

A0373**Delassus-St. Vrain Family Collection, 1544-2001**

5 linear feet (12 boxes)

Processed by Christopher Gordon, 2004

Translations by Larry Franke, Lisa Gilbert, and Manfred Thurman

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

Mrs. George E. Johnson donated a group of 105 Delassus family documents to the Missouri Historical Society in October 1946. Mrs. Johnson was the great, great granddaughter of Charles Dehault Delassus.

In September 1948, the Missouri Historical Society purchased 551 Delassus manuscripts with funds received from the Bixby Book and Manuscript Fund. The documents were purchased from Louis Delassus.

Additional documents were donated by Nathalie Myers Lawler of Washington, D.C., in July 1953.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Delassus family immigrated to America in 1790 after leaving France to escape the French Revolution. The Marquis Pierre Charles de Hault Delassus (1738-1806) and his wife Madame Domitile Josepha Dumont, Danzin de Beaufort, (1745-1806) were natives of the town of Bouchaine located in the northern region of France. Pierre was a member of the Council of the King of France and a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Royal Order of St. Michael. Pierre and Domitile had four children, Charles, Camille, Jacques, and Odille.

Pierre de Hault Delassus, who preferred the title M. de Luziere, lived briefly near Ft. Duquesne (modern-day Pittsburgh) before seeking to establish a French colony at Gallipolis, Ohio. The family lived at Gallipolis for a short time until the family's funds were exhausted. M. de Luziere then moved the family to Ste. Genevieve in Upper Louisiana in 1793. The Baron de Carondelet granted M. de Luziere permission to establish a new settlement at New Bourbon adjacent to Ste. Genevieve. Zenon Trudeau, lieutenant governor of Upper Louisiana, appointed M. de Luziere as civil and military commander of the New Bourbon post of Illinois. He served in this capacity until the transfer of Upper Louisiana to the United States in 1804.

Charles (Don Carlos) DeHault Delassus (1764-1846), second son of Pierre and Josepha, was born in Bouchaine in April 1764. In 1782, at the age of 18, Charles became a

military cadet in the service of Carlos III, King of Spain. He served in the Royal Walloon Guards and saw action during the French Revolutionary Wars at the assault and capture of Fort St. Elmo in the Pyrenees. As a reward for leading a company of soldiers during the siege, Charles Delassus was promoted to lieutenant colonel and was stationed in Madrid. While serving in the King's Body Guard, Charles received news that his family had fled France for Louisiana. He requested a transfer to the Louisiana Regiment, which was granted by the King of Spain. Upon his arrival in New Orleans in 1794, the Baron de Carondelet appointed Delassus civil and military commander of the post of New Madrid. This post allowed him to be near his parents in New Bourbon. By 1799, under orders from Spain, Delassus was appointed lieutenant governor and commander in chief of Upper Louisiana. He was headquartered at St. Louis. Delassus remained as the last lieutenant governor of Upper Louisiana and was responsible for turning over control of the territory to the American agent Amos Stoddard when Louisiana was transferred to the United States.

Delassus left St. Louis in November 1804 for New Orleans. He was then sent to the Spanish post at Pensacola, Florida, which served as the headquarters of his regiment. After the conclusion of the Louisiana Purchase, the Spanish retained control of West Florida, an area that stretched from the Mississippi River in eastern Louisiana to the Perdido River near Pensacola, Florida. Delassus was transferred from Pensacola to Baton Rouge, capital of West Florida, to act as governor of the region. In 1810, a rebellion led by American expatriate planters sought to overthrow the Spanish in Baton Rouge and replace it with an independent republic. Delassus learned of the plot and attempted to recruit an army for the Spanish. In September 1810, the Americans successfully defeated the loyal Spanish residents of Baton Rouge in an action now referred to as the West Florida Rebellion. Delassus was imprisoned for two months before the region was handed over to the United States. Governor Delassus resigned his commission and retired from the army the same year.

