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The French Regime in Wisconsin — 1743-1760
The British Regime in Wisconsin — 1760-1800
The Mackinac Register of Marriages — 1725-1821



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J. MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL,
le Comte Jacques de Clermont-Ten-
Brugny, Marne, France

442-446
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cerning the causes and fundamental reasons for such an establishment for one who does not possess the necessary local knowledge of certain territories of which no map exists in the secretary's office of this captaincy-general; nor any public facts of any accuracy and exactness in order to form a judgment; your Lordship will continue to obtain all the fitting information for explaining to me what you believe advisable, and will, in the meantime, take for yourself whatever measures are urgent.

May God preserve your Lordship many years.

LEIS DE LAS CASAS

HAVANA, February 17, 1792.

Baron de Carondelet.

1794: MACKINAC INDIANS OPPOSE WAYNE

[Extract from letter from Guillaume la Mothe to Joseph Chew,⁵⁸ dated, Michilimackinac, July 19, 1794. Reprinted from *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xx, p. 365.]

All our warriors arrived yesterday with very little success, they have lost Twenty-five people amongst different Nations, the Americans on their side have lost thirty, and amongst them

⁵⁸ Guillaume la Mothe was a French-Canadian, born probably in 1744. In 1767 he was a trader in the Detroit district. On the outbreak of the Revolution, he was in New England, and brought information to the British at Quebec. Soon thereafter he was once more in Detroit, whence he went out on a scout with an Indian party in 1777. Elected captain of a company of habitant volunteers, he accompanied Hamilton on his Vincennes expedition, being there captured (1779) and kept in close confinement until exchanged in 1781. A broadside (printed at Williamsburg, Va.) in the *Draper MSS.* (pressmark, 49J154), prints the report of the council of war held by Clark and his officers June 16, 1779, where it was voted, as retaliation for the ill treatment of American prisoners by the British, that Henry Hamilton, Philip Dejean, and William Lamothe "be put in irons, confined in the dungeon of the public jail, deprived the use of pen, ink, and paper, and excluded all converse except with their keeper." In 1782, La Mothe was sent back to Detroit, with recommendations to the lieutenant-governor. He

[442]

1794] British Regime in Wisconsin

were two prisoners which we received yesterday. The action was near Fort Recovery from which the Cannon & Shells were very much against the Indians.

Captain Doyle⁵⁹ desires his compliments to you and requests of you to send twelve Medals & twelve Flags to this place, the small medals you sent before the Indians will not accept of them.

There is likewise at Chikagoe Fifty Indians died of the Small Pox which alarms the Indians much in this Post.

[Letter from Capt. William Doyle to Charles Langlade. Translated from original MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library.]

MICHILMACKINAC July 26th, 1794.

SIR—I have Received Your Letter dated the 23rd of June and Note with pleasure The Good Dispositions You seem to Manifest for Serving the Government. I have just Written to Colonel England commanding His Majesty's troops at Detroit⁶⁰

finally secured (1792) the appointment of interpreter at Mackinac. There he remained until the evacuation of this post by the British (1796), when he removed to St. Joseph's Island, and there died in 1799. Joseph Chew was secretary for the Department of Indian Affairs at Montreal.—Ed.

⁵⁹ Capt. William Doyle joined the 24th foot as ensign in 1774. Two years later he became lieutenant, and served in that capacity until 1787, when he became captain. In 1792 he relieved Capt. Edward Charleton of the command at Mackinac, and was the last British commandant of that post, which he evacuated in August, 1796; he had meanwhile been promoted (May 6, 1795) to a majority. He continued with the regiment until 1804, having attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel.—Ed.

⁶⁰ Richard England was an Irishman by birth, who enlisted in the army (1766) as ensign of the 47th infantry. He was promoted through the grades until he became major of the regiment in 1781, acting likewise as deputy quartermaster-general. In 1783 he was transferred to the 24th regiment as lieutenant-colonel, coming to command at Detroit in 1792. He was the last British commandant of that place, retiring with the surrender to the Americans (July, 1796). After returning to England he was made major-general (1796), and colonel of

[443]

and have Told him Your attachment to the service and I have no Doubt that you will not be forgotten if the Government needs Good Men.

