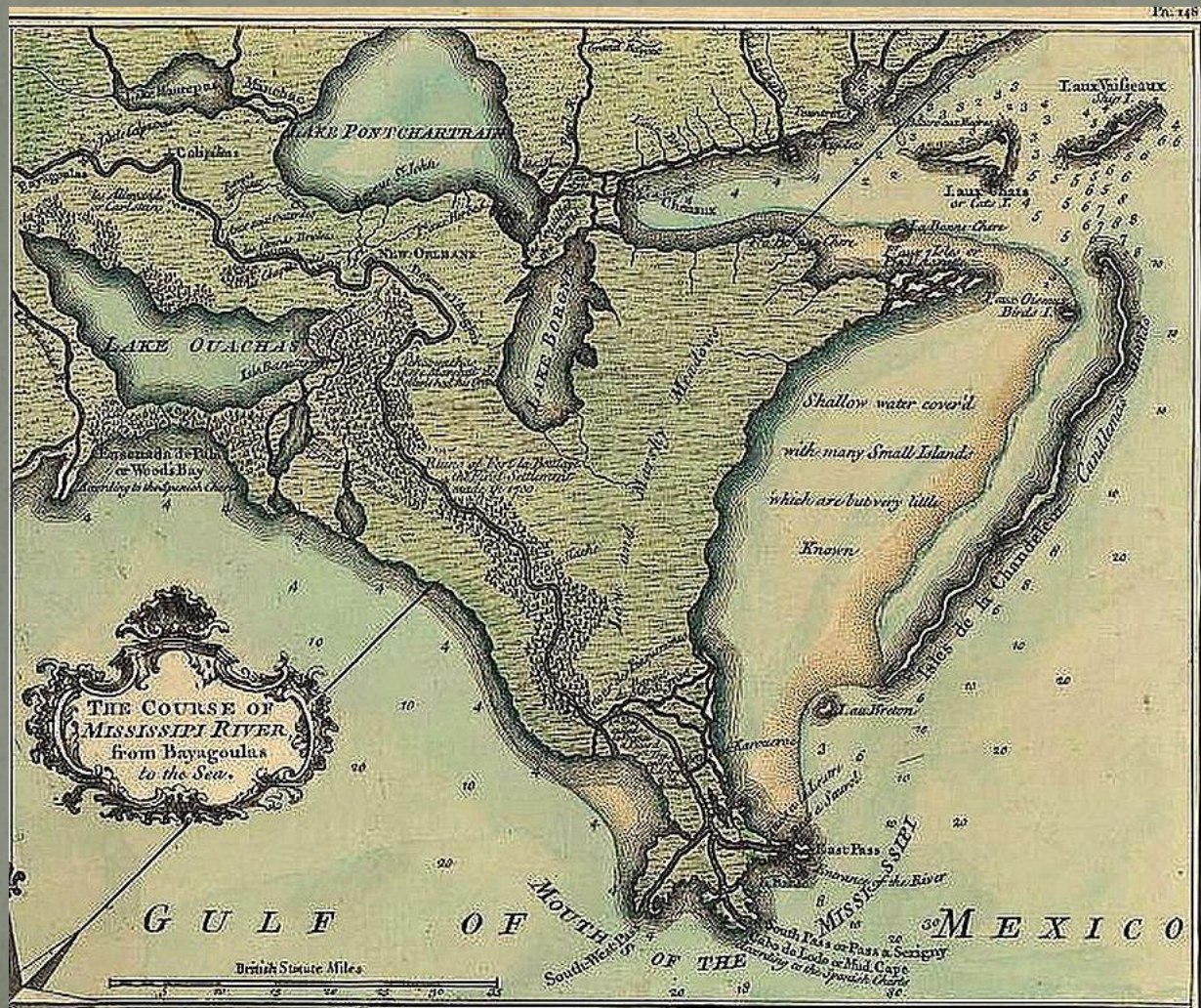


WELCOME TO THE NEW WORLD
&
NEW ORLEANS HOSPITALITY

May 25 to June 26, 1818

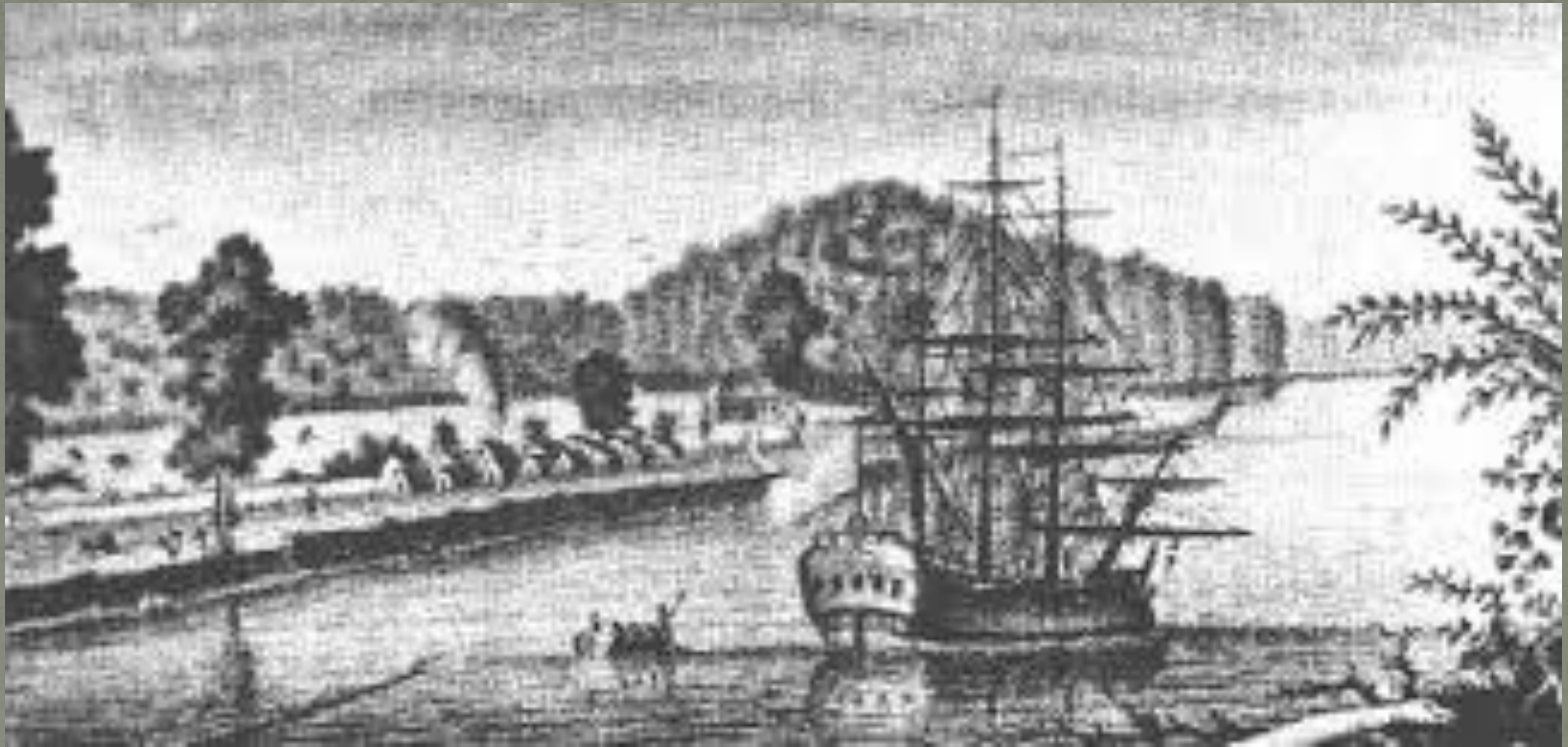
May 25, 1818:

In the Gulf of Mexico, the Rebecca reaches the place where the Mississippi's waters flow into the Gulf.
The Pilot from New Orleans boards the ship to guide it through the difficult channel.



May 28, 1818:

The ship is so close to land now that mosquitoes attack the passengers.



