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Louisiana Purchase Transfer Collection, 1783-1953

20 folders

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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MICROFILM

The microfilm of the Louisiana Purchase Transfer Collection was produced from the *Save America's Treasures* grant program of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Park Service.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Don Juan Manuel de Salcedo, a brigadier general in the Spanish Royal Army, was governor of the Louisiana Territory. After the transfer, de Salcedo became the Spanish governor of Texas.

Sebastian Calvo de la Puerta, the Marquis de Casa-Calvo, also a brigadier general in the Spanish Army, was the military governor of the territory. Following the transfer Casa-Calvo remained in the United States as a commissioner of boundaries.

Charles (Carlos) de Hault de Lassus (1764-1842) was the Spanish lieutenant governor for Upper Louisiana at the time of the transfer. Although French by birth, de Lassus entered Spanish military service in 1782. Following various promotions and assignments he became commander of the post at New Madrid in 1796 and was appointed lieutenant governor in 1799. After the transfer he went to New Orleans and was then ordered to join his regiment in Pensacola, Florida.

Pierre Clement de Laussat was the French governor of the province of Louisiana. He arrived in New Orleans on 26 March 1803 with a commission from Bonaparte as colonial prefect and was empowered to act as civil and military commander. He formally surrendered Lower Louisiana to Governor Claiborne and General Wilkinson on 20 December 1803.

Amos Stoddard (1762-1813) was a captain of artillery in the U.S. Army and was appointed by France and the United States to represent them at the formal transfer of the Upper Louisiana Territory, which took place in St. Louis. After the transfer he remained in command at St. Louis as acting governor.

James Richardson may have been one of the earliest American settlers in the region, having come to Upper Louisiana from Kentucky in 1787. In 1795 he received an appointment as a deputy (or lieutenant) surveyor under Antoine Soulard, and in 1799 had a still-house on Maline Creek but at the time of the transfer resided in St. Ferdinand.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Louisiana Purchase Transfer Collection is an artificial collection of original documents gathered from a variety of sources that have been filed together because of their connection, or the connection of the documents' authors, to the transfer of Upper Louisiana from Spain to France and then from France to the United States in 1804 (popularly known as the Louisiana Purchase). The bulk of the collection contains original documents dating from 1783 to 1829. The only twentieth-century items in the collection are three first-day-issue envelopes and stamps, dated 30 April 1953, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.

The collection contains two documents that bear no relationship to the actual purchase or transfer of the Louisiana Territory. The first is an autographed letter signed Marbois to Major Benjamin Walker dated 22 July 1783 (the same folder also contains an undated lithograph of Barbé Marbois by Delpech). The second is an autographed document signed Bonaparte to the minister of war [General Mortier] dated 20 July 1803. Francois, Marquis de Barbé Marbois, the minister of finance under Bonaparte, negotiated and signed the Louisiana Purchase Treaty. These two documents (with the lithograph) are filed here due to the connection of the authors to the sale of the Louisiana Territory.

The following abbreviations have been used in this inventory:

- ADS Autographed Document Signed (a document entirely in the hand of and signed by the author)
- ALS Autographed Letter Signed (a letter entirely in the hand of and signed by the author)
- DS Document Signed (a document, hand-written or printed, not written by or blank spaces filled in by the author)

