

1779: SOUTHWESTERN EXPEDITION

[Letter from De Peyster to General Haldimand. Reprinted from *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, ix, p. 390.]

MICHILIMACKINAC, 9th July, 1779.

SIR—On the 29th June I acquainted Your Excellency that I was sending off a party towards the Pee Since which I received from St. Josephs (which they had from the Illinois so late as the 28th of May), that the Rebels were in great forwardness to march with 700 men to the Wabash against Detroit, and that one Linctot is to march 400 horse by St. Josephs.

In consequence of this intelligence I have detached Lieutenant Bennet who went off the next day with twenty soldiers, about 60 Traders and Canoe Indians to endeavour to intercept Linctot, or attempt anything in that Quarter which may be conducive to distress the Rebels. The numbers of Indians will daily increase. Allowing the whole of this report to be false the Movement will still answer a good purpose as it will secure the wavering Indians particularly the Pottawatamies, keep up the spirit of the inhabitants of Detroit Settlement and greatly deter the Rebels from any attempt that way seeing they are much disturbed in thinking that the Indians would remain neuter & let them pass. I have purchased the *Welcome* & let her stay with provisions and some goods to enable Mr. Bennet to speak to the Pottawatimies, Mascoutins, Quicapoues, and Miamis.

I have the honor to be

A. S. DE PEYSTER.

[Letter from De Peyster to Haldimand. Source, same as preceding document, but p. 391.]

MICHILIMACKINAC 21st July 1779.

SIR—The Bearer of this Letter St. Paul, goes down to Montreal to fetch up Canoes and provisions to enable him to send down his pack, such is the necessity of quitting the place to the great prejudice of His Majesty's Service. I wrote to Detroit