

thirty Leagues to Mississippi. The River Illinois empties itself into Mississippi One hundred & fifty Leagues below Ouisconsing. These were the only Routs that the French were acquainted with formerly from Canada to Mississippi. The next that they discovered which is a shorter one was to sail thro' the Lakes to the West end of Lake Erie where it receives the River Miamis thence on that River about 80 Leagues to a portage of about three Leagues. This River has many small Falls & ripling places. The French have a fort near the Portage.<sup>92</sup> Then upon a small shallow River forty Leagues to the River Oubasch & on that River one hundred & Twenty Leagues to where it Joins the River Ohio, thence eighty Leagues down Ohio to Mississippi, thence three hundred & fifty Leagues to the Bay of Mexico. It is but lately they have been fully acquainted with the Shortest & best Rout which is to proceed but a little way upon Lake Erie then to embark upon a small River that comes into the Lake on the south side on which they proceed to a portage of [blank] miles then embark on the River o Beauf which falls into the Ohio this is so much more convenient both for a Passage & for connecting the two extremities

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part of the west fork of the south branch of Chicago River. See map of portage path in 1820, in Thwaites, *Mrs. Kinzie's Waubun* (Chicago, 1901), p. 146.—Ed.

<sup>92</sup> For the location and history of Fort Miami, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 131. The distance from Lake Erie is about as given here, or 180 miles. There were two portages on the headwaters of the Maumee (Miami of the Lakes): One from St. Mary's to Little River, about eight miles in length, varying with the season, and thence for a few miles down Little River to the Wabash proper. The one here described was the portage from just above the forks of the Maumee and St. Joseph to Eel River, which parallels the Wabash for many miles. According to Croghan, this portage was nine miles in dry weather and half as many during freshets; see his "Letters and Journals" in *Early Western Travels*, i, pp. 148-150. This route via the Maumee and Wabash was the chief trade-route of that region during the second quarter of the eighteenth century, after the Fox wars had made the two former-mentioned portage routes unsafe. It has been called the Indian Appian Way.—Ed.