

NEW ORLEANS

300

1718 ~ 2018

TRICENTENNIAL

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



WHAT HAPPENED

Marie Laveau was born on Sept. 10, 1801.

Marie Laveau’s grave in 1910 (top) and today. Some believe that Laveau’s spirit will grant wishes to those who mark three X’s on her grave.



It is generally taken as fact she was born Sept. 10, 1801, to Marguerite Henry, a freed slave, and Charles Laveaux, a free man of color and a businessman. In 1819, Marie Laveau married Jacques Paris, a free carpenter from Haiti who later died. Laveau then had seven children by a white man of French descent, Louis Christophe Dominic Duminy de Glapion. Only two children survived, both named Marie. Marie Laveau, in addition to being a leading practitioner of voodoo, was according to local newspapers, a devout Roman Catholic and a healer who helped



A souvenir doll of Marie Laveau that sold for \$1.30 at the Doll House on Royal Street during the Great Depression.

GIFT OF MRS. EWELL POTTS / THNOC

Tales of Marie Laveau, “Voodoo Queen of New Orleans,” are more myth than fact.



This 1844 portrait titled, “Woman in Tignon,” by Adolph Rinck is believed to be of Marie Laveau.



A first edition of Robert Tallant’s fictional novel “The Voodoo Queen,” based on Marie Laveau.

several people through yellow fever. Laveau lived on St. Ann Street between Rampart and Burgundy. But there the certainty about Laveau stops.

She was by most accounts the queen of all voodoo priestesses, but did her power come from magic or from information she had on people from all walks of life in New Orleans? There is also confusion about the large rituals she would lead on St. John’s Eve, or summer solstice. Some attribute the largest and most raucous of these events to one of Marie’s daughter’s, Marie II.

Laveau’s standing in the community, though, is largely undisputed. Following her death on June 15, 1881, newspapers wrote glowing obituaries. Her funeral was conducted by a priest at St. Louis Cathedral and she was buried in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.

NEW ORLEANS

300

1718 ~ 2018

TRICENTENNIAL

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



WHAT HAPPENED

Storyville was created on Oct. 1, 1897.



The Anderson Saloon at 210 Basin St., the heart of Storyville. The saloon was owned by Thomas Anderson, a powerful figure in Storyville and a state senator.



Storyville went from opulent brothels fronting Basin Street to wooden cribs closer to North Robertson Street. Here is a row of wooden cribs on Iberville Street.



The interior of a room in a brothel at 341 Basin St., photographed in about 1905 by Ernest J. Bellocq.

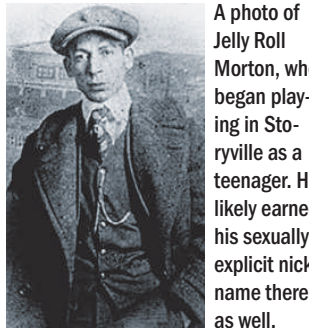
Created to contain prostitution and other vice, **Storyville** instead became the nation’s most famous red-light district.

The district was created by a city ordinance proposed by Councilman Sidney Story in 1897 to limit public prostitutes or women “notoriously abandoned to lewdness” to the area roughly from Basin to North Robertson streets and Iberville to St. Louis streets. A second ordinance created a district for black prostitutes, but Storyville was known as a place where white men could meet with women of all races. Storyville’s promoters even published “Blue Books” that listed women by race, including colored, white and octoroon. The guides described the brothels and their specialties. Some of the brothels were extreme in their richness, with marble staircases, halls of mirrors and elevators. At Mahogany Hall, madam and owner Lulu White ascended the grand staircase at midnight as pianist Rosalind Johnson played “When the Pale Moon Shines.” The brothels helped incubate early jazz players like Jelly Roll Morton and Joseph “King” Oliver. The district was ordered closed by Mayor Martin Behrman in 1917 at the direction of the Navy, which had training camps nearby. Many of the buildings were later razed to make way for the Iberville housing project.



Yes; this is the famous Mademoiselle Rita Walker. The Oriental Dancer, who some years ago set the society folks of Chicago wild about her “Salome” dance. She was one of the first women in America to dance in her bare feet. Aside from her marvelous dancing, Mademoiselle has a \$100 wardrobe which she uses for her dances. Mademoiselle is at present a guest of MISS BERTHA WEINHAL, 311 N. Basin St., where she can be seen in her marvelous dances.

A Blue Book advertisement for Mademoiselle Rita Walker, who according to the listing, previously wowed Chicago society with her Salome routine. She was one of the first women in America to dance in her bare feet and was known for her wardrobe and her dancing.



A photo of Jelly Roll Morton, who began playing in Storyville as a teenager. He likely earned his sexually explicit nickname there as well.