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Peter Beranc

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Peter Beranc

The life of Peter Beranc can be roughly divided into three parts. Of the first part of his life it is only known that he was born in Bordeaux, probably in 1827.

The second part of his life - from 1850 to 1870 - was occupied with his efforts to build his own business. Relatively little is known of the decade 1850-1860, and very little is known of the decade 1860-1870; he probably alternated his stay in Savannah and in Cuba.

1870 marks the beginning of the third and last part of his life. The years following 1870 were not happy for him; he lost not only his business, but also his house which he built in 1855 on Abercorn Street. The years 1875-1885 found him working as a clerk; he retired in 1885. Three years later, at the approximate age of 61, Peter Beranc died. The year of his death was 1888.

The Sources and Institutions :

Federal Population Census	1850 Georgia Historical Society
-----	1860 Savannah Public Library
	1880 Savannah Public Library
Catholic Cemetery Records	Georgia Historical Society
-----	Savannah Public Library
Savannah Tax Digest	Georgia Historical Society
Savannah Tax Assessment	

Deeds	Superior Court
-----	Chatham County Courthouse
Wills	Office of the Ordinary

City Directories	Georgia Historical Society

Annals of Savannah	Savannah Public Library
Savannah Newspaper Digest	

General Index to Wills of Chatham County	Georgia Historical Society
Family Histories	Mr. Ed. Dupont Hood, M.D. 257 - 241 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Ga
-----	Mrs. Regina B e r a n c , 407 E 56th Street , Savannah, Ga
Tax Assessor's Office	

book?
person?
bibliography?

The name Peter B e r a n c appeared first in the Federal Population Census ^{of} 1850. (1) He was living in the house of his friend and sponsor John Lama. They were both merchants , born in France. Peter's exact date ~~and place of birth~~ is unknown ; his friend John L a m a was born in Pau , Province of Bearn, France (2); we can suggest that Peter Beranc was probably born in the same province but it is also possible that both men met somewhere in Cuba or Jamaica , Peter's wife Casilda was of Cuban origin(3) and Mr. John Lama was engaged in business in Jamaica before he came to Savannah in 1845 (4). Peter was 23 years old.

Peter B e r a n c opened ^usoon his own business and in his first advertisement on May 5 , 1852 we can read that : " Ice delivered to your doors , have orders at either house , coming Monday - Peter Beranc (5) .

In 1855 , he was in this time ^umarried and father of 2 year~~s~~ old son Henry (6); his wife was expenting their second child , he bought on February 5, 1855 for the sum of \$200 from Mr. Michael M. Great of City of Savannah the property marked on the plan of ^{the} city as number 68 Brown Ward and on March 30, 1855 he bought a second lot number 67 Brown Ward from his friend John Lama and Mr. Joseph V. Connerab. He cancelled his first deed from February 5 , 1855 on November 5 , 1855, but he built his house

- (1) Federal Population Census 1850 , Chatham 169 District
- (2) Catholic Cemetery in Savannah , Ga
- (3) Appendix # 1
- (4) ~~Appendix # 2~~ Savannah Annals of Savannah , SND , January 29 , 1875 , P. 494
- (5) Annals of Savannah , (SND), May 5 , 1852, Page 125
- (6) Appendix # 3

✓
 does your case need an explanation?
 ... you only ... beyond ... the property themselves? ... had it

on the lot number 67 Brown Ward , known today as 235-241 Abercorn Street (7).He paid his first real estate taxes in 1857. He had the lot 67 Brown Ward and a second lot on the North Side Pine Street (Oglethorpe Ward) - both lots had a value of \$7.000 (8).Peter Beranc invested more money in his and lent on January 4 and on January 14 , 1856 from the Oglethorpe Mutual Association \$ 4.000 ; both loans were fully satisfied and cancelled on January 28 and December 15,1859 (9).Peter Beranc's business was growing and he opened on December 17,1856 a wholesale and retail grocerywine and liquor store on the corner of Bay and Drayton Streets (10).Peter Beranc advertized his store on January 1,1857 as "Beranc General Merchandige "(11).