In 1811, Delassus married Adelaida Elena Feliciano Martina Leonardo (1791-1815), the daughter of Gilberto Leonardo, the auditor of the Spanish regime at Baton Rouge. They had one surviving child, Pierre Auguste, who was born in New Orleans. In November 1815 Feliciano died giving birth to a daughter whom Delassus named Odille. The child remained with Delassus's sister-in-law in Baton Rouge where she died in October 1817. After the death of his wife, Delassus took his son and moved back to St. Louis where he purchased a farm in the suburb of St. George. He remained in St. Louis until 1826 when he returned to New Orleans, where he died May 1, 1846. He is buried in the old St. Louis Cemetery, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Pierre Auguste DeHault Delassus (1813-1888) was the only son of Charles DeHault Delassus and Feliciano Martina Leonardo Delassus. Auguste, as he was known, was born in New Orleans on July 4, 1813. Following the death of Feliciano in 1815, Delassus took Auguste and returned to Missouri. There they settled on a small farm located near the site of the old arsenal in St. Louis. When Auguste was thirteen years old, Charles moved the family back to New Orleans, where Auguste attended a Catholic college. In 1833, he married Marie Jeanne Blaque (1815 -1900). They had six children. He established

himself as a merchant and partnered in the firm of Delassus & Montreuil. Auguste was elected to the Louisiana State Legislature in 1844 but served only one term. The family left New Orleans and lived in Paris briefly, but returned to the United States. In 1849, Marie returned to France. She died in Paris in 1900. After his wife's departure, Auguste DeHault Delassus moved to Missouri and settled on land in St. Francois County that had been part of an original Spanish land grant. He established the town of Delassus along the St. Francois Railroad line in 1868. Although the town never succeeded in attracting a large population, it served the nearby towns of Farmington and Doe Run as the shipping point for railroad freight. The town, which consisted of several homes, a school, two stores and a hotel, first operated by Auguste and Placide Delassus, was not incorporated and eventually became defunct. Auguste died at his home in Delassus on January 15, 1888. His body was taken to St. Louis and buried in Calvary Cemetery.

The youngest child of Auguste and Marie Jeanne Delassus, Placide Francois Joseph, was born June 28, 1839, in New Orleans. He spent a portion of his youth in France but returned to the United States shortly before the Civil War. Placide enlisted in the Confederate army in 1861 and served briefly with Watson's Louisiana Battery until taken prisoner. He was released due to poor health and returned to civilian life. After the war Placide and his father established the Delassus Hotel in Delassus, Missouri. After his father's death he briefly continued operation of the hotel but then sold his business and moved to St. Louis. He was involved with the Benoist Bank of St. Louis until his retirement. Placide married Mary Felicite Clark (1846-1941) of St. Louis. Mary was the daughter of Henry L. Clark (1813-1898), a well-known clerk of the Wiggins Ferry Company of St. Louis, and the niece of Senator Lewis Vital Bogy (1813-1877). The couple had two sons, Leslie (1892-1911) and Clark (1889-1972). Placide Delassus died in St. Louis on July 26, 1918. He is buried in the Delassus and Bogy family lot in Calvary Cemetery.

Felix St. Vrain was born March 23, 1799, in St. Louis. He was the son of Jacques DeHault Delassus de St. Vrain, brother of Charles DeHault Delassus. Felix married Marie Pauline Gregoire, an immigrant from France. St. Vrain settled in Kaskaskia, Illinois. In 1830, he was appointed to serve as U.S. Indian agent to the Sauk and Fox nations of the Rock Island region of Illinois during William Clark's service as superintendent of the St. Louis Indian Agency. When the Black Hawk War began in 1832, St. Vrain was stationed at Fort Armstrong, Illinois. While on a mission to deliver dispatches to Galena, Illinois, St. Vrain and other members of his party were killed by a band of pro-Sauk Winnebago Indians. The event, which is known as the St. Vrain Massacre, occurred on May 24, 1832. St. Vrain was buried at Kellogg's Grove, Illinois. On January 6, 1834, Congress passed a bill that provided for the relief of St. Vrain's widow and children. A detailed account of the grisly death of Felix St. Vrain and full text versions of his dispatches to William Clark and other government officials during the Black Hawk War can be found in Frank E. Steven's *The Black Hawk War* (Frank E. Stevens, publisher, 1903).

