

Jean Lafitte

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
Louisiana



Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial
Chalmette Battlefield
January 8 - January 10, 2015

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EMERGENCY? QUESTION?

**If you need help or have a question,
look for a National Park Service hat---
the person wearing it can help you!!**



Information in this publication is correct as of 12/18/2014.

About the cover picture: Created by John Rubens Smith around 1814, this allegory shows sailors with their national flags in the background. In the foreground, Britannia and America hold olive branches before an altar as a dove of peace flies above. Courtesy Library of Congress.

NEW THIS YEAR

The bicentennial schedule is full of traditional favorites like the living history camps, cannon and musket firings, and many drills. New this year is “Battle of New Orleans University,” which will allow you to experience the world of 1815 with demonstrations of period crafts and skills, hands-on workshops, historic games, music, dance, and speakers. Over 100 demonstrators, speakers, and performers and over 300 living history reenactors will share their knowledge and skills. Take a trip back in time and experience 1815 in and around New Orleans, within the battlefield military camps, and on the British ships anchored offshore.

Why is “celebrating unity” the theme of the Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial? To recognize and honor

- the unity demonstrated by the men and women from Great Britain and British possessions from throughout the world who fought for and supported the British cause;
- the unity shown by those who came together under the 15-star American flag: men and women, free and enslaved, of a wide range of backgrounds, races, regions, and languages;
- the unity, the lasting peace, and the special alliance between the United States and Great Britain...200 years and counting;
- the unity shown by people from every walk of life who keep the tradition of commemoration alive year after year at Chalmette Battlefield.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Welcome to Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery.

Legislated in 1939 after 30 years of effort, Chalmette Battlefield was the third national historical park established in the United States. This historic site is one of six locations of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. Today there are over 400 national park sites across America. Like pictures in a family photo album, national parks collectively tell the story of a great, dynamic nation: our struggles, our victories, our resources, and our songs.

At Chalmette Battlefield we remember those who prepared for and fought in the New Orleans campaign of the War of 1812, which culminated in the Battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1815. This bicentennial commemoration event across three days at Chalmette Battlefield is a time for all of us to reflect on the impact our common history has in shaping who we are today. It is also a time to celebrate the sustained peace between Great Britain and the United States that was forged from the sacrifice of those who perished here.

January 8 is a special day at the battlefield every year due to a host of dedicated volunteers, generous support from local and national organizations, and participation by American Indian tribes and local parish governments. This year's program offers expanded opportunities to learn of the War of 1812 from a wider perspective: one that looks like and sounds like the diversity of early American experiences. I hope you have a safe, enjoyable, and memorable bicentennial!

Lance Hatten
Superintendent
Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

200th Commemoration of the Battle of New Orleans

9:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Overture

Welcome

Presentation of Colors

Procession of Wreaths

National Anthem of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

National Anthem of the United States of America

Invocation

Opening Address – Service and Sacrifice

Park Superintendent Lance Hatten

Greetings from the City of New Orleans – Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu (invited)

Legacies of the Landscape – Lieutenant Governor Jay Dardenne

Henson Moore, Chairman, Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission

Unveiling of the Passage to Unity Memorial Design

Sir Peter Westmacott, Her Majesty's Ambassador
to the United States of America

Keynote Address – Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell (invited)

Music: Excerpt from "Score for Unity"

Unveiling of Commemorative Stamp

United States Postal Service Board of Governors Representative

Moment of Reflection

Taps

Music by US Marine Corps Ceremonial Band, ACT II,
and the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Jazz Ensemble

Commemoration Ceremony and afternoon programs take place on or near the Monument Stage.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS

Wreath Procession

Beginning with the Centennial Commemoration in 1915, local and national organizations have passed on a solemn tradition at Chalmette Battlefield. Each year on January 8, wreaths are presented near Chalmette Monument in honor of those who fought in the Battle of New Orleans.

