

Hyppolite “Pol” Chauvin (1750-1799)

During the Revolutionary War period, Hyppolite “Pol” Chauvin served in the German Coast militia.

Louisiana was a Spanish colony from 1763 to 1800, although its settlers were primarily French and spoke the French language. Spain declared war against Britain on June 21, 1779, and the colonial governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, acted as military commander of all the regular and militia troops in his colony. Gálvez waged a spirited campaign against the British, including the capture of Fort Bute on Bayou Manchac on Sept. 7, 1779, the Battle of Baton Rouge on Sept. 21, 1779, the capture of Mobile on Mar. 14, 1780, and the capture of Pensacola on May 10, 1781. Due to devastating hurricanes and a temporary shortage of regular troops, Gálvez relied heavily on civilian militia troops from New Orleans, the German Coast, and the Acadian Coast during his campaign in September 1779, and it is likely that Pol fought in these battles.

Pol was descended from a family that emigrated in the 1650s from the Pays de Loire region of France to Montreal, Quebec, where his grandfather later worked as a *coureur des bois*, and in the 1700s the family migrated to Louisiana by way of the French settlements of Detroit and Kaskaskia.

Pol was born in Kaskaskia, in present-day Illinois, in 1750, and moved to St. Charles parish on the “German Coast” of Louisiana, so-called because of the presence of numerous German settlers who intermarried with the French. There he married Charlotte Toups (Dubs) in 1777, and they had several children together. He owned a farm in St. Charles parish and died there in 1799.

Respectfully submitted,

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