DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 139 709 SO 010 068

TITLE	A Commemorative History of the George Rogers Clark Bicentennial Exhibit.
INSTITUTION	Indiana State Museum Society, Inc., Indianapolis.
SPONS AGENCY	Indiana American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Indianapolis.; Lilly Endowment, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.; National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.; National Endowment for the Humanities (NFAH), Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE	76
NOTE	60p.; All pictures without captions have been removed from the document before being submitted to EDRS; For a related document, see SO 010 022
AVAILABLE FROM	George Rogers Clark Exhibit, Indiana State Museum Society, Inc., 202 North Alabama Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 ($0.87 plus postage, paper cover)
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 Plus Postage. HC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Biographies; *Educational Facilities; Elementary Secondary Education; *Exhibits; *Museums; *Revolutionary War (United States); *United States History
IDENTIFIERS	*Bicentennial; Clark (George Rogers)

ABSTRACT

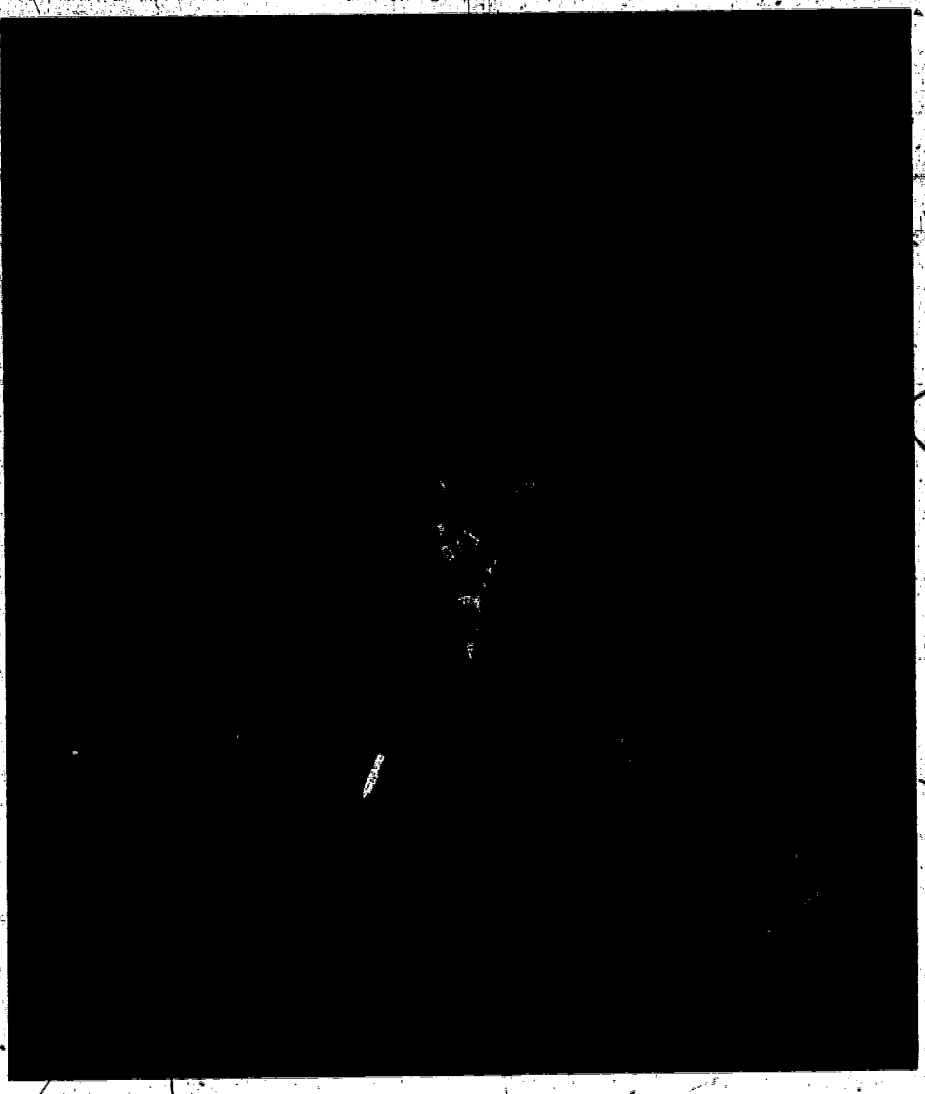
This pamphlet provides an illustrated narrative history of the George Rogers Clark Bicentennial Exhibit at the Indiana State Museum. George Rogers Clark was a frontier hero of the American Revolution who explored and conquered territory in Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois. The multimedia exhibit is open to the public from February 25, 1976 through February 25, 1979, the 200th anniversary of Clark's victory at Vincennes. Supplemented by several auxiliary displays and changing exhibits, the story is told in two major galleries. It follows Clark from his boyhood in Virginia, through his early years in Kentucky, and finally his return to Williamsburg where he received secret orders to attack the British outposts in the Old Northwest. The pamphlet combines the biographical story of Clark's expeditions with photos and sketches of his military equipment, clothing, and significant events in his life. Clark's compass, surveying measuring chains, belt buckles and swords are illustrated. Reconstructions of forts and garrisons are shown. Dioramas illustrate Clark's treaties with Indians and his most famous campaigns against the British. In addition to this pamphlet, outreach programs of the exhibit include a filmed tour of the exhibit and primary and secondary school teaching units and film strips. (Author/AV)

History of the ROGERS CLARK Bicentennial Exhibit

February 25, 1976
February 25, 1979

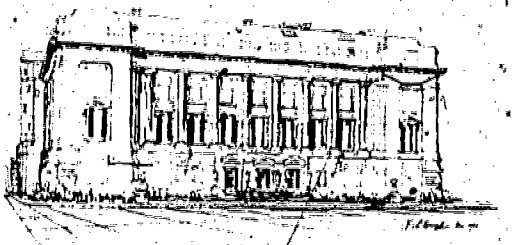
STATE MUSEUM

2



This portrait of George Rogers Clark was commissioned by the Indiana State Museum Society to be painted by Rosemary Browne Beck and was presented to the Indiana State Museum as a part of the George Rogers Clark Bicentennial Exhibit February 25, 1976.

