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# New Orleans Genealogy

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A locality guide to resources and repositories  
for New Orleans genealogy



Jackson Square, New Orleans; Credit: Mary Ann Kelley

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# Introduction

This guide attempts to provide a reference framework for the genealogist researching the people and property of New Orleans. Due to the vast number of resources available in repositories and online, the listings here will not be comprehensive, but should give the researcher both an overview and a foundation from which to build.

The Brief History will help the reader understand the historical and current culture and geography of New Orleans and how it affects genealogical research. More specific detailed guides could be created for multiple sub-topics specific to the area, such as land and property, asylums and organizations, maritime interests, cemeteries, and more. This guide gives a brief overview of these topics, but there are enough rich and varied resources available in archives, libraries, and extant newspaper archives to fill books.

The following legend will help you interpret various abbreviations.

**\$** - Resource is included with subscription to a fee-based website

**NOLA** - New Orleans, Louisiana

**NOPL** - New Orleans Public Library

**THNOC** - The Historic New Orleans Collection

**LaRC** - Louisiana Research Collection (Tulane)

**NARA** - U.S. National Archives

**LOC** - U.S. Library of Congress

**FHL** - Family History Library

**FHC** - Family History Center



# Credits

The history section of this locality guide relies heavily on the work of Richard Campanella, the breadth and depth of whose work about New Orleans is unparalleled. A geographer at Tulane University's School of Architecture, Mr. Campanella is the premier authority on New Orleans geography and history. Researching New Orleans genealogy and history is greatly improved by the vast amount of background information available through Mr. Campanella's published works. The author gratefully appreciates Mr. Campanella's gracious permission to quote his works multiple times in this guide.

Additionally, the website of the Greater New Orleans Archivists (GNOA) provides a useful guide to the archives in the area which helped fill in some of the gaps in this researcher's knowledge. According to their website, the group "is open to all who have an interest in the archives as well as cultural organizations such as libraries and museums in the New Orleans area ... GNOA membership is great for people to learn more about the archival and cultural community and to join in the discussion."<sup>1</sup> A list of member archives can be found at <http://www.gnoarchivists.org/directory/>.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Greater New Orleans Archivists* (<http://www.gnoarchivists.org/> : accessed 4 November 2016).

<sup>2</sup> *Greater New Orleans Archivists*, "Directory".

# A Brief History of New Orleans

## Prehistory

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The Lower Mississippi Valley was inhabited for thousands of years with evidence of the presence of indigenous peoples going back as far back as 10,000 B.C.<sup>3</sup> Prior to the 17th century, there were three main prehistoric groups:

- **10,000–6000 BC:** Paleo-Indian (nomadic hunter-gatherers)
- **6000–2000 BC:** Meso-Indian (evolved nomadic hunter-gatherers with more advanced tools and techniques)
- **2000 BC–AD 1600:** Neo-Indian (agrarian)<sup>4</sup>

## 17th Century

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Early explorers from Spain first traversed the Mississippi River delta in the 16th century, followed by French from the north in 1673, who traveled by river toward the Gulf of Mexico but did not complete the trip. In 1682, René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle continued the exploration originated by his predecessors. According to Christopher Morris in *The Big Muddy: An Environmental History of the Mississippi and Its Peoples from Hernando de Soto to Hurricane Katrina*, la Salle travelled to the lower Mississippi valley with the intention “to establish a few forts supported by small settlements of farmers at strategic locations in the valley, including at or very near the mouth of the Mississippi River. A permanent, self-sufficient presence along the river would help expand France’s existing fur trading empire from the St. Lawrence and Ottawa river valleys far into the center of the continent, into the *pays d’en haut* - the upper country - by giving it a second passage to the sea.”<sup>5</sup>

Thus was the humble beginning of New Orleans.

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<sup>3</sup> Cathy Corder, “Louisiana History,” Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, *KnowLA* (<http://www.knowlouisiana.org/louisiana-history> : accessed 3 November 2016), “Time Periods”.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Christopher Morris, *The Big Muddy: An Environmental History of the Mississippi and Its Peoples from Hernando de Soto to Hurricane Katrina* (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), 24; digital images, *Google Books*. <http://books.google.com> : accessed 3 November 2016, excerpt used by permission of Oxford University Press, USA, [www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com).

## 18th Century

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Charged with selecting an easily defensible site at the mouth of the Mississippi River where the entry could be blocked to other countries, a small group of men including the brothers Le Moyne (Iberville and Bienville) explored the area and evaluated it for potential settlement.<sup>6</sup> In 1718, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville chose, as New Orleans geographer Richard Campanella phrased it, the “swampy crescent of alluvium nestled between a flood-prone river and a storm-prone tidal lagoon”<sup>7</sup> as the site for New Orleans, the primary city for the French colony of Louisiana.<sup>8</sup> In December 1721, the city was officially named the capital of Louisiana,<sup>9</sup> cementing its importance in colonial history.

As of 1712, there were only 10 black individuals in all of Louisiana.<sup>10</sup> In 1719, the first enslaved Africans arrived,<sup>11</sup> culminating in over 5,000 enslaved persons imported by 1731.<sup>12</sup> In 1724, the *Code Noir* became law in Louisiana. The so-called “black code” or “slave code” mostly regulated the interactions with and the conduct of slaves, but it also decreed the expulsion of Jews from the colony and prohibited any worship other than Roman Catholic. Initially enacted as a ruling code for the French colonies in the late 17th century, the *Code Noir* was the law in Louisiana until 1803 when the territory became part of the United States.<sup>13</sup>

Under the leadership of Bienville, engineer Adrien de Pauger designed a layout for the town of New Orleans in 1720.<sup>14</sup> Following a September hurricane in 1722, de Pauger took advantage of the destruction to move ahead with surveys for the layout and construction of what is today the French Quarter. That same year, artificial levees were erected to control the river.<sup>15</sup>

During the period from 1712 to 1731, control of the area bounced back and forth between the French crown and various commercial enterprises, including Company of the West and Company of the Indies. Over the following half century, the city grew from a population of 938 to 2,809 and saw the

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<sup>6</sup> Richard Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma: A Historical Geography of New Orleans*. (Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, 2008), 104-110.

<sup>7</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, back cover, excerpt used with author's permission.

<sup>8</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 20-21.

<sup>9</sup> Baron Marc de Villiers, author, and Warrington Dawson, translator. “A History of the Foundation of New Orleans (1717-1722),” *The Louisiana Historical Quarterly* 3:2 (April 1920): 229; image copy, *Internet Archive*. (<https://archive.org/details/historyoffoundatooovillrich> : accessed 3 November 2016).

<sup>10</sup> “Slavery in Louisiana,” *Whitney Plantation* (<http://whitneyplantation.com/slavery-in-louisiana.html> : accessed 3 November 2016).

<sup>11</sup> John C. Rodrigue, “Slavery in French Colonial Louisiana,” Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, *KnowLA* (<http://www.knowla.org/entry/1424/> : accessed 3 November 2016).

<sup>12</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 21.

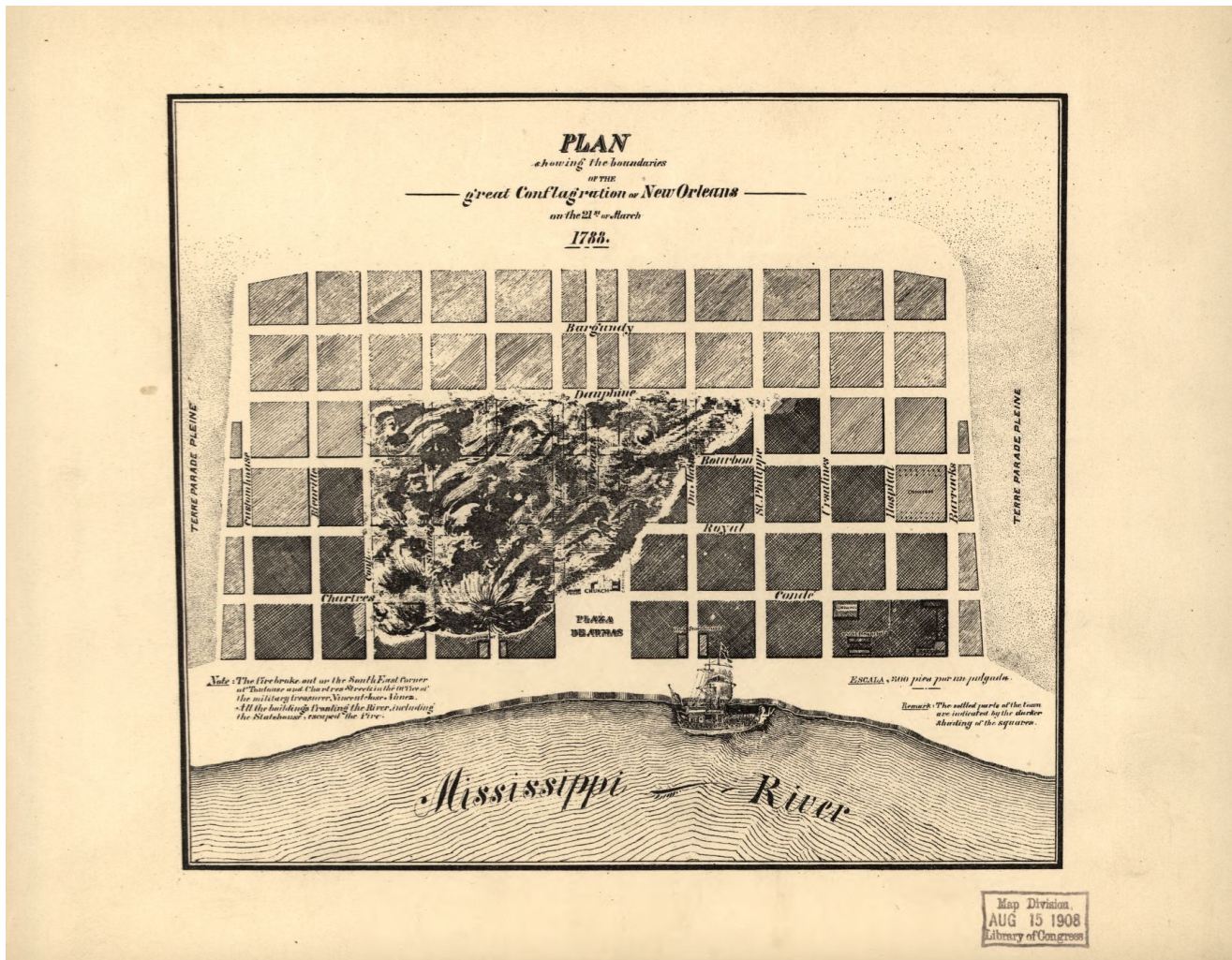
<sup>13</sup> BlackPast.org, publisher. “Louisiana’s Code Noir (1724),” *BlackPast.org* (<http://www.blackpast.org/primary/louisianas-code-noir-1724> : accessed 3 November 2016).

<sup>14</sup> *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*. (<https://www.britannica.com/place/New-Orleans-Louisiana/History>: accessed 3 November 2016), “New Orleans: History - Foundation and early settlement.”

<sup>15</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 21-22.

addition of accompanying infrastructure such as a hospital, a mill powered by water from canals, and a convent. Control of the city passed first from the Company of the Indies to the French king in 1731, permanently ending control of the settlement by commercial interests, then from the French to the Spanish following the French and Indian War.<sup>16</sup>

By 1788, the population of New Orleans was 5,388, and the Mississippi River took on more commercial importance for the city. In *Wicked River: The Mississippi When It Last Ran Wild*, Lee Sandlin describes how “people were going on the river ... working the keelboats, barges, and rafts, which was brutal, unrelenting, and dangerous labor ... or ... taking a one-shot trip in a flatboat, loaded down with local goods to sell in the great markets of the river delta.”<sup>17</sup>



Plan showing the boundaries of the great conflagration of New Orleans on the 21st of March 1788. Credit: Library of Congress <https://lccn.loc.gov/2001620435>

<sup>16</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 20-23.

<sup>17</sup> Sandlin, Lee. *Wicked River: The Mississippi When It Last Ran Wild*. (New York: Pantheon Books, 2010), 7, excerpt used by permission of Pantheon Books.

On Good Friday of that year, the Great New Orleans Fire of 1788 destroyed much of the city.<sup>18</sup> In 1789, St. Louis Cemetery (now known as St. Louis No. 1) was laid out to the north of the city across Rampart Street, where separate sections were assigned to Catholics and non-Catholics as well as “Negroes” (according to *Save Our Cemeteries*, this was “possibly referring to slaves since *gens de couleur libres* [free people of color] were buried according to their religion”).<sup>19</sup>

Still in existence on the same site today, the French Market opened in 1791, starting a tradition of open-air markets for which New Orleans is famous.<sup>20</sup> Cafe Du Monde’s flagship coffee stand opened in 1862 in the French Market and today operates “24 hours a day, seven days a week. It closes only on Christmas Day and on the day an occasional Hurricane passes too close to New Orleans.”<sup>21</sup> Unlike big city industrial job opportunities in the north, the French Market and subsequent New Orleans open-air markets offered ways for small venders to market goods and helped “launch generations of poor immigrants to financial independence.”<sup>22</sup>



The old French Market, New Orleans taken between 1880 and 1897. Credit: Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/det1994023521/PP/>

<sup>18</sup> “Plan showing the boundaries of the great conflagration of New Orleans on the 21st of March 1788,” n.d.; Geography and Map Division; Map. Library of Congress. (<https://www.loc.gov/item/2001620435/> : accessed 3 November 2016).

<sup>19</sup> *Save Our Cemeteries* (<http://www.saveourcemeteries.org/st-louis-cemetery-no-1/> : accessed 3 November 2016), “St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.”

<sup>20</sup> French Market Corporation, *French Market District* (<https://www.frenchmarket.org/history/> : accessed 3 November 2016), “The History of the French Market.”

<sup>21</sup> *Cafe Du Monde*. (<http://www.cafedumonde.com/history> : accessed 3 November 2016), “History.”

<sup>22</sup> Campanella, *Bienville’s Dilemma*, 25.



## 19th Century

Spain's control in Louisiana came to an end in October 1802 when King Charles IV signed a decree returning the territory to France. Within six months, Napoleon decided to sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States.<sup>23</sup> By then New Orleans had been victim of another major fire<sup>24</sup> and the first of many Yellow Fever outbreaks.<sup>25</sup> The population in 1803 when the U.S. makes the Louisiana Purchase was 8,056 people and was 50% black and 50% non-black.<sup>26</sup> Two years later in 1805, New Orleans was officially made a municipality. The government was established, and boundaries were set for the city.<sup>27</sup>



Battle of New Orleans, published 1890. Credit: Library of Congress <https://lccn.loc.gov/96513344>

<sup>23</sup> Monticello. (<https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/louisiana-purchase> : accessed 6 November 2016), "Louisiana Purchase."

<sup>24</sup> Charles Chamberlain and Lo Fabor, "Spanish Colonial Louisiana," Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, *KnowLA* (<http://www.knowla.org/entry/773/> : accessed 3 November 2016).

<sup>25</sup> Laura D. Kelley, "Yellow Fever," Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, *KnowLA* (<http://www.knowla.org/entry/766/> : accessed 3 November 2016).

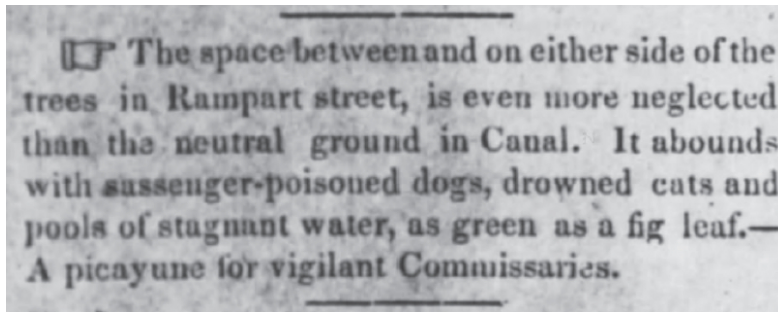
<sup>26</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 26 and insert "New Orleans Population by Race, 1721-2007."