Legacies of the Landscape

Led by the Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission and supported by numerous local and national organizations, three projects were selected to permanently contribute to the Chalmette Battlefield landscape: a bronze plaque honoring those that died during the New Orleans campaign, a 15-star flag installation by the rampart, and the Passage to Unity Memorial.

Score for Unity

Commissioned by the National Park Service, this original composition by Michael Rihner musically interprets the complexities and outcomes of the Battle of New Orleans.

Battle of New Orleans US Commemorative Postage Stamp

Completing a series of designated bicentennial stamps honoring War of 1812 units of the National Park Service, the US Postal Service reveals a stamp with artwork created by Greg Harlin depicting the last major battle of the war on the plains of Chalmette.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	Talking Circle: Hearing the Voice of the American Indian
1:15 – 1:45 p.m.	Musical Performance
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	Remembering Fazendeville: An African American Community's History on the Battlefield 1867-1964
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	National Park Service Ranger Music Program
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Ceremony and Retiring of Colors

Commemoration Ceremony and afternoon programs take place on or near the Monument Stage.



When you're planning your day with the Friday and Saturday schedules, look for the gray boxes: those are hands-on workshops, games, and other activities in which you can participate. For example, at a tignon tying workshop, you can learn how to wrap the cloth hair coverings that free women of color were required by law to wear in the early 1800s (the women quickly turned a legal mandate into a fashion statement).

HIGHLIGHTS: MUSIC, DANCE, AND DRAMA
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

British Songs Far from home and facing a determined defense, the British troops lifted their spirits with patriotic anthems, lively sea shanties, and entertaining tunes. Join soldiers and civilians for British music from the War of 1812 era.	Malus-Beauregard Lawn	Fri at noon Sat at noon
Choctaw Indian Dancers Social dances were and are an American Indian tradition; join in and discover how dancing builds community.	Malus-Beauregard Lawn	Fri at 11:30 and 1:30 Sat at 10:00, 12:30, and 2:30
Dances from Congo Square Congo Square was the heart of African New Orleans for decades. Experience how sound and movement strengthened ties between people of color, both enslaved and free.	Malus-Beauregard Lawn	Fri at 9:30 and 10:00 Sat at 11:30
Rally Round Our Liberty Patriotic music in both English and French helped unite the defenders of New Orleans. Join the American troops as they sing some of the actual songs from the New Orleans campaign.	Monument Stage	Fri at 1:30 Sat at 1:30
Regency Dancing Step lively with reenactors in period dress and learn early 1800s English country dancing.	Malus-Beauregard Lawn	Fri at 10:30 Sat at 10:30
Sea Shanties Pirates, navy crews, and sailors of all sorts sang to entertain themselves and to create a rhythm to their work. Sing along, me hearties!	Monument Stage	Fri at 10:00 and 11:30 Sat at 11:30 and 2:00
Shipboard Drama To pass the time during the voyage to America, some British soldiers and sailors built makeshift stages and performed plays on their ships. Among them was <i>The Mayor of Garret</i> , first staged in London in 1765. Recite the lines of a scene from that play alongside living history presenters and re-create a moment of lively entertainment from the British invasion fleet of 200 years ago.	Malus-Beauregard House	Fri at 10:00 Sat at 12:30

HIGHLIGHTS: SPEAKERS AND AUTHORS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

At the Event Tent - panel discussions and talks by experts followed by questions and answers

noon-12:55 *Battlefield Archeology* with **Ted Birkedal, John Cornelison** What has been discovered at Chalmette Battlefield? Are there mysteries still to be solved? Join a short walking tour and learn about the historical and cultural significance of archeological discoveries.

1:00-1:55 *“We Must Follow Different Trails”: The Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Creek in the War of 1812* with **Dayna Bowker Lee (Moderator), Greg O’Brien, Ian Thompson, Brad Lieb, Brandon White Eagle** Indians from the United States and Canada fought on both sides in the War of 1812. Hear how they chose which side to support and how their participation had broad and lasting consequences in their prime concern to protect tribal lands.