A Commemorative History of the GEORGE ROGERS CLARK Bicentennial Exhibit



INDIANA STATE MUSEUM
202 North Alabama Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

February 25, 1976
through
February 25, 1979

Open daily 9-5, Sunday 2-5
FREE (Closed major holidays)

Published by
THE INDIANA STATE MUSEUM SOCIETY
1976

Purpose of This Bicentennial Event

We hope that this exhibit and its related-projects will make all Americans more aware of the importance of events which occurred west of the Allegheny Mountains during the Revolutionary War.

Thanks to the determination and courage of a remarkable young leader named George Rogers Clark, the land area of the fledgling United States was *doubled*, and the West was opened to a tide of settlement which was to carry the American Dream all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

This is the story of "a few men well-conducted," who helped establish America's claim to the vast fertile area of the Old Northwest.

Exhibit Created and Developed by,

The Indiana State Museum Society, Inc.

with Assistance from the Indiana State Museum

Presented to the Indiana State Museum
February 25, 1976

MAJOR FUNDING

Indiana American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
Lilly Endowment, Inc.
The National Endowment for the Arts
The National Endowment for the Humanities

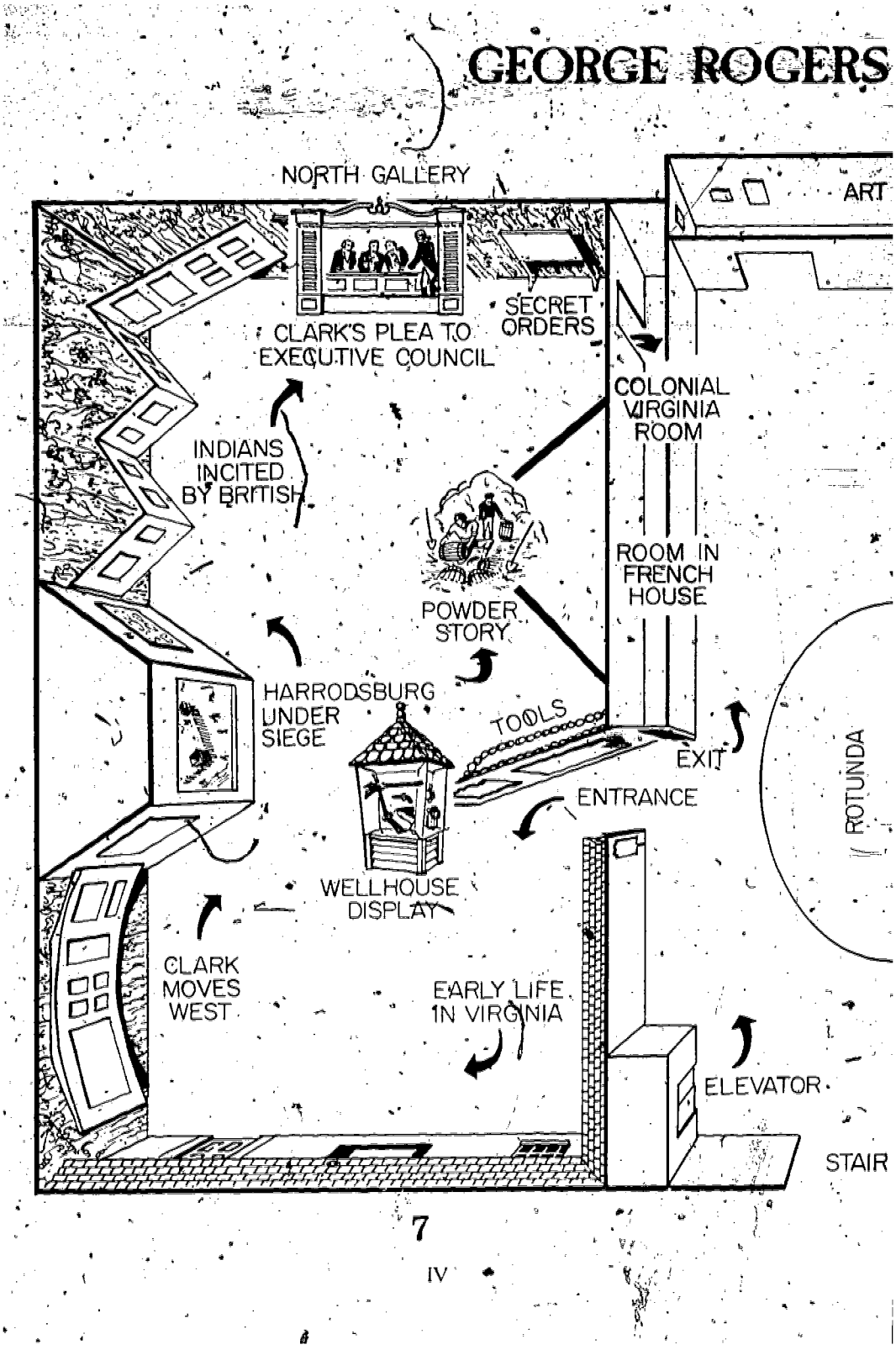
Names of the many individual, organizational and business donors are permanently recorded in the George Rogers Clark "Exhibit Donor Book" at the Indiana State Museum. Without their interest and support, this exhibit would not have been possible.

