

a French Officer¹⁶ who was trading last winter at Sandusky on Lake Erie without leave had distributed two belts with two kegs of rum amongst the Hurons, desiring them to retain their courage for that they would soon see their old French Father when they would have occasion for it. These things are so common that the best disposed Indians become poisoned with their principles, and all this arises from the want of proper regulations for Trade & the pernicious practice of permitting the worst sort of men to go where they please into the Indian Country.

[Extract from a letter from George Butricke,¹⁷ dated Fort Chartres, June 27, 1769. Reprinted from *Historical Magazine* (New York, 1864), viii, p. 264.]

We have been all this Spring, under the greatest apprehension of an Indian Warr, we had it from all quarters that several nations had entered into a League to strike the English in the Illinois Country, this Spring, Col. Wilkins¹⁸ on this informa-

¹⁶ Probably Louis Jarret, Sieur de Verchères, who was second ensign in the Canadian troops (1756), being promoted to be first ensign the following year. After the British conquest, he elected to remain in Canada. His widow died in Quebec in 1792.—Ed.

¹⁷ George Butricke, apparently of English birth, was quartermaster of the 46th infantry (1764), being stationed at Niagara. In 1767 he was transferred to the 18th (or Royal Irish) regiment, and the following year accompanied his troops to Fort Chartres, where he was in garrison until 1771, serving at that place not only as quartermaster but adjutant and barrack-master. He retained his position in the regiment until 1778. His letters from the Illinois are interesting as side-lights on certain conditions during the command of Col. John Wilkins.—Ed.

¹⁸ Col. John Wilkins, an English officer who entered the army in 1755 as captain of the 55th infantry. In 1762 he was serving as major, unattached to a specific regiment, and was in command at Niagara during the troubled years of 1763-64. Attempting to relieve the siege of Detroit he was driven back, first by a hostile attack, then by a severe storm. In 1764 he became major of the 60th (or Royal Americans), and the next year was promoted to be lieutenant-colonel