

the English desire to attempt something by the river of the Chérokis against a fort that we have in that region.⁶² They have also raised a considerable body of troops in Virginia. However this deposition is the only one that speaks of these things, the others do not say a word of it.

They say that Monsieur de Langlade is on the march with many savages from the region of Michilimakinae, to come, it is said, to our vicinity.

News from Saint-Joseph: Monsieur le Verrier, who commands there, waits with impatience the return of the savages who are out hunting, in order to send them down according to the orders of Monsieur the marquis de Vaudreuil.

[Extract from Pouchot, *Memoir*, i, p. 114.]

On the 17th [of May, 1759], a Sauteur of Saguinan informed us that the commandant, Monsieur Bellestre, was there,

⁶² A fort near the mouth of Tennessee (Cherokee) River was projected in 1756, but failed of accomplishment for lack of funds. In 1757, on the rumored approach of a large body of Cherokee, led by English colonists, Major Macarty, commandant at the Illinois, dispatched Aubry to erect such a fort. He named it Fort de l'Ascension, because the first pickets were placed on the holy day of that name. Next year the fort was rechristened Massiac (Massac) in honor of the minister of the marine. This fort was attacked in the autumn of 1757 by a considerable body of Indians, who after some days were repulsed. The garrison was maintained until 1765, being reduced in 1763 to one officer and fifteen men. The fort was a square, flanked with four bastions at the corners, and protected by pickets and an abattis of tree trunks. It occupied the only elevated site in that region, eleven miles below the mouth of the Tennessee, on the northern side of the Ohio. English engineers recommended the reoccupation of this site, but this was never done, and George Rogers Clark here started (1778) overland for his conquest of the Illinois. In 1794 the United States built a fort upon the site, to repel filibustering expeditions against Spanish Louisiana. This last post was garrisoned until after the War of 1812-15, and some vestiges of the earthworks thereof are still to be seen.—ED.