2:00-2:55 *African Americans and American Indians in the War of 1812: Choosing Sides* with **Barbara Krauthamer, Gene Allen Smith** Discover the often overlooked stories of enslaved Africans, free people of color, and American Indian tribes and the effects of the War of 1812 on their history.

At the Visitor Center - meet the authors

10:00-10:30 Nunez Community College history professor and boatbuilder **Ron Chapman**, whose book *The Battle of New Orleans: “But for a Piece of Wood”* describes how the British underestimated the currents of the mighty Mississippi River and how that affected the battle’s outcome.

11:00-11:30 **Randy DeCuir**, editor of *The Faces Behind the Battle of New Orleans: 1815-2015 Bicentennial Edition*, which presents portraits, photographs, and stories of many of the battle’s participants.

12:00-12:30 **Barbara Krauthamer**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, associate professor of history and graduate program director, whose book *Black Slaves, Indian Masters: Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship in the Native American South* is the first full-length study of chattel slavery and the lives of enslaved people in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian nations.

1:00-1:30 Educator, historian, musician, and artist **Freddi Williams Evans**, whose children’s book *The Battle of New Orleans: The Drummer’s Story* tells the story of Jordan Noble, a free man of color who was a 14-year-old drummer boy at the battle and went on to drum in three more wars.

2:00-2:30 **Greg O’Brien**, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, associate professor of history and director of graduate studies, whose books *The Timeline of Native Americans: The Ultimate Guide to North America’s Indigenous Peoples* and *Choctaws in a Revolutionary Age* share Choctaw history in early America.

3:00-3:30 **Gene Allen Smith**, Texas Christian University history professor, whose book *The Slaves’ Gamble: Choosing Sides in the War of 1812*, draws on a decade of original research and his curatorial work at the Fort Worth Museum to explore the fate of enslaved men and women during and after the war.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9					
	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
Malus-Beauregard House			Historic Games ----- Shipboard Drama		
Malus-Beauregard Lawn		Dances from Congo Square	Dances from Congo Square	Regency Dancing	
British Firing Line		Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing
Spotts Monument		Houma Indian Games			
Visitor Center	Museum Exhibits, Information Station, & Gift Shop all day				
Monument Stage			Sea Shanties		
American Firing Line	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing
American Elm Tent				Knot Tying	
Live Oak Tent				Soap Making	
Water Tupelo Tent			Basket Weaving		Basket Weaving
Cypress Tent				Paper Making	
Pecan Tent		Tignon Tying		Tignon Tying	
Hickory Tent		Wool Spinning	Cloth Dyeing		Wool Spinning
Hackberry Tent		Fire Making			Fire Making
Red Maple Tent		Duck Decoy & Relief Carving		Duck Decoy & Relief Carving	
Black Willow Tent			Printing Broad­sides		Printing Broad­sides
Sweetgum Tent		Making Powderhorns		Making Powderhorns	
Magnolia Tent			Blacksmith		Blacksmith
Encampments	British, American, & Civilian Living History Campside Demonstrations & Talks				
Game Field				Choctaw Indian Stick Ball Game	

