

NEW ORLEANS

300
1718 - 2018

TRICENTENNIAL

From *Bienville* to *Bourbon Street* to *bounce*. 300 moments that make New Orleans unique.



WHAT HAPPENED

Code Noir was put into effect in Louisiana on Sept. 10, 1724.

Some version of the **Code Noir**, or the black codes, ruled the lives of slaves and freed men of color for more than 100 years.

The Code Noir was first put in place in the Louisiana Territory in 1724. It was a collection of 55 rules that dictated how slaves were to be treated, punished and what they were allowed to do. The code gave more power to the slave owners than the slaves but required punishment for slave owners who didn't follow the rules. Among other things, the code required that all slaves be instructed in the Roman Catholic faith; be allowed to marry; be fed and cared for even if unable to work; and be protected from torture. Free men of color, including freed slaves, were given the same rights as the free born French. But the code also prevented gatherings of slaves; allowed slave owners to punish slaves who ran with branding and even death; and prohibited slaves from owning property or carrying weapons. Unlike the French Code Noir



in affect in St. Domingue, mixed marriages were prohibited and slave owners couldn't easily free their slaves. The rules were modified under Spanish rule of the territory, and slaves were given more freedoms to earn money and to buy their own freedom. Because of these codes, there were more free men of color in the territory than all other areas of the country combined. Code Noir ended when the United States took over the territory in 1803, but other black codes were put into effect.

JEWES COULD NOT RESIDE in the French colonies.

SLAVES MUST BE BAPTIZED in the Roman Catholic Church.

PUBLIC EXERCISE OF ANY RELIGION other than Roman Catholicism was prohibited; masters who allowed or tolerated it by their slaves could also be punished.

ONLY CATHOLIC MARRIAGES would be recognized.

WHITE MEN WOULD BE FINED FOR HAVING CHILDREN with slave concubines owned by another man, as would the slave concubine's master. If the man who engaged in sexual relations with a slave was the master of the slave concubine, the slave and any resulting children would be removed from his ownership. If a free, unmarried man should have relations with a slave owned by him, he should then be married to the slave concubine, thus freeing her and any resulting child from slavery.

WEDDINGS BETWEEN SLAVES must be carried out only with the masters' permission. Slaves must not be married without their own consent.

CHILDREN BORN BETWEEN MARRIED SLAVES were also slaves, belonging to the female slave's master.

CHILDREN BETWEEN A MALE SLAVE AND A FREE WOMAN were free; children between a female slave and a free man were slaves.

SLAVES MUST NOT CARRY WEAPONS except under permission of their masters for hunting purposes.

SLAVES BELONGING TO DIFFERENT MASTERS must not gather at any time under any circumstance.

SLAVES SHOULD NOT SELL SUGAR CANE, even with permission of their masters.

SLAVES SHOULD NOT SELL ANY OTHER COMMODITY without permission of their masters.

MASTERS MUST GIVE FOOD (quantities specified) and clothes to their slaves, even to those who were sick or old.

SLAVES MAY NOT TESTIFY in court.

A SLAVE WHO STRUCK his or her master, his wife, mistress or children would be executed.

A SLAVE HUSBAND AND WIFE (and their prepubescent children) under the same master were not to be sold separately.

FUGITIVE SLAVES ABSENT FOR A MONTH should have their ears cut off and be branded. For another month their hamstring would be cut and they would be branded again. A third time they would be executed.

FREE BLACKS WHO HARBOURED FUGITIVE SLAVES would be beaten by the slave owner and fined 300 pounds of sugar per day of refuge given; other free people who harboured fugitive slaves would be fined 10 livres tournois per day.

MASTERS MAY CHAIN AND BEAT SLAVES but may not torture nor mutilate them.

MASTERS WHO KILLED THEIR SLAVES would be punished.

SLAVES WERE COMMUNITY PROPERTY and could not be mortgaged, and must be split between the master's inheritors, but could be used as payment in case of debt or bankruptcy, and otherwise sold.

SLAVE MASTERS 20 YEARS OF AGE (25 years without parental permission) may free their slaves.

SLAVES WHO WERE DECLARED TO BE SOLE LEGATEES by their masters, or named as executors of their wills, or tutors of their children, should be held and considered as freed slaves.

FREED SLAVES WERE FRENCH SUBJECTS, even if born elsewhere.

FREED SLAVES HAD THE SAME RIGHTS as French colonial subjects.

FEES AND FINES PAID with regard to the Code Noir must go to the royal administration, but one third would be assigned to the local hospital.

CODE NOIR.
OU
RECUEIL D'EDITS,
DECLARATIONS ET ARRETS
CONCERNANT
Les Esclaves Nègres de l'Amérique,
AVEC
Un Recueil de Réglemens, concernant La police des Nèes Françaises de l'Amérique et les Engagés.
Auguste Simon
A PARIS,
Chez les LIBRAIRES ASSOCIEZ,
M. DCC. XLIII.

