

**Record Series #: 1121-127**

**Name:** New Orleans jail release receipts and chain gang vouchers

**Dates:** 1846

**Extent/Size:** 1 legal folder (0.1 cubic feet)

**Language:** English

**Name of Creator(s):**

City of New Orleans, Louisiana

**Scope & Content:**

The New Orleans jail release receipts and chain gang vouchers are documents recording the release of prisoners and enslaved individuals paid to work on a chain gang. All the documents originated with the City of New Orleans, Louisiana or “Municipality Two.” The New Orleans City Council created a chain gang program for enslaved prisoners to use them on public work projects in 1805. The government also opened the chain gang program to owners who wanted to commit their slaves to penal labor for payment. The jail release receipts detail dates, names of the released and their native city. The chain gang vouchers detail the enslaved person’s name, cost of labor, how long they labored for, date of transaction, and owner’s name.

**System of Arrangement & Ordering:**

Record Series 1121-127, New Orleans jail release receipts and chain gang vouchers are arranged chronologically.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

All items in this collection are fragile and the collection has been fully digitized for preservation and public access. Researchers are asked to view the [digital collection](#) first and requests for access to the physical items will be reviewed by the Municipal Archives staff. Collection is stored offsite and researchers must request desired records at least one (1) full business day before research appointment for access.

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*Access Points:*

Enslaved persons

Louisiana-New Orleans

*Sponsors/Funding:*

Chatham County, Georgia, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funding.

*Preferred Citation:*

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*Processed by:*

M. Kerkhoff, February 2023.

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**Inventory:**

All items have been digitized and [available here](#).

**Box #**

**Folder Number**

**Record**

**Item #**

**Details [Archivist notes], Date**

**Box 1121-000-0005**

**Folder 1121-127-0001** Police jail release receipts, 1846

- Item #1121-127-0001\_0001      Recorder's Office, Municipality Two, To the keeper of the Police Jail of Municipality No. Two. You will release Washington of Sordul Smart [sp?] without fees, April 29, 1846.
- Recorder's Office, Municipality Two, To the keeper of the Police Jail of Municipality No. Two. You will release Lucy Ann of Lathrop, without fees, April 24, 1846.
- Recorder's Office, Municipality Two, To the keeper of the Police Jail of Municipality No. Two. You will release Billy of Callender without fees, April 4, 1846.
- Recorder's Office, Municipality Two, To the keeper of the Police Jail of Municipality No. Two. You will release Jim of Tornuax [sp?] without fees, April 4, 1846.

**Folder 1121-127-0002** Chain Gang vouchers, 1846

- Item #1121-127-0002\_0001      Second Municipality, To Pulley Dr., To labor in the Chain Gang, performed by the slave, John 11 days, at 18 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cents per day... \$2.06, Received Payment J. B. Richards, November 13, 1846.
- Second Municipality, To Crane Dr., To labor in the Chain Gang performed by the slave Nero 3 days, at 18 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cents per day...\$0.56. Received Payment Henry Crane, November 16, 1846.
- Second Municipality, To Davidson Dr. To labor in the Chain Gang, performed by the slave, Dave 81 days, at 18 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cents per day...\$15.18. Received payment J. Davidson [sp?], November 2, 1846.