

of the post of Ste. Genevieve of the Illinois, accompanied by Pedro Apparicio and François Leclerc,⁷ as witnesses and assistants, in the absence of a notary, have therefore repaired to the dwelling of François Vallé,⁸ sub-lieutenant of militia at the said post, where were disposed the merchandise and effects of the said Louis Lorimier, and having so repaired, we proceeded to take an inventory and exact description of the different goods and effects belonging to the said Louis Lorimier, brought to the post in two wagons in the charge of Louis Largeau, and another wagon in charge of Pierre Jaffray, all of which goods and effects have been represented to us under oath by the said Louis Largeau as given into our hands with nothing omitted or reserved. These [goods and effects] have been appraised and estimated by François Vallé, Jean Bte. Pratte,⁹ Louis Delorier and John Dodge,¹⁰ appraisers named by our decree, who promised on

Genevieve in 1774, and continued there until his death in August, 1787. Billon prints the inventory of his effects, taken subsequent to his death, and signed, among others, by Dorothy de Oro and François Leclerc.

7 According to Houck, *op. cit.*, I, 350, François Leclerc, in 1776, married Mary Louise, daughter of Don Francisco Vallé. The father was a descendant of Pierre La Vallée who migrated from near Rouen, Normandy, to Beauport, Canada, in 1645. His grandson, Francisco Vallé, migrated from Canada to Kaskaskia, and from the latter place (subsequent to Clark's invasion of the Illinois) to Ste. Genevieve, where he died in 1783. The Vallé family was one of the foremost in the Illinois country. A son of the founder, Don Francisco Jr., was commandant of Ste. Genevieve from 1796 until his death in 1804, and was succeeded by his brother, Jean Baptiste Vallé, the latter receiving his appointment from Governor William Henry Harrison of Indiana Territory. See Houck, *op. cit.*, I, 349-50. Antonio de Oro died in August, 1787. Leclerc was one of the witnesses who signed the inventory of his effects. See Billon, *op. cit.*, 247.

8 The member of the Vallé family here mentioned was probably Francisco Vallé Jr., son of the founder of the family in the Illinois. He was commandant of Ste. Genevieve from 1796 until his death in 1804. One of his daughters married Robert T. Brown, a member of the Missouri constitutional convention of 1820; another married Dr. Walter Fenwick, who was killed in a duel by T. T. Crittenden; another, Joseph Pratte; and the fourth, Captain Wilkinson.

9 Jean Baptiste Pratte was living in the old village of Ste. Genevieve in 1772, and in 1799 he claimed to have lived in the country for fifty years. The family came to Ste. Genevieve from Fort Chartres. Pratte was a man of wealth and of influence, at least locally. In 1808 he was one of the trustees of Ste. Genevieve Academy, of which Mann Butler, subsequently notable as the historian of Kentucky, was teacher. Prior to 1803 he owned forty-five slaves and twelve houses and outbuildings. In 1797 he claimed a large grant of land on the Saline River, where he cleared a portion of the tract, erected buildings, and had a large herd of stock. See Houck, *op. cit.*, I, 340, 352-54; III, 67.

10 John Dodge was born in Connecticut, July 12, 1751. Before his nineteenth year he found his way to the Ohio country, and at or prior to the opening of the Revolution,