



Research Report, Phase One Greek Orthodox Church

A search was made for records pertaining to the life of George Charles Douvillier. When the priest left New Orleans for New York, it will be remembered, he gave Douvillier a complete power of attorney. Neither man, surely, thought that the power of attorney would be anything but temporary. Instead, the priest committed suicide upon his arrival in New York City.

The John P. Sullivan and Charles Louque notaries' indices both turned up empty when searched for references to any of the relevant parties beyond the known power-of-attorney. The Charles Louque Papers collection at Hill Memorial Library in Baton Rouge yielded no additional clues. Though Douvillier and the priest signed the power of attorney with Louque as notary public, Louque, it appears, did not save any further records of the transaction. The single box of Louque's papers was organized chronologically into several folders. I went through each folder individually and did not come across any reference to Douvillier, the priest, or the Greek Church in general in Louque's files.

Five years after the priest's suicide, Douvillier stood trial in the Civil District Court on the charge of wife desertion. There were many pages of testimony, none of which brought up anything related to this project. I thought that perhaps Douvillier may have had some break down following the events of 1901 but the charge of desertion seems mainly to have stemmed from the fact that his in-laws didn't think he was good enough for their daughter. The testimony concludes with both Douvillier and his wife, Emma Chaubert, agreeing to reunite. George and Emma had two children in 1906, a boy named Harold and a girl named Ruby.

The archives of the *Times-Picayune*; of the multiple digitized Genealogy Bank Newspapers; the archives available at the New Orleans Public Library; even Google all turned up only the requisite vital records for George C. Douvillier, nothing further concerning his relationship to the priest.

The *Times-Picayune* did have a story from 1923 about George C. Douvillier and his son, Harold, getting lost on a boat in Lake Pontchartrain for nearly three days in January 1923. From these articles, we do have a photograph of George Charles Douvillier and his son, Harold. Sweetly, the craft, belonging to George C. Douvillier, was named *Ruby*. The articles, as well as George C. Douvillier's obituary, note that he was a machinist at the American Can Company. A machinist would have possessed perhaps the exact skill set Father Djevizoff might desire when attempting to construct a new bicycle-like means of conveyance. One may safely conclude that, if the invention occupied the priest's every waking moment, we can explain his acquaintance with Douvillier in terms of Douvillier's mechanical contribution to the project.

No Charles Douvillier in any City Directories, although, we find “George Douvillier” at 3026 De Soto in the 1901 City Directory, not 2820 St. Philip, as reported in the *Times-Picayune*. Interestingly, this George Douvillier is a blacksmith, confirming that, even in 1901, he probably worked on Father Djevizoff’s bicycle invention.



Research Report Greek Orthodox Church

This contract was approved in an effort to search for the earliest documentation of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

The New Orleans Picayune, dated June 7, 1901, tells that Father Archimandrite de Michel Jean Djevizoff, aka Father Misael in the church sacramental journals the priest of the Greek church from 1881 to 1901, had committed suicide in New York City. In recounting the events which preceded Father Djevizoff's departure from New Orleans, the paper tells that he had engaged attorney Charles Louque to file suit against the congregation of the church for payment of the priest's back salary. Father Djevizoff visited Louque's office with Charles Douvillier, described as "perhaps the priest's only confidant for the past twenty years." The same day, before Notary Public John P. Sullivan, Father Djevizoff gave Douvillier power-of-attorney to pursue the civil suit against the congregation. The Picayune tells that "Djevizoff put all his papers in the hands of Douvillier, and he has a large bundle of them.

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