

1760: MACKINAC EVACUATED

[Extract from a letter from D'Abbadie,⁸³ dated Aug. 9, 1764. Translated from Marc de Villiers du Terrage, *Les Dernières Années de la Louisiane Française* (Paris, 1904), p. 191.]

Monsieur de Beaujeu, captain of Canada, formerly in garrison at Michilimackinac evacuated that post in the month of October, 1760, after the taking of Montreal,⁸⁴ in order to retire to the Illinois, with 4 officers, 2 cadets, 48 soldiers and 78 militia. The ice stopped his passage, and he was forced to winter at Rock river, with the Sakkis and Renards savages.⁸⁵ This officer and his troops suffered a great deal during the six months that it took to reach the Illinois. I ask to-day for your orders for the expense that the evacuation of that detachment has caused, amounting to 65,387 livres 10 sol according to the state-

⁸³ Sieur d'Abbadie was born in southern France in 1726, finished his studies in 1742, and in the same year became clerk in the department of the marine. In 1745 he made a voyage to the Antilles and was captured by the English, being carried prisoner to England. Released the following year, he returned to Rochefort, where he was promoted through various ranks, until in 1761 named commissioner and ordinator-general of Louisiana. On his way to New Orleans he was again captured by the English, this time being kept for three months in the Barbadoes, returning to Paris in August, 1762. The next year he was appointed director-general of Louisiana, and superseding Kerlérec acted as governor during the interim between the treaty of Paris, and the transfer of Louisiana to the Spanish. D'Abbadie died at New Orleans, much regretted, in 1765.—Ed.

⁸⁴ Beaujeu must have left Mackinac soon after the arrival of Langlade, who brought news of the capitulation of Montreal.—Ed.

⁸⁵ Probably at the Sauk village not far above the mouth of Rock River, later known as Black Hawk's town. This tribal settlement was formed after the affair of 1733, when Coulon de Villiers was slain in the Sauk village near Green Bay—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, pp. 188-191; also *Proceedings*, 1907, p. 177. Marin was stationed here from 1738-41. Here Black Hawk was born in 1767, and his forceable removal therefrom was one of the inciting causes of the Black Hawk War (1832).—Ed.