Ceran St. Vrain (1798-1870) was born at Spanish Lake in north St. Louis County in 1798. He was the son of Jacques Marcellin Ceran de Hault de Lassus de St. Vrain and Marie

Felicite Dubreuil. Ceran's father, Jacques, was a brother of Charles de Hault Delassus and immigrated to America in 1795 after serving as an officer in the French Navy. Ceran St. Vrain's first job was a position with the fur trade firm of Pratte, Cabanne and Company whose business focused primarily on the Missouri River fur trade. After venturing on the newly discovered Santa Fe trade route, Ceran partnered with Paul Baillo and became established as a New Mexico trader. In 1830, he partnered with two St. Louis associates, Charles and William Bent, to form the trading firm of Bent, St. Vrain & Company. The successful firm built the first privately operated fort in the Southwest in what is now western Colorado. Bent's Fort played a pivotal role in establishing trade with the Indians and Spanish residents of the Southwest. During the Taos Uprising, in which rebellious Mexican and Native American inhabitants killed Charles Bent, then serving as the first governor of the New Mexico Territory, Ceran formed a militia group and helped crush the rebellion. He was later appointed a lieutenant colonel of a volunteer unit that confronted Apache and Ute Indians who attacked ranches and villages in 1854-1855. He was promoted to colonel of the New Mexico Cavalry and served until 1861 when he resigned due to age. He was replaced by his friend Kit Carson. In 1849, St. Vrain quit the firm and moved to Mora, New Mexico. In the late 1850s, St. Vrain lived briefly in New York City before returning to New Mexico. There he operated a store, two gristmills, and a distillery. During the Civil War, he made considerable money selling flour and supplies to the Union army. He died October 28, 1870, in Mora, New Mexico. According to historian David Lavender in *Bent's Fort*, around 1843 Ceran St. Vrain married a daughter of Carlos Beaubien, a wealthy rancher and half owner of the enormous Beaubien-Miranda land grant. Little is known of the marriage, including Ceran's wife's name. He later married Luisa Branch; this is the only marriage recognized in the St. Vrain family genealogy. Some sources claim that St. Vrain may have been married as many as four times but according to St. Vrain's niece, Martha St. Vrain, Ceran was never legally married.

Louis Lalaurie was born in Villeneuve-sur-Lot, France. He was the son of Jean Marie Lalaurie and Françoise Lalaurie Depeme. Lalaurie studied medicine in Paris and Toulouse before coming to New Orleans in 1824. In 1825, he married Delphine Macarty Lopez y Angulo Blanque (1788?-1842?). He practiced medicine in New Orleans and established a personal and business relationship with Auguste Delassus who was married to Delphine's daughter Marie Jeanne Blanque. Louis and Delphine Lalaurie fled New Orleans in April 1834 when it was revealed that the family had tortured and abused the family's slaves. The couple separated after the incident and Louis practiced medicine briefly in France and Cuba. He maintained his relationship with Auguste Delassus for many years thereafter. Louis and Delphine Lalaurie had one child, Jean Louis Lalaurie.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Delassus-St. Vrain Family Collection consists of legal documents, correspondence, land records, journals, and genealogical information. The collection is partially indexed in the Archives Card Catalog. The general condition of the paper in the collection is good although some documents do suffer from water and pest damage. The vast majority of the documents are written in French and Spanish. Despite the poor penmanship, incorrect grammar usage, and use of archaic forms of the languages by the document's creators,

every attempt has been made to provide a complete and correct translation of the documents. It should be noted that many of the documents in the collection remain untranslated.

