

**Louisiana Colonial History
Research Subject Guide
Louisiana State Archives**



Introduction:

This guide was made by archival staff at the Louisiana State Archives as an introduction to some of the materials we have on Louisiana Colonial History. Some colonial documents included pertain to other parts of the United States, but most primarily focus on Louisiana. Some items are in French and Spanish. The listings are arranged according to the Table of Contents listed below and then alphabetically within each section. For further information on this topic, or to view our collections, please visit the Louisiana State Archives Research Library or contact the Research Library staff at 225.922.1207 or via email at archives@sos.la.gov.

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Manuscripts

Battle of Baton Rouge, 1779, Poem by Julien Poydras entitled "The Capture of Baton Rouge by Barnardo de Galvez," which was written in 1779 and translated by the Louisiana Historical Records Survey. Also included is a pamphlet printed by the West Baton Rouge Parish Police Jury which is a biography of the author, Julien de LaLande Poydras, who established a dowry fund for brides of West Baton Rouge Parish, also included is his will.

Collection No. N1976-057

Newspapers, Journals, and Magazines

Baton Rouge and Los Adais, 1961, Newspaper article from the Baton Rouge *Sunday Advocate*, dated April 23, 1961, about Boyd Avenue, or Spanish Town Road, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Los Adais near Natchitoches, Louisiana, which provides historical information on both.
Collection No. N1976-041

Original/Other

Avoyelles Parish Colonial Records, 1786-1807, 1873-1940, 1956, 1973, Collection contains 59 folders of Avoyelles Parish Colonial documents. These documents include land sales, slave sales, product sales, mortgage sales, declaration of homesteads, and judgments. Additionally, the collection contains an oil and gas map of Louisiana. These documents are in French and English.
Collection No. N2018-023

Spanish and Antebellum Louisiana Land Survey Case, 1786-1827, Collection contains correspondence and contracts pertaining to the purchase of the land survey documents that were in the possession of the Western Reserve Historical Society of Cleveland, Ohio, and later purchased by the Historic New Orleans Collection. The surveys disappeared from the State Land Office during the nineteenth century.
Collection No. P1985-618

Microfilm

Ascension Parish Conveyance Records, 1770-1814, Collection contains conveyance records of Ascension Parish, Louisiana – Pt. 1228: Vol. B 1776-1804; Pt. 1229: Vol. C-D 1770- 1787; Pt. 1230: Vol. C-D, end, Vol. E, 1787-1814; and Vol. F, 1798-1800. Records are written in French. Collection No. P1985-225

Avoyelles Parish Colonial Documents, 1786-1803, Collection contains the records of the Spanish Colonial district of Avoyelles Post in Louisiana. Included are petitions, marriage contracts, slave sales, property sales, power of attorney, receipts, inventories, miscellaneous declarations, mortgages, suits, and correspondence. The index is on the first reel of film and the "Calendar of Louisiana Colonial Documents Vol. I, Avoyelles Parish," by W. Deville is a published guide.

Collection No. P1975-002

Cabildo Records - Transcripts, 1769-1803, Collection consists of seven reels of film of records of the Spanish Government. Transcripts in English done by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The ten volumes of municipal records are arranged alphabetically and chronologically with four volumes listed.

Collection No. P1976-065

Colonial Louisiana, 1707-1738, Colonial documents from the Archives in Paris, France which relate directly to the development of colonies in Louisiana in the early 1700s, with actions taken by Bienville and others that influenced the colonization of Louisiana.

Collection No. P1988-088

Edwin A. Davis Collection, 1700-1770, Maps from three different map series include: 1) Maps and materials from Colonial French and Spanish America and eighteenth century Europe; 2) Maps of proposed new town, Bayou Manchac, and new cut from the Mississippi to Iberville River; and (3) 1765-1770 maps drawn from the survey of the southern district by John William Gerard De Brahm. All the maps were obtained from the British Museum.

Collection No. N1976-027

Fitzpatrick, John (Letter books), 1768-1790, Includes correspondence to merchants concerning transactions in Pensacola, Florida, Mobile, Alabama, Natchez, Mississippi, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Also included are letters concerning slave markets, colonial life, and pre-Revolutionary trading days.

Collection No. N1976-008

Genealogical Society of Utah Microfilm, 1766-1929, Records filmed include the Opelousas Post civil records such as successions, wills, surveys, conveyances, bills of sale, etc. The index includes materials (1766-1803) are filmed at the end of the St. Landry Parish, Louisiana colonial records. Other collections filmed are records for St. Helena Parish, Louisiana, census of Confederate veterans or their widows: Pursuant to Act 71 of 1908, register of: pensioners and direct tax payers 1896-1898.

Collection No. P1985-004

Illinois Slave Records, 1720-1863, Servant and slave records of St. Clair County, Illinois and French Colonial Illinois dated from 1720 to 1863.

Collection No. N1991-028

Juan Filhiol Papers, 1783-1790, Juan Filhiol papers including correspondence, orders, petitions, reports, land grants, and other miscellaneous documents during his service as Commandant of Ouachita. Estevan Miro's instructions regarding Filhiol's posthumous papers to his descendants, relative to land claims. Indexed. Some additional family papers are included.

Collection No. N1976-023

Juan Ventura Morales Papers/Spanish Archives, 1700s-1800s, Papers of Juan Ventura Morales, the Intendant of the Province of Louisiana. The papers are not listed in chronological order, but appear to date from the late 1700s to the early 1800s. A partial index is available on film. All materials including the index are in Spanish.