DOCUMENT INVENTORY

- 22 July 1783 ALS Marbois, Philadelphia, to Major Benjamin Walker, aide-de-camp to General Washington, headquarters, Newburg, state of New York. Letter acknowledges receipt of thirty dollars from Walker. 2 pages. Original in French. Includes translation.
- Lithograph by Delpech of Barbé Marbois. Original filed with letter above.
- 27 March 1803 DS Laussat and D. Angerot, proclamation to the people of Louisiana encouraging them to be loyal to France and announcing the appointment of the new captain general of the territory. 1 page. Original (2 copies) in French. Includes typescript. **Oversize**
- 20 July 1803 ADS Bonaparte, Anvers, to minister of war [General Mortier] instructing him not to correspond with foreign ambassadors in any manner. If they ask him for an explanation, he is to respond that it is necessary to address the government. The first consul is pained that General Mortier has responded to a letter from the Russian minister for the court of Berlin. It would have been the proper procedure to acknowledge receipt of the letter in sending it to the minister of foreign relations who ought to give it all suitable diplomatic explanation. 2 pages. Original in French. Includes translation.
- 2 Aug 1803 ALS M. Austin [Moses Austin?], Mine à Burton [Mine a Breton], to James Richardson stating that he believes the contemplated change of government demands the attention of every American. 3 pages. Original and typescript.
- 31 Dec 1803 ADS Manuel de Salcedo and El Marquis de Casa-Calvo, New Orleans, to Carlos de Lassus. Order of transfer of Louisiana to France. 2 pages. Original in Spanish. Includes translation.
- circa 1804 Unsigned document to Boré regarding a representative committee of inhabitants of New Orleans. 1 page. Original in French. Includes translation.
- 19 Feb 1804 ALS Gouverneur Morris, Morrisania, to [John Quincy Adams?], on the acquisition of Louisiana and the effect it will have politically, particularly to widen the breach between northern and southern states. 8 pages. Original and partial typescript. [accession number 56-0003]
- 20 Feb 1804 DS Charles de Hault de Lassus, St. Louis, power of attorney of Pierre Clement Laussat to Amos Stoddard to receive for him, in the name of the French Republic, political and military possession of Upper Louisiana from Spain and authorizes him to receive it for the United States. 4 pages. Original in French. Includes translation.
- 9 March 1804 ADS Amos Stoddard, Carlos De Hault De Lassus, Charles Gratiot, Antonio Soulard and Meriwether Lewis, St. Louis. Document of transfer of Upper

- Louisiana Territory from Spain to France, and then from France to the United States. 2 pages. Original in Spanish. Includes translation.
- 10 March 1804 DS Amos Stoddard, St. Louis, proclamation to inhabitants of the Upper Louisiana Territory regarding concessions of land they received from the Spanish government prior to the transfer of Louisiana. 3 pages. Original in French. Includes translation.
- 14 July 1804 ADS Boré and Robelet, New Orleans, from a committee of the assembly of the inhabitants of New Orleans, addresses neighbors and co-citizens on the subject of dividing Louisiana into two territories and details the steps taken to have the law revised. 5 pages. Includes a copy of the petition to be signed by the citizens. Original in French. Includes translation.
- 14 July 1804 Unsigned document, New Orleans, refers to a petition by inhabitants of Louisiana sending representatives to Congress and not to divide Upper and Lower Louisiana into two territories. 2 pages. Original in French. Includes translation.
- 6 Sept 1804 ADS Richard J. Waters and Richard Caulk, St. Louis, to the citizens of Cape Girardeau, calls for representatives of the district to meet with them in St. Louis to deliberate together on our common interests. 3 pages. Original.
- 28 Sept 1804 DS Members of the Committee (of Louisiana) appointing representatives. 2 pages. Original in French. Includes translation.
- 1 Oct 1804 DS Boré, E. Jones, and other members of the Committee of Louisiana, New Orleans, to Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States, appears to be a petition. 3 pages. Original in French. Includes translation.
- 5 Oct 1804 DS Boré and Robelet, New Orleans, to members of the Louisiana Committee and Mr. Chouteau, resident of St. Louis, refers to a memorial being sent to Congress complaining of the manifest injury to their rights and the violation of the treaty of transfer by the provisional organization governing them. It also requests they collect the signatures of all those who approve of the memorial and forward them directly to their deputies in Washington City. 3 pages. Original in French. Includes translation.
- 11 Dec 1824 ALS Antoine Soulard, St. Louis, to Charles L. Lantes[?] relating to the succession of governors of Louisiana to Laussat who transferred his powers to the United States. 4 pages. Original in French.
- 21 Dec 1829 ALS James Monroe, Richmond, to [Barbé Marbois] denying that payment of any sort was given to him or M. Talleyrand during the negotiations of the treaty to cede Louisiana to the United States. 2 pages. Original and typescript.

30 April 1953 First-day-issue envelope and stamp commemorating the Louisiana Purchase.
(3 copies)