

Exposé présenté en anglais à l'Hôtel de ville de Vevey (Suisse) le 7 septembre 2018

Devant les membres de la SAHS lors de leur sortie annuelle, par Yves Bordet, membre de la SAHS et directeur des Editions La Valsainte (Vevey)

SAHS

<https://www.swiss-american-historical-society.org/>

Éditions La Valsainte

www.valsainte.ch

VEVAY (INDIANA)

SEAT OF THE SWITZERLAND COUNTY

INCORPORATED 1813

The first settler Jean-Jacques (John-James) Dufour

1763: Born in Châtelard (Vevey District) Switzerland

1796: Moves to the US, at first in Kentucky

1799: Settles then in Indiana, on the Ohio river

1801: He is joined by 17 Swiss vine-dressers from the Vevey (Switzerland) area, some of them from his family, including his Morerod brother in law

First American wine producer

Author of "The American Vine dresser's guide"

First American guide on viticulture and vinification

Birth certificate of J.-J. Dufour 21-02-1763

Dufour Du 18.^e février 1763.
Susanne Ester, fille de Jean Louis Dufour de Sals
et de Madelaine Nicolet du Chêne sa femme, née le
2.^e février 1763. et baptisée le 18.^e suivant. Parr: Meff.^{rs}
Samuel Predanton, et Jean Pierre Carré. Marr.
Susanne Catherine Carré née Mayor, et Ester Elizabeth
Nicolet. 191.

Dufour. Du 21.^e février 1763.
Jean Jacques, fils de Jean Jacques Dufour de Sals, et de
Jeanne Marie Boreard de Sals sa femme, né le 14.^e
fév. 1763. et baptisé le 21.^e suivant, Parr: le Père, 1101.

Dufour. Du 25.^e février 1763.
Jean Henry Frédéric, fils de Jean Louis Dufour
de Blancham nœ le Chatelard, et marquilles aux
Blanches, et de Jeanne Françoise Chappet des Blancs
sa femme, né le 1.^e février 1763, et baptisé le 25.^e suivant.
Parr: Henry Rivar. Frédéric Faure d'Ormond d'offet.

Dufour's Baptism Certificate (1763), Archives Cantonales Vaudoises, E/b, p. 65



Vevay, seat of the Switzerland County

1804: His brother, Jean-François (John-Francis) Dufour, offers two kegs of the first American wine to President Thomas Jefferson in Washington

1813: Vevay and Switzerland County are officially incorporated

1825: Dufour meets La Fayette who visits Vevay (IN) and tastes Vevay's wine

1826: « The American Vine-Dresser's guide... » is published in Cincinnati at the Emporium Office

1827: J.-J. Dufour dies in Vevay (IN)

The Morerod house in Vevay (IN)



First American wine-cellar, “relic” of American wine industry,
Morerod house, Vevay (IN)



The Guide ...

1826: Published in Cincinnati (OH) at the Emporium Office

1999: Facsimile, Vevey (Switzerland) Editions La Valsainte

2001: French illustrated translation, Vevey (Switzerland) Editions La Valsainte

2003: New English illustrated edition, co-published by Purdue University Press, West Lafayette (IN), and Editions La Valsainte (Vevey, Switzerland), statement by Mr. Christian Blickenstorfer, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States

2004: Official release of the new English illustrated edition at the City Hall of Vevey (Switzerland), in the presence of Mrs. Pamela Pitzer Willeford, Ambassador of the United States in Switzerland.

Mrs. Pamela Pitzer Willeford, Ambassador of the United States of America in Switzerland, at the release ceremony of the book's new English edition, with Mr Yves Bordet, Editions la Valsainte, at City Hall of Vevey (Switzerland), February 4th, 2004 (24 Heures).



Mr. Christian Blickenstorfer's preface, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States

Switzerland and the United States share a bond of friendship and common values that goes back more than 200 years.

Around the same time as Jean-Jacques Dufour set out from his native Vevey to bring Swiss wine-making expertise to America, the founding-fathers of the United States looked to famous Swiss philosophers and writers, such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Emer Vattel, for inspiration and guidance. Conversely, when in 1848 Switzerland was transformed from the old Confederation into a federal state following the country's brief civil war, the framers of the first Swiss Constitution found a suitable model in the US Constitution of 1787. In the 1890's, reformers and populists in the US, disaffected by the influence of "big business" on politics, discovered the Swiss people's rights of referendum and initiative and successfully fought for the introduction of such direct democratic institutions in many US states. Due to these mutual influences during parts of their history, Switzerland and the United States have, from time to time, been referred to as "the Sister Republics".

I am proud that with his adventurous spirit and his passion for producing great wines, Jean-Jacques Dufour had created a commonality between Switzerland and America that went beyond sober matters of state.

Christian Blickenstorfer
Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION