

## SOURCE LIST FOR RESEARCHING IN THE ILLINOIS COUNTRY AND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION

The Illinois Country, also referred to as Upper Louisiana, was the region of the Midwest United States that was explored and settled by the French in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Although the region never had any clearly defined boundaries, its largest scope was described as east to the Allegheny Mountains, west to the Rocky Mountains, north to Peoria and south to where the Arkansas River flowed into the Mississippi. Most of the area contained in the Illinois country involved the settlements concentrated in the states of Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, many of which were present along the Mississippi River. These settlements included Prairie du Rocher, Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Ste. Genevieve, Saint Phillippe, and Vincennes, along with Fort de Chartes, Fort St. Louis, Fort Orleans, Fort Crevecoeur, Fort St. Joseph, Fort Miami and Fort Ouiatenon. In 1763, the areas of Upper and Lower Louisiana east of the Mississippi were ceded to the British, as a result of the French and Indian War. Once the British took control, many of the French-Canadians present east of the Mississippi crossed over to settlements on the west side of the Mississippi, which was controlled by the Spanish, St. Louis being the most prominent settlement established in avoidance of British rule. After the British acquisition of the region, the boundaries were described as west to the Mississippi, north to the Illinois River, east to the Wabash River, and south to the Ohio River.

Below is a list of sources relevant to genealogical and historical searches within the above area and beyond.

- ❖ The French and Spanish Archives 1763-1841 (C2965), Microfilm 23 rolls (see handout)
- ❖ The St. Joseph Baptismal Register, Microfilm #1294977; Rev. George Paré and Milo M. Quaife, eds. "The St. Joseph Baptismal Register," *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, vol. 18, p. 232. Also available at [http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/archives/miamis6/M14-22\\_27d.html](http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/archives/miamis6/M14-22_27d.html)
- ❖ Hodes, Frederick A., Ph.D. - *Beyond the Frontier: A History of St. Louis to 1821*, Tuscon, AZ: 2004, ISBN 1-880397-54-4
- ❖ Christian, Shirley – *Before Lewis and Clark: the Story of the Chouteaus, the French Dynasty that Ruled America's Frontier*, University of Nebraska Press: 2004, ISBN 978-0-8032-2524-4

- ❖ Krauskopf, Frances – ***Ouïatenon Documents***, Indiana Historical Society: 1955, Reprinted Chien Noir Trading Company; 200
- ❖ Webster, Mildred – ***French Saint Joseph; Le Poste de la Rivière St. Joseph 1690-1780***, George Johnson Graphics, Decatur, MI: 1986 (Out of print - but in FCHSM Library)
- ❖ Idle, Dunning – ***The Post of the St. Joseph River During the French Regime 1679-1761***, Support the Fort, Niles: 2003
- ❖ Chartrand, René – ***The Forts of New France: The Great Lakes, the Plains and the Gulf Coast 1600-1763***, Osprey Publishing, 2010, ISBN-13: 978-1846035043
- ❖ Walthall, John A. – ***French Colonial Archaeology: The Illinois Country and the Western Great Lakes***
- ❖ Brown, Margaret Kimball and Dean, Lawrie Cena – ***The Village of Chartres in Colonial Illinois 1720-1765***, New Orleans: 1977, ISBN-13: 978-0686093404 (Out of Print – but in FCHSM Library)
- ❖ Calloway, Colin G. – ***The Scratch of a Pen: 1763 and the Transformation of North America***, Oxford University Press, 2006, ISBN-13: 978-0-19-530071-0
- ❖ Ekberg, Carl J. – ***French Roots in the Illinois Country: The Mississippi Frontier in Colonial Times***, Tuscon, AZ: Patrice Press, ISBN 0-252-06924-2
- ❖ Ekberg, Carl J. – ***Colonial Ste. Genevieve: An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier***, Tuscon, AZ: Patrice Press, 1996, ISBN 1-880397-14-5
- ❖ Randolph County, Illinois Court Records, Justice of the Peace Records, early Notarial Records, etc. 1737-1885 - Microfilm FHL 1688924
- ❖ Kaskaskia Manuscripts (Microreproduction of original manuscripts) – Microfilm – FHL Numbers 956798 – 956814 (Microfilms are divided by type and year, consisting of misc documents, public papers, private papers, commercial papers, and translation and index of French records Vol 1 & 2).