

These documents were deeds and conveyances for houses, lots and lands, slaves, merchandise, personal property, etc., sold at public and private sale, also bonds and mortgages, leases, powers of attorney, wills, inventories, marriage contracts, agreements, contracts, bargains, partitions, donations, indentures, emancipation of slaves, suits, civil and criminal, and many other miscellaneous papers, multifarious in their nature, etc.

FIRST AMERICANS IN ST. LOUIS.

Until Clark's surprise of Kaskaskia in 1778, no American, as far as known, had ever visited St. Louis. The first one that settled in St. Louis was Philip Fine, born in Virginia about the year 1751, son of Thomas Fine and Agnes Merchant. He came to St. Louis in 1781 when about thirty years of age, and on Nov. 26, 1782, was married to Mary Gaignon, an elderly lady with a handsome property, who had been twice a widow, he a young man of thirty-one.

(Mary Newby Cleburne, born in London, daughter of John Newby and Ann Spratt, and widow of John Cleburne, was married in St. Louis, Dec. 26, 1769, to Philibert Gaignon, son of Antoine Gaignon, and Claudine Sebrin, born in St. Laurent, Beaujo-