Contents

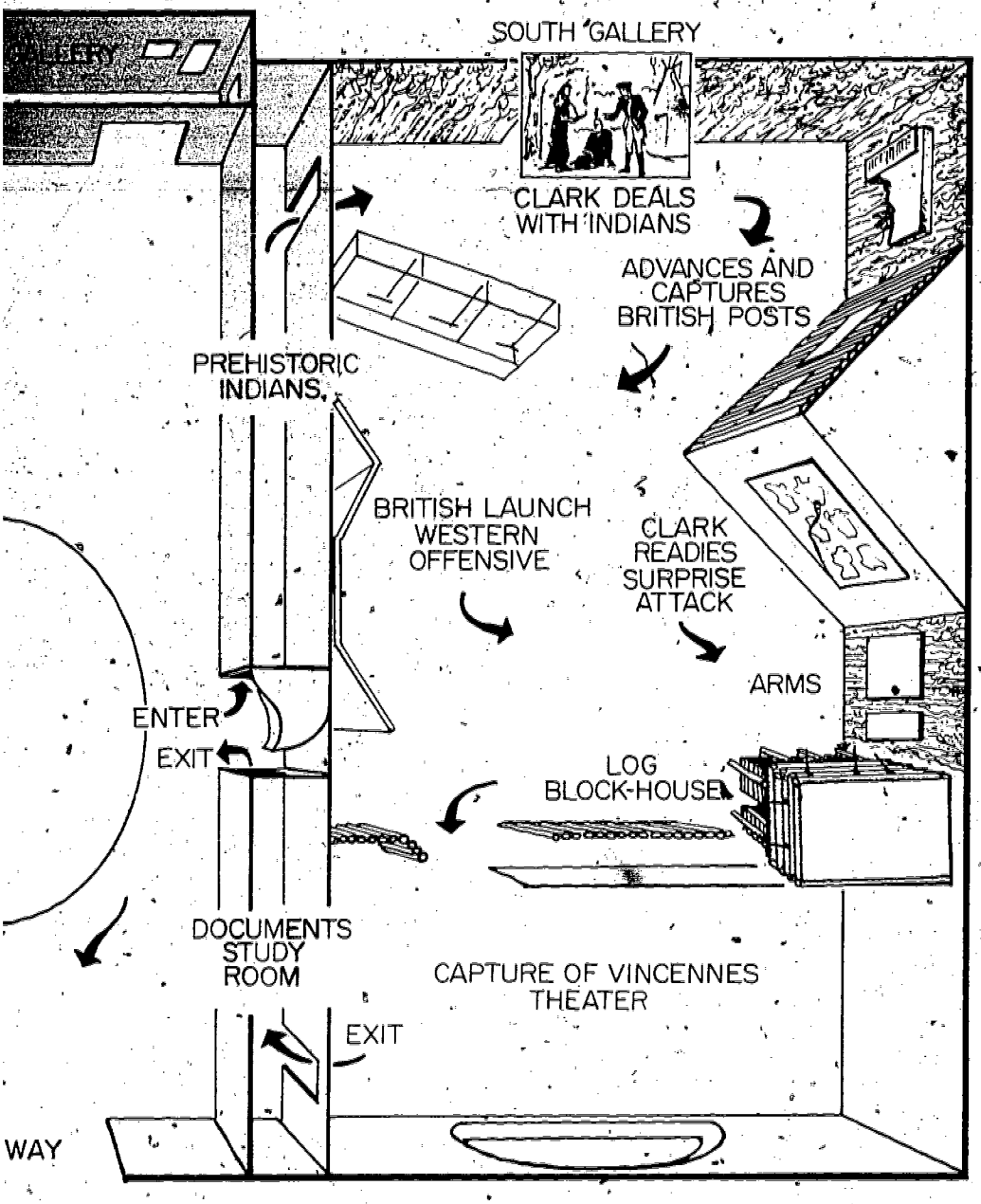
Participating Organizations
The Colonial Dames — Period Rooms
Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution — Stairwell Exhibits
Indiana Historical Society — Documents Study Room

Special Photography
We are indebted to John P. May for contributing his professional services to take many of the photographs which appear in this *Commemorative History*.

Artifacts illustrated in this publication are keyed numerically to the Lenders' names on page 54.

