

## On 1811 Uprising: Excerpts from TOGETHER by Amy Nathan, pages 20-22

### *Text from page 20:*

. . . However, Louisiana slaveholders feared that in addition to farming skills, enslaved newcomers might bring with them thoughts of starting an uprising. Those fears proved correct. The largest slave uprising in U.S. history took place in Louisiana in 1811. The rebellion involved about five hundred enslaved people, many of whom knew about the Haiti revolt. U.S. troops and militias made up of white plantation owners, put an end to this rebellion.

### *Photo caption for page 21 photo:*

In this 2019 re-enactment of the two-day march that enslaved rebels made in 1811, re-enactors walked from areas west of New Orleans along the Mississippi coastline, dressed like 1811 rebels and shouting their slogan, “On to New Orleans.” Unlike the original rebels, the re-enactors reached New Orleans and celebrated the courage of the 1811 rebels with a concert in Congo Square.

### *Sidebar page 22:*

**Secret Plans** The largest slave uprising in U.S. history started on a sugar cane plantation on the banks of the Mississippi River, about thirty miles west of New Orleans. Led by Charles Deslondes, a small group of enslaved men from local plantations met in secret and carefully planned the rebellion. They knew about the slave revolt in Haiti. One of them, who had been captured in West Africa, still remembered tactics used by African Akan warriors. On January 8, 1811, Deslondes and others stormed the owner’s mansion at one plantation, wounding the owner and killing his son. The rebels armed themselves with the plantation’s guns, as well as with knives, axes, and other tools used to harvest sugar cane. For two days, they marched toward New Orleans, hoping to take over the city. About five hundred enslaved people joined along the way, burning some plantation buildings, before U.S. troops and armed plantation owners ended the uprising, brutally killing Deslondes and many rebels. Plantation owners downplayed the importance of this rebellion to help prevent a repeat. It only became better known recently with the publication of two books: *On to New Orleans!* in 1995 and *American Uprising* in 2012