

**A1113**

**David Murphy (1769?-1844) Papers, 1793-1828**

4 folders

Compiled by Christopher Gordon, March 2003

**REPOSITORY**

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**DONOR INFORMATION**

There is no donor information available for this collection.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

David Murphy, the son of Reverend William Murphy and Susan Barton Murphy, was born around 1769. The family lived in the Territory of the United States of America, South of the River Ohio, a territory created by Congress after the American Revolution. William Blount, governor of the Territory South of the River Ohio, appointed David an ensign of the Jefferson County, Tennessee, militia in 1793. In 1798, David along with his father and two brothers made a claim for settlement in the French territory of Upper Louisiana. They were granted land in present-day St. Francois County, Missouri. In 1800, David and his brothers returned to settle the land. They established the Murphy Settlement in what was then Ste. Genevieve County. David established and operated a tavern. James Wilkinson, governor of the Territory of Louisiana, promoted David to captain of the militia of the district of Ste. Genevieve in 1806. David later served in the War of 1812. Murphy was elected to the Missouri General Assembly in 1820 as a representative of Ste. Genevieve County. In 1822, David donated 52 acres of his land for the establishment of a town to serve as the county seat of newly organized St. Francois County, thus creating the town of Farmington, Missouri. In 1826, Murphy ran for a seat representing St. Francois County in the Missouri General Assembly but was defeated by Henry Poston. Murphy challenged the election claiming irregularities in the voting process. Poston was eventually declared the winner. Murphy regained the seat in 1828 and served another two-year term. David Murphy died in 1844.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The David Murphy Papers consist of military commissions, correspondence, a typed copy of a diary of his service in Missouri and Illinois during the War of 1812, land surveys, poll registers, and documents relating to Murphy's challenge of the election of 1826. The bulk of the papers are related to Murphy's military service and his challenge relating to the election of 1826. The papers are arranged in chronological order.

**The following abbreviations have been used in this inventory:**

ADS Autograph Document Signed (a document entirely in the hand of and signed by the author).

- AL Autograph Letter unsigned (an unsigned letter in the hand of the author).
- ALS Autograph Letter Signed (a letter entirely in the hand of and signed by the author).
- DS Document Signed
- LS Letter Signed
- n.d. No date

**Folder 1 1793-1809**

- 2 May 1793 DS William Blount appointing David Murphy as an ensign in Jefferson County, Territory of the United States of America, South of River Ohio, militia. 1 page
- 10 Oct 1796 DS John Sevier appointing David Murphy a lieutenant in the Jefferson County, Territory of the United States, South of the River Ohio, militia. 1 page
- 27 July 1803 ALS Israel Dodge to David Murphy asking for a loan and stating that Murphy's friend Lewis Linn is very ill. 1 page
- 23 Mar 1805 ALS John Andrews to David Murphy requesting that Murphy make a count of the residents in the settlements. 1 page
- 18 Dec 1805 ADS Survey of 1072 acres of land for David Murphy in the Murphy Settlement. 1 page
- 8 Mar 1806 ALS John T. Smith, Cannon Mines, Missouri, to David Murphy regarding the sale of livestock. 2 pages
- 11 Apr 1806 DS G.W. Campbell to Captain John T. Smith. Printed letter detailing acts of Congress, foreign relations, and matters regarding the territories. Includes a brief report of the findings of Captain Meriwether Lewis's exploration of the Missouri River to its source and notes that Lewis and party are expected to return in the fall of 1806. 4 pages
- 4 May 1806 DS James Wilkinson appointing David Murphy captain of the militia of the district of Ste. Genevieve, Territory of Louisiana. 1 page
- circa 1807 ALS Nathaniel Cook to David Murphy requesting that Murphy inquire of the clerk about his business. [date torn away] 1 page
- 2 Feb 1807 ALS John T. Smith to David Murphy requesting an estimate of the strength and situation of his company. 1 page
- 16 Sept 1809 DS Notations of the discovery of lead mines on the Bourbeuse River near the Merrimac [Meramec] River and on the Merrimac [Meramec] near Calva Creek. 1 page
- Folder 2 1812-1825**
- 18 Jan. 1812 ALS Nat Cook to David Murphy concerning the selection of officers of the militia. 1 page
- 10 Aug 1812 ALS Rufus Easton to David Murphy et al. List of lands confirmed. 2 pages