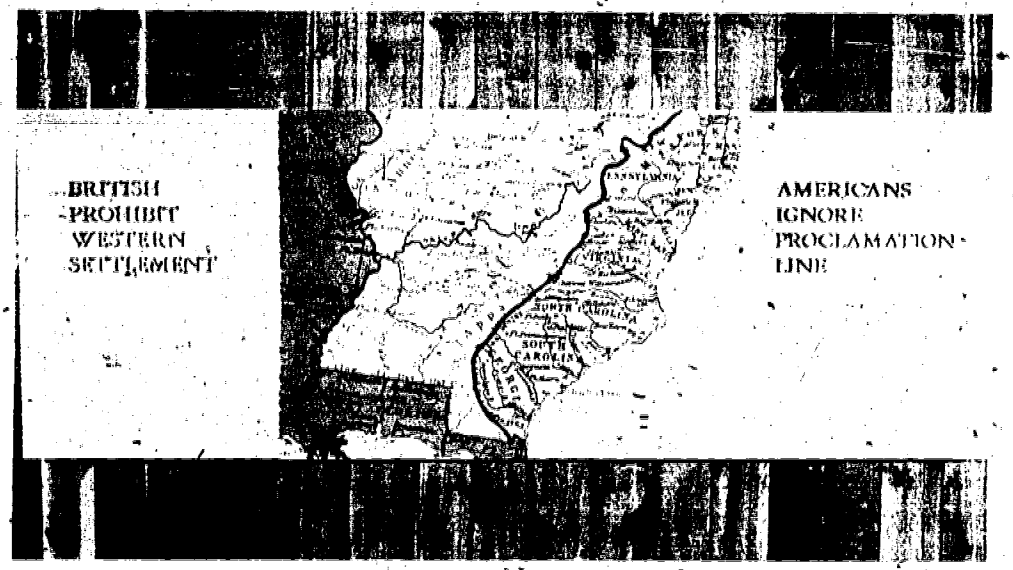

GEORGE ROGERS
NORTH GALLERY
ART
SECRET ORDERS
CLARK'S PLEA TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
COLONIAL VIRGINIA ROOM
INDIANS INCITED BY BRITISH
ROOM IN FRENCH HOUSE
POWDER STORY
HARRODSBURG UNDER SIEGE
TOOLS
EXIT
ENTRANCE
ROTUNDA
WELLHOUSE DISPLAY
CLARK MOVES WEST
EARLY LIFE IN VIRGINIA
ELEVATOR
STAIR

CLARK EXHIBIT FLOOR PLAN



PART I

Virginia, Kentucky, and the Secret Orders



Growing up in Virginia

The saga of George Rogers Clark, the frontier hero of the American Revolution, is unfolded in a dramatic multi-media exhibit which occupies the entire second floor of the Indiana State Museum until February 25, 1979, the 200th anniversary of Clark's victory at Vincennes.

Supplemented by several auxiliary displays and changing exhibits, the story is told in two major galleries. The first follows Clark from his boyhood in Virginia, through his early years in Kentucky, and finally his return to Williamsburg where he received secret orders to attack the British outposts in the Old Northwest.

In a setting reminiscent of Colonial Williamsburg, Clark's background and the associations which influenced his later life are explored.

George Rogers Clark was born November 19, 1752, two miles east of Charlottesville, Virginia, in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains. He was the second son of John and Ann Rogers Clark, both from well regarded, moderately prosperous Virginia families.

Located on the Rivanna River, the Clark farm was only two and one half miles northwest of Shadwell, the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson. This coincidence of birth may have laid a foundation for the high regard in which each held the other in later years.

When George Rogers was five, the Clarks inherited a small plantation and moved to the southwest corner of Caroline County, Virginia. There, Clark spent a boyhood typical of his time . . . helping with the work of the plantation . . . learning to ride and hunt . . . taking prizes in wrestling at local events . . . accompanying his father to the capital at Williamsburg . . . and enjoying the occasional visits of prominent Virginians who were friends of the family. These associations and experiences were to prove helpful to him when he assumed his role as a leader in Kentucky.

Like most boys of his time, George Rogers had little formal schooling, receiving most of his instruction at home. According to some historians, he and his older brother Jonathon went to live for a short time with their Grandfather Rogers in order to attend a private school run by Donald Robertson on the Mattapony River. If true, Clark remained no more than six or eight months, and his name

(Left to Right)
Silver Tablespoons — Scovil, Willey & Co. Cincinnati, c. 1818 (#17)

English Lowestoft cream pitcher, c. 1760-77 (#14)

Sheffield plate coffee pot, 1765 (#15)

English Worcester bowl, 1768 (#14)

English Worcester plate, c. 1755-60 (#14)

Queen Anne candlesticks, English, 1700-50 (#14)

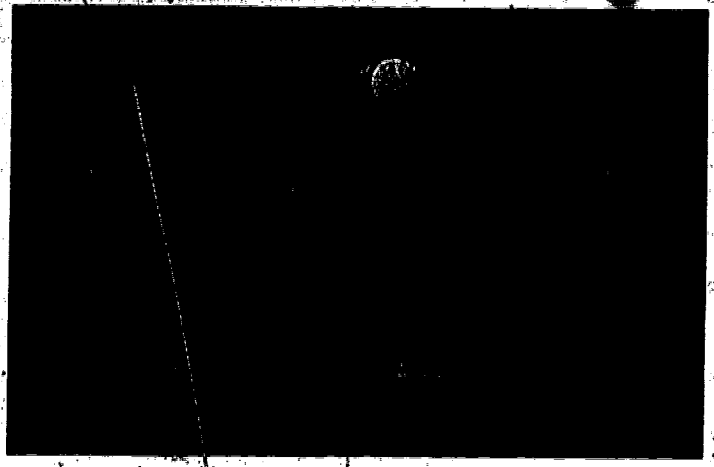
(Left to Right)
Clark's silver buckles — Samuel Avery, Preston, Conn. — wrestling award to Clark (#1)

