

### **New Orleans and Early Louisiana Timeline, 1541-1815**

Adapted from: Garvey, Joan B. and Mary Lou Widmer. *Beautiful Crescent: A History of New Orleans*. New Orleans, LA: Garmer Press, Inc., 1984.

- 1541     Hernando de Soto discovers the Mississippi River
- 1682     LaSalle names the land drained by the Mississippi River “Louisiana” in honor of King Louis XIV and claims the territory for France.
- 1718     New Orleans becomes a trading colony for the Company of the West, which held a French royal charter for the development of Louisiana.
- 1723     New Orleans becomes the capital of Louisiana.
- 1724     Governor Bienville institutes the Code Noir (Black Code) to regulate slavery and religious worship.
- 1731     Louisiana becomes a royal colony of France.
- 1762     The Treaty of Fontainbleau transfers New Orleans to Spain.
- 1763     The Treaty of Paris cedes all of Louisiana, except for New Orleans, to Spain.
- 1788     Fire destroys over 800 houses in New Orleans.
- 1800     As part of the Treaty of San Ildefonso, Spain retrocedes Louisiana to France
- 1803     France takes formal possession of the colony from Spain in the *Palace d’Arms*. Later in the year, the United States receives the area as part of the Louisiana Purchase.
- 1805     The city of New Orleans is incorporated.
- 1812     Louisiana is admitted to the Union; New Orleans becomes the state capital.
- 1815     The American forces defeat the British in the Battle of New Orleans.