

K Gabriel Prudhomme (1789-1831) Estate Abstract, 1831-1858
0209 0.04 cubic feet

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INTRODUCTION

The collection contains an abstract documenting transactions related to the disposition of the estate of Gabriel Prudhomme, one of Kansas City's founders.

DONOR INFORMATION

The abstract was part of a transfer from the General Library of the University of Missouri-Kansas City on 10/24/1980 (KA0054). The letters are believed to have been collected by Robert M. Snyder, Jr. and sold to the University in the mid-1940s.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gabriel Prudhomme is one of the earliest founders of Kansas City. His family arrived with the François Chouteau family in the early 1820s. At his death in 1831, Prudhomme left a pregnant wife, six minor children, and nearly 272 acres of land fronting on the Missouri River.

Years passed before disposition of the Prudhomme estate was considered. In the meantime, John Calvin McCoy, owner of a trading house in Westport, Missouri, found it more convenient to have his goods off loaded at the Prudhomme landing than in Independence, some 18 miles distant. Other businessmen followed McCoy's lead, and by 1837 the importance of the Prudhomme property was obvious. Gabriel Prudhomme's eldest daughter, Maria Lousie and her new husband, Prosper Mercier, petitioned the Jackson County Circuit Court to settle the estate among the heirs. A commission of three prominent local men was appointed and a report issued that the only fair means of distributing the estate was to sell the land.

In July of 1838, an auction conducted by James H. McGee, guardian for the minor Prudhomme children, gave the property to Abraham Fonda for \$1800.00. However, other men at the auction accused McGee of conspiring with Fonda to purchase the estate, and the Court ordered a new sale in November of that year. Shortly before the second auction began, William L. Sublette suggested the formation of a Town Company to purchase the land. Fourteen men hastily agreed, and the company's bid of \$4220.00 was successful. The following years were filled with litigation and turmoil among the Company members. The town site was surveyed and platted but few lots sold. Not until the early 1850s did the town coalesce into a community.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains an abstract documenting transactions related to the disposition of the estate of Gabriel Prudhomme, one of Kansas City's founders. The estate included a tract of land in the southeast corner of Section 32, Township 50 north, Range 33 west, consisting of over 271 acres fronting the Missouri River near what is today the foot of Grand Avenue. The abstract records the assignment of Josephine Prudhomme, widow of Gabriel, and Francis Tromley as executors of the estate, the auction of the property, and the litigation and transactions that followed. The abstract ends abruptly in 1858.

PREFERRED CITATION

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Gabriel Prudhomme (1789-1831) Estate Abstract (K0209)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Abstracts, Gabriel Prudhomme Estate, 1831-1858

LOCATION NOTE

The collection is stored onsite.

SUBJECT TERMS

Prudhomme, Gabriel
Prudhomme Family
Remainders (Estates)
Real property
Snyder Collection of Americana