

## FRENCH LOUISIANA TIMELINE

by Sheldon L. Roy (a work in progress ... to be further edited)

1534-1763	NOUVELLE-FRANCE (NEW FRANCE)
1682-1764	LOUISIANE (NOUVELLE-FRANCE)
1763-1800	LUISIANA (VIRREINATO DE NUEVA ESPAÑA)
1800-1803	LOUISIANE (NOUVELLE-FRANCE)
1803	THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE (American Statehood in 1812)

La Louisiane was a Colony of Nouvelle-France, which was divided into three main regions:

- 1) Acadia (Eastern Seaboard of present day Canada & U.S. Maine)
- 2) Canada (Québec City and Montréal)
- 3) Louisiana (New Orleans, Mississippi River Valley, US Interior, including present day states, such as Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota.

### TIMELINE

#### La Nouvelle-France (New France)

- 1528 Spanish Expedition led by Panfilo de Narváez locates mouth of Mississippi River
- 1534 24-July-1534 Jacque Cartier claims Canada for France; plants French flag at Gaspé Bay
- 1542 Hernando de Soto's Spanish Expedition explores lands held by Native Indian populations (Caddo & Tunica)
- 1543 Hernando de Soto navigates down the Mississippi River all the way to the Gulf of Mexico
- 1550-1680 Louisiana remains unexplored
- 1605 Port-Royal is founded as Capital of French Acadie colonized mainly by the Vienne *département* of west-central France (until conquered by the British in 1713, from which the Acadian Diaspora would flee beginning in forced expulsion in 1755) - Louisiana's Cajuns descend from this population
- 1608 Samuel de Champlain founds Québec City  
first permanent settlement and capital of the Canadian region of Nouvelle-France
- 1634 Trois-Rivières (Canada) is founded as second permanent French settlement in Nouvelle-France
- 1642 Montréal (Ville-Marie) is founded by the Jesuits to springboard establishing a utopian Christian colony.  
Catholicism is official state religion in New France, as it would be in Louisiana until American statehood in 1803.
- 1663 New France is elevated to the status of Royal Province and population increases to 3,215 in 1666 census (Louisiana not yet discovered as part of New France)



#### LA LOUISIANE COLONIAL PERIOD

*La Louisiane was initially explored and populated chiefly by French-Canadian colonists, rather than settlers from Metropolitan France. Nouvelle-France, centered in Québec City was initially ruled by a viceroy, the Duke of Ventadour, then later by one Governor General assisted by one Intendant (in the Bourbon style of government). With such a great distance between Québec and Louisiana, and between France and Louisiana, the colony was largely autonomous with very little support, financial or otherwise, from either Québec or France. However, the Crown appointed colony officials. Its religious administration came under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Québec until it was ceded to Spain in 1763, at which time it was transferred to the Diocese of Santiago in Cuba, and soon thereafter became its own Diocese of Louisiana as a suffragan of the Archdiocese of Santiago in Cuba and later a suffragan of the Archdiocese of Baltimore (after the Louisiana Purchase by the U.S.) Only then were non-Catholics allowed to live in the former colony.*  
(left: Official Flag of New France)

- 1682 Robert Cavalier de La Salle names "La Louisiane" for Louis XIV, King of France, following many French expeditions in this vast region of the U.S. interior south of Canada
- 1699 Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville, French military officer from Canada, founds Fort Maurepas (Ocean Springs, MS), first permanent settlement and, at some interim point, capital of La Louisiane
- 1699 La Balise is founded at mouth of Mississippi and Lighthouse is built in 1721 to guide ships into the River from the Gulf
- 1701 Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville is named Governor of the Colony of La Louisiane de Nouvelle-France
- 1702 Mobile, AL, known as *Fort Louis de la Louisiane* becomes first capital of Colonial French Louisiana, founded by French Canadian brothers Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville and Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville. The Colony of

Louisiana in New France is composed of the following present-day states: Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota.

