

1765: FRENCH LEASE OF LA BAYE

[Letter from the French minister to Madame de Rigaud. MS. in Archives Coloniales, Paris; pressmark, "Amérique, série B., vol. 122, folio 196."]

VERSAILLES, June 19 1765

*To Madame de Rigaud*

I have the honor to send you, Madame, as requested by you, a collated copy of the concession of the post of la Baye in Canada, granted you in 1759 for your life and for that of Monsieur de Rigaud, by the governor and intendant of that colony in consequence of orders to that effect received by them from the King.

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[Extract from a letter from Sir William Johnson to the Lords of Trade, dated Johnson Hall, March 22, 1766. Reprinted from *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, vii, pp. 817, 818.]

I have been applyed to by the Merchants of Canada concerning a purchase lately made by M<sup>r</sup> Wm. Grant from Mons<sup>r</sup> Rigaud and Madame de Vaudreuille of the Fort at *La Baye de Puans in Lake Michigan* with an extensive territory over which he is to have exclusive right of trade with liberty to erect houses and make establishments thereon, to the infinite loss and detriment of the trading people and likewise to the General dissatisfaction of the Indians who cannot fail to be greatly alarmed at such an Establishment beyond our Provincial Limits.

This grant to M<sup>r</sup> Rigaud & his Lady was from the Marquis de Vaudreuille in October 1759, and confirmed by the King of France in Jan<sup>y</sup> 1760, at a very critical period when *Quebec* was ours and *Montreal* only wanting to complete the conquest of Canada, and therefore evidently intended as a perquisite well knowing some of our unwary people might be drawn in to give a valuable consideration for it, as it would be highly impolitic for them to make such a grant or permit such Settlements if they continued Masters of [the] Country since it