

## Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. xviii]

this spring I would go and join him and I could thus Take my Things and minor Necessaries.<sup>2</sup> I therefore Beg you, reverend father, to be good enough to speak to him about It and you will be doing a good action, as is your custom.

I remain with respect, Reverend father

[BOURASSA LANGLADE]

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### 1780: BRITISH EXPEDITION AGAINST ST. LOUIS

[Letter from Pierre Prevost<sup>3</sup> to George Rogers Clark, dated February 20, 1780. Translated from original MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library, Draper MSS., 50J14.]

MONSIEUR—It is fitting that I should acquaint you with what is happening here against the United States of America.

Two collars and two Bostonnise<sup>4</sup> scalps have been brought to the Sacs and Renards by the poux [Potawatomi] of detroit who say to these people that if they do not attack you war will be declared upon them By all the other nations and The troops of the King. But as they are not yet assembled together they have decided nothing as yet and have put off their response until they meet at the River des mouins where they are invited by a

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<sup>2</sup> See Madame Langlade's application to Haldimand, *Ibid*, p. 150. The signature should be "Bourassa Langlade"—the manner in which Madame Langlade signs in the Mackinac Register, *post*.—Ed.

<sup>3</sup> Pierre Prevost was an inhabitant of Kaskaskia, engaged in the Indian trade on the upper Mississippi. As his letter proves, he was an educated Frenchman, and favorable to the American cause. In 1781 he was chosen to bear the petition of the French habitants of the Illinois to Virginia. Whether he accomplished his mission or not is unknown. He was registered as head of a family in Kaskaskia in 1783; and was in 1784 in Cahokia, where he appears to have been associated with Gabriel Cerré; see *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, ii, index.—Ed.

<sup>4</sup> The Americans were known as "Bostonais" or "Bastonnais" by the French habitants and Indians of the North and Northwest.—Ed.