

# Letter from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington about George Rogers Clark and the Illinois Expedition, June 17, 1779 (pg.1)

[1779, June 19]

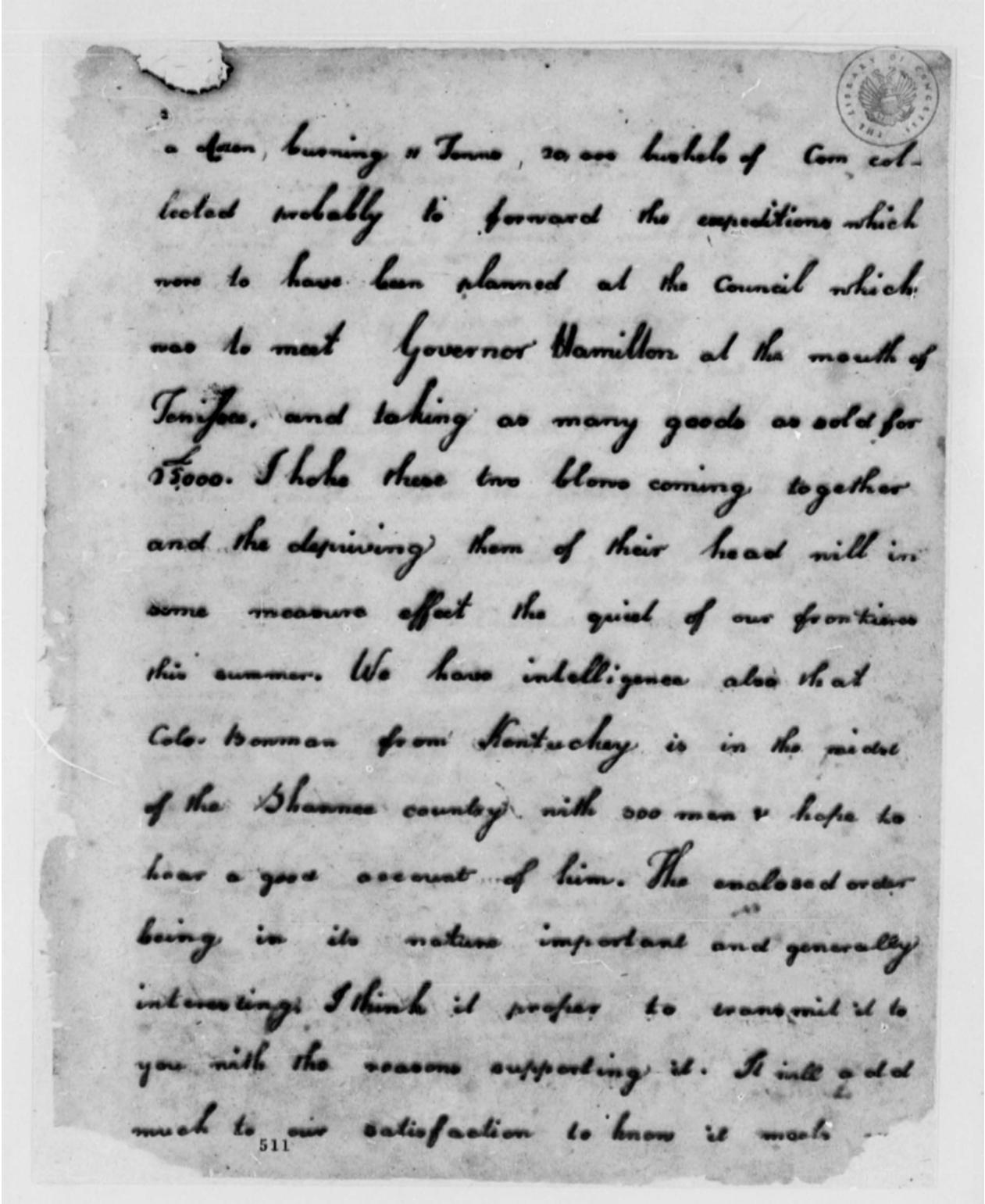
Sir, Williamsburg June 19<sup>th</sup> 1779

I have the pleasure to enclose you the particulars of Colo. Clark's success against St. Vincennes as stated in his letter but lately received the messenger with his first letter having been killed. It is well to be impossible for Colo. Clarke to be so strengthened as to enable him to do what he desires indeed the express who brought this letter gives us reason to fear St. Vincennes is in danger from a large body of Indians collected to attack it and said when he came from Kaskaskias to be within 50 leagues of the place I also enclose you a letter from Colo. Shelby stating the effect of his success against the succeeding Chickasaw and Chec-comogga. The damage done them was killing

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Courtesy of Library of Congress, Jefferson, Thomas, "Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, June 19, 1779, George Rogers Clark and Illinois Expedition; Capture of British Trading Post at Vincennes," 19 June 1779

# Letter from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington about George Rogers Clark and the Illinois Expedition, June 17, 1779 (pg.2)



a man, burning 11 Tons, 20,000 bushels of Corn collected probably to forward the expeditions which were to have been planned at the Council which was to meet Governor Hamilton at the mouth of Tenipes, and taking as many goods as sold for \$5,000. I hope these two blows coming together and the depriving them of their head will in some measure effect the quiet of our frontiers this summer. We have intelligence also that Colo. Bowman from Kentucky is in the midst of the Shawnee country with 500 men & hope to hear a good account of him. The enclosed order being in its nature important and generally interesting, I think it proper to transmit it to you with the reasons supporting it. It will add much to our satisfaction to know it meets

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# Letter from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington about George Rogers Clark and the Illinois Expedition, June 17, 1779 (pg.3)

approbation.

I have the honor to be with every  
sentiment of private respect & public gratitude

Sir

your most obedient &  
most lib. servant

P.S. The distance of our northern  
western counties from the scene of Southern service  
and the necessity of strengthening our Western quarter  
have induced the Council to direct the new  
levies from the Counties of Wyckonia, Ohio, mo-  
nongalia, Frederick, Hampshire, Washly, Rockingham  
and Greenbrier amounting to somewhat less than  
200 men to enter into the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment at Pittsburgh.  
The aid they may give there will be so imme-  
diate & important and what they could do to  
the Southwest would be so late as I hope will ap-  
pease for their interference?

