



## Antoine Patin

1754-1837

Louisiana

Patin served as an officer in the Opelousas Militia from 1770 until sometime after 1780. His unit was under Spain's Bernardo de Galvez in 1777, aiding the American colonists in their rebellion against Great Britain. The importance of Galvez's campaign from the American perspective was that Galvez denied the British the opportunity of encircling the American rebels from the south and kept open a vital conduit for supplies as well as assisting the American revolutionaries with supplies and soldiers. George Washington and the American Congress cited Galvez for his aid during the American Revolution.

Antoine Patin, III was the son of Antoine Patin, Jr, one of the leading planters and stockmen of Point Coupee Parish, La and his second wife, Marguerite Mayeux. Antoine III married Catherine Bossier in 1774 and later moved to Opelousas and then to the Attakapas by the late 1780s. They lived in the Grande Pointe area, along the east bank of the Bayou Teche, east and north of the present Breaux Bridge. By 1788, Antoine III owned about 1,000 acres as a cattle ranch east of the Teche.

In June, 1779, Spain declared war on Great Britain. The Spanish colonial Governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Galvez was ordered to organize forces and capture British forts in Mobile, Pensacola and along the Mississippi River. His first priority was along the Mississippi River to gain control of this critical artery to ensure the colonists had this supply route to the western front and not the British. Galvez had an army of Spanish regulars and Louisiana militia that moved from New Orleans up the Mississippi and on Sept 7, 1779, captured British Fort Bute at Bayou Manchac. The Opelousas Militia was part of this force that then captured Baton Rouge & Natchez. Many historians feel that the outcome of the American Revolution would have been far different had the British gained control of this critical supply route. That would have opened the back door to the colonies and given the British a capability to bring supplies and forces to the west front & surround the colonists. Prior to Galvez' expeditions, England controlled Florida. Had they captured New Orleans & the Mississippi River, Great Britain might well have won the war.