectionate. A devoted family and a wide circle of friends will long mourn his loss, while he leaves a gap in the business affairs of this city, which will probably, ever remain unfilled. A large concourse of citizens attended
his remains from his late residence to the Catholic Church, (in the faith of which he died, and with the solemn services of which he was buried), and thence to their final resting place. Thus closed the life of THE FOUNDER OF GALVESTON."

June, 1866.
As the preceding sketch of the life of Michel Menard, published in the Galveston Directory for 1886-1887, does not give much reference to his connection with the City of Galveston, the following brief paragraphs are quoted from "Early Issues of Capital Stock", a short history of the first years of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway Company, written by Elmore H. McNerth in 1887:

MICHEL BRANAMOUR MENARD

"All land titles in the City of Galveston derive from the Galveston City Company, which was incorporated by an Act of the Fifth Congress of the Republic of Texas, approved Jan. 5, 1841. Now and then the Galveston City Company had been in existence before that time, having been organized by Michel Branamour Menard, to take over and dispose of the lands and lote of land including the east end of the Island of Barraux or Galveston, which had been conveyed to him by...

The Galveston City Company

The Galveston Wharf Company

The Menard Memorial Tower

From "Early Issues of Capital Stock"

"The Galveston Wharf and Cotton Exchange Company, associated with Michel H. Menard and his associates, was created shorter by the Legislature of the State of Texas in 1849. The men were engaged in the Galveston Wharf Company."

"Mr. Henry Leffler, a member of the Menard family, who died shortly after the 1863 Lemaire suffocated Santa to erect a memorial tower to Michel Menard on St. Patrick's Street, on the corner of 34th St. and Avenue H, Galveston. The tower, very tall and splendid, with an electrically lighted clock on its summit, was erected in the great storm of 1866, holding the church and almost completely wrecking it then. Though the church was rebuilt—along almost identical lines—the tower was never raised to its former height. However, the marble tablet still remains in the vestibule of the church, with its inscription to Michel H. Menard, Founder of the City of Galveston."
As the preceding sketch of the life of Michel Menard, published in the Galveston Directory for 1866-1867, does not give much reference to his connection with the City of Galveston, the following brief paragraphs are quoted from "Early Issues of Capital Stock", a short history of the first years of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway Company, written by Elinore M. McDonough in 1927:

"All land titles in the City of Galveston derive from the Galveston City Company, which was incorporated by an Act of the Fifth Congress of the Republic of Texas, approved Feb. 5, 1841. However, the Galveston City Company had been in existence before that time, having been organized by Michel Brenamer Menard, to take over and dispose of the league and labor of land including the east end of the Island of San Luis, or Galveston, which had been conveyed to him by Don Juan Nepomuceno Seguin et al., of the Town of San Fernando de Bexar, under date of June 23, 1834. The land had been granted by the government of the State of Coahuila and Texas to Don Juan Nepomuceno Seguin et al. on April 27, 1833, out of the distribution of the vacant lands of the empire. Michel B. Menard's title was confirmed by an Act of the Congress of the Republic of Texas, approved Dec. 9, 1836. The condition of the Act having been complied with, Sam Houston, then President of the Republic of Texas, issued a patent for the land to Michel B. Menard on Jan. 25, 1838. Menard had actually taken possession of the land in 1837."

"The Galveston Wharf and Cotton Press Company, organized by Michel B. Menard and his associates, was granted a charter by the Legislature of the State of Texas in 1854. By an Act of the Legislature, in 1860, the name was changed to Galveston Wharf Company."

"Mrs. Mary LeClare, a member of the Menard family, who died shortly prior to 1900, bequeathed sufficient funds to erect a memorial tower to Michel Menard on St. Patrick's Church, on the corner of 34th St. and Avenue K, Galveston. This tower, very tall and slender, with an electrically lighted cross on its summit, was wrecked in the great storm of 1890, falling on the church and almost completely wrecking it also. Though the church was rebuilt—along somewhat different lines—the tower was never raised to its former height. However, the marble tablet still remains in the vestibule of the church, with its inscription to Michel B. Menard, founder of the City of Galveston."
The following is a sketch appearing in the Galveston Daily News of Sunday, February 14, 1915:

Michel Branamour was born in Canada to the little village of Lachute, near Montreal, on Dec. 5, 1835. He was of French parentage and throughout life expressed French characteristics in speech, manner, accent and posture.

From a sketch in the Galveston Daily News of Sunday, February 14, 1915 - Michel Branamour was born in Canada to the little village of Lachute, near Montreal, on Dec. 5, 1835. He was of French parentage and throughout life expressed French characteristics in speech, manner, accent and posture.

He married in the village of Kongpoenoe in 1858 or 1862, three in French, and served at his trading post. After a year of 1858 he became interested in a trading post which he and his associates, Thomas C. Wallis, and others, established and trading post on a creek that was called his name. This gave him a fortune which enabled him to enter the political arena and help build the state capitol and also build the trading post. He and his associates received a great deal of land from the state government. He helped several of the residents to keep to Texas from Canada and various places in the North, and many were interested in him and his ventures. The small trading post on the creek proved successful financially and made him several thousand dollars. He was enabled to help many during the Texas revolution and was a great friend of the state of Texas and, to this day, is a great friend of the state of Texas.
MICHEL BRANAMOUR MENARD

The following is quoted from a biographical sketch appearing in the Galveston Daily News of Sunday, February 14, 1915:

"Michel Branamour Menard was born in Canada in the little village of LaPrairie, near Montreal, on Dec. 5, 1805. He was of French parentage and throughout his life exhibited French characteristics in speech, gesture, accent and courtesy toward womankind." ............