<sup>27</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 27.



New Orleans took a prominent place in the War of 1812 when, in January of 1815, Major General Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans and was hailed as a national hero. His statue stands in Jackson Square, his namesake.<sup>28</sup>

For the duration of the nineteenth century, New Orleans struggled with public health issues due to sanitation problems. Lack of proper drainage and practices such as dumping sewage along public streets led to vile environs as well as outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and Yellow Fever. A notice in the *Times-Picayune* on Tuesday, 21 May 1839, stated, “The space between and on either side of the



*The Times-Picayune*, 21 May 1839, p. 2, col. 1; image copy, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/25549930> : accessed 21 Sept 2015).

trees in Rampart street, is even more neglected than the neutral ground<sup>29</sup> in Canal. It abounds with susseuger-poisoned dogs, drowned cats and pools of stagnant water, green as a fig leaf.”<sup>30</sup> “Susseuger-poisoned” likely refers to the practice of feeding stray dogs poisoned sausages, a method for preventing the spread of rabies. The animals were not collected after they died, contributing to the sanitation problems of the city.<sup>31</sup>

According to a study of the New Orleans Drainage System commissioned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1999, in the 1830’s and 1840’s “[f]ecal matter was put in shallow, open pits or cesspools with porous bottoms. These cesspools overflowed during heavy rains and floods, leaving fecal matter in the yards and streets. Occasionally, these pits were partially emptied out by sanitary excavating companies that dumped the contents into the river below the city limits. The pits smelled especially bad after these cleanings. All other liquid household wastes ended up in the gutters, which became clogged with excrement and other filth. The stagnant waters of the gutters became covered with green slime in the hot summer months.”<sup>32</sup>

The Yellow Fever epidemics of 1853 and 1854, “the first of which killed almost 9,000 residents of New Orleans and the second another 2,500, were directly responsible for the creation of the

<sup>28</sup> America’s Story, “War of 1812 and the Battle of New Orleans,” Library of Congress ([http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/jackson/aa\\_jackson\\_icon\\_1.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/jackson/aa_jackson_icon_1.html) : accessed 3 November 2016).

<sup>29</sup> Neutral ground is the area more commonly known as a median in a road.

<sup>30</sup> *The Times-Picayune*, 21 May 1839, p. 2, col. 1; image copy, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/25549930> : accessed 21 Sept 2015).

<sup>31</sup> John Duffy. *The Sanitarians: A History of American Public Health* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1990), p. 87; digital images, *Google Books*. <http://books.google.com> : accessed 20 November 2016.

<sup>32</sup> Benjamin D. Maygarden, Jill-Karen Yakubik, Ellen Weiss, Chester Peyronnin, and Kenneth R. Jones (Earth Search, Inc., New Orleans, Louisiana), “National Register Evaluation of New Orleans Drainage System, Orleans Parish, Louisiana,” p. 10; November 1999. Report commissioned by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, (<http://www.dtic.mil/docs/citations/ADA374262> : accessed 3 November 2016).

Louisiana State Board of Health, the first such agency in the United States.”<sup>33</sup> Lack of sanitation continued to contribute negatively to the living conditions in and around New Orleans into the 20th century.

Poverty, disease, and immigration combined to create a rising number of orphaned and indigent youth in New Orleans during the 19th century. It was not unheard of for children whose parents had died on the journey to arrive in port as orphans, or to be made orphans shortly after arrival due to epidemics of yellow fever and cholera. To further complicate matters, these immigrant children often did not speak English.<sup>34</sup>

By 1916 there were 21 private agencies, usually church-based, established to deal with the indigent orphan problem.<sup>35</sup> Typically, adolescents still residing in these establishments were placed out as apprentices or were indentured, probably with two-fold reasoning: the orphanages were perpetually underfunded, and the children needed to learn some kind of a trade to be able to eventually support themselves.<sup>36</sup>

19th century industry was centered on cotton, with an entire district growing up around the intersection of Gravier and Carondelet, the area now known as the Central Business District.<sup>37</sup> Public markets grew more popular, with many new markets opening and existing markets expanding. By 1911 there were thirty-four public markets. Large exchange hotels opened and in 1840 the city ranked third in size in the nation with a population of over one hundred thousand before permanently declining



Cotton Exchange between 1890 and 1901, New Orleans. Credit: Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/item/det1994003826/PP/>

<sup>33</sup> John Duffy, PhD, “Social Impact of Disease in the Late Nineteenth Century,” *Journal of Urban Health : Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine* 47:7 (July 1971): 805; image copy, U.S. National Library of Medicine. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1749910/> : accessed 2 November 2016).

<sup>34</sup> Gouaux, Edna S. “A Study of the Waldo Burton Memorial Boys’ Home” (Masters diss., Tulane University, 1943), 10.

<sup>35</sup> Priscilla Ferguson Clement, “Children and Charity: Orphanages in New Orleans, 1817-1914.” *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* 27:4 (1986): 337-51, especially 340; image copy, JSTOR. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4232548> : accessed 9 November 2016).

<sup>36</sup> Clement, “Children and Charity: Orphanages in New Orleans, 1817-1914,” 348.

<sup>37</sup> Richard Campanella, *Lost New Orleans* (London: Pavillion Books, 2015), 29.

in the rankings.<sup>38</sup>

In 1861 Louisiana seceded from the Union<sup>39</sup> and by 1862 New Orleans had fallen to Union forces and was occupied for the rest of the Civil War.<sup>40</sup> Following Lee's surrender in 1865, the country got back to the business of industrial growth. Railroad expansion connected New Orleans to easterly cities by land, changing the city's orientation from a river-centric layout to a land-centric landscape along the railroad path.<sup>41</sup>



New Orleans Cotton Exposition, Horticultural Hall, 1884. Credit: Library of Congress  
<https://www.loc.gov/item/93503154/>

In 1884, the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition was held at what is now Audubon Park near Tulane University. The exposition failed commercially but brought enough publicity to substantially increase manufacturing in New Orleans over the next decade.<sup>42</sup>

The population of New Orleans continued to rise and by the end of the nineteenth century there were 287,104 people living in New Orleans, 27% of them black and 73% non-black.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 32-33.

<sup>39</sup> *Civil War Trust*. (<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/primarysources/secessionacts.html#LOUISIANA> : accessed 2 November 2016), "Secession Acts of the Thirteen Confederate States: Louisiana."

<sup>40</sup> *Civil War Trust*. (<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/david-farragut.html> : accessed 2 November 2016), "David G. Farragut."

<sup>41</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 38.

<sup>42</sup> Jim Fraiser, *The Garden District of New Orleans* (n.p.: University Press of Mississippi, 2012), 212; digital images, *Google Books*. (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 2 November 2016).

<sup>43</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, insert "New Orleans Population by Race, 1721-2007."

## 20th Century

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From 1896 to 1915, a well-researched and modern drainage system was installed in the city, improving drainage and sanitation.<sup>44</sup> Also in the early twentieth century, the city's great musical reputation began to spread and Faubourg Tremé became known more widely as the birthplace of jazz.<sup>45</sup> Tremé's importance in the music world can only be understood in relation to its roots during the 18th and 19th centuries as a prosperous community of free blacks, or *gens de couleur libre*. The community was unique in America in its composition and socio-economic status until the withdrawal of Union troops after the Civil War. In addition to the antebellum freedom in Tremé, its residents had vastly more freedom than other free blacks in the south after the war due to the federal occupation. The withdrawal of Union troops in 1877 ended this unique freedom and prosperity by allowing southern white supremacists to remove freedoms from both formerly enslaved blacks and *gens de couleur libre*.

It was in this context in 1892 that Tremé shoemaker<sup>46</sup> Homer Plessy sat in a whites-only train car in protest of Jim Crow laws.<sup>47</sup> In 1896, the Supreme Court verdict in *Plessy vs. Ferguson* was rendered, establishing the infamous "separate but equal" social structure of segregation as the norm for the new century. The devastating verdict was part of the discontent that was expressed in the music in Tremé, an area that eventually was the scene of civil rights struggles later in the twentieth century.<sup>48</sup>

As the century progressed the city expanded outward, due in part to the revised drainage system allowing developments where they were previously impossible. Many of these developments were deeded as white-only, changing the face of the city's population distribution as whites move from the heart of the city and blacks stay. This trend continued as housing opened up in the city and was turned into tenement housing, and whites continued to head for the suburbs for a variety of reasons. In his article "An Ethnic Geography of New Orleans," Richard Campanella writes, "'Push factors' [for whites departing to the suburbs] included resistance to school integration, crime rates, the decline of public schools, and urban decay; 'pull factors' included better school districts, safety, suburban life-styles, less congestion, and lower costs of living."<sup>49</sup>

The mid-century demolition of historically valuable but depressed Tremé neighborhoods to make

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<sup>44</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 43.

<sup>45</sup> *Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans* (<http://www.tremedoc.com> : accessed 2 November 2016).

<sup>46</sup> Katy Reckdahl, "Plessy and Ferguson unveil plaque today marking their ancestors' actions," *The Times-Picayune*, 11 February 2009 updated 6 October 2009, HTML edition, web archives ([http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/02/plessy\\_vs\\_ferguson\\_photo.html](http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/02/plessy_vs_ferguson_photo.html) : accessed 20 November 2016), para. 3.

<sup>47</sup> "The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow," *PBS.org* ([http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories\\_events\\_plessy.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_plessy.html) : accessed 6 November 2016).

<sup>48</sup> *Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans*.

<sup>49</sup> Richard Campanella, "An Ethnic Geography of New Orleans," *The Journal of American History*, Organization of American Historians in association with the History Cooperative (<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/jah/94.3/campanella.html> : accessed 18 September 2010), 94:3, "Twentieth-Century Ethnic Geographies" para. 3; web page archived at WayBack Machine (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100918045341/http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/jah/94.3/campanella.html> : accessed 2 November 2016), excerpt used with author's permission.



way for a cultural center was poorly implemented and highly controversial. It resulted in the loss of many historically significant Creole-style properties; according to architectural experts Roulhac Toledano and Mary Louise Christovich, the decaying but architecturally and historically significant suburb is considered to be a slum by the City Planning Commission, who fail to notice that their revitalization plan will raze almost two centuries of New Orleans “living history.” Unlike similar homes in the French Quarter that were preserved under the National Register, properties in Tremé were leveled.<sup>50</sup>



Tremé Jazz Funeral, 2011. Credit: [Derek Bridges on Flickr](#) under [CC by 2.0](#)

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<sup>50</sup> Roulhac Toledano and Mary Louise Christovich, *New Orleans Architecture Vol VI: Faubourg Tremé and the Bayou Road* (Gretna, Louisiana: Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., 1980), 66.

## 21st Century



Barber Shop located in Ninth Ward, New Orleans, Louisiana, damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. 2006. Credit: Carol M. Highsmith, photographer. Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010630024/>

The defining event of the new century for New Orleans came in the form of Hurricane Katrina and the failure of the levees. By Sunday, 27 August 2005, it was clear that the storm, now a Category 5 hurricane, was going to hit New Orleans dead on. The mayor called for a mandatory evacuation, but by then it was too late for many. Lack of transportation and funds, infirmity, and the lateness of the order meant thousands did not leave.<sup>51</sup>

According to Richard Campanella, "... at 7:45 a.m., a catastrophic failure on the eastern side of the Industrial Canal sent a torrent of water from a level of fourteen feet above sea level into adjacent blocks of the Lower Ninth Ward that lay as low as four feet below sea level. The violent rapids joined with other waters simultaneously overtopping the rear levee from the north, and a third source entering from the east via Bayou Bienvenue. By 8:30 a.m., nearly the entire Lower Ninth Ward of Orleans Parish plus Arabi, Chalmette, and Metairie in adjacent St. Bernard Parish had drowned at a pace of ten feet of water within twenty minutes. Residents perished by the score."<sup>52</sup>

The situation continued to worsen over the next day as the water began to rise and catch unawares the residents who believed journalists who stated on Monday that the worst was over. Campanella continues, "Crises begin to multiply and intensify; what started as a disaster that turned into a catastrophe was now starting to look like an apocalypse. Bandits and authorities engaged in shoot-outs from streets and rooftops. Gas bubbled up from floodwaters and burned like a scene in hell. Fires broke out citywide, which firefighters could neither reach nor douse."<sup>53</sup>

On the heels of Katrina came Hurricane Rita, which breeched some levees again and re-flooded the Lower Ninth Ward. The I-10 Twin Span Bridge over Lake Pontchartrain, an east-west artery through

<sup>51</sup> Gordon Russell, "Nagin orders first-ever mandatory evacuation of New Orleans," *The Times-Picayune*, 28 August 2005 updated 13 August 2010, HTML edition, archived ([http://www.nola.com/katrina/index.ssf/2005/08/nagin\\_orders\\_first-ever\\_mandatory\\_evacuation\\_of\\_new\\_orleans.html](http://www.nola.com/katrina/index.ssf/2005/08/nagin_orders_first-ever_mandatory_evacuation_of_new_orleans.html)) : accessed 2 November 2016).

<sup>52</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 331-332, excerpt used with author's permission

<sup>53</sup> Campanella, *Bienville's Dilemma*, 333-334, excerpt used with author's permission



New Orleans, remained closed for two months after severe damage from Katrina in August.<sup>54</sup> Assessment and restoration was a chaotic and time-consuming process, FEMA faced harsh and widespread criticism for its poor response,<sup>55</sup> and a decade after the storm evidence of the devastation still remains in New Orleans in general and the Lower Ninth Ward in particular.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Campanella, Catherine, *Today in New Orleans History*. (<http://www.neworleanspast.com/todayinneworleanshistory/> : accessed 2 November 2016), "October 10."

<sup>55</sup> Anna Shoup, "PBS NewsHour: FEMA Faces Intense Scrutiny," *PBS.org*. 5 September 2005. ([http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/government\\_programs-july-dec05-fema\\_09-09/](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/government_programs-july-dec05-fema_09-09/) : accessed 2 November 2016).

<sup>56</sup> Alan Taylor, "New Orleans, 10 Years After Katrina," *The Atlantic*. 25 August 2015. (<http://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2015/08/new-orleans-10-years-after-katrina/402277/> : accessed 2 November 2016).

# Background for Genealogists

## European Influence

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As noted in “A Brief History of New Orleans,” the lower Mississippi Valley Delta was first a French settlement, was ceded to the Spanish, returned to French hands, and was eventually purchased by the United States as the Louisiana Territory. This frequent change of hands along with the strong Catholic presence means that early records for New Orleans might be in any number of formats or languages.

In 1804, the original Louisiana territory was divided into the territory of Orleans (the area below the 33rd parallel which became Louisiana) and the territory of Louisiana (the area above the 33rd parallel). Orleans was divided into twelve counties. When the dust settled after the division into two territories, Congress passed an act in 1805 related to land ownership. The basic provisions of the act were to grant individuals the right to legally own land, to set up a system where French, Spanish, and British colonists would prove ownership of lands they claimed to own, and to survey the Orleans Territory and establish a way for public lands to be divided and measured.<sup>57</sup> These early land claims can provide valuable documentation to genealogists. In 1807 Orleans was redistricted to change those twelve counties into nineteen parishes.<sup>58</sup>

Most early records are church records, as the Catholic Church was recording sacramental and cemetery records before local or state records were required. Unlike other areas of Louisiana, however, Orleans Parish began recording vital records early in its history. Probate records can be found for the early 19th century and successions are a valuable source of not just inventories and probate proceedings, but also death certificates, tutorship information (equivalent to guardianship in other states), family meeting information, and property descriptions. Many of these records are online, and many others can be ordered from the Family History Center. Notarial records can add to the information found in successions as New Orleans followed French civil law practices with civil law notaries.

