

STE. GENEVIEVE OLDEST CITY IN WEST

NESTLED by the occasionally turbulent waters of the Mississippi River, just 65 miles from the City of St. Louis, on Frisco Lines, is Ste. Genevieve, the oldest settlement west of the Mississippi River.

This old city was first settled in 1735 and is older than the United States.

Time has dealt kindly with the old buildings there, and due to careful workmanship they have stood for almost two centuries and will still stand for years to come, memorials to the hardy pioneers who settled the city.

Although trains roar by daily through the picturesque old town and tourists pass through en route to the coast, the oldest settlement of Missouri, which boasts of having had the flags of three nations float above its ramparts, continues on in even tranquility.

History gives us a colorful picture of this old settlement. The original Ste. Genevieve was known by the name of Le vieux Village, and was located about three miles south of the present Ste. Genevieve. It was settled in the year 1735. The old town was abandoned in 1785, due to the great flood of the Father of Waters which destroyed the settlements and the improvements.

Previous to the settlement of Le vieux Village de Ste. Genevieve, De Soto with his Spanish cavaliers and miners, in search of gold as early as 1541, 50 years after Columbus discovered America, had visited the Ste. Genevieve district. Francis Renault, of France, agent of the "Company of the West," established himself near Fort Chartres, Ill., with 200 miners and 500 slaves in the year of 1720. He crossed the river, overran the district of Ste. Genevieve and began mining for precious metals, but succeeded only in discovering lead mines. Renault's only success was the smelting of lead, which was conveyed to Fort Chartres on pack horses until 1735. After this the depot of mineral was made at Le vieux Village de Sainte Genevieve.

It was originally a French town, being settled by the French in 1735, and the first settlers were known for their strong constitutions, simplicity of manners, and honesty of purpose. They were descendants of the nobility of France and were very well educated. Among the original set-

First Settlement West of Mississippi Founded in 1735—On Frisco Lines 65 Miles From St. Louis

tlers we find the names of Francois Valle, commandant of the post, whose great grandchildren are at this time located in Ste. Genevieve and in St. Louis; Louis Bolduc, an influential trader and merchant of the times; Laurent Gaboury, Jean Beauvais, B. N. Jais, Francois Coleman, Henri Maurice, Firmin A. Rozier and others.

After the delivery of the territory of Illinois east of the Mississippi by France to England in 1765, the French inhabitants of Kaskaskia, Fort Chartres, Prairie du Rocher and Kahokia, began to remove to St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve, owing to their great aversion to living under the English flag. They were at the time, under the impression that the territory west of the Mississippi yet belonged to France. Hence St. Ange de Belle Rive, a French officer, after

the delivery of Fort Chartres to the English, assumed command of the post of St. Louis in the latter part of 1765 and exercised civil and military authority until Spain took actual possession of Louisiana in 1769. While

St. Ange was acting as commandant of St. Louis, the post of Ste. Genevieve was placed under the command of Chevalier Rocheblave, both these officers acting under the French flag. During this period of five years the French inhabitants claimed the territory per Louisiana and owed allegiance to France, notwithstanding the cessation of France to Spain. The Spaniards on the last day of 1769 took possession at Ste. Genevieve. It is recorded that the Spanish commanders exercised their offices with lenient moderation and justice. The purchase of Louisiana by the United States from the French government took place in 1803.

The history of the town is woven around the Catholic church, which stands today as one of the most beautiful in this part of the country and certainly the most historic.

It was first a large wooden structure which became dilapidated and was abandoned in 1835. A rock church was erected and consecrated in 1837 by Bishop Rosatti of St. Louis. On July 17, 1841, the church was struck by lightning and demolished and over the original rock church was built a brick church of generous proportions which stands today.

Father Charles L. van Tourenhaut has been Pastor of the church for the past forty years. It was due to him and to the son of one of the older settlers, Mr. Tom Rozier that the Frisco Magazine was able to secure the history of Ste. Genevieve.

It seems that the pastorate at Ste. Genevieve was created for Father van Tourenhaut. He is a commanding personality in the town, and his genial manner, his enthusiasm and his great knowledge of history make him both historian and a wonderful caretaker of his loyal flock. He speaks six languages and is now mastering Spanish.

With great delight and pride he led us into the church where he has served for forty years. Entering the outer door one comes to the sacristy where various cabinets and drawers disclosed a bewildering array of costly vestments, handed down to him from generations. There

THE FRONT COVER

The old courthouse pictured on the front cover stands in the city of Ste. Genevieve, Mo., on the Frisco's River division and is the first brick building built west of the Mississippi River. It is 145 years old and was built in 1785.