# Treaty of Paris, 1783 (pg.1)

Duplicate. Original Definitive Treaty  
3 Sept. 1783

In the Name of the most Holy & undivided Trinity.

I having pleased the divine Providence to dispose the Hearts of the most Serene and most Potent Prince George the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg, Arch Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire &c. and of the United States of America to forget all past Misunderstandings and Differences that have unhappily interrupted the good Correspondence and Friendship which they mutually wish to restore, to establish such a beneficial and satisfactory Interourse between the two Courts upon the Ground of reciprocal Advantage and mutual Convenience as may promote and secure a perpetual Peace & Harmony

## Treaty of Paris, 1783 (pg.2)

without Difficulty and without requiring  
any Compensation.

### Article 10.<sup>th</sup>

The solemn Ratifications of the  
present Treaty expedited in good & due  
Form shall be exchanged between the  
contracting Parties in the Space of  
Six Months or sooner if possible to be  
computed from the Day of the Signature  
of the present Treaty. In Witness  
whereof we the undersigned their Ministers  
Plenipotentiary have in their Name  
and in Virtue of our Full Powers signed  
with our Hands the present Definitive  
Treaty, and caused the Seals of our Arms  
to be affix'd thereto.

DONE at Paris, this third Day of September, in  
the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & eighty three.

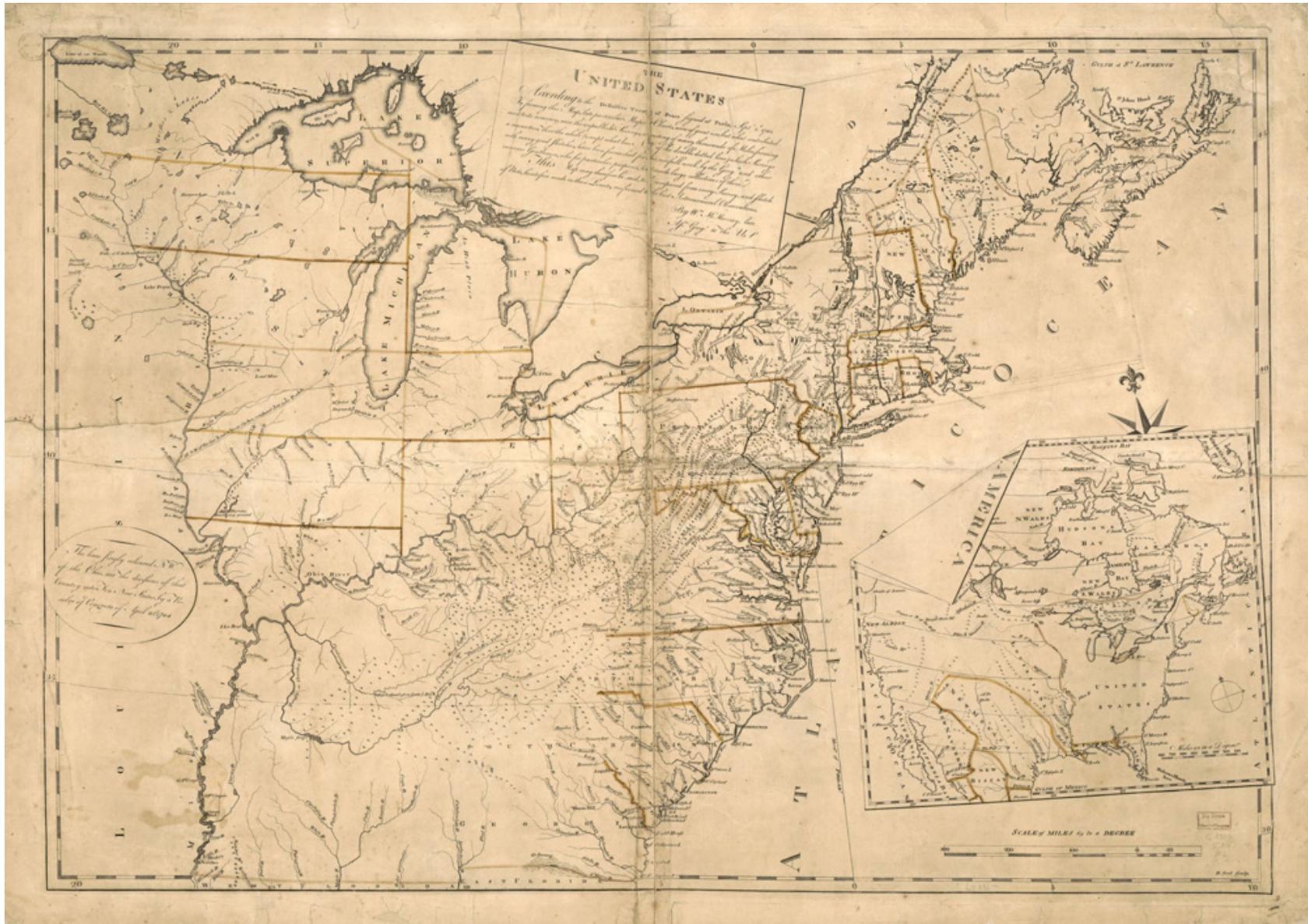
Stanley John Adams

B Franklin

John Jay



# Boundaries of the United States according to the 1783 Treaty of Paris, 1784



Courtesy of Library of Congress, McMurray, William and Robert Scot, "The United States according to the definitive treaty of peace signed at Paris Sept. 3d. 1783," 1784

