



Exhibit on sugarcane (six photographs) – the largest and most lucrative crop of the lower Great River Road plantations. Other minor crops were grown such as indigo, tobacco, corn, and wheat. Cotton was not grown this far south.



# 200 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN THE LOUISIANA SUGAR INDUSTRY:

A BRIEF HISTORY  
by Dr. Charley Richard

The Louisiana territory, named for Louis the 16th King of France, was transferred to the United States in 1803. Louisiana territory was the largest territory ever acquired by the United States. It was the only territory to be acquired by purchase. The territory was divided into the Orleans Territory and the Louisiana Territory. The Orleans Territory was named in honor of the French nobleman, the Marquis de Lafayette. The Louisiana Territory was named in honor of the French nobleman, the Marquis de La Fayette.

Other planters, following his example and the industry planter, began to plant sugarcane in Louisiana. The first sugarcane plantation in Louisiana was established in 1793 by Jean-Baptiste Pointe du Sable. He was a free man of color and a successful businessman. He was the first person of color to own a plantation in Louisiana. He was also the first person of color to be elected to the Louisiana legislature.

The sugar was of extremely poor quality and could not be shipped to France. The industry planter, however, was not until the end of the 18th century when several factors caused the industry to flourish. The industry planter, however, was not until the end of the 18th century when several factors caused the industry to flourish. The industry planter, however, was not until the end of the 18th century when several factors caused the industry to flourish.

In 1803, the U.S. purchased the territory of Louisiana from the French. Americans poured into Louisiana and began to develop the sugar industry. The War of 1812 temporarily slowed the development of the industry. Several factors were instrumental in restoring the industry's growth. The war of 1812 was instrumental in restoring the industry's growth. The war of 1812 was instrumental in restoring the industry's growth. The war of 1812 was instrumental in restoring the industry's growth.

The planters and processors of that time were faced with the constant risk of fire. Each year, many small and medium planters, who were producing sugar for their own consumption, lost their crops to fire. The planters and processors of that time were faced with the constant risk of fire. Each year, many small and medium planters, who were producing sugar for their own consumption, lost their crops to fire.

Following the Civil War, the industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem. The industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem. The industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem. The industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem.

The Great Depression brought drastic changes in the value of the industry and severely cut back on the number of planters. The industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem. The industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem. The industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem.

During the 1970s, the industry's average has reached an all-time high. Profits have been very good and production is still growing. The industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem. The industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem. The industry slowly began to recover, although labor was still the major problem.

CULTIVATING SUGAR







### THE KETTLE TRAIN

Open Kettle sizes:  
Grande  
Flambeau  
Sirop  
Batterie

The cane juice was boiled in four large open kettles (sugar kettles) arranged in a kettle train (often referred to as a Jamaica train), usually heated by burning wood. Each kettle was of different size, and the kettles were arranged from the largest, which held up to 500 gallons, to the smallest. The first kettle, the largest, was called the grande, the next one was called the flambeau, the third called the sirop, and the fourth, the smallest, was called the batterie. Impurities were skimmed off the top, and the boiling process was begun again. This was done pot after pot until a brown sugar called muscovado was produced – brown crystals of sugar.

The workers boiling cane juice had to be highly skilled. A mistake in timing would end up in the production of molasses, which was not nearly as valuable as crystal sugar. The muscovado was then cooled and dried. The finished product was loaded into large wooden barrels called hogsheads containing about 1,000 lbs. of sugar each.










Slave Markets and Slave Auctions – Exhibits and interpretive panels tell the story of “Purchased Lives,” slave markets, auctions and also about black slave owners.









## New Orleans: Slave Market of the South

This exhibit depicts an auction at the Banks Arcade in New Orleans, showing a free person of color bidding alongside a white planter for slaves. Free colored men and women could own, inherit, and sell property, including slaves.

