

# *News from Old Mines*

The Newsletter of the Old Mines French Project  
No. 10, Spring 2019

## The Pat Daly Store

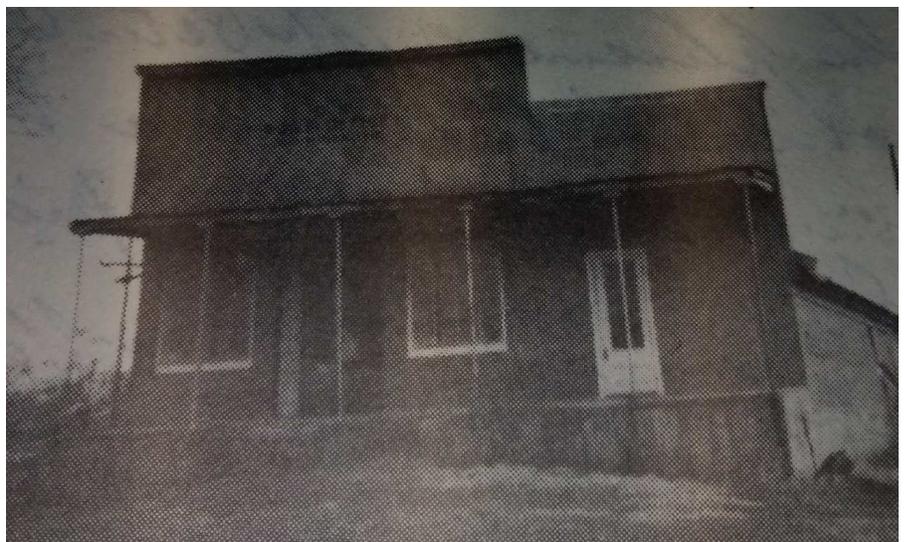


One of the best known buildings in the Old Mines community is no more! In February of this year the Pat Daly store at the corner of Hwy 21 and (appropriately enough) Pat Daly Road was torn down. An recent view is above, and an older one below (obviously some renovations happened over the years).

Local history has it that the parish priest John Daly set up his brother Pat in a home and store on parish property. Father Daly was priest from 1916-1028. The Brigade à Renault has used the building in recent years. What most people will undoubtedly miss is the use of the front of the building for the Brigade's signs advertising the Winter and May rendez-vous events. Hopefully another location for the signs can be found soon!

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## WHAT'S NEW IN OLD MINES?

Here's the most recent list of new materials relevant to the study of Old Mines and the French history and heritage of the region around it. These are either new publications or ones just discovered, reported, or consulted. All of the works listed above also appear in the Bibliography on the [Old Mines French website](#). Readers are welcome to send references to any works not in the Bibliography to the editor!

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## Spring 2019 Flooding

The two images here demonstrate how vulnerable parts of the French heritage of the Illinois Country can be when the Mississippi River reaches near-record levels of flooding. To the right is the Pierre Menard home, the basement of which was apparently flooded this year. The home, like Fort de Chartres down the road, has been closed for an extended period of time due to the flooding.



Below is the floodgate at Ste. Genevieve as seen from the river side. One can only imagine the impact were it not for the presence of the floodgate and the levee system around the town.

More images can be found on various Facebook pages devoted to the area.



### The Old Mines French Project

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## Excerpt from *They Was Frenchmans* by Helen Valle Crist

Helen Valle Crist's **They Was Frenchmans** is a labor of love describing her family tree on the Valle side. Full of tremendous detail, fascinating anecdotes, and wonderful photos, this book provides an invaluable perspective on the many generations of just one family line. The book was published in 2003 by Creative Continuum (Brea, CA). The editor is very much grateful to Helen for agreeing to have some excerpts from the book reproduced here and in future issues.

### The epigraph for the book

“With the clothes on their respective backs and not much else, the Vallée brothers, Pierre and Jean, made their way from seventeenth-century France to Québec. Encouraged by the French government, sometimes rather forcefully, boatloads of French immigrants descended upon Québec, Mobile, and New Orleans. Neither storm at sea, yellow fever, nor hostile natives could stop their daring determination to settle a new land and create for themselves opportunities that did not exist in the old country. From these ports of entry many of our ancestors made their way to the Illinois Country. This is their story.”

### Excerpt from pages 61-63

“Joseph Francis Valle, born 24 December 1890 in Bliss, married 04 October 1913 to Mary Edith (Edie) Courtway in Old Mines. Edie was born 17 November 1895. They both lived in Bliss at the time of their marriage. Edie was underage, and her parents gave their consent. Their son, Norvel, recalled that his mother spoke French all the time, but although his father understood French, Francis seldom spoke it. Norvel's recollection is that all his uncles had dark complexions.

