

Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. xviii]

Moreover, Monseigneur, I must inform you that I have already noticed that the regularity of the service is infinitely better observed at Three Rivers than at Montreal.

I shall congratulate myself, Monseigneur, if all the reasons I truly set forth to you, could procure for Monsieur de Rigaud the post I urgently ask of you for him. That governor reports to you on the two fires at Three Rivers.

I remain with profound respect, Monseigneur. Your very humble and very obedient servant.

DUQUESNE.

QUEBEC, August 21. 1752.

1752: LANGLADE CAPTURES PICKAWILLANY

[Letter from Du Quesne to the French minister, dated Oct. 25, 1752. Source, same as preceding document, but folio 23.]

MONSEIGNEUR—I have the honor to send you the Journal⁶⁷ of the Sieur de Langlade who has won much glory through the blow he struck the Band of la Demoiselle, and who brought me five Englishmen who were in the Miamis' fort. I am sending

⁶⁷ This journal of Langlade is not found with the letter, and appears to have been abstracted from the archives at a comparatively recent date; it is to be hoped that it will sometime be recovered. The document here given seems to be the only French account of this siege of Pickawillany. It is without doubt the authority for Parkman's account in *Montcalm and Wolfe* (Boston, 1887), I, p. 81. The English sources are more numerous. Among these, the chief is *Journal of Captain William Trent*, already alluded to (*ante*, p. 114, note 63). Trent was a trader and interpreter employed by Virginia and the Ohio Company to assist at the treaty of Logstown in June, 1752. Thence he was deputed to carry the goods intended for the Miami, who had not appeared at the conference. Leaving Logstown June 21, the very day of the attack on Pickawillany, he soon heard rumors of this conflict; and when he reached the Scioto, found Thomas Burney and Andrew McBryer, the two traders who had escaped capture. They re-

them to Monsieur de L'abbady, Commissioner at la Rochelle so that he may put them in prison pending your orders: I trust that this blow, added to the complete pillage suffered by the English on this occasion, will discourage them from trading on our lands.

It is so rare, Monseigneur, that a war with savages can bring about a very stable peace that I should not be surprised if, at the instigation of the English, the Miamis were to ask their Allies for help. Nevertheless, I have had no news of it, and I hope that my action in the Belle Rivière country will awe all the Nations.

As the Sieur de Langlade is not in the service and has married a Savage woman, I will content myself with asking you,

lated to Trent that on the morning of June 21, while most of the Miami were absent upon their summer hunt, a party of 240 French and Indians appeared, captured the women at work in the cornfields, and nearly surprised the traders, of whom eight were in the outbuildings around the fort. Three traders were besieged in a house, and acted in so cowardly a manner, surrendering without showing fight, that they revealed the weak condition of the fort. In the afternoon a truce was called, and the French leader proposed to retire if the traders were given up to them. It was finally agreed to yield them up on promise that they should not be harmed—but see on this point Jared Sparks, *Franklin's Works*, iii, p. 230. The besiegers did not keep faith, for although they surrendered the captive women, they killed one wounded trader, and, taking out his heart, ate it. They also killed chief La Demoiselle, and feasted on his remains. The Miami also broke their word by concealing the two traders before mentioned. After a few days Trent and a considerable company went to see what had become of the fort, and found it deserted. They brought back a few furs that had escaped the plunder of the savages, the loss having aggregated £3,000 sterling. A few of the Miami, including the widow and son of La Demoiselle, escaped to the Scioto town, but a large majority returned to the French. The Pennsylvania authorities sent the Miami the following year a present valued at £200 to "cover the dead." For additional details see *Penn. Colon. Recs.*, v, pp. 599, 600; Henry Howe, *History of Ohio* (Columbus, 1889-91), Shelby County; and George Bancroft, *History of the United States* (Boston, 1857), iv, pp. 94, 95. In Draper MSS. 1J1-7 there are transcripts from two contemporaneous newspapers, with additional details.—Ed.

