

[Extract from a letter from Ensign George Butricke, dated Fort Chartres, Dec. 29, 1769. Reprinted from *Historical Magazine*, viii, p. 265.]

We are now in a melancholy situation we have not had the Least Accounts from any Quarter since the first of June, 'Tis thought the Indians have Cut of the Expresses from fort Pitt on the River Ohio, and we have Acc<sup>s</sup> by frenchmen from New Orleans that since the Spaniards have returned to that place they have forbid all English or french from Landing there, If this be true all our Communications are shutt up, the Indians are all out hunting now, But its said we shall certainly have an Indian Warr in the Spring.

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#### 1769: INDIANS AND SETTLEMENTS OF SPANISH ILLINOIS

[Report of Francisco Rui,<sup>19</sup> commandant of the Illinois, dated March 9, 1769. MS. in General Archives of the Indies, Seville; pressmark, "Papeles procedientes de la Isla de Cuba."]

*Indian tribes:* Report of the various tribes, who, according to my knowledge, are accustomed to receive presents in this district of Ylinneses. To wit:

1. Kaskaskias
2. Kaokias

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<sup>19</sup> Capt. Francisco Rui (Rios) y Morales came to New Orleans in 1767, with Ulloa and the Spanish troops. He was soon sent to the Illinois, not to succeed Louis St. Ange in command at St. Louis, but to erect two forts at the mouth of the Missouri to defend the Spanish possessions, and keep control of the fur-trade on that river. He began to build one fort, but owing to difficulties with his subordinates it was decided to replace him by Piernas, who arrived at Ste. Geneviève Dec. 18, 1768, and at the new fort March 10. Rui thereupon went down the river to New Orleans, where he found the city in the hands of the revolutionists. The report here enclosed is that made to Piernas upon the delivery of the fort, concerning the tribes within his jurisdiction.—Ed.