

Monsieur de St. Clin to send the Sieur de Portneuf²⁷ to their village to be a witness of the death of the innocent and of the guilty. Nothing can be added to the submission of those petits Ossages; their rectitude surpasses everything that can be expected of a savage nation.

The Grands Ossages, who are as haughty as the petits Ossages are submissive, have met with an unexpected check. The Panis Noirs and Picques²⁸ against whom they are continually at war and one of whose villages they entirely completed the destruction begun by measles and smallpox, begged the assistance of the Laytannes, a nation in the neighborhood of the Spaniards.²⁹ That nation, moved by their condition, joined them and both together came to a village of the grands Ossages at a time when a portion of their people were at the

²⁷ Apparently the second in command at the post. This appears to be Pierre Robineau, Sieur de Portneuf, noted in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 135. He was second ensign in 1733, full ensign 1741, lieutenant 1748, and captain 1757. Having gone to Louisiana in the campaign of 1739-40, he seems to have remained in that colony. In 1753 he led a detachment from the Illinois to reinforce Marin, but was turned back at the Scioto by the hostility of the Shawnee. After the close of the war, he appears to have made his home at New Orleans.—Ed.

²⁸ The Pawnee (Pani) Indians were a large tribe located chiefly west of the Missouri, in the present state of Nebraska. They were of Caddoan origin, and at enmity both with the Siouan tribes and the Illinois. The two portions of the tribe here mentioned were known to the Americans as Grand Pawnee and Pawnee Picts. The latter were occasionally designated White Pawnee, hence the antithesis—Pawnee Noirs (black). The Pawnee Picts are commonly known as Wichita. Their habitat in the nineteenth century was a considerable distance southwest of that of the Grand Pawnee, or Pawnee proper.—Ed.

²⁹ The Ietans (Laytannes), more commonly known as Comanche, a wandering tribe that inhabited the foothills of the Rockies and the plains to the east. They were in contact, frequently in conflict, with the Spanish of New Mexico. They also were usually in hostile relations to the Pawnee. Of Shoshoni stock, they nevertheless were allied with the Arapaho, Kiowa, and Cheyenne. For a good description see "Gregg's Commerce of the Prairies," in *Early Western Travels*, xx, pp. 341-352.—Ed.