

150TH CELEBRATION

OF THE

FOUNDING OF STE. GENEVIEVE.



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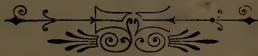
OF HON.

FIRMIN A. ROZIER,

HISTORIAN AND ORATOR

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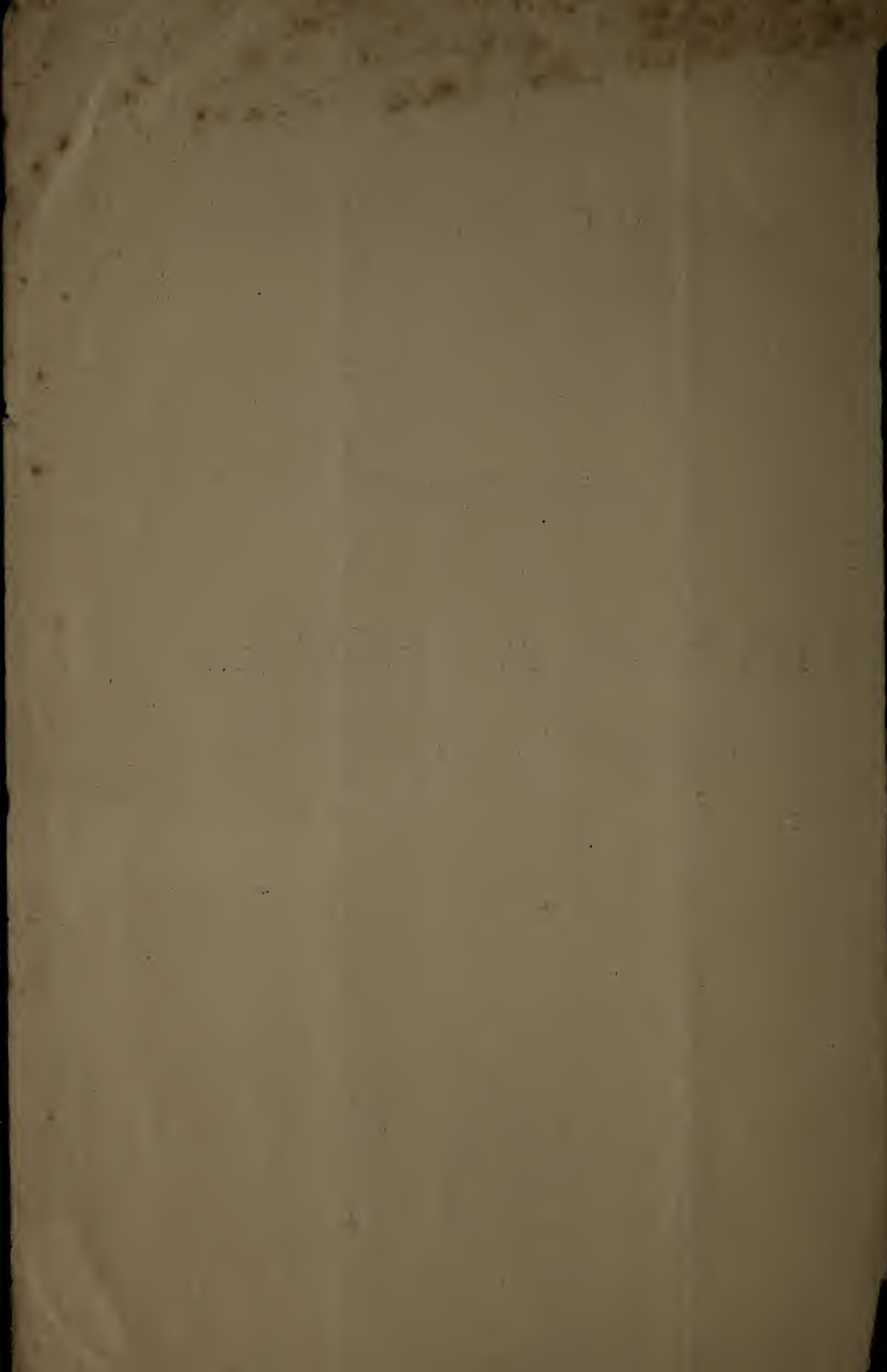
GIVING A FULL HISTORY OF STE. GENEVIEVE, THE FIRST
PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES
WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



Delivered at the City of Ste. Genevieve, Mo.,

➤ JULY 21, 1885. ✧

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HISTORY OF STE. GENEVIEVE.



PREVIOUS to the settlement of *Le vieux village de Ste-Genevieve*, De Soto, with his Spanish cavaliers and miners in search of gold, as early as 1541, fifty years after Columbus discovered America, had visited the Ste. Genevieve district, and the spurs of the Ozark Mountains of Missouri. Francis Renault of France, Agent of the "Company of the West," established himself near Fort Chartres, Illinois, with his 200 miners and 500 slaves in the year 1720. Immediately he crossed the ~~Missouri~~ River, and overran the district of Ste. Genevieve, with his miners, and slaves, and commenced mining for the precious metals, succeeding only in discovering lead mines, and to this day can be seen the marks and diggings, over this whole district, of his exploring mining operations. Renault's only success was the smelting of lead, which was conveyed to Fort Chartres on pack horses until 1735. After this, the depot of mineral was made at "le Vieux village de Sainte-Genevieve."

THE OLD TOWN OF STE. GENEVIEVE.

The original Ste. Genevieve was known by the name of "Le vieux Village,—the old town; was located about three miles south of the present Ste. Genevieve, in what is known as "Le Grand Champ"—the big field, and was settled in the year 1735, being the oldest settlement in former Upper Louisiana, a portion of which is now Missouri, west of the Mississippi River. The old town was abandoned in 1785, on account of the great flood of the Father of Waters during that year, and known among inhabitants as "l'année des grandes eaux" (the year of the great waters), which destroyed all the settlements and the improvements in the lowlands of the valley in its mighty sweep to the gulf. Originally, this "Le Grand Champ" contained about 4,000 arpents of land, all under one fence, and cultivated in common by the inhabitants, but now diminished to 3000 arpents, caused by the encroachments of the river. "Le Grand Champ" (the big field) is one of the most beautiful and fertile bottoms of land on the face of the globe, and is every year decorated by the richest profusion of products which furnishes most of the necessities of life to the inhabitants of Ste. Genevieve, and also gives employment to a great number of its citizens in the cultivation of its rich and inexhaustible soil. The present town of Ste. Genevieve is beautifully located on the verdant banks of the grand Mississippi, about sixty miles below the future great city of the world, St. Louis; and sits in beauty amid surrounding

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and smiling hills. The town of Ste. Genevieve was first settled by French emigration in 1785, as before stated, by the inhabitants of "Le Vieux Village de Sainte-Geneviève," (the old village of Ste. Genevieve), Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Fort Chartres, and other settlements of Illinois, on account of the great flood of that year, which induced them to seek safety here against calamities of that character in the future. The overflow of the Mississippi in the year 1785 has never been equaled since in its fearful waste of waters, for the valley was one vast sea from bluff to bluff, and presented a sight never to be forgotten by the many to which it brought destruction.

