

C Gourgas Family, Papers, 1815-1843
2699 10 folders

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of the Gourgas family contain letters of Adele Gourgas, daughter of a Swiss immigrant, to her brother John Mark Gourgas relating her impressions of and experiences in the Millersburg-Lexington, KY, region and Cincinnati, OH, where she moved with her husband John Dubois in 1819. Also included are letters from Jacob Gourgas to his brother John Mark and other papers of family interest. The letters are in French.

DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was transferred to the State Historical Society of Missouri from the J. Christian Bay collection on 4 January 1971 (Accession No. SUNP0737).

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1-3 Miscellaneous Correspondence, December 31, 1815-October 23, 1819.
Letters describing the people, the climate and the terrain of the Millersburg-Lexington, Kentucky region. Jacob Gourgas describes Cincinnati, Ohio as seen from his boat and mentions the prices of staples there.
- f. 3 Discuss father's inheritance and the execution of his estate.
Correspondence regarding arrangements between John Mark Gourgas and his brother Jacob and sister Adele in order that he be named guardian of the estate. Adele and her husband, John Dubois move to Cincinnati in 1819 where he is unable to find employment.
- f. 4-7 Miscellaneous Correspondence, May 15, 1823-November 26, 1834.
Contains Adele Gourgas Dubois' correspondence with her brother John Mark, relating family news and asking questions regarding them. She describes the difficulties and hardships Cincinnati winters impose on her and Dubois.
- f. 4 Adele admits that her husband is a hopeless alcoholic. She inherits a small sum from an aunt, and asks John Mark to accept power of attorney in order to deposit it in Boston banks from which she could draw interest.
- f. 7 Relates story of Cincinnati flood which destroys most of the Dubois belongings. Ann Mary, John Mark's daughter, arrives in Cincinnati. Dubois gradually becomes weaker and dies November 11, 1834.
- f. 8-10 Miscellaneous Correspondence, January 30, 1835-March 31, 1845.
Adele continues to rely on John Mark for financial aid. She suffers an

attack of consumption and never fully regains her strength. Her letters contain family news of marriages, deaths, births and travel.

- f. 10 Describes Cincinnati's dull business market, only furniture auctions making money. Also contains a letter from Wolcott Richards, Adele's physician, describing the events of her illness and death.

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