Everything seemed to be in perfect order and the Georgia Population Census of 1860 found the family Beranc growing and probably happy.Peter Beranc was 34 years old and worked as ^u clerk in his own store.His wife's name was misspelled as Capela Beranc.Together they had four children : Henry 7 , Mary 5 , Lawrence 3 years old and John 8 months old.In Peter's hose there also lived : May A. Rays , 82 years old;Catharine Hernandez, 44 years old ; both were probably relatives of the Berancs. Ellen Dougherty (servant , 15 years old) and Julia Bennet (cook, 42 years old) made up the rest of the household.The value

(7) Appendix # 7

(8) Appendix # 8

(9) Appendix # 9

(10) Annals of Savannah , SND , December 17 , 1856 , Page 12

(11) Annals of Savannah , SND , January 1 , 1857 , Page 10

of their estate was \$8,000 ; the value of their personal estate was \$350 (12) .

We do not have too many records from the 1860's about Peter Beranc or his family. The Savannah City Directory of 1867 lists Peter Beranc as the resident of NW Abercorn Street (13). We know that two more children were born , surprisingly both in Marianao, Cuba : James Florence , Thursday January 2 , 1862 ; Peter Lawrence on Sunday May 8 , 1867 (14).

The end of the 1860's sees Peter Beranc in a new enterprise. He built a mill at the Northeast Corner of Liberty and Habersham Streets. This mill was well fitted for grinding feed and grist. This was, probably, his last enterprise and we can just guess why Peter Beranc lost in the next three years all his possession. His property was sold before the Court House in Savannah on the first Tuesday in March (15). His fortune diminished more when similar action was announced in 1875 when, " by virtue of a fi fa issued out of the Superior Court in favor of Forrest City Mutual Loan Association vs. Peter Beranc in Chatham County. The Sheriff I.T. Ronan has levied on all Mrs. Beranc's land in the city of Savannah and will sell same on the first Tuesday in July , 1875" (16)

What happened to a successful businessman that he lost all of his and his wife's possessions? He was probably in a very dif-

(12) Federal Population Census 1860

(13) Appendix # 10

(14) Appendix # 3

(15) Annals of Savannah , SND , February 5 , 1872 , Page 117

(16) Annals of Savannah , SND , July 6 , 1875 , Page 50

ficult situation. We have to go to the Superior Court and find all his deeds from 1870 to at least partially understand Peter's failure. He was probably in a very hard position ; he took a loan on March 15, 1870 from the Forest City Mutual Association , a loan of \$2,000 to expand his premises. He was still able to satisfy and cancell this loan on March 15, 1875 (17). The second loan from November 16, 1870 - also from the Forest City Mutual Ass. for the improvement of premises on the Oglethorpe Ward - was probably the one which broke his enterprise ; that loan for \$4,000 was never paid in full , according to the records (18).

It is interesting to know that his friend John Lama was elected the President of the Forest City Building and Loan Ass, on March 9, 1871 (19) and that he was also the President of the French Benevolent Society of Savannah (20) (Societ  Francaise de Beinfaisance) , which could help Peter Beranc. We do not have any information about this society and so it is hard to imagine why almost nobody helped to Beranc family. Peter was fighting hard, he paid another mortgage to E. Barrie from December 12, 1870 - he satisfied in full this mortgage on March 15, 1875 (21).

I do believe that he paid his debts by selling his house to Mrs. Dupont Lettie W, on April 13, 1875. (22)

There were two more deeds , one from January 4 , 1874 in

-
- (17) Appendix # 10
 (18) Appendix # 11
 (19) Annals of Savannah , SND , March 9 , 1871 , Page 141
 (20) Annals of Savannah , SND , October 11 , 1873 , Page 233
 (21) Appendix # 11b
 (22) Appendix # 20 a,b,c,d

which Peter Beranc sold to Mr. John McMalin, Vice President of the Southern Bank of the State of Georgia lot Number 67 for \$2,800 (21) and a second deed with Mrs. Mary Lana when he sold his lot in the Middle Oglethorpe Ward for \$10,00 in favor of the Forest City Mutual Loan Ass. (22). Here were probably very complicated arrangements made to satisfy all of Peter's creditors.

The Beranc family now disappeared from all tax records; the last on its real estate was paid in 1875. It was Peter's last property the E 1/2 C Middle Oglethorpe Ward (the value of this property was \$1,480) (23)

After the year 1875 we can find Peter's name in the Savannah City Directories (24). The Family moved several times and Peter Beranc Sr. was working as a clerk with Lama, G.I. Tagart , C. H. Dixon , or as a collector. He retired in 1885.