The original settlers of "Le vieux village" and of the present town of Ste. Genevieve were: Francois Vallé, commandant of the post; Jean-Baptiste Vallé, Sr., the last commandant of the post; Joseph Loissell, Jean-Baptiste Maurice, François Coleman, Jaques Boyer, Henri Maurice, Parfait Dufour, Joseph Béquette, Jean Baptiste Thormure, Joseph Gouvernau, Louis Boisduc, Jean-Baptiste St. Gemme, Laurent Gaboury, Jean Beauvais, B. N. Jais, and J. B. T. Pratte, and others. These persons were all remarkable for their strong constitution, simplicity of manners, honesty of purpose, and hospitality; endowed naturally with good minds without the advantages of an education, they were free from ostentation and excess of pleasures except such as were of an innocent character. Their dress was remarkably plain: they wore heavy cotton or gingham pants, without the support of suspenders, but fastened by a belt and clasp around the waist; without vests; a blue or colored skirt, a white Mackinaw blanket with a capuchon, and moccassin shoes, completed the toilet of citizens of early Ste. Genevieve. The apparel of the women of those days was simplicity itself, and would cause a smile from our fair ones could it be seen to-day. They wore a cotton or calico dress; their shoulders-and breasts ornamented with a mantlet; neck adorned with a rich Madras handkerchief, and their feet encased in beautiful moccasin shoes. Those of advanced age of both sexes wore a blue or Madras handkerchief, which encircled their heads.

The occupation of the patriarchs of Ste. Genevieve were as cultivators of the soil and voyagers with barges and keel-boats to the city of New Orleans, and traders of goods for furs, peltries and lead, the latter being the money of the country. They encountered many privations and passed through the ordeal of many romantic adventures of a savage life, and well deserved the appellation of the "pioneers of the West."

The inhabitants were of a happy and contented dispositions and much attached to each other. The family government was of a patriarchal character, and respect, obediènce and love were highly prized and greatly practiced, and truly can it be said of them that "they were a band of brothers." But a few years ago one of those patriarchs mentioned could be seen in the town of Ste. Genevieve leaning on the staff of old age with ease and grace, his head bleached with snows of nearly a hundred years. This remarkable man was Jean Bapt. Vallé, Sr., the last commandant of the post of Ste. Genevieve. His wife also lived to an old age,

loved and venerated by all. Some years previous to their death, and in accordance with an old French custom, they were remarried after a half century's enjoyment of marriage life. It was a grand and imposing ceremony to see this venerable couple renewing the first vows of their early affection and love.

THE INDIANS.

The Indians who inhabited the immediate vicinity of the town of Ste. Genevieve at the time of its early settlement were a tribe of Peorias encamped south of the town along the bluffs that front the "big field." They were the remnants of a warlike tribe of the Illinois, and warm friends and strongly attached to the French inhabitants, who afterwards protected them from the neighboring Indians and marauders. In the district of Ste. Genevieve during the occupation of the French and Spanish government there were many Indian villages. One they called Le Grand Village Sauvage, (the big Indian village), was south of Ste. Genevieve, and contained about 500 inhabitants, and was built on what is called La Petite Rivière à la Pomme (or Apple creek), and now lies within the borders of Perry county. This village was located on the north of the creek and occupied by a tribe called Chawanons. They were industrious and brave. Their cabins were constructed of solid logs, and well cemented with a greasy dirt and other materials which effectually protected them from the inclemency of the weather. They possessed many horses, keeping a large number of them on hand in case of attack by other warlike bands of savages who roamed through the country. The Chawanons were a tall, finely developed and robust-looking people. Their women were pretty and exceeding swift of foot, and in dress were decorated with the most brilliant feathers, silver trinkets, &c. They cultivated corn and other products of the field, and were far more civilized than the generality of the other Indian tribes in Upper Louisiana. They worshiped the Great Spirit and believed after death that an abundance of all earthly things awaited them beyond the dark river.

The sister of the great Indian chief Tecumseh resided there. She was remarkable for her beauty and intelligence, and whilst on a visit to some neighboring tribes at New Madrid, Missouri, became acquainted with and enamoured of a French Creole by the name of François Maisonville, and shortly afterwards they were married according to Indian custom. Tecumseh, having visited Upper Louisiana immediately after the marriage for the purpose of exciting the various tribes to war, heard of it and became fierce and indignant, and forced his sister to return to Apple Creek village, where she remained for some time, but soon returned to her husband after Tecumseh left. They resided many years in New Madrid and raised a large family. Some of their descendants are now living there.

The Chawanons had two great feasts yearly—the first in the spring when sowing their grain, which they called "Le feu Nouveau" (the new fire); the second when the corn changed color, "Fête du petit blé" (the feast of small wheat.) This remarkable tribe of Indians, after the change

of government by which the country passed into the hands of the United States, folded their tents and left for the far West, and have passed from history as a tribe, having been absorbed into some of the many tribes on our Western frontier.

A LETTER FROM THE SPANISH GOVERNOR.

The letter of the Spanish Governor, Manuel Gayoso, of Louisiana, to the Chawanons, is so full of kindness and wisdom, that I here insert it :

“DON MANUEL GAYOSO DE LAMOS, Brigadier de las Real Exercitos, Gobernador General, Vice Patrono Real de las Provincias de la Louisiana, y Florida Occidental, Inspector de las Tropas Veteranas y Milicias de ellas—

Aux Chefs et hommes considérés de la Nation Chawanons, résidant dans le Territoire de S. M. C. des Illinois :

MES CHERS ENFANTS : J'ai reçu la parole que vous m'avez envoyée par les gens de votre nation, qui sont descendus ici ; je les ai vus avec beaucoup de plaisir, parce que j'aime votre nation.

Je vois que vous vous souvenez de moi, que vous suivez toujours la voie du bon sens, et que vous êtes disposés à profiter des bons conseils.

Où mes enfants, je vous chéris, et je vous distingue parmi ceux qui ne font que courir, perdant leur temps, et écoutant qui les détourne du chemin de leur chasse, et de leur labourage, et de la paix ; mais je suis bien aise que mes enfants les Chawanons, ne soient pas de même.

Je suis bien aise de les voir parmi mes enfants blancs, et faire leurs champs ensemble. J'ai donné mes ordres au Lieutenant-Gouverneur des Illinois pour qu'il vous regarde avec tendresse, et vous traite comme des blancs, puisque vous vous conduisez comme eux. Malgré que j'aie dit tout ceci, à vos gens ici, je le mets par écrit, pour que cela ne s'oublie pas.

Mes chers enfants, que le soleil brille toujours sur vous ; puissiez-vous faire une bonne chasse ; que votre feu soit toujours allumé, et que vos chemins soient toujours blancs et unis.