Norvel was born in Kingston at a time when doctors were scarce. He and his sister, Helen, were born at home. A neighbor, Susie Miller, lived about three miles down the road from the Valle family, and she came to their house to help with the births. When the children were ill, Edie Valle had to rely on her own home remedies. Her treatment of a cold was to rub the chest of the person who was ill with goose grease and then apply a hot towel. For an earache, a few drops of urine were placed in the ear and allowed to run down. ‘It stopped the pain, and that is a fact,’ says Norvel. ‘It really worked.’ Painful boils were more common in the thirties than they are now, and Edie would place a piece of fat meat on the boil to bring it to a head. To relieve a cough, Edie made a mixture of kerosene and sugar that was very thick. Swallowing one spoonful was enough to stop the cough.

At Kingston the Valles had to carry water in buckets from a well. There was a pipe drilled into a bluff where the water came out. Francis grew corn to feed the horses, and the horses pulled the plow for the sowing and plowing of the corn. The horses' names were Maud and Molly. They also had a cow for milking, and Edie kept the milk and other perishables at the spring branch, to keep them cold.

In 1936 the family moved to Richwoods. Francis built their house out of 2x6 creosoted railroad shop lumber for \$125. he borrowed the money from the man who bought tiff from him. Out of every load of tiff Francis sold, he paid the man \$1.25 until the house was paid for. The house still stands.

....

When they moved to Richwoods in 1936 the cow and horses were sold. Francis bought a little wooden ice box that held a twenty-pound block of ice. The iceman came from DeSoto on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Edie covered the ice block with rags to keep the ice from melting so fast. Later, they had a larger icebox that held a fifty-pound block of ice. The twenty-pound block of ice cost fifteen cents per block, and the fifty-pound block cost twenty-five cents.

The little house that Francis built had four rooms. There was a cast iron wood stove that provided heat. Edie cooked on a wood stove, and they ate a lot of beans and potatoes. She bought cornmeal and flour for baking cornbread and wheat bread. For dessert, she baked cakes as well as peach, apple and wild cherry pies. In the summer Edie went into the woods and picked everything edible that she could find, and then she canned it for use in the wintertime. She also made jelly.

The family used kerosene lamps until electricity was installed in 1940.”

## Letter to Amos Stoddard from Charles Dehault Delassus, March 30, 1804

Charles Dehault Delassus was the Spanish Lieutenant Governor of Upper Louisiana from 1799 until the Louisiana Purchase. His letter, parts of which are reproduced here, is addressed Amos Stoddard, First Civil Commandant of Upper Louisiana and a key figure in the transfer of the Purchase from French to American hands. The letter was written towards the end of Delassus's tenure in St. Louis, as the transfer has already taken place, and he would leave for New Orleans in December of 1804.

The interest of this letter lies in its apparent confirmation of the "Wild West" atmosphere that reigned in the lead mining country to the southwest (in what is now Washington County). Land disputes were frequent, and at times resolved through violence. Tensions were particularly high as miners and local residents wondered how the transition from Spanish to French to American administration would affect their livelihoods and their lives.

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"Sir: On the 17th of last month I received from his C. M.'s captain commandant, *par interim* of the Post of Ste. Genevieve, M. Jno. Bap. Valle, an official letter with a petition from Mr. Madden, appointed assistant surveyor for the said Post and its dependencies, by the surveyor of this Upper Louisiana, Mr. Antoine Soulard. The said letter and petition were a complaint on the part of the said Madden against certain inhabitants of Mine à Breton, who presented themselves armed against him, and opposed in the name of the United States, his surveying the land of Mr. Pascal Detchemendy, which he had been authorized to do by one of my orders, and making use of offensive and injurious expressions, carrying their audacity even so far as to threaten the said Madden, and the said Pascal, who was there to be present at the survey of his land.

After having attentively considered the contents of these papers, there remained no doubt on my part, that it constituted a mutinous opposition against the rights of the territory and authority of C. M. and a contempt of the orders of the officers under whose authority the inhabitants then were, and I have every reason to believe that they were instigated to the commission of this act of violence in armed force; and I am more confirmed in this view, by the complaint brought me by said M. Antoine Soulard, who added thereto a paragraph from the letter written him by his said assistant on this affair, and requesting me to verify the fact and sustain his operations in virtue of his appointment of Surveyor of this Upper Louisiana by the Government In view of these charges and petitions, I found myself obliged to prepare myself to adopt the most effectual means to substantiate the fact and inflict punishment on the principal movers and most culpable of this sedition...