- 12 Nov 1812 DS Benjamin Howard appointing Isaac Murphy an ensign of the 5<sup>th</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, militia. 1 page
- Aug-Oct 1813 Journal of David Murphy's service on an expedition against the Indians in Missouri and Illinois. [typed] 6 pages
- 22 July 1816 Circular expressing the opinions of John Scott regarding the sale of lead mines and salt springs by the government. [Moved to Oversize] 1 page
- 5 Nov 1816 LS Nat Cook to David Murphy concerning the draft of a petition request by David Murphy. 1 page
- 3 Nov 1817? ALS Isaac Murphy to David Murphy stating that he cannot come to Ste. Genevieve County because he is busy at his job as clerk of Franklin County. 1 page
- 10 July 1820 ALS Isidore Moore to David Murphy speaks of political convention and the plan for county representation when Missouri is admitted to the Union. 3 pages
- 10 Aug 1820 ALS Henry Millard to E. Clay plans to send copy of the Missouri constitution. Also speaks of Murphy's chances for election to Missouri House of Representatives. 1 page
- 9 Dec 1821 Printed *A Bill for securing to Mechanics and others payment for their labor and unwrought materials in erecting any Houses or other Buildings, in the state of Missouri*. Bill drafted by David Murphy and known as the *David Murphy Bill*. 4 pages
- 20 June 1822 Printed letter of J.B.C. Lucas, St. Louis, to David Murphy regarding campaign letter appealing to voters to elect Lucas as U.S. representative for Missouri. 1 page
- 1 Sept 1825 ALS Andrew S. McGirk to David Murphy introducing David Todd as candidate for governor of Missouri. 1 page
- Folder 3 1826**  
 circa 1826 AL David Murphy to speaker of the house, Missouri House of Representatives, concerning irregularities in the election held in Perry Township, Ste. Genevieve County. 1 page
- August 1826 DS Deposition of election clerk in investigation of election irregularities. 1 page

- 1 Aug 1826 ALS David Murphy to the House of Representatives of General Assembly of the State of Missouri concerning alleged irregularities in the race between Murphy and Poston. 2 pages
- 7 Aug 1826 Poll book containing the names of 117 registered voters of the general election held at the home of Thomas Haile in Perry Township, St. Francois County. [Moved to Oversize] 1 page
- 22 Aug 1826 ADS David Murphy to Henry Poston notifying Poston that Murphy is challenging the results of Poston's election to the Missouri House of Representatives. 1 page
- 6 Sept 1826 ADS Luther M. Kennett: Abstract and poll book of August election held in Pendleton Township. Signed by three judges and two clerks. 1 page
- 6 Sept 1826 ADS Luther M. Kennett: Abstract and poll book of August election held in Liberty Township. Signed by three judges and two clerks. 1 page
- 6 Sept 1826 ADS Luther M. Kennett: Abstract and poll book of August election held in St. Francois Township. Signed by three judges and two clerks. 1 page
- 7 Sept 1826 Depositions of witnesses to August election. 8 pages
- 9 Sept 1826 ALS George McGahan & David Evans, justices of the peace, to the speaker of the House of Representatives stating the position of David Murphy and Henry Poston regarding the election of representative for St. Francois County. 4 pages
- 9 Sept 1826 ALS Henry Poston to David Murphy stating that he will attend court at Farmington to take depositions for his defense. 1 page
- 9 Sept 1826 ADS George McGahan & David Evans, justices of the peace, noting that David Murphy takes exception to the judgement of the justices regarding the introduction of testimony. Motion is overruled. 1 page
- 15 Sept 1826 ALS David Murphy to Henry Poston stating five reasons why the election is being contested. 1 page
- 23 Sept 1826 DS John McFarland: Deposition of McFarland who acted as clerk in the St. Francois Township election. 1 page
- 23 Sept 1826 DS Deposition of witnesses to the election held in Liberty Township. 3 pages

- Folder 4**      **1827–1828; n.d.**
- 22 Oct 1827    Receipt for \$22.50 for the St. Francois Bible Society paid to David Murphy, treasurer. 1 page
- 26 Oct 1828    ALS W.H. Ashley to David Murphy asking Murphy to organize the Jacksonians and urge them to vote in the upcoming election. 2 pages
- 11 Nov 1828    ALS D. Barton to Issac Barton asking that he send him a copy of the survey of the Stall Road from Cape Girardeau to Clay Court House to Washington. 1 page
- n.d.             DS David Murphy: States seven reasons why Murphy is opposed to a bill on credit and paper currency. 1 page