A la Nouvelle-Orléans ce 17 May 1799.

MANUEL GAYOSO DE LAMOS.

[Filed with Ste. Genevieve Records.]

[TRANSLATION.]

DON MANUEL GAYOSO DE LAMOS, Brigadier of the Royal Service, Governor General, Royal Vice-Regent of the Provinces of Louisiana and Western Florida, Inspector of Veteran and Militia forces of the same :

To the Chiefs and notable men of the Chawanon Nation, residents of the Territory of Her C. M. of the Illinois.

MY DEAR CHILDREN : I have received the talk which you have sent me through the people of your Nation, who have come down here ; I have seen them with much pleasure, for I love your Nation.

I see that you remember me, and that you still follow the path of good sense, and that you are disposed to profit by good counsels.

Yes, my children, I cherish you, and I set you apart from those who are roving, squandering their time, and listening to whoever turns them away from their hunting paths, and from their plowings, and from peace; but I am much pleased that my children the Chawanons are not so.

I am very glad to see them among my white children, tilling their fields together.

I have given my orders to the Lieut.-Governor of the Illinois, that he should regard you with tenderness, and should treat you the same as white men, since you behave like them.

Although I have said all this, to your people here, I put it in writing so that it shall not be forgotten.

My dear children: May the sun ever shine on you; may you have a profitable hunt; may your fire never go out; and may your paths be always white and smooth.

In New Orleans, the 17th of May, 1799.

MANUEL GAYOSO DE LAMOS.

REMINISCENCES OF UPPER LOUISIANA.

After the delivery of the territory of Illinois east of the Mississippi by France to England, in 1765, the French inhabitants of Kaskaskia, Fort Chartres, Prairie du Rocher and Kahokia, began to remove to St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve, owing to their great aversion to living under the English flag. They were at the time, under the impression that the territory west of the Mississippi yet belonged to France. Hence St. Ange de Belle Rive, a French officer, after the delivery of Fort Chartres to the English, assumed command of the post of St. Louis in the latter part of 1765, and exercised civil and military authority until Spain took actual possession of Louisiana in 1769. Whilst St. Ange was acting as commandant of St. Louis, the post of Ste. Genevieve was placed under the command of Chevalier Rocheblave, both of these officers acting under the French flag. During this short period of five years the French inhabitants claimed Upper Louisiana and owed allegiance to France, notwithstanding the cession of France to Spain.

The first legal proceedings of record at Ste. Genevieve under Commandant Rocheblave, was on the 16th of May, 1766, whose records and proceedings were kept by M. Robinet, notary and greffier. Both of these officers exercised their official duties from May 16, 1766, to November 22, 1769, when possession was given to his Catholic majesty of Spain of Upper Louisiana.

Ste. Genevieve, though settled as early as 1735, had no regular courts or officers until the 16th of May, 1766, when Rocheblave took command of the post.

THE FIRST MARRIAGE CONTRACT.

The first legal proceedings under Rocheblave being on the 19th of May, 1766, in relation to a marriage contract between Pierre Roy and Jeanette Lalonde, then follows the second of sales of land between individuals. The first sale of land was made by Pierre Aritfone to Henri Carpentier, one by Joseph Le Don to Le Febre du Couquette, and one lot containing

one and one-half arpents by Guillaume Derouselle to François Vallé; also the sale of salt works on the Saline river, with ten negroes and a lot of cattle, by John Lagrange to one Blowin. In the year 1767 André Vignon takes an appeal from the decision of Commandant Rocheblave to the supreme council of New Orleans. Then follow other proceedings to November 22, 1769.

The Spaniards on the last day and year took possession, at Ste. Genevieve, of Upper Louisiana, when Joseph Labruxière assumed, in the name of Spain, the functions of judge of the post of "Illinois," and appointed at the same time and place, Cabazie, as notary and greffier. These two officers acted in these capacities until Don François Vallé, père, was made commandant of the post of Ste. Genevieve by the Spanish government. Vallé assumed his office early in the year 1770, and acted in that capacity until September, 1783. Commandant Don François Vallé, père, died at the old town of Ste. Genevieve, in the "big field of Ste. Genevieve," September 23, 1783, being then 68 years of age. He was succeeded in office by Don Francisco Cartabona de Oro, Don Henri Peroux, and by Don François Vallé, fils, the two Vallés, father and son, acting most of the time from 1770 to 1804. Don François Vallé, fils, died in the city of Ste. Genevieve on the 6th day of March, 1804, only four days before Capt. Stoddard took possession of Upper Louisiana at St. Louis. Commandant Vallé, fils, was buried under his pew in the old Catholic church at Ste. Genevieve.

The Spanish commanders exercised these offices with leniency, moderation and justice. Commandant Don Vallé, fils, the last Spanish commander at Ste. Genevieve, resided on what is known as South Gabori creek. His house was a large, one-story frame building, with wide galleries and porches. The commandant was judge of all civil and criminal matters, and was military commandant of the post. His decision was law, and had to be obeyed. As a precaution and punishment, when criminals were charged with any crime they were exhibited before the inhabitants every Sunday in front of the Catholic church after divine service, that they might be well known and recognized by the whole community.

Reference to Spanish and French Records, at Ste. Genevieve.

PARISIAN LAWS IN FORCE.

The laws and customs of Paris were in force in the dominion of France, in North America, before the ceding of her possessions to England by treaty of Paris, February 10, 1763; also by cession of the Louisiana territory to Spain by secret treaty of November 3, 1762, not made known until April 12, 1764. Don Ulloa, appointed governor-general of Louisiana by Spain in 1767, arrived in New Orleans with a company of infantry to take possession in the name of his sovereign. He refused to show his authority to the "superior council at New Orleans," and other causes induced the citizens to take up arms against Spain. Gov. Ulloa was ordered to leave the city; he soon embarked with his troops on a Spanish vessel and left the country. In the meantime, Rios, a Spanish officer, was

sent to St. Louis, to take possession of Upper Louisiana. He arrived there with a small body of troops on the 11th of August, 1768. During his stay at St. Louis he seems to have exercised no civil authority, and only attempted to take possession of the country. Spain did not actually take possession of the Louisiana territory until Count O'Reily arrived in New Orleans with a large military force in August, 1769, when he issued his proclamation, abolishing the French laws, and substituted the Spanish code. The conveyance by France to Spain, of the Louisiana territory, created great dissatisfaction among the French inhabitants, who still claimed allegiance to France. Count O'Reily, in a tyrannical manner arrested a number of influential citizens, executed a few, imprisoned two in Havana, and maltreated others. The substitution of the Spanish laws was confirmed by the Spanish government on March 24, 1770. The territory of Louisiana was retroceded by Spain to France in the year 1800, and France by treaty of April, 1803, ceded it to the United States. The possession of Upper Louisiana was given March 10, 1804, to the United States. The acts of Congress of March 26, 1804 and 1805 and of June 1812, continued the Spanish laws. The act of January, 1816, by the territorial legislature of Missouri, made an attempt to introduce the common law, which law did not abolish the existing laws of Spain. The early decisions of the Supreme Court of Missouri did not abrogate the Spanish laws, but only maintained the common law system, so far as it was necessary to supply the deficiency of the Spanish laws.