- 1703 First Catholic church parish in La Louisiane founded in Mobile, under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Québec
- 1712 Antoine Crozat, Marquis du Châtel, immensely wealthy French businessman, was the first private proprietary owner of French Louisiana from 1712 to 1717, followed by John Law and the Company of the Indies until 1731.
- 1714 Natchitoches founded by Louis Juchereau, Sieur de St. Denis
- 1717 Over 6,000 African slaves were imported to Louisiana between 1717-1743 by John Law & The Company of the Indies. They were governed by Louis XIV's infamous "*le Code Noir*" for the French Colonial Empire, the most extensive official document on race, slavery and freedom ever drawn up in Europe.
- 1718 La Nouvelle-Orléans is founded May 7th by the French Mississippi Company under the direction of Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville. Over the next 150 years, pioneers would arrive primarily from France, the Caribbean Islands and from other parts of New France, namely Québec. The Germans would arrive in 1721 and the Acadians beginning in 1754.
- 1719 The first Germans arrive in La Louisiane. The ships "les Dués Frères" and "Porte Faix" carried the foreign passengers to various sections of the Louisiana coastline. A census taken in 1724 reveals the location of two German settlements, called the Côte des Allemands (the German Coast), located 30 miles upriver from New Orleans.
- 1719 Military Fort at Baton Rouge founded.
- 1720 Le Poste des Opelousas founded in present day St. Landry Parish
- 1721 The First German Coast (Côte des Allemands) is founded by 330 German immigrants from the Rhine Region pioneers from (Catholic) Southern Germany in St. Charles Parish along the Mississippi River, led by Karl Friedrich D'Arensbourg of John Law's Company of the Indies (the company folds in 1731 and the Germans become independent, successful land owners). The second German Coast follows in Karistein (Lucy, Louisiana – very close to Edgard) in St. John the Baptist Parish. Known for their hard-working farming attributes, they conquered Louisiana wilderness and provided vital staples to New Orleans, Santo Domingo and even France. They eventually integrate into the more dominant French culture, whereas the German settlers in New Orleans maintained a more independent but very significant cultural identity in the city's tapestry. Later, many of the "Germans" came from the Alsace-Lorraine region of France and some from Switzerland and Belgium.
- 1722 La Nouvelle-Orléans is made capital of La Louisiane
- 1720's Population in La Louisiane mid-1720's: 2,500 French, 1,500 slaves and 35,000 Native Indians
- 1722 L'Église St. Jean Baptiste des Allemands is established to serve the religious needs of its German Catholics. The church was constructed of handmade cypress lumber, replaced by a larger wooden gothic church in >>>>, which, when it burned in 1918, was replaced by the present day imposing twin-spire Romanesque structure. The cemetery dates back to 1721.
- 1723 St. Jean des Allemands private chapel is established by the Germans at Trinity Plantation on the West Bank, later transferred to Destrehan Plantation on the East Bank in 1740 under the patronage of St. Charles Borromeo, from which the civil Parish of St. Charles is named.
- 1728 Le Poste de la Pointe Coupée is founded on the Mississippi River near Sugarland Plantation, between New Roads and Morganza. On 16 March 1738, the first chapel was dedicated as *l'Église St. François d'Assise* (St. Francis of Assisi). The church would be served by the French Capuchin Friars. A new church was constructed in 1760 but was taken, along with early graves, by erosion along the banks. A newer smaller structure was dedicated in 1895. St. Francisville is named for this chapel.
- 1731 La Louisiane reverted back to French Royal Rule after a stint of proprietary ownership (1712-1731)
- 1751 Jesuit Fathers introduce sugar cane as a staple crop in St. John the Baptist Parish
- 1760 New Church and Cemetery blessed at St. François d'Assise in Pointe Coupée after river destroys the previous



Flag of New Spain: The Cross of Burgundy

#### LOUISIANA NEW SPAIN

- 1763 France cedes Louisiana to Spain, which further strengthens Catholicism as the state religion. Jackson Square in New Orleans is typical of the Spanish style of governance, viz., the Cathedral in the middle, flanked on either side by the Presbytère (Catholic religious authorities) and the Cabildo (political authorities). The Spanish government informed the new Governor Ulloa that Louisiana should remain as French as possible.
- 1764 In April, the First Acadian Coast is settled in St. James Parish and the Second Acadian Coast in Ascension Parish along the west bank of the Mississippi River, later in April 1765 at Le Poste des Attakapas (St. Martinville), and shortly thereafter in St. Gabriel, with a over 1,000 Acadians arriving between 1765-1768. Their descendants, sometimes called "Cajuns," have their roots mostly in the *Département de Vienne* of west-central France, whose pioneers colonized

Acadie (Nova Scotia), which was ceded to Britain in 1713, from whence they were later exiled for religious and political reasons.