# Excerpt from Benjamin Franklin's Memoir about Peace Negotiations, 1818-1819 (pg.1)

I imagined the gentlemen had been at Versailles, as I supposed Mr. G. would first have waited on M. de Vergennes, before he called on me. But finding in conversation that he had not, and that he expected me to introduce him, I immediately wrote to that minister, acquainting him that Mr. G. was arrived, and desired to know when his Excellency would think fit to receive him: and I sent an express with my letter. I then entered into conversation with him on the subject of his mission, Mr. Fox having referred me to him as being fully acquainted with his sentiments. He said that peace was really wished for by every body, if it could be obtained on reasonable terms; and as the idea of subjugating America was given up, and both France and America had thereby obtained what they had in view originally, it was hoped that there now remained no obstacle to a pacification. That England was willing to treat of a general peace with all the powers at war against her, and that the treaty should be at Paris. I did not press him much for farther particulars, supposing they were reserved for our interview with M. de Vergennes. The gentlemen did me the honour of staying dinner with me, on the supposition which I urged that my express might be back before we parted. This gave me an opportunity of a good deal of general conversation with Mr. Grenville, who appeared to me a sensible, judicious, intelligent, good-tempercd, and well-instructed young man, answering well the character Mr. Fox had given me of him. They left me however about six o'clock, and my messenger did not return till near nine. He brought me the answer of M. le Comte de Vergennes, that he was glad to hear of Mr. Grenville's arrival, and would be ready to receive us to-morrow at half-past 10 or 11 o'clock. I immediately inclosed his note in one to Mr. Grenville, requesting him to be with me at Passy by eight, that we might have time to breakfast, before we set out. I have preserved no copy of these three last mentioned notes, or I should have inserted them, as I think that though they seem of almost too trifling a nature, they serve usefully sometimes to settle dates, authenticate facts, and show something of the turn and manner of thinking of the writers, on particular occasions. The answer I received was as follows:—

“ Mr. Grenville presents his compliments to Mr. Franklin, and will certainly do himself the honour of waiting upon Mr. Franklin to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock. Rue de Richelieu, Wednesday Night.”

We set out accordingly the next morning in my coach from Passy, and arrived puuctually at M. de Vergennes who received Mr. Grenville in the most cordial

# Excerpt from Benjamin Franklin's Memoir about Peace Negotiations, 1818-1819 (pg.2)

manner, on account of the acquaintance and friendship that had formerly subsisted between his uncle and M. de Vergennes when they were ambassadors together at Constantinople. After some little agreeable conversation, Mr. Grenville presented his letters from Mr. Secretary Fox, and I think from the Duke of Richmond. When these were read the subject of peace was entered on. What my memory retains of the discourse amounts to little more than this, that after mutual declarations of the good disposition of the two Courts, Mr. Grenville having intimated that in case England gave America independence, France, it was expected, would restore the conquests she had made of British Islands, receiving back those of Miquelon and St. Pierre. And the original object of the war being obtained, it was supposed that France would be contented with that. The minister seemed to smile at the proposed exchange. America, says he, does not ask it of you; there is Mr. Franklin, he will answer you as to that point. To be sure, I said, we do not consider ourselves as under any necessity of bargaining for a thing that is our own, which we have bought at the expence of much blood and treasure, and which we are in possession of. As to our being satisfied with the original object of the war, continued he, look back to the conduct of your nation in former wars. In the last war, for example, what was the object? It was the disputed right to some waste lands on the Ohio, and the frontier of Nova Scotia; did you content yourselves with the recovery of those lands? No, you retained at the peace all Canada, all Louisiana, all Florida, Grenada, and other West India islands, the greatest part of Northern Fisheries; with all your conquests in Africa and the East Indies. Something being mentioned of its not being reasonable that a nation, after making an unprovoked and unsuccessful war upon its neighbours, should expect to sit down whole, and have every thing restored which she had lost in such a war, I think Mr. Grenville remarked that the war had been provoked by the encouragement given by France to the Americans to revolt. On which M. de Vergennes grew a little warm, and declared firmly, that the breach was made and our independence declared long before we received the least encouragement from France; and he defied the world to give the smallest proof of the contrary. There sits, says he, Mr. Franklin who knows the fact and can contradict me, if I do not speak the truth. He repeated to Mr. Grenville, what he had before said to Mr. Oswald, respecting the King's intention of treating fairly, and keeping faithfully the conventions he should enter into; of which disposition he should give at the treaty convincing proofs by the fidelity and exactitude with which he should observe his engagements with his present allies; and added that the points which the King had chiefly in view were

# Excerpt from Benjamin Franklin's Memoir about Peace Negotiations, 1818-1819 (pg.3)

*justice and dignity*, these he could not depart from. He acquainted Mr. Grenville that he should immediately write to Spain, and Holland, communicate to those Courts what had passed, and report their answers; that in the mean time he hoped Mr. Grenville would find means of amusing himself agreeably, to which he should be glad to contribute, that he would communicate what had passed to the King, and he invited him to come again the next day.

On our return Mr. G. expressed himself as not quite satisfied with some part of M. de Vergennes' discourse, and was thoughtful. He told me, that he had brought two state messengers with him, and perhaps after he had had another interview with the minister, he might dispatch one of them to London: I then requested leave to answer by that opportunity the letters I had received from Lord Shelburne and Mr. Fox; and he kindly promised to acquaint me the time of the messenger's departure. He did not ask me to go with him the next day to Versailles, and I did not offer it.

The coming and going of these gentlemen was observed, and made much talk at Paris; and the Marquis de la Fayette having learned something of their business from the ministers, discoursed with me about it. Agreeable to the resolutions of Congress directing me to confer with him, and take his assistance in our affairs, I communicated to him what had passed. He told me that, during the treaty at Paris for the last peace, the Duke de Nivernois had been sent to reside in London, that this Court might through him state what was from time to time transacted in the light they thought best, to prevent misrepresentations and misunderstandings. That such an employ would be extremely agreeable to him on many accounts; that as he was now an American citizen, spoke both languages, and was well acquainted with our interests, he believed he might be useful in it; and that as peace was likely from appearances to take place, his return to America was perhaps not so immediately necessary. He then wished I would make him acquainted with Messrs. Oswald and Grenville, and for that end promised meeting them at breakfast with me, which I proposed to contrive if I could, and endeavour to engage them for Saturday.

Friday morning the 10th of May, I went to Paris and visited Mr. Oswald. I found him in the same friendly dispositions, and very desirous of doing good, and of seeing an end put to this ruinous war. But I got no farther light as to the sentiments of Lord S. respecting the terms. I told him the Marquis de la Fayette would breakfast with me to-morrow, and he, Mr. Oswald, might have some curiosity to see a person, who had in this war rendered himself so remarkable, I proposed

# Excerpt from Benjamin Franklin's Memoir about Peace Negotiations, 1818-1819 (pg.4)

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.—PART III.