Note that gray boxes represent activities in which you can participate. Please also note that all spaces for activities and programs on Friday are filled with students on registered school field trips. If space is available, all visitors are welcome to watch what’s happening.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9					
	11:30	Noon	12:30	1:00	1:30
Malus-Beauregard House	Historic Games			Historic Games	
Malus-Beauregard Lawn	Choctaw Indian Dancers	British Songs			Choctaw Indian Dancers
British Firing Line	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing
Spotts Monument	Houma Indian Games		Houma Indian Games		
Visitor Center	Museum Exhibits, Information Station, & Gift Shop all day				
Monument Stage	Sea Shanties			Sea Shanties	Rally Round Our Liberty
American Firing Line	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing
American Elm Tent		Knot Tying			Knot Tying
Live Oak Tent	Soap Making		Soap Making		
Water Tupelo Tent		Basket Weaving			Basket Weaving
Cypress Tent	Paper Making		Paper Making		
Pecan Tent	Tignon Tying			Tignon Tying	
Hickory Tent	Cloth Dyeing			Wool Spinning	Cloth Dyeing
Hackberry Tent				Fire Making Demonstration	
Red Maple Tent	Duck Decoy & Relief Carving		Duck Decoy & Relief Carving		Duck Decoy & Relief Carving
Black Willow Tent		Printing Broad­sides		Printing Broad­sides	
Sweetgum Tent	Making Powderhorns		Making Powderhorns		
Magnolia Tent		Blacksmith		Blacksmith	
Encampments	British, American, & Civilian Living History Campside Demonstrations & Talks				
Game Field				Choctaw Indian Stick Ball Game	

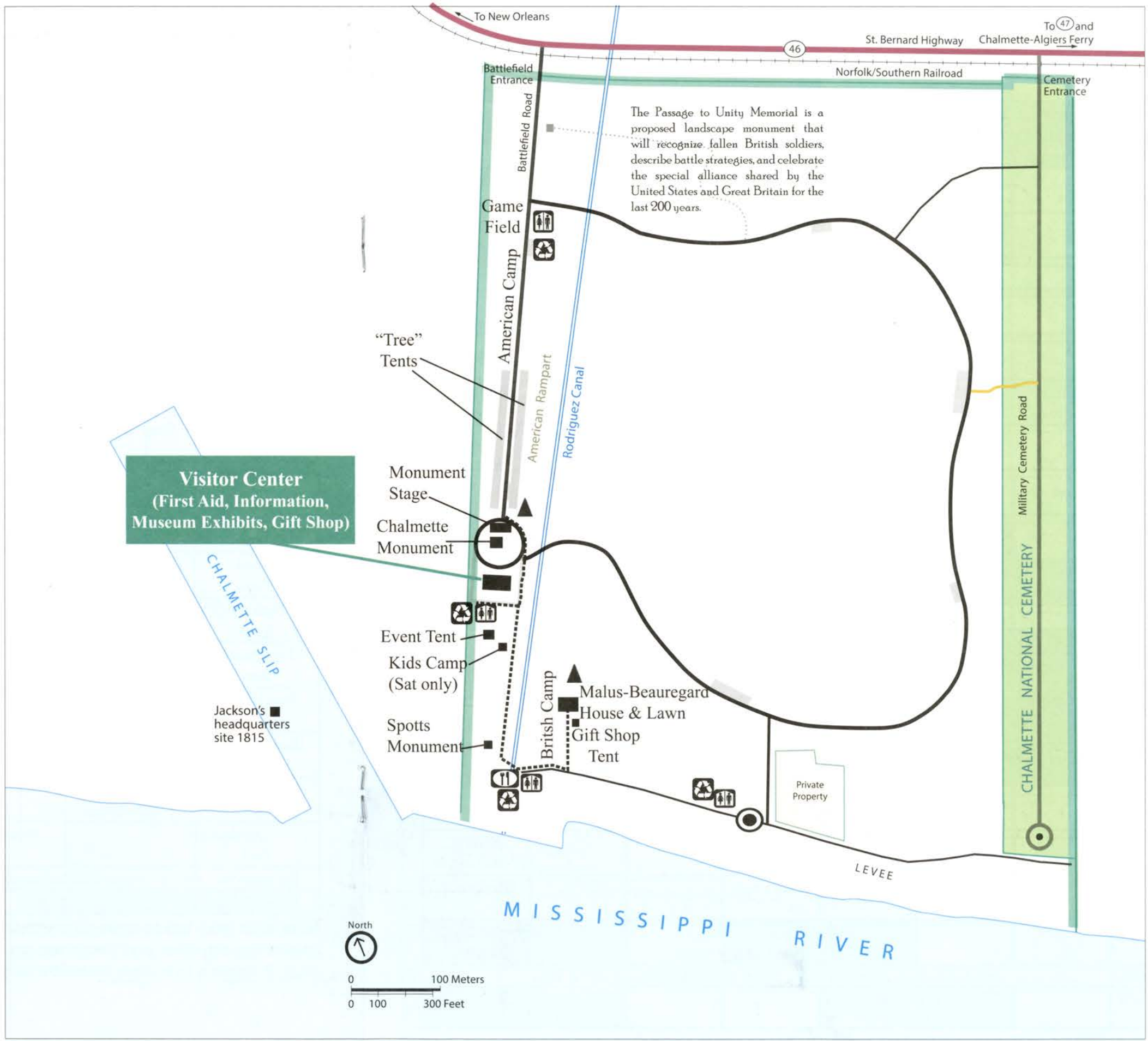
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Battle of New Orleans 2015

