

Dear Sir

Urged by duty and a good opportunity I am induced to trouble you with a second letter, respecting business. I wrote you sometime since that I was disposing of my goods for lead which was destined for you; though the quantity I was unable to mention; I have now to inform you that I have nearly finished my sales, and that I have collected upwards of Thirty Thousand weight, which I was preparing two weeks ago to send to (Fort) Massach, as yet prevented from putting my intentions in executions by the ice in the Mississippi.



*10 December 1797 datelined St. Louis to Pittsburg letter from William Kenner to Genl. James O'Hara, entered mails at Lexington 8 February 1798, 25 cent rate, carried by Mr. Branham*

I fear it will be impracticable to send a boat down sooner than some time in February, however you may rest assured as soon as the navigation will admit I shall send to Massach at the least 30,000 pounds lead subject only to your order. I find I shall be obliged to go to Philadelphia by way of Orleans.

I shall write Mr. Pike accompanying the lead to forward you the receipt and account of lead received as soon as possible, and shall advise you at the same time to draw in favor of my correspondent in Philadelphia for the amount. And that I remain, Very respectfully.

Your most Obt Serv. Wm. Kenner



### Cape Girardeau

Cape Girardeau was one of the earliest settlements located in the Mississippi delta region. The city is named after Jean Baptiste de Girardot, who built a trading post in the area around 1733. He had served as a French soldier at Kaskaskia in 1704-1720. The trading post was built on a high rock promontory above river. The town site was a well established village by 1765 on the west side of the Mississippi River.

In 1808 some of the leading citizens decided to incorporate as a town. This was thirteen years before Missouri became a state in 1821. Rapid growth of the steamboat traffic made Cape Girardeau the largest port on the Mississippi River between St. Louis and Memphis.



*20 January 1806 Cape Girardeau to Pittsburg letter from Joseph M. McFerron, Junr to Joseph M. McFerron, Postmarked "Free" franked by Joseph McFerron, Postmaster*

Dear Father

Received your letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> of November this inst and, glad to hear you are all in good health. John left this place on Wednesday last the fourteenth instant, to go by Kaskaskia and arrange his business there, which will detain him eight to ten days, we expect his return the last of February.

You may expect to receive by him about fifty dollars from me, as to the Marshalls I had last year requested to Mr. Thenard to have the money recovered from Pascal detachment, and the first intimation I had of its being paid was from Mr. Shannon on his return from Pittsburgh.

Give my love to my mother, brothers and sisters.

I am your dutiful Son.

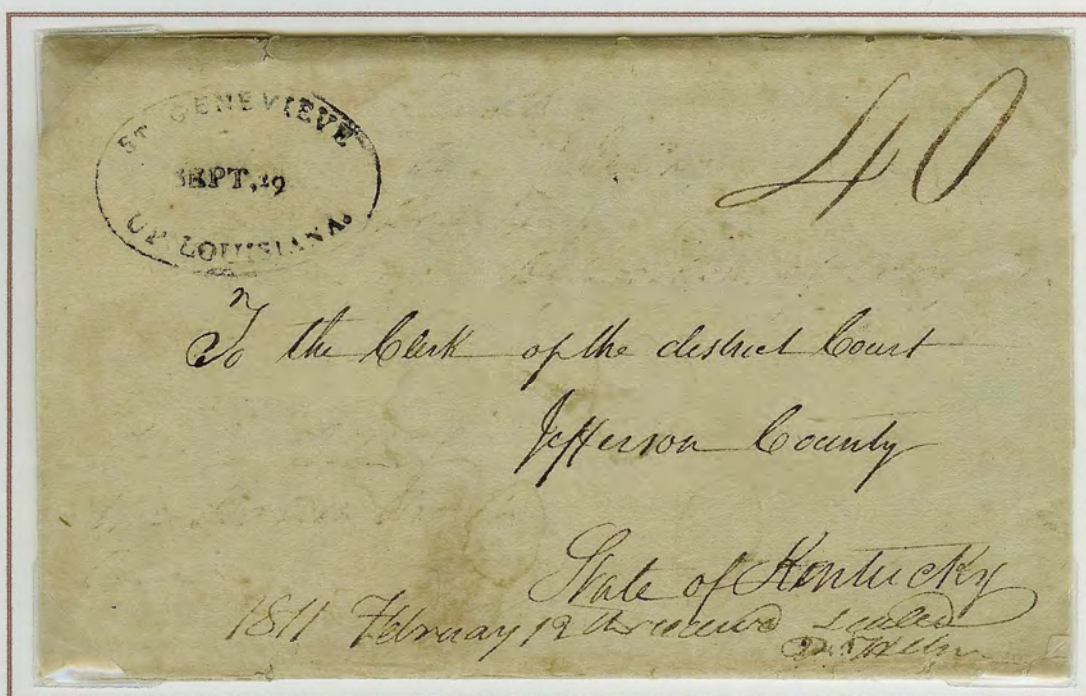
Joseph McFerron, junr



### St. Genevieve

St. Genevieve was founded around 1735 located on the west bank of the Mississippi River 50 miles south of St. Louis. It is one of earliest settlement in Missouri, being originally included in what was known as the Illinois Country. New Orleans was the main seat of the French government for this large area. Sometime in 1805 the northern portion of the territory became known as Upper Louisiana Territory.

The early French settlers discovered rich salt deposits which were useful in curing animal hides and preserving foodstuffs. The settlers quickly exploited the rich salt springs on Saline Creek near St. Genevieve. The areas of La Motte and Renault were rich in copper and lead.



*19 September 1810 St. Genevieve to Jefferson County, Kentucky from Thomas Oliver  
Justice of the Peace at St. Genevieve, 40 cent rate. Note Rec'd 19<sup>th</sup> February 1811*

