

Francois Vallee, as the name is spelled in and after this generation, son of Charles and Genevieve (Marcou) Vallee, was born at Beauport, Province of Quebec, Canada, January 2, 1716, and died at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, September 23, 1783. He was the ancestor who migrated to the United States and is the founder of the family in Missouri. Leaving his home in Beauport, Canada, to seek new fields and fortune along the Valley of the Mississippi River, he arrived in Kaskaskia, a former post-village in Randolph County, Illinois, prior to 1748. This village has since been destroyed by fire, it was located on the west bank of the Kaskaskia River and was settled by the French at the close of the seventeenth century. It is recorded as being the first permanent European settlement in the Mississippi Valley and was the first capitol of Illinois Territory. In 1750, Francois Valle and his wife arrived at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, which was the first permanent white settlement established west of the Mississippi River in upper Louisiana Territory. It was established and settled in 1735 by Philip Francis Renault. Francois Valle was one of the first merchants of Ste. Genevieve and later served as civil and military commandant. A historic record of this old town is quoted with interest:

"No other town in America is like Ste. Genevieve! It has an inhaitable and unmistakable character made up of the blended architecture and customs of three great nations, France, Spain and our own United stated of America. Its rich historical associations have endowed the community with a mellowed romantic atmosphere.

This colorful old Missouri town nestling in a pocket of the rolling Ozarkian Hills and with the picturesque Mississippi River flowing past its door, is recognized as the first permenent white settlement west of the Father of Waters. The settlement was founded about 1735 by the French, was later turned over to Spain in 1762, retroceded to Napoleonic France in 1800, and lastly in 1803 became a part of the United States by virtue of the Louisiana Purchase."

The pioneer home of the Valle family on Merchant and Second Streets is a quaintly built stone dwelling is now occupied by H. L. Rozier.