The bricks are of yellow clay, moulded by skillful hands almost a century and a half ago, and the building is in a wonderful state of preservation. It stands on the square, facing Ste. Genevieve's historical church.

History has it that on the first day of court, men and women flocked to Ste. Genevieve from miles around, bringing with them well-filled dinner baskets and remaining the entire first day for court proceedings. The walls that once heard the decisions handed down by the old French and Spanish rulers, now hear the opening of soda pop bottles, and the tinkle of glasses across the fountain, for it is a modern soft drink parlor.

The flags of three nations have flown above the ramparts of that historical city, and during the time the courthouse was built, the people of Ste. Genevieve were under both Spanish and French regime. The substitution of the Spanish laws was confirmed by the Spanish government on March 24, 1770, and the Territory of Louisiana was retroceded by Spain to France in the year 1800.

is an imposing group of colors, royal purple, deep scarlet, yellow and gold. The gold is pure gold thread embroidered in the goods in intricate designs. The value of these robes cannot be estimated nor could they be duplicated at any price. The workmanship is art itself, and Father van Tourenhaut is proud of each one.

Even the cabinets which once held the sacred records of the church are historical and one, which is beautifully carved and in solid walnut, contains the date, 1785, and bears evidence of the great flood which washed the original town away, for one can see water marks far up on its surface.

Throughout the church are tombs containing the remains of important personages of the church, with marble slabs to mark the burial place. Former pastors of the church were buried near the altar, and two other crypts where Francisco and Jean Baptiste Valle, both commandants at Ste. Genevieve are buried, are nearby. Descendants of the Valle families still own the Valle pew, and there are other families who have rented their same pew for more than 100 years. Father van Tourenhaut has prepared his own crypt and has had the head stone engraved, marking the place of his burial. It is on the altar where he presides and has presided for more than forty years. The thought that when this earthly life is over he will still remain in spirit with his band of parishioners, is a source of extreme pleasure and comfort to him, and he says that the only thing lacking on the stone is the date of his death.

In a vault nearby Father van Tourenhaut explained that every death, birth and marriage were recorded for a period of 200 years back, which explains the prominent part the church in Ste. Genevieve had in the lives of its citizens. The records are in Spanish, French and one or two in the Indian language.

Candlesticks of immense propor-

tions adorn the altar, made from the jewelry of the French and Spanish women. They, too, are works of art, beautifully molded and of pure gold and silver.

It was difficult to select one home from the great number of extremely old ones, for an inspection. In the town is the oldest house in Missouri, the home of Louis Bolduc, who was one of the leading merchants and traders of the town. He formerly took whiskey, furs and metals down the Mississippi river to New Orleans. The trip took several weeks, floating down the river, but coming back the slaves had to row upstream and 12 months were required. The house is said to have been built in 1740. At least it was built on the first site of the town of Ste. Genevieve, and after the flood, was taken from its first site and placed in the town of Ste. Genevieve, the present location. where it stands today in a wonderful state of preservation. It is put together with wooden pegs instead of nails and its picturesque old fireplace, its long front porch and its shuttered windows give it an air of romance of olden days.

We were privileged to step into the home of Mr. Tom Rozier, who is one of the last descendants of the old Rozier family. The home was once the Ste. Genevieve Academy, incorporated in 1808. There higher education was taught by Mr. Firmin A. Rozier and he had pupils from the entire city and from outlying centers. They might come to school each day, or remain there for the entire year, and in looking over some of the old tuition records, we find that a year's tuition cost the pupil in those days around \$60.00.

Mr. Tom Rozier has not disturbed the interior of the home and its fur-

A "birds-eye" view of Ste. Genevieve, Mo., taken in the early days of this century from Rehm's Hill, overlooking the historic town.

niture would gladden the heart of antique lovers. Practically all the furniture is either solid walnut, or cherry or mahogany. Huge canopied beds with quaint coverlets stand in the bedrooms—old marble-slabbbed dressers and washstands add a bit of quaintness, and the chairs and pictures are old-timers from the days of long ago. The collection of the books in the Rozier library would make the book lover's heart skip a beat, and some of them are priceless, in fact, most of them are out of print and are of rare value. In each room is a large open fireplace, and in imagination one could see the women and men of long ago in their simple dress, sitting before a fire, crackling with cedar and pine logs, discussing the topics of the day.

