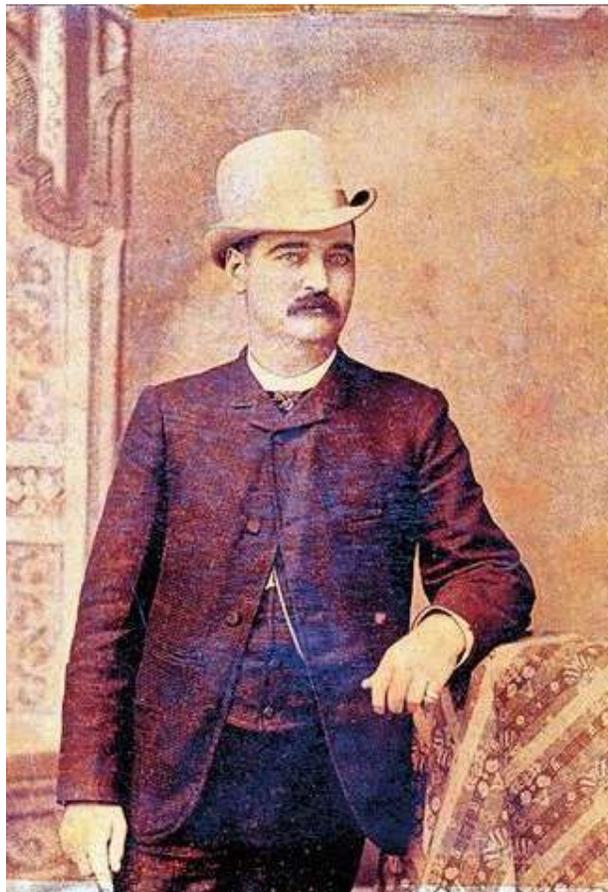


Marshals in Our Midsts

Those steely-eyed frontier lawmen of the Wild West (like Bat Masterson) are perhaps the first images that come to mind when marshals are mentioned. After Bat “got the hell out of Dodge”, he later came down to New Orleans as a sportswriter to cover the Sullivan-Kilrain fight. Bat’s brother Ed was actually the real marshal of Dodge City, Kansas, with Bat having served as marshal of Trinidad, Colorado. The fictional marshal of Dodge City on “Gunsmoke” was (as Chester would say) “Mister Dillon”.



Bartholemew William Barclay "Bat" Masterson (1853 – 1921)

A few may also think of the U. S. Marshal Service, the nation’s primary organization for hunting and capturing federal criminals. Envision Marshal Samuel Gerard pursuing Dr. Richard Kimball (who was, in turn, pursuing the one-armed man). Some may picture Grand Marshals in parades (like the Krewe Of Endymion), while others may ponder the role of military marshals.

A Marshal of France proudly displays seven stars. He is not presented with a "*baton rouge*" but a blue one with stars, previously *fleurs-de-lis* during the reigns of French kings and eagles during the First French Empire. The Latin inscription reads: "*Terror belli, decus pacis*", or "Terror in war, ornament in peace".



French Marshal's baton



Jean-Baptiste Jourdan, baton in hand, Maréchal de France

Then there's martial law. Andrew Jackson became the first American military leader to suspend civil liberties in the United States, and he did so in New Orleans. In order to secure victory against the British, he believed it was necessary to suspend the writ of *habeus corpus* and declare martial law. Contrary to many media reports at the time, New Orleans was not placed under martial law in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

After Reconstruction, Congress passed the *Posse Comitatus* Act, which prohibited the use of the military in domestic law enforcement without the approval of Congress. The National Guard was an exception, being under the control of the individual state governors (unless federalized with their consent). This was changed after Katrina with Public Law 109-364. In Latin, *posse comitatus* means "power of the county". The posse that a frontier marshal might empower was a body of able men, from the Latin "to be able".



Napoleonic Marshal Michel Ney

One may surmise that marshal and martial come from the same root word. While the word martial is forever linked to Mars (the god of war), marshal comes from a totally different source. It was derived from a Germanic compound made up of *marhaz* (meaning horse and related to the source of the word mare) and *skalkaz* (meaning servant). The Frankish version of this word of Germanic origin, *marahskalk*, came to signify a high royal official or military leader. After all, horses were of paramount importance in medieval warfare.

In Old French it became *mareschal*. The Normans brought the word to England with the Conquest where it was first recorded as marshal in the thirteenth century, and it continues as the surname Marshall to this day.

