

Ste. Genevieve

Mother Of The West



THE BOLDUC HOUSE (1785)



STE. GENEVIEVE ACADEMY (1838)

Ste. Genevieve, 65 miles southeast of St. Louis in the Missouri Ozark hills close to the Mississippi River, is not a large city. Its population stands at about 5000. But importance is measured by standards other than size — and, so measured, Ste. Genevieve must rank as one of the most important communities in the entire Mississippi Valley.

Founded in 1735, Ste. Genevieve has retained much of the best of the civilization which built it. In its church, its museum, its matchless French houses, its closed gardens, the serene tempo of its community life — it bears living witness to the strength and continuity of its long tradition.

But Ste. Genevieve is more than history and much more than a museum. It is the largest lime-producing center in the world. Its mines, kilns and processing plants are unmatched anywhere for modernity and tonnage capacity. At hand is an immense and unique supply of limestone — enough to last the industry for centuries. The stone, which in its virgin state approaches absolute perfection, is over 99 per cent pure calcium. No where else on earth is there so large a deposit of equal purity.

The lime industry in Ste. Genevieve is nearly as old as the community itself. Abandoned kilns of an early era still stand attesting to this long local history of lime

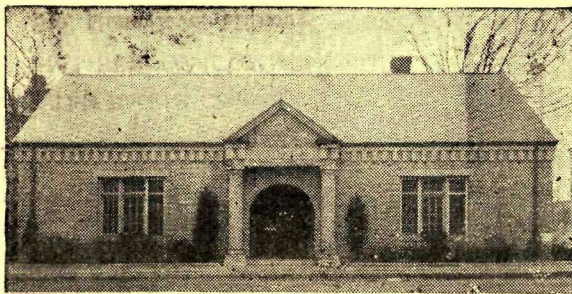
The working men of Ste. Genevieve, from father to son, have understood the processes of lime-burning with a kind of craft tradition unusual in the United States.

But the modern lime industry of Ste. Genevieve today is largely the result of the vision and energy of one company — the Mississippi Lime Company of Missouri which put down the shaft of its great limestone mine — largest in the world — over 25 years ago. It was the purpose of the company to produce Ste. Genevieve lime in greater tonnages, in absolutely uniform quality and at a price low enough to compete with lime made in all parts of the country from stone generally inferior to the Ste. Genevieve deposit.

Mississippi lime in great tonnages goes to all parts of the country and has become accepted as standard for a host of industrial processes in which lime of uniform high quality and economic cost is essential — from purifying water to making paper, from steel making to the most exacting uses of industrial chemistry.

Other industries of Ste. Genevieve include a boiler and water softer manufacturing plant, a shoe plant, a printing plant and a garment factory. The surrounding county—Ste. Genevieve is the county seat—is flourishing farmland and picturesque hunting and fishing country.

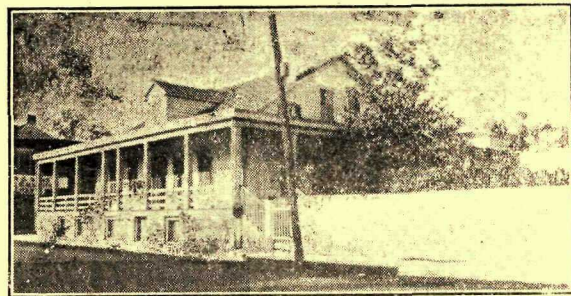
This Booklet Courtesy
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Ste. Genevieve, Missouri



The Ste. Genevieve Museum
Filled with treasures of the past

1770—Don Francois Valle appointed Civil and Military Commandant of the Post of Sainte Genevieve because of his kind treatment of the Spaniards when they first visited the territory.

1772—Spanish statistical report of Sainte Genevieve and St. Louis gave Sainte Genevieve a population of 264 male, 140 female and 287 slaves. St. Louis, 248 male, 151 female and 198 slaves. The following year another report gave Sainte Genevieve a gain of fourteen whites but a loss of seven slaves.



The Jean Baptiste Valle House
The Pioneer Home of the Commandant

1735—The trading post and mineral depot of Sainte Genevieve was established on the west banks of the Mississippi River by Philip Francis Renault, a French miner, who had been granted mineral rights in the territory. The depot was destined to become the first permanent, white settlement established west of the river in Upper Louisiana Territory.

1750—Arrival of Francois Valle and his wife, Marianne Billeron Valle at Sainte Genevieve. Valle was one of the settlement's first merchants and was later Civil and Military Commandant of the place.