The collection is divided into the following five series:

1. **Marquis Pierre Charles de Hault Delassus Series**
2. **Charles Auguste de Hault Delassus Series**, which includes the Official Dispatches and Correspondence of the Spanish Governors Subseries
3. **Pierre Auguste Delassus Series**, which includes the Dr. Louis Lalaurie Papers Subseries
4. **Placide Delassus Series**
5. **Genealogy Series**

The **Marquis Pierre Charles de Hault Delassus (1544-1797) Series** comprises royal decrees, legal documents, commissions, and unidentified documents dating from the sixteenth century to the late eighteenth century. The papers were apparently brought to America by Pierre Charles de Hault Delassus when he and his family left France in 1790. All of the documents are written in French. A number of the sixteenth-century documents have not been translated due to the difficulty of reading and translating early French script. The series includes royal commissions signed by King Henry III of France (1551-1589) and several multi-page sixteenth- and seventeenth-century manuscripts relating to the De Hault family in France. Pierre Charles de Hault Delassus' personal papers (1766-1795) are included in the collection. Pierre Delassus preferred the title M. de Luziere and most of the documents refer to him in this manner. Family documents such as the baptismal records of Pierre Charles' children are found in Folder 5. In 1786, Pierre Charles de Hault Delassus was accepted into the Royal Military Order of St. Michael. A parchment declaring his induction and noting that he does not have to prove his noble birth to be accepted into the order is signed by King Louis XVI of France (1754-1793). All parchment documents are located in Box 1a. Various official papers and correspondence of M. de Luziere (Box 1/folder 6) while serving as civil commandant of the New Bourbon settlement are included in this series.

In addition to the items in the Delassus-St. Vrain Collection, documents pertaining to Pierre Charles DeHault Delassus DeLuzieres can be found the following collections in the Missouri Historical Society Archives: the Amoureux-Bolduc Papers contains a survey by Antoine Souldard of DeLuzieres' land in New Bourbon; the Washington County, Missouri, Court Records includes a series of correspondence written by Moses Austin to DeLuzieres concerning a runaway slave; and the New Madrid Archives.

The **Charles Auguste de Hault Delassus series (1758-1842)** contains official correspondence, military orders, reports, commissions, journals, land petitions, receipts, and invoices. The series begins with papers relating to the early military career of Charles de Hault Delassus. Among the items are Spanish military documents regarding regiments, troop movements, and battle casualties while Delassus led a regiment in the War of the First Coalition during the French Revolutionary Wars (1792-1795). A number of the documents bear the royal signature stamp and seal of King Carlos IV of Spain.

Documents relating to Delassus' service in the 6th Regiment of the Louisiana troops and his duties as lieutenant governor of Upper Louisiana (1797-1804) are filed in folders beginning with Box 1, folder 8. These documents include correspondence, reports, land petitions, military orders, receipts, invoices, and an inventory of the documents held in the Archivo de St. Luis at the beginning of Delassus' tenure as lieutenant governor. The series provides a revealing look at the military and political situation that existed in Upper Louisiana. Among the correspondence is a letter dated 26 May 1797 relaying intelligence information concerning possible hostilities between the United States and Spain in the Mississippi Valley and a copy of a 1795 common defense treaty agreed upon by France and Spain that contains Delassus' signature. Later documents detail the steps taken to transfer St. Louis and Upper Louisiana to the United States after the conclusion of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Copies of letters discussing the impending transfer and a copy of the Louisiana Purchase agreement are included in Box 2, folder 5.

The series contains a number of documents relating to the Native Americans of Upper Louisiana. Certificates of loyalty issued on behalf of various Ayoa (Iowa) Indian chiefs and warriors by the Spanish crown bear the signature of Delassus. In addition, the series contains a journal that chronicles Delassus' 1802 military expedition to New Madrid for the purpose of carrying out the execution of members of a band of Mashcoux or Talapousa Creeks found guilty of killing settler David Trotter. The incident is discussed at length along with translations of Delassus' official documents in *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri* (reprint: Cape Girardeau, 1955). Additional documents mention the Yankton Sioux and the Loups (Delaware) tribes, as well as individual chiefs such as White Hair of the Osage Nation. These sources can be found in Box 2, folders 4 and 5.