A letter to The Clerk of the District Court, Jefferson County, State of Kentucky

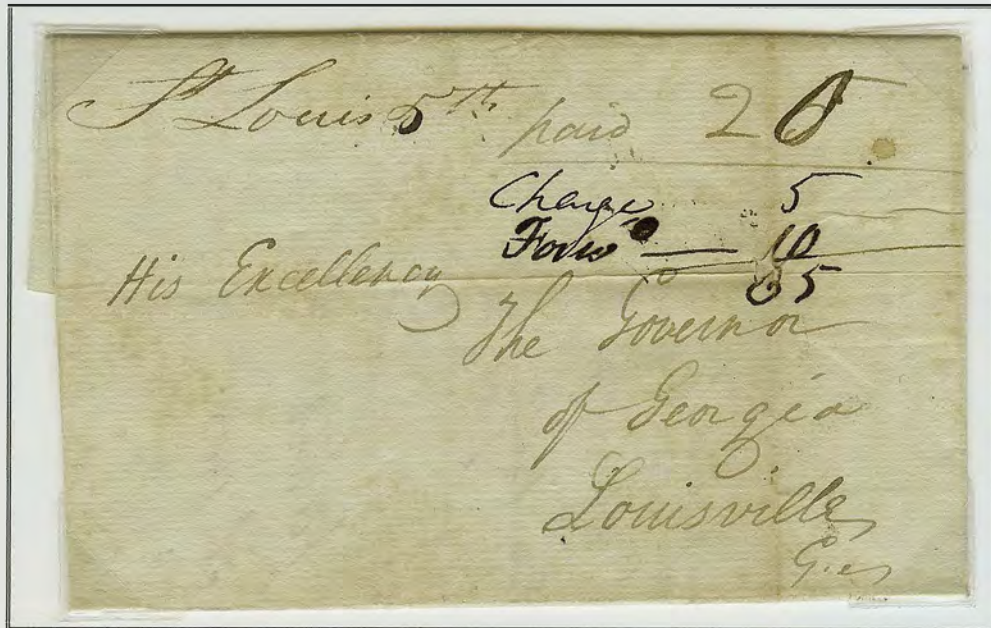
The enclosure contained in this letter is a long legal document about a court case concerning the sale of two horses and a wagon in the amount of \$200.00. The case was to be heard during the second session in District Court of Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Thomas Oliver the Clerk of the Court of common pleas and quarter sessions do hereby certify that the signature of Joseph Donohue, which appears on the document is a Justice of the Peace of the township. He holds a regular commission, and has been qualified as such for this official act.

Signed Thomas Oliver  
Deposition of Samuel Lewellen

Received Sealed, B. Helm 1811 12<sup>th</sup> day of February

### St. Louis



*5 December 1807 St Louis to Louisville letter from E. Hempstead to His Excellency The Governor of Georgia, Paid 20 cent rate with extra 5 cent and additional 10 cent forwarding fees.*

St. Louis, Louisiana December 4, 1807

Sir,

A the request of a number of Individuals of this Territory, I take the liberty of addressing you this letter.

A certain John Starks, who has now another name, a fugitive from justice from the State of Georgia, is now residing in the District of Saint Charles. His Neighbors with a view to rid their Society of one covered with crimes, would cheerfully deliver him for trial if duly authorized to do so. Should you deem it possible that a such an authority to France, or Mackay Wherry Esq. Sheriff of the District of St. Charles a speedy and prompt attention will be given to its execution.

It is wished that it may be forwarded as soon as possible, and by the mail. If his arrest is not of that importance to justify your interference, your Excellency will be pleased to excuse the trouble I have given you.

Very respectfully,

Y, obt sev

E. Hempstead

#### Notation

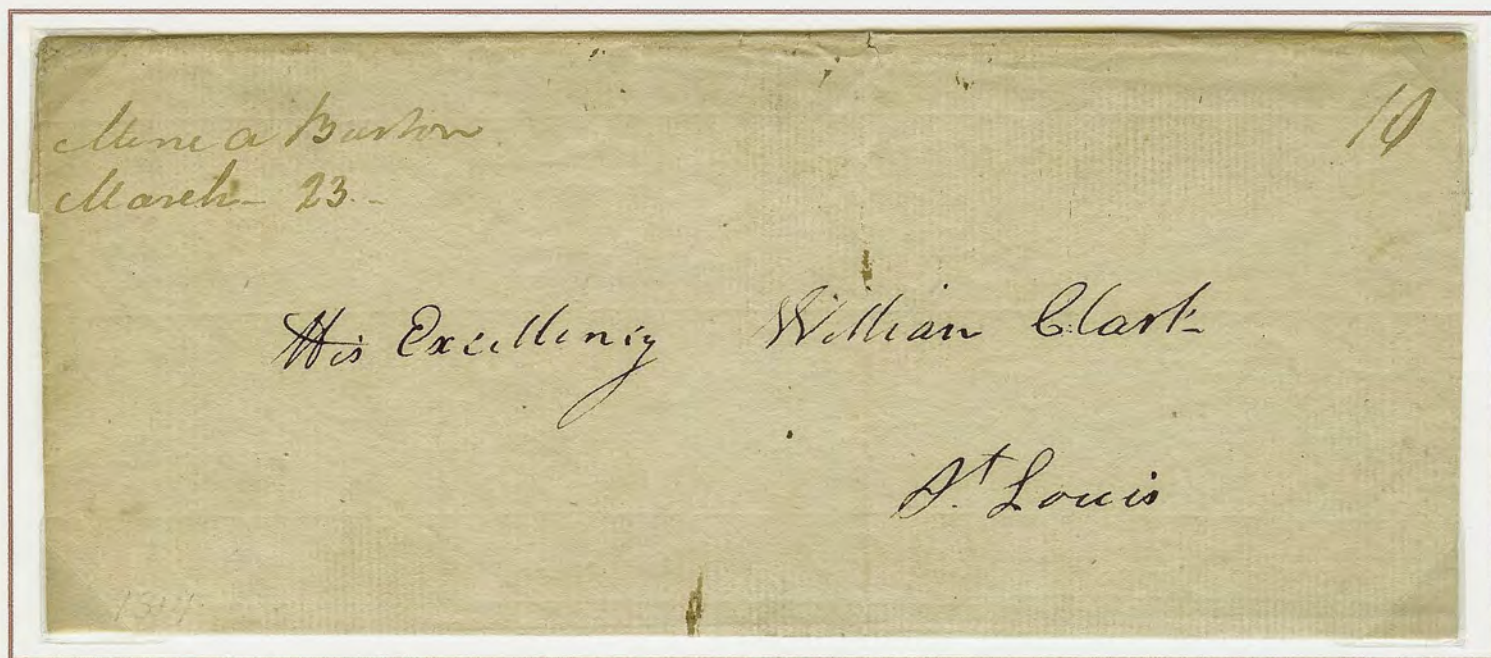
E. Hempstead dated S. Louis 4<sup>th</sup> December 1807

Order taken 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1808



### Mine a Burton

The "Mine a Burton" area was the earliest lead mining discovery in the territory found in 1760 by Francis Breton. In 1789 Moses Austin arrived from Virginia looking to develop a lead mining and smelting business. He saw much potential in the area, and obtained a land grant from the Spanish government. He soon developed several rich surface deposits of galena known for its high lead content. A small town soon grew that was known as Austinville, Austin built two large furnaces for processing ore, and in time Moses Austin came to be known as the King of Lead.



23 March 1814 Mine a Barton to St. Louis from William Stanton to His Excellency William Clark with 10 cent rate. Note Rec'd 26 March 1814. The postmaster made an error in writing Mine a Barton. Only recorded cover from this post office.