1759—The Roman Catholic Church established a permanent pastor at Sainte Genevieve in this year, the first Jesuit to domicile himself in territory west of the Mississippi River. The Jesuit first stationed at Sainte Genevieve was Father Philbert Watrin. The parish was named St. Joachim but was later renamed after the French Sainte, 'Sainte Genevieve.'

1762—Treaty of Rountainebleau made between France and Spain results in the surrender of Sainte Genevieve territory by France to Spain.

1764—October 30th. First religious marriage performed at Sainte Genevieve of which there is record. The participants were Marc Constantino and Susan Henne. The two had been held captive by the Indians for a number of years. They were liberated by Father Watrin, who performed the ceremony.

1766—Although, technically, Sainte Genevieve is now a Spanish possession, the French appoint Philip Rocheblave as Commandant of the Post. As news traveled slowly in those days the French in charge of the territory did not know of the treaty made four years before.

No other town in America is like Ste Genevieve! It has an inimitable and unmistakable character made up of the blended architecture and customs of three great nations, France, Spain and our own United States of America. Its rich historical associations have endowed the community with a mellowed, romantic atmosphere that no amount of modernization can totally erase.

This colorful old Missouri town nestling in a pocket of the rolling, Ozarkian hills and with the picturesque Mississippi River flowing past its door, is recognized as the first permanent white settlement west of the Father of Waters. The settlement was founded about 1735 by the French, was later turned over to Spain in 1762, retroceded to Napoleonic France in 1800, and lastly in 1803 became a part of the United States by virtue of the Louisiana Purchase.



Oldest Brick House West of Mississippi River

1785—A disastrous flood swept over the little settlement of Sainte Genevieve and the villagers fled to the hills. The villages of Kaskaskia and Saint Louis also suffered from the flood.

1786—Sainte Genevieve citizens decided to abandon the old village and move to higher ground. The church and some of the homes were brought to the present site and rebuilt.

1788—Henri Pratte, son of Jean Baptiste Pratte was born January 8, 1788 at Sainte Genevieve and was the first native-born resident west of the Mississippi River to become a priest of the Roman Catholic Church. He later served as pastor at Sainte Genevieve and died September 1, 1822. He is buried at this place.

1766—Sainte Genevieve Militia organized under the command of Francois Valle to ward off possible Indian attack.

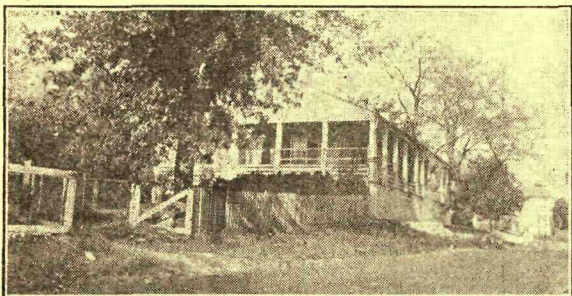
1766—DeUlloa, Spanish governor arrives in New Orleans to take over territory. He instructs Capt. Don Francesco Rui Morales to visit upper Louisiana and sound out the sentiment for Spanish rule at Sainte Genevieve. He also warns to guard against the encroachment of the English from Illinois Territory across the river.

1772—Piernas appointed Lieutenant Governor "of the villages of San Luis, San Genevieve, the District of the Missouri River and the part of the Yllinesse (Illinois) which pertained to him"

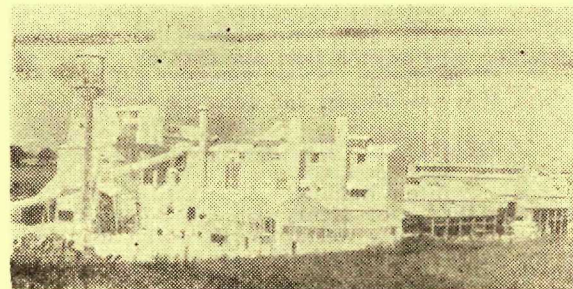
1774—May 7th. A son of Francois Valle and seven other men were killed by Indians at Mine La Motte. Valle's son, Joseph, was 20 years old at the time of his death. Other victims were, Jacques Parent, Auguste Chatel, Merard, Dupont and Claud Carron whites, Baptiste, a negro slave and Philip Anglois, a converted Indian.

1780—Don Sylvio Francesco de Cartabona, who succeeded Valle as Commandant of the Post of Sainte Genevieve, leaves for St. Louis with a company of soldiers and citizens to assist in the defense of that village against the combined English-Indian attack that was anticipated.

1780—Residents of Sainte Genevieve are faced with the realization that they may have to abandon the village because of the caving of the river bank near the village. Some of the residents dismantled their homes and rebuilt them on the bluffs overlooking the common fields on which the old town was first situated.



The Green Tree Tavern
One of the first hotel's west of of the Mississippi.



