

Photographie

CLEMENT OLIVIER DE MONTAGUERE, descendant of Olivier de Montaguere in the family cemetery, Ouidah.

LO CALZO, NICOLA (1979-....) Bénin

Description

Clement is a member of this family originally from Marseille, France. His ancestor, Olivier de Montaguere, was the nineteenth steward of the French Fort for Louis XVI. He arrived in Ouidah in 1776. He brought with him his wife and their three children, Joseph, Nicolas and Jean Baptiste and organized the slave trade with the French West Indies, «He disappeared during one of his trips to the Caribbean and he is never returned to Ouidah» said Clement Olivier of Montaguere. Their descendants still live today in the old compound of their ancestor. Unlike many other local families, they have no voodoo altars in their homes, and while claiming their European origins, they strictly observe the catholic religion. Today, in the family cemetery (where I got the pictures), the oldest tomb is to Nicolas Olivier de Montaguere's. According to the tradition, Nicolas grew up with the king of Dahomey Agonglo (1789-1797). After his adolescence spent in Abomey with the king, he returned to Ouidah in his father's family home when he continued to deal palm oil . Nicolas and Joseph's descendants still live in the old compound of their ancestors. They have maintained a position of prestige in the society, and historically occupy important positions in the public administration. Ouidah, Benin.

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[CHAM, LA MÉMOIRE VIVANTE](#)

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