His misfortune did not change his social position ; we can find him on the list of the grand and petit jurors in 1877 (25). His children played important role in the social and cultural life of Savannah. His son Henry was in a committee for the Grand Eastern Ball given by the Arctic BB & Social Club on April 23, 1878 (26), his daughter Mary L. Beranc was a member of the Cathedral Choir (27) and in 1880 she took a part in an opera performance and sang the role of Airy in "THE THREE BEARS". (28)

(21) Appendix # 12

(22) Appendix # 13

(23) Appendix # 14

(24) Appendix # 15

(25) Annals of Savannah , SND , February 20 , 1877 , Page 372

(26) Annals of Savannah , SND , March 24 , 1878 , Page 668

(27) Annals of Savannah , SND , 1879

(28) Annals of Savannah, SND , January 13, 1880 , 808

The Federal Population Census of 1880 did not find any servants or cooks in Beranc's household (29). They were all living as one, happy family ; there are , again , some discrepancies in the census. Casilda's name is again misspelled, ~~her~~ age is incorrect; Henry's age should be 27 , no 33.

Mary L. Beranc married Mr. Henry A. Dumas on July 16, 1880, (30) Henry T. Beranc married Miss Nellie T. Lovett at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Wednesday September 14, 1887 (31).

Peter Beranc died on Sunday , October 14, 1888 ; there was no obituary only a funeral invitation (32). The funeral was from the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist at 3:30 P.M. on October 15, 1888.

There was no last will , only a Letter of Administration, File # 695 , May 11 , 1892. Peter Beranc's personal property was only #23,34 (33).

His wife Casilda died on Saturday November 6 , 1909 ~~at~~ the age of 82 (34).

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- (29) Appendix # 16
 (30) Annals of Savannah , SND , July 16 , 1880 , Page 461
 (31) Annals of Savannah , SND , September 25 , 1887 ,
 (32) Appendix # 17
 (33) Appendix # 18
 (34) Appendix # 19

Federal Population Census 1850

B e r a n c	Peter	Chatham	235	# 13	District - no record,
		Chatham	169		District
	Lama John	, merchant,	France	35	years
	Jane			29	"
	Josephine			3	"
	Beranc Peter,	merchant,	France	23	"

Savannah Morning News , January 29 , 1875

O r b i t u a r y

The many friends of the most estimable gentleman , John L a m a will hear with regret of his death , which occurred at his residence , 62 Liberty Street , at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. He had been confined to his room the past several months and had been in failing health over a year.

Capt. L a m a was a gentleman of the most generous impulses, the possessor of a kind heart , and a disposition that was remarkable for its unwavering surety. He was courteous, affable , and sociable , and was universally popular with all classes.

He was borned (born) in the Department of Basses Parinese in Paru (Peau ?), in the South of France, and at one time was engaged in business in Jamaica. He came to Savannah 30 years ago, and engaged in the mercantile business.

He was a member of the Board of Education , the Chatham Artillery and of the French Benevolen Society (La Soci  t   Francaise de Bleufaisance (Bienfaisance ?)).

From original written in Marianas Cebu and
 Sept/65

	By Whom	God father	God mother
453	Rt Rev Fr Gortland	Mr John Lama	Mrs James Lama
46	" " " Curby	Dr Alex P Diaz	Luna Lozano Garcia
	" " " Whealing	Mr Alex Weaver	Miss Susannah Maguire ^{Maryland}
	" " " O Neil	Mr Leon Roumillat	Mrs Sue Roumillat
462	" " " Jean Marie	Dr A P Diaz	Dona Lucia Lozano
	Not shown	Mr L Danican	Miss Lucia Rojas

Memorandum of the children of Pierre Berane^o Spind from
 at 10 K^o m^o from the City of Habana in the north of S^o

Name	Born in	Date	Baptized
Henry 2	Savannah ^{ga}	Monday Jul 4-185	Aug 4 1853
Mary Louise	"	Saturday " 22 185	Not shown
Lawrence Alexander	"	Friday Oct 23 185	" "
John & the Co. 2	Marianao Cuba	Thursday Jan 2 1860	" "
James Florence 2	Marianao Cuba	Monday Feb 23 1862	Mch 2 1862
Peter Lawrence 2	"	Sunday May 8 1864	Indistinct

TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
Lot 67 Brown Ward

241 Abercorn Street

Hood Ed. Jr. , M.D.

