

Proclamation: [page 17]

Illinois, to wit: Whereas from the Fertility & beautiful Situation of the Lands bordering upon the Mississippi, Ohio, Illinois, & Wabash rivers, the Taking up the usual quantity heretofore allowed for a Settlement by the Government of Virginia, would injure both the Strength & Commerce of this Country in Future,

I do therefore issue this Proclamation strictly enjoining all persons whatsoever from making any New Settlements upon the Flat lands of the said Rivers or within one league of said lands, unless In manor and form of Settlement as heretofore made by the French Inhabitants untill Further Orders given hereon.

And in order that all the Claims to Lands within the Said Country may be fully known & some method provided for perpetuating by records the just Claimes, every Inhabitt is required, as soon as conveniently may be, to lay before the persons in each District appointed for that purpose a Memmo of his or her Land, with Coppys of all their Vouchers & where vouchers have never been given or are lost, such Depositions & Certifs as will best Tend to Support there Claims. Such memmo to mention the Quantity of land, to whome Originally granted, or by whome Settled, and when; deducing the Title thro the Various Occupants to the Present possessor. The number of Adventurers who will Soon Over run This Country renders the above method necessary, as well to Assertain the Vacant Land as to Guard against Trespasses, which will probably be Committed upon Land not of Record.

Given under my Hand & Seal at Kaskaskia, the 14th day of June, 1779.

JOHN TODD.