Many New Orleans streets have been named for famous marshals. Surveyor Charles Zimpel was largely responsible for this, having laid out the Napoleonic streets of the Faubourg Bouligny. Besides streets named for his victories, Bordeaux and Lyon figured prominently in Bonaparte's military career. And Valence is where he first joined his regiment. And there is a Marshal Ney Alley between Bordeaux and Valence near the River. Zimpel also laid out the streets in Mid City's Faubourg Jackson with Napoleon's more regal marshals, Murat and Bernadotte (along with *Le Petit Caporal* himself). Napoleon Street was later changed to honor slain police chief David Hennessy, for the Emperor already had an avenue uptown. Bernadotte ended up King of Sweden, and Joachim Murat married Napoleon's sister and was made King of Naples. Young Prince Achille Murat (dead ringer for his uncle, the Emperor) would later come to New Orleans and practice law. His office was in Exchange Place, and he resided on Esplanade between Bourbon and Dauphine. In Carrollton, as explained by John Chase, Zimpel's Burdette Street was merely a corruption of Marshal Bernadotte's name.



Marshal Jean Bernadotte became King of Sweden.

Lakeview has some streets named for marshals of the First World War. Represented are Generals Haig and Diaz, as well as Marshal Foch.

Commanding the British Expeditionary Force during the Battle of the Somme and at Ypres, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig was the son of John Haig (head of the family's famed whisky distillery, Haig & Haig). Perhaps their Scotch could accompany the Oysters Foch, a New Orleans dish named for France's famous *Maréchal* Ferdinand Foch. General Armando Diaz was *Maresciallo d'Italia*, and Papa Joffre (as he was affectionately known) was Marshal of France (both in that same war). There is a Joffre Road, but it is located in New Orleans East.

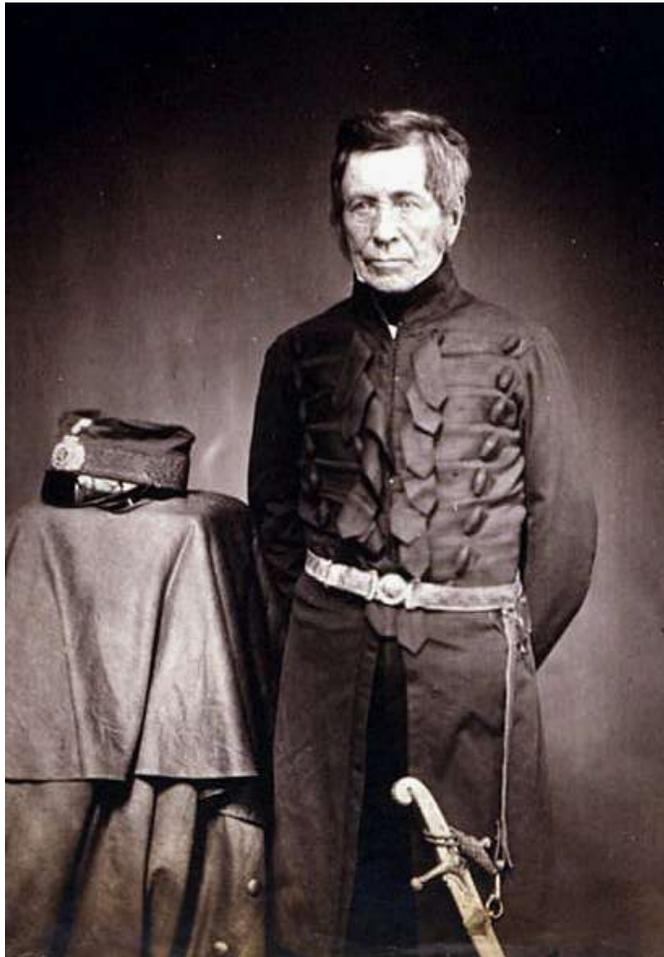


A proposal was made to Mayor Martin Behrman of New Orleans that Canal Street be named for French Marshal Ferdinand Foch. It did not come to pass, but his image did grace a cigar box (shown above). Antoine's serves Oysters Foch, created in his honor, to this day.

The rank of field marshal has never existed in the United States because George Washington (whose great-grandniece was Prince Murat's wife) only held the rank of general (so it was deemed inappropriate to go higher). Yet there is the rank of General of the Army or (rarely used) General of the Armies of the United States (devised for General Pershing as head of the AEF). However, General MacArthur was a field marshal in the army of the Philippines. There's

a General Pershing Street uptown (which replaced Berlin Street, another Napoleonic victory) and a MacArthur Drive on the West Bank.

