

King applauded the courage and prudent conduct of the captain of militia, Don Eugenio Pirre, commandant of the detachment which formed the attack; of the sub-lieutenant of the same, Don Carlos Tayon;⁴¹ and of the interpreter, Don Luis Chavalier, em-

April, 1908. That the Spanish made use of this incident to claim title to territory east of the Mississippi, and north of the Ohio, would seem evident from the correspondence of Jay, in Sparks, *op. cit.*, pp. 150-153. But that the expedition was planned at Madrid, as suggested by E. G. Mason, *Chapters from Illinois History* (Chicago, 1901), pp. 293-311, seems improbable. The facts appear to be that the Illinois habitants at Cahokia and St. Louis, hearing of the condition of St. Josephs, and of the defection of the Potawatomi Indians, planned the expedition partly for revenge, partly for plunder; while the lately-arrived Spanish governor, Francisco Cruzat, saw in this project a chance to emulate the success of his superior, Galvez, at New Orleans, in capturing British posts. Cruzat was planning some kind of retaliatory act upon the British, as appears by his letter of Dec. 19, *ante*, p. 414. He sent a detail of his militia upon the expedition, and upon the successful termination of the raid claimed credit therefor for his country and his officers. Having come to the notice of the Spanish authorities, this incident was utilized by them in the subsequent peace negotiations. That the expedition was a mere raid, is evidenced by the fact that no attempt was made to hold the post, for the victors remained there but one day. It is interesting to note that the Milwaukee Potawatomi joined in this foray.—Ed.

⁴¹ Eugène Pourée *dit* Beausoleil came to St. Louis soon after its establishment, his name first appearing on a document in 1767. He was a prominent merchant, and exported goods from New Orleans; see "The case of Pourée against Chouteau," in *Missouri Hist. Colls.*, ii, No. 6, pp. 68-81. He was a captain of militia under Cruzat, and died in 1783, leaving no children. He is said to have been the hero of an exploit with Mississippi River pirates. His name is mentioned in connection with this expedition in *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xix, p. 600, where it is curiously misprinted Bean Solid (Beau Soliel).

Charles Tayon (Taillon) was the son of Joseph Michel *dit* Taillon, who came from Canada to Illinois, and was at Fort Chartres in 1748. In 1764 he removed to St. Louis, his son Charles being at that time five years of age. The latter married in 1780 Cécile Deschamps. The younger Tayon was prominent in the affairs of Spanish Illinois, and at one time served as commandant for St. Charles. When Lewis and Clark went up the Missouri in 1804, they dined with this officer at St. Charles.—Ed.