Official documents and correspondence that pertain to slaves in Upper Louisiana or those owned by Charles DeHault Delassus can be found throughout the series. Delassus owned several slaves during his lifetime. Many of the documents refer to these slaves by name, such as a transfer of title (9 February 1804) to Delassus from M.P. Leduc for two slaves, a twenty-eight-year-old woman named Madeleine and her twelve-year-old son, Paul. Other references to slaves appear in the form of burial expense receipts for slaves that died in New Orleans while under Delassus' ownership and the baptismal record (10 October 1804) of a slave woman named Ester Salisbury who was owned by Delassus during his time in St. Louis.

Correspondence and receipts relating to the mercantile businesses of Derbigny and Company, Derbigny and LaForge, and LaForge can be found in Box 2. Pierre Augustin Charles Bourguignon Derbigny (1769-1829) was an early resident of New Madrid and a brother-in-law of Charles DeHault Delassus. Derbigny became a prominent merchant of the Mississippi Valley before moving to New Orleans in 1800. After the transfer of Louisiana to the United States, Derbigny became active in state politics. He was a principal member of the group that opposed the adoption of English common law for Louisiana and helped author a state constitution based on traditional French and Spanish law. He served on the Louisiana Supreme Court, served as secretary of state, and was elected governor in 1828. Pierre Antoine LaForge (-1811) settled in New Madrid in 1796. He also became a prominent colonial merchant but additionally served as adjutant

of the local militia, justice of the peace, and notary public of the settlement. After the Louisiana Territory was transferred to the United States, LaForge was appointed civil commandant of the post. He died in 1811 shortly after the great New Madrid earthquake. Delassus maintained a business relationship with Derbigny and LaForge during his service in St. Louis. The folders contain receipts, statements, and business correspondence with both partners.

Delassus maintained a close friendship throughout his life with Marie Phillip Leduc (1772-1842) who served as Delassus' secretary during his time as lieutenant governor. Leduc was born in Paris and immigrated to the United States in 1792 with his mother and brother. He arrived in St. Louis in 1799. Leduc married Marguerite Papin, granddaughter of Madame Chouteau, in 1802. During his lifetime, Leduc served in twenty different positions, among them the recorder for the office of probate and notary in St. Louis County, justice of the peace in St. Louis Township, clerk of the circuit court, translator for the Board of Land Commissioners, recorder of boatmen in St. Ferdinand Township, territorial and state legislator, and judge of probate. The friendship between the two men is apparent by the many letters present in the collection. After Delassus left Missouri, Leduc kept him aware of business and land affairs in the territory. Many of the letters are business correspondence but also contain a great deal of family and personal news. The two men corresponded frequently. The series includes a sorrowful letter Delassus wrote to Leduc after the death of Delassus' wife in 1816 and another in which Leduc attempts to console Delassus after the death of his daughter Odille in October 1817.

A number of letters between William Henry Harrison (1773-1841), then governor of the Indiana Territory, and Delassus appear in this series (Box 2/folders 4-5) The letters express a very friendly and familiar tone. In the first letter dated 6 November 1802, Harrison thanks Delassus for the kind hospitality he received on a recent visit to St. Louis. Later correspondence includes letters of introduction (1803) from Harrison on behalf of George Wallace who wishes to start a mercantile business in St. Louis and letters discussing the possibility of a transfer of Louisiana to the United States.

References to Spanish galleys and riverboats are found in this series. Many of the references discuss the transport of Spanish troops but some refer to the transport of goods. The names of some of the vessels and the crews can be found in documents pertaining to the withdrawal of Spanish troops from Upper Louisiana in 1804. A baptismal record (Box 2/folder 7) for two African American servants of Charles DeHault Delassus notes that a witness to the baptism was Jacques DeHault Delassus, captain of the S.M. *La Flecha*. In Delassus' account of the departure of Spanish troops in November 1804, he includes information on the condition of the Mississippi River and problems surrounding its navigation. Also included in the collection is a passenger receipt (Box 3/folder 6) for an 1816 steamboat trip from New Orleans to New Madrid, Missouri, and references to the steamboat *Franklin* (Box 3/folder 8) in 1818.