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his doing me the same honour. He agreed to it cheerfully. I came home intending to write to Mr. Grenville, whom I supposed might stay and dine at Versailles, and therefore did not call on him. But he was returned, and I found the following note from him.

*Paris, May 10.*

Mr. Grenville presents his compliments to Mr. Franklin, he proposes sending a courier to England, at 10 o'clock this night, and will give him in charge any letters Mr. Franklin may wish to send by him.

I sat down immediately and wrote the two short letters following, to the Secretaries of State.

TO THE RIGHT HON. C. J. FOX, ESQ.

*Secretary of State.*

SIR,

*Passy, May 10, 1782.*

I received the letter you did me the honour of writing to me by Mr. Grenville, whom I find to be a very sensible, judicious, and amiable gentleman. The name I assure you does not with me lessen the regard that his excellent qualities inspire. I introduced him as soon as possible to M. de Vergennes; he will himself give you an account of his reception. I hope his coming may forward the blessed work of pacification, in which for the sake of humanity no time should be lost; no reasonable cause, as you observe, existing at present, for the continuance of this abominable war. Be assured of my endeavours to put an end to it. I am much flattered by the good opinion of a person whom I have long highly esteemed, and I hope it will not be lessened by my conduct in the affairs that have given rise to our correspondence. With great respect, I have the honour to be, Sir, &c. &c.

B. FRANKLIN.

TO LORD SHELBURNE.

MY LORD,

*Passy, May 10, 1782.*

I have received the honour of your Lordship's letter dated the 28th past, by Mr. Oswald, informing me that he is sent back to settle with me the preliminaries of time and place. Paris as the place, seemed to me yesterday to be agreed on between Mr. Grenville and M. de Vergennes, and it is perfectly agreeable to me. The time cannot well be settled 'till this Court has received answers from Madrid and the Hague, and until my colleagues are arrived, I expect

# Letter from Patrick Henry to Virginia Delegates in Congress, November 14, 1778

## Founders Online

### PATRICK HENRY IN COUNCIL TO VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 14 NOVEMBER 1778

#### Patrick Henry in Council to Virginia Delegates in Congress

GENTLEMEN,

WMSBURG NOV. 14th. 1778.

The Executive power of this State having been impressed with a strong apprehension of incursions on their Frontier Settlements from the Savages situated about the Illinois & supposing the Danger would be greatly obviated by an enterprize against the English Forts & possessions in that Country which were well known to inspire the Savages with their bloody purposes against us, sent a Detachment of Militia consisting of one hundred & seventy or eighty men commanded by Col. George Rogers Clarke on that Service sometime last Spring. By Despatches which I have just received from Col. Clarke it appears that his Success has equalled the most sanguine expectations. He has not only reduced Fort Chartres & its dependencies but has struck such a Terror into the Indian Tribes between that Settlement & the Lakes that no less than five of them viz. the Puans, Sacks, Renards, Powtowantanies & Miamies who had received the Hatchet from the English Emissaries have submitted to our Arms[, surrendered?] all their English presents & bound themselves by Treaties and promises to be peaceable in future.

The Great Blackbird a Choppowaw chief has also sent a Belt of peace to Col. Clarke influenced he supposes by the Dread of Detroits being reduced by the American Arms. This latter place according to Col. Clarkes representation is at present defended by so inconsiderable a Garrison & so scantily furnished with provisions for which they must be still more distressed by the loss of Supplies from the Illinois, that it might be reduced by any number of Men above five hundred. The Governor of that place Mr. Hamilton was exerting himself to engage the Savages to assist him in retaking the Places that had fallen into our Hands, but the favourable impressions made on the Indians in general in that Quarter the influence of the French on them & the reinforcement of their Militia Col Clarke expected flattered him that there was little danger to be apprehended. Included in the Despatches is a Letter from Captn. Helm who commands a party posted by Col Clarke at St. Vincents. according to this information The Wabash & upper Indians consisting of the Piankeshaws Tawaws Peorias Delawares Pikakishaws Masketans & some of the Shawanese Chiefs had also given up all their tokens of attachment to our Enemies & pledged their fidelity to the united States. Captn. Helm adds that he was on the point of setting out with the assistance of part of the Inhabitants of St Vincent & some of the principal Wabash Chiefs with a View to retake a quantity of Merchandize seized by the English from Detroit, belonging to the people at St Vincents & on its way to them. The Captain speaks with Confidence of Success in this enterprize & extends his hopes even to the destruction of Detroit if joined on his way by the expected number of Indians & Volunteers. My reason for troubling Congress with these particulars is, that they may avail themselves of the Light they throw on the State of things in the Western Country. If the party under Col. Clarke can cooperate in any respect with the Measures Congress are pursuing or have in view I shall with pleasure give him the necessary orders. In order to improve & secure the advantages gained by Col. Clarke I propose to support him with a reinforcement of Militia. But this will depend on the pleasure of the Assembly to whose consideration the measure is submitted.

The french Inhabitants have manifested great Zeal & Attachment to our Cause, & insist on Garrisons remaining with them under Colo. Clarke. This I am induced to agree to, because the Safety of our own Frontiers, as well as that of these people demands a Compliance with the Request. Were it possible to secure the St. Lawrence & prevent the English Attempts, up that River by seizing some post on it, peace with the Indians would seem to me to be secured.