Unlike many southern cities, New Orleans did not confine its slave trade to a single market structure or even a handful of locations. Instead, slaves were sold citywide. Auction blocks in the sumptuous rotunda of the St. Louis Hotel, private residences, public parks, decks of ships moored along the Mississippi, high-walled slave pens, and commercial complexes such as Banks Arcade all served as sites for the buying and selling of human beings. (HNOC)

**1803** - One in six of the roughly 8,000 people living in New Orleans was a free person of color.

**1810** - The first official U. S. census of Orleans Territory in 1810 counted 7,585 free persons of color, compared to 34,311 whites and a total population of 76,556. Louisiana's native free people of color had been granted U. S. citizenship in 1803.

**1812** - Louisiana Statehood is the beginning of the "golden age" of free people of color in Louisiana.

**1840** - Louisiana's free black population rose from just under 11,000 in 1820 to about 25,000, keeping pace with the rise of white and slave populations and representing about seven percent of the state's total population.

**1861** - Louisiana's booming economy at the outbreak of the Civil War. The state was the richest in the Union and New Orleans the third largest city.

*New Orleans "had the highest percentage of free black males employed as artisans, professionals, and entrepreneurs, and the lowest in 'low opportunity' occupations like laborer, mariner, gardener, servant, and waiter. New Orleans also contained more than a quarter of all free men of color employed as professionals, managers, artists, clerks, and scientists in the fifteen largest cities in the United States."*

# SLAVE AUCTIONS IN NEW ORLEANS

An 1854 merchant census from the Office of the City Treasurer identified fifty-two sites where the sale of men, women, and children took place on a large scale between 1811 and 1862.

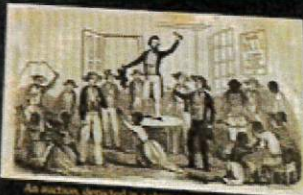
Slaves were sold citywide in New Orleans... in companies such as the Banks Arcade, on the Slave block in the Rotunda of the St. Louis Hotel, in Slave Pens (private jails owned by traders), in Private Residences, Parks, and on Ships along the banks of the Mississippi. Generally, where there was commerce, there were slave traders.

Brooks Brothers and S. Hopkins Jr. supplied "plantation clothing" to planters and cheaply made suits, top hats, head wraps, and dresses to auction houses eager to spruce up the appearance of their slaves. Doctors, hospitals, and private clinics profited by bringing individuals sickened by their long journeys south back to full strength so that their owners might fetch high prices at their sale.



A Slave Pen at New Orleans—before the Section. Wood engraving from Harper's Weekly, January 24, 1863.

**S. HOPKINS, Jr.,**  
No. 11 Canal, next door to the  
Muffintown of  
**PLANTATION CLOTHING**  
Suits, Hats, Head Wraps, Dresses, &c.  
Wholesale and Retail.  
Sole Importers of  
**PLANTATION CLOTHING.**



An auction, depicted in a slave narrative from 1849.

BY NEWLETT & BASTIEN  
On Saturday, 14th April, 1854  
At 1-2 1/2 o'clock, at Newlet's Kitchen  
WITH THE BIDDERS  
**24 HEAD OF SLAVES**  
Twenty belonging to the Estate of Jas. Smith, of  
Charleston. These Slaves have been for more than 10  
years, and are all well, and strong, and capable of  
hard work on a Sugar Plantation. There are no  
children, a few more, a few more being weak, and no  
sickly or infirm. They will be sold chiefly in 10  
lots. TERMS—One year's credit, payable in money  
on the completion of the month, and bearing interest  
at 6 per cent. Sale to be passed before, Cuthbert, Taylor  
the register of the plantation.