Town site of Mine a Burton later renamed Potosi



### Herculaneum

William A. Clark was born in Caroline County, Virginia on 1 August 1770. The Clark family moved to Louisville when William was a young boy. In Kentucky joined the military in 1789 leaving that service in 1796. Later in 1803 at the time of the Louisiana Purchase, Clark became acquainted with Captain Meriwether Lewis select Clark to share the leadership of a special exploration group known as the Corps of Discovery.

The long journey started at Pittsburg, also stopping at St. Louis to obtain more supplies, and hire additional men. The next three years Lewis and Clark and twenty men explored the vast uncharted lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase. They traveled all the way to the mouth of the Columbia River where it empties into the Pacific Ocean. Clark acted as mapmaker and artist recording America's first great historic journey of exploration in to these new lands. They returned to St. Louis on 26 September 1806.

William Clark the governor of Missouri Territory from 1813 to 1832. He died of natural causes in St. Louis on 1 September 1838 at age 68. He is buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis.



*13 August 1814 Herculaneum to Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky letter to George A. Forman containing a deposition from David Horine regarding a court case about stolen tobacco. The deposition is signed by Governor William Clark.*

The post office at Herculaneum was established on 1 October 1811. This is the earliest recorded postmark from the town, which is located south of St. Louis midway on the route to Ste. Genevieve, on the Mississippi River.

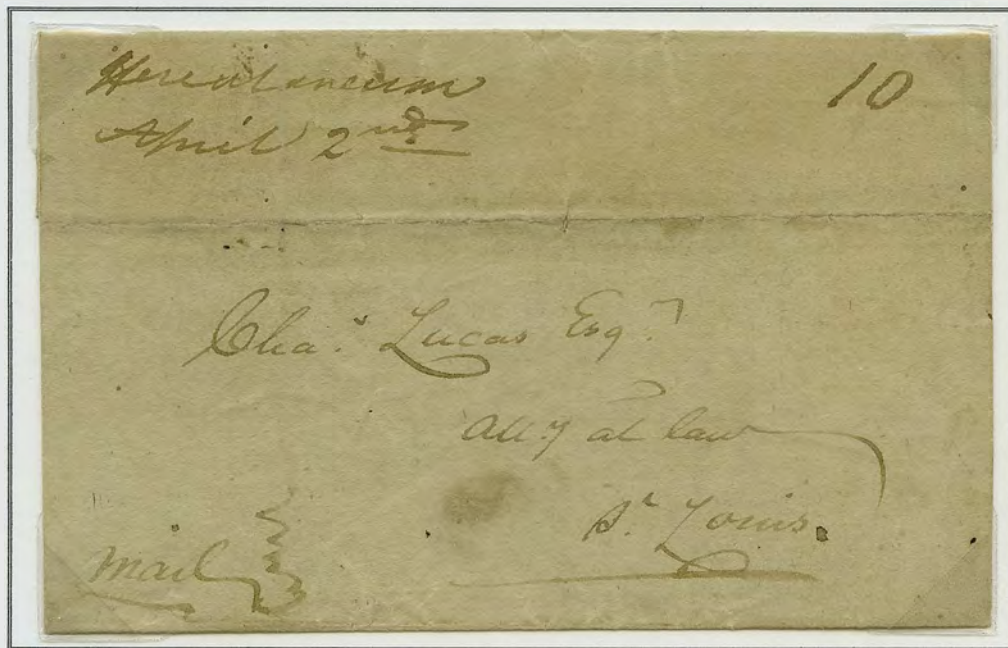
Moses Austin and his partner Samuel Hammond who very active in lead mining and smelting in the area laid out a town plan. The site was an ideal point for shipping lead from their mines in Washington County.



### Herculaneum

In 1798 Moses Austin and Samuel Hammond settled in the area, and soon began developing lead mines. The town of Herculaneum was laid out in 1808 by Moses Austin, and served as a shipping point on the Mississippi River close to his lead mines at Potosi. He built three special "Shot Towers" next to the bluffs to process lead ore into rifle ammunition, and cannon balls needed at the time of the War of 1812.

Austin named the town after the ancient Roman city of Herculaneum, which was destroyed by the Mt. Vesuvius eruption in 79 AD. The site by the river had large limestone ledges, and looked like a Roman amphitheatre. Herculaneum was the first Post Office established in Jefferson County early in 1808. It remained the only post office in the county for nearly thirty years. This cover is the latest known recorded postmark.



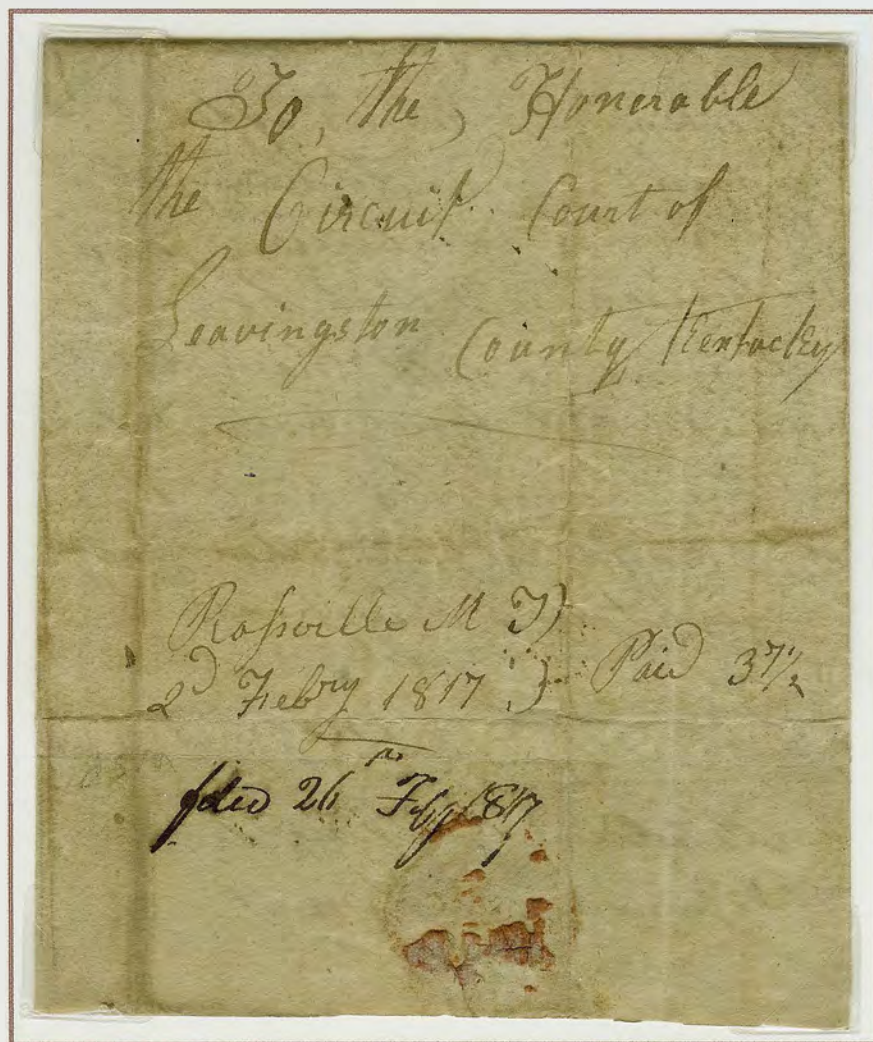
*2 April 1816 Herculaneum to St. Louis letter from J. Johnston to Charles Lucas, Attorney at Law, with 10 cent rate mailed shortly after the repeal of the 50% War Rate increase that expired on March 16 1816. Rate covered between 40 and 90 miles.*



