

Pierre Jaffray toutes lesquelles Marchandises et Effets nous ont ete representes par le dit Sieur Louis Largeau sous le Serment qu'il en a fait en nos Mains de non obmettre au detourner aucune Chose—Iceux prises et estimes par Mess^{rs} Fra^s Vallé Jean Bap^t pratte Louis Deloriers et Jean Dodge Estimateurs nommies par notre Decret lesquell ont promis le tout priser et estimer en leur Ame et Conscience en egard au Temps et ont Signe avec nous Commandant Civil et Militaire a Defaut de Notaire (Signé) [Fra^s] Vallé, John Dodge, Pratte, Louis Largeau, Delorie, Fra^s LeCler, Antonio de Oro.

Translation

In the year one thousand seven hundred eighty-seven, on the fourth day of May, at nine o'clock in the morning, in response to the request of Hugh Heward,⁵ as given on the next page, solicited and commissioned with power to seize the effects of Louis Lorimier, and also considering our decree of the same day, we, Don Antonio de Oro,⁶ captain of the regular Louisiana militia, civil and military commandant

5 Ste. Genevieve was at this time a garrisoned settlement in Spanish Louisiana on the opposite side of the river from Kaskaskia. Heward had come to Kaskaskia as agent for the Miamis Company, to which Lorimier was indebted. On April 15, 1787, George Ironside wrote from Miamitown to David Gray, then at Vincennes: "Lorimier is fled from the face of his creditors & gone to the Illinois—may the Devil be his pilot." See *Indiana Quarterly Magazine of History*, V, 152. On conditions at Ste. Genevieve see Louis Houck, *History of Missouri*, I, 356-62.

6 This document establishes for Antonio de Oro an importance unsuspected hitherto by historians of Spanish Louisiana. The commandant of Ste. Genevieve from 1779 to 1784 was Don Sylvio Francisco de Cartabona, a lieutenant in the Spanish army, whose full name was Don Sylvio Francisco de Cartabona de Oro. The name "de Oro" puzzled Houck (*op. cit.*, I, 346-47), who states that in 1772 there was in St. Louis a merchant and also officer of the garrison, named Antonio X. Joseph de Oro, who may have been related to Don Sylvio Francisco. He adds that Antonio "lived in St. Louis 13 years, rose to the rank of Captain and died in Ste. Genevieve in August, 1787."

A piquant and interesting characterization of the commandant of Ste. Genevieve, written by Father Pierre Gibault, June 6, 1786, is printed in *The Kaskaskia Records*, 540-41. Prof. Alvord, the editor, was much perplexed over the identity of the commandant whom Gibault thus describes. The present document renders it highly probable that he was none other than Don Antonio de Oro.

According to Frederic L. Billon, *Annals of St. Louis . . . under the French and Spanish Dominations* (St. Louis, 1886), 246-47, de Oro was ordered from St. Louis to Ste.