

WHAT
HAPPENED

The largest
slave revolt
in U.S. history
began on
Jan. 8, 1811.



Inspired by uprisings in Haiti, slaves along the German Coast organized **the River Parish slave rebellion** in 1811.

It would be the largest organized slave rebellion in the United States and was ended by militia who killed or captured about 100 of the slaves who had started marching on Jan. 8. The revolt began at Col. Manuel Andry's plantation in La-Place. The marchers attacked Andry and killed his son Gilbert. They later killed one other man. The group of enslaved men, led by slaves including Charles Deslondes, marched toward New Orleans carrying pikes, hoes, axes and a few fire-arms. They were joined by other slaves as they progressed. The slaves set fire to five plantations. The enslaved men traveled 22 miles to a plantation in what is now Kenner. On Jan. 10, an organized group of militia surrounded the slaves and attacked, killing about 20 of the enslaved men. Others were captured and sentenced to death or sent to New Orleans for further trials. The heads of the slaves that were killed were displayed on poles outside of their plantations as a message to other slaves.

The revolt made the newspapers nationwide and resulted in more restrictive laws for enslaved and free blacks, as well as sympathy from Northerners who saw the revolt as evidence of the slave's work conditions and harsh treatment.



As shown in
a Whitney
Plantation
display, the
heads of slaves
killed after the
1811 were put
on poles at their
plantations.

A painting of the 1811 River Parishes slave revolt by local artist Lorraine Gendron

Charles Deslondes was an overseer of slaves at Col. Manuel Andry at a plantation that was later called Woodland.



'On to Orleans:' the Negro Insurrection,' an 1888 illustration by Maurice Thompson