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Amos Stoddard (1762-1813) Papers, 1796-1812

1 box

Processed by Angie Rhodes, April 2001

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

Mrs. J. Edward Agenbroad and Miss Ellen M. Smith of Dayton, Ohio, donated Stoddard's manuscript autobiography to the Missouri Historical Society in 1958. In 1930, Mrs. Charles L. Foster of Lakewood, Ohio, donated the letter Stoddard wrote to his mother dated June 16, 1804.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Amos Stoddard was born October 26, 1762, in Woodbury, Connecticut. He saw service in the American Revolution. After the war he studied law and in 1791 was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. On June 4, 1798, he was appointed captain of artillery in the United States Army, and on June 30, 1807, he was given the rank of major. Stoddard was wounded during the siege of Fort Meigs, Ohio, and died of tetanus a few days later on May 11, 1813.

Stoddard was a prominent figure in the transfer of Upper Louisiana from France to the United States. At the time appointed for the transfer, Spain still had possession of the territory, although three years had passed since the Treaty of San Ildefonso in which Spain ceded the country to France. The transfer of possession to France was required to precede the transfer from France to the United States. On November 30, 1803, Laussat, the French prefect at New Orleans, received Louisiana from the Spanish commissioners. On December 20, 1803, Claiborne and Wilkinson received the territory from France.

As France had no representative in Upper Louisiana, Laussat commissioned Stoddard to take possession of the territory from Spain on behalf of the French government. He was also appointed to represent the United States government. On January 24, 1804, Stoddard was made the first civil commandant of Upper Louisiana.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Amos Stoddard Papers consist primarily of correspondence and documents dated 1796-1809. The bulk of the correspondence is dated 1804 and relates to the transfer of Upper Louisiana to the United States. The correspondence is arranged chronologically and is followed by two genealogies of the Stoddard family. The papers also include Stoddard's manuscript autobiography written circa 1812 covering events of his life up to 1792. The certificate of Stoddard's commission as the first civil commandant of the District of Upper Louisiana (January 24, 1804) is stored with the oversize documents.

The letter of Amos Stoddard to Jean Baptiste Valle, dated March 10, 1804, which contains instructions concerning appointment as commandant of Ste. Genevieve, was returned to the Francois Valle Papers in 2001.

For printed translations and transcriptions of several documents in this collection see *Glimpses of the Past* (St. Louis, Mo.: Missouri Historical Society), Volume II, Numbers 6-10, 1935, page 78.

FOLDER LIST

- folder 1 1796-1803
- folder 2 January 1804
- folder 3 February 1804
- folder 4 March 9-15, 1804
- folder 5 March 17-26, 1804
- folder 6 April 1804
- folder 7 May 1804 (includes letter from Meriwether Lewis that gives agency to Stoddard)
- folder 8 June 3-13, 1804
- folder 9 June 16-26, 1804 (includes letter from Stoddard to his mother)
- folder 10 July 1804
- folder 11 August 1804 (includes letter from Auguste Chouteau asking Stoddard to put in force the black code)
- folder 12 September 1804
- folder 13 October 1804
- folder 14 November 1804
- folder 15 1809 (letter from Meriwether Lewis regarding his return from Pacific Ocean)
- folder 16 Manuscript autobiography (preservation photocopy)
- folder 17 Manuscript autobiography (original)
- folder 18 List of letters received from Amos Stoddard by the secretary of war from 1803-1805
- folder 19 Genealogies of the Stoddard family
- folder 20 Reference file