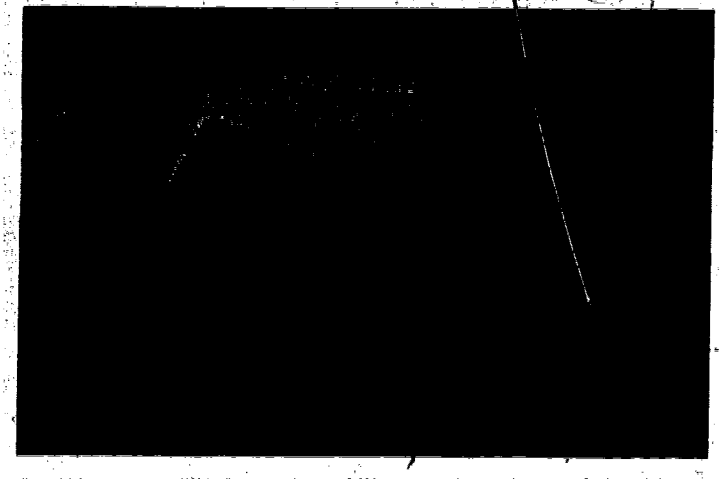
Clark's knee buckle (#2)

Clark's French pocket watch — Julian LeRoy 1686-1759 (#1)

Clark's gilt bronze belt buckle — "June 12/Illinois & St. Vincennes/1779" (#2)

Jonathan Clark's Bible — Edinburgh, Scotland, 1789 (#1)





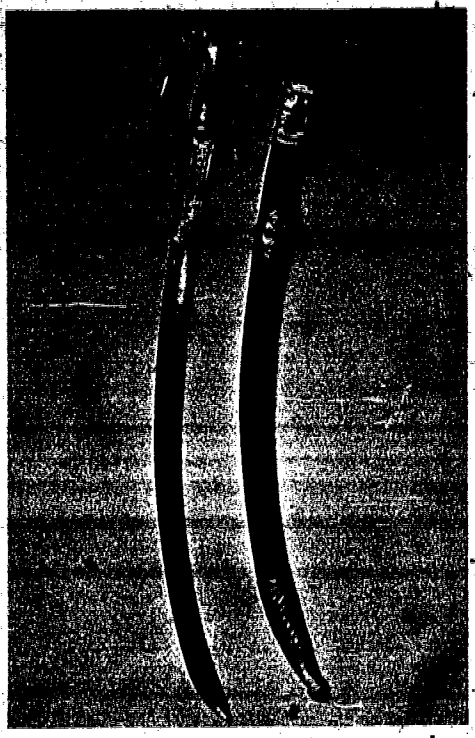
Left to Right) Plat book, 1783-4 — Jefferson, Fayette, and Nelson county plots recorded by John and George May (#1)

Surveying measuring chain (#1)

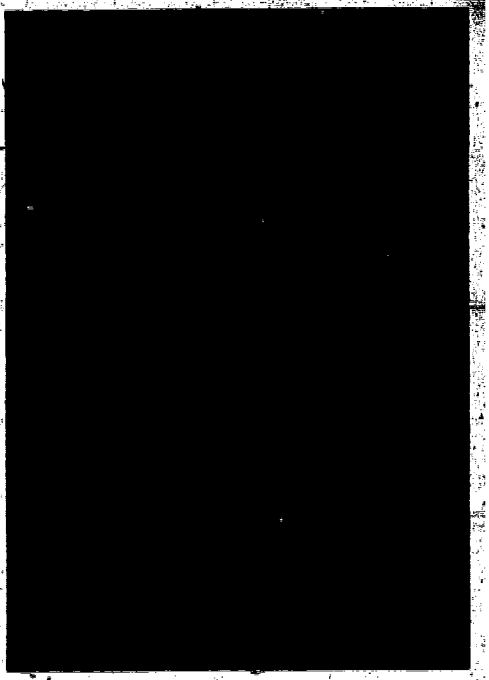
Clark's compass, 1791 (#1)

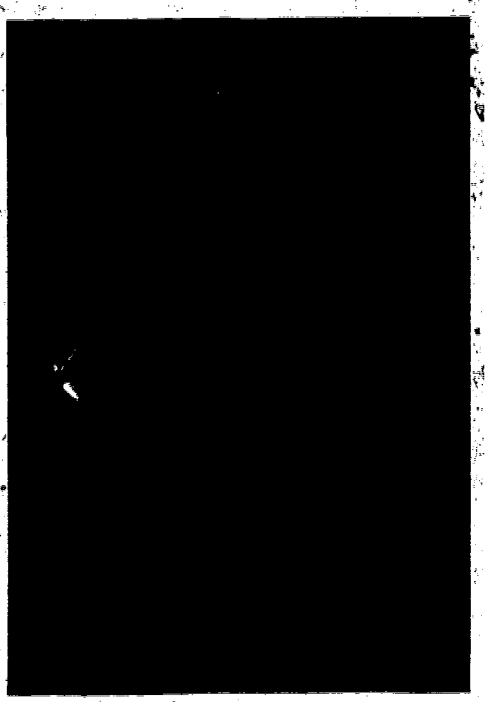
Euclid's Elements, 1705 (#1)

Clark's quill decorated buckskin coat (#2)



Sword presented to Clark by Virginia, 1812 (#3)





(Left to Right) Rifleman's Revolutionary War Accouterments — pouch, knife, and powder horn (#21)

does not appear in the school records. Others known to have been enrolled at the time are James Madison and John Tyler.

Nevertheless, Clark became an avid reader and a keen observer, and in later years he was consulted frequently by scientists and scholars from all over the world on a wide range of subjects related to the western country. Despite his somewhat erratic spelling, Clark's letters and journals reflect an articulate, highly intelligent man.

By the time he was eighteen, he was an impressive figure . . . over six feet tall, with red hair and dark, snapping eyes . . . the kind of a man others would choose to follow. William, the youngest of the Clarks' six sons and four daughters, was born that year. Some thirty years later, Clark would recommend this younger brother to Thomas Jefferson as a leader for the famous Lewis and Clark expedition.

