

1800: SPANIARDS FEAR AN ATTACK BY LANGLADE

[Letter from Marquis de Casa Calvo⁸⁷ to Count d'Urquijo, dated New Orleans, Oct. 19, 1800. MS. in Archives of the Indies, Seville; press-mark, "Papeles procedientes de la Isla de Cuba."]

YOUR EXCELLENCY—After having informed Your Excellency of occurrences to the 8th of the current month, yesterday I received a letter from the Lieutenant-Governor of the settlements of Ylinoa, Don Carlos Dehault Delassus, Lieutenant-Colonel by brevet in the regular regiment of Luisiana.⁸⁸ He informs

⁸⁷ Sebastian de Calvo de la Puerta y O'Farril, Marquis de Casa Calvo, was a Spaniard of a noble house, connected with O'Reilly, the first Spanish governor of Louisiana. With that official he came (1769) to New Orleans at the age of eighteen, as cadet. In 1793 he was in command in San Domingo, when that country was threatened by an insurrection. Upon the death of Gayoso de Lemos in 1799, Casa Calvo was sent from Cuba to act as military governor of Louisiana. In that capacity he ruled the province for eighteen months, to be in turn superseded by Salcedo. In 1803 Casa Calvo was made commissioner of the Spanish government to deliver the province to the French prefect. Arriving in New Orleans on March 7, it was not until Nov. 30 that arrangements were completed and the ceremony of Spanish abdication performed. Casa Calvo did not immediately leave New Orleans, even after the cession to the United States, but remained as commissioner of boundaries, taking a journey (1805) into Texas, and safe-guarding Spanish interests in West Florida. In February, 1806, the American Governor Claiborne sent him his passports, with a courteous request to leave New Orleans, whereupon Casa Calvo retired to Pensacola.—Ed.

⁸⁸ Carlos de Hault Delassus, son of Pierre Delassus de Luzière, was born near Lille in 1764. At the age of eighteen he entered the Spanish service and was promoted to a lieutenant-colonelcy for bravery in a battle of 1793. Member of the royal body-guard at Madrid, he had fine prospects of promotion, which he relinquished to come to America, whither his father's family, driven from France by the Revolution, had preceded him. In 1796 Carondelet appointed Delassus governor of New Madrid, whence three years later he was promoted to the governorship of Upper Louisiana, with headquarters at St. Louis. In 1802 he was made colonel in the Spanish army, and in February, 1804, surrendered the province to Capt. Amos Stoddard, representative of both France and the United States. Delassus remained at St. Louis until the