

of May last about seven miles below this village as he was returning from his winter quarters. The said Mr. Ducharme having been appointed and acknowledged administrator of the estate of the said deceased Renaud, and being informed, although indirectly, that a considerable sum is owing to you by the said Renaud, and that in consequence you could present a claim against the estate, which in truth, is very little (it consists of two mulatto boys, slaves, about eighteen years of age, and scarcely anything else) he intends making inquiry at the Illinois where Mr. Renaud has made his home for several years.⁶⁰ I believe, from what I have heard, that nothing much may be expected from that quarter. Mr. Ducharme thinks you might write to someone there, if you cannot go yourself, or send a clerk within the next six months the time granted and fixed for settling the said estate and for all claims to be entered.

Mrs. Ducharme, sister of the said deceased Renaud, will inform you by another letter concerning her brother's interest in the estate of their deceased father and mother of Canada, of which she says that he has collected nothing. Meanwhile, you might inquire yourself at Montreal, his birthplace.

I would like to oblige you and therefore offer my services. If you think there is anything I can do for you here, you will find me ready at any time to give you every assurance of the profound regard,

Sir, of your very humble and very obedient Servant

Antoine Gamelin⁶¹

Notary Public and Recorder

⁶⁰ The *Kaskaskia Records* disclose that in 1779 Renaud was a resident of Kaskaskia. August 31 of that year he contributed 500 pounds of flour for the support of the "Troops Belonging to the State of Virginia." In December following he signed a protest addressed to the magistrates against the "brigandage and tyranny" of the same soldiers; and in May, 1782, he signed a memorial on the maintenance of order. A different picture of Renaud's estate than the one presented in this document, is given in a letter of William McIntosh to Askin, June 15, 1801. It describes the two slaves as valuable, and as having been sold, one to Francis Vigo and one to Colonel Hamtramck, much below their value. It states, also, that Renaud died possessed of a considerable quantity of peltries and 400 acres of land.

⁶¹ Antoine Gamelin was long a prominent trader and influential French resident of Vincennes. In the spring of 1790 he was selected by General Harmar to convey a