Because of the detailed records, a death certificate in New Orleans can contain a wealth of information. This writer learned not just the death date, time, and place for her ancestor, but the occupation, parentage, immigration year, previous residence, and occupation at previous residence from an 1841 New Orleans death certificate.

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<sup>57</sup> Sharon Sholars Brown, C.G., “Louisiana,” Alice Eichholtz, Ph.D., C.G., ed., *Ancestry’s Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1989), 230-243, particularly 236.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

## Record Loss & Miscellaneous

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Flooding and aboveground burials due to a high water table combined with vandalism and weathering mean that many cemeteries have had damage. Church records are incomplete, but researchers can often rely on the WPA cemetery project to fill in gaps. This indexing project is on microfilm held at The Historic New Orleans Collection and some records are also available at the NOPL. Additionally, the Survey of Historic New Orleans Cemeteries sponsored jointly by THNOC and Save Our Cemeteries “includes inscriptions, photographs, general descriptions, and condition reports of tombs in nine historic New Orleans cemeteries: St. Louis I & II, Lafayette I & II, St. Joseph I & II, Cypress Grove, Odd Fellows Rest, and Greenwood.”<sup>59</sup>

Few early tax records survive,<sup>60</sup> but property tax assessment rolls from 1857-1975 can be found at the City Archives.<sup>61</sup> In 1894, the house numbering system that had been in place since 1852 was replaced with a more logical system based on block increments. Guides to the house number changes as well as street changes can be found on the NOPL website at <http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/inv/opp.htm>.<sup>62</sup>

Louisiana is the only state that is divided into parishes rather than counties. New Orleans is in Orleans Parish, and many online repositories have records for Orleans Parish even when they have records for no other Louisiana parishes.

The single most useful resource in terms of finding aids and official record availability is the New Orleans Public Library’s online “Guide to Genealogical Material in the New Orleans Public Library’s Louisiana Division & City Archives”:  
<http://nutrias.org/guides/genguide/gguide4.htm>

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<sup>59</sup> “Manuscript Collections,” *The Historic New Orleans Collection* ([http://www.hnoc.org/collections/manuscript\\_collections.html](http://www.hnoc.org/collections/manuscript_collections.html) : accessed 7 November 2016).

<sup>60</sup> Brown, “Louisiana,” 237.

<sup>61</sup> *New Orleans Public Library*, (<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/inv/opp.htm> accessed 8 November 2016), “Orleans Parish: Finding Aids for the Records of Orleans Parish Government.”

<sup>62</sup> *New Orleans Public Library: Louisiana Division* (<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/info/louinfo/numberchanges/numberchanges.htm> : accessed 2 November 2016), “Alphabetical and Numerical Index of Changes in Street Names and Numbers, Old and New, 1852 to Current Date [1938].”

# New Orleans Repositories

## New Orleans Public Library / City Archives

### Hours

Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Contact

219 Loyola Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 596-2610

<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/spec/speclist.htm>  
[archivist@nolalibrary.org](mailto:archivist@nolalibrary.org)

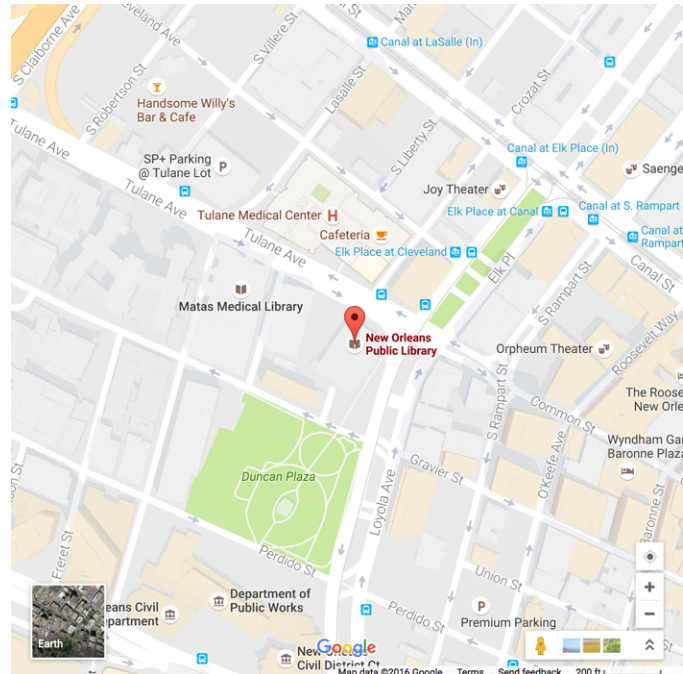
### Fees & Limits

Fees vary depending on the resource. A schedule of fees can be found here:  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/info/louinfo/louinfo2.htm>

Ordering obituaries costs \$2.00 per obituary/biographical reference with a limit of 5 in one request; if searching is required that is an additional \$3.00. They cannot be ordered online. Researchers are encouraged to check other repositories before ordering from NOPL. Information for ordering is here: <http://nutrias.org/~nopl/obits/orderingobits.htm><sup>63</sup>

Search and copy services are available for documents unique to the archive under the policies found here (criminal court records will not be searched and are available for research in house only<sup>64</sup>): <http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/info/louinfo/louinfo2.htm>

The charges for copy services by mail for court records are \$2/page plus a \$3 search fee, so it behooves the researcher to check to see if the microfilm can be ordered at a local Family History Center rather than paying for copies by mail. Since some probate files are hundreds of pages, ordering copies through NOPL is cost-prohibitive. Many probate records from the archive are available online through Ancestry (indexed) and FamilySearch (not indexed); see the Online Records section of this document for links. The remaining records that have been filmed are available through



New Orleans Public Library / City Archives.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/QaZGuzA8RSP2> Credit: Google Maps

<sup>63</sup> New Orleans Public Library, (<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/obits/orderingobits.htm> : accessed 6 November 2016), "Ordering Obituaries or Biographies Referenced in the Index."

<sup>64</sup> New Orleans Public Library, ( <http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/courts.htm> : accessed 6 November 2016), "Ordering Court Records By Mail."

FamilySearch's mail order program to a FHC. Birth, marriage, and death certificates are available through the State Archive website for a nominal fee (see Louisiana State Archive for links to indexes).

### License & Copyright Policy

<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/photos/repro.htm>

### Facility

Microfilm machines in the genealogy area that are open to the public did not have USB access as of June 2015 (library staff have access to machines with USB ports) but large format copiers are attached to some machines for use (for a fee; bring cash). The circulation desk can provide change.

### Collections

The areas of interest to genealogists are almost exclusively part of the NOPL Louisiana Division, housed on the third floor of the main branch (Loyola Avenue). Most books, state and city documents, and microfilms are open stack but non-circulating. Use of archived original materials from the division requires registration; appointments are advisable.<sup>65</sup>

From the website:

“The Louisiana Division is a reference division which collects resources relating to the study of Louisiana and its citizens and to the city of New Orleans and New Orleanians. Other areas of concentration are the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico, and the South. Included within the Division's collections are books by or about Louisianians; city, regional, and state documents; manuscripts, maps, newspapers, periodicals, microfilms, photographs, slides, motion pictures, sound recordings, video tapes, postcards, and ephemera of every sort.

“The Louisiana Division also houses the City Archives, the official repository for the records of New Orleans municipal government (1769-present), and holds on deposit the pre-1927 records of the civil courts and the pre-1932 records of the criminal courts of Orleans Parish.”<sup>66</sup>

*Special collections:* Rare Vertical File, Carnival Collection, Louisiana Photograph Collection, Map Collection (including Sanborn Maps for 1885-1994), Menu Collection, Postcard Collection, Manuscript Collection, Rare Book Collection

### Notes

Most materials of genealogical value are available on microfilm with public access. Original materials are closed-stack and the archivist should be contacted before visiting to ensure availability, as some records require 24-hour humidification before they can be accessed.<sup>67</sup> The library has an excellent website with detailed finding aids that should be consulted before visiting (see Finding Aids),

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<sup>65</sup> *New Orleans Public Library* <http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/info/louinfo/louinfo1.htm> : accessed 6 November 2016), “General Information about the Louisiana Division/City Archives.”

<sup>66</sup> *New Orleans Public Library: Louisiana Division* (<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/spec/specist.htm> : accessed 6 November 2016).

<sup>67</sup> *New Orleans Public Library*, (<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/courtsystem.htm> : accessed 6 November 2016), “A Brief Explanation of the Orleans Parish Civil & Criminal Court System, 1804-1926.”

particularly the explanation of the court system as it can save countless hours of searching for information in the wrong district.

The Court of Probates records for 1804-1846 and the Second District Court records for 1846-1880 have been digitized and are becoming available at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) (see Online Resources in this document).<sup>68</sup> Civil courts were comprised of nine numbered districts after 1846. Each district represented a type of civil matter rather than a geographical district, and most, but not all, probates were filed in the Second District Court after the Court of Probates was discontinued in 1846. For the period from 1847 to 1853, some probates were filed in other district courts. After 1853, the following designations were made:

- First District Court - Criminal Jurisdiction
- Second District Court - Probate Matters
- Third District Court - Family Matters
- Fourth/Fifth District Court - General Civil Jurisdiction
- Sixth District Court - Cases Pending in the City of Lafayette/General Civil Jurisdiction
- Seventh District Court - Possibly shared Family Matters with Third District Court
- Eighth District Court - Disputed Election Cases during the Reconstruction
- Superior District Court - Tax-related Cases <sup>69</sup>

In 1880, a new single court, the Civil District Court, replaced all civil courts.<sup>70</sup>

Land records are available, including Sanborn Maps. “The Sanborn maps for New Orleans (and other Louisiana towns and cities) are also available on microfilm and online for in- house users through the Louisiana Library Connection Databases. NOPL library card holders may also access the online version remotely.”<sup>71</sup>

## ***Finding Aids***

An online version of the comprehensive NOPL *Guide to Genealogical Materials* is available here: <http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/guides/genguide/gguide4.htm>

A Brief Explanation of the Orleans Parish Civil & Criminal Court System, 1804-1926:

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<sup>68</sup> *New Orleans Public Library*, (<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/courts.htm> : accessed 6 November 2016), “Orleans Parish Civil and Criminal Courts: Finding Aids, Inventories and Indexes.”

<sup>69</sup> *FamilySearch.org*, ([https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Louisiana\\_Orleans\\_Court\\_Records\\_\(FamilySearch\\_Historical\\_Records\)](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Louisiana_Orleans_Court_Records_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records)) : accessed 6 November 2016), FamilySearch Wiki, “Louisiana, Orleans Court Records (FamilySearch Historical Records).”

<sup>70</sup> *New Orleans Public Library*, “A Brief Explanation of the Orleans Parish Civil & Criminal Court System, 1804-1926.”

<sup>71</sup> *New Orleans Public Library*, “Land Records,” *Guide To Genealogical Materials in the New Orleans Public Library’s Louisiana Division & City Archives*, HTML edition, (<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/guides/genguide/landrecords.htm> : accessed 5 November 2016).



<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/courtsystem.htm>

Manuscript collections listing:

<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/mss/mss.htm>

Orleans Parish Civil and Criminal Courts (includes probate; finding aids include some indexing):

<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/courts.htm>

Obituary index:

<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/obits/obits.htm>

Records of New Orleans Municipal Government:

<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/invlist.htm>

Records of Orleans Parish Government:

<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/opp.htm>

Sanborn Map Index:

<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/info/louinfo/sanbornindex/sanbornindex.htm>

# Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives

## Hours

The archive does not grant access to genealogy researchers.

## Contact

Office of Archives and Records  
Archdiocese of New Orleans  
7887 Walmsley Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70125  
Phone: 504-861-6241  
Fax: 504-866-2906

<http://archives.arch-no.org>  
[archives@archdiocese-no.org](mailto:archives@archdiocese-no.org)

## Fees & Limits

Each request is \$12 regardless of results; up to 4 requests may be submitted at a time.

Records request form: [http://archives.arch-no.org/ckeditor\\_assets/attachments/216/genealogy\\_request\\_form.pdf](http://archives.arch-no.org/ckeditor_assets/attachments/216/genealogy_request_form.pdf)

## License & Copyright Policy

<http://archives.arch-no.org/historical-research>

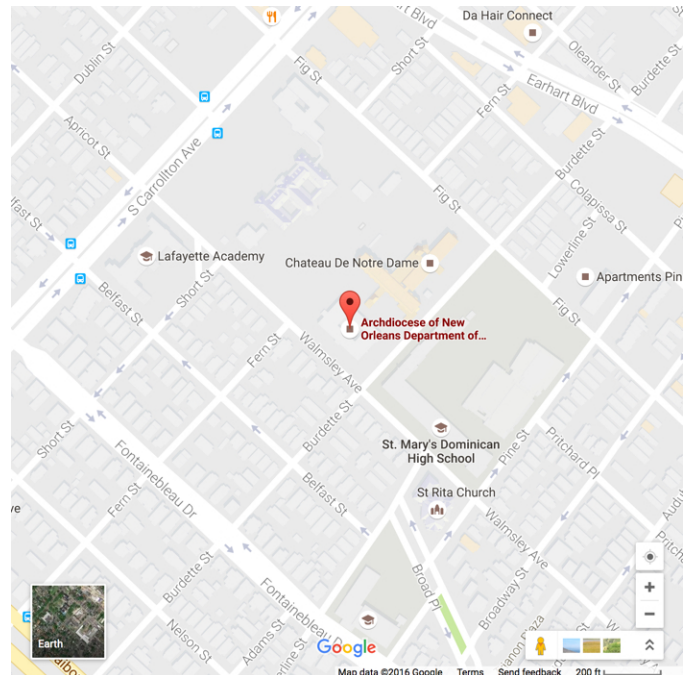
Policy for online images: “Reproduction or reuse of the images/photographs presented in the Archdiocese of New Orleans/Archives website is prohibited without the permission of the Office of Archives and Records, Archdiocese of New Orleans.”<sup>72</sup>

## Collections

The Archdiocese holds all sacramental registers that end prior to 1930 (exception: early 20th-century registers that also include later entries, which are held by individual church parishes).

## Notes

Policy for genealogy requests: “In order to ensure continued preservation of the sacramental registers held at the Archdiocesan Archives, these records are unavailable to those engaged in genealogical studies or family research. All requests for individual sacramental and cemetery records are handled by mail according to the procedures outlined [at <http://archives.arch-no.org/>]



Office of Archives and Records, Archdiocese of New Orleans.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/ucDJy919o6G2> Credit: Google Maps

<sup>72</sup> Archdiocese of New Orleans: Office of Archives and Records, (<http://archives.arch-no.org> : accessed 6 November 2016), “Digitized Sacramental Records in the Archives.”

genealogy].”<sup>73</sup>

The genealogist on staff who does the lookup requests returns helpful research notes when records are not found. The notes might contain information about which books were searched, record loss, changes in parish, etc.

A large set of unindexed records from the 17th and early 18th centuries, most from St. Louis Cathedral, are available online as image copies at <http://archives.arch-no.org/sfpc>. Because of the changes in government during the colonial period (French, Spanish, and English), it is particularly important to consult the notes provided with the digitized records for explanations of the variations found in the registers due to the changing languages and notations.

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<sup>73</sup> *Archdiocese of New Orleans: Office of Archives and Records*, “Genealogy.”