May 29, 1818



“The great Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus! All day we crept slowly up the river. The country along the banks is becoming ever more smiling and open. Wide fields of cotton and corn under cultivation bespeak the industry of the inhabitants...By eight our satchels were packed and we were being let down into a small boat by means of the famous armchair which we had eyed so often with fear and envy during the crossing.”

— Diary of Eugenie Audé, RSCJ

May 29, 1818



The nuns renew their vows on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. That evening they disembark. Philippine kneels to kiss the ground and tells the others, “You do it too. No one is looking!”

May 29, 1818

“The Ursuline religious, whose kind welcome simply overwhelms us, had gotten word of our arrival, so they sent carriages a distance of seven leagues to the place where the vessel had stopped for lack of wind. We rode in procession and arrived at two o’clock in the morning on the last Saturday of May.”

— Philippine Duchesne, RSCJ
in a letter to Mother Barat



May 30, 1818:
The Ursuline nuns welcome the RSCJ cordially.
They will be their guests for six weeks.

Ursuline convent, New Orleans, where Mother Duchesne and companions
were given hospitality on reaching America in 1818.



Hospitality

“Once we arrived at their house, we found not only touching examples of every virtue of hospitality but the most comprehensive care: medicines to guard against change of temperature, baths, cool drinks, carefully chosen food: all kinds of clothing; ours was taken and washed the same day. Mothers could not have done more for their children.”

“The Ursuline nuns, lodging us, are saving us more than fifty francs a day that we would have to spend if we were paying for our stay here while waiting for the boat to Saint Louis.”

June 2, 1818 letter Philippine Duchesne, RSCJ to Mrs. de Mauduit, at Crest (Drôme)

June 5, 1818:



Mother Duchesne is diagnosed with scurvy as a result of the voyage and is embarrassed to be an additional burden to her hostesses.

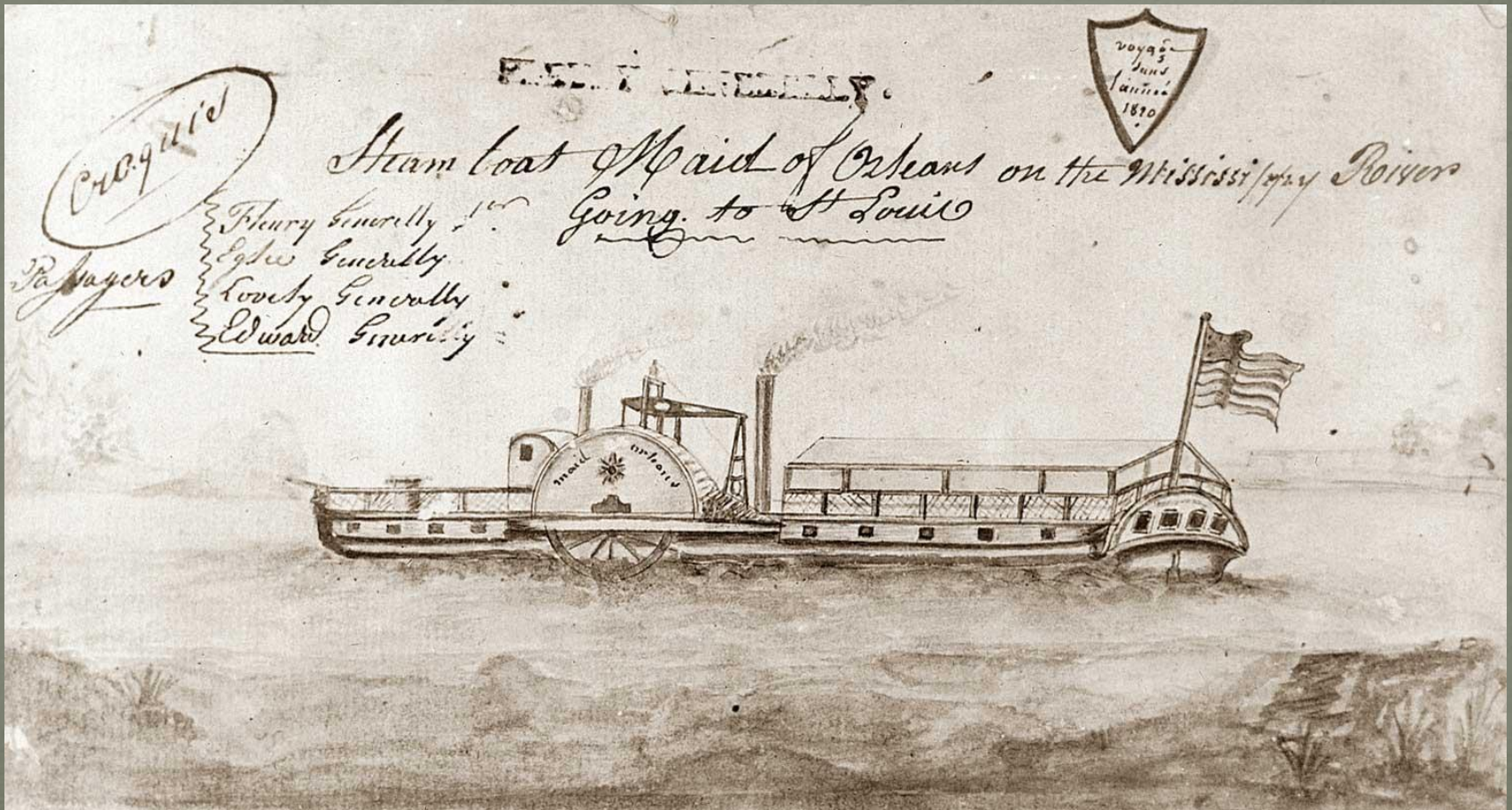
What is scurvy?