South 22 feet of Lot 67

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Land Value</u>
Reg Lot	22	84	\$8,320

Two Story Dwelling

8 Rooms

1 Full Bath

1 WB Fireplace

Ground Floor Area

1,056 Sq.Feet

Value :

\$26, 810

Lot 67 Brown Ward

235 Abercorn Street

Hood Bettu Jean H.

North 23 Feet of Lot 67

reg.Lot	23	84	\$8,690
---------	----	----	---------

Two Story Building

7 Rooms

1 Full Bath , 1 Half Bath

1 W/B Fireplace

Value \$21,480

Ground Floor Area

713 Sq.Feet

Erected 1850 (@)

Record from February 5 , 1855 : book 3 N

Peter Beranc bought on January 22 , 1855 for the sum of \$200 from Michael M. Great of City of Savannah the property marked on the plan of city as number 68 , Brown Ward , containing 45 feet in length and 83 1/2 in depth , "this lot was a subject to an annual ground rent of \$ 96,24 cents payable in four equal quarter yearly payments to the mayor and alderman of the City of Savanna.

On November 5 , 1855 I can read over this deed this : I acknowledge having received satisfaction for this deed and hereby cancel the same , signed Peter Beranc , no further explanation.

Record from March 30 , 1855 : book 3 0

Peter Beranc paid \$405 and ²⁴/100 to Joseph V. Connerab and John Lama and these gentlemen transferred all their rights and interests of the lot number 67 Brown Ward .The ground rent to be paid to the City of Savannah \$78 ⁴⁸?100 in four equal yearly payments.

(12) Federal Population Census 1860

3rd District , August 10 , 1860

Dwelling House Numbered
in the Order of Visitation

Family Number in the
Order of Visitation

1677

1862

	Age	Sex	Place of Birth
Peter B e r a n c	34	M	Bordeaux, France
Capela	35	F	Havana , Cuba
Henry	7	M	Savannah
Mary	5	F	Savannah
Lawrence	3	M	Savannah
John	8 Months	M	Savannah
Catharina Hernandez	44	F	
May A. Rays	82	F	
Ellen Dougherty	15	F	(servant)
Julia Bennet	42	F	(cook)
Value of Estate	\$8,000		
Value of Personal Estate	\$ 350		

help fol.
←

Superior Court - Deeds

Year 1856 Book 3 0 Page 512

Peter Beranc and John M. Lewis , Treasurer of the Oglethorpe
Mutual Association

Loan of \$ 2,000

January 4 , 1856

Cancelled and fully satisfied 28 of January , 1859

For : Oglethorpe Ward - Pine Street

Year 1856 Book 3) Page 525

January 14 , 1856

Peter Beranc and John M. Lewis , Treasurer of the Oglethorpe
Mutual Ass.

Loan of \$ 2,000

Cancelled and fully satisfied December 15 , 1859

Appendix # 10

Superior Court - Deeds

Year 1870 Book 4 G Page 102

15 - 3 - 1870

Peter Beranc and Claudius Barie , treasure of the Forest City
Mutual Loan Ass.

Loan of \$2,000 - expanding premises

Fully satisfied , cancelled March 15 , 1875

Superior Court - Deeds

Year 1870 Book 4 I Page 58

Peter Beranc and Claudius Barie , Treasurer of the Forest City
Mutual Loan Ass.

Loan of 4,000 \$ for improvemnt of premises - Middle Oglth. Ward
Pine Street

Never paid in full

Superior Court - Deeds

Year 1870 Book 4 G Page 102

Peter Berenc and Cladius Barie , Treasurer of the Fotest City
Mutual Loan Ass.

Loan of \$2,000 for " expanding of premises

Loan satisfied, cancelled in full March 15 , 1875

Superior Court - Deeds

Year 1874

Book # 4 P

Page 398

1-4-1874

Pter Beranc sold to John McMalin , Vice President of the Southern
Bank of the State of Georgia Lot Number 67 for \$2,800

Superior Court - Deeds

Year 1874 Book # 4 Q Page 78

Peter Berenc , Mary Lane sold for 10,00\$ mortgage in favor of the Trust City Mutual Ass. the lot in Middle Oglth. - Pine Street.