# Louisiana Research Collection at Howard-Tilton Library (Tulane)

## Hours

Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Contact

The Louisiana Research Collection  
Jones Hall Room 202, Tulane University  
6801 Freret Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118  
(504) 865-5685

<http://larc.tulane.edu/>  
[LaRC@tulane.edu](mailto:LaRC@tulane.edu)

## Fees & Limits

<http://larc.tulane.edu/services/reprographic-policies>

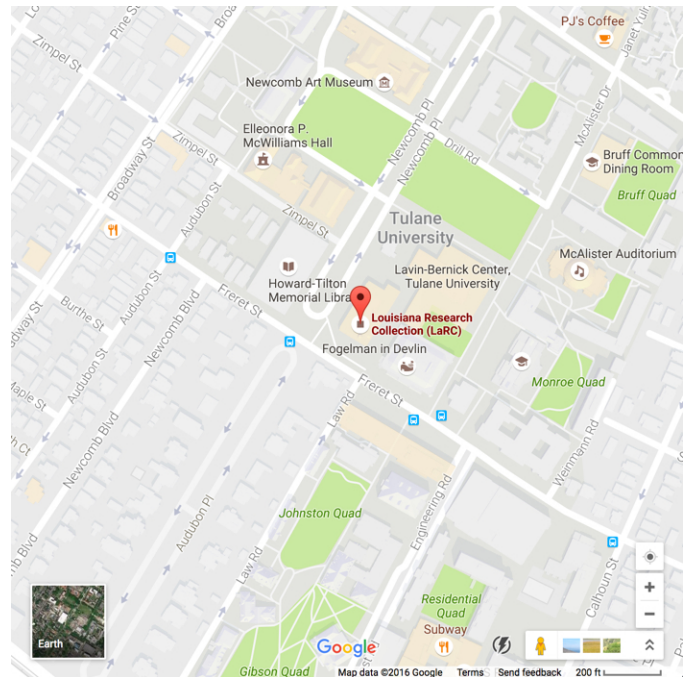
## License & Copyright Policy

<http://larc.tulane.edu/services/publication-permission>

## Collections

With over one thousand manuscript collections related to New Orleans, the Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC) at Tulane is one of the most valuable archives to New Orleans genealogists. Although there are a few digitized collections (see Online Resources), most collections have not been digitized. Select relevant collections are listed below; for the full list of collections, visit here: <http://specialcollections.tulane.edu/archon/index.php?p=collections/classifications&id=1>

- Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana records, 1805-1998
- First German Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans records, 1838-1902
- Jewish Children's Home records, 1870-1981
- Waldo Burton Memorial Boys' Home / Asylum for the Relief of Destitute Orphan Boys records, 1823-1965
- Poydras Home records, 1816-1960
- Land surveys and applications, 1785-1835
- Kuntz collection: Municipal records, 1805-1903
- New Orleans municipal records, 1782-1925
- Louisiana Historical Association collection, 1773-1985
- New Orleans Tax Assessment Books, 1856-1891
- Slavery documents collection, 1758-1865
- French and Spanish colonial records (various collections)



LaRC, Howard-Tilton Library, Tulane University.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/rKUKbGCMJr22> Credit: Google Maps

## Notes

Archives and manuscript collections are closed-stack; four items can be requested at a time. It takes 10-20 minutes for items to be brought from the archive depending on staffing. The LaRC website has a form to pre-order collections; use of this form is requested by the archive, but items may not always be pulled in advance.

No personal scanners are allowed but digital cameras (including cell phones) with no flash are permitted. The reading room has a self-service overhead scanner with a USB as well as email capability; scanning time is limited to fifteen minutes at a time if others are waiting.

The reading room has specific policies about where to sit (not all tables have access to outlets): [http://larc.tulane.edu/sites/default/files/larc/documents/reading\\_room.pdf](http://larc.tulane.edu/sites/default/files/larc/documents/reading_room.pdf)

Lockers are available for items not allowed in the reading room. Having a laptop or tablet in the reading room to do lookups in the collections catalog is imperative for ordering materials from the archive. Extensive scope and contents descriptions are on the LaRC website to help the researcher order the correct material. Helpful information to read before visiting is here: <http://larc.tulane.edu/services/reference>

Parking is limited in the Tulane area. Street spaces are metered (exact change only) and other parking requires a university pass. Guess passes are available for \$5/day from the Traffic Office in Diboll Center. The St. Charles Streetcar stops directly in front of Tulane across from Audubon Park a few minutes walk from the library.

# The Historic New Orleans Collection

## Hours

Tuesday-Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The center is typically closed New Year's Eve; New Year's Day; Mardi Gras days (Saturday, Monday and Tuesday); Good Friday; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; Christmas Eve; Christmas Day

## Contact

The Historic New Orleans Collection  
410 Chartres Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
504-523-4662

<http://www.hnoc.org/>  
[wrc@hnoc.org](mailto:wrc@hnoc.org)

## Fees & Limits

<http://www.hnoc.org/collections/reproductions.html>

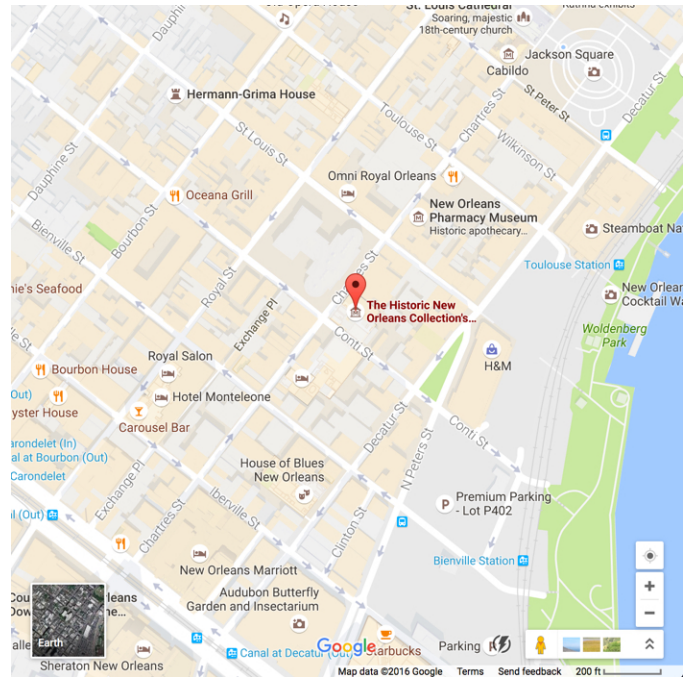
## License & Copyright Policy

<http://www.hnoc.org/collections/reproductions.html>

## Collections

THNOC holdings are quite large and include valuable and rare collections. Many rare books, maps, photographs, and artwork are held by the center. Microform holdings include the following and more:

- NOLA city directories
- Louisiana records from the U. S. National Archives including WPA records
- Louisiana materials from the French National Archives
- Louisiana materials from the General Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain (AGI) and the Cuban National Archives
- Louisiana materials from the National Archive of the United Kingdom and other British archives and libraries
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and other selected atlases
- New Orleans newspapers
- Historic American Buildings Survey
- National Register of Historic Places



The Historic New Orleans Collection.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/jv3GX7AdvR2> Credit: Google Maps



Select Visual Collections (prints, maps, & photos) of interest to genealogists by topic:

- Advertisements
- Architecture
- Battle of New Orleans
- Blacks / Afro-Americans
- Cemeteries
- Churches and Clergy
- City Views and Street Scenes
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- Colonial History
- Disasters
- Festivals
- Industry and Agriculture
- Jackson Square
- Jazz and Storyville
- Levee Scenes
- Maps
- Markets and Vendors
- Military
- Money
- People
- Plantations
- Portraits
- River Life
- Transportation
- West End and Spanish Fort

There is an online guide to collections here: [http://www.hnoc.org/collections/research\\_subjects.html](http://www.hnoc.org/collections/research_subjects.html)

And several research guides here (left column): <http://www.hnoc.org/collections/research-tools.html>

Detailed descriptions of manuscript collections can be downloaded here: [http://www.hnoc.org/collections/manuscript\\_updates.html](http://www.hnoc.org/collections/manuscript_updates.html)

## Notes

Parking is scarce in the area of the Williams Research Center. Researchers should plan to take public transportation or expect to pay high hourly rates and potentially have to use valet parking. Metered parking is available but in short supply and has a 2-hour limit.

The center has a beautiful, large reading room equipped with plenty of research space, electrical outlets, and modern microform machines with USB ports. Printers are also connected to microform machines (\$.25/copy). 4GB USB sticks are available for sale in the reading room.

Access to collections is limited to one item, folder, or microfilm at a time, but the staff will retrieve extras for you and hold them at the desk. Only pencils (no ink), laptops, USB sticks, paper, and phones (you may not use them for calls in the reading room) are allowed in the room. Cameras are not permitted. Outerwear, bags, and other personal items can be stored in the lockers provided.

Visitors are expected to sign in upon arriving and must complete a digital guide to researching at the archive before they are allowed access to the materials. The staff is quite helpful. In addition to the reading room, the center has a downstairs gallery that usually has an exhibition.

Reading Room guidelines: [http://www.hnoc.org/collections/research\\_center\\_guidelines.html](http://www.hnoc.org/collections/research_center_guidelines.html)

# Notarial Archives

## Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Contact

Notarial Archives  
1340 Poydras Street, Suite 360  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112  
Phone: (504)407-0106

<http://www.orleanscivilclerk.com/research.htm>  
[civilclerkresearchctr@orleanscdc.com](mailto:civilclerkresearchctr@orleanscdc.com)

## Fees & Limits

Document copies:

- Legal-size black-and-white copies: \$2 per page.
- Certifications: \$30 per document, in addition to copy charges.

Architectural drawing copies:

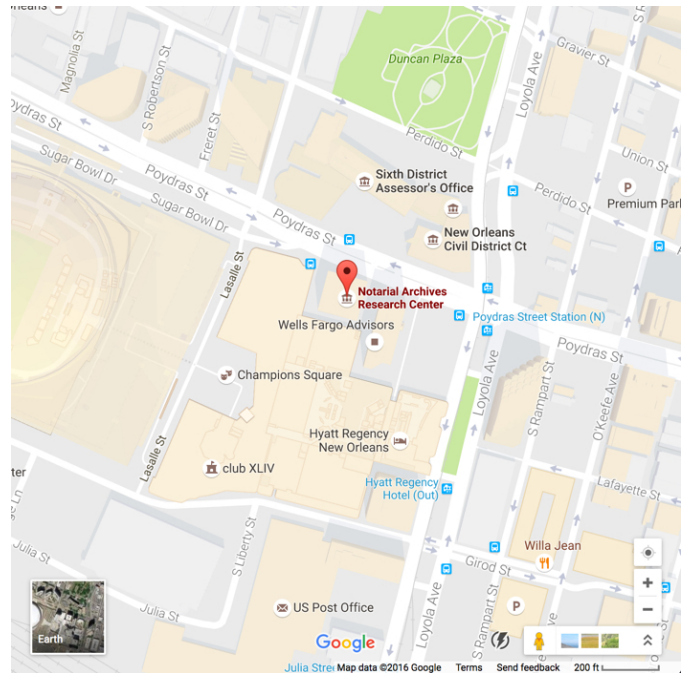
- 8.5 inches x 11 inches unmounted: \$15
- 11 inches x 14 inches unmounted: \$25
- 13 inches x 19 inches unmounted: \$35
- Up to 44 inches (height) image on 48" x 32" paper unmounted: \$250
- Up to 44 inches (height) image on 48" x 32" paper mounted: \$350

## License & Copyright Policy

None listed

## Collections

The Notarial Archives houses the volumes of notarial records dating from 1735 until July 1970 (when notaries began archiving their own records). Records are sorted by notary then date, with bound annual indexes to use as a finding aid. Records include minutes from notarial acts as well as site surveys and beautifully rendered 19th century watercolor lot surveys (<http://www.orleanscivilclerk.com/planbook.htm>) for some properties.



Notarial Archives.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/Ff3Ztzvk8VR2> Credit: Google Maps

### Civil Law Notarial Acts include:

- Sales or mortgages of real property
- Wills
- Marriage contracts
- Building contracts
- Powers of attorney
- Individual declarations
- Notes from estate inventories, family meetings, and meetings of creditors
- Acts of partnership
- Corporate charters
- Maritime bonds
- Marine or ship captains' protests
- Slave sales and emancipations<sup>74</sup>

### The archive also contains:

- Indexes of family records (1770-1840)
- A building-contract index (1767-1970)
- A corporate-charter index (1852-1904)

“While there is no comprehensive index to the records, a companion office to the Notarial Archives, the Conveyance Division, maintains party-name indexes to property transfers back to 1827. The Conveyance indexes are annual, and are divided into ‘Vendor (seller)’ and ‘Purchaser.’ The Conveyance indexes are extremely useful in locating notaries essential data in accessing notarial records created before August 1970.”<sup>75</sup>

Researchers should expect records to be in French, Spanish, and English due to the changing of governments during the colonial period.

### Notes

The New Orleans Notarial Archive holds over 40 million notarial acts. In order to make the most of research time, the researcher should read the history and explanation of notaries and Louisiana civil law to better grasp the nature of notarial records:

<http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/history.htm>

<http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/civil.htm>

<http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/types.htm>

“Guide to the French Colonial Records (1737-1767)”:

<http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/FrenchColonialGuide.pdf>

Researchers needing search and copy services should contact a private genealogist for hire as the archive does not have a researcher on staff. The office provides a list here: <http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/proresearch.htm>

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<sup>74</sup> *New Orleans Civil District Court*, (<http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/civil.htm> : accessed 9 November 2016), “The Civil Law Notary.”

<sup>75</sup> *New Orleans Civil District Court*, “Research Center & Historical Documents.”

The current land records are on the 4th floor of the same building; suite 360 holds the research center and historical records.

### ***Finding Aids***

List of Notaries, 1731-1970: <http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/Notaries/lista.htm>

Notaries' Indexes, 1739-1966: <http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/notaryalpha.htm>

Index to Acts of the 20th century, 1890-1940 (partial list only):  
<http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/Index%20to%20Acts%2020th%20Century.pdf>

“Guide to the French Colonial Records (1737-1767)”:  
<http://www.oreanscivilclerk.com/FrenchColonialGuide.pdf>

Annual Conveyance indexes (not online; see Collections above)

# Amistad Research Center

## Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

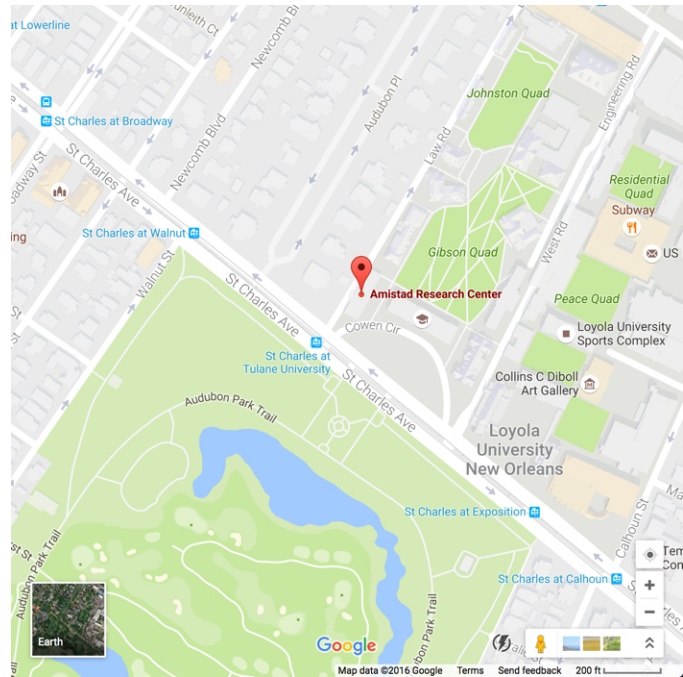
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Check website for holiday closings: <http://www.amistadresearchcenter.org/visit-amistad>

## Contact

Amistad Research Center  
Tilton Memorial Hall, Tulane University  
6823 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118  
Phone: (504) 862-3222  
Fax: (504) 862-8961

<http://www.amistadresearchcenter.org>  
[reference@amistadresearchcenter.org](mailto:reference@amistadresearchcenter.org)



Amistad Research Center.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/Udz64BHRC8H2> Credit: Google Maps

## Fees & Limits

Duplication services are provided by staff only and are generally completed within 24 hours.