**Herculaneum by the River**

### Rossville

An early pioneer named John Ross operated a ferry across the Mississippi River a short distance south of Cairo, Illinois. The area was known as Ross Point with the name later being changed to Rossville. It was first located in New Madrid County and transferred to Mississippi County when that county was formed at a later date.



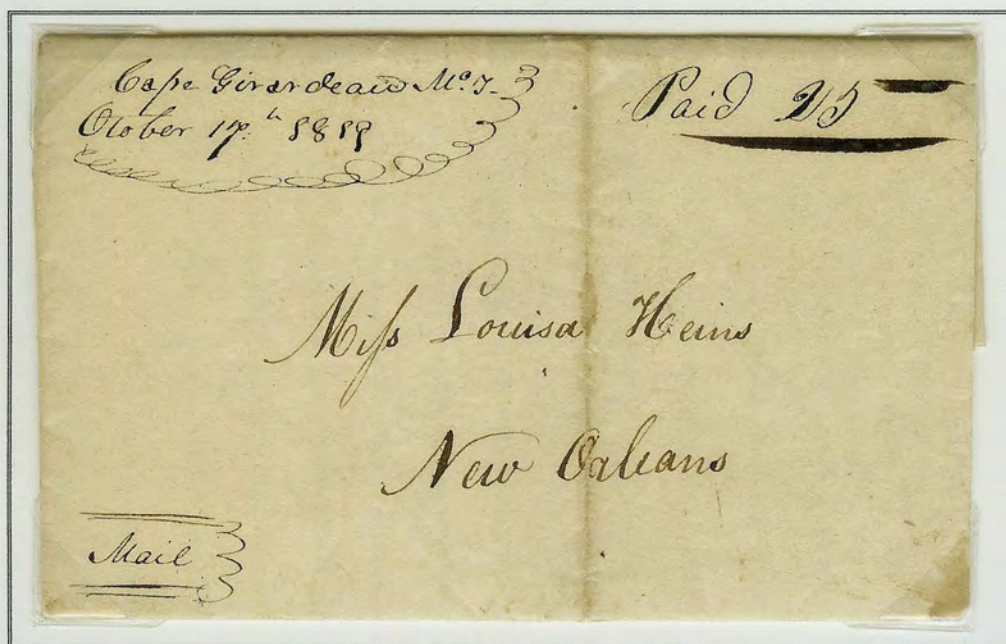
2 February 1817 Rossville to Livingston County, Kentucky letter from Edward Tanner Justice of the Peace to the Circuit Court with Paid 37-1/2 cent rate. One of two known.

Document enclosed is a testimonial deposition given by Stephen Norris regarding details of a sale of three Negro slaves now living in Cherokee Town, White River, Arkansas.

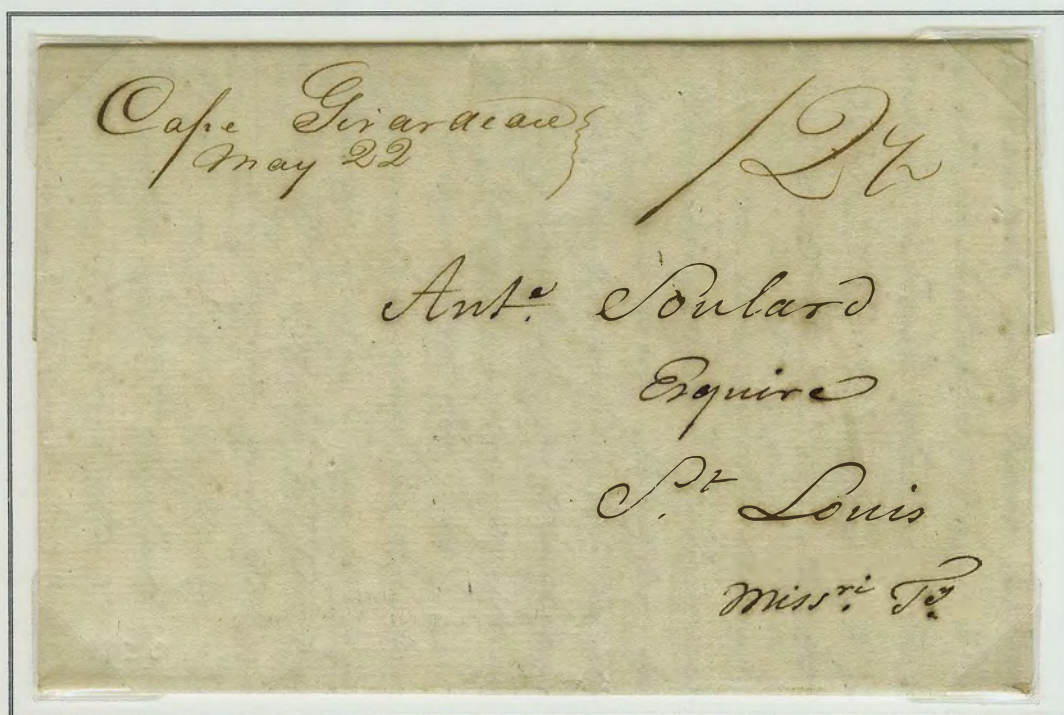
Signed by Stephen Norris 22, February 1817, filed 26 February by Edward Tanner, J. P.