Monseigneur, for a yearly pension of 200 livres wherewith he will be highly pleased. He is acknowledged here to be very brave, to have much influence on the minds of the savages, and to be very zealous when ordered to do anything.⁶⁸ It seems to

⁶⁸ Two published accounts of the life of Charles Langlade are to be found in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, pp. 195-295, being related by his grandson, Augustin Grignon, in 1857, to Lyman C. Draper; the other a sketch by Joseph Tassé, vii, pp. 123-188. In addition, the "Langlade Papers" were published in viii, pp. 209-223. Since that time there have been found further documents bearing on Langlade's career—most of these being incorporated in the present volume. These, together with the Mackinac Register, post, warrants the following new sketch. Charles Michel Langlade was born at Mackinac in May, 1729. If the incident related by Grignon of his accompanying troops at the age of ten be true, the expedition must have been that of Céloron against the Chickasaw, in 1739-40. Herein he would have met numbers of Canadian army officers from Montreal, and French and colonial troops from New Orleans. To this event was probably due his early enrollment in the army. Du Quesne must have been mistaken about Langlade's not being in service, for the Mackinac Register records him as being a cadet in 1750, when twenty-one years of age. The present reference to him is, so far as we have as yet ascertained, the first made in any contemporary official document. No doubt his services on the expedition of 1752 brought him prominently into notice. He was not legally married to an Ottawa woman, but early had a son by an Indian girl, whose descendants, living in Ontario, still carry the name of Langlade; see Ontario Hist. Soc. *Papers*, iii, p. 147. In 1754, at Mackinac, he legally married Charlotte Bourassa. While no doubt he for many years traded at La Baye (Green Bay) and elsewhere, there is ample and convincing evidence that until after September, 1764, his usual residence was at Mackinac. His part in the French and Indian War has been described by Grignon and Tassé. At its outbreak he was made ensign on half-pay, and campaigned against Braddock. The following winter he passed in a small post in Michigan, where (January, 1756) his daughter Charlotte was born. In 1756 he led a reinforcement of Indians to Fort Duquesne, and skirmished toward Fort Cumberland where Washington was in command. During the winter of 1756-57 he does not appear to have returned to Mackinac; at least he was in Montreal in December, and in January defeated a raid of Robert Rogers's famous rangers on Lake Champlain. In May, he was again in Montreal and led the Western Indians

me, Monseigneur, that such a reward would have a very good effect in the country.

I remain with profound respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very obedient servant,

DUQUESNE.

QUEBEC, October 26, 1762.

against Fort William Henry, where no doubt they participated in the massacre. In the autumn of 1757 Langlade was appointed second in command of Fort Mackinac, and appears to have remained there until the spring of 1758, when, with other Western partisan leaders, he served in the Quebec campaign. His share therein is explained by Tassé. His abilities gained him promotion (Feb. 1, 1760) to the rank of Lieutenant on half-pay—his well-preserved commission, signed by King Louis at Versailles, is now the property of the Misses S. G. and D. B. Martin of Green Bay, but is deposited in the Society's library; it is one of the oldest original documents extant in Wisconsin, bearing upon the history of the State (see accompanying facsimile). He also participated in the defense of Montreal in the summer of 1760, and was sent back to Mackinac five days before its surrender. There he was in command after the departure of Beaujeu for Louisiana (see *post*), and finally surrendered the fort (Sept. 28, 1761) to the English under Capt. Henry Balfour of the 80th regiment (Light Armed Foot) and Lieut. William Leslie of the 60th (Royal Americans). During the next year and a half Langlade remained quietly in Mackinac, probably making trading voyages to the interior posts—doubtless La Baye among them. In April, 1763, he had planned to remove with his family to La Baye, and there establish his residence, but had not consummated this project when the conspiracy of Pontiac broke out, the fort at Mackinac being captured by the Indians (June 2, 1763). That he preserved the lives of the officers and part of the garrison, secured the neutrality of the turbulent Ottawa, and finally stayed the outbreak is abundantly proven by contemporary documents published herein. Ethrington, upon his departure for Montreal with the English survivors of the massacre, placed the command of the fort once more in the hands of Langlade, who retained it until September, 1764, when Capt. William Howard of the 17th regiment of foot was sent to re-establish British authority. It appears to have been either in the autumn of 1764 or during 1765 that the Langlades at last made their permanent home at Green Bay. In 1766, Robert Rogers, then commandant at Mackinac, addresses him as "Lieutenant Langlead at La Baye." At the outbreak of the Revolution, Langlade was sent with