Permission to use your own camera should be obtained prior to use and may involve fees. Pre-payment for copies is required and orders by mail, phone, or fax are subject to a minimum (currently \$5). Distance orders under 100 pages are subject to a \$10 service charge and will be sent as PDF files.<sup>76</sup>

Photo fee schedule: [http://media.wix.com/ugd/ecf8cd\\_ea6ca007ded840ffb2e74362d02e4115.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/ecf8cd_ea6ca007ded840ffb2e74362d02e4115.pdf)

## License & Copyright Policy

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/ecf8cd\\_4c7e44b02ca44489a7e73fd711aaacfd.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/ecf8cd_4c7e44b02ca44489a7e73fd711aaacfd.pdf)

## Collections

The Amistad Research Center's focus is on race relations and the racial and ethnic heritage of the U.S.<sup>77</sup> "Amistad makes available to researchers primary and secondary sources, including personal and family papers, organization records, books and periodicals, sound recordings and moving images, photographs, and artwork that document the rich history of ethnic and cultural communities in the United States, as well as the work of social justice movements."<sup>78</sup>

<sup>76</sup> Amistad Research Center (<http://amistadresearchcenter.tulane.edu> : accessed 4 November 2016), "Amistad Photo Duplication Policy."

<sup>77</sup> Amistad Research Center, "Amistad's Collections."

<sup>78</sup> Amistad Research Center, "Researching at Amistad."

The center has several digital collections housed through the Tulane University Digital Library. Of particular interest to the New Orleans researcher is the digital version of *The Crescent City Pictorial*, which “contains photographs, taken by Villard Paddio, of African American homes, businesses, schools, churches, and social organizations.”

<http://digitallibrary.tulane.edu/islandora/object/tulane%3Ap16313coll63>

The library has many collections related to the Civil Rights Movement in New Orleans and beyond, as well as over 300 items related to the Amistad Supreme Court case. A list of the digital collections can be found here: <sup>79</sup>

<http://www.amistadresearchcenter.org/digital-projects>

All non-digital items are housed at the research center; a list of collections can be browsed online here: <sup>80</sup>

<http://amistadresearchcenter.tulane.edu/archon/?p=collections/collections>

## Notes

“Amistad is a closed-stack, non-circulating research facility. Therefore, all visiting researchers are required to provide a valid photo ID and complete a Researcher Registration Form when arrive. As some collections are not yet accessible or are stored at an offsite facility, researchers are encouraged to contact the Reference staff prior to visiting the Center in order to communicate their research needs.”<sup>81</sup>

Parking in the Tulane University area is limited. The university is on the St. Charles Street streetcar line, and parking is also available at University Square at 200 Broadway St. with a free shuttle that operates weekdays every twenty minutes between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Street parking is limited to two hours at a time.

The center has a small reading room and exhibition gallery, and tours can be scheduled at least 2 weeks in advance with the reference desk at the contact above.

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<sup>79</sup> *Amistad Research Center*, “Digital Projects.”

<sup>80</sup> *Amistad Research Center*, “Amistad's Collections”.

<sup>81</sup> *Amistad Research Center*, “Researching at Amistad.”

# Louisiana Historical Center

## Reading Room Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Contact

Louisiana Historical Center  
Second Floor  
400 Esplanade Avenue  
New Orleans, 70116  
(504)568-3659

<http://louisianastatemuseum.org/>  
[ekinch@crt.la.gov](mailto:ekinch@crt.la.gov)

## Fees & Limits

None listed

## License & Copyright Policy

None listed

## Collections

The Louisiana Historical Center is housed in the Old U.S. Mint and is part of the Louisiana State Museum. The center has colonial-era maps & documents from 1714-1803 covering both French and Spanish rule, including many successions. The collection also includes slave petitions, maritime records, business license applications, and more from the colonial era. The center houses genealogy vertical files, resource books, and the *New Orleans Genesis* volumes (periodical of the Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans).

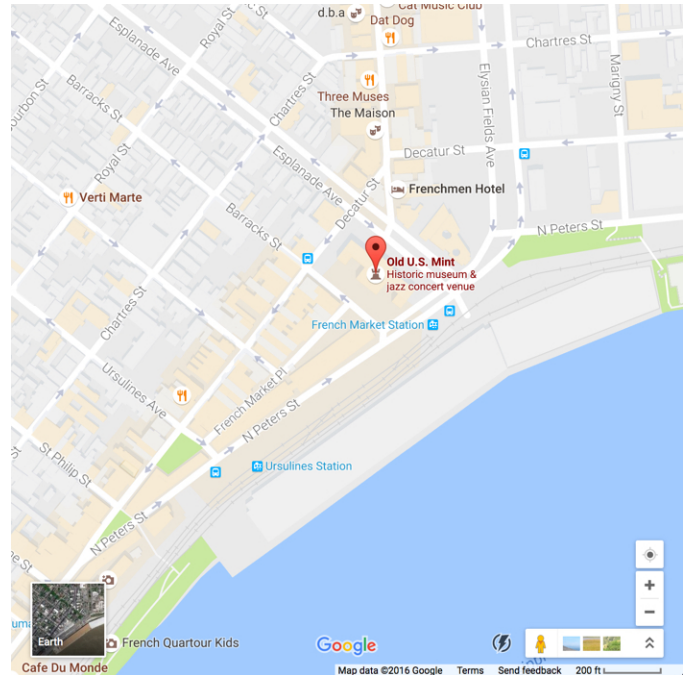
Microfilm collections include *The Louisiana Notarial Records Collection*, *Records of The Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas*, and more.

A list of the manuscript collections can be found here (194 pgs.):

[http://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/Museum/collections/historiccenter/manuscripts/LHC\\_collectionsb.pdf](http://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/Museum/collections/historiccenter/manuscripts/LHC_collectionsb.pdf)

Additional items in the collections include:

- Spanish Judicial Archives
- Black Boxes (Spanish records; translated abstracts on site)
- Newspapers (see here for a title list: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/institutions/lxo/titles/>)
- City directories from 1838-present



Louisiana Historical Center / Old U.S. Mint.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/HiB5ni99R832> Credit: Google Maps

## ***Finding Aids***

Spanish Judicial Archives translated abstracts:

*Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, 1923-1949<sup>82</sup>

Colonial document finding aids:

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-museum/collections/historical-center/colonial-documents/>

Manuscript collections finding aids:

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-museum/collections/historical-center/manuscript-collections/finding-aids/index>

Vertical file finding aids:

Subjects - <http://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/Museum/collections/historiccenter/library/vertical-file/Vertical%20Files%20-%20Subjects.pdf>

Biographical & genealogical - <http://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/Museum/collections/historiccenter/library/vertical-file/Vertical%20Files%20-%20Biographical%20and%20Genealogical.pdf>

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<sup>82</sup> Brown, "Louisiana," 237.



# State & National Repositories

## Louisiana State Archives

### Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
First Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Contact

Louisiana State Archives  
3851 Essen Lane  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
Phone: 225.922.1207  
Fax: 225.922.0433

<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/LearnAboutTheArchives/Pages/default.aspx>

### Fees & Limits

<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/GetFormsandFeeSchedule/pages/default.aspx>

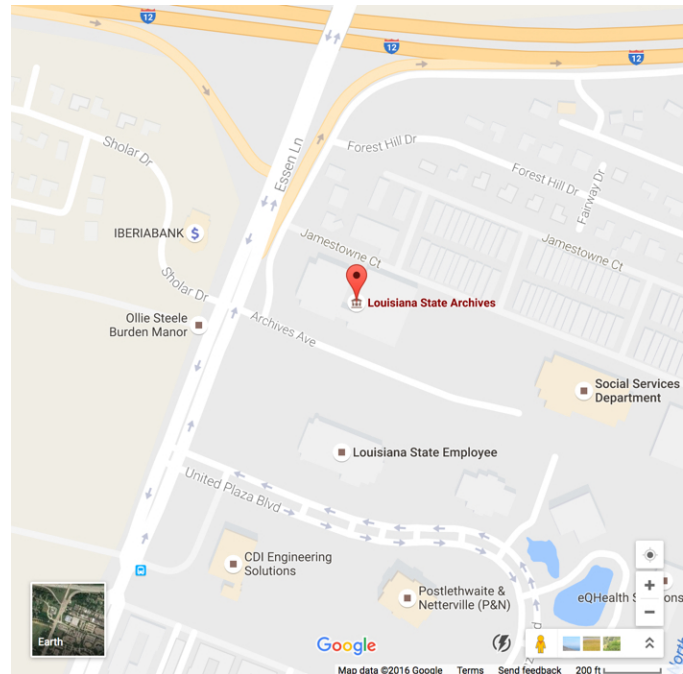
### License & Copyright Policy

None listed

### Collections

The State Archives research library maintains the following collections among others:

- Complete census records (copies) for Louisiana from 1810 to 1930 except 1890
- Census records (microfilmed copies) of New Orleans for 1791 and 1804
- New Orleans "registers of free persons of color" for 1849–1864
- Louisiana Soundex for 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930
- Orleans parish birth records for births over 100 years old, beginning in 1819 (Index for 1790–1818, but no records)
- Orleans parish marriage records for marriages over 50 years old, beginning in 1870 (Index for 1831–1869, but no records)
- Orleans parish death records for deaths over 50 years old, beginning in 1819 (Index for 1804–1818, but no records)
- Statewide death records for deaths over 50 years old, beginning in 1911
- Various denominational published church records
- Original church and cemetery records



Louisiana State Archives.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/YV6tud244Xk> Credit: Google Maps

- National Archives microfilm of the compiled service records of soldiers, both Confederate and Union, serving in Louisiana units
- Confederate pension applications
- Historical newspaper archives, 1811-1980
- Historical maps
- Land records
- Passenger manifests for the Port of New Orleans
- Immigration schedules
- Military service records
- Assessment records
- Colonial documents<sup>83 84</sup>

## Notes

Unfortunately, the Louisiana Archive website does not contain an easy to find, concise guide to their holdings. There is an abbreviated guide to vital records along with a copy request form here:

<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/PublishedDocuments/LFP3AndLH8PublicVitalRecordsAvailableApplicationForm.pdf>

Some collections are listed in the FAQ section, but their “View the Collections” link leads to only 2 collections. Researchers will have to use the research database on-site to view collections other than what is listed above.

## Finding Aids

Finding aids are online for the collections below.

Louisiana Birth Index, 1819–1915 (certified copies by mail are \$5):

<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/LocateHistoricalRecords/Pages/LouisianaBirthRecords.aspx>

Louisiana Death Index, 1911-1965 (certified copies by mail are \$5):

<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/LocateHistoricalRecords/Pages/LouisianaDeathRecords.aspx>

Orleans Parish Marriage Index, 1870-1965 (certified copies by mail are \$5):

<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/LocateHistoricalRecords/Pages/OrleansParishMarriageRecords.aspx>

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<sup>83</sup> *Louisiana Secretary of State* (<http://www.sos.la.gov> : accessed 6 November 2016), “Research Historical Records: Frequently Asked Questions.”

<sup>84</sup> *Louisiana Secretary of State*, “Research Historical Records.”

# Louisiana State Library

## Hours

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
(Staff is available via email and phone 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

## Contact

Louisiana State Library  
701 North 4th Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5345  
Phone: (225) 342-4913  
Fax: (225) 219-4804

<http://www.state.lib.la.us>

[admin@state.lib.la.us](mailto:admin@state.lib.la.us)

Ask a Librarian: <http://www.state.lib.la.us/ask-a-librarian>

## Fees & Limits

None listed

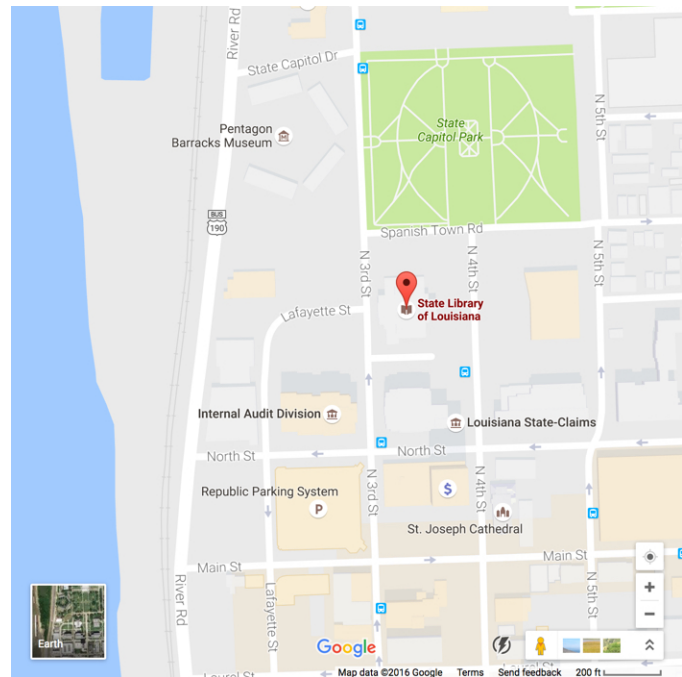
## License & Copyright Policy

<http://www.state.lib.la.us/about-the-state-library/policies/conditions-governing-rights-and-reproductions>

## Collections

The state library houses the Louisiana Collection, which includes the following:

- Acts of the Louisiana Legislature, 1810 to current
- Current and historical city directories and telephone books for Louisiana cities and towns
- Current and historical Louisiana maps
- Current and historical Louisiana state government publications
- Documents relating to the Historic American Building Survey in Louisiana
- Documents relating to the Louisiana Historic Standing Structures Survey
- Documents relating to the Louisiana Works Progress Administration
- Louisiana-related federal government documents
- Louisiana-related popular and specialized magazines, including all that are indexed in Bayou State Periodical Index
- Newspapers from major Louisiana cities in print, on microfilm and in electronic format
- U.S. Census, ship passenger lists, military service and parish records on microfilm



Louisiana State Library.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/UPhSJKWxw5S2> Credit: Google Maps

- Vertical files of newspaper articles and ephemeral materials<sup>85</sup>

Genealogy collections include:

- Census records for the southeastern U. S., ship passenger lists for the Port of New Orleans, military service and parish records on microfilm
- Current and historical city directories and telephone books for Louisiana cities and towns
- Journals published by state genealogical and historical societies
- Louisiana and southeastern U.S. genealogy and family histories<sup>86</sup>

## Notes

Many of the holdings are available for inter-library loan; check “Searching for Your Louisiana Ancestors on Microfilm” under Finding Aids for exact listings of genealogy holdings and which are available for ILL. ILL policies are here:

<http://www.state.lib.la.us/about-the-state-library/policies/interlibrary-loan-policy>

Information about parking can be found here: <http://www.state.lib.la.us/about-the-state-library/hours-and-location>

## *Finding Aids*

The card catalog for the state library can be accessed online here:

<http://ipac.state.lib.la.us/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=sll>

“Searching for Your Louisiana Ancestors on Microfilm”:

<http://www.state.lib.la.us/empowerlibrary/ancestors20031.pdf>

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<sup>85</sup> *State Library of Louisiana*, (<http://www.state.lib.la.us> : accessed 5 November 2016), “Louisiana Collection.”