Rotary Kiln Plant
of Mississippi Lime Company of Missouri world's largest producers of manufactured lime stone. Plant is situated here.

A TOUR OF SAINTE GENEVIEVE GIVES YOU FIRST HAND VIEW OF ITS AGE OLD TREASURES.

SENATOR LINN HOUSE (231 Merchant). The home of Dr. Lewis F. Linn, "Missouri's Model Senator" who served in the United States Senate from 1833 to 1843. Had it not been for Senator Linn the Oregon Territory would be a part of the British Empire today. He was also a physician of renown and helped save scores of lives during the cholera epidemics that swept the Mississippi Valley over a century ago.

MAMMY SHAW HOUSE (Corner Second & Merchant Sts.) This house is of uncertain origin but seemingly is one of the oldest specimens in town. The woodwork appears to be Anglo-American. The large double interior doors are said to have come from a steamboat wrecked on the Mississippi.

INDIAN TRADING POST (Second & Merchant Sts.) This small stone building is often referred to as an Indian trading post. It is owned by the Vogt sisters of Ste. Genevieve.

FELIX VALLE HOUSE (On Merchant at Second Sts.) This quaintly-built stone dwelling was erected between 1818 and 1824 by Jacob Phillipson. It once belonged to Felix Valle. It is now owned and occupied by H. L. Rozier.

ST. GEMME BEAUVAIS HOUSE. (20 S. corner of Main & Merchant Sts.) This residence has been definitely identified as the boyhood home of Henry Breckenridge, the authoritative early western writer, who spent many years of his life in Ste. Genevieve. Now owned and inhabited by F. Anton Weiler.

J. B. VALLE HOUSE. (Main & Market Sts) The old residence of Jean Baptiste Valle, Third Commandant of Ste. Genevieve. It was

built in 1782 and was the "State House" for all inhabitant of the territory up until the time of the Louisiana Purchase. Owned by Mrs. J. Vion Papin of this place. It is beautifully furnished with early period furniture and historic mementos. On the grounds the Council Tree under which much of the trading between the Indians and settlers took place, can be seen.

MEILLEUR HOUSE or the Old Convent. (111 S. Main St.) Rene Meilleur, son-in-law of Louis Bolduc built this two story frame building for a private dwelling. About 1837 it was bought by the Sisters of Loretto for use as a convent.

BOLDUC HOUSE. (123 S. Main St.) This pioneer residence is the least changed of the old French houses in Ste. Genevieve. Built about 1784 in the old village, it was dismantled and rebuilt on the present site following the flood of 1785. Bolduc was a prominent pioneer merchant.

JANIS-ZIEGLER HOUSE. (244 St. Mary's Road). This fine old house has played its part in Missouri History. Built prior to 1790 by Francois Janis for use as a Tavern, it sheltered many of the Nation's outstanding citizens of that day. According to the present owner J. B. Moranville, this old home also was used as a fort at one time.

GUIBOURD HOUSE. (Fourth & Merchant Sts.) This residence was erected by Jacques Guibourd, a slave holder of Santo Domingo who came to Ste. Genevieve at the end of the Eighteenth Century. It is thought that the house was erected in the year 1784. It is owned by Jules Valle. The owner has preserved many invaluable relics of pioneer days.

MEMORIAL CEMETERY (Bounded by Market, Fifth & Jefferson Sts.) About 3000 pioneers are buried in this beautiful park, but many of the monuments marking the graves have disappeared in the course of time. Such famous men as Commandant Jean Baptiste Valle, Jacques Guibourd, Col. Francois Valle, August St. Gemme and John Scott are buried here. Open to the public.

STE. GENEVIEVE ACADEMY. (Academy Hill) built in 1807 as a school and in the following year received a charter from the Territory of Louisiana. The Academy was closed during the Civil war. The state of Missouri has recently renovated the building.

MUSEUM (Church Square) Built by the citizens of Ste. Genevieve to house an ever-increasing number of priceless relics of early Mid-Western culture. Operated by the Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce. Custodian.

Mrs. Wm. Simon A small admission charge is asked to defray expenses of upkeep.

PRICE BRICK BUILDING (Corner Third & Market Streets) Said to be oldest brick building west of the Mississippi River. Tradition says that at one time it was the home of the first territorial court in the District.

CHURCH OF STE. GENEVIEVE (Dubourg Place) This edifice was erected by the oldest Catholic Parish in Upper Louisiana. The present building is the third to be erected by the parish, the first being built in the old village in 1759. Rev. Edmund Venverloh is the pastor. The church has preserved many famous and beautiful relics of pioneer days. Some of the early pioneers are buried beneath the floor of the church.