

## **Pierre Daspit de Saint-Amand (1755-1837)**

During the Revolutionary War period, Pierre Daspit de Saint-Amand served in the New Orleans 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 Pierre fought in these battles.

Pierre was descended from a noble family from the French region of Midi-Pyrénées. His grandfather Jean Francois Daspit de St. Amand was born in Toulouse, France, and was stationed in Louisiana where he served as a captain in the Compagnies Franches de la Marine. Jean Francois was killed in 1729 in an attack by natives upon Fort Rosalie (in present-day Natchez, Mississippi), leaving behind a widow and two orphaned boys in New Orleans.

Pierre was born on Jan. 19, 1755, in New Orleans. There he married Marie Mayeux on Nov. 28, 1778, and they had several children together. The family later moved to Lafourche Parish in Louisiana, where Pierre served as Probate Judge for the French-speaking residents of the parish, and where he died on Sept. 22, 1837.

Note: Pierre Daspit de Saint-Amand is often confused with his identically named first cousin (1759-1821) who served in the German Coast militia in St. Charles Parish Louisiana, and who never married.

Respectfully submitted,

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