JOHN JENNINGS' JOURNAL AT FORT CHARTRES,
AND TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS, 1768.

[Original in the manuscript Department of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

Fort Chartres, May 5th, 1768.

This afternoon Mr. Rich'd Winston of this Village, received a Letter from one Monsr Longvall at Cahou, acquainting him that several Tribes of Indians, consisting of Loties or Chippewa's, Otawas, Pontewatimies & Cecapous, had been at Paincourt. The Pontewatimies informed Monsr St Ange, the French Commandant, that they were going to War against the Chickesaws, but he perceiving that was not their design, for that they intended to attack the English at this place, endeavoured to dissuade them from their expedition. A Party of the Pioria Nation of Indians, who are friends to the English, being out a Hunting, met with Sixty of the Pontewatimies who told him they were going to attack the English. They immediately gave intelligence to the above Monsr Longvall, who could speak their language.

In consequence of these advices the Commanding officer gave the command of the Village to Cap't James Campbell, late of the 34th Regiment; he appointed me first Lieu't, Mr. Rich'd Winston second Lieu't. & Mr. Wills Escott Ensign.

Immediately the inhabitants were muster'd together, alarm & regulations fixed for the Night. Centinels were placed at the Avenus of the Village & it being my duty to go out with the first Command, I patroled round the Village at different times till Sun Rise. On the preceding evening about eight O'clock, a soldier named Stuart, with his wife were both taken prisoners, by a party of the afore-mentioned Potewatimies, out of the Village, a small distance from where I lived, as soon as it was discovered, a party of the Mitchigamie Indians, who are our friends, & twenty Soldiers
went in pursuit of them, but to no purpose, as they had lost their tracts.

**Friday ye 6th.**

At two O'Clock this afternoon, a party of ten Indians belonging to the Nation, that took the prisoners came here, as they said from War against the Cherrokee's. Capt. Forbes having received Intelligence of their approach, sent an Officer & twenty Soldiers into the Village; the Indians had just arrived, & asked for Commissary Cole, where they intended to stay the whole Night. He sent them to the Indian House near the fort, with some provisions, but being alarmed at seeing the Troops & inhabitants under arms, they seemed uneasy. Capt. Forbes intending to keep two of them prisoners, sent for them to come into the Fort to have a conference, but being suspicious jumped out of the windows & ran off; some friendly Indians was sent after them, to come back, but they could not be prevailed on to return. In the evening double Centinels was placed at the avenues of the Village, and the Alarm Word, King George, was made known to all the inhabitants; that if the Centinels should call it out, they were all to repair armed instantly at the place of Rendevouz. About Nine O'Clock at Night an alarm was given, one of the Centinels said he saw three Indians creeping close to Commissary Coles fence and immediately fired at them; the drums beat to Arms, & another party of Soldiers were instantly sent out of the Fort under the command Ens Gleadow, the inhabitants all repaired to the place of Rendevouz with the greatest alacrity; the whole being joined patroles were sent round the Village and double Centinels continued the whole Night. About eleven O'Clock another alarm Gun was fired by the Centinel at the Church, who said he saw an Indian advancing towards him. The Guards & Centinels continue in the Village both Night, & day.

**Saturday the 7th.**

Commissary Cole sent for the Kuskuskia nation of In-

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dians, to go in pursuit of the Pantiwatimies & if they could 
overtake them to bring back the prisoners; they immediately 
came, & agreed to comply with his request.

Sunday ye 8th.

This Morning the Kuskuskia Warriors set of in quest of 
the Pantiwatimies, & another party was sent to reconitre the 
Country ajacent, as we was informed the enemy was still 
hovering about the Village. The Guards & Militia still 
continue to do duty.

Monday the 9th.

This Morning the Guards & Centinels in the Village were 
ordered into the Fort. At noon an Account came that a 
party of Indians was coming down the River; the drums 
beat to Arms, the Guards from the Fort, & Militia turned 
out again. Tomera, the Kuskuskia Cheif & some of his 
Warriors went to see who they were, & at the Mitchigamie 
Village, about three-quarters of a Mile from the Fort they 
met with Seven Chippewa Men & two Women, who had 
just come from Paincourt, being part of a Tribe which they 
left there, not chusing to trust themselves among the 
English as they said, but we rather suspected them as Spies. 
The Troops & Militia continue to do duty at Night in the 
Village. I requested Cap'. Forbes wou'd send three Soldiers 
to guard the Store in case I should be obliged to continue 
on duty, which he readily comply'd with.

Tuesday ye 10th.

The Kuskuskia Warriors returned from their pursuit 
after the Pantiwatimies having lost their tracks by the 
heavy Rains that fell, & the reconitring parties also came 
in, & assured us the enemy Indians were gone off & believed 
they would not return, as they see we was upon our Guard, 
& well prepared to Receive them. The Troops went to the 
Fort & the Militia dismissed, with orders to have all their 
Arms in readiness & to appear at the place of Rendevouz 
on the first alarm.
Kaskaskia June 24th 1768.

At four O'clock P. M. Mr. Marten Clarkson & I left this place to go for New Orleans, accompanied by Messrs Cole, Rumsey, & Morgan, to the Mouth of the River Kaskaskia. In the Evening Miss Fago & DeMeaze, joined us with another Batteau, & Mons Godbert who took his passage with us; at half past Seven O'Clock our friends took leave of us & we immediately sett off.

