

1756: AFFAIRS IN THE OHIO VALLEY

[Extracts from documents in *N. Y. Colon., Docs.*, x, pp. 406, 407 424, 437, 479.]

NEW ORLEANS, June 1, 1756.

MY LORD—By the last letters of the 16th of March, which I have received from M. de Mackarty, Commandant at the Illinois,⁹⁸ he informs me that he has not received any order from M. de Vaudreuil, and appears ignorant of the different events passing in Canada. He adds, that Captain de Chation, commanding at St. Joseph, a dependency of Canada,⁹⁹ writes that he received a letter from M. de Vaudreuil, recommending him to labor in keeping the Nations quiet in existing circumstances, and that he will soon send him packets for M. de Mackarty, which he will be hardly able to receive before this month. Therefore, My Lord, I cannot give you any news of what is passing in the North and on the Beautiful river. As regards the domiciliated Indian Nations, and others in the neighborhood of Illinois, they appear pretty quiet.

M. de Mackarty in accordance with the letter of M. Dumas, Commandant at Fort Duquesne,¹ copy whereof I annex here—

⁹⁸Major Macarty (Makarty) Mactigue was born in 1706, the son of a captain in the French service. In 1713 he entered the army, and by 1731 was made captain in Louisiana. In 1735 he was promoted to be major of engineers, came to the Illinois as commandant in 1752, and remained until the capitulation of Montreal (1760). During his administration Fort Chartres was rebuilt in stone, Fort Duquesne was provisioned and supplied with detachments of troops, and Fort Massiac (or Massac) was built (1757). Summoned to New Orleans in June, 1760, Macarty was on duty in that city until his death (April 20, 1764).—Ed.

⁹⁹Probably this captain was Roch St. Ours, Sieur Deschailions, son of the officer noted in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 35. The younger Deschailions was second ensign in 1733; ensign in full, 1741; lieutenant in 1744, and captain in 1748. In 1759 he received the cross of St. Louis, and seems to have retired to Paris, where his widow died in 1777. His son, however, remained in Canada, and became prominent in the English administration.—Ed.

¹ Sieur Dumas had served in the French army, and coming to Canada some time before 1750, was in that year appointed captain of a new