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WHAT HAPPENED

The biggest yellow fever epidemic, in 1853, killed 8,647 people.



A boy from an Irish immigrant family suffering from yellow fever in 1855. Irish and German immigrants were blamed by some for the epidemics, as nativists charged they were a public health scourge.

OCTOBER 8, 1858.

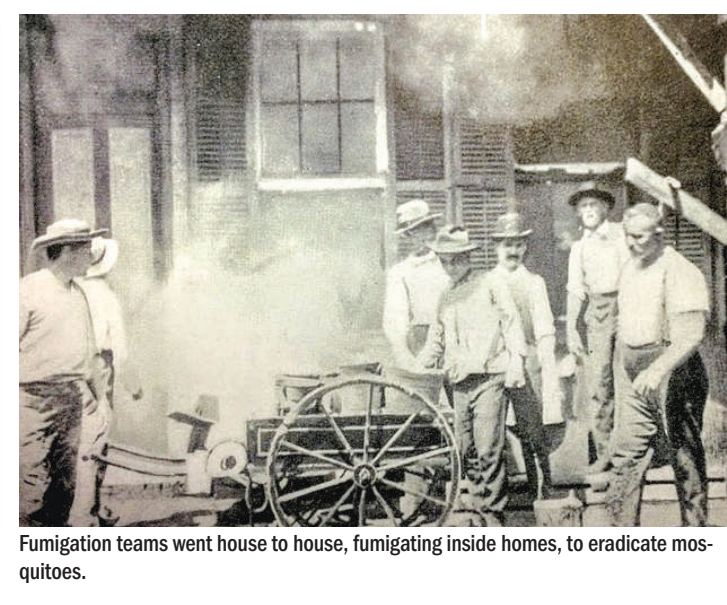
CITY ITEMS.

YELLOW FEVER — Board of Health Report. There were 53 deaths by yellow fever in the city of New Orleans for the twenty-four hours ending yesterday at noon, as shown by the following table of interments:

Charity Hospital.....10	Catholic No 2.....0
Cypress Grove No. 1... 2	St. Vincent de Paul... 3
Cypress Grove No. 2... 8	St. Joseph Asylum... 4
Odd Fellows' Rest.... 0	Hebrew, Fourth Dist... 0
Greenwood..... 1	Hebrew, Metairie Ridge 0
Protestant, Girod st... 2	St. Patrick's.....12
Lafayette.....11	St. Louis, Esplanade... 3
Catholic No. 1..... 0	
Total.....56	

This is a decrease of 4 from yesterday's report.

A report detailing the yellow fever deaths over the course of a single day.



Fumigation teams went house to house, fumigating inside homes, to eradicate mosquitoes.

IN A NUT SHELL

WE ALL KNOW THE DANGER OF **YELLOW FEVER**

but we become EARNEST ONLY after it claims our own blood.

INFECTION BY MOSQUITOES IS NO LONGER A THEORY BUT A PROVEN FACT

GET RID OF THE MOSQUITO BY BURNING **SULPHUR FOR FUMIGATION** UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE **MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE**

START IN ON **SUNDAY AT 10 A. M.** AND KEEP AT IT UNTIL NOON OR LATER.

Sulphur was used to rid homes of mosquitoes, with 2 pounds of sulphur used for a 10-foot by 10-foot room.

The threat of **yellow fever** terrorized New Orleans every summer for more than 100 years.

Between 1800 and 1900, yellow fever struck the city 67 times, with the worst epidemics coming in 1847, 1853, 1854, 1855 and 1858. In 1853 alone, at least 8,600 people died from the disease, and 41,000 people died between 1817 and 1905. While other cities had outbreaks of the viral disease, New Orleans had the most epidemics.

It was long a mystery how the grim, hemorrhagic disease was spread. Health officials from around the world studied the city and blamed a variety of causes, including unsanitary conditions and general atmospheric miasma. Following the outbreak in 1853, the

New York Times blamed the disease on slavery. Those who could afford it left the city every summer. Immigrants, unaware of the threat of yellow fever, were the most common victims of the disease. In 1901, Walter Reed proved the disease was spread by mosquitoes, but some New Orleans residents didn't believe the conclusion and didn't cover their open wooden cisterns, a breeding ground for the mosquitoes. This led to a final yellow fever epidemic in 1905 that killed 452. The epidemic and future epidemics were prevented after cisterns were ordered closed and the city was regularly fumigated.



The Sisters of Charity cared for infants and children with yellow fever at St. Vincent's Infant Asylum on Magazine Street.