

certain Calvé,⁵ a Trader and an employee in the Service of the King for the tribesmen. This man has also brought a Collar from Michilimakinac which he has not yet spoken upon, consequently one does not know what he intends to say. However as Until the present he has always Been Opposed to You there is every reason to believe that he still designs plotting in the same way especially since it is true that since the Savages have Seen this man they have made threats of Plundering us of our goods.

Whatever you may think, this Sort of an employee for the King to Speak to the tribesmen is a bird of bad omen. I have nothing more to say on this matter.

I have the honor to be with respect, Monsieur, your very humble and very obedient servant

PREVOST

RIVER AUX HAHAS,⁶ Feb. 20, 1780.

I have just learned at the present moment that the people from michilimakinac who are at the River des moins tell the

⁵ Joseph Calvé was a trader among the Sauk and Foxes, probably several years previous to 1776. Having acquired considerable influence, his services were sought by the British government, but this overture was at first declined because it would interfere with his commercial interests. He was, however, finally won over by the English, and organized one division of the attack upon St. Louis in May, 1780. He was accused by Sinclair of treachery, but succeeded in justifying his conduct and was reinstated in government employ, being sent in 1783 to notify the tribesmen of the Anglo-American treaty of peace. He was in Mackinac in 1784, on his way to Montreal. The Joseph Calvé of St. Louis appears to have been a nephew of the Wisconsin trader. See Billon, *Annals of St. Louis*, p. 199.—Ed.

⁶ River Oahahah (Auhahah) was the Indian designation for Salt River, in Pike County, Missouri—see Arrowsmith's map of the United States, 1796; also *Pike's Expeditions*, i, p. 7. It is also suggested that the present Fabius River was named from *fabas* (Old Spanish, for bean or *habas*), so that either of these streams may be the one here designated. The writer of this letter had evidently started on a trading voyage to the upper Mississippi—probably to the Sauk and Foxes—and alarmed by the news of British activity in that region had stopped to send word to Clark.—Ed.