<sup>86</sup> *State Library of Louisiana*, “Genealogy.”

# University of Louisiana (Lafayette)

## Caffery Reading Room Hours

Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## Contact

Caffery Reading Room

Edith Garland Dupre Library, 3rd Floor

400 E. St. Mary Blvd.

Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

(337) 482-6031

<http://library.louisiana.edu/collections/louisiana-room>

Contact: <http://library.louisiana.edu/node/1119>

## Fees & Limits

None listed

## License & Copyright Policy

None listed

## Collections

*Louisiana Room:* The University of Louisiana houses its genealogy collection in the open stacks of the Louisiana reading room. Most other collections are closed-stack. Guides to the collections held are available in the reading room. A large (over 25,000) map collection is available for access from the Louisiana Room. A guide to the maps is online here:

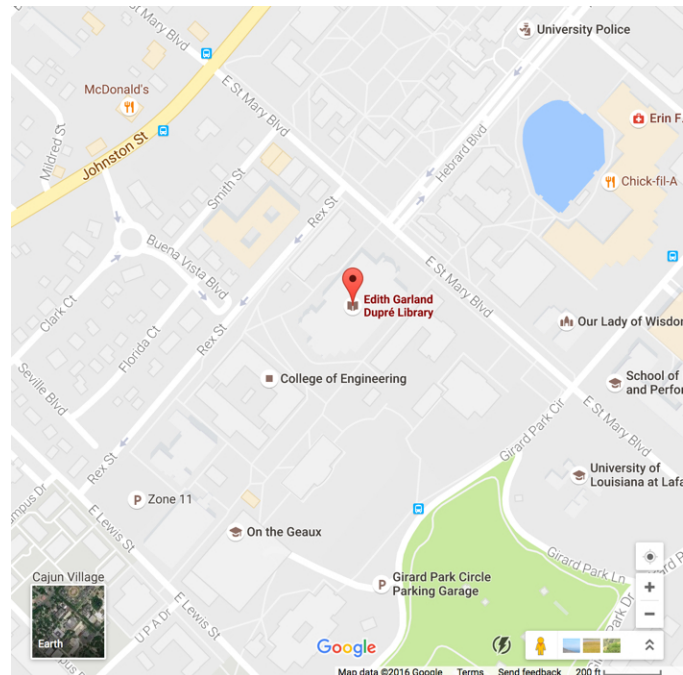
<http://library.louisiana.edu/node/958>

*University Archives & Manuscripts:* Although not many Orleans Parish records are in the university's special collections compared to other repositories, there are a few. Collection 355 contains records from selected Orleans Parish Notaries (1739-1928), and there are family papers that include some Orleans-centric records. The manuscript collections can be browsed here:

<http://library.louisiana.edu/node/305>.

*Microforms Room:* In addition to newspapers and periodicals available on microform, the library has databases and digital subscriptions for its users for those items. More information is available here:

<http://library.louisiana.edu/collections/microforms>



University of Louisiana at Lafayette Dupré Library.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/xSxdUyKmyVL2> Credit: Google Maps



# Louisiana State University

## Hours

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/about/hours/sc>

## Contact

Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3300  
(225)578-6544

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/special@lsu.edu>

Ask a Librarian: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/services/ask>

## Fees & Limits

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/sites/default/files/info/duplication11022016.pdf>

## License & Copyright Policy

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/services/duplication>

## Collections

A variety of manuscript collections including some related to New Orleans are available in LSU's special collections.

- 29 Louisiana newspaper titles, 1810-1998, including the *New Orleans Daily Picayune/Times-Picayune*
- Manuscript collections covering a wide variety of topics

## Notes

Reading room policies are here:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/about/policies>

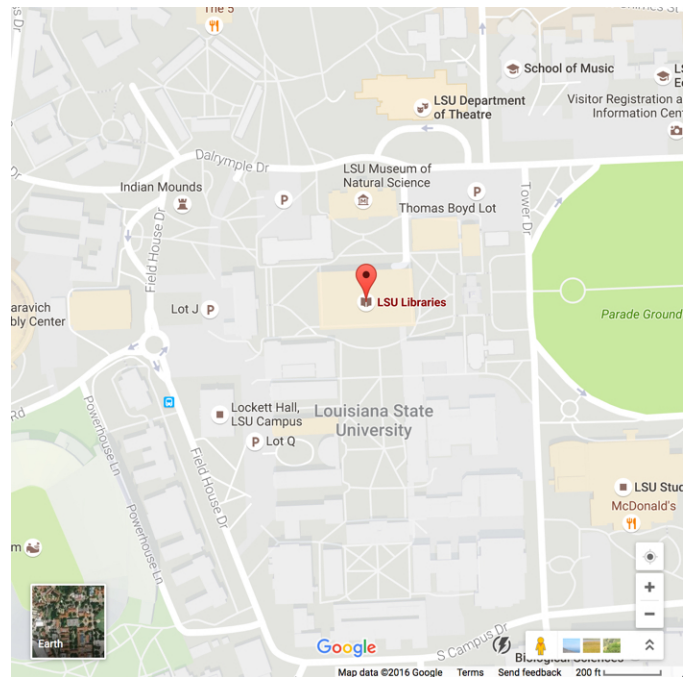
## Finding Aids

A search engine for the manuscript collections is here:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/research/manuscripts/guides>

Manuscript holdings for the history of New Orleans before the Civil War:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/manuscripts/guides/new-orleans-1861>



LSU Libraries.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/PZ7UywpUtv82> Credit: Google Maps

Manuscript holdings for the history of New Orleans in the Civil War:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/manuscripts/guides/new-orleans-civil-war>

Manuscript holdings for the history of New Orleans after the Civil War:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/manuscripts/guides/new-orleans-1866>

# U.S. National Archives

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## Hours

Depends on repository

## Contact

The National Archives has several repositories holding various collections. Visit the website for contact information for the collection you are interested in. Some repositories are open to the public and some are not. Collections are closed-stack.

<https://www.archives.gov>  
(866)272-6272

## Fees & Limits

<https://www.archives.gov/research/order>

<https://www.archives.gov/research/order/fees.html>

## License & Copyright Policy

Generally items created and published by the federal government do not have copyright restrictions, however, some collections may have reproduction restrictions. You can find out more here: <https://www.archives.gov/research/order/restrictions.html>

## Collections

The U.S. National Archives hold all of the documents produced by the federal government. All federal censuses are held at NARA, along with records for federal land patents.

NARA has a genealogy page to help researchers sort through their vast holdings: <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>

## Notes

Detailed information for visiting national repositories is outside the scope of this guide. Policies for researchers wishing to use the NARA materials can be found online at the following URLs:

<https://www.archives.gov/research>  
<https://www.archives.gov/research/start>  
<https://www.archives.gov/research/start/faqs.html>

## Finding Aids

<https://www.archives.gov/research/start/online-tools.html>



Louisiana Purchase Treaty, April 30, 1803; Credit: National Archives

# Library of Congress

## Jefferson Building (including Genealogy & Microform) Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Contact

Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave. SE  
Thomas Jefferson Building, LJ 100  
Washington, D.C. 20540-4660  
Reading Room: (202) 707-5537  
Fax: (202) 707-1957

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/>  
Ask a Librarian: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/>

## Collections

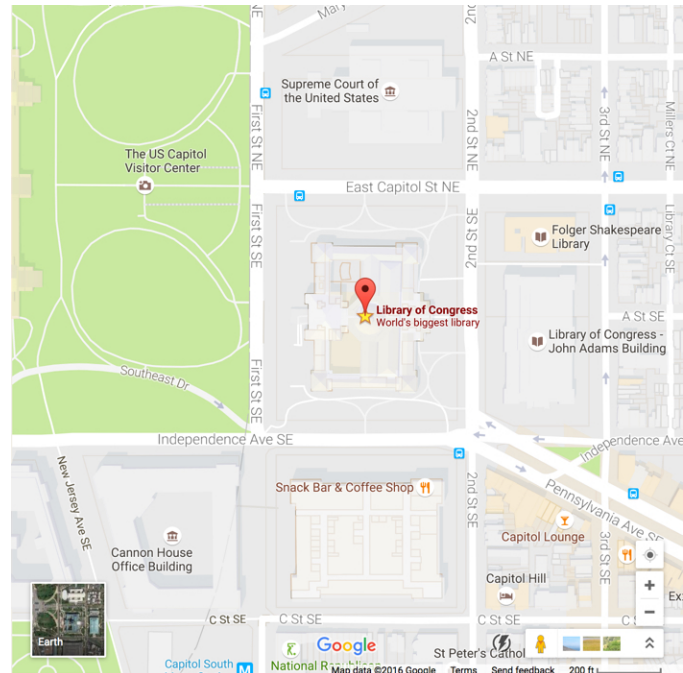
Extant New Orleans city directories from 1811-1860 are held in “a self-service microfiche collection housed in the Microform Reading Room (LJ 139B). Dorothea Spear's American Directories Before 1860 (Z5771.S7 LH&G and Z5771.2.S68 1978 MRR Ref Desk) is a guide to this collection.”<sup>87</sup>

New Orleans city directories from 1861-1960 are held on microfilm in the Microform Reading room (LJ 139B).<sup>88</sup>

The Library of Congress holds “more than 50,000 genealogies and 100,000 local histories.”<sup>89</sup> Also available are vertical files and family and regional newsletters. Indices for these collections can be found at <https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/lhgcoll.html>.

## Notes

Detailed information for visiting national repositories is outside the scope of this guide. Policies for researchers wishing to use the LOC materials can be found online at <https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/begin.html>.



Jefferson Building, Library of Congress.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/xhFmR9E3sMm> Credit: Google Maps

<sup>87</sup> *Library of Congress*. (<http://www.loc.gov> : accessed 6 November 2016), “Telephone and City Directories in the Library of Congress: Non-Current (Old).”

<sup>88</sup> *Library of Congress*, “U.S. City Directories on Microfilm in the Microform Reading Room.”

<sup>89</sup> *Library of Congress*, “The Collections.”

From the website:

“The Library does not permit its books on genealogy, heraldry, and U.S. local and state history to circulate on interlibrary loan. However, material in microform for which the Library holds the master negative is available for loan (or purchase). Since the Library has microfilmed most of its books relating to United States genealogy published from 1876-1900, a significant part of the genealogical collection is available for loan...

“The Library’s Photoduplication Service routinely supplies photocopies of items located in the Library’s collections if there are no copyright restrictions. The Service, which is a cost-recovery operation, assesses a non-refundable \$12.00 advance payment for each order to cover identifying and assembling material to be copied. You must provide specific citations (title, author, number of pages, and LC call number) for materials you wish copied.”<sup>90</sup>

More information is available at <https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/begin.html>.

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<sup>90</sup> *Library of Congress*, “Researchers: Before You Begin,” para. 9 & 11.



# Offline Resources

## GENERAL REFERENCE

### Family History Library Microfilm

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The **Family History Library** in Salt Lake City, Utah, holds microfilms of all records from the City Archives that it considers to be of genealogical significance.<sup>91</sup> Collections held by the Family History Library that are relevant to New Orleans include but are not limited to:

- Vital records including birth, death, marriage, various 19th and 20th century dates
- Civil registration of Orleans Parish, births, marriages and deaths, 1790-1833
- Death record index, 1804-1954
- Newspaper marriage index (New Orleans, Louisiana), 1804-1899
- Voter registration records, 1891-1952
- Cemetery records
- Vol. 1-19 of the Sacramental Records of the Catholic Diocese of New Orleans
- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church records
- Civil court records, 1805-1880 (see Finding Aids for New Orleans Public Library / City Archives)
- Record of wills, probate court records, successions, and inventories for various 19th century dates (see Finding Aids for New Orleans Public Library / City Archives)
- Indices to probate records, 1804-1880 (see Finding Aids for New Orleans Public Library / City Archives)
- Freedom papers, 1827-1915
- Emancipation of negro slaves, 17 February 1827 - 4 October 1834
- Divorces and annulments, 1880-1924
- Notarial acts of various notaries, 1764-1900 (see Finding Aids for Notarial Archives)
- Mothe Funeral Home records<sup>92</sup>

These can be found in the FamilySearch Catalog with a place search of "United States, Louisiana, Orleans" (do not limit to New Orleans) or with keyword search of "Orleans":

<https://familysearch.org/catalog/search>

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<sup>91</sup> *New Orleans Public Library*, "A Brief Explanation of the Orleans Parish Civil & Criminal Court System, 1804-1926."

<sup>92</sup> *FamilySearch.org*, FamilySearch Catalog, place search of "United States, Louisiana, Orleans".

# Jewish Genealogical Society of New Orleans

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This society supports those researching their Jewish roots in the area and as of this writing, holds monthly meetings on the first Sunday of the month. The society produces a newsletter and assists other local organizations with indexing projects and book donations.

## Contact

Jewish Genealogical Society of New Orleans

PO Box 7811

Metairie LA 70010

Phone: (504) 888-3817

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsno/>

## Reference Books

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The following books are general in nature and have been helpful to the author in providing background information about the area. *Bienville's Dilemma: A Historical Geography of New Orleans* is an excellent overall history reference for the area. Anyone doing property research in New Orleans will find the *New Orleans Architecture* series and *A Pattern Book of New Orleans Architecture* to be worth owning.

Campanella, Richard. *Bienville's Dilemma: A Historical Geography of New Orleans*. Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, 2008.

Campanella, Richard. *Geographies of New Orleans*. Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, 2006.

Campanella, Richard. *Lost New Orleans*. London: Pavillion Books, 2015.

Campanella, Richard. *Time and Place in New Orleans: Past Geographies in the Present Day*. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., 2002.

Friends of the Cabildo. *New Orleans Architecture* (series). Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., various dates.

Sandlin, Lee. *Wicked River: The Mississippi When It Last Ran Wild*. New York, New York: Pantheon Books, 2010.

Toledano, Roulhac B. *A Pattern Book of New Orleans Architecture*. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., 2010.

# Online Resources by Topic

## WITH NOTES FOR OFFLINE COLLECTIONS

### General Reference

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- ♣ Select collections from Ancestry.com covering New Orleans are listed below. Full listings can be found using the Ancestry.com card catalog (\$):  
[http://search.ancestry.com/search/  
cardcatalog.aspx#ccat=hc=25&dbSort=1&sbo=1&filter=1\\*2%7C1\\*21&](http://search.ancestry.com/search/cardcatalog.aspx#ccat=hc=25&dbSort=1&sbo=1&filter=1*2%7C1*21&)<sup>93</sup>  
or the Louisiana family history research page:  
<http://search.ancestry.com/Places/US/Louisiana/Default.aspx><sup>94</sup>
- ♣ Select collections from FamilySearch.org covering New Orleans are listed below. Full listings can be found using the FamilySearch.org Louisiana research page:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/location/37><sup>95</sup>
- ♣ Select collections from Fold3.com covering New Orleans are listed below. Full listings can be found using the Fold3.com search page with filtering for keyword “Orleans” and Louisiana checked for U.S. States (\$):  
[https://www.fold3.com/search/#query=orleans&p\\_place\\_usa=LA](https://www.fold3.com/search/#query=orleans&p_place_usa=LA)<sup>96</sup>
- ♣ Louisiana Digital Library Collections:  
<http://louisdl.louislibraries.org>
- ♣ Tulane University Digital Library:  
<http://digitallibrary.tulane.edu/islandora/object/islandora%3Aroot>

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<sup>93</sup> *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 5 November 2016), Search > Card Catalog filtered by USA > Louisiana

<sup>94</sup> *Ancestry.com*, “Louisiana Family History Research Page.”

