

Collection #
M 0289
OM 0060
F 0655-0657

FRANCIS VIGO PAPERS, 1751–1873

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 3 boxes, 2 oversize folders, 3 reels of microfilm

COLLECTION
DATES: Inclusive 1751-1873, bulk 1783-1820

PROVENANCE: Francis Vigo Chapter, D.A.R., Vincennes, Indiana, June, 1949.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: Microfilm

RELATED HOLDINGS: Northwest Territory Collection (M 0367)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1949.0642

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joseph Maria Francesco Vigo (1747?-1836) was born in Mondovi, Italy and served with the Spanish Army in New Orleans. In 1772 he established a fur trading business in St. Louis and in 1778 he was engaged in a secret business partnership with the Spanish lieutenant governor, Fernando de Leyba. During the American Revolution Vigo provided financial assistance and intelligence information to George Rogers Clark and was instrumental in the capture of Vincennes in 1779. In 1783 Vigo moved to Vincennes and operated a fur trading business being associated with the Miami Company and Todd, McGill & Company during the 1780s. In the 1790s Vigo traded with American merchants on the East Coast. He also served as a colonel in the Knox County Militia from 1790-1810 and assisted Anthony Wayne and William Henry Harrison in negotiations with the Native Americans.

Source:

A Guide to Manuscript Collections of the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana State Library, p. 189.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of Vigo's business and personal papers, primarily from the period 1783-1820. Included are papers relating to the fur trade at Vincennes, Fort Wayne, Detroit and Montreal; Vigo's relations with John Askin and the Miami Company; his business dealing with the Piankeshaw and other midwestern Native Americans; his land transactions at Vincennes, particularly regarding donation lands granted by Congress in 1789 to the old French inhabitants of Vincennes; financial affairs of the French inhabitants of the Illinois Country and the American settlers around Vincennes; his work on behalf of Generals Anthony Wayne and William Henry Harrison; and his efforts to collect repayment from Congress for loans to George Rogers Clark during the American Revolution. Also included is the inventory of the estate of Fernando de Leyba (1780).

The collection includes papers of John Askin, John Badollet, Bishop Simon Brute de Remur, Lewis Cass, August Chouteau, John W. Ewing, John Hay Farnham, Pierre Gibault, John Francis Hamtramck, William Henry Harrison, Andrew Holmes, General Washington Johnson, John Law, Manuel Lisa, Pierre Menard, Benjamin Parke, Bartholomei Tardiveau and William Wells.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Correspondence 1783-1840

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Correspondence 1783-1786	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence 1787-1790	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence 1791-1802	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence 1804-1809	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence 1814-1830	Box 1, Folder 5
Correspondence 1831-1840	Box 1, Folder 6
Correspondence n.d.	Box 1, Folder 7

Series 2: Land Documents 1768-1841

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Land Documents 1768-1801	Box 1, Folder 8
Abstract of Donation Rights 1788-1797	OM 0060, FF 11-f
Land Documents 1786-1801	OM 0060
Land Documents 1785-1786	Box 1, Folder 9
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Land Documents 1793-1802	Box 1, Folder 13
Land Documents 1803-1819	Box 1, Folder 14
Land Documents 1825-1841	Box 2, Folder 1
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Series 3: Business Records 1751-1840

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Merchant Accounts, John Askin 1783-1807	Box 2, Folder 3
Merchant Accounts, John Askin 1784-1795	OM 0060
Merchant Accounts 1784-1789	Box 2, Folder 4

Merchant Accounts 1787; 1790	OM 0060
Merchant Accounts 1791-1803	Box 2, Folder 5
Merchant Accounts 1804-1815	Box 2, Folder 6
Merchant Accounts 1816-1840	Box 2, Folder 7
Merchant Accounts n.d.	Box 2, Folder 8
Promissory Notes, Bills & Receipts 1778-1793	Box 2, Folder 9
Promissory Notes, Bills & Receipts 1794-1802	Box 2, Folder 10
Promissory Notes, Bills & Receipts 1803-1820	Box 2, Folder 11
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Series 4: Legal Documents 1751-1836

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Legal Documents 1787-1836	Box 3, Folder 1
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Wills & Estate Documents 1784-1834	Box 3, Folder 2
Wills & Estate Documents, Don Fernando De Leyba 1778?	Box 3, Folder 3
Military Appointments 1801-1805	Box 3, Folder 4
General Items & Fragment 1751-1808; n.d.	Box 3, Folder 5
Translations of Letter 1787; 1827; 1833; 1834; n.d.	Box 3, Folder 6
Transcriptions & Translations	Box 3, Folder 7

Series 5: Court Claims, 1873

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Photostats of Court Claim Records 1873, Folder 1	Box 3, Folder 8
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Photostats of Court Claim Records 1873, Folder 6	Box 3, Folder 13
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Series 6: Microfilm of Collection

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Reel 1: Calendar; Correspondence, 1783-1840; Land Documents, 1768-1787

Reel 2: Land Documents, 1788-1841; Merchant Accounts, 1783-1840

Reel 3: Promissory Notes, Legal Documents, and Miscellaneous

CONTAINER

F 0655

F 0656

F 0657

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0289).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.