Chalmette Battlefield Event Map

Map Key

-  Recycling & Trash Bins
-  Food Trucks (Thu and Sat only)
-  Restrooms
-  Shuttle Bus Stop
-  Firing Line (American firing line near Monument Stage; British firing line near Malus-Beauregard House)



SATURDAY, JANUARY 10							
	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	Noon	12:30	1:00
Malus-Beauregard House		Historic Games		British Teatime ----- Historic Games		Shipboard Drama	
Malus-Beauregard Lawn	Choctaw Indian Dancers	Regency Dancing		Dances from Congo Square	British Songs	Choctaw Indian Dancers	
British Firing Line		Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing
Spotts Monument		Houma Indian Games					Houma Indian Games
Event Tent					Battlefield Archeology		Indian Nations
Visitor Center	Museum Exhibits, Information Station, & Gift Shop all day Meet the Authors (see page 7 for details)						
Monument Stage				Sea Shanties			
American Firing Line	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing
Wax Myrtle Tent	University of New Orleans Public History Student Presentations						
American Elm Tent					Knot Tying		
Live Oak Tent		Soap Making					Soap Making
Water Tupelo Tent	Basket Weaving						Basket Weaving
Cypress Tent			Paper Making				
Pecan Tent	Tignon Tying			Tignon Tying			
Hickory Tent	Wool Spinning		Cloth Dyeing		Wool Spinning		Cloth Dyeing
Hackberry Tent	Fire Making				Fire Making		
Red Maple Tent	Duck Decoy & Relief Carving						Duck Decoy & Relief Carving
Black Willow Tent			Printing Broadside				
Sweetgum Tent			Making Powderhorns				Making Powderhorns
Magnolia Tent		Blacksmith		Blacksmith			Blacksmith
Sycamore Tent			Cooking Calas				Cooking Calas
Encampments	British, American, & Civilian Living History Campside Demonstrations & Talks						
Game Field		Choctaw Indian Stick Ball Game					Choctaw Indian Stick Ball Game

Note that gray boxes represent activities in which you can participate.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10							
	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30
Malus-Beauregard House	Historic Games				Closing Ceremony (see page 14)		
Malus-Beauregard Lawn			Choctaw Indian Dancers				
British Firing Line	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing			
Spotts Monument	Houma Indian Games						
Event Tent	Indian Nations	African Americans & American Indians					
Visitor Center	Museum Exhibits, Information Station, & Gift Shop all day Meet the Authors (see page 7 for details)						
Monument Stage	Rally Round Our Liberty	Sea Shanties					
American Firing Line	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing	Musket Firing	Cannon Firing			Finale (see page 14)
Wax Myrtle Tent	University of New Orlean Public History Student Presentations						
American Elm Tent	Knot Tying		Knot Tying				
Live Oak Tent	Soap Making						
Water Tupelo Tent	Basket Weaving						
Cypress Tent	Paper Making						
Pecan Tent	Tignon Tying						
Hickory Tent	Cloth Dyeing	Wool Spinning					
Hackberry Tent		Fire Making					
Red Maple Tent	Duck Decoy & Relief Carving						
Black Willow Tent		Printing Broadside					
Sweetgum Tent	Making Powderhorns			Making Powderhorns			
Magnolia Tent		Blacksmith					
Sycamore Tent	Cooking Calas						
Encampments	British, American, & Civilian Living History Campside Demonstrations & Talks						
Game Field	Choctaw Indian Stick Ball Game						