<sup>95</sup> *FamilySearch*, “Louisiana Indexed Historical Records.”

<sup>96</sup> *Fold3*, ([https://www.fold3.com/search/#query=orleans&p\\_place\\_usa=LA](https://www.fold3.com/search/#query=orleans&p_place_usa=LA) : accessed 5 November 2016 ), keyword search “Orleans” and filtered by place Louisiana.

# Birth, Marriage, Death & Burial

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Louisiana began requiring birth and death records in 1914; the state does not require marriage registration.<sup>97</sup> Birth records exist for Orleans parish going as far back as 1819 at the Louisiana State Archives, and a birth index from 1790 is available on Ancestry. A marriage index for Orleans Parish is available on Ancestry going back to 1734, with marriage records starting in 1837 coming online at FamilySearch. A death index going back to 1804 is available at Ancestry, with records available by mail from the State Archives for records from 1870.

## Birth

- ♣ New Orleans, Louisiana, Birth Records Index, 1790-1915 (\$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6587>
- ♣ Louisiana, Orleans Parish Vital Records (birth records and index for 1910; index available online but image only available when using the site at FHC):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1929995>
- ♣ Louisiana Birth Index, 1819–1915 (certified copies by mail are \$5):  
<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/LocateHistoricalRecords/Pages/LouisianaBirthRecords.aspx>
- ♣ Louisiana Death Index, 1911-1965 (certified copies by mail are \$5):  
<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/LocateHistoricalRecords/Pages/LouisianaDeathRecords.aspx>

## Marriage

- ♣ Louisiana, Marriages, 1718-1925 (\$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7837>
- ♣ Louisiana Marriages Index, 1816-1906:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1674881>
- ♣ New Orleans, Louisiana, Marriage Records Index, 1831-1964 (\$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6500>
- ♣ Louisiana, Parish Marriages, 1837-1957 (currently 17% complete; index available online but image only available when using the site at FHC):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1807364>
- ♣ Orleans Parish Marriage Index, 1870-1965 (certified copies by mail are \$5):  
<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/LocateHistoricalRecords/Pages/OrleansParishMarriageRecords.aspx>

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<sup>97</sup> “Vital Records Chart,” *Family Tree Magazine*.

## Death & Burial

- ♣ Social Security Death Index:  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/253/hcRsPZ4D7>
- ♣ Louisiana, Orleans Parish Vital Records (marriage and death records and index for 1960; index available online but image only available when using the site at a FHC):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1929995>
- ♣ New Orleans, Louisiana, Death Records Index, 1804-1949 (\$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6606>
- ♣ Louisiana Deaths Index, 1850-1875, 1894-1956 (spotty entries until 1905):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1609793>
- ♣ 1850 Mortality Schedule for Orleans Parish, Louisiana (index):  
<http://files.usgwarchives.net/la/orleans/census/mort1850.txt>
- ♣ USGenWeb Archives Project for Orleans Parish, Louisiana - Cemetery & Burial Records:  
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/la/orleans/cemetery.htm>
- ♣ FindAGrave Cemetery List for Orleans Parish:  
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=csr&CScn=&CSentry=4&CSst=20&CSnty=1144>
- ♣ Cemetery Listing by Parish (Louisiana Cemetery Board):  
<http://www.lcb.state.la.us/search.html>
- ♣ Louisiana Biography & Obituary Index, 1804-1972:  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/obits/obits.htm>
- ♣ Abstracts of Interments at Freedmen's Cemetery, New Orleans, May-July, 1867:  
<http://www.freedmensbureau.com/louisiana/orleansinterments.htm>
- ♣ Lafayette #1 Cemetery Inventory and Cross-Index to Plaques and Tombs:  
<http://www.lafayettecemetery1.com/>
- ♣ Finding aid for New Orleans area cemeteries:  
[http://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/Museum/collections/historiccenter/library/  
New Orleans Area Cemetery Resource Guide.pdf](http://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/Museum/collections/historiccenter/library/New%20Orleans%20Area%20Cemetery%20Resource%20Guide.pdf)



## Probate & Court

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Extensive succession files are available online for Orleans Parish at FamilySearch and Ancestry; additional files are available for order through the Family History Library. Available on the NOPL website are both a large collection of finding aids for the civil courts and this explanation of the Orleans Parish Civil & Criminal Court System, 1804-1926:

<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/courtsystem.htm>

- ♣ Louisiana, Orleans Parish Estate Files, 1804-1846 (\$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60297>
- ♣ Louisiana, Orleans Parish Estate Files, 1804-1846:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1388197>
- ♣ Orleans Parish Second District Judicial Court Case Files, 1846-1880 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1879925>
- ♣ Orleans Court Records, 1822-1880 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2030501>
- ♣ Orleans Parish Will Books, 1805-1920 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2019728>
- ♣ NOPL Orleans Parish Civil and Criminal Courts Finding Aids, Inventories, and Indexes:  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/courts.htm>

## Census

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- ✦ Louisiana Census and Voter Lists Page (\$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/Places/US/Louisiana/Default.aspx?category=35>
- ✦ Enumeration District Maps for the Twelfth through the Sixteenth US Censuses, 1900-1940 (image only, filter to Roll 24, Louisiana, Acadia-Rapides 1900-1940):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2329948>
- ✦ Steve Morse One Step Enumeration District Finder, 1880-1950:  
<http://www.stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>
- ✦ New Orleans Census Records (portal page with links to census indices & images):  
[http://www.censusfinder.com/louisiana\\_census4.htm](http://www.censusfinder.com/louisiana_census4.htm)
- ✦ Louisiana Census of Ex-Confederate Soldiers and Widows of Deceased Soldiers, 1911 (transcriptions):  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/1911/1911census.htm>

## Gens de Couleur Libre, Slavery & Freedman Records

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- ♣ *The Crescent City Pictorial* (a 28 page souvenir booklet “Dedicated to the Progress of the Colored Citizens of New Orleans, Louisiana,” 1926):  
<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16313coll63/id/35>
- ♣ Louisiana, Slave Records, 1719-1820 (\$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7383>
- ♣ New Orleans, Louisiana, Slave Manifests, 1807-1860:  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1562>
- ♣ Freedmen's Bureau, Records of the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-1872 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2427901>
- ♣ Freedmen's Bureau, Records of the Commissioner, 1865-1872 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2431126>
- ♣ Freedmen's Branch Records, 1872-1878 (image only; filter by New Orleans disbursing officer):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2333780>
- ♣ Louisiana, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2333781>
- ♣ Louisiana Freedmen's Bureau Records for Orleans Parish:  
<http://www.freedmensbureau.com/louisiana/index.htm>
- ♣ Records Relating to Slavery, Free People of Color, and Freedmen (NOPL):  
<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/guides/genguide/slavery.htm>

The following collections have been digitized as part of the Free People of Color in Louisiana project, a digital collaborative of LSU Libraries Special Collections, THNOC, LaRC, the Historical Center at the Louisiana State Museum, and the Louisiana Division of the NOPL. The main collection page is here:

<http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16313coll51>

A listing of all items in the collection is here:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/sites/all/files/sc/fpoc/collections.html>

- ♣ Office of the Mayor: Register of free persons of color entitled to remain in the state, 1849-1864:  
<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll51/searchterm/Register%20of%20Free%20Colored%20Persons%20Entitled%20to%20Remain%20in%20the%20State/field/part/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc/cosuppress/o>
- ♣ Mayor's Records: Slaves Emancipated By the Councils of Municipalities One, Two, and Three, 1846-1850:  
<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16313coll51/id/6218>

- ♣ Orleans Parish Court, Emancipation Petitions, 1813-1843:  
[http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll51/searchterm/Louisiana.%20Parish%20Court%20\(Orleans%20Parish\).%20Petitions%20for/field/part/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc/cosuppress/o](http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll51/searchterm/Louisiana.%20Parish%20Court%20(Orleans%20Parish).%20Petitions%20for/field/part/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc/cosuppress/o)
- ♣ Record book of licenses, bakers' declarations, and statements of public works, 1812, and passports, 1818-1831 (only passports digitized):  
<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll51/searchterm/Record%20book%20of%20licenses,%20bakers'%20declarations/field/part/mode/exact/conn/and/order/title/ad/asc/cosuppress/1>
- ♣ Freedom papers of New Orleans, 1854-1858:  
<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16313coll51/id/5983/rec/1>
- ♣ Indenture Records, 1809-1843:  
[http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll51/searchterm/New%20Orleans%20\(La.\)%20Office%20of%20the%20Mayor.%20Indentures,%201809-1843/field/part/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc/cosuppress/o](http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll51/searchterm/New%20Orleans%20(La.)%20Office%20of%20the%20Mayor.%20Indentures,%201809-1843/field/part/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc/cosuppress/o)

## Property

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Creole-style Cottage, New Orleans;  
Credit: Mary Ann Kelley

New Orleans properties have detailed information available going back to the 18th century. The blocks in the city are assigned square numbers which in most cases are the original numbers noted on early maps and documents (where there are changes to the square numbers, they are usually noted). The square numbers make research easier when looking up properties with changing street numbers, and most older documents indicate the bounding streets of the block in question, further clarifying which block is being named.

Properties within the Vieux Carré (French Quarter) are those bounded by Canal Street, Rampart Street, Esplanade Avenue and the Mississippi River. Chains of title are generally able to be traced from around 1803; for properties in the Vieux Carré, these can be found online at the Vieux Carré Digital Survey: <http://www.hnoc.org/vcs/index.php>

Use of notarial records, descriptions in documents such as successions, historical maps, deeds, and insurance maps can give detailed information about the historical structures on a property, and in some cases, historical

architectural drawings.

Information from The Historic New Orleans Collection's Vieux Carré Survey notes that "[d]uring the 18th and 19th centuries, many New Orleans surveyors used the French system of measurement —'pieds' for feet, 'pouces' for inches, and 'lignes' for lines—when surveying property. (The French foot is slightly longer than the English foot, at close to 13 inches.) The old French system was used until the Civil War; plans and surveys often indicate whether the surveyor is using French measure (F.M.) or imperial measure (noted as A.M. for American measure)."<sup>98</sup>

Because of the French influence, New Orleans lots are measured in arpents rather than acres.<sup>99</sup> Smaller than an acre, an arpent is based on a lineal measure and a superficial measure rather than solely a superficial area like an acre.<sup>100</sup> Although it was devised as a way to divide property along waterways, it is used for other land as well. Typically found bordering water and long and narrow in shape, French arpents measure approximately 192 feet. Square arpents, also called arpents, are

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<sup>98</sup> *The Historic New Orleans Collection*, "Vieux Carré Digital Survey: Navigating and Searching."

<sup>99</sup> Toledano and Christovich, *New Orleans Architecture Vol VI*, xi.

<sup>100</sup> Richard Campanella, *Time and Place in New Orleans: Past Geographies in the Present Day* (Gretna, Louisiana: Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., 2002), 85, col. 2 para. 2.; digital images, *Google Books*. <http://books.google.com> : accessed 10 November 2016.

approximately the equivalent of .84 acres.<sup>101</sup> According to the U.S. Geological Survey, “[a] typical French arpent land division is 2 to 4 arpents wide along the river by 40 to 60 arpents deep, while the Spanish arpent land divisions tend to be 6 to 8 arpents wide by 40 arpents deep. This method of land division provided each land-owner with river frontage as well as land suitable for cultivation and habitation.”<sup>102</sup>

- ♣ For background information on New Orleans geography and the European influence in its development, see “Arpents, Ligas, and Acres” by Richard Campanella:  
[http://www.richcampanella.com/assets/pdf/article\\_Campanella\\_LCV\\_Spring2016\\_cadastralsystems.pdf](http://www.richcampanella.com/assets/pdf/article_Campanella_LCV_Spring2016_cadastralsystems.pdf)
- ♣ Additional background about the geography and history of New Orleans can be found on Campanella’s website:  
<http://www.richcampanella.com/?page=articles>
- ♣ The NOPL has put together a research guide called “Sources for Researching the History of Your House (Or Other Building) in New Orleans” that is available online:  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/house2/contents.htm>

Property researchers will want to be sure to include the holdings of both The Historic New Orleans Collection and the Notarial Archives in addition to deeds.

### ***Related helps***<sup>103</sup>

- ♣ Alphabetical and Numerical Index of Changes in Street Names and Numbers, Old and New, 1852 to Current Date (1938):  
<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/info/louinfo/numberchanges/numberchanges.htm>
- ♣ Changes in Street Names, Old and New (Period 1852 to Current Date, Dec. 1st 1938):  
<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/facts/streetnames/namesa.htm>
- ♣ Building Plans in the City Archives:  
<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/plans/planlist.htm>
- ♣ Indexes to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for New Orleans, 1885-1909:  
<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/info/louinfo/sanbornindex/sanbornindex.htm>
- ♣ New Orleans Sanborn Map availability at NOPL:  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/house2/sanborn.htm>
- ♣ New Orleans Sanborn Map availability at LOC (including online):  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn/city.php?CITY=New%20Orleans&stateID=20>
- ♣ Orleans Parish Assessor’s Office Online Property Records:

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<sup>101</sup> *U.S. Geological Survey*, ([http://nationalmap.gov/small\\_scale/a\\_plss.html](http://nationalmap.gov/small_scale/a_plss.html) : accessed 10 November 2016), “The National Map.”

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> *New Orleans Public Library: Louisiana Division*, “Louisiana Division/City Archives & Special Collections.”

<http://nolaassessor.com/search.html>

- ✦ Tulane's Architecture and Historic Preservation Research Guide:  
<http://libguides.tulane.edu/arch/property>



## Land & Maps

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- ♣ Vieux Carré Digital Survey (extensive study of French Quarter properties with all resources online):  
<http://www.hnoc.org/vcs/index.php>
- ♣ Robinson Atlas, 1883 (30 hand-colored lithographs reproduced online):  
<http://www.orleanscivilclerk.com/robinson/index.htm>
- ♣ NOPL Louisiana Map Collection:  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/maps/maps.htm>
- ♣ LOC Digital Map Collection:  
<https://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=new+orleans>
- ♣ The Historic New Orleans Collection digital maps:  
<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15140coll28>
- ♣ Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection (UT at Austin): [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historic\\_us\\_cities.html#N](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historic_us_cities.html#N)
- ♣ NOPL Louisiana Map Collection:  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/maps/maps.htm>
- ♣ Louisiana Digital Library maps:  
<http://larc.tulane.edu/collections/maps>
- ♣ Louisiana State Museum Maps of Louisiana & New World:  
<http://www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-museum/online-exhibits/maps-of-louisiana-and-new-world/index>
- ♣ The Historic New Orleans Collection digital maps:  
<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p15140coll28>
- ♣ Maps of Louisiana (LSU Special Collections):  
<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/LMP>
- ♣ USGS Historical Topographical Map Viewer (TopoView Instructional Video: <https://youtu.be/kOpe3WXsZrQ>):  
<http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/maps/topoview/viewer/#13/29.9507/-90.0699>
- ♣ *Norman's plan of New Orleans & environs, 1845* (corresponds with online book of the same name, see Online Books):  
<https://www.loc.gov/item/98687133/>
- ♣ *American state papers: documents, legislative and executive, of the Congress of the United States* (includes the land claims after the land act in 1805; first volume at link with subsequent volumes listed in description): [https://archive.org/details/americanstatepap\\_c11unit](https://archive.org/details/americanstatepap_c11unit)

# Newspapers

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Many small newspapers existed over the years in New Orleans in several languages, most prominently English, French, and Spanish. The largest and longest running newspaper is *The Times-Picayune*, which has existed in some iteration for two centuries. Many smaller publications popped up to serve a specific demographic and lasted for only a short time. Because of New Orleans' historical significance, researchers will find digitized copies of many of these publications available online.