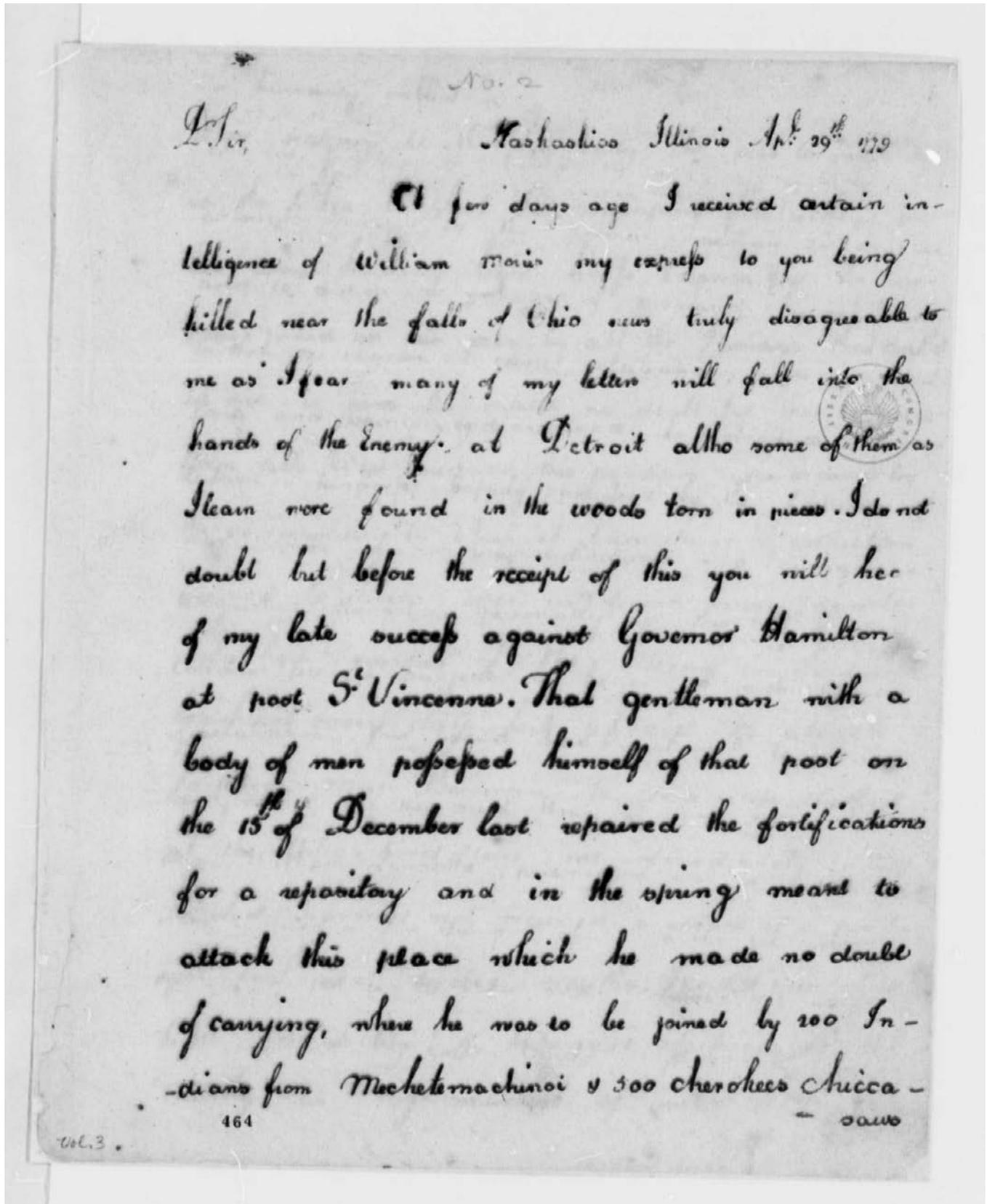
With great Regard I have the Honor to be Gentn. your most obedient Servant

P. HENRY

P. S. Great Inconveniences are felt here for want of Letters of Marque.

Courtesy of National Archives, Henry, Patrick, "Patrick Henry in Council to Virginia Delegates in Congress, 14 November 1778," November 14, 1778

# Letter from George Rogers Clark to Patrick Henry, April 29, 1779 (pg.1)



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Clark, George Rogers, "George Rogers Clark to Patrick Henry, April 29, 1779, Illinois Expedition; Capture of British Trading Post at Vincennes," 29 April 1779

# Letter from George Rogers Clark to Patrick Henry, April 29, 1779 (Transcribed Excerpts)

Kaskaskia Illinois Apl: 29th. 1779

Dr. Sir,

A few days ago I received certain intelligence of William Morris my express to you being killed near the falls of Ohio news truly disagreeable to me as I fear many of my letters will fall into the hands of the Enemy at Detroit... I do not doubt but before the receipt of this you will hear of my late success against Governor Hamilton at post St. Vincenne. That gentleman with a body of men possessed himself of that post on the 15th. of December last repaired the fortifications for a repository and in the spring means to attack this place...

Destruction seemed to hover over us from every quarter detached parties of the Enemy in the neighbourhood every day but afraid to attack. I ordered Majr. Bowman to evacuate the fort at the Cohas and join me immediately which he did. Having not received a scrape of a pen from you for near twelve months I could see but little probability of keeping possession of the country as my number of men was too small [to] stand a seige (sic) and my situation too remote to call for assistance.

I made all the preparations I possibly could for the attack and was necessitated to set fire to some of the houses in Town to clear them out of the way, but in the height of the hurry a Spanish merchant who had been at St. Vincenne arrived and gave the following intelligence. That Mr. Hamilton had weakened himself... that he had not more than eighty men in garrison three pieces of Cannon and some swivils (sic) mounted that he intended to attack this place as soon as the winter opened and made no doubt of clearing the western waters by the fall. My situation and circumstances induced me to fall on the resolution of attacking him before he could collect his Indians again. I was sensible the resolution was as desperate as my situation but I saw no other probability of securing the country...

In the mean time I marched across the country with 130 men being all I could raise after leaving this place garrisoned by the militia. The inhabitants of the country behaved exceedingly well... I marched the 7th of February altho so small a body it took me 16 days on the route. The inclemency of the season high waters &c. seemed to threaten the loss of the expedition. When within three leagues of the Enemy it took us five days to cross the drowned lands of the Wawbash river having to wade often upwards of two leagues to our breast in water. Had not the weather been warm we must have perished. But on the evening of the 23d we got on dry land in sight of the Enemy and at seven O'clock made the attack before they knew any thing of us. The Town immediately surrendered with joy and assisted in the siege.