George Rogers undoubtedly derived much of his determination and self confidence from these formative years among his close-knit and devoted family. All maintained affectionate ties and intense loyalty to each other throughout their lives.

As he neared manhood, Clark was taught surveying by his grandfather, a skill which was in demand on the western frontier. In June of 1772, at the age of nineteen, Clark left his home in Virginia to seek land and adventure west of the mountains. Although he was to return many times to Virginia, his home and his allegiance thereafter were in the West.

On reaching Kentucky, Clark would write, "A richer and more beautiful country than this, I believe has never been seen in America yet!"

Claiming land in Kentucky

After France ceded a portion of her western lands to Britain, a Royal Proclamation was issued by which the purchase of land and settlement was prohibited, without special license, in the region beyond the headwaters of the rivers flowing into the Atlantic. This boundary along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains became known as the "Proclamation Line."

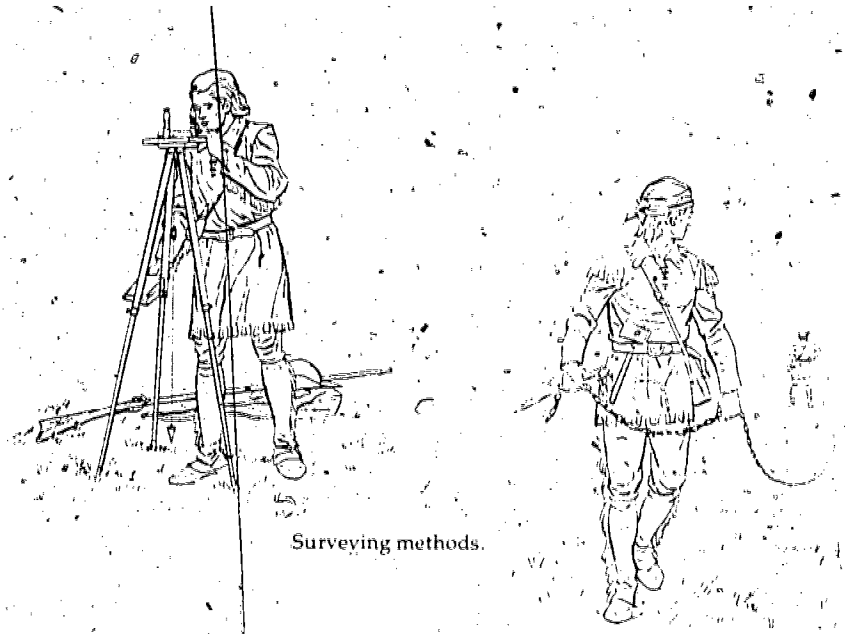
Enforcement of the proclamation would mean not only the development of the fur trade, which was enriching many London merchants, but also would keep the frontiersmen under English political control.

However the pioneers blatantly ignored the proclamation. The British Governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, characterized their disregard in the following letter to the Colonial Secretary:

> "I have learnt from experience that the established authority of any Government in America, and the policy of Government at home are both insufficient to restrain the Americans; and that they do and will remove as their avidity and restlessness incite them. They acquire no attachment to Place; but wandering about seems engrafted in their nature; they do not conceive that Government has any right to forbid their taking possession of a vast tract of country either uninhabited or which serves only as a shelter to a few scattered tribes of Indians. Nor can they be easily brought to entertain any belief of the permanent obligation of Treaties made with those People whom they consider as but little removed from the brute creation."

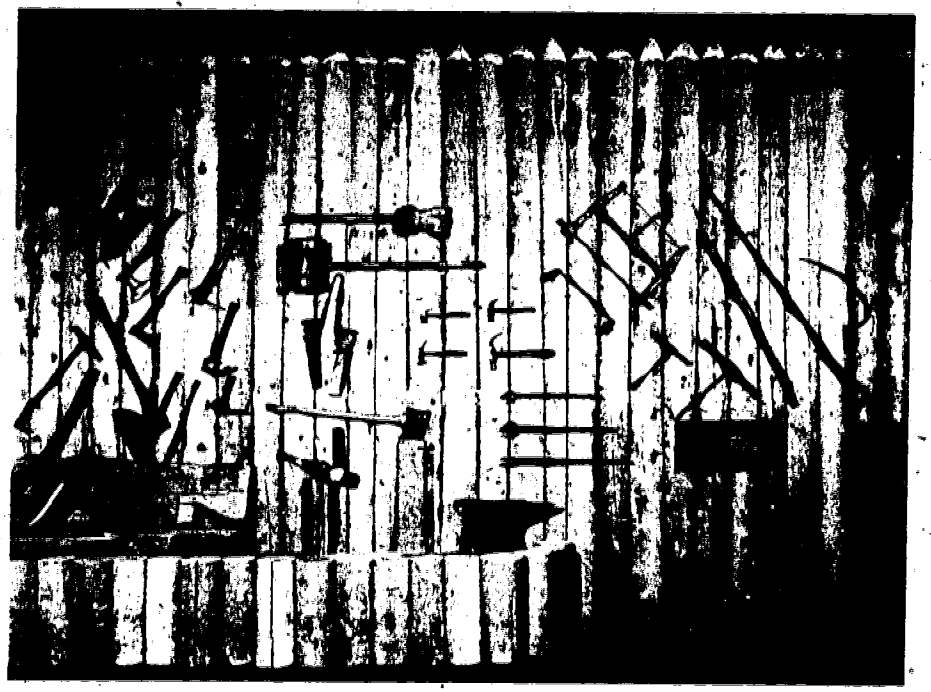
The futility of enforcement soon became clear as some 30,000 settlers defied the edict between 1765 and 1768. Lord Dunmore should have recognized that Virginians equated land with wealth, and many adventurous and ambitious young men in the colony saw in the West an opportunity to make their fortunes.