## Finding Aids

- ♣ List of Orleans Parish newspaper titles from Chronicling America (not all online):  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/titles/places/louisiana/Orleans/>
- ♣ USGenWeb Archives Project: *The Times-Picayune* Obit Index, 1880, 1930-2012 (some years incomplete):  
[http://usgwarchives.net/la/orleans/\\_tpi.htm](http://usgwarchives.net/la/orleans/_tpi.htm)
- ♣ Genealogy.about.com Search Tips for *Google News* Archives:  
<http://genealogy.about.com/od/newspapers/a/Search-Tips-For-Google-News-Archive.htm>

*Google News* has some historical newspapers archived for New Orleans, but their browse function does not allow you to browse by state or city, only by title. You can restrict your search location by clicking the down arrow inside the search bar to get the Advanced News Search form and restrict the location to "New Orleans" or restrict the title to the newspaper if you know its name.<sup>104</sup>

- ♣ Online Historical Newspapers has a guide to individual titles from Louisiana listed by parish, including ones on Google News:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home/usa/la>
- ♣ LSU Index of Orleans Parish Historical Newspapers (p. 48-68):  
<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/sites/all/files/sc/lnp/parishindex.pdf>
- ♣ NOPL Newspaper Finding Aids:  
<http://nutrias.org/guides/genguide/newspapers.htm>

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<sup>104</sup> *Google Help*, (<https://support.google.com/news/answer/3334?hl=en&rd=2> : accessed 8 November 2016), "Search for news by keyword, site, or region."

## Online Collections

*The Times-Picayune* is the primary newspaper for New Orleans and has been in operation in some form since 1837. Newspapers.com holds digital copies for many years of the paper under various iterations. *The Daily Crescent/New Orleans Crescent* was also a prominent newspaper and several years of that are archived on Chronicling America.

- ♣ Newspapers.com Browse by Location (United States > Louisiana > New Orleans, \$)  
<https://www.newspapers.com/browse/>
- ♣ *New Orleans Bee*, 1827-1923:  
<http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us/genealogy/NewOrleansBeeMain.htm>
- ♣ *Moniteur de la Louisiane*, Aug-Dec 1802 (French language):  
[http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/LSU\\_LNP/id/2203/rec/51](http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/LSU_LNP/id/2203/rec/51)
- ♣ GenealogyBank.com New Orleans Newspapers (browse & search, \$):  
<http://genealogybank.com/explore/newspapers/all/usa/louisiana/new-orleans>

Significant digitized titles at Genealogy Bank:

- ♣ *The Times-Picayune*, 1837-1988 (\$):  
<http://genealogybank.com/explore/newspapers/all/usa/louisiana/new-orleans/times-picayune>
- ♣ *The New Orleans Times*, 1865-1898 (\$):  
<http://genealogybank.com/explore/newspapers/all/usa/louisiana/new-orleans/new-orleans-times>
- ♣ *The Weekly Picayune*, 1842-1913 (\$):  
<http://genealogybank.com/explore/newspapers/all/usa/louisiana/new-orleans/weekly-picayune>
- ♣ *The Weekly Times-Picayune*, 1914-1918 (\$):  
<http://genealogybank.com/explore/newspapers/all/usa/louisiana/new-orleans/weekly-times-picayune>
- ♣ List of Louisiana newspaper titles digitized at Chronicling America:  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Louisiana&ethnicity=&language=>
- ♣ List of Orleans Parish newspaper titles digitized at Chronicling America (LSU):  
<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/collections/digital/dlnp/titles-parish#orleans>

Significant digitized titles at Chronicling America:

- ♣ *The Daily Crescent*, 1848-1851:  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82015378/issues/>
- ♣ *The Daily Crescent*, 1851-1866:  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82015753/issues/>

♣ *The New Orleans Crescent*, 1866-1869:  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82015753/issues/>

# Hospitals, Asylums & Orphanages

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## Hospitals

NOPL holds microform records for Charity Hospital (death records, 1835-1904), Hotel Dieu Hospital (patient registers, 1858-1900), New Orleans City Smallpox Hospital (patient registers, 1858-1900), and Touro Infirmary (various records, 1835-1916).

♣ Charity Hospital Reports\*, 1842-1974:

<http://digitallibrary.tulane.edu/islandora/object/tulane%3Ap15140coll25>

\* “The Charity Hospital Reports include public health information on morbidity and mortality (including information on the yellow fever epidemics in New Orleans), venereal disease issues, disease incidence, vital statistics, and hospital administration.”<sup>105</sup>

## Orphanages & Orphan Asylums

Very little is online for researching asylums and orphanages, but manuscript collections at the various repositories can be helpful. Tulane has extensive holdings for the Poydras Female Orphan Asylum (1816-1959), the Asylum for the Relief of Destitute Orphan Boys/Waldo Burton Memorial Boys Home (1823-1965), the Jewish Children’s Home (1870-1981), Kingsley House (various years in larger collections), and the Protestant Children’s Home (1859-1963). Mentions of the various asylums and orphanages can often be found in historical newspapers.

♣ Disposition of Destitute Orphans from the Mayor’s Office for the years 1852-1891 online (transcriptions, not all admissions would have gone through the Mayor’s office):

<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/orphanstranscriptions.htm>

♣ Asylum Photos in the NOPL Digital Collections (primarily Poydras Female Orphan Asylum):

<http://cdm16880.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/asylum/order/nosort>

♣ Storyville Website Orphanages (background information for each):

[http://www.storyvilledistrictnola.com/asylums\\_orphanages.html](http://www.storyvilledistrictnola.com/asylums_orphanages.html)

♣ Shelter for the Children: Orphan Asylums of Old New Orleans (background information and photos):

[http://old-new-orleans.com/NO\\_Orphans.html](http://old-new-orleans.com/NO_Orphans.html)

♣ Freedmen’s Bureau List of Orphans for New Orleans, 1866:

<http://www.freedmensbureau.com/louisiana/orleansorphans.htm>

## Insane Asylums

NOPL holds various records for the New Orleans Insane Asylum (1858-1888) and the Orleans Parish Coroner’s Office description & record of insane persons, 1900-1918. NOPL offers limited indexing and transcriptions for insane asylum records; additional finding aids and records can be found at the

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<sup>105</sup> Tulane University Digital Library, *Howard-Tilton Memorial Library*, (<http://digitallibrary.tulane.edu/islandora/object/tulane%3Ap15140coll25> : accessed 10 November 2016), “Charity Hospital Reports.”

repository.

- ♣ New Orleans City Insane Asylum Record of Patients, 1882-1884, 1888 (index):  
<http://nutrias.org/inv/cityinsaneasylumindex.htm>
- ♣ New Orleans City Insane Asylum Record of Patients, 1882-1884, 1888(transcriptions):  
<http://nutrias.org/inv/cityinsaneasylum.htm>
- ♣ Record of Next of Kin for Inmates of New Orleans Insane Asylum, 1875-1877 (transcriptions):  
<http://archives.nolalibrary.org/~nopl/inv/next%20of%20kin.htm>
- ♣ Orleans Parish register of patients transported to the State Insane Asylum, 1882-1912  
(transcriptions):  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/civilsheriff/vf350.htm>
- ♣ New Orleans Department of Police and Public Buildings Register of Indigent Insane, 1888-1912  
(transcriptions):  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/ta/tainsane.htm>

## Travel, Immigration & Naturalization

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- ✦ New Orleans, Passenger Lists, 1813-1963 (\$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7484>
- ✦ Louisiana, New Orleans Passenger Lists, 1820-1945:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1916009>
- ✦ Naturalization Records - Louisiana Eastern (\$):  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/23/h1zhBquD->
- ✦ Louisiana Naturalization Records, 1831-1906:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1459894>
- ✦ New Orleans Office of the Mayor: Passports for Free Persons of Color, 1818-1831 (digital images):  
<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16313coll51/id/12063>



## City Directories

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- ♣ 1861-1960, not inclusive: New Orleans Directories, 1861, 1865-1895, 1897-1908, 1910-1933, 1935, 1938, 1940, 1942, 1945, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1954-1956, 1958-1960 (Use dropdown filter on right to filter to Louisiana/New Orleans/Year; \$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2469>
- ♣ 1861-1922, not inclusive: New Orleans Directories, 1861, 1866-1907, 1911-1922 (\$):  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/253/hVjLmX8R>
- ♣ 1805-1971, not inclusive: New Orleans City Directories, various dates (transcriptions):  
<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/usa/la/orleans>
- ♣ 1846: *New Orleans annual and commercial register of 1846*:  
<https://archive.org/details/neworleansannualoomich>
- ♣ 1855: *Cohen's New Orleans Directory Including Jefferson City, Gretna, Carrollton, Algiers, and McDonogh*:  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=a7hIAQAAMAAJ>
- ♣ 1857: *New Orleans Business Directory With a Map*:  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=AU1EAQAAMAAJ>
- ♣ 1866: *Gardner's New Orleans Directory for 1866- Including Jefferson City, Gretna, Carrollton, Algiers and McDonogh; with A Street and Levee Guide*:  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=LNQNAQAAMAAJ>
- ♣ 1890-1891: New Orleans, Louisiana Directories, 1890-1891 (\$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4531>

# Military

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## War of 1812

- ♣ War of 1812 Pension Files for Louisiana (A-M complete as of November 2016):  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/247/h5iT6dgqRNV06NElQ>
- ♣ Louisiana War of 1812 Pension Lists (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1527724>
- ♣ War of 1812 Service Record Index for Louisiana (\$):  
[https://www.fold3.com/browse/276/hlYOPAgp\\_NV06NElQ](https://www.fold3.com/browse/276/hlYOPAgp_NV06NElQ)

## Civil War

- ♣ Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers for Louisiana, 1861-1865 (\$):  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/20/h7KiJzPIu>
- ♣ Confederate Navy and Marine Service Records, 1861-1865 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2019254>
- ♣ Confederate Officers Card Index, 1861-1865 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2145147>
- ♣ Records of Confederate Prisoners of War, 1861-1865:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1916234>
- ♣ Civil War Pensions Index for Louisiana (\$):  
[https://www.fold3.com/browse/1/hh\\_q9kMjONVo6NElQ](https://www.fold3.com/browse/1/hh_q9kMjONVo6NElQ)
- ♣ Confederate Pension Applications Index:  
<http://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/LocateHistoricalRecords/Pages/ConfederatePensionDatabase.aspx>
- ♣ Louisiana Confederate Pensions, 1898-1950 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1838535>
- ♣ Confederate Papers of Citizens or Businesses, 1861-1865:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1937233>
- ♣ Confederate Citizens File (\$):  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/249/hchCf9X8w>
- ♣ Confederate Applications for Pardons (“Amnesty Papers”) for Louisiana, 1865-1867 (\$):  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/249/hCLUo81WsNV06NElQ>
- ♣ Louisiana Census of Ex-Confederate Soldiers and Widows of Deceased Soldiers, 1911 (transcriptions):  
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/1911/1911census.htm>

- ♣ Freedmen's Bureau Reports of Destitute Discharged Soldiers and Their Families Treated in US Freedman's Hospital, New Orleans, February, 1867:  
<http://www.freedmensbureau.com/louisiana/orleans1867.htm>
- ♣ Freedmen's Bureau Reports of Destitute Discharged Soldiers and Their Families Treated in US Freedman's Hospital, New Orleans, January, 1868:  
<http://www.freedmensbureau.com/louisiana/orleans1868.htm>

## Spanish-American War

- ♣ Spanish-American War Service Record Index:  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/304/hyABSb3KgNV06NElQ>

## World War I

- ♣ WWI Draft Registrations for Orleans Parish (\$):  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/250/hMHallFNlNV06NElQkf-x8npW>
- ♣ Louisiana World War I Service Records, 1917-1920 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2489920>

## World War II

- ♣ WWII Draft Registration Cards for Louisiana:  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/251/hAYLjOSsMNV06NElQ>
- ♣ Louisiana First Registration Draft Cards, compiled 1940-1945 (A-M mostly complete as of November 2016):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1916286>
- ♣ WWII Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Casualty List for Louisiana:  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/251/hYj92MECoNV06NElQ>
- ♣ Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death Files for WWII Enlistees:  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/295/h2GeYxqDu>

## Miscellaneous Veteran Records

- ♣ U.S. Veteran Headstone Applications, 1925-1949:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1916249>
- ♣ U.S. Veteran Headstone Applications, 1925-1963:  
[https://www.fold3.com/browse/251/hY6R\\_H7pm](https://www.fold3.com/browse/251/hY6R_H7pm)

## Religion

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Tulane University's Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC) holds the records of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and most extant Jewish synagogue and temple records, as well as those of NOLA Jewish philanthropic and social welfare organizations.<sup>106</sup>

- ✦ Archdiocese of New Orleans Sacramental Records Volumes 2 (1751-1771), 5 (1791-1795), and 6 (1796-1799) of the sacramental records (additional volumes available for order from repository; see Repositories):  
<http://archives.arch-no.org/publications>
- ✦ German Churches in New Orleans (includes information on the church records where available):  
[http://freepages.religions.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~neworleans/german\\_church\\_records/inventory.html](http://freepages.religions.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~neworleans/german_church_records/inventory.html)
- ✦ FamilySearch Wiki - Louisiana Church Records (gives addresses for archives of each denomination):  
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Louisiana\\_Church\\_Records](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Louisiana_Church_Records)

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<sup>106</sup> Louisiana Research Collection Archives, *Howard-Tilton Memorial Library*, (<http://larc.tulane.edu/collections/archives> : accessed 10 November 2016).

## Miscellaneous

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- ✦ Louisiana State Penitentiary Records, 1866-1963 (image only):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1931391>
  - ✦ U.S. Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, 1800-c. 1955 (image only; filter to Louisiana):  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2074276>
  - ✦ *A Guide to French Louisiana Manuscripts: An expanded and revised edition of the 1926 Surrey Calendar with Appendices*\*:  
[http://www.hnoc.org/surrey/index.php?page=project\\_presentation](http://www.hnoc.org/surrey/index.php?page=project_presentation)
- \* “Designed to assist researchers studying French colonial Louisiana, the guide not only details documents concerning the French experience in the Mississippi Valley in Paris repositories described in the 1926 publication, but also appropriate materials found throughout France.”<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>107</sup>*The Historic New Orleans Collection*, (<http://www.hnoc.org> : accessed 6 November 2016), “1926 Surrey Calendar with appendices.”

## Online Books

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- ♣ *Norman's New Orleans and environs: containing a brief historical sketch of the territory and state of Louisiana, and the city of New Orleans from the earliest period to the present time* (1845; corresponding online map available; see Maps): <https://archive.org/details/normansneworlean00norm>
- ♣ *New Orleans as I found it* (1845):  
<https://archive.org/details/neworleansasifou00didi>
- ♣ *Autobiographical sketches and recollections, during a thirty-five years' residence in New Orleans* (1857):  
<https://archive.org/details/autobiographical00clap>
- ♣ *The Creoles of Louisiana* (1884, \$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=24392>
- ♣ *Historical sketch book & guide to New Orleans* (1884, \$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=26629>
- ♣ *The Industries of New Orleans : Her Rank, Resources, Advantages, Trade, Commerce and Manufactures, Conditions of the Past, Present, and Future* (1885, \$):  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=25545>
- ♣ *The Picayune's guide to New Orleans* (1903):  
<https://archive.org/details/picayunesguideto00newo>
- ♣ *New Orleans city guide* (1938):  
<https://archive.org/details/neworleanscity00writmiss>
- ♣ *Inventory of the Parish Archives of Louisiana. : Preliminary Inventory of Notarial Records in Orleans Parish* (WPA Project; 20th century notaries, 1939; \$):  
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