

COLLECTIONS
OF THE
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WISCONSIN

EDITED BY
REUBEN GOLD THWAITES, LL. D.
Secretary and Superintendent of the Society

VOL. XVIII

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



MADISON
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY
1908

P. 434-444
#50

is granted on the tenth day of August in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two & twenty second of his Majesty's reign in presence of the following Witness John Coates to which I have put my Hand & Seal of the post.

PATT SINCLAIR.

Witness JOHN COATES ⁴⁵

Lt. Gov^r.

Registered by me John Coates Not. Public.

1784: INDIAN DISCONTENT AT MACKINAC

[Letter from Capt. Alexander McKee to Sir John Johnson,⁴⁶ dated June 2, 1784. Reprinted from *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xx, p. 229.]

DEAR SIR—An Express arrived late last night in five days from Michilimackinac; brings an account that some hostile In-

⁴⁵ John Coates was a resident of Old Mackinac, and removed to the island with the British garrison. In 1780 he was appointed commissary, and clerk to the Indian department. He was later notary public for the island settlement. See Mackinac Register, *post*.—Ed.

⁴⁶ Alexander McKee was a native of Pennsylvania, who after some experience in Indian trade was appointed deputy agent (1772) by Sir William Johnson. His sympathies were with the Loyalists at the outbreak of the Revolution, which led to his being arrested at Fort Pitt and placed upon parole. In March, 1778, he escaped to the British at Detroit, where he was made captain in the Indian department and deputy-agent. He was the leader of several forays against the American frontier, and after the Revolution was accused by Americans of inciting the tribesmen to war on the border whites. He had a large trading-house on the Maumee, and received native refugees from the battle of Fallen Timbers (1794). After the surrender of Detroit to the Americans (1796), McKee, who had now become colonel, removed to Malden, Ont., where he died Jan. 14, 1739.

Sir John Johnson was born in New York in 1742. Upon the death of his father, Sir William, he succeeded to his estate, but not to his official position. Sir John early joined the Loyalists in the American Revolution, was with St. Leger in 1778, and two years later twice raided the Mohawk valley. At the close of the Revolution he became superintendent of Indian affairs for British North America. He died at Montreal in 1837.—Ed.

[434]

1784]

British Regime in Wisconsin

tentions of the Indians there against that Post has been communicated to the Commanding officer.⁴⁷ I have had people constantly amongst the Indians to the Southward during the Spring and winter, some of whom arrived within this few days intimate an appearance of some uneasiness & frequent counselling amongst themselves which I attributed might be owing to the intrigues of the numerous persons now amongst them distressed to us, and inclinable to prejudice them to His Majesty's interest. A deputation of the Shawanese lately passed into the Potawatomie's country informed me their business was to renew the Friendship subsisting between them & the Lake Indians formerly but I have employed proper people to watch them and find out what may be their real business or if anything farther should pass between them. I am informed also that numbers of the Delawares are about leaving this Country to settle on the Spanish side of the Mississippi.⁴⁸ I am in hopes we shall be always able to discover in time their General Designs (should there be any against us) in time to prevent its effects.

I have the honor to be with Respect D^r Sir Yours &c

A. MCKEE.

1784: A TRADER'S NOTE

[Translation of letter from George Cowan to his brother. MS. in Chicago Historical Society, O. L. Schmidt Collection, No. 317.]

MICHILIMACKINAC July 15, 1784.

DEAR BROTHER—The present is to inform you that the state of My health is good, Praise to God. I Hope that This will

⁴⁷ See further account of this Ottawa plot in *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xi, pp. 413-415.—Ed.

⁴⁸ This was the beginning of the migration which culminated in 1787, when 1200 Shawnee and 600 Delawares crossed the Mississippi and settled upon lands granted them by the Spanish authorities in Cape Girardeau and Ste. Genevieve counties.—Ed.

[435]