

chandise at Miamis and St. Joseph. Although they were in possession of them for a moment, they were finally defeated at both Places and took none of their Plunder away with them.²³

You and the other Traders of your District cannot be too far from South Chicago. He then returned to Mackinac, whence (as it appears by this document) he set out for Green Bay and the West. In the same year, he witnessed the deed for the British purchase of Mackinac Island, and was concerned in many Mackinac affairs until as late as 1794. See Mackinac Register, *post*.—Ed.

²³ This refers to the expedition of Col. Augustin Mottin de la Balme, a French officer who appeared in the West in the summer of 1780, and aroused the French habitants, leading them on an expedition against Detroit. Under what authority De la Balme acted, is not clear; see Alvord's interpretation in *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, ii, pp. lxxxix-xciv. He collected a considerable force at Vincennes and Kaskaskia, took possession of Ouiatanon, and marched upon Miami (near the site of Fort Wayne), hoping to capture Charles Beaubien, the British agent at that place. In this, De la Balme was disappointed; but he captured the post, plundered it of goods, and made a retreat. Why he did not march upon Detroit is not known; possibly the Indians in that location were too threatening—see *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, x, pp. 448, 449; xix, p. 581. Meanwhile, induced by presents from the British agents, the Indians assembled for pursuit. They overtook the expedition near Aboite Creek, surprised the camp in the night, and completely routed the entire force. The leader was killed, and his chief aide-de-camp made prisoner. An account by Legras of Vincennes is found in the Wisconsin Historical Library, Draper MSS., 50J75. The expedition against St. Josephs was also commissioned by De la Balme, and went out from Cahokia, under the leadership of Jean Baptiste Hamelin and Thomas Brady. In the preceding summer, Louis Chevalier and all the French habitants of St. Josephs had been removed from that post as suspects. Meanwhile De Peyster had sent thither Lieutenant De Quindre to protect the place. St. Josephs was surprised by the Cahokian force, and the traders captured and plundered. But Campion, and De Quindre pursued the Cahokians as they retreated, and gave them battle (Dec. 5, 1780), not far from South Chicago. Hamelin and all his men save three were killed and taken prisoners, and most of the plunder was recovered. See *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, x, pp. 450-452; xix, pp. 591, 592.—Ed.