



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
JEFFERSON NATIONAL EXPANSION MEMORIAL
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

John L. Nagle 7/31
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By
HOWARD

July 28, 1939.

Memorandum for the Director:

Senior Landscape Architect Peterson has made plans for taking annual leave next month in order to visit the old French settlements along the St. Lawrence River. He is gathering data for a work on French colonial architecture to be published by the "Institut Francais de Washington."

Mr. Peterson has been requested by the Washington office to make a study of the Gibault Monument project at Cahokia, Illinois, and by the Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings to help with their French sites inventory for this region. He has also been active in helping local public and semi-public groups with related problems.

Until about the year 1717 this region was under the civil and military jurisdiction of Quebec. Until about the year 1780 the affairs of the church were also handled from Canada. The Canadian repositories hold the documentary material offering a further knowledge of the Mississippi Valley settlements, particularly in the case of Cahokia -- where the whole area was a "seigniory" operated by a mission of the Seminary of Quebec until 1763.

Mr. Peterson has requested that from two to four working days be granted him to examine documentary material in Quebec, Ottawa or elsewhere in Eastern Canada. This time would be taken during a period of annual leave. No transportation or per diem reimbursement will be claimed. A report would be submitted afterwards and all notes incorporated into the files of this office. In the limited time now at his disposal it will be hardly possible for him to give this search the time necessary.

The undersigned believes that information of value to the National Park Service would be obtained and recommends that the request be granted. It is not known whether or not special authority will have to be requested from the Department.

John L. Nagle
John L. Nagle,
Superintendent of Memorials.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
JEFFERSON NATIONAL EXPANSION MEMORIAL
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Cliff
~~Mr. Sioussat~~
~~Mr. Kelly~~

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DIVISION OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

AUG 21 1939

*Do you know
if there are any
French sources
in Richmond?
Lee*

AUG 21 1939

August 19, 1939

Memorandum for the Supervisor of Historic Sites:

Thank you for the copies of Mr. Sioussat's general list of Spanish and French sources, enclosed with Mr. Kelly's memorandum of August 15. It is evident that a great deal of manuscript material will have to be gone through before the story of the Illinois Country is completed or the sources exhausted.

Next week I am starting for Quebec on annual leave status to look over the French Canadian background of this region. I hope to find some archival material which will shed light on early Cahokia. We believe that much descriptive material can be found in the Seminary of Quebec, once access to the archives is obtained. I am to have up to four days of official time there.

Charles E. Peterson

Charles E. Peterson,
Senior Landscape Architect.

*0-35
Sioussat*

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 23, 1939.

Memorandum for Superintendent, Jefferson National
Expansion Memorial:

Attention: Mr. Charles E. Peterson

Reference is made to your memorandum of August 19 regard-
ing manuscript material dealing with the Illinois Country.

There is probably some material in the Virginia Archives
in Richmond relating to the Illinois Country, which was re-
garded as a Virginia county in the 18th century. However,
this material is probably scanty and concerned largely with
political and military matters.

You are doubtless familiar with N. M. Surrey's Calendar
of Manuscripts in the Paris Archives Relating to the History
of the Mississippi Valley. This is a two-volume work issued
by the Carnegie Institution some 6 or 7 years ago and lists
each document with a notation as to the location of available
transcripts in this country and possibly Canada.

I hope that you will be successful in finding material on
Cahokia during your visit to Quebec this week.

(Sd.) RONALD F. LEE

aps:dc

Supervisor of Historic Sites.

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House Authorizes \$50,000 Monument for Cahokia Park

By Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, February 19.—
The House authorized today, subject to Senate approval, an appropriation of \$50,000 for construction of a monument in a proposed state park at Cahokia, Ill., to the memory of Father Pierre Gibault, priest who aided George Rogers Clark in the conquest of the Northwest Territory, adding it to the United States.

A bill passed by the House stipulated that before any federal money was spent on the project, the County of St. Clair furnish a site and guarantee maintenance of the monument.

Father Gibault was the Catholic rector at Kaskaskia when George Rogers Clark took that town. Born in 1737, he was assigned to the Kaskaskia pastorate in 1768, and 10 years later entered upon the adventure that made him a national hero.

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By [Signature] HWA DMG/10

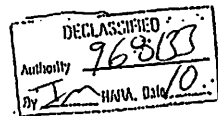
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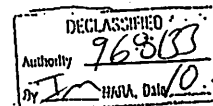
The House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

This Article appeared in our
St Louis Globe-Democrat. Feb. 19. We are very
much interested in it as we are the direct
descendants of Madame Julie Gerret the being our
Great-Grand Mother on our Father's side.
She owned acres and acres of land in Cahokia
Ill. and gave the ground for the first and
only Church in Cahokia, "The Holy Family"
Catholic Church, also the ground for the
Church yard Cemetery - her husband our
Great Grand Father Nicholas Gerret of Normandy
France came to this Country with Gen. Lafayette
they were personal friends and college mates. They
came to fight in the Revolutionary war.

After the war was ended, Gen. Washington com-
missioned our great grand father to the end
to cross of the Mississippi river to the village
of Cahokia Gen. Washington gave my Great Grand Father



An escort of Seventeen Soldiers. Col Nicholas Gerst
our great grand father married madam Julie
U Gemme De Beauvais our great grand mother
Whos father Janis U Gemme De Beauvais of
France had been commissioned by The French
King of France to come to America
and was made Gov. General of Upper Louisiana
Territory. As I have mentioned before great
Grand father settled in Cahokia Ill. the place
of which your article treats adjoining this land
which great grand father gave to the church, he built
a mansion a reproduction of his mother's home
in France, the bricks was made on the place
and took five years to build & is still
standing and occupied & today is the oldest
brick house in the North West Territory, on
the second floor is a ball room in which
great grand mother gave Gen. Lafayette a
ball President Lincoln and President Grant
were entertained in this mansion
We suggest that the monument to the memory



of Father Pierre Gibault be erected on the
Church grounds. Father Gibault was a dinner
guest of great-grand mothers many times
the Church grounds to our way of thinking
would be the most appropriate place to
erect the monument. In Vincennes Ind.
on the banks of the Wabash is the memorial
to Gen. George Rogers Clark. Adjoining it
is the old Cathedral. Fr Gibault was their
first Pastor he stood in his Church door
and ~~commissioned~~ ^{commanded} his parishioners to aid
Gen. George Rogers Clark to capture Vincennes
from the British. In front of the Cathedral
is a plaza on which is erected a statue
of Fr Gibault. We most heartily endorse
you to erect a statue of Fr Gibault there
in front of the old old Church in Calistonia
Any information we can furnish you
we would be pleased to do so. Respectfully
Miss Belle Jarrot Brackett
7840 Natural Bridge Road St Louis Mo.