"At the age of 19, at the request of his uncle, Colonel Pierre Menard, the first lieutenant governor of the State of Illinois, he removed to Kaskaskia, Ill., then a flourishing trading post, where he entered the employ of the fur trading firm of Menard & Valle, of which his uncle was the senior partner." ............

"He arrived at the village of Nacogdoches in 1832 or 1833, where he first settled and carried on his trading operations. After a year or more he became interested in a sawmill and trading post which he and two associates, Thomas F. McKinney and Samuel M. Williams (afterwards interested with him in his Galveston project), established a sawmill and trading post on a creek that now bears his name, a picturesque little stream that runs up into the central portion of Polk County. For building the sawmill and establishing the trading post, Menard and his associates received a grant of six leagues of land from the Mexican government. He induced several of his relatives to come to Texas from Canada and various places in the North and these were afterward interested with him in his ventures. The sawmill and trading post on Menard Creek proved successful financially and netted the owners considerable money. The mill was burned during the Texas revolution but was rebuilt at the close of the war and, it is said, some of the timbers of the old foundation may be seen there to this day.

"........... On April 13, 1833, the first meeting of the company (Galveston City Company) was held and a board of directors, consisting of M. L. Menard, president, Thomas F. McKinney, Samuel M. Williams, Mosely Baker and John K. Allen, was elected. On April 20 of the same year the first sale of town lots was held and from that time on development was rapid and steady."
Michele Brandtman Meurard - 1st wife - Mrs. Maynell
Paris,
Miss Diana LeClere
2nd wife - Mrs. Jane
St. Germain
3rd wife - Mrs. Maynell
Riddel - died 7 years from (in Cabaret) and was
buried from the Cathedral in 1847 - The 4th wife
was Mrs. Rebecca Mary Bass - an English maiden
with two daughters - Helen and Clara - whom
on Aug 7 1869 legally adopted - Of this union - one
son - (J. Dames) Michele Meurard was born -
This article says Miss Adeline Maynell married from St. Germain
not my father and Mrs. LeClere (widow of St. Germain) told me she
was from St. Germain. However, she never has been a sister
of Peter Meurard Maynell and he came from Rosthachia.
"Colonel Menard was married four times. His first wife was Miss Diana LeClere, daughter of the late Dr. LeClere of Galveston. This wife died in 1833, while en route to Texas with Colonel Menard, death occurring on a schooner sailing between New Orleans and Anahuac, the town at the head of Galveston Bay that had been founded by the Mexicans and was at that time the port of entry for the entire Galveston Bay waters.

His second wife was Miss Adeline Maxwell of Kaskaskia, Ill., who died shortly after the marriage. The third wife was a widow of St. Louis whose name does not appear in any available records. She, too, died shortly after the marriage. The fourth wife was a Mrs. Bass of Galveston. This wife outlived Colonel Menard several years and was later married to Colonel J. S. Thrasher of Galveston.

To this last marriage was born one son, Doswell Menard, who lived to manhood in Galveston, married, and died while still young on the mainland near Seabrook. The widow Bass, Colonel Menard’s last wife, had two daughters, Helen and Clare, by her first marriage. These girls were adopted by Colonel Menard and bore his name until their marriage."

No direct descendants of Colonel Menard, so far as is known, now survive. His nearest relatives constitute the family of J. M. O. Menard of Galveston. Mr. Menard is a nephew by marriage and also a cousin by blood relationship to Colonel Menard. Diana LeClere, Colonel Menard’s first wife, was the sister of Susan LeClere, J. M. O. Menard’s mother. In addition, Menard Menard, J. M. O. Menard’s father, was a cousin of Colonel Menard.

In J. M. O. Menard’s immediate family now surviving are one son, Kendall Menard, of Galveston, and four daughters, Mrs. F. E. LeCand of Galveston, Mrs. Frances Agnes Russell of Houston, Mrs. Belle Griggs, wife of John D. Griggs, of Galveston, and Mrs. D. Scott Keene of Galveston."

The impression which seems to linger strongest...... concerning Colonel Menard is the genial and hearty presence of the man. He was always in a good humor......always smiling and always ready for a quip or a jest, nothing delighting him more than a gay passage at verbal repartee or the telling of some humorous incident."
MEMORANDUM

The following memorandum was prepared by Mrs. Phillip J. McCaleb (now Mrs. Sue Menard), daughter of the late J. M. Olin McCaleb, and with whom she resided.

by

Sue Menard McCaleb

Alfred McCaleb, their son, and lived in

March 22, 1935.
The following memorandum was prepared by Mrs. Phillip S. McCaleb (nee Sue Sherman Menard), daughter of the late J. M. Odin Menard and Carrie Sherman Menard:

Michel Bransmoure Menard, Founder of the City of Galveston, Texas, and Pierre (Peter J.) Menard, were brothers. Cousin.

Alfred Menard was a half-brother, and lived in Seabrook, Texas.

Pierre Menard had one son, Adolph, who married Miss Gertrude Stiles of Galveston. Of this union there were two sons, Peter and John, both now dead. John left two sons. One died recently, and the other lives somewhere out West. Adolph's widow married Col. A. M. Hobby, and lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

Col. Medard Menard, first cousin to Michel and Pierre, was born in Kaskaskia, Illinois, March 8, 1814. He came to Texas at the solicitation of Michel Menard. He married Miss Susan LeClere of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, twin sister of Rose Marie LeClere, Michel B. Menard's second wife. The only children of Medard Menard were J. M. Odin Menard and Mrs. J. B. O. Langston of Galveston, Texas, both now deceased. J. M. O. Odin Menard married Carrie Sherman, daughter of General Sidney Sherman and Catherine Cox Sherman.

March 28, 1926.