It was the act of February 25, 1825, of the legislature of Missouri which established the common law, which abolished the Spanish code. The Spanish laws were in full force in Upper Louisiana (now Missouri) from 1769 until 1825, except as modified by the territorial legislature. (Reference, Mo. Reports, Lindell vs. McNair, vol. 4, p. 380; Picotte vs. Cooley, vol. 10, p. 312; Wright vs. Thomas, vol. 4, p. 577; also, Peters U. S., vol. 6, p. 12; Castlebery on Lands) The original grants of lands in Upper Louisiana depended upon the grants made by Spanish officers and Spanish laws, hence the importance of the original land titles. The public record shows that no lands in Upper Louisiana were attempted to be granted until April 27, 1766 to 1770 by St. Ange de Belle Rive. The grants of lands made by St. Ange without authority were afterwards examined, surveyed and granted by Spanish officers on the 23d of May, 1772, during the administration of Lieut.-Gov. Don Pietro Piernas, the Spanish Governor of Upper Louisiana.

THE MILITARY.

At an early period, being in the year 1780, known as "L'Année du Coup" (the year of the blow), the inhabitants of "Le Vieux Village de Ste. Geneviève" were called upon to defend St. Louis, which was then threatened to be attacked by the English and different tribes of Indians. Sylvio Francisco Cartabona, a government officer, was ordered to Ste. Geneviève by Don Ferdinand Leyba, the lieutenant governor of the post of St. Louis, to enlist a company of militiamen for the protection of St. Louis.

A company numbering 60 men was soon raised under the command of Captain Charles Vallé, brother of the commandant of the post of Ste. Genevieve, and immediately left for St. Louis in a keel boat, where they were stationed or quartered in a house, south of the cathedral church. While there, Lieut. Gov. Leyba did not furnish them with ammunition, which they were destitute of. This caused much disappointment and mortification to the gallant men who had left their homes for the purpose of defending their friends in St. Louis. Little did the Ste. Genevieve company think at the time that the lieutenant-governor of St. Louis was in bad faith toward them and the town of St. Louis, but things and actions afterwards proved it and placed the Ste. Genevieve company in a false position, as they had partly to obey orders under the military despotism of Spain, which was most repugnant to their feelings.

Previous to the attack on St. Louis, an old man by the name of Gronelle had warned the officers of the post that an attack would be made, for which he was treated with contempt and sent to prison. About the time of the attack upon St. Louis, the captain of the Ste. Genevieve company, seeing that he was deprived of powder by Lieut.-Gov. Don Leyba, sent five men to take three kegs of powder which an old lady resident of the town had at the time, but did not wish to deliver up, insisting that they should do her no harm, if she refused to give it up. They, however, conveyed the powder to headquarters. Capt. Vallé at this time seeing the treachery of the lieutenant-governor, determined not to obey orders. While Capt. Vallé was temporarily absent from his headquarters, Leyba ordered the company to march up into a garret and to spike their guns, and some of the men had partly obeyed the order, and it was about being executed by the whole company when the brave captain of the Ste. Genevieve company came up, and at once perceiving the treacherous intent of the order, refused and said, "Que son poste est près de son canon et non dans un grenier, et que si l'ennemi venait, il serait prêt à se défendre," (that his post was near his cannon and not in a garret; if the enemy came that he would be ready to defend himself,) and standing to his post he ordered his men to stand by him, and did all he could under the circumstances to aid the citizens of St. Louis when that post was attacked by the enemy.

It is a well-known fact that Lieut.-Gov. Leyba acted in bad faith and was despised by all the inhabitants of St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve on account of his treacherous conduct, and feeling conscious of his own foul acts died shortly afterward, and it was thought that he terminated his life by poison. After the attack on St. Louis had failed the company returned to their home, "Le vieux village de Ste. Genevieve."

During the war of 1812, Capt. Henry Dodge, afterwards Governor of Wisconsin, raised at Ste. Genevieve a company of riflemen for defense against Indian depredations. A company called "The South Missouri Guards," with a roll of 115 men, commanded by Capt. Firmin A. Rozier, was organized August 23, 1846. They recruited for service for California, but owing to the lateness of the season, failing to cross the plains were

stationed at Fort Leavenworth. Capt. Thomas M. Horine, of Ste. Geneviève, during the Mexican war, raised a company of men; ordered to Santa Fe under Col. Sterling Price. Col. Jos. Bogy, commissioned by Gov. Gamble at the opening of the civil war in 1861, organized the militia of Ste. Geneviève County and other counties, of about one thousand men for protection of Southeast Missouri against contemplated invasion from Arkansas, and were in active service about one month. Capt. Gustave St. Gem was commissioned captain of Missouri militia by Governor Gamble in 1861, and ordered by General Farrar to act as Provost Marshal of St. Genevieve county, in which capacity he was engaged, when, in September, 1863, he organized Company K., of which he was commissioned captain, in the Forty-seventh regiment, Missouri Volunteers, Col. Thomas C. Fletcher, commanding. Capt. St. Gem, while in the volunteer service, was ordered by Gen. Rosecranz, commanding department of Missouri, to act as provost marshal of the Eighth sub-district of the St. Louis military district, comprising the counties of Ste. Genevieve, Perry and Jefferson, where he remained on duty until April 8, 1865, and was succeeded by Lieutenant John O'Neil. An illumination of the town of St. Genevieve was ordered by Provost-Marshal O'Neil April 12th, 1865. The citizens of Ste. Genevieve, June 26, 1865, presented Lieut. O'Neil and Capt. S. Good each with a sword for their gallantry. Lieut. Col. Felix St. James—a native and resident of the place—of the Thirteenth regiment of Missouri infantry volunteers participated in the attack of Fort Donelson, and was fatally wounded at the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, April 6, 1862, and died shortly afterward, and his remains were removed to Ste. Genevieve.

Gen. Osterhaus' division was stationed at Ste. Genevieve, Oct. 12, 1862, and was ordered to take Little Rock, Ark., via Pilot Knob; and was ordered back to Ste. Genevieve, accompanied by divisions of Gens. Carr and Davidson, for transportation, in the month of November, 1862, for the siege of Vicksburg. Col. Frank Leavenworth organized the militia of Ste. Genevieve county, Oct. 18, 1864, about 250 men, in connection with Lieut. Col. Geo. Bond, and they were disbanded Nov. 17, 1864, Capts. Wm. Cousins and Robert Holmes each raised a company of men at Ste. Genevieve county, who were enlisted in the Confederate army, and remained in the service during the civil war. Colonel S. H. Boyd, with the 24th regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry, was stationed at Maxwell Hill, at Ste. Genevieve, April 9, 1863.