General Washington was pleased to see France enter the war on the American side after Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga (whose son, Sir John Fox Burgoyne became a British field marshal after surviving his role as commanding engineer under General Pakenham at the Battle of New Orleans). Pakenham's brother-in-law, the first Duke of Wellington was a field marshal in twelve different armies. He did, after all, defeat Napoleon at Waterloo.



British Field Marshal John Fox Burgoyne, Pakenham's chief engineer, survived the Battle of New Orleans.

And there has been much ado about the role of a Marshal Jean Victor Marie Moreau (1763 – 1813) in the success of the Battle of New Orleans, played out in the pages of the New York Times in 1894. Lawyer, general and rival to Napoleon, Moreau was banished to the

United States, visited New Orleans in 1804 and “mingled freely” among the populace. In the 1890s, lawyer and journalist Henry C. Castellanos wrote that the general “played piquet with Pitot, discussed law with Derbigny, ... sipped wine with Claiborne, played billiards with Marigny” and (most importantly) surveyed the Chalmette location as the most effective spot for New Orleans to resist an enemy attack.



Jean Victor Marie Moreau, Napoleon’s rival, visited New Orleans.

It is said that Edward Livingston informed Old Hickory of Moreau’s strategic analysis. Moreau (only a few yards from Alexander of Russia) was struck by a cannonball on August 27, 1813, at the Battle of Dresden, and died a few days later. Moreau was obviously not, as some believed, at the 1815 battle along the Rodriguez Canal. Moreau was given the rank of Marshal of France posthumously by Louis XVIII.

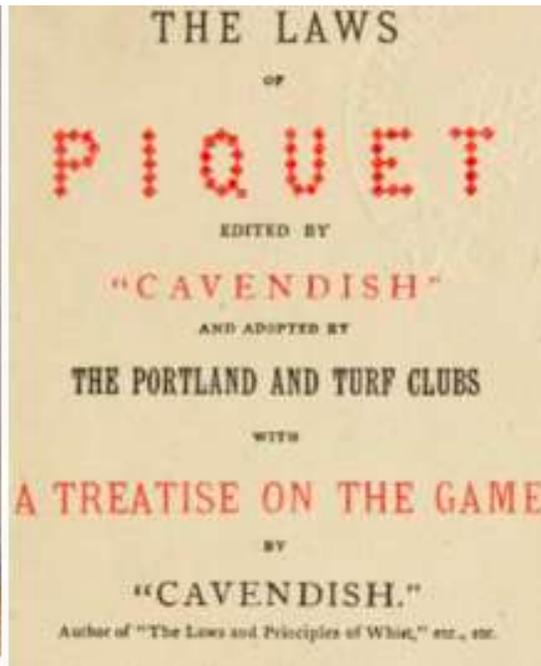
Mention must also be made of Pierre de Montesquiou, Comte d’Artagnan, the Musketeer made Marshal of France in 1709. His relations established their plantation upriver from New Orleans some eleven years later. And Bernardo de Gálvez was made a field marshal after he was governor of Louisiana but before becoming Viceroy of New Spain.

Dorgenois Street in New Orleans is another "marshal" connection. It was named for LeBreton D'Orgenois, who, according to John Chase (page 181 of *Frenchmen, Desire, Good Children: ...*), truly deserves his representation in the street nomenclature. Not only was it *his* land, but he was also the first U. S. Marshal of the territorial government, as well as president pro tem of the Territorial Legislature in 1812. In addition, he was acting mayor of the city for one month.

Then there have always been stories of plots to rescue Napoleon (attended by faithful companion Marshal Bertrand) from St. Helena and bring him to New Orleans. Another former ruler who did make it to the Crescent City in 1950 had been made honorary Field Marshal of the British Army and Royal Air Force fourteen years earlier (and before his abdication). That was Edward VIII who, along with his wife, Wallis Simpson, bowed to Comus and Rex on that year's Mardi Gras.



Mayor James Pitot



Piquet Game Rules

If "Pitot" and "piquet" piqued anyone's interest, James Pitot was New Orleans' second mayor who served during Moreau's visit. Piquet was at the time the most popular card game in France (even among marshals).

NED HÉMARD

New Orleans Nostalgia
"Marshals in Our Midsts"
Ned Hémard
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