

1779: EXPEDITION AGAINST ILLINOIS

[Instructions from De Peyster to Langlade, dated July 1, 1779. Original MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library.]

Instructions for Mr Langlade

SIR—You are required, for the good of His Majesty's service, to start from Here and do your best to levy the people of la fourche,² Milwaukee,³ the puants and others along the shore of lake Michigan and with them hasten to join Mr. Bennett⁴ at Chicagou; and, if Mr. Bennett has passed on, to follow him by rapid marches so as to catch up to him before he arrives at the

² La Fourche was l'Arbre Croche village, where the Ottawa band of the chief La Fourche was situated. For the site of this Indian town see *ante*, p. 253, note 47. The chief La Fourche was Langlade's uncle; he was an important chieftain as early as 1742. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 372, and De Peyster's chronicle, *post.*—Ed.

³ The early history of Milwaukee is yet to be written. The first mention of the name seems to be that of Father Zenobie Membre, who speaks (1680) of a Mascoutin and Fox village on this site. The village here seems always to have been of a mixed character, but in later times was chiefly Potawatomi. Refugee Foxes and Sauks were here in 1741; and French traders were then among them. English traders found their way thither by 1764; thereafter there was almost continuous occupation until the coming of Americans. During the period of the Revolution, the Milwaukee village was in alliance with the American officials of the Illinois, and aided in raids of 1779-81.—Ed.

⁴ Lieut. Thomas Bennett was second in command at Mackinac, under De Peyster. His commission in the 8th regiment dated from 1770, and in 1778 he was made adjutant. Promoted to a captaincy in 1783, he retired from the regiment in 1791. The year previous to the date of this document, Bennett had been detailed to take a force to Grand Portage, on the northwest shore of Lake Superior, to protect the British merchants there, and incidentally to secure their loyalty, which was in some cases considered doubtful. For his own report of this expedition to the Illinois, which Langlade was ordered to support, see *post.*, pp. 398-401.