

courage my Father, do not abandon thy children, the English will never come here while there is one red man left."

It seems to me necessary to evacuate this post, this is the sole means to stop the attacks upon the English. I should have done it in the first days of march of last year, which is the best and most seasonable time, since the river is then most navigable from the height of the waters.⁵⁶

1764: NEWS FROM WISCONSIN

[Extracts from Hough, *Diary of Siege of Detroit*, pp. 88, 99, 100.]

Feb. 23. This day two Saky's [Sauk] came in and informed the Commandant that the Chibbaways of the Isles about Michilimakinac had sent Belts this Winter to their Nation, to the Folavin & Puante, to strike against us this Spring, but they wou'd not receive them. That Wassong & Mashoquise⁵⁷ had tried to prevent that Party from coming from towards St. Joseph that was here some Time ago, but they wou'd not be advis'd, they said they had lost a Man last year & they wou'd have Revenge. That if they had known it sooner they wou'd have

⁵⁶D'Abbadie, upon the receipt of this letter, wrote in his diary under date of Feb. 14, 1764: "A boat from the Illinois has just arrived. The news that Monsieur de Neyon sends me is disturbing. The savages visit him often in detachments of 20 and 30, and he must give them something or run the risk of their threats. The savages have raised the siege of Detroit, but this augurs nothing better for the English."—Villiers du Terrage, *Les Dernières Années*, p. 178.

⁵⁷Wasson (Wassong, Owasso) was the chief of the Saginaw band of Chippewa, and had come to the aid of Pontiac in the siege of Detroit. In 1764 he sued for peace, and retired to Saginaw. In 1775 he went as far as Fort Pitt to treat with the American commissioners. The chiefs of the Saginaw band continued to bear this title (modified to Owasso) until the removal (1833) of the last chieftain of that name from his village near the Michigan town named for him.

Mashoquise headed the Potawatomi village at St. Josephs.—Ed.