



LES AMIS

c/o Missouri Preservation
319 N. 4th Street, Ste. 850
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

ANNUAL GENTRY LECTURE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019 | 5:00 PM

“FRENCH MIGRANTS, THE CONFLUENCE, AND THE
Atlantic World: Missouri, 1789-1861”

Webster University Library
Conference Room #120
801 Edgar Road
Webster Groves, MO

Free parking available in
Webster University garage
on Garden Avenue (See
map on reverse).



*Cynthia McIlvaine Desloge
(1813-1875) and Firmin Rene
Desloge (1803-1856)*



Tangi Villerbu is an associate professor of history at the University of La Rochelle, France. He has worked for years and published on a connected history of France and the American West and the Mississippi Valley from the late 18th to 20th century. He is now preparing a new publication about the Rozier and Desloges families that offers an approach to understanding the Atlantic world from 1770 to 1860 and integrates Missouri into Atlantic history.

The standard historical narrative presents Missouri with a French colonial history that engendered a Creole world, described as gradually disappearing by the mid-19th century. More recently, historians reconfigured this world as the “Creole Corridor,” highlighting the dynamic French-speaking world of which Missouri was just a small part. This lecture proposes to go even further in the reconfiguration of Missouri’s French history by scrutinizing and contextualizing three waves of French migration.

During the last decade of the Spanish era, a few French families or individuals crossed the ocean and the continent to settle on the Mississippi Valley’s west bank. Mostly elites, they embodied an Atlantic counter-revolution. After 1803, however, other French men and women came precisely because Upper Louisiana became American. This new wave of French not only brought Missouri into commercial circuits of long duration, it also participated in the birth of a new American (and deeply transatlantic) Catholic Church. Thirdly, in the late 1830s, more French settled as part of yet another European transatlantic migration; they chose Missouri for many different reasons: because geographically it was a place of opportunity in both the West and the South; because they wanted to live among French speaking people; or because, as Alsatians, they sought places to meet other Rhineland migrants. Each time, Missouri can be understood as part of the Atlantic world’s many histories: revolutions, nations, capitalism—all can be observed through the lives and settlement of French migrations.



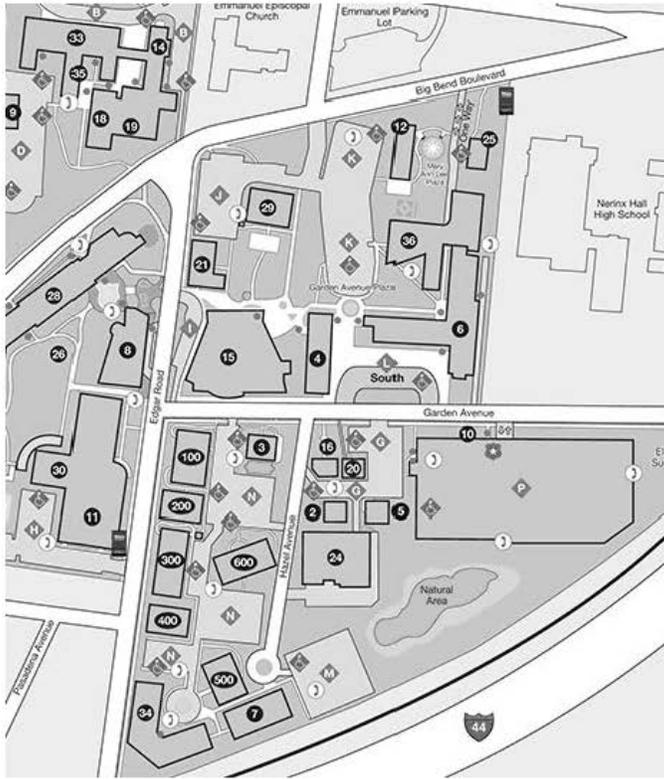
*Constance Rozier, nee Roi
(8 Oct. 1785 - 24 Aug. 1878)*



*Jean Ferdinand Rozier
(9 Nov. 1777 - 1 Jan. 1864)*

Please detach and return form by February 9th with a check for \$15/person, payable and mailed to:
Odile Tompkins | 5290 Waterman Blvd., Unit 6E | St. Louis, MO 63108 | (314) 610-0713

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Webster University Library
801 Edgar Road
Webster Groves, MO

Locations on Adjacent Map
#8 Library
#10 Parking (off Garden Ave.)