Cape Girardeau



17 October 1819 Cape Girardeau to New Orleans letter from Caleb Cox to Miss Louisa Heins with Paid 25 rate

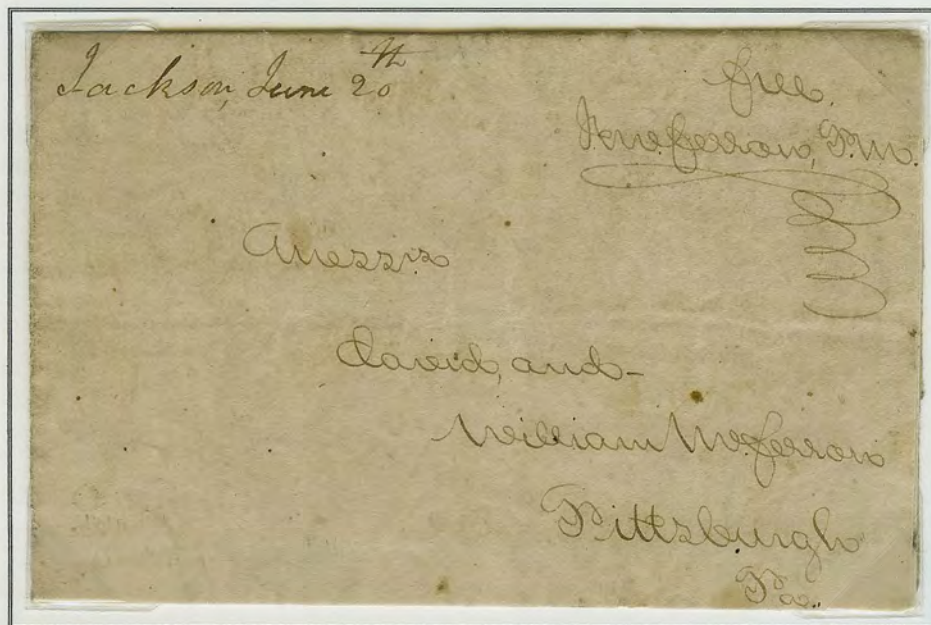


22 May 1820 Cape Girardeau to St. Louis letter from B. Cousin to Anton Soulard with 12-1/2 cent rate

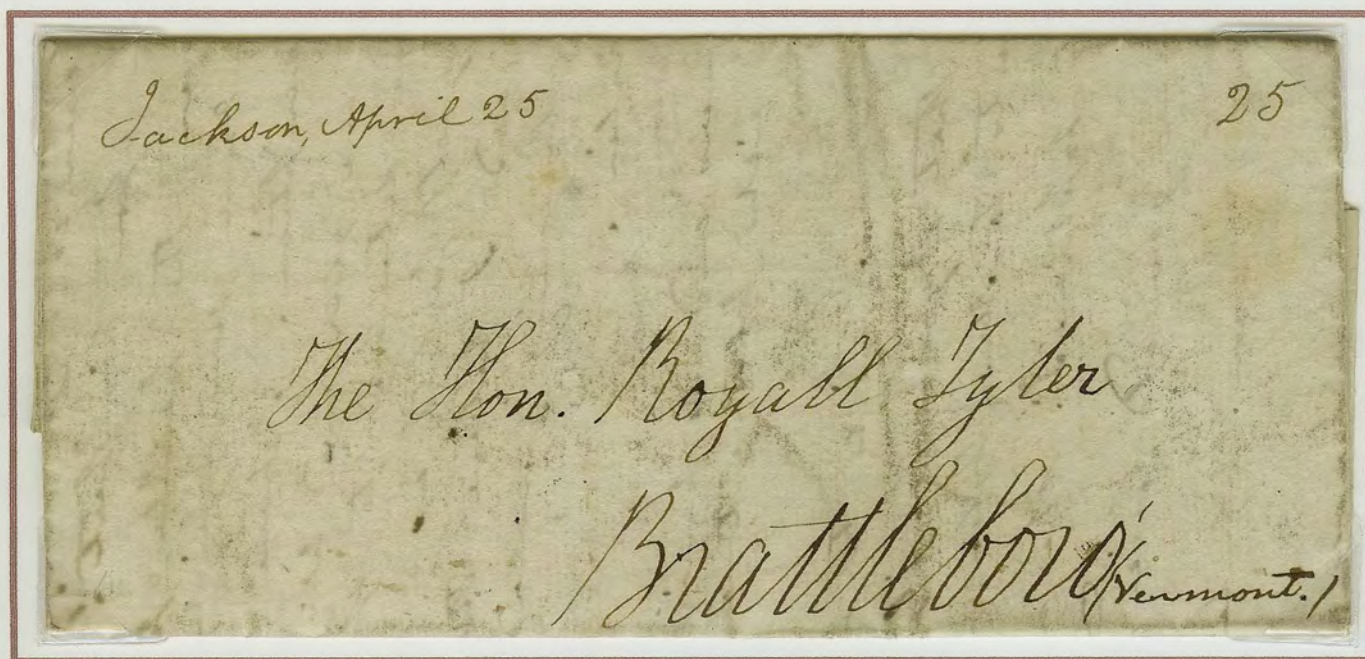


### Jackson

Jackson located in Cape Girardeau County was officially laid out in 1815. It served as the permanent site for the county seat with a large court house built in 1818. The town population was 300 with one bank and a flour mill.



20 June 1817 Jackson to Pittsburg letter from Joseph Mc Ferron to Messrs David and William Mc Ferron with Postmaster free frank

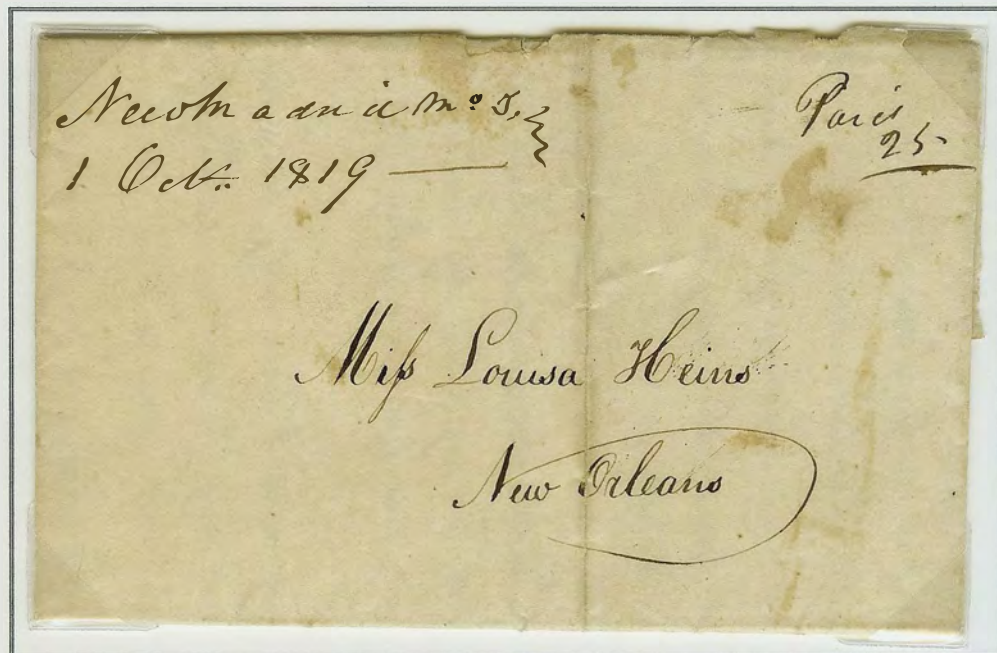


25 April 1817 Jackson to Brattleboro from Jason Chamberlain to Royale Tyler datelined Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co., 25 cent rate. Earliest recorded postmark