...  
Following this, I awaited the result of these investigations to apply to you, as I have already stated, and make known to you the guilty ones, but the said commandant [Jean-Baptiste Valle], whom you have retained in his office, by a letter of the 19th of this month, tells me that those people instead of complying with the summons made them to appear before him, have sent him a petition that he forwarded to you, and of which he sent me a copy. As the contents of this copy are of an incendiary nature, and a characteristic sequel of their sedition against the Spanish government under which these same inhabitants had received but favors, and had they had any grievances to complain of at this time they should have presented them and never have revolted, above all in specifying the limits to which they were willing that the lands should be surveyed, and probably reserve for themselves, without title, those within their said limits, which they think probably they may possess through this act of violence."

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Whether out of indifference or fear of inciting further violence, Amos Stoddard informed Dehault Delassus that the American government would take no action, since the events in Mine à Breton [Potosi] had occurred during the Spanish administration. The only action taken was to suspend the survey of the Spanish land grants, and indeed many of these would not be settled for many years. The complete letter can be found in Frederic L. Billon, *Annals of St. Louis in its Early Days under the French and Spanish Dominations 1764-1804* (Arno Press).

**List of Company Employees, Concessionaries, Private Passengers, Soldiers, Deserters, Tobacco Smugglers, Illicity Salt Dealers, Exiles, Vagabonds and Others Embarked on the *Union* Commanded by M. de la Manseliere Grave Bound for Louisiana**  
(Transcribed in Glenn R. Conrad, *The First Families of Louisiana*)

We list here only the “Concessionaries and Their People,” featuring one “M. Renaud,” none other than Philippe Renaud (Renaud/Renault), whose role in establishing the lead mines in what is now Washington Country, Missouri is of critical importance for the history of Old Mines.

Renaud, M.	Catton	Ozias	Rendy, du
Bresse, de la	Pugeol	Lallemand	Thore, Bernard
Rieroit, Ignace	Bastien, Francois	Pepin, Joseph	Troquelet, Pierre
Denis, Antoine	Jacquemin, Simon	Charlier, Joseph	Stin, Gregoire
Petrard, Jean Jacques	Plante, Pierre de la	La Montagne, Jean	Le Fevre, Jean-Bap <sup>te</sup>
Dumont, Nicolas	Pouillard, Jean	Fine, Hubert	Gautier, Joseph
Rocrois, Laurent	Frogneux, Lievains	Bequet, Francois	Bauresson, Nicolas
Namur, Philippe	Blampin, Leonard	Catherine, Joseph	Darmuseau, Nicolas
Tierse, Hubert de	Renier, Barthelemy	Faussier, Joseph	Le Grand, Louis
Bisseret, Remis	Boissieux, Joseph	Morage, Joseph	Britel, Guillaume
Coquillard, Jacques	Tisson, Pierre	Delagarde, Jean	Prevost, Antoine
Prevost, Jeanne	Prevost, Elizabeth	Prevost, Annette	Le Doux, Gabrielle
Manaye, Jean Jacques de	Thore, Wife of Sieur		

It is not clear how many of these names are those of the men that accompanied Renaud from France for the purpose of working in the lead mines in Missouri. We do know that Francois Bequet is the ancestor of the Bequette families of Old Mines. Unfortunately little is known about Renaud’s men.

There are five women in the list. The three Prevost women are the wife and daughters of Antoine Prevost. Gabrielle Le Doux is simply listed as “a girl.” There is also an indication that M. and Mme Thore were accompanied by their daughter, although she is not listed separately.

Note: use of accents was at best sporadic during this period. For the sake of consistency, accents have not been included here. Some were present in the original text and transcriptions, but others that should have been were not!

## 2019 Upcoming Events

July 20: [Friends of the Fort Summer Ball](#)

August 10-11: [Ste. Genevieve Jour de Fête](#)

September 8: [St. Joachim Fall Festival](#)

September 21: [Ste. Genevieve History Conference](#)

October 4-6: [Center for French Colonial Studies Conference \(Mackinaw City, Michigan\)](#)

October 5: [100th Anniversary of Fort de Chartres State Park](#)

October 6: [Fête de l'automne, Old Mines Area Historical Society](#)

October 12-13: [Fort de Chartres French and Indian War Encampment](#)

November 2-3: [Fort de Chartres Winter Rendezvous](#)

December 7-8: [Ste. Genevieve Holiday Christmas Festival](#)

December 31: [La Guiannee at Fort de Chartres](#)

December 31: [La Guiannee in Ste. Genevieve](#)