TAX RECORDS - Georgia Historical Society

Name : Peter Beranc

Improvement of Lot # 67 , Brown Ward
Improvement 1/2 Lot North Side Pine Street

<u>Year</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Value \$</u>	<u>Total Tax</u>
1857	77	6000 1700	
1858	10	6000 2000	
1859	13	6000 2000	
1860	21	6000 2000 1 Dog	
1861	16	5000 2000	70
1862	14	5000 2000	
1863	15	5000 2000	70
1864	12	6000 2000	40
1865 ?			
1866	10	6000 2000	78
1867	11	6000 1800	97,52
1868	13	6000 1888	47
1869	18	5500 1000	26,81

Year -----	Page -----	Value \$ -----	Total Tax \$ -----
1870	22	7000 1200	40,74
1871	21	8200 1200	150,76
1872	20	8200 1200	150,76
1873	18	8200 1200	150,72
1874	22	3840 960	64,80

April 1 , 74 , sold to McMahon , value 2,720

1875	17	960	16,65
------	----	-----	-------

Tax for E 1/2 C Md.Ogl.Ward.

No further tax records

Tax Assessment

Brown Ward		Lot	Value
1861	28	67	5000
1866	22	67	5000
1870	28	67	5000
1870	28	67	700
1871	15	67	8200
1873	21	67	3400 1/2 Lettie Dupont 1/2 Mc Malon

Middle Ogl.Ward - Pine Street

-----		Value of Lot/Improvement	
1871	133	1/2 C Oglth.	650 1200
1873	---		
1861	166	"	800 1200
1866	150	"	800 1200
1870	238	"	650 1200

Savannah City Directories :

- 1867 Beranc Peter , clerk , res. nV Abercorn
- 1871 clerk with lane 63 Abercorn
- 1877 clerk G.I. Tagart, Jefferson
and Larnard
- 1879 Beranc Peter collector 172 Broad
Beranc Peter Jr. clerk G.I. Tagart
- 1883 Beranc Peter clerk C.H. Dixon 105 Park
Beranc Peter Jr. bds.
- 1884 Beranc Peter clerk C.H. Dixon 25 Jones
Beranc Peter Jr. operator Southern
Bell Teleph.
Beranc Henry clerk J.R. West & Co.
Beranc James F. "
- 1885 Beranc Peter (ret.) Charleston

The Federal Population Census 1880

Georgia Census of 1880 , City of Savannah

Page 12

Supervisor's District # 3

Enumeration District #19

June 5 , 1880

Name of Street	Dwelling House Number	Families numbered in order of visitation
South Broad	151	185
B e r a n c	Peter	Age 54 Clerk
	Caselda	52
	Henry	33 Clerk
	Marie	25
	Lawrence	23 Collector
	John	20 Clerk
	Jimmie	18 Clerk
	Peter	16 Clerk

OBITUARYSavannah Morning News - Sunday, November 7, 1909

Mrs. Casilda Beranc died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. M. S. Loughhead, No. 508 Habersham Street, at 11:00 O'clock yesterday morning from senility. The funeral will take place from the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist at 10:30 O'clock this morning.

Mrs. Beranc was born in Havana, Cuba, and was 82 years of age. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Loughhead, and three sons, John, James and Lawrence Beranc. The pallbearers will be J. J. Stafford, C. C. Cambridge, H. M. Sledge and R. S. White.

FUNERAL INVITATION

BERANC — The relatives and friends of Mrs. Casilda Beranc and family are invited to attend her funeral from the residence of her daughter, Mrs. M. S. Loughhead, No. 508 Habersham Street, at 10:00 O'clock this Sunday morning. Interment Cathedral Cemetary. Omit flowers. Henderson Bros. in charge.