- ❖ Scurvy is the name for a vitamin C deficiency.
- ❖ Scurvy has been known since ancient Greek and Egyptian times. It is often associated with sailors in the 15th to 18th centuries, when long sea voyages made it hard to get a steady supply of fresh produce.
- ❖ Symptoms of vitamin C deficiency can start to appear after 8 to 12 weeks. Early signs include a loss of appetite, weight loss, fatigue, irritability, and lethargy.
- ❖ It can lead to anemia, debility, exhaustion, spontaneous bleeding, pain in the limbs, and especially the legs, swelling in some parts of the body, and sometimes ulceration of the gums and loss of teeth.
- ❖ Scurvy is treatable with oral or intravenous vitamin C supplements.
- ❖ It can be fatal if left untreated.

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/155758.php>

June 10, 1818:

The Ursuline superior gives Philippine 500 francs to help defray the cost of the riverboat trip to St. Louis.



June 1818

“The Bishop has not written and that is not encouraging. Three days ago I met a rich man, Mr. John Mullanphy, from the North, who told us there is great demand for both a college for boys and a boarding school for girls. The college is to be located in St. Louis; our school is to be seventeen miles from there at Florissant, a village situated in one of the loveliest and most fertile parts of the country.”

— Philippine Duchesne, RSCJ,
in a letter to Mother Barat





June 1818

“All my companions are well, except for mosquito bites.

They say there are no mosquitoes in St. Louis.

The milk there is also more wholesome and delicious, the fruit more abundant,

especially the apples...They speak English rather than

French, so we continue to study it with a postulant, a

pupil of the Visitation at Georgetown.”

— Philippine Duchesne, RSCJ, in a letter to
Mother Eugenie de Gramont



June 23, 1818

Bishop DuBourg writes to Mother Duchesne: “You say you have come seeking the Cross. Well, you have taken exactly the right road to find it.” The letter is received after the nuns arrive in St. Louis.



June 24, 1818



The nuns receive their first letters from France. They are overjoyed and take them to the chapel, placing them at the foot of the altar before reading them.

June 26, 1818: The Ursuline nuns try to coax the RSCJ to remain in New Orleans, but they are faithful to their promise to the Bishop.



Courtesy of the Ursuline Academy Archives and Museum.

The Ursuline Prayer speaks to their core belief of hospitality.

URSULINE PRAYER

Gracious God, let us remain in harmony, united together all of one heart and one will. Let us be bound to one another by the bond of love, respecting each other, helping each other, and bearing with each other in Jesus Christ. For if we try to be like this, without any doubt, the Lord God will be in our midst. Amen