

**Louisiana Department of State
Outreach Division**

P.O. Box 94125
Baton Rouge, LA 70804 -9125
225.922.2803
225.932.5397 FAX

Mission

“Encouraging citizens of Louisiana to protect and enrich their quality of life by exercising their rights and responsibilities as informed voters.”



**SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

P.O. Box 94125
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9125
WWW.SOS.LA.GOV



Dear Friend:

It is my pleasure to provide you with the requested information about the great state of Louisiana!

The “Louisiana Facts” brochure is published and distributed by the office of the Secretary of State. There are several other state departments which may provide further information about agriculture, forestry, industry, maps, mineral resources, tourism and wildlife in Louisiana. Contact information for these departments is enclosed.

Louisiana has such a unique and interesting history. I trust that you will find the enclosed information helpful and informative.

Thank you for your interest in our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tom Schedler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Tom Schedler
Secretary of State

TOM SCHEDLER
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF LOUISIANA
SECRETARY OF STATE
P.O. BOX 94125
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9125
www.sos.la.gov



Louisiana State Seal

One of the prescribed duties of the Secretary of State's Office is keeper of the Great Seal of Louisiana. The secretary of state must attest and imprint with the seal all official state documents – commissions, laws passed by the legislature and proclamations of the governor.

From territorial days, the pelican and her nest of young have figured in Louisiana's official emblem. The territorial governor, William C.C. Claiborne, is thought to have first suggested the pelican for the seal. As early as 1804 there was such a seal in use which depicted a pelican feeding her young.

In 1812, it was decreed that a seal be devised "as the governor may direct" but made no mention of using a pelican. A 1902 report of the Secretary of State noted that there was no enactment actually providing for a seal until 1864. As a result of this lack of description, versions of the seal included scales of justice, stars and as many as a dozen young in the nest (impossible since in reality a pelican rarely has more than three eggs in its nest at one time).

During the Civil War years, the governor of the Confederate portion of the state and the governor of the federal portion each had his own emblem. The seals differed in the direction the pelican turned its head and how many chicks were in the nest.

To establish uniformity in the seals, Governor William Henry Wright Heard directed the secretary of state in 1902 to use a seal of this description: "A Pelican, with its head turned to the left, in a nest with three young; the Pelican, following the tradition in act of tearing its breast to feed its young; around the edge of the seal to be inscribed 'State of Louisiana.' Over the head of the Pelican to be inscribed 'Union, Justice,' & under the Pelican to be inscribed 'Confidence.'" That is the seal that represents the State of Louisiana today.

For additional information please contact:

Department of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 631
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-0631
(225) 922-1234

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
P.O. Box 94361
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9361
(225) 342-8115

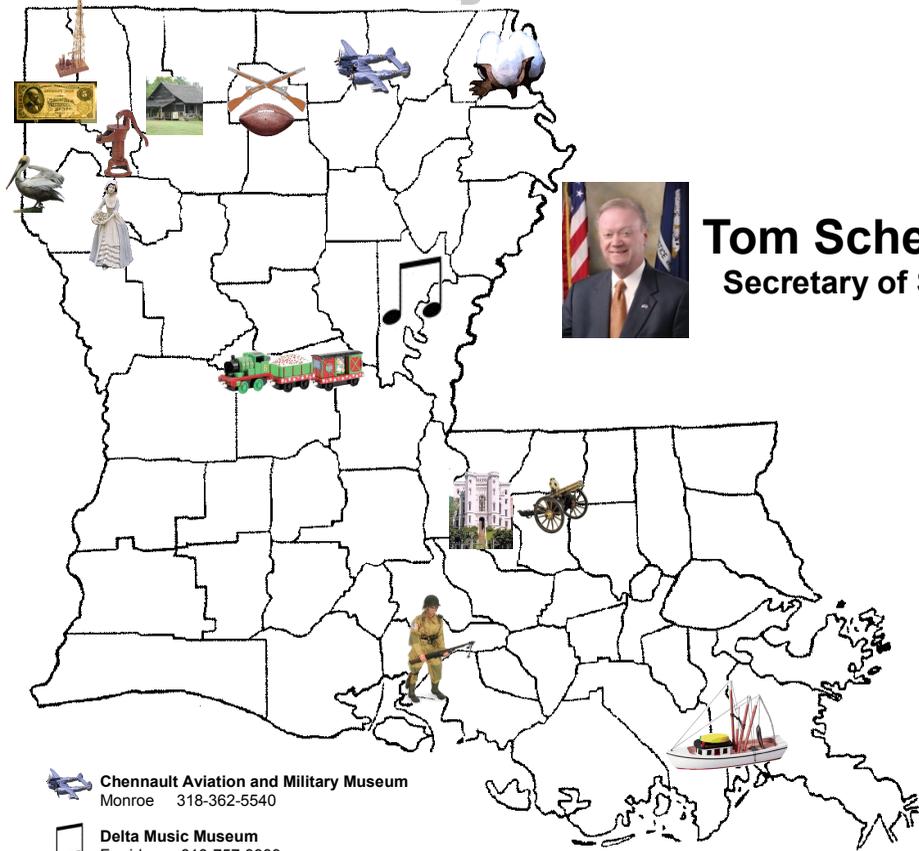
Department of Economic Development
P.O. Box 94185
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9185
(225) 342-3000

Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 94396
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9396
(225) 342-4500