Note that gray boxes represent activities in which you can participate.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 CLOSING CEREMONY & FINALE

3:30-4:30 Closing Ceremony
Reenactment of January 23, 1815, Victory Celebration

Honor Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson in period style with speeches and the presentation of the victor's laurel wreath, then join a fife and drum procession to the American firing line for music and cannon firing.

4:30-5:00 Finale: Cannon Firing & Concert

A grand farewell to the bicentennial's celebration of unity with closing remarks, cannon firings, and music by the US Marine Corps Band.

LAGNIAPPE



Why are the tents named for Louisiana trees? The tents are named for oaks, elms, and etc. to remind us that the land of Louisiana---bayous, rivers, swamps, and fields---played a crucial part in the American victory at the Battle of New Orleans.



How many British and American troops fought at the Battle of New Orleans? In the area we know today as Chalmette Battlefield, about 4,000 troops fought on the American side and about 7,000 fought on the British side. Both sides had more troops in reserve. According to military theory of the time, you should outnumber your enemy 3-to-1 to attack a defensive position like a rampart.

Was the War of 1812 already over when the Battle of New Orleans was fought? No! The treaty that ended the war was signed in Belgium on December 24, 1814, but the treaty specifically said that fighting had to continue until both countries ratified (approved) the treaty. The United States ratified the treaty in February, and the War of 1812 officially ended on February 17, 1815.



CONNECT WITH THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

More ways to experience the War of 1812 and the Battle of New Orleans at the battlefield or anywhere you go!

Information central for Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve and Battle of New Orleans activities throughout the area

nps.gov/jela

nps.gov/jela/battle-of-new-orleans-bicentennial

JeanLafitteNPS

@JeanLafitteNPS

National Park Service War of 1812 site with interactive maps, biographies, essays, and more

nps.gov/subjects/warof1812/explore-the-war-of-1812

NPS1812

@NPS1812



The visitor center at the battlefield is usually closed on Sundays, but it will be open 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 11.

Take home a memory

Gift shops at the battlefield visitor center and near the Malus-Beauregard House offer books, reproductions of period toys and glassware, model cannons, and a variety of exclusive bicentennial items from mugs to ornaments to t-shirts.



[flickr.com/groups/battle_of_new_orleans/](https://www.flickr.com/groups/battle_of_new_orleans/)

Share your photos old and new! If you have favorite pictures of Chalmette Battlefield, previous anniversaries, or photos from this year's event that you'd like to share, post them here. A volunteer team will use the posted pictures to create a pictorial retrospective of the battlefield through the years. (This 1909-1910 postcard of Chalmette Monument is from the park archives.)

SELF-GUIDED BATTLEFIELD TOUR

EXACTLY 200 YEARS AGO, the future of the United States was determined here at Chalmette Battlefield. The path of this self-guided walking tour will lead you along the line where Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson and the American forces dug in and repelled an invading British army on January 8, 1815.

As you walk along the American battle line, you will pass by the positions where US Army soldiers, sailors, and marines and members of a local hunting club held their ground next to the Mississippi River. You will stand where the sons of old local families and newly arrived immigrants stood shoulder to shoulder with free African Americans and criminal privateers. You will see where citizen soldiers from Tennessee and Kentucky fought alongside Choctaw Indians to repel the British invasion. Finally, you will discover what happened here in the centuries that followed the Battle of New Orleans.