One of these was George Rogers Clark, who left Pittsburgh by canoe in 1772 to survey land at the mouth of the Kanawha River. So impressed was he that he returned with his father in the Fall to locate land at Fish Creek, 130 miles below Pittsburgh. When the rest of the party returned home, Clark and a companion traveled 170 miles down the Ohio River before returning in mid-November to winter at Fish Creek.



Surveying methods.

Tools brought west by the settlers (#22 and #23)



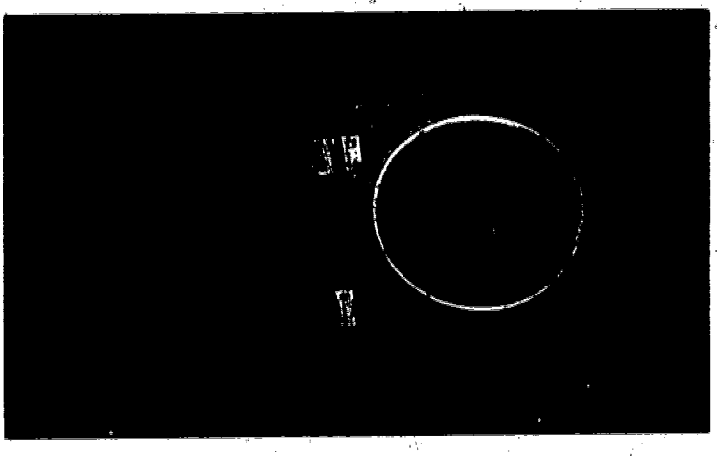
Top to Bottom)
British "Brown Bess" long land musket, 1st model (#24)

"Kentucky" flintlock rifle, Penn., c. 1776 (#24)

(l. to r.)
British officers holster pistol, 1740-80; American pistol, c. 1776; French Charleville pistol, 1777 (#24)

St. Etienne model, French Infantry musket, 1763 (#24)

(Left to Right)
British powder horn, early "striker", bullet mold, British gun lock — found on banks of Wabash south of Terre Haute (#21)



Clark's cousin, Marston G. Clark, possessed a compass, believed to have belonged to George Rogers Clark. Mr. Stalker is a great-great-grandson of Marston G. Clark. (#3).

During 1773, the year of the Boston Tea Party, Clark went with a surveying party to Kentucky, and wrote to his brother Jonathon:

> "I am convinced if he (father) once sees ye cuntry he never will rest until he gets into it to live. I am ingrossing all ye land I possibly can expecting him."

During this time, frontiersmen like Daniel Boone were leading settlers through the Cumberland Gap and along other routes to settle in Kentucky. On foot and on horseback, the pioneers crossed the mountains, carrying the tools and goods they would need to establish homes in the wilderness.

In 1774, Clark joined ninety other men to form a settlement in Kentucky, a plan which had to be temporarily abandoned due to Indian hostilities. The following Spring, he returned to survey land for the Ohio Company and to locate property in his own name. He found Captain James Harrod and fifty companions reoccupying the site abandoned the previous year. This was to be the first permanent settlement in Kentucky . . . Harrodsburg.

A basic difficulty in western land ventures was the question of who actually had the authority to grant title. It was virtually impossible for an absentee owner to prevent a settler from "squatting" on his property. As a result, conflicting claims and clouded titles still continue to plague Kentucky landowners.

Matters were further complicated by the fact that, despite their desire to retain their *own* hunting rights, it was not unusual for the Indians to sell the hunting territory of another tribe to the Americans for an adequate "consideration."

However, the prize was rich, and the tide of settlement could not be stayed.

The Kentucky Settlements

By 1775, there were four settlements in Kentucky: Harrodsburg, Boiling Spring, St. Asaph (Logan's Fort), and Hinkson's (Ruddell's Station).

Having been hired by the Transylvania Company to clear a trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Kentucky River (later known as the "Wilderness Road") and to build Fort Boonesborough fifty miles east of Harrodsburg, Daniel Boone brought 27 men and four families, including his own, to settle in Kentucky.