Sunday 26th.

At half past Six O'Clock A. M. passed the Ohio, the Banks of the Mississippi below the River are less broken than above, altho they are sandy as the others, but are covered with grass; nine Miles below the Ohio, saw a Bank of Gravel, being the first I have seen in the Mississippi. Fourteen Miles below the Ohio, on the English side, is La Mine du Fer, a Clift of Yellow Earth about 60 feet perpendicular, & has the appearance of Oaker, there is also a White Clay among it; the shore is very bold, the River narrow, with a Strong Current.

Note—there is no high land on the Spanish side the Mississippi from the Mouth of the Ohio to the Sea.

Yr 28th.

Thirty Six Leagues, below the La Mine du Fer, is the first Clift of Psudhomme; 2 Leagues below this saw some French hunters on a small Island, from New Orleans, hunting for Tallow; passed the second Clift of psudhomme, three Leagues below the first; these appear much like Mine du Fer, being a red Earth, & the Clift about 40 feet high; two Leagues below these Clifts saw French hunters on both sides the River; three Leagues distance from the second Cliffs of Psudhomme are the third of that Name, these appear something like the last, but consist of a greater variety of Strata of Earth: & of different Colours, such as Yellow of different shades, Ash Coulours, Black, & reddish; the timber is very scrubby which seems to indicate a
Mine, the land on the opposite shore is very low and covered with small shrub.

At Midnight, passed the River and heights of Margot, ten Leagues below the last Cliffs of Psudhomme.

29th.

At four O'Clock P: M: passed the River S: Francois, twenty Leagues below the River Margot, on the Spanish side, the trees at the entrance on the North side, have a remarkable slope towards the River.

30th.

At three O'Clock P: M: we attempted to go up the Blank River, to the Fort at Arkansas, but the Current was so very rapid was obliged to desist at the entrance of this River, we meet two Canoes with Indians of the Arkansas Nation.

July 1st.

This day we meet with 30 Arkansas Indians, they put in Shore & Saluted us, which we returned; they came on Board our Batteau, & finding we were English, seemed very much pleased, & expressed great friendship. At four O'Clock past M; passed the River Zazous on the English side, near the entrance of it, is a remarkable Bunch of Trees that are considerably higher than the rest.

4th.

At Seven O'Clock P: M: came to the Petit Gousfre ten Leagues above the Natches, where one Jn° Solkill (from Chester County in the province of Penns°) hath made a settlement; it is pleasantly situated, & is the highest up the Mississippi towards the Illinois, about a quarter of a Mile below this is another small settlement.

5th.

At four O'Clock this morning we arrived at the Natches; the land is high, and the Fort which is about 1/8 of a Mile from the river is a small Pentagon, beautifully situated affording a very agreeable prospect of the River & the Country
back, which is clear for many Miles. The garrison is a detachment of ye 21st Regt, officers Lt Lovewell, & Featherstone, & Ens Petre. A League below this is a Spanish Fort newly built, on a low spot of Ground; has a small Garrison, and half a League lower is some new settlements made by the Arcadians, which continue two Leagues. Four Leagues above the River & opposite to the Rock of D— ye 22d Regt was attacked by the Tonicas, a very small Nation of Indians ye 20th March 1761.

6th.

At five O’Clock this Morning passed the River Rouge; its eighteen Leagues below the Natches. This day passed Point Goupee, where there are upwards of a hundred fine settlements on the Spanish side, with a Church, & a small Fort, commanded by Mons Duplessies, who treated us with great politeness. These settlements extend Seven Leagues on the front of the River Mississippi, the land an equal height from one end to the other, except abreast the Fort & Church, where it rises something higher. The produce of this Country is Indigo, Rice, & Indian Corn. The Indian town belonging to the Tonica’s is situated on the Bank of the River, on the English side opposite the upper end of the above settlements.

7th.

At eight O’Clock A:M: arrived at Fort Bute, distance from the Natches, forty five Degrees; situated on a low spot of Ground, near the Mississippi & about four hundred Yards, from the entrance of the River Jerville /so called/; the Fort is in a bad condition, has a Garrison of fifty Men of ye 21 regt commanded by Lt Kirkman. Near the point of this River, on the opposite side, is a Spanish Fort, with a small Garrison, commanded by a Spaniard. This Fort tho’ small is neatly built with Cypress Pickets, The River Iberville /or more properly an out Let of the Mississippi/ is at this time about thirty feet a Cross, & full of Logs, which I passed over upon to the Spanish side: when the
Mississippi is low, I am informed it is quite dry, & sometimes at Point Coupee is two Islands which is the last /except two very small ones/, from that to the Sea, Between Fort Bute, & New Orleans (which is about 36 Leagues) is the German Settlements, with many other fine plantations & Houses, quite to the Town; the appearance of the whole is extreme agreeable. The produce is the same as the settlements at Point Coupee, with the addition of several saw Mills.

8th.

At seven O'Clock this Evening, arrived at New Orleans. This Town is situated on the East side the River.

[Jenning's returned to Philadelphia October 14, 1768.]