

selves handed over into the possession of his successor in the government; and it was not until after the country had passed into the possession of the United States that these loose sheets were stitched together in the order of their dates, the last of the series being that of Capt. Amos Stoddard, who acted in the capacity of the civil governor for the United States until Sept. 30, 1804, and who, having been especially so instructed by the president, made no change in regard to these matters, and pursued the same course as his predecessor under the former dominations.

Of these documents there were over three thousand, many of which still remain in the Recorder's office in St. Louis to the present day. When, at the change of the government, March 10, 1804, these documents, together with such books and papers of the old French and Spanish authorities as related to concessions of lands and lots, came into the possession of the authorities of the United States, they consisted of six small books of ordinary foolscap size of about three quires each, called the "Livres Terriens" (Land books), in which were entered, very concisely, each concession or grant of lands or lots, and four smaller books in size, with leather covers, in which were recorded about one hundred and thirty of the above three thousand documents between the years 1797 and 1799. (From these it would appear that during the first thirty-five years of the village it was deemed