Department of Transportation and Development
P.O. Box 94245
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245
(225) 379-1100

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

Louisiana Secretary of State Museums



Tom Schedler
Secretary of State

 **Chennault Aviation and Military Museum**
Monroe 318-362-5540

 **Delta Music Museum**
Ferriday 318-757-9999

 **Eddie G. Robinson Museum**
Grambling 318-274-2210

 **Germantown Colony Museum**
Minden 318-377-6061

 **Jean Lafitte Marine Fisheries Museum**
Jean Lafitte 504-689-3405

 **Louisiana Military Hall of Fame and Museum**
Abbeville 337-898-9645

 **Louisiana Military Museum**
Ruston 318-251-5099

 **Louisiana State Cotton Museum**
Lake Providence 318-559-2041

 **Louisiana State Exhibit Museum**
Shreveport 318-632-2020

 **Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum**
Oil City 318-995-6845

 **Louisiana's Old State Capitol**
Baton Rouge 225-342-0500

 **Mansfield Female College Museum**
Mansfield 318-871-9978

 **Old Arsenal Museum**
Baton Rouge 225-342-0401

 **Shreveport Water Works Museum**
Shreveport 318-221-3388

 **Spring Street Historical Museum**
Shreveport 318-424-0964

 **Tioga Heritage Park and Museum**
Tioga 318-443-2091



<http://www.sos.la.gov/museums>

Louisiana Flags

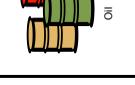
The first flag to fly over Louisiana soil was probably the Spanish flag of Leon and Castile carried by Hernando Desoto's expeditionary force when they reached the Mississippi River in 1541. The first official flag of Louisiana was the French fleur-de-lis raised by Robert Cavalier de LaSalle at the mouth of the Mississippi River in 1682 when he claimed the lower river valley for France. Until 1762 when France ceded her Louisiana holdings west of the Mississippi River to Spain in the Treaty of Fontainebleau, the banner featuring the flower of the lily was flown over Louisiana. In 1763, France ceded the land east of the river, except for the Isle of Orleans, to England. Thus the flags of Spain and England flew over the former French colony until 1779, when the Spanish flag flew throughout Louisiana, following Governor Bernardo de Galvez's defeat of the British Garrison at Fort Richmond in Baton Rouge.

In 1800, Spain returned its portion of Louisiana to France in the Treaty of San Ildefonso, but the French tricolor was not hoisted until November 30, 1803. However, on December 20, 1803, the American flag of 15 stars and 15 stripes was raised at the Cabildo in New Orleans, in celebration of the United States' "Louisiana Purchase." In 1810, residents of Spanish West Florida declared themselves independent of Spain and established the Republic of West Florida. On September 26, 1810, they raised the Lone Star banner of their new republic. In December of 1810, the republic was dissolved and its citizens swore allegiance to the American flag. In 1812, Louisiana was admitted to the United States as the 18th state.

Following Louisiana's secession from the union in 1861, Gov. Thomas Moore declared the state a sovereign nation and adopted a national flag for Louisiana. After joining the Confederate States of America on March 21, 1861, the "stars and bars" of the Confederacy was raised in Louisiana's capital.

On July 1, 1912, the State Legislature adopted a state flag for Louisiana, featuring a pelican in white, trimmed with gold. The mother pelican is tearing at her breast to feed her young.

Louisiana Resources

GIVE ME LOUISIANA

(Reprint by Permission)

Words and Music by
DORALICE FONTANE
Arrangement by
JOHN W. SCHAUM

Moderato



Give me Loui-si - an - a,* The State where I was born The

State of snow - y cot - ton, The best I've ev - er known; A

State of sweet mag - no - lias, And cre - ole mel - o - dies Oh

give me Loui - si - an - a, The State where I was born Oh

*Louisiana-pronounced 'Loo-zee-ANN-ah' in the Pelican State.

© Copyright 1970 by Doralice Fontane. This Arrangement © Copyright 1971 by Schaum Publications, Inc. Milwaukee, Wisconsin

LOUISIANA Facts and Data

CAPITAL:	Baton Rouge	MOTTO:	Union, justice, confidence
STATEHOOD:	April 30, 1812; the 18th state	BIRD:	Eastern Brown Pelican
NICKNAMES:	Pelican State, Bayou State, Sugar State, Creole State	FLOWER:	Magnolia

SS110

what sweet old mem - 'ries The mos - sy old oaks bring. It

brings us the sto - ry of our E - van - ge - line A

State of old tra - di - tion, of old plan - ta - tion days Makes

good old Loui - si - an - a The sweet - est of all States.

VERSE 2

Give me Louisiana,
The State prepared to share
That good old Southern custom,
Hospitality so rare
A State of fruit and flowers,
Of sunshine and spring showers
Oh give me Louisiana,
The State where I was born
Its woodlands, its marshes
Where humble trappers live
Its rivers, its valleys,
A place to always give
A State where work is pleasure
With blessings in full measure
Makes good old Louisiana
The dearest of all States.

VERSE 3

Give me Louisiana,
Where love birds always sing
In shady lanes or pastures
The cowbells softly ring
The softness of the sunset
Brings peace and blissful rest
Oh give me Louisiana,
The State where I was born
The smell of sweet clover
Which blossoms everywhere
The fresh new mown hay
Where children romp and play
A State of love and laughter
A State for all here after
Makes good old Louisiana
The grandest of all States.