There was a continual fire on both sides for eighteen hours. I had no expectation of gaining the fort until the arrival of my artillery. The moon setting about one o'clock I had an intrenchment

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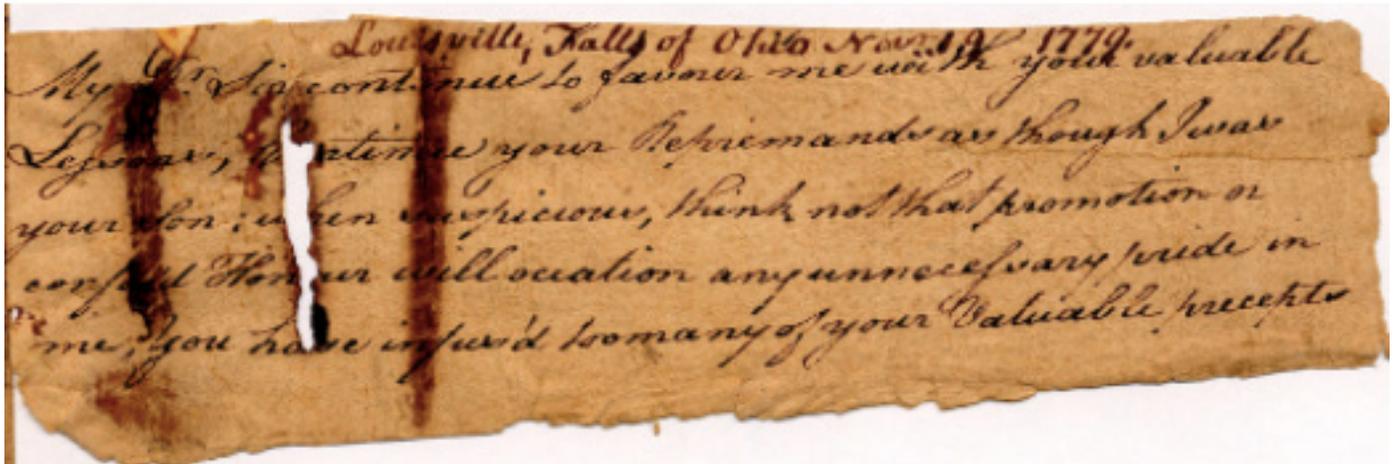
# Letter from George Rogers Clark to Patrick Henry, April 29, 1779 (Transcribed Excerpts)

But what crowned the general joy was the arrival of William Morris my express to you with your letters which gave general satisfaction. The Soldiery being made sensible of the gratitude of their country for their services were so much elated that they would have attempted the reduction of Detroit had I have ordered them. Having more prisoners than I knew what to do with I was necessitated to discharge a greater part of them on parole. Mr. Hamilton his principal officers and a few soldiers I have sent to Kentuckey under convoy of Capt. Williams in order to be conducted to you: After dispatching Morris with letters to you treating with the neighbouring Indians &c. I returned to this place leaving a sufficient garrison at St. Vincenne... We are proud to hear congress intends putting her forces on the frontiers under your direction. A small army from Pittsburgh conducted with spirit may easily take Detroit... There can be no peace expected from many nations while the English are at Detroit... I shall always be on my guard watching every opportunity to take the advantage of the Enemy... Your instructions I shall pay implicit regard to and hope to conduct myself in such a manner as to do honour to my country.

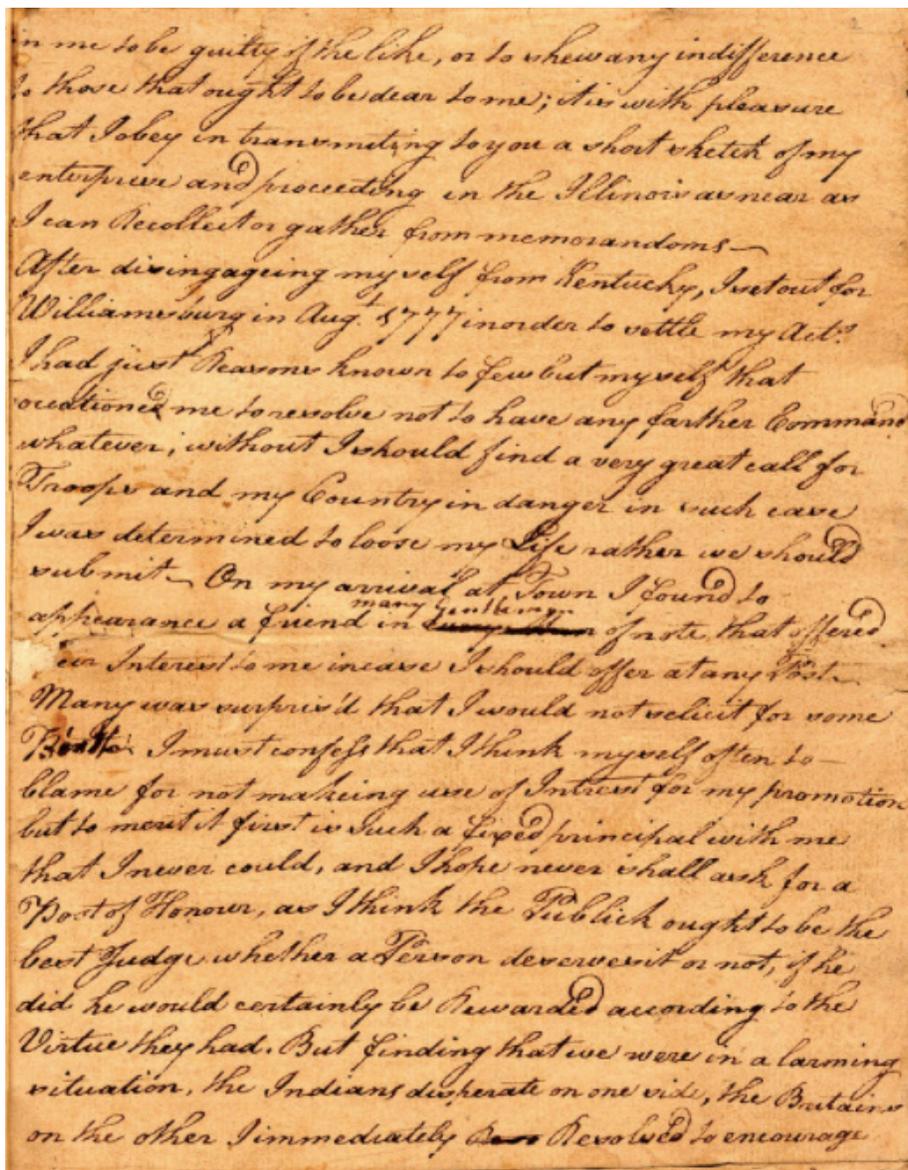
I am with the greatest respect  
your hbl. servant,