The town of Ste. Genevieve was surrounded by a military force during the night of the 15th of August, 1861, by a battalion of Zouaves, commanded by Maj. John McDonald, since notorious for his trial before United States courts. After seizing the bank he took military possession of the town. The next day he demanded of the president, Firmin A. Rozier, of the branch bank of the Merchant's Bank of St. Louis, located here, the funds of the bank. After some parley the president delivered them under protest, and upon condition to accompany the battalion to St. Louis on the steamer Hannibal. The Major had come for the money, and kept his eye steadily on his gun, insisting on a peaceable surrender.

The money, a large amount, was taken on the steamer, having on board Mr. Rozier, the Major and the battalion of Zouaves. On arriving in St. Louis Mr. Rozier called at headquarters to see Gen. Fremont, for an interview, who that day handed Mayor Howe an order to be delivered to Mr. Rozier for the funds of the bank, which was deposited with Col. Robert Campbell, president of the Merchants' Bank.

LA NOUVELLE BOURBON.

This post was situated about two miles immediately south of the city of Ste. Genevieve, and nearly opposite to Kaskaskia, on the high bluffs of the Mississippi river. Don Pierre Carlos De Lassus, was commandant of the post of "La Nouvelle Bourbon." He was a Frenchman. His family was educated in affluence, but the French revolution caused him with his family to remove to Spain, and afterwards to Upper Louisiana. He was "chevalier de grande croix de l'ordre royal de St. Michel." He was appointed by Spain commander of the post of "La Nouvelle Bourbon." He was the father of Lieut. Governor Charles Dehault De Lassus, of Upper Louisiana. Don Charles Dehault De Lassus, his son, was a native of Spain. At Andalusia, in Spain, in the war between France and Spain, Capt. Charles Dehault De Lassus led a desperate charge of Spanish troops and won the victory. Afterward he was made by the Spanish king commander of the post of New Madrid, from 1797 to 1799; then Lieut. Governor of Upper Louisiana from 1799 to March 10, 1804, and was the person who delivered Upper Louisiana to Capt. Stoddard, an officer of the United States.

THE FIRST CHURCH

in Upper Louisiana was built by Catholics in "Le vieux village de Ste. Genevieve," previous to "L'année des Grandes Eaux," being a large wooden structure, which was removed to the present town of Ste. Genevieve in 1794, when this church became so old and dilapidated it was abandoned in about the year 1835. The erection of the old rock Catholic church was completed in 1831 under the surveillance of Rd. X. Dahman, an old soldier and officer in the cavalry service of Napoleon, the emperor. It was consecrated Nov. 22, 1837, by Bishop Rosatti, of St. Louis. This old rock church was struck by lightning July 17, 1841; it struck the gable end and the fluid descended along the roof to the sacristy, then pierced the wall, striking the frame of the picture of Ste. Genevieve; it then descended to the altar, taking away all its gilding, and passed to the ground floor. Mr. John Doyle, at the time, was praying before the altar, and was struck by the lightning and considerably stunned, yet recovered from the shock. There is now a large brick church erected over the site of the old rock church, under the supervision of Rev. Francis X. Weiss. The corner stone of this new edifice was laid by Rev. Chas. Ziegler, a native of Ste. Genevieve, now a parish priest of St. Louis.

As early as 1760 three Jesuit missionaries settled at Ste. Genevieve in their cassocks, with breviary in hand, and the cross upon their breasts.

They commenced their religious instructions to a few inhabitants, and visited the surrounding tribes of Indians, amongst whom vespers and matins were chanted. The following is the list of ministers that officiated at Ste. Genevieve under the Spanish, French and territorial governments: Fathers P. F. Watrin, J. B. Salveneuve and J. Lamorinie from 1760 to 1764; Father J. L. Maurin from 1764 to 1768; Father P. Gibault from 1768 to 1773; Father F. Hilaire from 1773 to 1777; Father P. Gibault from 1778 to 1784; Father Louis Guiques from 1786 to 1789; Father De St. Pierre from 1789 to 1797; Father James Maxwell from 1797 to 1814; Father D. Oliver from 1814 to 1816; Father Henri Pratte from 1816 to 1821; Rev. Francis X. Dahman, 1822 to 1840; Rev. Hypolite Gondolpho, 1840; Rev. Jean Marie St. Cyre, 1849; Rev. P. L. Hendricks, 1862; Francis X. Wiess, 1865 to 1885.

The first baptism in le vieux village de Ste. Geneviève, was on the 24th of February, 1760, and was performed by a Jesuit missionary named P. F. Watrin. The first religious marriage which occurred at the same place was on the 30th October, 1764, celebrated by Father J. L. Maurin. The parties married were Marck Constatino Canada and a Miss Suzan Henn, the latter being formerly of Pennsylvania, of German descent. This Marck Constatino was living previous to this, eight years with a tribe of Indians known as the Chawanons, being near Ste. Genevieve. This Suzan Henn was made a prisoner about five years before this marriage by the same tribe of Indians. They both lived together, and had two children, one named Marie, three years old, and the other Genevieve, two years old. After this marriage they regained their liberty. The witnesses to this marriage are Jean Ganion and T. Tebriege.

FRENCH CUSTOMS.

The customs of Paris was the rule of the French inhabitants in North America. The commandants of the different French posts generally regulated the police of the country, adapting their circumstances and wants according to their surroundings. The French, in early times, lived with great economy and simplicity, being jovial, polite and hospitable. The French women were devout and remarkably virtuous. Their great amusement was the dance, they especially enjoyed the kings' ball, and the "Guignolée." At the kings ball a large cake was made, where inside were four beans, the parties who drew them were made the kings of the next ball, each king selected a queen, these kings generally made a present to their queens. At these reunions they were always provided with bouillon, cakes, croquignolles, and coffee. They always selected two aged persons, called provosts, who selected the gentlemen and ladies, to open their ball. The *fiddle* was selected, as the musical instrument whose music was most congenial to their taste and fancy. The distinction of wealth was unknown, all dressed alike, all met as equals in the ball-rooms as well as at their feasts and religious ceremonies. The inhabitants were all catholics, and greatly attached to the catholic missionaries

LA GUIGNOLÉE.

On New Year's eve, the French inhabitants, assembled together, decorated with fantastic costumes to visit each family, to sing and dance the Guignolée; it was an occasion of much mirth and good feeling.

THE SONG.

Bonsoir le maître et la maîtresse,
Et tout le monde du logis;
Pour le premier jour de l'année,
La guignolée vous nous devez.
Si vous n'avez rien à nous donner,
Dites-nous le,
Nous vous demandons pas grand chose,
Une échinée,
Une échinée n'est pas bien longue,
De quatre-vingt dix pieds delong,
Encore nous demandons pas grand-chose,
La fille aînée de la maison,
Nous lui ferons faire bonne chère
Nous lui ferons chauffer les pieds.
Nous saluons la compagnie,
Et la prions nous excuser,
Si l'on a fait quelque folie,
C'était pour nous desennuyer
Une autre fois nous prendrons garde
Quand sera temps d'y revenir,
Dansons la guenille,
Dansons la guenille,
Dansons la guenille!

