

# A Guide to the Claudius Crozet Papers, 1792-1832 MS.0059

Claudius Crozet papers

1792-1832

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## Title Statement

A Guide to the Claudius Crozet Papers, 1792-1832 MS.0059

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

MS.0059

### Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/585

### Unit Date

1792-1832

### Language

English French

### Creator

Crozet, Claudius, 1790-1864

### Creator

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826

### Extent

30 items

### Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

### Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

## Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions.

## Conditions Governing Use

Researchers must use copies of the Thomas Jefferson letters. The originals are not released for handling.

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## Preferred Citation

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# Biographical / Historical

Claudius Crozet, engineer and educator, was born in Villefranche, France on December 31, 1789. Following his graduation from the Ecole Polytechnique, he entered the French Army as an artilleryman and served until 1816. He was a prisoner of war in Russia from 1814 to 1816. In 1816 he married Agathe DeCamp, and the couple immigrated to the United States.

Crozet accepted an appointment as a Professor of Engineering at the United States Military Academy at West Point (New York), where he taught until 1823. During this time he published "A Treatise of Descriptive Geometry for the Use of the Cadets of the United States Military Academy."

Subsequent to his career at West Point, Crozet served as: State Engineer of Virginia (1823-1832) State Engineer of Louisiana (1832-1834) President of Jefferson College, Louisiana (1834-1836) President of VMI Board of Visitors (1837-1845) President of the VMI Board of Visitors (1837-1845) Principal Engineer of Virginia (1837-1843) Principal of the Richmond Academy (Virginia) (1845-1849) In 1849, Crozet was appointed Chief Engineer on a project to build a tunnel through the Blue Ridge. From 1857 to 1859 he worked on constructing an aqueduct for Washington, D.C. Crozet died in Richmond, Virginia on January 29, 1864.

# Scope and Contents

The bulk of the Claudius Crozet papers are in French and chronicle Crozet's early years in France prior to his move to the United States in 1816. Included are letters, military orders, discourses on linguistics and grammar, papers pertaining to his marriage and family, and mementos relating to his daughter, Adele, who died in 1830.

Also included are two letters (dated 1821) from Thomas Jefferson to Crozet. The letter of March 31 is Jefferson's reply to Crozet's inquiry about a teaching position at the University of Virginia. The letter of November 23 acknowledges the receipt of Crozet's book and includes comments on scientific advancements.

# Keywords

Engineers—France  
University of Virginia  
Correspondence  
Orders (military records)  
Discursive works

# Online Access

The two letters from Thomas Jefferson to Claudius Crozet are available online.

Additional selected documents are also available online.

# Description of Subordinate Components

## Correspondence and orders

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/318

**Unit Date** 1812-1821

**Language** English

## Arrangement

Chronological

### **Letter from Evans to Claudius Crozet**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/324

**Unit Date** 1812 July 31

**Language** French

#### **Scope and Contents**

Letter regards Claudius Crozet's promotion to Second Captain.

#### **Keywords**

Correspondence

### **Letter to DeCamp family with enclosure**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/325

**Unit Date** 1814 October 24

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

To DeCamp family from (signature illegible). Letter encloses the certificate of death for Pierre DeCamp, brother of Claudius Crozet's wife, Agathe.

#### **Keywords**

Correspondence

### **Letter from Evans to Claudius Crozet**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/326

**Unit Date** 1814 October 29

**Language** French

#### **Scope and Contents**

Letter honors Claudius Crozet for his service.

#### **Keywords**

Correspondence

### **Order**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/327

**Unit Date** 1815 March 10

**Language** French

#### **Scope and Contents**

To Claudius Crozet from Baron De [Maller?]. Crozet is asked to supervise the construction of a bridge.

#### **Keywords**

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

### **Letter from Colonel Dessalles to Claudius Crozet**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/328

**Unit Date** 1815 March 19

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

Letter explains that bridge equipment needs to be sent to Paris. Claudius Crozet is to proceed to St. Denis where officer's quarters were established. Also, Crozet is to inform General Neigre about disposition of troops.

#### **Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Evans to Claudius Crozet****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/329**Unit Date** 1815 March 28**Language** French**Scope and Contents**

Letter regards Claudius Crozet's French Army rank.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from General B. Neigre to Claudius Crozet****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/330**Unit Date** 1815 June 13**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Letter instructs Claudius Crozet to proceed to Vincennes (France) and report to Colonel Renaud.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Claudius Crozet****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/331**Unit Date** 1821 March 31**Language** English**Creator** Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826**Scope and Contents**

Written from Monticello, Virginia. Thomas Jefferson responds to Claudius Crozet's offer to teach at the University of Virginia. Letter also comments on the progress of the University and on the uncertainty of funding.

