

there were forty of their cabins in the river coming to ask him for a piece of ground, as theirs was not good. M. de MacCarty sent some provisions to those Indians whom he placed near Fort Massiac;<sup>74</sup> they were more useful and less dangerous there, than when collected together at Sonyote [Scioto].

They have taken, at different times, four prisoners, ten scalps, but being menaced by a strong party of the enemy, they have abandoned Fort Massiac in the beginning of October, and retired towards the Illinois.

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The English being vigilant, profit by our scarcity of goods. They have invited the Illinois Nations to go to trade at The Rock [Le Rocher].<sup>75</sup>

M. de MacCarty having no traders, fears that those Nations, notwithstanding their good disposition, will repair to the English and introduce messages into all their villages.

M. de MacCarty writes me on the 12th of April last, that the English having had wagon loads of tar and tow conveyed to Pittsburgh, where they were building bateaux, he has caused Fort Massiac to be terraced, fraized and fortified, piece upon piece, with a good ditch.

That the fort he has built at Kaskakiés is up to the parapet,<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> This was probably the origin of the term Shawneetown, for the site of the Illinois village of that name. It was known that Shawnee once resided here, but the date and circumstances of the settlement have not before been known.—Ed.

<sup>75</sup> The enterprise of the English traders is here to be noted, that even before the capitulation of Montreal they had made plans to penetrate so far into the enemy's territory as Illinois River.—Ed.

<sup>76</sup> The fort at Kaskaskia was built before 1734; see plan in Villiers du Terrage, *Les Dernières Années*, p. 217. This work was evidently rebuilding and strengthening the post, which was situated upon a commanding rock on the eastern bank of Kaskaskia River, opposite the town. It was, however, burned in October, 1766, and the British thereafter fortified and occupied the Jesuits' house in the village, which was the stronghold captured by Clark in 1778. See map of Kaskaskia settlements, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 428, for location of old French fort.—Ed.