G R Clark

# Letter from George Rogers Clark to George Mason, November 19, 1779 (pg.1)



Louisville, Falls of Ohio Nov 19 1779  
My Dear Sir continue to favour me with your valuable  
Letters, & attend to your Requisitions as though I was  
your Son; when suspicious, think not that promotion or  
conflict of Honour will occasion any unnecessary pride in  
me; you have infused too many of your Valuable precepts



in me to be guilty of the like, or to shew any indifference  
to those that ought to be dear to me; it is with pleasure  
that I obey in transmitting to you a short sketch of my  
enterprises and proceedings in the Illinois as near as  
I can recollect or gather from memorandums—  
After disengaging myself from Kentucky, I set out for  
Williamsburg in Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> 1777 in order to settle my Act.  
I had just before known to few but myself that  
occasions me to resolve not to have any farther Command  
whatever, without I should find a very great call for  
Troops and my Country in danger in such case  
I was determin'd to loose my Life rather we should  
submit— On my arrival at Town I found to  
appearance a friend in <sup>many Gentlemen</sup> ~~many~~ of note that offered  
an Interest to me in case I should offer at any Post—  
Many was surpris'd that I would not relucit for some  
Post— I must confess that I think myself often to  
blame for not making use of Interest for my promotion  
but to merit it first in such a Exped principal with me  
that I never could, and I hope never shall ask for a  
Post of Honour, as I think the Publick ought to be the  
best Judge whether a Person deserves it or not, if he  
did he would certainly be Rewarded according to the  
Virtue they had. But finding that we were in a alarming  
situation, the Indians desperate on one side, the Britains  
on the other I immediately ~~was~~ Resolv'd to encourage

# Letter from George Rogers Clark to George Mason, November 19, 1779 (Transcribed Excerpt)

Louisville, Falls of Ohio, Nov. 19, 1779

My Dear Sir:

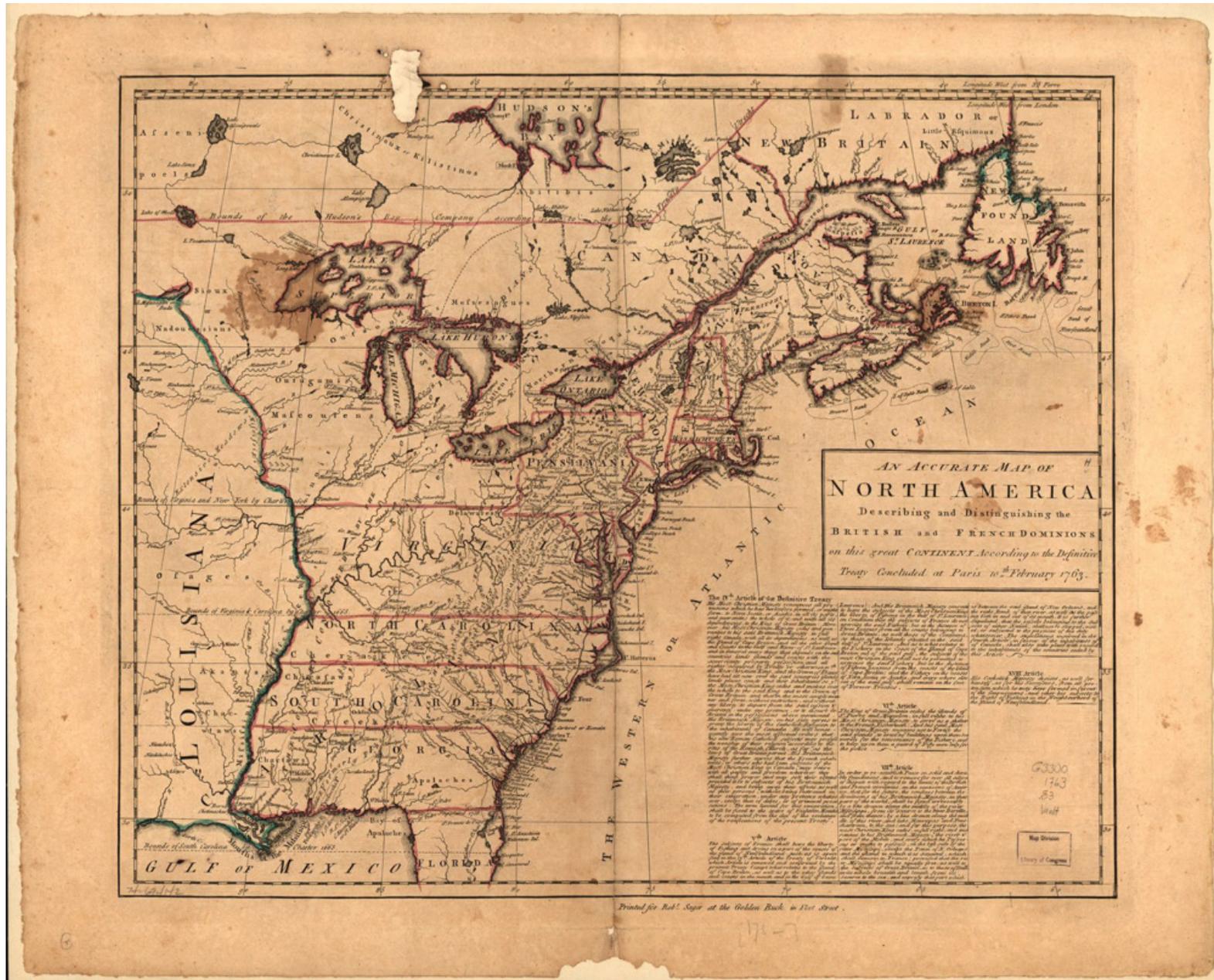
...I was determined to listen to no terms whatever until I was in possession of the fort... A flag appeared from the fort with a proposition from Mr. Hamilton for three days' cessation, (with) a desire of a conference with me immediately; that if I should make any difficulty of coming into the fort, he would meet me at the gate. I, at first, had no notion of listening to anything he had to say, as I could only consider himself and officers as murderers, and intended to treat them as such, but, after some deliberation, I sent Mr. Hamilton my compliments and begged leave to inform him that I should agree to no other terms than his surrendering himself and garrison prisoners at discretion, but if he was desirous of a conference with me I would meet him at the church. We accordingly met. He offered to surrender, but we could not agree upon terms. He received such treatment on this conference as a man of his known barbarity deserved... He asked me what more I could require than the offers he had already made. I told him, which was really the truth, that I wanted a sufficient excuse to put all the Indians and partisans to death, as the greatest part of those villains was then with him. All his propositions were refused. He asked me if nothing would do but fighting, I knew of nothing else. He then begged me to stay until he should return to the garrison and consult his officers. Being indifferent about him, and wanting a few moments for my troops to refresh themselves, I told him that the firing should not commence until such an hour; that during that time he was at liberty to pass with safety.