Collection No. N1987-036

The Last Years of French Louisiana, 1982, The publication *The Last Years of French Louisiana* by Marc de Villiers du Terrage, copyright 1982, published by the Center for Louisiana Studies at University of Southwestern Louisiana. English translation. 560 pages.

Collection No. N1989-004

Laws Relating to Spanish and Colonial Land Titles, 1829, Collection contains laws relating to Spanish and Colonial land titles.

Collection No. P1987-040

Louisiana Land Survey Records, 1749-1827, Collection contains the surveys, which were held by the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio of Carlos Laveau Treadeau, and other surveyors for Spanish Louisiana. It also includes surveys of lands allotted to pioneers who settled on the banks of Mississippi. From Natchez, Mississippi to New Orleans, Louisiana. The original records are at the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Collection No. P1984-605

Miscellaneous Colonial Documents, 1765-1810, Contains a large collection of documents dating from 1765 to 1810. The documents are from Attakapas, Opelousas posts, St. Landry, Avoyelles, etc. All areas of the territory includes civil and military decisions, land grants, petitions for land, successions, sale of slaves, arbitrations, account records, clerk of court records, and others. The material is in French and English. Use film.

Collection No. P1985-190

Natchitoches Parish Civil Records, 1733-1920, Civil records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana include successions, some of which have related court records, appraisals of estates, sales, and tutorship of minors dating from 1820 to 1900. Other record groups include marriages dating from 1855 to 1900, conveyances dating from 1738 to 1819, and a small group of miscellaneous records dating from 1723 to 1819. Inventory available.

Collection No. P1976-042

New Orleans Censuses, 1791, 1804, New Orleans censuses for 1791 and 1804. The censuses include the names of both whites and free people of color, their sex, their profession, and the number of free people, slaves, and soldiers.

Collection No. P1976-044

New Orleans City Council Meetings, 1807-1825, Collection contains one reel of 35mm microfilm pertaining to the proceedings of the New Orleans City Council (Conseil de Ville) meetings for the period of July 1807 to October 1825 (Volumes 2-4 on one reel). All information is in French. Obtained from the New Orleans Public Library.

Collection No. P1989-009

Opelousas Post-Colonial Documents, 1766-1789, Collection includes successions, sales contracts, marriage contracts, financial agreements, law suits, and petitions for land. The majority of the material is in Spanish or French and is arranged chronologically. See Opelousas Post Guide by Jacqueline Vidrine and Art Bergeron (Published guide). See also P1985-112 and P1985-115.

Collection No. P1985-114

Peachtree Properties, Inc., Photographs of the Louisiana governors for colonial, territorial, and state rule from 1699 to 1980. All are 8" x 10" black and white reproductions. There are a few governors that do not have photos available in this collection. Inventory available.

Collection No. N1983-133

Records of the United States, 1731-1820, Collection consists of Library of Congress microfilm of Louisiana Colonial and Early American period records found in the records of the United States Collection. Includes miscellaneous papers and miscellaneous Spanish and French documents, land grants, censuses, maps, correspondence, lawsuits, inventories, and other original documents. See also Collection P1988-049.

Collection No. N2005-013

Robert Deblieux Collection, 1752-1980, Collection includes a diverse compilation of materials collected by Robert Deblieux, which includes marriage contracts, baptismal certificates, Louisiana Historical Preservation and Cultural Commission documents, Council on Natchitoches reports, sheet music and various other materials. The records are in Spanish, French, and English and date from 1752 to 1980 and include the areas of Natchitoches and New Orleans, Louisiana, as well as Bordeaux, France.

Collection No. N1989-014

St. Charles Parish Colonial Records, 1740-1872, The D'Arensbourg records are colonial records from St. Charles Parish which include marriage contracts, agreements, transfers, leases, obligations, inventories, petitions, declarations, successions, family records, power of attorneys, wills, bill of sales, and miscellaneous correspondence. Arranged in chronological order.

Collection No. P1976-043

St. Landry Parish Civil Records and Trudeau Surveys, 1766-1929, Collection includes successions, bills of sale, marriage contracts, civil suits, and land surveys, some are from Carlos Trudeau, Spanish Surveyor General and U.S. Surveyor from 1782 to 1816. The inclusive dates are from 1766 to 1929 and pertains to Opelousas and other posts, and St. Landry Parish, all in Louisiana. Arrangement is chronological with an index for 1766-1803. Trudeau documents have been separated for easy retrieval. See inventory.

Collection No. P1985-115

St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court Records, 1764-1785, Collection includes succession, sales contracts, marriage contracts, financial agreements, law suits, and petitions for land. The majority of the material is in Spanish or French and is arranged chronologically. See the guide compiled by Winston Deville for individual document listings and surname index. Researchers wishing to use the collection may use microfilm only.

Collection No. S1985-112

St. James Parish Colonial Records, 1782-1787, Collection contains colonial records for St. James Parish, Louisiana.

Collection No. P1987-118

St. John the Baptist Parish Original Acts, 1753-1798, Original records of property sales, successions, civil suits, and miscellaneous records. Microfilmed in 1964 by the Genealogical Society of Utah. The original records were in St. John the Baptist Parish Clerk of Court's office until 2000.

Collection No. S2003-027

Achivo General De Indias Seville, 1791-1811, Records, written completely in Spanish, pertain to Guadalajara, Cuba, Santo Domingo and Louisiana and date from 1791 to 1811. General inventory on the film is also in Spanish.

Collection No. P1988-052