Funeral invitation appeared in the Savannah Evening Press - Saturday November 6, 1909

Theresa Lovett ————— Henry
Stella Marie
Eleanor
John Joseph (died 15 months old)

Harry Alfred Dunas ————— Harry Alfred Jr.
Mark Laughead ————— Marie Louise
Chauncey McKeiner
Edwin James
Marguerite
Camille

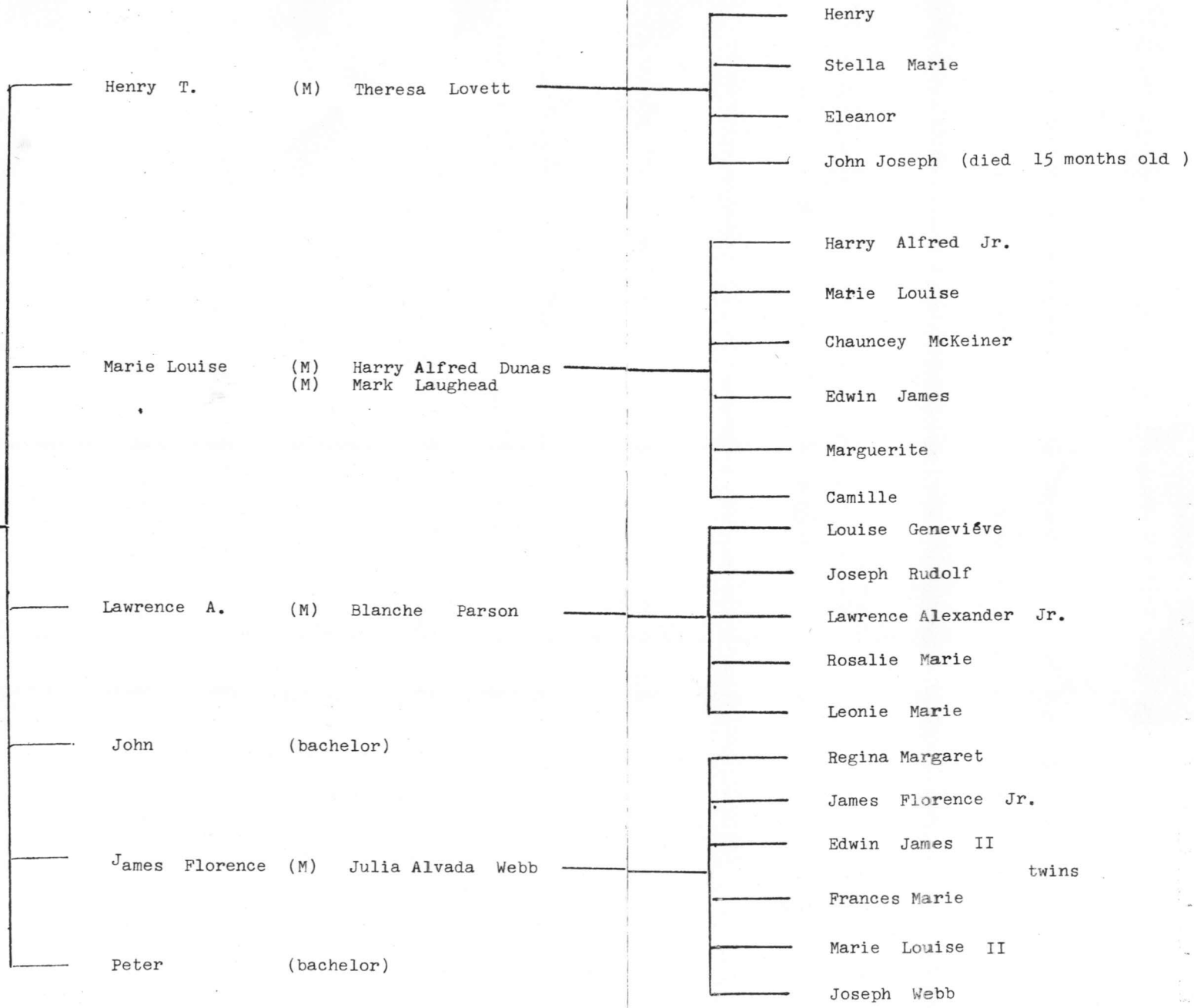
Blanche Parson ————— Louise Geneviève
Joseph Rudolf
Lawrence Alexander Jr.
Rosalie Marie
Leonie Marie

Julia Alvada Webb ————— Regina Margaret
James Florence Jr.
Edwin James II
Frances Marie twins
Marie Louise II.
Joseph Webb

helor)

helor)

Peter Beranc
Caselda Beranc



twins

This paper included appendix material (such as photocopies of letters, diary entries, photos, or legal documents) that were not digitized. Researchers are welcome to visit the Lane Library Special Collections division to read such appendix material on site.