Some time before, a party of warriors, sent by Mr. Hamilton against Kentucky, (who) had taken two prisoners, was discovered by the Kickebues, who gave information of them... Six of them were made prisoners, two of them scalped, and the rest so wounded, as we afterwards learned, (that) but one lived. I had now as fair opportunity of making an impression on the Indians as I could have wished for – that of convincing them that Governor Hamilton could not give them that protection that he had made them to believe he could; and, in some measure to incense the Indians against him for not exerting himself to save (their) friends, ordered the prisoners to be tomahawked in the face of the garrison. It had the effect that I expected... they upbraided the English parties in not trying to save their friends, and gave them to understand that they believed them to be liars, and no warriors.





# British and French Dominions of North America, 1763



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Sayer, Robert, "An accurate map of North America describing and distinguishing the British and French dominions on this great continent according to the definitive treaty concluded at Paris 10th February 1763," 1763

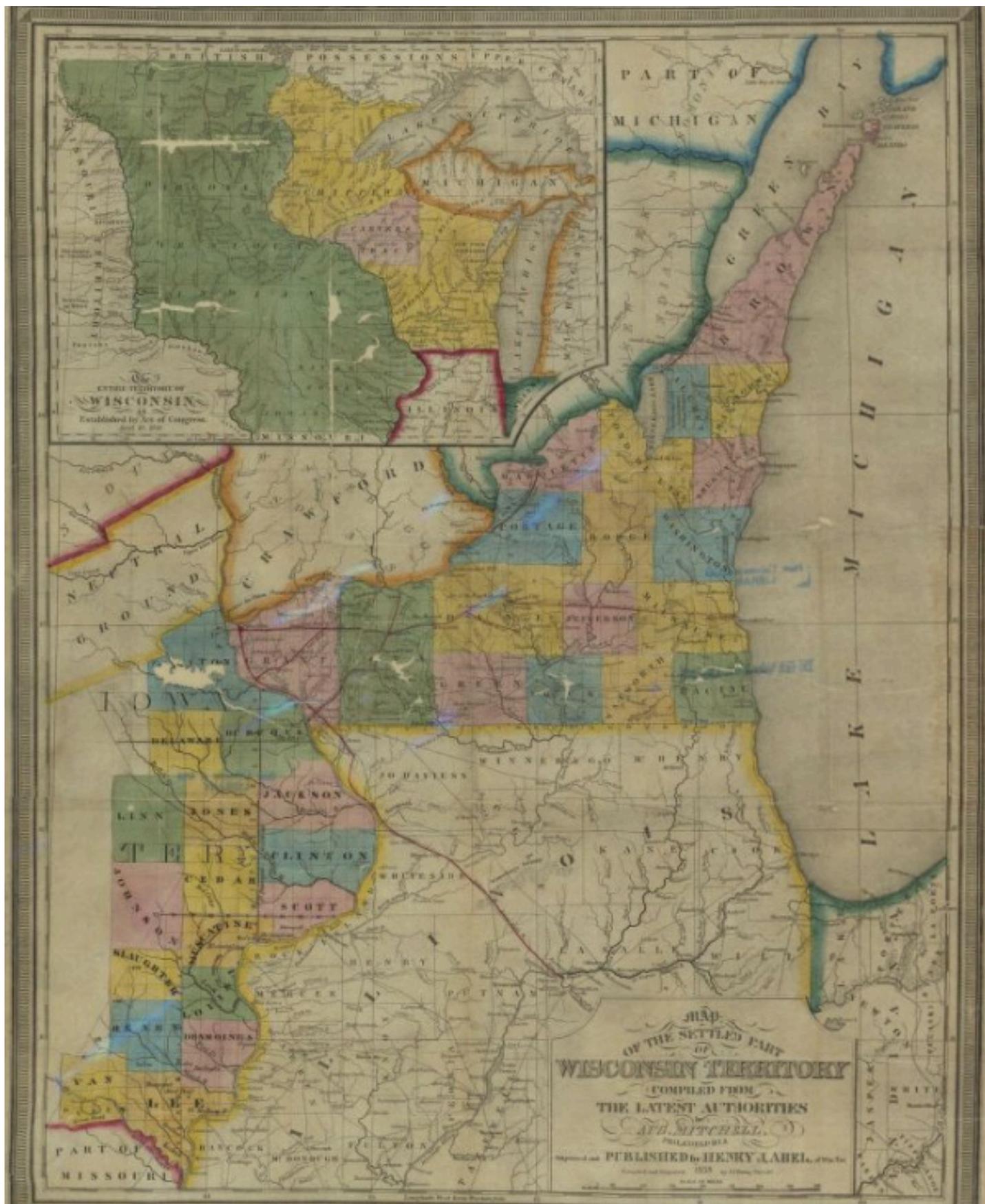


# Louisiana Purchase, 1805



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Lewis, Samuel and Aaron Arrowsmith, "Louisiana," 1805

# Settled Part of Wisconsin Territory, 1838



Courtesy of University of Iowa Libraries and Archives, Young, J. H., "Map of the settled part of Wisconsin Territory," 1838