### New Madrid

New Madrid was founded in 1776 by Spanish Governor Estaban Miro he welcomed American settlers requiring them to become Spanish citizens living under Spanish laws. Soon after the Revolutionary War, Colonel William Morgan from New Jersey lead a large group of American families to the area. This area famous for its many earthquakes some ranging to eight in magnitude. In 1811 the most powerful earthquake to ever happen in American occurred. The town of New Madrid was shattered. This location is far from any plate boundaries, although it is in what is called the New Madrid Seismic Zone. The 1811 event was felt as far away as Boston.



*1 October 1819 New Madrid to New Orleans letter from Caleb Cox to Miss Louisa Heins with Paid 25 cent rate*



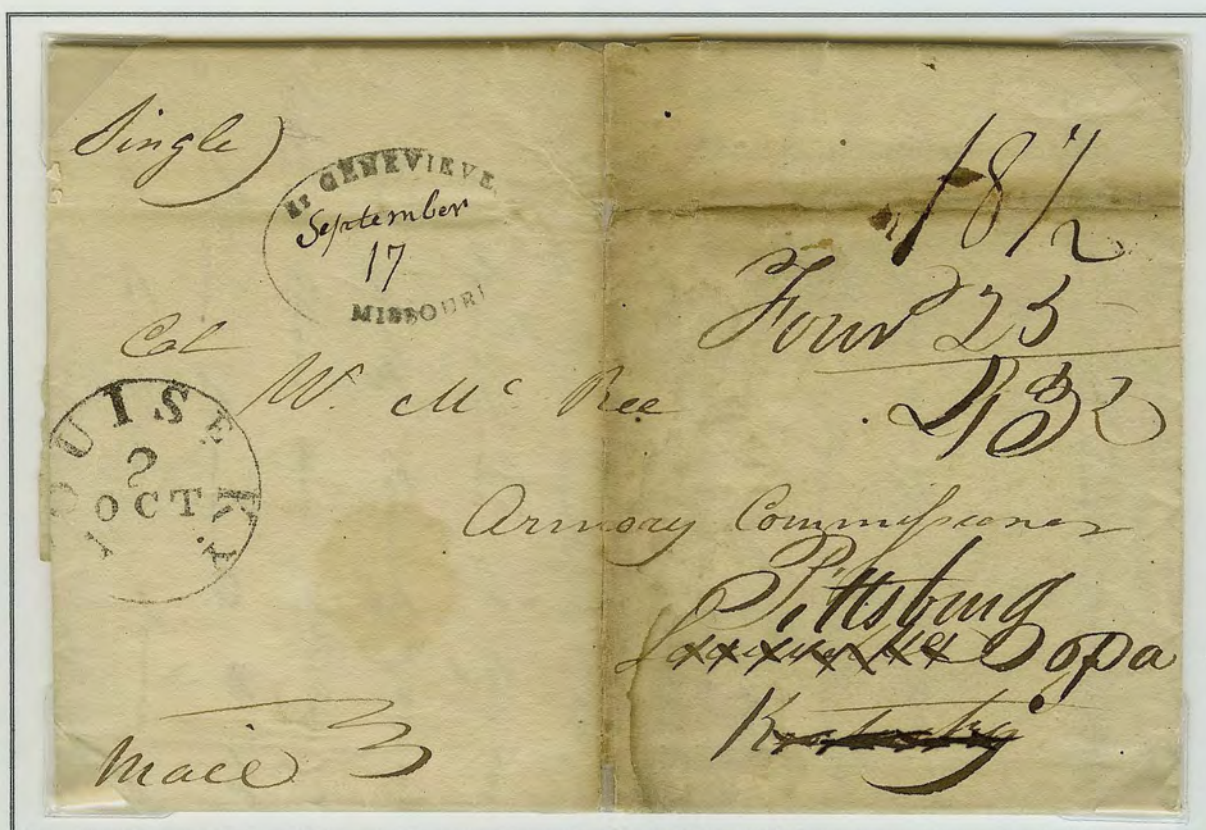
**New Madrid on the Mississippi**



## St. Genevieve



3 July 1818 St. Genevieve to Baltimore Letter to Rev Dr. Babad at the St. Mary's Seminary with missing "s" in Mis.ouri and 25 cent rate. A.S.C.C. listing example.



17 September 1823 St. Genevieve to Louisville, forwarded 2 Oct. with Louise, Ky. postmark to Pittsburg, Pa. Letter to Col. W. McRee Armory Commission, 18-1/2 cent rate with 25 cent forward, 43 cent rate. Oval postmark unlisted as statehood use.