- 1765 Le Poste des Attakapas and St. Martin Church is founded, which comprised present day Parishes of St. Martin, St. Mary, Lafayette, Vermilion & Iberia
- 1768 Wallace, Louisiana in present day St. John the Baptist Parish founded by Acadian Exiles
- 1768 Rebellion of 1768: pro-French mob runs off new Spanish Governor Ulloa, who is not permitted to fly the Spanish Flag
- 1769 Spanish Governor Alejandro O'Reilly (originally from Ireland) ends pro-French rebellion and ushers in benign Spanish rule with enormous concessions to the French population. Builds Cabildo in Jackson Square.
- 1771 Louisiana census indicates 13,538 people, of which 3,190 live in New Orleans. The Colony is reapportioned into 21 parishes and church jurisdiction is transferred from French Québec to Spanish Santiago de Cuba.
- 1771 L'Église St. Jacques de Cabahanoce is built (now in the Mississippi River) at present-day Hymel, St. James Parish. The church was replaced in 1841 by a fancy brick structure with 3 steeples. During 1918-19, the river levee was moved and came so close to the front of the building the steps landed on the road. When a new levee was built in 1929 the old building could not be moved so the present one was built. The cemetery now located across the road dates from the original church. Over the years the cemetery has lost many graves to the river, however old graves of the plantation owners still remain. The first Acadians settled in this area of Louisiana in 1765 and it was known as the Acadian Coast. It is believed that the word *Cabahanoce*, which had several spellings, was derived from an Indian word meaning "little duck hut" or "sleeping place of ducks." Nicholas Verret's *Cabahanoce Plantation* was fan-shaped and was located in an area between the Mississippi River near St. James and Bayou Lafourche near Plattenville.
- 1772 L'Église de L'Ascension du Seigneur Jésus-Christ de La Fourche et Les Chetimaches (Church of the Ascension) is founded in present day Donaldsonville, Louisiana
- 1773 Church of St. Gabriel the Archangel established in present day Iberville Parish
- 1776 Church of St. Landry is founded at Le Poste des Opelousas. Present day Romanesque structure dedicated in 1908.
- 1779 1,582 Canary Islanders arrive in Louisiana
- 1783 **LE POSTE DES AVOYELLES SUR LA RIVIÈRE ROUGE**  
is established by the Spanish rule as a local government entity. First French settlers are already known to have arrived at the Avoyelles Post from adjacent posts, such as Pointe Coupée, Opelousas, Natchitoches, St. John the Baptist, and New Orleans, or from France or Québec (another District in the Colony of New France), from which settlers in the other posts had come from originally. Acadian exiles were not a part of this immigration. The first census in 1785 lists 138 Whites (54 adults, 84 children) with average age of 35, which indicates recent influx; 101 Indians (45 Adults, 56 children); and 46 slaves. The following names are listed: Commandant Jacques Gagnard, Joseph Rabalais, Pierre DuCoté, Veuve (Widow) Bordelon, Jean Baptiste Rabalais, Dominique Coco, Nicholas Chatelain, LaCroix, Jean Baptiste LeJeune, Veuve (Widow) Hauter, Benjamin Milan, Robert Looper, Guillaume Ruffy, Frédéric Monjeu, Daniel Bradly, Joseph Joffrion, Joseph Joffrion fils, Veuve Gunaux, Augustin Gunaux, Veuve Félice, Joseph Guio (Guillot), Mathurin Guio, Jean Baptiste Duplechien, Jean Baptiste Malber, Jean Baptiste Tavier, Simon LeMoine, Jean Baptist Mayeux, Pierre Mayeux, Joseph Mayeux, Jacques Rouftie (Ruffy), and Antoine Bordelon.
- 1784 Avoyelles receives a grant from the Spanish Crown for 240 arpents of land for the erection of a church and cemetery
- 1788 21-March-1788 Great New Orleans Fire: city is largely destroyed (856 buildings) in about 5 hours on Good Friday, after which over 1,000 people were homeless. A 1788 census found 43,111 residents (19,945 blacks), most living in the environs. New Orleans was a busy port town with about 40 boats docked at any one time, but it was dirty, with sewage floating into the streets after a rain, and infested with insects and reptiles. The richest man in the colony, Don Andres Almonester, helped replace the former French-style buildings with Spanish architecture.
- 1792 L'Église Notre-Dame des Douleurs (Our Lady of Sorrows – present day Cathedral of St. Joseph, Baton Rouge) was established by order of King Carlos of Spain as La Yglesia de los Dolores de La Virgin. It's early cemetery graves were transferred in 1824 to the present day St. Joseph Cemetery.
- 1793-5 **JOSEPH MARIE ROY (53) AND JULIE BIZET (36) MOVE FROM POINTE COUPÉE TO AVOYELLES** with six of their eight children (the first two had died). Joseph Marie Roy, *fils* would have been about 12 or 13 and the youngest, Élise, about 4. They were to have three more children yet to be born in Avoyelles soon after settling there. Joseph's mother, Angelique Cassé Roy, dies in Québec in 1768, after which he migrates from Québec to Pointe Coupée Post near Sugarland Plantation on the Mississippi River sometime before 1771 (age 32), the year when his first marriage to Catherine Guillot is recorded. They had one daughter, Françoise Roy, who would marry André Bourgeois, and the two of them would move to Donaldsonville to rear a family. After Joseph's first wife, Catherine, dies, he marries Julie Bizet, whose father is originally from the same region in Québec as the Roy Family. No doubt their families knew each other. The 1785 Census shows no Roy in Avoyelles but the 1796 Census indicates that they have settled in Avoyelles, as do the baptismal records of their remaining children. Joseph dies in 1827 at age 88 and Julie dies in 1856 at age 100; both are buried at St. Paul the Apostle Cemetery.
- 1796 **NOTRE DAME DU MONT CARMEL DES AVOYELLES SUR LA RIVIÈRE ROUGE**  
is established as the first Catholic parish in the region (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel of Avoyelles on the Red River—changed to St. Paul the Apostle in 1837), under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas, a suffragan Diocese of Havana, Cuba. When the Bishop visits in 1796, he takes a census revealing: 338 Whites, 105