Mr. Rozier has parted with some of the furniture to antique hunters, but he dislikes to sell any of it. There is much romance built around the old home, and with the aid of books and a history which his father left (for Fermin Rozier was a historian and orator of note) he is attempting to set down some new and interesting historical facts and certainly in such a setting it is an easy task.

Much of the historical data which is contained in this story was gleaned from an address which he made in honor of the 150th celebration of the founding of Ste. Genevieve on July 21, 1885, which gives the full history of the city which, so the booklet says, "is the first permanent settlement in the United States, west of the Mississippi river."

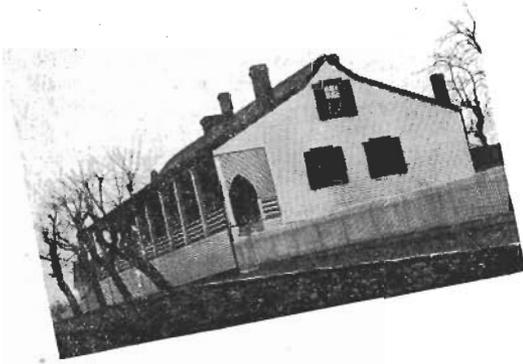
And last but not least, Ste. Genevieve's important connecting link with the outside world is its railroads. The first one, the Illinois Southern, built by Mr. John R. Walsh, entered the city of Ste. Genevieve in 1899, about 180 years after the settlement of the town. Frisco Line followed a few years later.

There are approximately 2,800
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DR. H.S. REHM'S HILL

Views of Old-Time Buildings in Ste. Genevieve, Mo.



The snow white building pictured above was the first hotel built west of the Mississippi river, and stands in Ste. Genevieve, Mo. It is of wooden construction and is in a remarkable state of preservation.



The old rock church, built in 1831, appears at the right, above. The present brick church was constructed over the rock church, and is one of the most modern and beautiful in that part of the country.

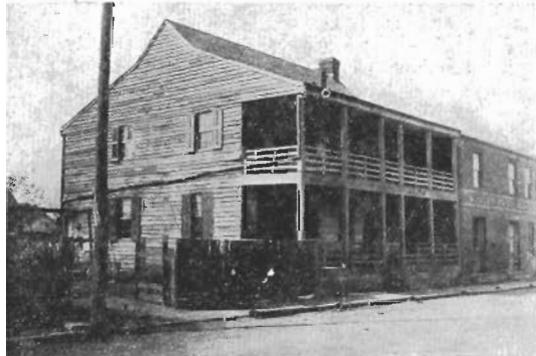


The oldest house west of Mississippi river, the Bolduc home, built by Louis Bolduc 1785, appears at the left. He is one of the first merchants in the city of Ste. Genevieve.

The home of Jean Baptist V... the last commandant of the of Ste. Genevieve, is shown at below. The home was built 1786.

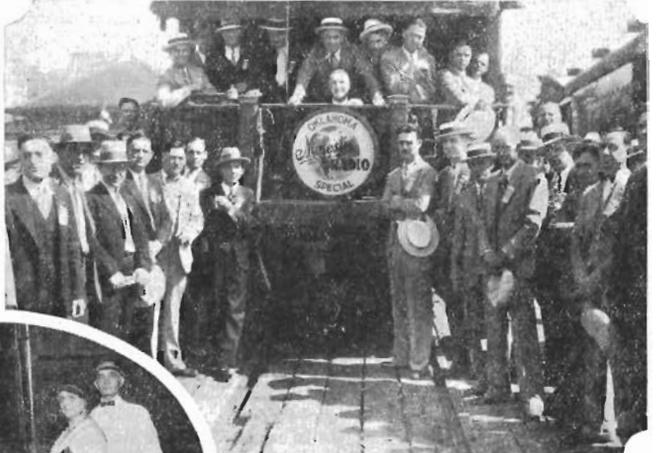


The old Ste. Genevieve Academy, erected in 1808, and now occupied as a home by Mr. Tom Rozier, is at the right, above. The civil war prevented its continuance as a school.



Loretto Convent, one of the oldest buildings in Ste. Genevieve, built in 1790, is shown at the left. The old "Detchemendy House," an early hostelry, appears in the right of the picture.

Governors of Oklahoma and Indiana Use Frisco Service



What was it the Governor of South Carolina said to the governor of North Carolina? Oh, well that doesn't matter here, even in hot weather. But, we want you to meet the governors of Oklahoma and Indiana, both of whom used Frisco service during the past month. In the photograph at upper left, Governor Holloway of Oklahoma (X) appears with his group of Oklahoma Shriners, as they came through St. Louis on a special Frisco train en route home to Oklahoma from the Shriners' convention in Toronto. Mrs. Holloway stands at the governor's right and their small son is between them. Other Shrine dignitaries in the photograph include Commandant Robt. M. Eacock, Potentate John H. Hope, Past Potentate James Phelps, Recorder Leslie Swan, and Earl W. Baker of the transportation committee.

