FRANCIS VIGO
PAPERS, 1751–1873

Collection Information
Biographical Sketch
Scope and Content Note
Series Contents
Cataloging Information

Processed by
Paul Brockman
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
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

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:


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).

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Correspondence 1783-1840

CONTENTS
Correspondence 1783-1786
Correspondence 1787-1790
Correspondence 1791-1802
Correspondence 1804-1809
Correspondence 1814-1830
Correspondence 1831-1840
Correspondence n.d.

CONTAINER
Box 1, Folder 1
Box 1, Folder 2
Box 1, Folder 3
Box 1, Folder 4
Box 1, Folder 5
Box 1, Folder 6
Box 1, Folder 7

Series 2: Land Documents 1768-1841

CONTENTS
Land Documents 1768-1801
Abstract of Donation Rights 1788-1797
Land Documents 1785-1786
Land Documents 1787
Land Documents 1788-1790
Land Documents 1791-1792
Land Documents 1793-1802
Land Documents 1803-1819
Land Documents 1825-1841
Land Documents n.d.

CONTAINER
Box 1, Folder 8
OM 0060, FF 11-f
Box 1, Folder 9
Box 1, Folder 10
Box 1, Folder 11
Box 1, Folder 12
Box 1, Folder 13
Box 1, Folder 14
Box 2, Folder 1
Box 2, Folder 2

Series 3: Business Records 1751-1840

CONTENTS
Merchant Accounts, John Askin 1783-1807
Merchant Accounts, John Askin 1784-1795
Merchant Accounts 1784-1789

CONTAINER
Box 2, Folder 3
OM 0060
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
Promissory Notes, Bills & Receipts 1821-1839  Box , Folder 12
Promissory Notes, Bills & Receipts n.d.  Box 2, Folder 13

Series 4: Legal Documents 1751-1836

CONTENTS
Legal Documents 1787-1836  Box 3, Folder 1
Legal Documents 1792  OM 0060
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

CONTENTS
Photostats of Court Claim Records 1873, Folder 1  Box 3, Folder 8
Photostats of Court Claim Records 1873, Folder 2  Box 3, Folder 9
Photostats of Court Claim Records 1873, Folder 3  Box 3, Folder 10
Photostats of Court Claim Records 1873, Folder 4  Box 3, Folder 11
Photostats of Court Claim Records 1873, Folder 5  Box 3, Folder 12
Series 6: Microfilm of Collection

CONTENTS

Reel 1: Calendar; Correspondence, 1783-1840; Land Documents, 1768-1787
F 0655

Reel 2: Land Documents, 1788-1841; Merchant Accounts, 1783-1840
F 0656

Reel 3: Promissory Notes, Legal Documents, and Miscellaneous
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.