CHORUS.—Bonsoir le maître et la maîtresse,
Et tout le monde du logis.

THE COMMON FIELDS, PLOUGHS AND CHARRETTES.

The French inhabitants, had a common field, always attached to their villages and towns, each was assigned a piece of land to cultivate, with the condition to keep in repair the fences, in proportion to his share. If any one abandoned his land, it was sold at public sale, at the church door, with original condition of repair of fence.

The early inhabitants cultivated their lands with a wooden plough, seldom ploughed with horses, but oxen, which were yoked by the horns. Their horses were generally fastened to the charrette (cart) which had no iron fastening or iron ties, but two wheels, made out of well-seasoned white oak, except the hub of gum wood. These charrettes were worked with one to three horses, one before the others, having twisted rawhides for their traces. This conveyance was used for all kinds of work, as well as for family use. When the women travelled in them, they were seated in chairs that were tied to the railings of the charrette. They were, in early times, well adapted for transportation of goods or persons, during all the year, except winter, when resort was had in strong and comfortable sledges.

FRENCH DOMINION.

Manette, the historian, well remarks: "Under the French Dominion the government was mild and paternal; a mixture of civil and military rule, without the technicalities of the one or the severity of the other. The commandant was invested with despotic authority; yet he rarely exercised his power otherwise than in a kind and paternal manner, and for the general welfare of his people. In return, he received not only their obedience and respect, but also their love."

STE. GENEVIEVE DISTRICT.

This original district under the Spaniards, was bounded north by the Merrimack River; south by the River à la Pomme (Apple creek); east by the Mississippi and fronting same one hundred miles; west, never designated. The same district was again re-established by Gov. William Harrison, when Governor of Indiana Territory, by proclamation of Oct. 1st, 1804. This district possesses agricultural resources and mineral wealth unsurpassed in any country in the world. As early as the year 1541, De Soto, with 600 miners and explorers, left Cuba for Florida, thence up the Upper Louisiana, now Missouri. He penetrated a vast country, until he reached the Ste. Genevieve district about fifty miles from the town of Ste. Genevieve, from thence went towards the spurs of the Ozark mountains. In returning to Cuba, he found a watery grave in the Mississippi. De Soto was no doubt the first from the Arcadia valley who beheld the vast mountains of iron ores that loomed with such magnificence in its neighborhood. LaMotte succeeded him as early as 1720; Renault in 1720; Breton, 1763, and Moses Austin, 1798. Miners and other explorers settled in this district, valuable mines were excavated by them, and now bear their names. Within a circle of fifty miles from the town of Ste. Genevieve, no country presented such mineral wealth. The town of Ste. Genevieve from the earliest times (1735 to 1855) was the only prominent depot for all the minerals of Upper Louisiana. When we examine the statistics of the mineral fields of the world, we find there is no part of the globe, except the Ste. Genevieve district, embracing such varieties and abundance of minerals and building materials. In the old world, we find minerals buried beneath the ground, while here how different the scene presented to the vision of mortal man! We see vast regions of minerals rising from the earth, forming mountains and pyramids, kissing the rising sun and brilliantly glowing in their crystal-like clusters.

TERRITORIAL INHABITANTS FROM 1804 TO 1820.

The purchase of Louisiana by the United States from the French Government took place in 1803. Soon after the change of government, in 1804, a new population came and settled here from Virginia, Kentucky and Europe. Amongst some of those who became citizens, were Hon. John Scott, delegate to Congress; Gen. Henry Dodge and Augustus C. Dodge, his son, both afterwards United States Senators; James Maxwell,

a prominent Irish Catholic priest; Judge William James, from Kentucky; Hon. Lewis F. Linn, the model senator; Ferdinand Rozier, Sr. and his partner the ornithologist Audubon; Hon. Geo. W. Jones, afterwards U. S. Senator from Iowa; James Clemens, of St. Louis; Dr. Hardrage Lane, M. Jacques Guibourd, from France; Hon. Joseph Bogy, father of Senator Lewis V. Bogy; Charles Gregoire, Thomas Crittenden, Nathaniel Pope, William Shanon, Aaron Elliot, Thomas Oliver, Dr. Walter Fenwick and Man. Butler, the historian, Thomas Madden and others of distinction. These persons settled here under the territorial government from 1804 to 1820, previous to the organization of the State of Missouri, and many distinguished themselves in their profession, and possessed remarkable talent. Many of them held important offices under the government of the United States, and were ornaments to society.

STE. GENEVIEVE ACADEMY.—1808.

This Academy was incorporated by an act of the Governor and Judges of the Territory of Louisiana, on the 21st of June, 1808. The trustees were James Maxwell, J. Bapt. Vallé, Jacques Guibourd, St. Gem Beauvais, Francis Jarvis, J. Bapt. Pratte, Walter Fenwick, Andrew Henry, Timothy Phelps, Aaron Elliot, Nathaniel Pope, Joseph Spencer, John Scott, William James, Thomas Oliver, Joshua Penneman, William Shanon, George Bullet, Henry Dodge and Henry Diel.

This old Academy, which sits on a beautiful hill overlooking the town, is a large stone building, and was built in 1808 by the old inhabitants of Ste. Genevieve. In 1818 it was taken in charge by Bishop Dubourg, when Man. Butler was employed as a teacher, afterwards was abandoned for a term, until it was again brought into a flourishing condition under the control of Firmin A. Rozier, January 1854, and continued until 1862, when the troubles of the civil war prevented its continuance.

TERRITORIAL COURTS OF STE. GENEVIEVE.

The territorial district courts of Ste. Genevieve District from 1805 to 1821, were the Common Pleas, Quarter Sessions, and Oyer and Terminer. The persons who have presided over them were Nathaniel Cook, Joseph Pratte, Amos Bird, Isadore Moore, John Smith T., St. Gem Beauvais, Jacques Guibourd, Paschal Detchmندی, Jean Bapt. Vallé, Thomas Madden, John Hawkins and William James. At different periods these courts were presided and supervised by Judges James B. Lucas, Otto Shrader and David Barton, who with others composed the Superior Court of the Territory.

The territorial circuit court of Ste. Genevieve District was established in 1814, was presided over by Judge Richard S. Thomas until 1821, Thomas Oliver acted as clerk of said court. Israel Dodge and Henry Dodge were the sheriffs of this Territorial District from 1804 to 1821. The attorneys who attended the courts at Ste. Genevieve, from 1805 to 1821 were Nathaniel Pope, John Scott, William C. Carr, Edward Hempstead, Thomas H. Benton, Otto Shrader, Thomas H. Crittenden, George Bullit, Rufus Easton and H. M. Brackenridge.