Governor Leslie of Indiana, and Mrs. Leslie, appear in the oval. They occupied a drawing room on the Meteor from St. Louis to Tulsa, June 23. Our St. Louis photographer caught them just as they boarded the train in St. Louis.

The radio business, particularly that of the Majestic Radio Company, should be pretty good, judging from the smiling and contented faces in the party of Majestic dealers who appear above at right. They left Oklahoma City on Special train June 16, bound for the annual convention in Chicago. The photograph was taken at Oklahoma City just before the train left via Frisco Lines. Yes, they too, liked the ride on our railroad! Liking Frisco Service seems to be a habit with our patrons.

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people in the town, and the population does not seem to change. The yards and lawns are well kept—the people are thrifty and neat, and the oldest brick house west of the Mississippi river stands on the southeast corner of the square, in a most remarkable state of preservation. It is made of yellow clay bricks and was erected in 1785. It was used as a court house and when it was finally completed, crowds came from miles about to the first court. Now it is used as a soft drink parlor, and from the looks of it today, it will stand for perhaps another generation. For those who seek the romance of other years, they have but to wander about the streets of Ste. Genevieve, noting the landmarks and the corner stones and talking with the people. Practically every citizen in the town is familiar with the historical background of the city and when asked a question which they cannot answer, they refer the inquirer to Father van Tourenhaut, who has

the fund of historical data.

The old graveyard is a picturesque place. Above the tombstones, which are crooked and moss covered, one finds dates which read: "Born, July 12, 1785, died July 31, 1860," and yet another, "Born 1782, died 1861," and some were so covered with moss and swept by sands and dirt that the dates were not legible. Above the tombstones sway graceful willow trees, and beautiful green moss and grass add to the beauty of the place.

And so thrives the oldest city—the first settlement of permanency in the United States west of the Mississippi River. Its people are proud to be known as residents of Ste. Genevieve, and most any of the older ones may claim ancestry to those hardy pioneers who aided in starting this historical town.

At night, the lapping of the waves of the old Mississippi may be heard as it flows on toward the gulf, as tranquil as the little city which sleeps beneath the same stars and moon which lighted the night for its famous ancestors.

MOVE OFF-LINE CARS

Frisco Lines is widely famed for its hospitality. Its graciousness to passengers and treatment of shippers are unexcelled. All visitors on Frisco Lines are made welcome and asked to extend their stay with but one exception—one very outstanding exception—foreign equipment. Its visits on Frisco Lines are invariably brought to speedy termini. Not that foreign equipment is not given the best of care while it is on the Frisco, for it is, but as in the case below, reported by L. E. Mobley, Frisco agent at Manila, Ark., the efficient employes of this road see to it that per diem-accumulating equipment does not tarry long.

Mr. Mobley reports that at 3:31 p. m., on June 17, car St. L. B. & M. 1710 moved into Manila. At 3:40 p. m. the consignee was notified and at 9:55 a. m., on June 18, the car was released empty, moving at 11:00 a. m. on the same date in Train 862. Figuring the day time held the car was not there more than five or six hours. "Exceptionally good handling," was the comment on this movement by J. H. Doggrell, superintendent of transportation, Springfield, Mo.

FARMS NEAR SEYMOUR TYPIFY OZARK

THAT climatic conditions are inducive to the production of a diversity of crops in the great Ozark region traversed by the Frisco, is exemplified in a high degree in the City of Seymour, Mo., thirty-five miles from Springfield, Mo. This city is surrounded by a beautiful rolling country, in a district where soil and climatic conditions are not unlike those at more than a thousand different points in the same region. The marked contrast in this city and in the other 999 locations, similarly referred to is that its inhabitants have taken advantage of the natural resources and have developed what may be termed an agricultural and horticultural complex and it is rapidly becoming one of the outstanding communities along this line.

Seymour is not what might be termed a "one man" town, although its development along horticultural lines is a direct result of the activities and resourcefulness of one man, who selected this location as an ideal place for his future home, after having spent most of his life in Wisconsin. This human dynamo is Mr. Carl Vollenweider, a man of Swiss descent, who has thoroughly demonstrated by his untiring efforts, just what this Ozark district is capable of producing in the way of fruits and berries. He is well and favorably known throughout the entire country as one of the leading scientific apple producers, and is widely sought after as an authority on fruit problems.

