

Majesty to-day acquires to all the said nations, lands, provinces, peoples, countries, mountains, mines, roadsteads, harbors, ports, and seas, and all that they comprise, of which I take to witness to these presents all the French and Savages and demand such act to be delivered to me by M. Jacques de la Metairie, commissioned to perform the duties of notary on this discovery, to serve according to law."

Immediately the said Sieur de la Salle caused the same to be read to the said Akansas in their language and they consented to it; and after cries of "*Vive le Roy!*" and salute of fire-arms M. de la Salle had the merchandise which was most highly esteemed by these people brought in and laid at the foot of the column, telling them that this was a pledge of the good things they might expect for the faithfulness with which they kept the promises they had just made him; that they should receive them in abundance provided they were as steadfast in the future as they were now zealous. They received all with many thanks. At the end of the ceremony which lasted all night and during the 14th, we saw the Akansas press their hands against this column and then rub their bodies with them to show the joy and confidence they felt to see it erected in their village.

Of which and all of the above the said Sieur de la Salle having required of us an act, we have delivered to him the same signed by us, the aforesaid notary; by M. de Tonty, captain of a brigade; by the Reverend Father Zénobe Membré, Recollect, and by the undersigned witnesses, present at the said taking possession. Made at the said Kapaha village of the Akansas, the 13th and 14th of March 1682. De la Salle; Henry de Tonty; Fr. Zénobe Membré, Recollect missionary; François de Boisrondet; Jean Bourdon, sieur d'Autray; Jacques Cauchois; Gilles Meneret; Jean Dulignon; Pierre You; Jean Michel, surgeon; Jean Mas; Antoine Brassar; Nicolas de La Salle; La Meterie, notary.