

unnecessary to record these papers in books, and these last were so recorded at the instance, perhaps, of the respective owners, who had an eye to the future.)

What are now designated as the "archives" comprise six large volumes, into which are copied the most important of the foregoing three thousand documents, particularly all those relating to real property, lands, lots and houses, and of a personal nature. These record books were commenced in November, 1816, twelve years after the change of government, when the country began to increase in population from abroad, and a consequent increase in the value of lands and lots pointed out to individuals the safety of having their titles recorded, and for some years thereafter only those were put on record whose owners were willing to pay the fees for recording the same.

The first of these old deeds put on record in volume 1st of the so-called archives was by Marie P. Leduc, on November 16, 1816.

The archives of St. Louis date from January 21, 1766, on which day they were commenced by Joseph Labusciere, in his capacity of former notary of the

¹ Mr. Leduc was a native of Paris, and had come to the country about the close of the last century, a notary and scrivener by profession, and after the acquisition by the United States and the organization of the new territory was appointed the first recorder of St. Louis, and opened the record books in the English language.