He has made a special study of market conditions and just before the annual apple harvest each year, he personally visits the big apple producing districts in the United States and forms his own conclusions, based on personal observation as to the market outlook. This information enables him to dispose of his apples to the best advantage and explains

Modern Methods Prove Diversity of Production in Ozark Regions, Michelson Shows

By MR. C. B. MICHELSON,
Farm Marketing Agent

why he is able to secure more money than most of the other apple growers in the territory for similar grades.

Firmly convinced of the unusual opportunities offered in the Seymour territory for the growing of fruits and berries and not being satisfied with a personal demonstration of just what could be done along this line, he has continually talked with neighbors and with the business men

ped from this station.

There are three large apple orchards in the district, the largest, of 200 acres belonging to Mr. M. L. Brede, the second of 175 acres belonging to Mr. Carl Vollenweider and the third, of 100 acres, owned by Mr. Fred Vollenweider.

A recent survey in the Seymour territory shows the following orchards of apples: Mr. S.

Trimble, 40 acres of 5-year-old trees; Mr. Carl Vollenweider, 110 acres, 4 to 5-year-old trees; Mr. E. F. Lawrence, 100 acres; Mr. Fred Vollenweider, 100 acres, 3-year-old trees; Union Fruit Company, 25 acres, 4-year-old trees; Mr. Walter McNally, 20 acres, 4-year-old trees; Mr. A. Kirtley, 30 acres to 5-year-old trees; Mr. D. C. Preston, 20 acres, 4-year-old trees; Mrs. M.

Brede, 40 acres of 5-year-old trees; Mr. Herma Hodge, 20 acres, 4-year-old trees.

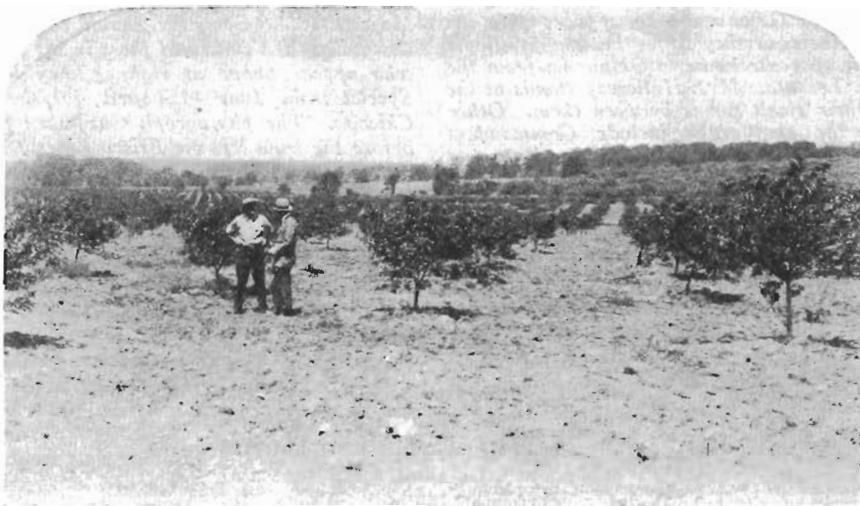
Mr. Vollenweider also has 100 acres in Murrie cherries and 100 acres in 3-year-old Italian prunes. The Union Fruit Company has 100 acres in Italian prunes.

These orchards are given the best of care under the able supervision of Mr. Vollenweider, who sees that they are properly sprayed, pruned, cultivated, and fertilized and he has contracted for fifty cars of fertilizer to be

placed on his own individual orchard this coming fall.

Another man who has gone into the diversified farming business in Seymour is Mr. S. E. Trimble, cashier at the Union National Bank of Springfield. Seymour was his former home, and while he lives in Springfield, he operates a very successful dairy farm consisting of over 400 acres, milking more than 70 Jersey cows, with 45 of them registered. He is pinning great faith on his 40 acres of apples and hopes to make it one of the outstanding orchards of that section. In the

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An excellent view of a cherry orchard on the Carl Vollenweider farm near Seymour, Mo.

and farmers of this community, urging them to build up an industry that would insure further prosperity to themselves and the community, and his efforts have been crowned with success.

As high as 200 carloads of apples a season have been shipped from Seymour in the past several seasons, and in addition to this movement, it is interesting to note that during the season of 1929, three carloads of grapes, sixteen carloads of strawberries, thirty-nine cars of eggs, nine carloads of live poultry and forty-three cars of canned goods were ship-