TOUR STOP 1 MALUS-BEAUREGARD HOUSE & BRITISH CAMP

The Malus-Beauregard House was not here when British troops crossed the field in January 1815. However, its early 1800s architecture offers a convenient historical backdrop to explore the scene of the British troops assembled to capture New Orleans.



It may surprise you to know that some English ladies accompanied their husbands across the ocean. As the soldiers slept in swamps and suffered from the cold on their way to New Orleans, the women remained in the relative comfort of the ships. Waiting for the news of a British victory and the opportunity to visit the exciting city of New Orleans, they played games, read books, and enjoyed theatrical performances on the decks of their ships. These women would never see New Orleans, and some would never be reunited with their husbands. The fallen soldiers were buried at the plantations near the battlefield, and the women returned to England with the fleet.

To continue your tour, follow the paved walkway along the gravel road. Stop at the stone monument.

TOUR STOP 2 SPOTTS MONUMENT



Photo: A.J. Sisco

On the other side of the nearby twentieth-century levee is the Mississippi River. The river was the key to America's prosperity and its future. If the British army defeated the Americans on this field and marched into New Orleans, just five miles upriver, they would control the river and with it the entire Louisiana Purchase Territory---nearly half the United States in 1815.

The stone marker near the levee is Spotts Monument. Legend---and the monument inscription---says that Maj. Samuel Spotts of the US Artillery Corps fired the first gun at the Battle of New Orleans on January 8.

Buried under the levee is a road that ran alongside the river in 1815. More than 2,000 British troops attacked this end of the American line, which was defended by the 7th US Infantry, US Artillery Corps, US Marines, and Beale's Rifles, the local hunting club mentioned in the introduction.

Men at this end of the line witnessed the ill-fated march of the 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders) Regiment of Foot. The 93rd was ordered to leave the assault on the river end, cross the field, and join the main assault at the far side of the field near the swamp. Few of the Highlanders made it across the field. Those who did discovered that British commander Maj. Gen. Sir Edward Pakenham had been killed by enemy fire and that the tools needed to scale the American rampart had been misplaced and delayed. As new commanders were killed and troops fell under the unrelenting American fire, the British assault collapsed in about half an hour. In all, more than 2,000 British troops were killed, wounded, or captured on the battlefield. The Americans behind the rampart suffered fewer than 20 casualties.

Follow the walkway alongside the shallow remains of the Rodriguez Canal and past Chalmette Monument. The next stop on your tour is near the American flagpole.

TOUR STOP 3 AMERICAN BATTERY 4

You are standing near the center of the American defensive line. Here General Jackson placed the citizen soldiers of New Orleans who united to defend their homes. French-speaking Creoles, Spanish-speaking Isleños from the Canary Islands, Irish and German immigrants, and free African Americans were just some of the men who fought together here.

Also here were General Jackson's biggest guns. A 32-pound cannon from a US Navy ship launched projectiles the size of bowling balls across the field. The difficult task of loading, aiming, and firing these cannons was performed by members of the US Artillery Corps and US Navy and by Jean and Pierre Lafitte's Baratarians, smugglers and pirates who just weeks before had been wanted men. No contemporary evidence places Jean Lafitte himself on the battle line, but the skill of his men in repelling the British assault with their deliberate cannon fire was noted by many.



Continue toward the American camp and the game field. Stop just before you reach the intersection of Battlefield Road and the loop road.

TOUR STOP 4 MILITIAS, CHOCTAWS, AND VICTORY

Look across the open field. Where you see the smokestacks and pipes of a modern oil refinery, a British army was camped from December 23, 1814, through January 8, 1815. After a night battle in the British camp on December 23, General Jackson's forces fell back to this spot, where they spent Christmas 1814 constructing a defensive rampart at this location behind the Rodriguez Canal.