MISSOURI TERRITORIAL ASSEMBLY OF 1812.

The General Assembly of the territorial government of Missouri, met in St. Louis, December 7, 1812, consisting of a council of nine and a house of representatives. The delegates from Ste. Genevieve District at that time, were Hon. George Bullit, Judge Richard S. Thomas and Isaac McGready. In the council of nine, Ste. Genevieve was represented by Hon. John Scott and Rev. James Maxwell, a learned and practical Irish Catholic priest. Both were appointed by the President of the United States. On December 6, 1813, Hon. George Bullit was elected speaker of the house, and December 5, 1814, Hon. James Caldwell occupied the same position, both from the Ste. Genevieve District. Afterwards different persons were elected in this district to the territorial legislature up to the formation of the State Constitution.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1820.

This convention, to form a State constitution and organize the State of Missouri, met in St. Louis, June 12, 1820, and concluded their labors July 19, 1820.

The delegates from Ste. Genevieve, were:—John D. Cook, John Scott, Henry Dodge, Robt. T. Brown.

POPULATION AND COMMERCE OF STE. GENEVIEVE.

The census taken by the Spaniards in 1799 when Lieut.-Gov. De Lassus acted for Upper Louisiana, for Ste. Genevieve was 945 persons; and at the change of government in 1804, it was 1300, one-third being slaves. The commerce of Ste. Genevieve, in early times consisted principally in lead and peltries, and they had a large commerce on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, by keel-boat transportation. The commercial men of Ste. Genevieve during the territorial government from 1804 to 1820, were remarkably active and successful in their business pursuits. At that time many merchants of St. Louis had to make their purchases at Ste. Genevieve. Mr. Ferdinand Rozier, Sr., a prominent merchant in those days, traveled from Ste. Genevieve to the city of Philadelphia six times on horseback to transact business. Such trips at present would be looked upon as singular and romantic. Mr. Louis Bolduc, an old merchant, became by commerce very rich. Mr. Thomas Maddin, an American, also of wealth, offered to wager with Bolduc as to which had the most wealth. Bolduc soon silenced him by requesting him to bring his half bushel to measure his silver money, which he kept, at the time, in his cellar.

The wealthy and enterprising house of Menard & Vallé was established in 1817, the memorable year that steam power was introduced in Upper Louisiana, when the Gen. Pike, commanded by Capt. Jacob Reed, who entered and fastened his boat August 1, 1817, at the port of Ste. Genevieve. This commercial firm had a large trade with the Indian tribes. Pierre Ménard, of Kaskaskia, one of the partners, was then Indian Agent, and controlled a large business throughout the West. Ste. Genevieve, from its first settlement, was an important commercial point, for it was the

depot of all the lead, copper, nickel, cobalt and iron, from the Iron Mountain, Pilot Knob, Mine Lamotte, Vallé Mines and Potosi up to the year 1857, when the Iron Mountain Railroad was built, that deprived Ste. Genevieve of this trade, which was afterward carried to St. Louis.

A FAMOUS DUEL.

One of the most melancholy and unfortunate tragedies of the year 1811, was the duel between Thomas H. Crittenden and Doctor Walter Fenwick, both residents of Ste. Genevieve. Crittenden was a lawyer and a brother of Senator Crittenden, of Kentucky. Doctor Fenwick was an eminent physician, and an estimable and polished gentleman, and both were popular and regarded by the community as brave and gallant men. The cause which led to the fatal encounter was one with which Doctor Fenwick had originally nothing to do, he only being drawn into the quarrel by a chivalric devotion to and regard for his brother, Ezekiel Fenwick. A difficulty, the exact nature of which is not known, resulted in a challenge from Ezekiel Fenwick to Thomas H. Crittenden, which was borne to the latter by Doctor Fenwick, as the friend of his brother. For some reason Mr. Crittenden refused to meet Ezekiel Fenwick, whereupon the Doctor deeming the refusal a personal affront, offered himself in his brother's stead, and was accepted. The parties met Oct. 1st, 1811, on Moreau's island, a few miles below Ste. Genevieve, and opposite Kaskaskia landing; Gen. Henry Dodge and Hon. John Scott were the seconds of the parties. At the first fire Doctor Fenwick fell mortally wounded, and expired a short time afterwards. Mr. Crittenden was unhurt. Doctor Fenwick is buried in the old Catholic graveyard, in the heart of this city. No monument but a plain freestone slab marks his last resting place, and the only epitaph upon one of the most accomplished men of his day, consists of the simple inscription—"Doctor Walter Fenwick, born 1775, died Oct. 2d, 1811."

FATAL ENCOUNTER OF CAPT. DE MUN.

An ancient family known as Depeste, and also one known as De Mun, settled in Ste. Genevieve in the year 1808. A melancholy death occurred to one of them, being Auguste De Mun, the son of Jacques De Mun, captain of dragons of St. Domingo. He had made, from information, injurious remarks of Mr. William McCarthur, about coining money. Mr. McCarthur being well connected, and a brother-in-law of Dr. Lewis F. Linn, sent a challenge to De Mun, which was not accepted, because he thought him unworthy of his steel. McCarthur denounced De Mun in public, which gave him greater offense. They met at the old territorial court house, whilst court was in session, at Ste. Genevieve. As McCarthur was coming down and De Mun was going up the stair-way, they both fired, and poor De Mun fell mortally wounded, and expired shortly afterwards. They were, at the time, both candidates for the territorial house of representatives. Mr. De Mun was buried in the Catholic graveyard in Ste. Genevieve, August 28, 1816, but no tombstone marks his place of burial.

NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED AT STE. GENEVIEVE.

The first paper was "The Correspondent and Record," in 1822 and 1823 by Thomas Folley; "State Gazette," in 1833, edited by William B. Baker; "Missouri Democrat," edited by P. G. Ferguson; 1849, "Pioneer," edited by James Lindsay and Concanon; 1850, "Creole," edited by Charles C. Rozier, also "The Pioneer," by James H. Dixon, in 1850; 1854, "Independent," edited by Amable Rozier; 1859, "Missouri Gazette," edited by E. K. Eaton; 1859, "Plaindealer," edited by O. D. Harris; 1865, "Representative," edited by Halleck & Brother; 1868, "News and Advertiser," edited by G. M. Setto; 1872, "Fair Play," edited by Henry Smith; 1872, "Freie Presse and Freie Blatter," edited by Frank Kline; 1874, "Free Press," edited by Kline & Earnst; 1874, "Freie Presse," edited by Dr. C. F. Carsour; 1879, "Fair Play," edited by Henry Smith; "Valley Herald," Henry & Shaw, and "Ste. Genevieve Herald," by Jos. A. Earnst, in 1882-5.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MISSOURI FROM STE. GENEVIEVE.

