

tion very prudently filled all the stores with provisions and sent an Officer with the arm'd Boat to get in a quantity of Wood which was happily effected in a very short time and now we have 280 cords piled up under the Walls of the Fort and we can now bid defiance to all the Indians in America,—the 16th April a party of the Kickapoes broke into a house in this Village; surprised a soldier and his Wife in Bed, scalp'd both and got off without the least hurt; and the 14th May another party of Sax and Reynards attacked some of the Indians that live near this fort killed six, and Carried off their scalps, these strokes alarmed us much, obliged us to keep constantly in the Fort, & watch Night and day, Its now said the stroke intended against us will be in the harvest time, But I am of an Opinion it will blow over for this time or we should have had more of it before now.

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[Extract from a letter from Sir William Johnson to the colonial secretary, dated Aug. 26, 1769. Reprinted from *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, viii, pp. 184, 185.]

And tho the effects of all this [disturbances in western Pennsylvania and Virginia] have not been sensibly felt for some time, they at length begin to make their appearance particularly about the Illinois, Ohio &c of which your Lordship will doubtless receive Information from the Commander in Cheif, the Indians having killed several people, attacked & plundered several Traders boats, & in short blocked up the com-

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of the 18th (or Royal Irish), stationed for a time in Philadelphia. In 1768 Wilkins received orders to set out with seven companies to garrison Fort Chartres, being appointed commandant for the Illinois. Proceeding via Pittsburgh, the troops arrived at Kaskaskia, Sept. 5. Wilkins's administration was unpopular in Illinois; he seems to have been overbearing, and to have alienated both the French and English residents of the region. In September, 1771, charges were preferred against him and he was relieved of office, but did not leave Illinois until the following spring. Thence he made his way to Pensacola and England. He left the army at the close of 1775.—Ed.