An account of the withdrawal of Spanish officials and troops from St. Louis (Box 2/folder 8) after the conclusion of the Louisiana Purchase was recorded by Delassus in November 1804. The diary describes the weather conditions in St. Louis and along the

Mississippi River, discusses the attitudes of those citizens that they encountered as they left the region, and describes such places as Ste. Genevieve and New Madrid. There are also references to Campo del Esperanza, a small military post that sat along the Mississippi River in Arkansas on the opposite bank from present-day Memphis, Tennessee.

Box 3 contains documents relating to Delassus' duties as civil commandant of West Florida. These include correspondence, military records, and a copy of the restitution bill passed by Congress to repay Delassus for property lost during the West Florida Rebellion. The role of Charles Delassus as governor of West Florida and his actions during the West Florida Rebellion are discussed in "The West Florida Rebellion" by Thomas P. Abernathy, published in *The Louisiana Purchase and its Aftermath, 1800-1830* (University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1998).

A series of letters from Marie Felicite Odille DeHault Derbigny (1773-), wife of Pierre Derbigny, to her brother Charles DeHault Delassus can be found in Box 3. The letters were written from their home in New Orleans and discuss family matters.

Letters from Charles DeHault Delassus' nephew Felix St. Vrain are found in Box 4. St. Vrain acted as Delassus' business agent in Missouri while he lived in New Orleans. The correspondence discusses many of Delassus' land transactions including one letter in which St. Vrain tries to persuade his uncle to donate his land in the Murphy Settlement (Farmington, Missouri) for use as a site for the St. Francois County seat.

Documents pertaining to Ceran St. Vrain and his involvement in the Santa Fe trade can be found in Box 4. A transcript copy of Ceran St. Vrain's will that was written before he left on a trip across the plains is filed in Box 7/folder 4. According to a letter written by Martha St. Vrain, wife of Benedict M. St. Vrain, dated August 23, 1909 (Box 10/folder 2), Ceran St. Vrain's personal papers were destroyed in an office fire in 1871. Among the items destroyed was an original history of the Delassus family written on parchment. A tracing of his signature and those of other members of the St. Vrain family can be found in the Genealogy Series, Box 10/folder 10.

Other collections in the MHS Archives that contain documents pertaining to the civil and personal affairs of Charles DeHault Delassus are the Estates Collection, which contains wills and probates in which Charles DeHault Delassus acted as an administrator for various estates; the Emmons Family Papers, which contains an original copy of the liquor sales regulation issued by Delassus after the Trotter-Mashcoux incident in 1802-1803; the Chouteau Family Collection, which contains correspondence between members of the Chouteau family and Delassus; the Kaskaskia, Illinois, Collection, which includes correspondence and official papers relating to Upper Louisiana; the Saugrain Family Papers; and the New Madrid Archives, which holds various official documents associated with Delassus.

Official Dispatches and Correspondence of the Spanish Governors Subseries is filed according to individual officials, with each set of papers arranged chronologically. The

official correspondence discusses matters relating to relations with the Osage Indians, commerce, finances, and defense. The original translations were completed by Ysabel C. Sandoval in 1904. The governors included are the Baron de Carondelet (1791-1797), Gayoso de Lemos (1797-1799), Marques Manuel de Casa Calvo (1799-1801), Juan Manuel de Salcedo (1801-1803) and Intendants Juan Ventura Morales (1796-1799; 1801-1803) and Ramon de Lopez y Angulo (1800-1801). The subseries also contains a folder of dispatches between Delassus and the military commander of the Illinois Country, Carlos Howard, and another with dispatches from miscellaneous Spanish officials.

The **Pierre Auguste Delassus Series** comprises correspondence, ledgers, business papers, and account books. A portion of the correspondence in this series is nearly illegible due to ink migration through the onion-skin paper. The majority of the documents and the Civil War journals are written in French.