State Senators—Hon. Joseph Bogy, Sr., 1822; Hon. Lewis F. Linn, 1830; Hon. Charles C. Vallé, 1834; Hon. Conrad C. Ziegler, 1854; Hon. Firmin A. Rozier, 1872.

Lower House—Hon. A. G. Bird, 1822; Hon. Peter Dagget, 1824; Hon. Beverly Allen, 1826; Hon. John S. Barret, 1828; Hon. Robt. Moore, 1830; Hon. Joseph Bogy, Sr., 1832; Hon. Clement Detchmندی, 1834-36; Hon. Allen Holloman, 1838; Hon. Thomas M. Horine, 1840; Hon. Joseph Coffman, 1842; Hon. Robt. J. Boas, 1844; Hon. Jeremiah Robinson, 1846; Hon. Johnson B. Clardy, 1848; Hon. Jesse B. Robbins, 1850; Hon. Sifroid Rousfin, 1852; Hon. Lewis V. Bogy, 1854; Hon. Firmin A. Rozier, 1856; Hon. Robert J. Boas, 1858; Hon. John C. Watkins, 1860; Hon. David C. Tuttle, 1862; Hon. Geo. Bond, 1864; Hon. Jos. Bogy, Jr., 1868; Hon. Antoine Beltrami, 1870; Hon. Robt. J. Madison, 1872; Hon. Wm. Cox, 1874; Hon. Jasper N. Burks, 1876; Hon. Wm. Cox, 1878; Hon. L. S. Patterson, 1880; Hon. T. P. Boyer, 1884.

JUDGES OF CIRCUIT COURT FROM 1820 TO 1879.

First judge, Richard S. Thomas, 1820; second judge, John D. Cook, 1825; third judge, Wm. Scott, 1835; fourth judge, Henry Schurids, 1837; fifth judge, James Evans, 1837; sixth judge, David Sterigere, 1829; seventh judge, John H. Stone, 1844; eighth judge, James W. Owens, 1863; ninth judge, William Carter, 1864; tenth judge, John B. Robinson, 1874; eleventh judge, W. N. Nalie, 1878; twelfth judge, John H. Nicholson, 1879; thirteenth judge, James D. Fox, 1880-85.

CLERKS OF THE COURT.

First, Thomas Oliver; second, Jos. D. Grafton; third, Jesse B. Robbins; fourth, John N. Littlejohn; fifth, Charles C. Rozier; sixth, John L. Bogy; seventh, Joseph Beauman; eighth, Jules Guyon.

SHERIFFS—1820 to 1879.

First, Henry Dodge; second, Francis Vallé; third, John S. Barret; fourth, John Bapt. Vital Ste. Gemme; fifth, Eloy Lecompte; sixth, Emanuel Pratte; seventh, Wm. Adams; eighth, Jesse B. Robbins; ninth, Robert J. Boas; tenth, William C. Warner; eleventh, Francis I. Moreau; twelfth, Jacob Boas; thirteenth, George D. Scott; fourteenth, Andrew Anderson; fifteenth, Robert J. Madison; sixteenth, Joseph Huck; seventeenth, James J. Wilson; eighteenth, Louis Norman; nineteenth, Leon Yokeest.

STEAMBOAT CATASTROPHE.

The steamer Doctor Franklin No. 2, in August 1852, collapsed a flue, at Turkey Island, on the Mississippi, about four miles above Ste. Genevieve, scalding and killing nearly all her deck passengers and crew. She was towed down to the Ste. Genevieve wharf. Amongst the passengers was the famous novel writer Ned Buntline, who escaped unhurt. The sight on board of the steamer was a distressing and mournful one. The cabin of the boat was strewed with men and women, uttering the most fearful cries, and undergoing the most cruel sufferings. Strong men were there blistered with steam, yet cold in death. Both engineers were blown into the river, and at the time of the explosion some jumped overboard and were lost. In one berth lay a wife and mother dead, with a child still clasped in her arms, whilst others were frightfully mutilated. The citizens of Ste. Genevieve rendered all the aid and assistance to those unfortunate persons, and had the dead decently buried in the graveyard.

TELEGRAPH LINE AND PLANK ROAD.

The first telegraphic line in Missouri connected Nashville to St. Louis, passed through Ste. Genevieve, and was established in the year 1850, but afterwards discontinued. At this period nothing seemed so wonderful and miraculous, to witness the flashes of intelligence flying with the rapidity of lightning, through the first town of Upper Louisiana.

PLANK ROAD.

The first important improvement in the State of Missouri was the plank road made between Ste. Genevieve and Iron Mountain, which took place August 20th, 1851, being 42 miles in length. So important was this first great enterprise considered, that a corps of talented engineers were employed to construct and supervise this work, which consisted of James P. Kirkwood, chief engineer of the Missouri Pacific Rail Road; William R. Singleton, an active and competent engineer, now of Washington City; also the unfortunate Sullivan, of the Gasconade bridge disaster; and the young, active and talented Jos. A. Miller, now of Providence, R. I. These scientific persons afterwards acquired a national reputation as civil engineers and railroad builders in Missouri and in the far West. Over this plank road, for a few years, an immense business was carried on in lead,

iron, cobalt, nickel, marble and granite, and agricultural products of all kinds.

HISTORY OF STE. GENEVIEVE, FORT CHARTRES AND KASKASKIA.

It is a remarkable fact, that the first three permanent settlements in the Great West, on the banks of the "Father of Waters," have been completely destroyed and swept away by the floods of this monarch of rivers; and strange it is to say, that of Fort Chartres, Kaskaskia and Le Vieux village de "Ste. Geneviève," nothing is left of them. Their old landmarks and monuments, even many of the tombs and graves of their pioneers have been carried away by the floods; and like the immortal De Soto's remains, have been swept into the great waters of the gulf, buried forever as is often the fate of the founders of nations and empires.

FRENCH POPULATION.

To the period of 1820, the population of the towns of Missouri was mostly of French origin. They possessed great industry and hospitality of character and were the pioneers of all great commercial enterprises in the far West. They felled the forests, excavated mines, established trading posts, planted the standards of civilization along the banks of our great rivers. Their intellect was of a strong and vigorous character, they had honesty of purpose, were of iron constitution, and their promises and engagements were kept most sacredly and religiously. They were the gallant sons of France and the compeers of Lafayette. Owing to the change of government and the great wave of immigration to the West, there are now but few of their progeny who remain to commemorate and chant their gallantry and virtues, and to weep over the graves of this noble race, who first planted the standard of liberty and Christianity over the broad domains of the great State of Missouri.

The people of Ste. Genevieve, exactly since a century and a half, have lived under four different governments without encountering great disasters or bloody wars, in such remarkable changes, which are generally accompanied with great disorders and misfortunes. They first lived and were subjects of the great French nation to the year 1769; secondly they fell under the jurisdiction and dominion of Spain until 1800; again under the Napoleon dynasty, until 1804; and lastly, and thank God, under the flag of the United States of America, from the last period to the present time, and to be hoped for all future time.

Handwritten notes

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