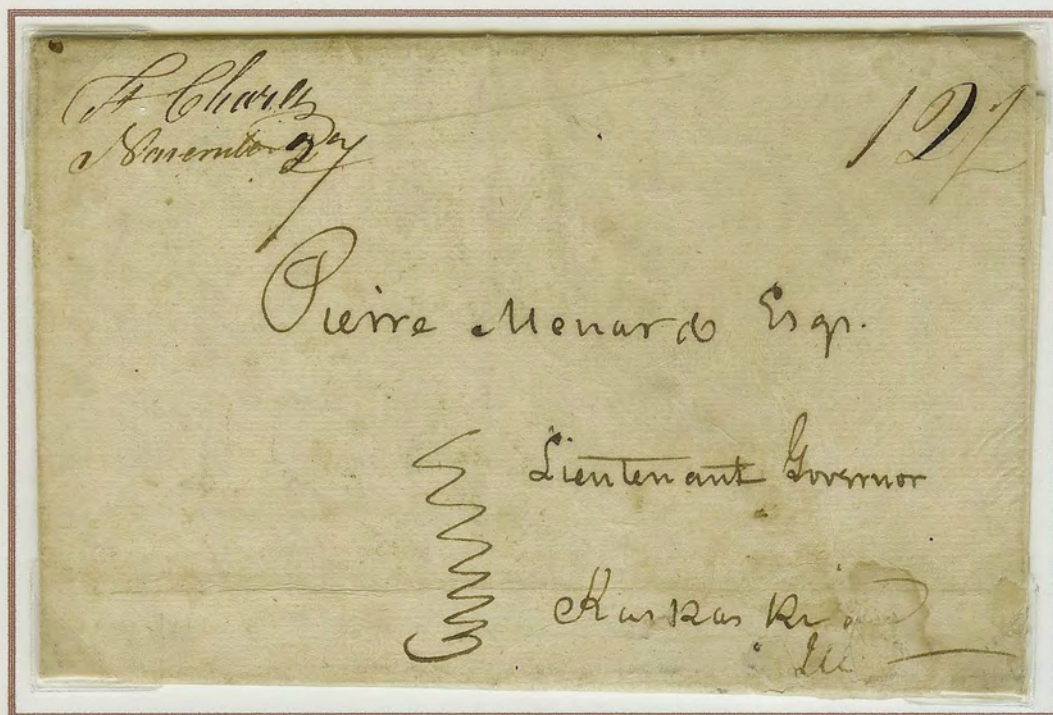


### St. Charles

The town of St. Charles is the third oldest city west of the Mississippi River. It became the first capital of the Missouri Territory and is located in St. Charles County. It lies just to the northwest of St. Louis on the Missouri River playing a significant role in the westward expansion of the United States.

St. Charles was the last civilized stop for the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition in June of 1804. The city served as the first Missouri capital from 1821 to 1826. During this time perhaps only a couple dozen buildings were built.

Leading west from St. Charles began the Boone's Lick Trail named for Daniel Boone an early pioneer to explore lands west of St. Charles as far as central Missouri. This became known as the "*Boonslick Country*." This trail passed through Franklin the home of William Becknell of Santa Fe Trail fame who began his first long journey with a small group of trader's in the spring 1821 traveling over a miles to Santa Fe in the Mexican Territory.



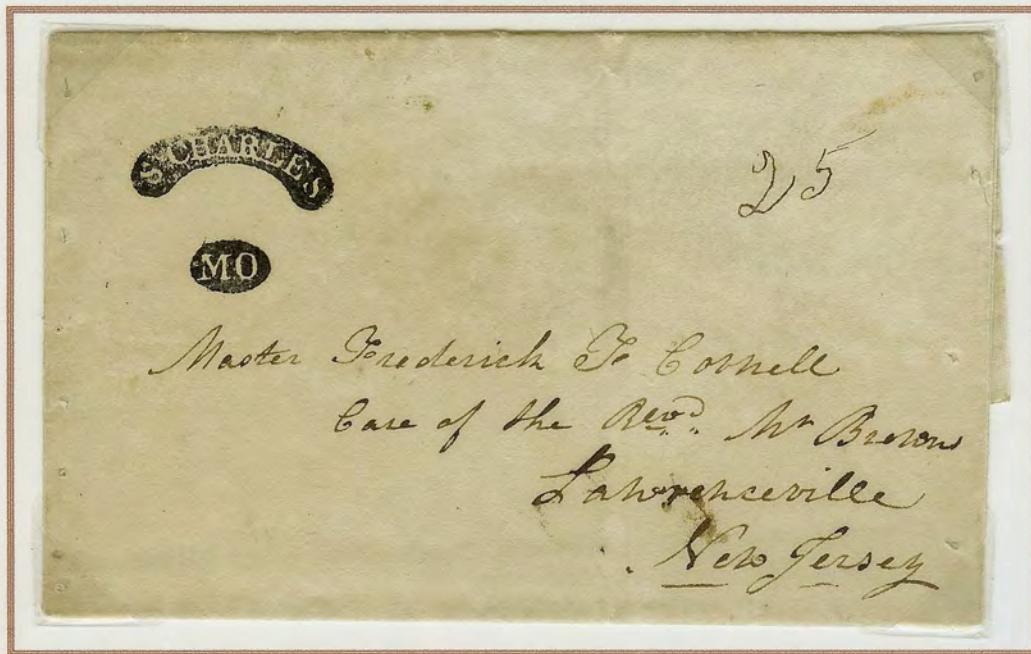
*27 November 1819 St. Charles to Kaskaskia letter from J. Heueiex datelined at Portage de Sioux to Pierre Menard serving as Lieutenant Governor of Illinois with manuscript postmark and 12-1/2 cent rate.*

Menard had many business connection in the St. Charles and St. Louis area as a noted fur trader working in partnerships with Manuel Lisa, and the Chouteau brothers operating the Missouri Fur Company. This company soon pushed west establish small forts up the Missouri river near present day St. Joseph.

The Portage de Sioux area northeast of St. Charles on the Missouri river was the location of the signing of a Indian treaty in 1815. This settled all land claims in eastern Missouri and Arkansas moving the Sioux, Sac, Fox and Osage tribes into western Missouri. The results of this treaty lead to the Black Hawk War in the mid 1830's as the Indians were being forced to relocate to new areas in western Missouri.



St. Charles ~ St. Charles County



Circa 1823 St. Charles to Lawrenceville, New Jersey letter to Master Frederick Cornell with black negative lettered postmark and manuscript 25 cent rate. The town of St. Charles was selected as the state capitol in June 1821.



18 April 1823 St. Charles to Bethel, Vermont letter from James Noble to Nehemiah Nobel With red negative lettered postmarked and manuscript date with 25 cent rate. Rec'd May 30, 1823 James writes about a friend who recently returned from the Yellowstone River Expedition.



