

history, that it would be inexcusable in me, to do more than state results, and that in the most general way.

Major CLARK, an emigrant to Kentucky, although a man of limited culture, had the grasp of mind, and the energy of character, which fitted him for great events. Kentucky had suffered greatly from the Indians during the year 1777. CLARK made up his mind that the best mode of defending Kentucky was to give employment to the enemy elsewhere. He sent spies to visit the posts upon the Wabash and in Illinois. In December, 1777, he laid open his plan of capturing these posts to PATRICK HENRY, then Governor of Virginia, who at once fell in with it, especially as Virginia laid claim to this western territory as far north as the 40th degree of north latitude. CLARK was commissioned a Colonel in the service of Virginia, and was authorized at the expense of that State to raise a sufficient force, was furnished with £1,200 currency, and by secret instructions was directed to carry out the plan conceived by him.

On the 24th of June, 1778, he left the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville) in barges, with his force of less than 200 men, and descended the Ohio to Old Fort Massac, within sixty miles of its mouth, and then marched north to Kaskaskia, which he captured by surprise on the night of July 4th, taking its commandant, ROCHEBLAVE and its inhabitants prisoners. The other posts were taken before any opposition could be made. With great skill, and by a wise mingling of kindness and severity, he gained the good will of the French, and commanded the respect of the surrounding Indians. The then recent treaty between the Colonies and France aided greatly in his success with the French.

Gov. ABBOTT, of Vincennes, was at that time absent in Detroit, and there were no troops stationed there. Father GIBBAULT, of Kaskaskia, Vicar General, etc., undertook to get the French at that point to side with the Americans, and immediately started upon his mission, which was entirely successful, and the American flag waved over the place.

Waw-ca-ta-non was captured by a small force, and thus without the loss of a man, the conquest of Illinois and the Wabash settlements was complete; and, in October, Virginia organized this