I am Much pleased to learn that peace is restored Between The folks and The pants which cannot but be Most advanta-geous for The trade Of this part of the country.

Our Court Oreilles and Santeux Warriors have returned to this post after assisting in The Defeat Of an American party of two Hundred men as they came out of fort recovery whither they had conveyed provisions. Several prisoners were taken together with three hundred and twenty-five horses and thirty Oxen. The loss of our warriors Was twenty-five persons Among all The Nations who Numbered fifteen Hundred. But three-fourths of them arrived after The action and attacked The fort when they lost a portion of The number Of twenty-five already mentioned.⁶¹

⁶¹ The 5th foot (1809). For a time he was governor of Plymouth, and after attaining the grade of lieutenant-general died Nov. 7, 1812. Colonel England was a man of gigantic stature, being six and a half feet in height. It is reported that the Prince of Wales asked his name, and on being told exclaimed, "England! He should be named Great Britain, at least!" He appears to have been a popular com-mandant at Detroit.—Ed.

⁶² The action here so well described was that known as the attack on Fort Recovery, an advance post built by Wayne (in the summer of 1794) on the site of St. Clair's defeat in Mercer County, Ohio. On the morning of June 30, a large body of Indians rushed upon a detachment of ninety riflemen and sixty rangers commanded by Maj. William McLachon, who were returning to Wayne's army after having escorted a pack-train of provisions to Fort Recovery. After losing many officers and men, the detachment found refuge within the fort, which was gallantly defended by a garrison of about two hundred, under command of Capt. Alexander Gibson. The object of the attack was undoubtedly to take the fort, and the Indians were supposed to be planning to discover and use St. Clair's cannon, that had been abandoned in 1791. These pieces had, however, been recovered by Wayne; and Fort Recovery proved impervious to the musketry attack, which was continued during the greater part of two days. This docu-ment shows that the repulse at Fort Recovery discouraged the northern auxiliaries, who took no part in the battle of Fallen Timbers.—Ed.

[444]

The Warriors of this post were too precipitate in Their Re-turn. This has Not pleased Their brothers, the Channoons [Shawnee], Loup [Delawares], and Miss [Miami], who had asked them to remain and help them to repel The americans who are to advance toward La Glaize where a portion of the Nations are Still assembled.⁶²

Mr Le Claire has just arrived from St Joseph⁶³ and he tells me that all The poux of the Neighborhood Had started Ten Days before for La Glaize where the other nations had asked them to go.

There is every appearance that I shall receive News of an-
⁶² The river now called Au Glaize was so named from the clay at its mouth, where in early days there was a large buffalo wallow. The stream enters the Maanee from the south, and was an important pathway to the Miami rivers. A number of Indian villages lay along its banks, and a large British trading house was at its mouth; Blue Jacket's Shawnee village lay a mile below that. Wayne and his army arrived at the mouth of the Au Glaize August 8, 1794, and im-mediately began the erection of a fort, to which Wayne gave the name of Defiance. Traces of this fortification could be seen as late as 1846. In the second war with Great Britain a stockade was built near the site of Fort Defiance, known as Fort Winchester, from the then leader of the army.—Ed.

⁶³ Probably Antoine le Clair, a native of Montreal, who first located as a trader at Parc Yache (Cowpens), near Terre Coupee in south-western Michigan, also near the site of St. Josephs fort. He was a blacksmith, but more occupied with Indian trade than at his forge. He married into the Potawatomi tribe, and in 1800 located at Milwaukee, where he remained until 1809, removing therefrom to Peoria, Illinois. During the War of 1812-15, Le Clair was employed by the American authorities in scouting, and securing information from the Indians. In 1812 his was one of the families removed from Peoria by Captain Chalze. He does not appear to have returned there but to have made his later home at Portage des Sioux, Mo. He accompanied Forsyth into the Indian country in 1817, and died about 1821; see interview with his son in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, pp. 238-242; also "Forsyth Papers," in the Wisconsin Historical Library. A son of the same name was founder of Davenport, Iowa.—Ed.