Most of the documents relate to Auguste Delassus' real estate properties in Missouri. A list of all the properties and the counties in which they lie are included in the collection. These can be found in Box 8/folder 2. Among the correspondence is a letter written by Confederate General G. T. Beauregard, then president of the New Orleans, Jackson, and Great Northern Railroad, to Delassus, dated December 29, 1869, discussing family and business. Descriptions of lots within the town of Delassus in St. Francois County, Missouri, are found in Box 8, folder 2.

Auguste Delassus' Civil War journals and letterbook (Box 7/folders 5-7) were written during his service as an officer in the Confederate army. The journals discuss events in New Orleans, such as General Benjamin Butler's use of colored troops, but also mentioned are various major battles of the war and the Confederate cause. Since much of the journals are written in pencil, the writing is sometimes difficult to decipher due to fading. These journals are written in French and are not yet translated.

The **Placide Delassus Series** comprises personal and business correspondence. The series contains letters between Placide Delassus and the attorneys and land agents who were assisting him in the sale of the Delassus land that remained from the original Spanish land grants in St. Francois, Schuyler, Knox, and Franklin Counties. Later correspondence (Box 9/folder 6) between Placide's niece in New Orleans, Miss Jeanne Delassus, daughter of Charles Delassus, and attorneys in Missouri detail the family's attempts to recover some of the properties that were in dispute.

In addition, the series includes a number of letters written by Raoul DeHault of the Belgian branch of the family to Placide and Charles Delassus in regard to family history.

The **Genealogy Series** consists of genealogical information compiled by various members of the family and historians. A number of printed and typed genealogical charts are filed in Box 10/folders 6-8. There are three folders of correspondence containing letters written between members of the family, genealogists, historians, and archivists of the Missouri Historical Society. Among the correspondence are letters written between Saint Louis historian Walter Douglas who researched the Delassus family for a genealogy

project sponsored by the Missouri Historical Society. These letters contain many interesting facts and reminiscences written by members of the family. The series also contains obituaries and news clippings relevant to the family and its related history.

Reference

For further information concerning the Delassus family, see the *Genealogy of the Family of Delassus and St. Vrain* compiled by Paul Augustus St. Vrain (Kirksville, 1943) in the Missouri Historical Society Library.

Charles DeHault Delassus' 1836 diary of his return trip to St. Louis from New Orleans to visit friends is printed in the *Louisiana Historical Journal*, volume 30, number 2 (April 1947). The diary was edited by noted historian John Francis McDermott and provides many details of Delassus' later life.

A study of Charles DeHault Delassus and his relationship with his family can be found in "Honor and Family: The Career of Lt. Gov. Carlos de Hault de Lassus" by Robert R. Archibald. Published in *Gateway Heritage*, volume 12, number 4 (1992).

Delassus and his influence on settlement in southeastern Missouri can be found in *Opening the Ozarks: A Historical Geography of Missouri's Ste. Genevieve District 1760-1830* by Walter A. Schroeder. Published by the University of Missouri Press, 2002.

A broad collection of documents relating to the Spanish regime in Upper Louisiana can be found in the Archives of the Indies Collection. This collection consists of ten boxes of photostatic copies of official documents and sixty-three reels of microfilm. An index of colonial records including those created by Charles DeHault Delassus is printed in the *Descriptive Catalogue of the Documents relating to the History of the United States in the Papeles Procedentes de Cuba deposited in the Archivo General de Indias at Seville* by Roscoe R. Hill (Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1916). A typescript list of documents presented to the United States by Delassus upon the transfer of the Louisiana Territory is located on Microfilm Roll #3, Drawer 3, in the Microfilm Room of the MHS Library. These documents are also associated with the Archives of the Indies.

Photographs of the town of Delassus, Missouri, can be found in *St. Francois County: Looking Back*, Volume II, 1993 by Dave Darnell.

While serving as lieutenant governor of Upper Louisiana, Charles Delassus was granted many parcels of land by the Spanish government. After the transfer of the Louisiana Territory to the United States, the United States government refused to recognize Spanish land grants. Delassus and others sued the United States in an attempt to uphold the claims. A printed copy of the U.S. Supreme Court decision concerning the Spanish land grants question titled *Opinion, Supreme Court, in the cases of C.D. Delassus, Aug. Chouteau, and others: March 1, 1836* is available in the Missouri Historical Society Library.

An interesting and detailed examination of the life and career of Ceran St. Vrain can be found in David Lavender's *Bent's Fort* (Doubleday: 1954). Further details are included in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, vol. 26, 1935.

INVENTORY**Box 1 1544-1799****Marquis Pierre Charles de Hault Delassus Series**

- folder 1 1544-1578
- folder 2 Inventory of Girard de Hault property, 4 June 1575
- folder 3 Guardianship papers, 12 Oct 1590
- folder 4 1581-1597
- folder 5 1600-1778
- folder 6 1780-1795

Charles Auguste de Hault Delassus Series

- folder 7 1758-1794
- folder 8 1795-1797

Box 1a 1573-1790

Parchment documents

Box 1b 1790-1854

Special oversize documents

Box 2 1797-1804

- folder 1 1798-1799
- folder 2 1800-1801
- folder 3 1802
- folder 4 Diary of New Madrid expedition, 1802
- folder 5 1803
- folder 6 January-June 1804
- folder 7 August-December 1804
- folder 8 Charles DeHault Delassus diary, 1804
- folder 9 Inventory of Archivo de St. Luis, 1804

Box 3 1805-1820

- folder 1 1805-1806
- folder 2 1807
- folder 3 1808-1809
- folder 4 1810-1811
- folder 5 1812-1814
- folder 6 1815-1816
- folder 7 1817
- folder 8 1818
- folder 9 1819
- folder 10 1820

Box 4 1821-1841; no date

- folder 1 1821

folder 2	1822-1823
folder 3	1824-1825
folder 4	1826-1829
folder 5	1830-1839; 1841
folder 6	no date
folder 7	no date

Box 5 Official Dispatches of the Spanish Governors Subseries

folder 1	Baron de Carondelet
folder 2	Manuel Gayoso de Lemos
folder 3	Marques de Casa Calvo
folder 4	Manuel de Salcedo
folder 5	Juan Ventura Morales, 1796-1799
folder 6	Juan Ventura Morales, 1801-1804
folder 7	Ramon de Lopez y Angulo
folder 8	Carlos Howard
folder 9	Miscellaneous, 1798-1805

Box 6

Pierre Auguste Delassus Series

folder 1	1833-1838
folder 2	Delassus & Montreuil letterbook, 1834-1838
folder 3	1839-1840
folder 4	1841
folder 5	1842
folder 6	1843-1849
folder 7	1851-1854

Box 7

folder 1	1855-1859
folder 2	1860-1863
folder 3	1864
folder 4	1865-1866
folder 5	Civil War journal, 1861
folder 6	Civil War journal, 1862
folder 7	Auguste Delassus letterbook, 1862

Box 8

folder 1	1867-1868
folder 2	1869-1872
folder 3	1873-1874
folder 4	1875-1877
folder 5	1878-1879
folder 6	1880-1888

Box 8

- folder 7 no year; no date, correspondence
- folder 8 no year; no date, miscellaneous

Box 9**Dr. Louis Lalaurie Subseries**

- folder 1 1822-1824
- folder 2 1825-1826
- folder 3 1827-1834; no year; no date

Placide Delassus Series

- folder 4 1858-1879
- folder 5 1880-1899
- folder 6 1900-1907
- folder 7 1908-1913
- folder 8 1917-1925
- folder 9 no date

Box 10**Genealogy Series**

- folder 1 Correspondence, 1878-1910
- folder 2 Correspondence, 1911-1921
- folder 3 Correspondence, no date
- folder 4 Obituaries/wedding announcements
- folder 5 News clippings, 1901-2001
- folder 6 Genealogical charts (printed)
- folder 7 Genealogical charts
- folder 8 Genealogical charts
- folder 9 Delassus heraldry
- folder 10 Miscellaneous

Oversize AM (E) Drawer 3

- folder 1 Real estate poster: 15 March 1858 "Usine" (factory) sale
Map fragment: 1884 Dakota Territory