Negroes, 138 Pascagoulas, 144 Biloxis, 111 Tunicas and 135 Appalaches. Note there are 200 more whites than the previous census 11 years prior. On Sunday, November 20th, 1796 the bishop administered the sacrament of Confirmation to a class of 109. Among the families represented were: Joffrion, Couvillon, Laborde, Tassin, Mayeaux, Bordelon, Lemoine, Gauthier, Roy, Ducoté, St. Romain, Gaspard, Rabelais, Juneau, Chatelain and Grande-Pré. The baptismal register for the Church of "Nuestra Senor del Carmen" or Our Lady of Mount Carmel was entrusted to the first pastor, Fr. Juan Maguire, an Irish-born Carmelite friar and graduate of the University of Salamanca, Spain in June of 1797.

1800 France secretly reacquires La Louisiane from Spain.

#### La Louisiane de Nouvelle-France sold to United State of America

- 1803 30-April-1803 The Louisiana Purchase: Napoléon sells the Colony of La Louisiane de Nouvelle-France to the United States of America for \$15,000,000. American sovereignty is established 20-December-1803. The State of Louisiana is admitted into the union in 1812.
- 1804 Haitian Revolution of St. Domingue brought refugees to New Orleans, both white and free people of color (*gens de couleur libres*), often bringing slaves with them.
- 1812 April 8<sup>th</sup> Louisiana is admitted into the Union.
- 1820 Evergreen Plantation is built in Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish
- 1820 Reserve Plantation House is built in Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish
- 1822 **A NEW WAVE OF IMMIGRATION BEGAN IN THE AVOYELLES** as French refugees crossed the Atlantic after the fall of Napoleon. Many of these were veterans of the Grande Armée. For them the vast grass lands of the Avoyelles plain resembled the fought-over ground near Mansura, Egypt where they had been defeated in 1799. Others with a more classical bent called the area around the church and cemetery - Hydropolis.
- 1853 San Francisco Plantation is built at Lions, St. John the Baptist Parish
- 1869 L'Église St. Pierre (St. Peter's) is founded in Reserve, Louisiana, followed by the construction of a well-known beautiful structure in 1897, which will be destroyed in 1965 by Hurricane Betsy.
- 1869 L'Église St. Joseph founded in Marksville, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana

This document in process....more to continue here later....

- 1921 Louisiana Constitution bans French in public schools, making English the only permissible language of instruction in the state's public schools. This effectively puts an end to literacy in French, except among those who could afford a private French-language education or those who chose to pursue the study of French in high school or college.