**Keywords**

University of Virginia

Correspondence

Engineers—France

**Transcription**

Monticello. Mar. 31. Sir Your favor from West Point has been duly received. We are as yet far from the time at which we may think of procuring Professors for our University. The buildings indeed will all be finished in the course of 2 or 3 years, but our funds will be left burthened with a heavy debt, which will absorb them many years, if left to discharge it. Whether the legislature at some future day may take it off their hands and enable it to commence its operations is quite uncertain. With my regrets therefore that I can say nothing more satisfactory accept the assurance of my respect.

Th. Jefferson M. Crozet.

**Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Claudius Crozet****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/332**Unit Date** 1821 November 23**Language** English**Creator** Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826**Scope and Contents**

Written from Monticello, Virginia. Thomas Jefferson thanks Claudius Crozet for sending him a copy of his new geometry textbook and for his contributions to teaching. The letter also comments on the advancement of science.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Engineers—France

**Transcription**

Monticello. Nov. 23.21

Sir Monticello Nov. 23. 21. I thank you, Sir, for your kind attention in sending me a copy of your valuable treatise on Descriptive geometry. I felicitate the student of the present day on this important supplement to his knowledge of the theory of geometry, and those of our country particularly on their fortunate acquisition of so able an instructor in it. We are sometimes disposed to think with regret that we have been born an age too soon for the luminous advance of sciences of which we see the dawn. But justice suggests that our age has had its turn, and its honors too, and that the enjoyment of advancing science which we have had more than those who have gone before us, should not be envied to those who are to come after us. With my thankfulness for the services you are rendering my young countrymen, accept the assurance of my great esteem and respect.

Th. Jefferson M. Crozet.

## **Discourses**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/319

**Language** English

### **Miscellany of French discourse on verbs**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/4674

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

A composition book which also includes several pages of analytic geometry proofs.

### **Des Mots Invariables**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/334

**Language** French

#### **Arrangement**

Topics include formation of adverbs, prepositions, letters, and vowels.

### **Grammaire Russe**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/335

**Language** French

#### **Scope and Contents**

A manuscript of approximately 100 pages on the Russian language, written for French readers. This may have been written during the period 1814-1816, when Claudius Crozet was a prisoner of war in Russia.

### **Grammaire Allemande**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/336

**Language** French

#### **Scope and Contents**

Discourse on German grammar that was probably written while Claudius Crozet was in Holland.

### **Second part: Syntax**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/337

**Language** French

#### **Scope and Contents**

Includes discussion of articles and beginning of dative.

### **Des Consonnes**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/338

**Language** French

#### **Scope and Contents**

Includes a discussion of consonants and their pronunciation.

**Histoire de France**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/339

**Unit Date** circa 1820

**Language** French

**Scope and Contents**

Covers the period between 420 and 843 AD.

**Keywords**

France—History

**Continuation of Histoire de France**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/340

**Language** French

**Scope and Contents**

Covers the period between 876 and 996 AD.

**Keywords**

France—History

**Accord du Participe**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/341

**Language** French

**Scope and Contents**

Includes discussion on the use of the participle.

**Untitled discourse**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/342

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Likely a fragment of one of the linguistic discourses.

**Legal documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/320

**Language** English

**Arrangement**

Chronological

**Certificate of life insurance**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/343

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Indicates that M. DeCamp and her husband had life insurance for their daughter Agathe. Agathe's existence is verified each year from 1793 to 1808 by endorsements on the back of the document.

**Testament or Codicil**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/344

**Unit Date** 1801

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

A statement that appears to document an agreement between Pierrette Varion (Claudius Crozet's mother) and a landlady regarding payment for living quarters.

**Division of inheritance of M. DeCamp**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/345

**Unit Date** 1814 December 5

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

A document indicating that Madame DeCamp's estate is to be divided by the daughters, the son having died in 1813.

**Marriage contract**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/346

**Unit Date** 1816 June 5

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

A marriage contract between Claudius Crozet and Agathe DeCamp. The document gives the names, ages, and addresses of the parties involved and their parents.

**Ephemera**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/321

**Language** English

**Marshall Ney lithograph**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/347

**Language** English

**Extent** Approximately 5 inches by 8 inches.

**Sermon en proverbs**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/348

**Unit Date** 1790

**Language** French

**Extent** Printed material, approximately 13 inches by 15 inches

**Adele Crozet subject file**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/322

**Language** English

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/349

**Unit Date** 1829 July 11

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

In the letter, Claudius Crozet expresses his deep affection for his daughter.

**Keepsakes**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/350

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Includes a clipping from an 1830 newspaper on keepsakes of deceased loved ones, which suggests a lock of hair is the best remembrance. The file includes a lock of Adele Crozet's hair, four baby teeth, and eyelashes.

**Script book**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/351

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Adele Crozet's script book, published by W. Darton in 1815, and a page of her practice with script.

**Remembrances**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/352

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Includes memorial verses written by Claudius Crozet and a receipt for painting an enclosure in a graveyard (dated April 21, 1830).

**Place cards**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/323

**Language** English

**Extent** 3 items

**Scope and Contents**

Three place cards bearing signature of Mrs. Crozet.

**Keywords**

Place cards