# MISSOURI ~ The Gateway to the West

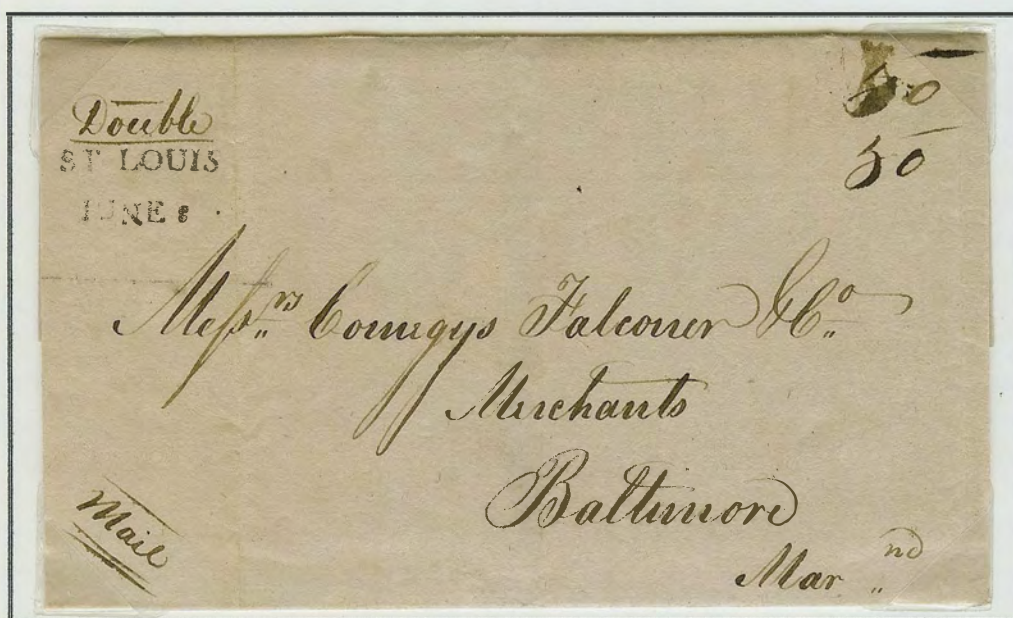
St. Louis  
1812 to 1821

St. Louis June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1816

Dear Sir

Since my last letter to you I have had the pleasure of having my Business entirely arranged with Col. W. McN he having entered into a personal Bond of \$6,000 with security for the payment of all debts contracted in the name of the firm, and my relinquishing all share in the profits. which may or have from said firm. I have made particular enquiries of the creditors and find the amount of debts contracted in the name of the firm does not exceed \$3,000 dollars and the creditors generally willing to take Col W. McN's note individually for the amount, which I have the Col's promise to do.

## St. Louis ~ Missouri Territory



8 June 1816 St. Louis to Baltimore, Maryland letter to Messrs's Comegys, Falconer & Co. , Merchant, Bold Roman Straightline "Type 1" postmark with 50 cent double rate.

Enclosed herewith you will receive T. Hunts note of Exchange on Philadelphia for the amount of his note to Joshua with interest from 22<sup>nd</sup> May – The second I will take on to Baltimore myself.

I have not put Capt. Prices notes in the hands of Hempstead as he says he will pay part of them as soon as W. T. Hempstead the paymaster returns from Kentucky with Money but I believed his receiving money to pay the troops is rather uncertain, however I think it most advisable to keep the notes a short time longer. There is at present at this place a great many merchants who I presume have come here to get clear of old stocks of goods as they are certainly very high.

I will write you again when I am about to leave this place. My respects to Mrs. F. & I. G. Comegys

Very respectfully  
Your Friend  
James Kennerly

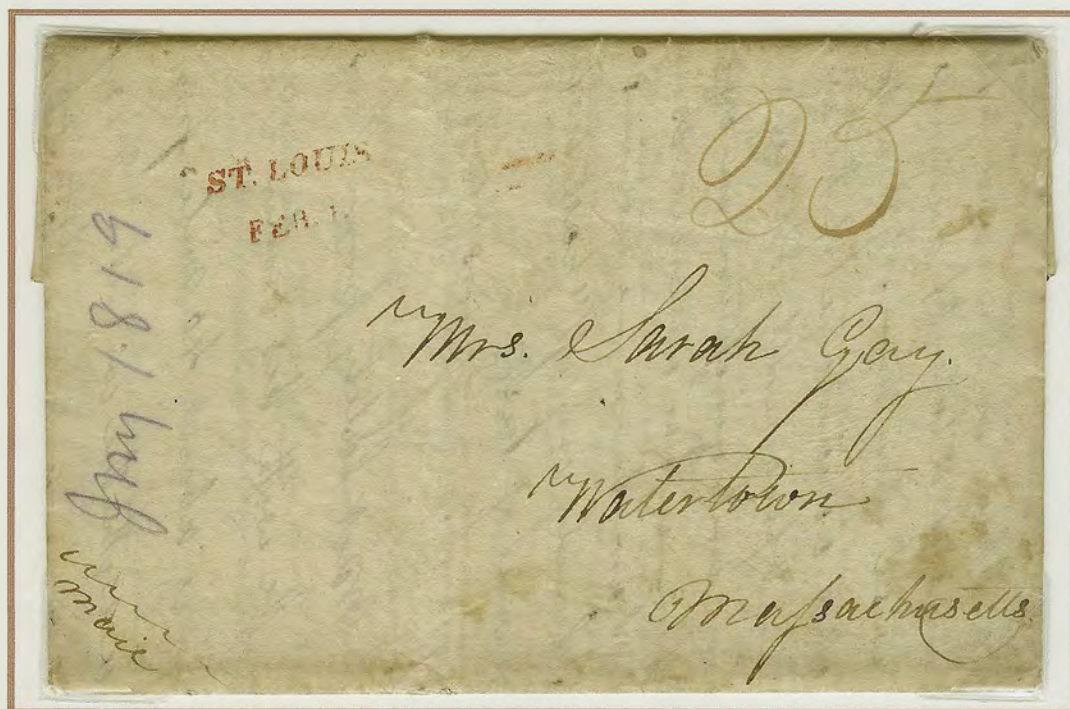
to Messr Comegys, Falconer & Co.



# MISSOURI ~ *The Gateway to the West*

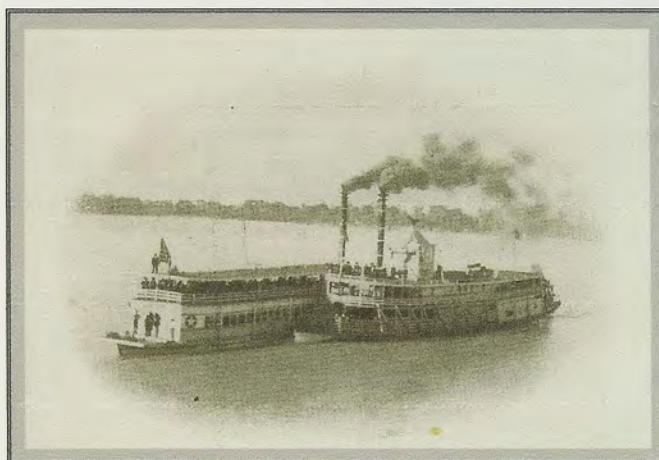
## *Missouri Territory*

Mr. Robert P. Ferris writes his sister on January 29<sup>th</sup> telling her about his life and loneliness. He says he does not mix well with the local people, but he still has hope of finding a wife, however, the New England girls are far superior. Life is hard here as winter has been very cold and much ice on the river leading to poor business prospects. I am writing very late and the "Watchman's" lonely cry of past twelve o'clock reminds me rest.



*1 February 1819 St. Louis to Watertown, Massachusetts letter from Robert P. Ferris writes to his sister Mrs. Sarah Gay with Type 2 Italic red straightline postmark and 25 cent rate, one of only three known.*

In 1764 that two French pioneers named Chouteau and Laclede build primitive cabins in the area that is now the center of St. Louis. The early fur trade of the American west offered many opportunities, and these two enterprising traders lead the way in developing this important location on the Mississippi river.



**Steamboats at the levee at St. Louis**