Look to your left. Where you see trees today, there were open fields of cut sugar cane in January 1815. Extending from this spot and across the modern highway and into the field on the other side, Jackson placed the Tennessee and Kentucky militias and Choctaw Indians. At the end of the line, where the field met a dense cypress swamp, those troops would meet and successfully repel a daybreak assault by about 5,000 British troops.

The National Park Service has re-created a section of the rampart or mud wall behind which the American defenders stood. On January 8, the wall was nearly eight feet tall in some places and up to 20 feet thick: tall enough to duck behind and reload, thick enough to stop a cannon ball. Please don't climb onto the rampart or otherwise disturb it, but please do stand behind it and imagine staring into a thick morning fog, knowing that you will soon face combat with the best trained army in the world.



About 30 minutes of fighting in the field in front of you determined the fate of the United States. The British left Louisiana after their defeat at the Battle of New Orleans, turning their attention back to Europe and what would be their final battle with the French Emperor Napoleon at Waterloo and the end to more than 20 years of war. Canadians were proud to have

defended their border against American invasion. Americans were counting their blessings for having ended the War of 1812 on agreeable terms and feeling a new sense of pride in their nation and its ability to overcome differences in a common cause. The American victory also secured the lands of the Louisiana Purchase and encouraged white settlers to move into American Indian lands to the west without the worry of interference by any European powers.

The last stop on the tour explores the history of this land after the battle. Find a spot with a good view of the field to consider Chalmette Battlefield in the two centuries since the Battle of New Orleans.



Photo: A.J. Sisco

TOUR STOP 5 CHALMETTE BATTLEFIELD AFTER THE BATTLE



The Chalmet family and their plantation were devastated by the War of 1812. The main house had been destroyed by the American forces to prevent British forces from using the site, and owner Ignace Delino de Chalmet died not long after the Battle of New Orleans. Two years later, the war-ravaged property was bought by brothers Hilaire and Louis St. Amand, prominent local land owners and free men of color. They restored the land and returned it to the lucrative industry of sugar cane cultivation.

In the early 1800s, the Malus-Beauregard House was built for Madeleine Pannetier Malus on land purchased from the St. Amand brothers. Many families would live there, each remodeling to suit their tastes and the fashions of the day. The National Park Service obtained the house in 1949.

When former president Andrew Jackson returned to New Orleans in 1840 to commemorate the Battle of New Orleans' 25th anniversary, local citizens were organizing to raise a monument at the battlefield. Construction began in 1855; Civil War soldiers camped in the shadow of

its half-finished obelisk. Funding problems plagued the project for decades. The state of Louisiana, the federal government, and the United States Daughters of the War of 1812 worked together and completed Chalmette Monument in 1908.

In 1857, New Orleans free man of color Jean Pierre Fazende inherited land within what we now call Chalmette Battlefield. After the Civil War, he divided it and sold it to freed slaves from local plantations. The community grew to more than 200 people and became known as Fazendeville. The National Park Service bought the land in 1966 after long, contentious negotiations. Many residents relocated to New Orleans' 9th Ward but kept the Fazendeville community alive through regular communication and social events. The community bonds that built Fazendeville remain strong among its former residents and descendants.

Rodriguez Canal, now a shallow ditch on the battlefield side of the reconstructed rampart, is the only human structure that survives from 1815. That little ditch and the land of Chalmette Battlefield have seen cannonballs fly, slavery abolished, communities created, and heroes remembered. They have lasted through hurricanes, heartbreak, and happiness. The battlefield's story continues, and you are a part of it too.



Above: Chalmette Monument about 1900; courtesy Library of Congress. Right: Aerial view of Chalmette Battlefield and Fazendeville; courtesy Louisiana Air National Guard.

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www.nps.gov/jela

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- For a look at the influences that shaped one of America's great cities, visit the French Quarter Visitor Center in New Orleans. 504-589-2636
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www.nps.gov/jazz

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