[445]

other Engagement before long⁶⁴ as I expect a king's barque to arrive at this post at any moment. I shall inform you of the same by the first suitable opportunity so that you may communicate it, with this news, to my Children The folks [Menominee].

I have The honor To be Sir, Your Servant

WILLIAM DOYLE,

Capt. Commanding.

Captain Langlade Captain of the Indian department at Labaie.

1796: GREEN BAY CHIEF DESIRES A MEDAL

Letter from Joseph Chew to Thomas Aston Coffin. Reprinted from *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xv, pp. 443, 444.]

MONTREAL 16th May 1796.

DEAR SIR—A few days ago I received a Message from Thomas a famous War Chief of the Follesavoine Nation⁶⁵ of Indians at La Ba on the Mississippi & requesting to have a Medal with

⁶⁴The next engagement was the battle of Fallen Timbers. Aug. 20, 1794.—Ed.

⁶⁵Thomas Carron, known usually as Tomah (English phonetics for the French Thomas), was the son of Vieux Carron, for whom see *ante*, p. 364, note 85. Born at the Menominee village near the site of Fort Howard (about 1752), his abilities and moderation were such that he acquired a commanding influence with his people. He told Pike (1806) that he had refused to go to war against the Americans during the Revolution, and he also refused the conspiracy of Tecumseh in 1811. He did, however, at the bidding of the British traders and officers, take a prominent part in the War of 1812-15, accompanying the attacking force that captured Mackinac, being at the sieges of Forts Meigs and Sandusky, aiding in the repulse of Americans from Fort Mackinac (1814), and serving in the campaign for the capture of Fort McKay (Prairie du Chien). In 1817 he visited St. Louis, but remained a British Indian until his death at Mackinac, late in 1817 or the following year. Tomah was a tall, majestic-looking Indian, and by his contemporaries always mentioned with respect. The city of Tomah, Wis., was named for him.—Ed.

[446]

His Majesty's Arms sent to him, and being well informed of His Friendship for the English & the Influence he has with his nation, and not having time to make the requisition, I send the Medal by a Gentleman who left this place today for La Ba, and now inclose a requisition and a copy of the Message to be delivered with the Medal which I hope His Lordship may not disapprove of.⁶⁶

* * * * *

Am Dr Sir Your most obedt. humble Servant

JOSEPH CHEW

Thos. Aston Coffin Esq.

1796: BRITISH REMOVE FROM MACKINAC

[Letter from Ensign Leonard Brown⁶⁷ to Col. Alexander McKee, dated Aug. 18, 1796. Source, same as preceding document, but p. 466.]

SIR—You being at the head of the Indian department I beg leave to inform you that the Island of St. Joseph⁶⁸ is at present entirely destitute of Indian stores. I am informed by Capt.

⁶⁶See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, p. 101, for other news from Mackinac in this year.—Ed.

⁶⁷Ensign Leonard Brown was appointed to the Queen's Rangers Sept. 1, 1791. In the summer of 1796 he was sent with twelve men to garrison the new post begun on St. Joseph's Island. It was apprehended that his small garrison and the discontent of the Indians might place him in a dangerous situation; he was therefore reinforced in September by a detachment of Canadian volunteers. In December of this year Brown was promoted to a lieutenancy in the 4th infantry, a rank maintained until 1799, when his name disappears from the British army lists.—Ed.

⁶⁸When the news reached Mackinac of Jay's treaty with Great Britain, according to which the posts were to be delivered to the Americans on June 1, 1796, preparations were at once made by the commandant, Captain Doyle, to establish a post on St. Joseph's Island, within British lines, about forty miles to the northeast. June 14, 1796, Lieutenant Foster had been sent thither to begin the erection of a

[447]