Lot 1	10	10	10
Lot 2	10	10	10
Lot 3	10	10	10
Lot 4	10	10	10
Lot 5	10	10	10
Lot 6	10	10	10
Lot 7	10	10	10
Lot 8	10	10	10
Lot 9	10	10	10
Lot 10	10	10	10

(Right) by William Hand colored engraving from The Star



*"We were taken from Vicksburgh to the city of New Orleans where we were to be sold at any rate. We were taken to a trader's yard or a slave prison on the corner of St. Joseph street. This was a common resort for slave traders and planters who wanted to buy slaves; and all classes of slaves were kept there for sale, to be sold in private or public - young or old, males or females, children or parents, husbands or wives. Everyday at 10 o'clock they were exposed for sale. They had to be in trim for showing themselves to the public for sale. Everyone's head had to be combed and their faces washed, and those who were inclined to look dark and rough were compelled to wash in greasy dish water, to look slick and lively.*

*When spectators would come in the yard, the slaves were ordered out to form a line. They were made to stand up straight and look as sprightly as they could; and when they were asked a question, they had to answer it as promptly as they could and try to induce the spectators to buy them. If they failed to do this, they were severely paddled after the spectators were gone."*

*Written by Henry Bibb, after escaping to Canada and returning later to free his wife and child. He was recaptured in Kentucky and later sold with them in New Orleans. 1849*

### BLACK SLAVE OWNERS IN LOUISIANA

In 1860 about 28 percent of the free black population in New Orleans owned slaves, with at least six owning 65 or more.

Mrs C. Richards and her son P.C. go above and beyond these other six slave owners by owning over twice as many. The widow and her son operated a large sugar plantation together and owned more slaves than all other black slave owners in Louisiana in 1860, topping off at 152.

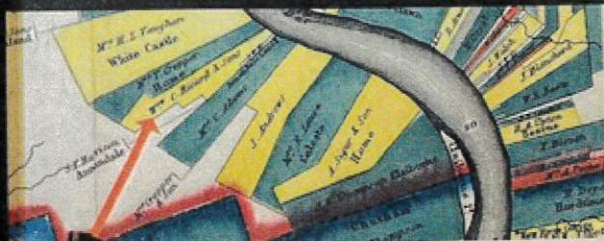


Antoine Dubuclet and his wife Claire Pollard owned more than 70 slaves in Iberville Parish when they married. According to Thomas Clarkin, by 1864, in the midst of the Civil War, they owned 100 slaves, worth \$34,700. During Reconstruction, he became the state's first black treasurer, serving between 1868 and 1878.



Andrew Durnford was a doctor and a plantation owner. During the 1820s, he built and grew a sugar empire in Louisiana and owned dozens of slaves. It is said that he believed that the slavery system was necessary and just. He later befriended a white merchant from New Orleans named John McDonogh. Through this relationship, Durnford obtained enough credit to increase his plantation business.

*Black auction buyer P. C. Ricard owned upwards of 152 slaves.*



*Shown is a portion of Norman's Chart of the Lower Mississippi River by A. Perrier 1858*



## **P. C. RICARD BLACK SLAVE OWNER**

*Widow C. Ricard and her son P.C. owned a plantation (Annandale) on the West Bank of the Mississippi River in Iberville Parish. They rose above the six other large black slave owners in Louisiana by owning more than twice as many slaves. Together they owned a massive sugar plantation and had more slaves than any other black slave owners in Louisiana in 1860, culminating at 152.*

*(Today, the property is listed as Cora-Texas.)*

### **THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF BLACK SLAVE OWNERS WAS IN LOUISIANA**

*In 1860 there were at least six Negroes in Louisiana who owned 65 or more slaves. The largest number, 152 slaves, were owned by the widow Cyprian Ricard and her son. Another Negro slave magnate in Louisiana, with over 100 slaves, was Antoine Dubuclet, a sugar planter whose estate was valued at (in 1860 dollars) \$264,000. That year, the mean wealth of southern white men was \$3,978.*

### **THE LARGE SLAVEHOLDERS OF LOUISIANA - 1860 (page 94)**

*"A negro mother and her son in Iberville Parish together possessed 152 slaves - seventy-one held by Widow C. Ricard alone, and eighty-one with (her son) P.C. Ricard.*

*The two Ricards produced 627 hogsheads of sugar in 1859-60. Their quite large land holdings consisted of 1,300 improved acres, and 3,000 unimproved, allegedly valued at \$215,000."*