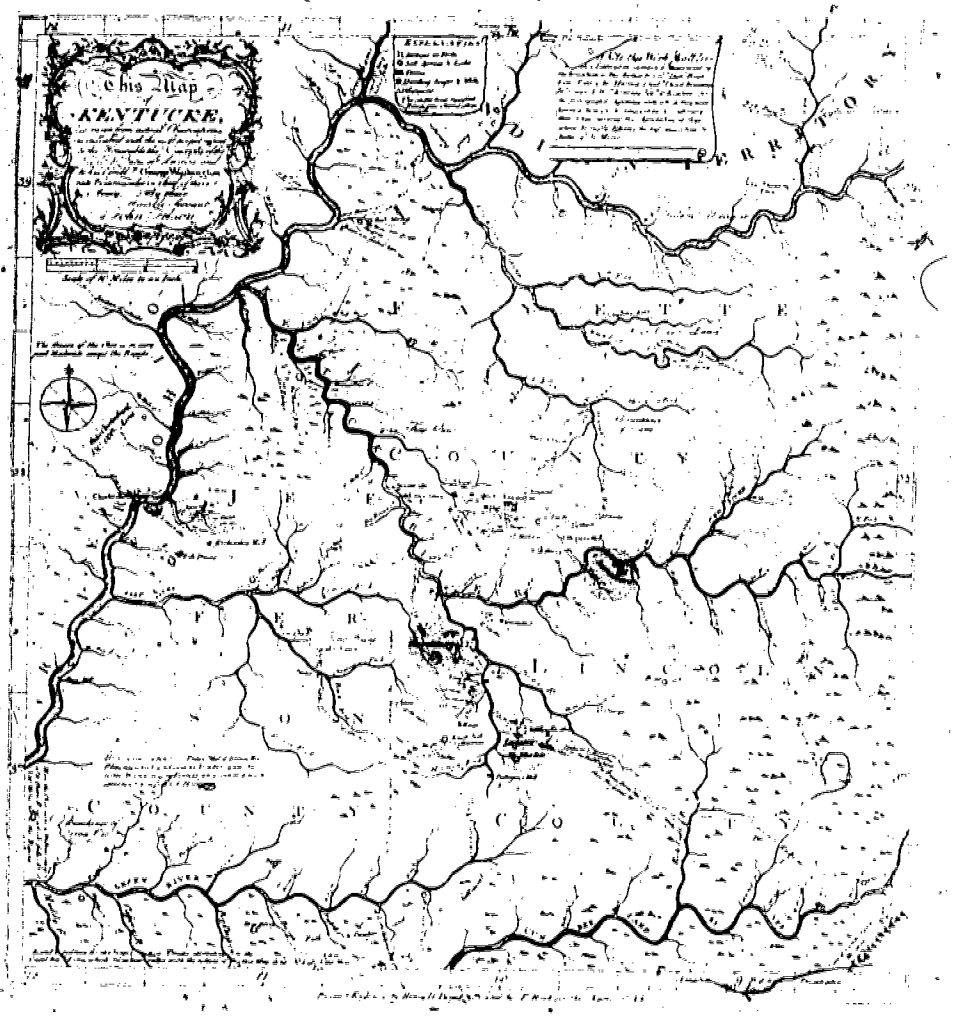
Along with other leaders of the Kentucky settlements, Clark played an important role in establishing a system of government in the isolated communities. On May 23, representatives of the settlements met at Boonesborough, in what has been called "the first representative body of American freemen west of the mountains."

They agreed on a militia, a judicial system, religious liberty, improvement of horse breeds, and the preservation of game and rangeland.

Although opposed by Clark and others, who considered Kentucky part of Virginia, the Transylvania land company attempted to have a delegate seated as the fourteenth member of the Second Continental Congress. The proposal was denounced by the governors of North Carolina and Virginia as a "lawless undertaking," and was rejected.

The settlers, who had come with such high hopes, were finding life in the wilderness increasingly difficult. As the isolated cabins were attacked with mounting frequency and violence by the Indians, many of the settlers were forced to take refuge in the forts, leaving their fields untended.

As food supplies dwindled and living conditions in the forts grew more crowded, many of the settlers became discouraged and returned to the East. At the close of 1775, the entire population of Kentucky totaled less than two hundred.



Only three forts now remain — with 65 defenders at Fort Harrod, 22 at Boonesborough, and 15 at Logan's Station.

19

Relations with the Indians

As more settlers continued to ignore the Proclamation Line, the Indians retaliated with increasing savagery. The hostilities were, in the main, committed by the Shawnee, the richest and bravest of the tribes. Most of the other tribes still counseled friendly relations and disavowed the deeds of their young braves who had gone on the warpath.

In 1774, one of the unfortunate events which precipitates war occurred when a party of soldiers brutally attacked a hunting party of six friendly Indians, among them a brother of the Mingo Chief Logan, his sister and her baby.

Logan swore to avenge the deaths by taking ten white men for each. Panic swept the Virginia frontier as other tribes came to Logan's support, and a thousand settlers abandoned their farms and retreated across the Monongahela in a single day.

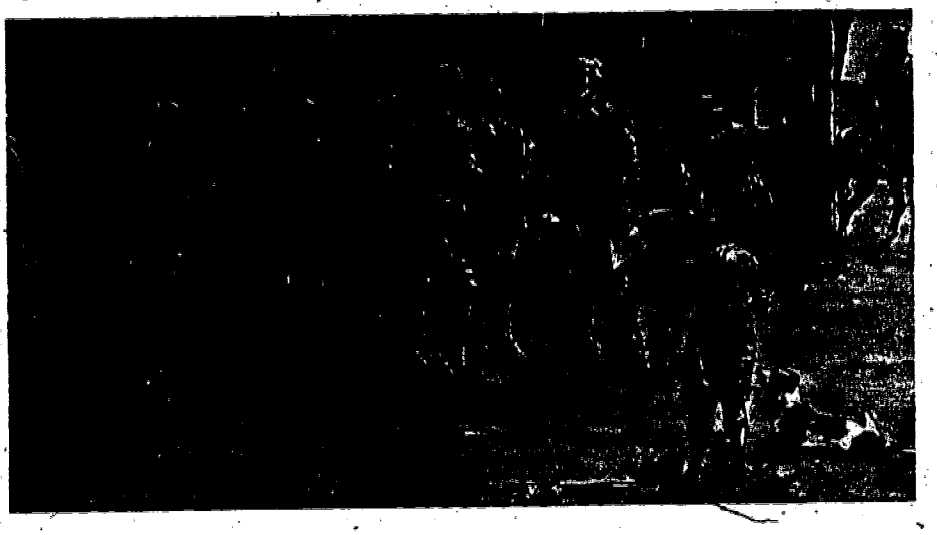
The British Governor-General of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, called for all available men to join in the defense of the frontier. George Rogers Clark was in Wheeling when the news arrived, and was commissioned a captain of militia, serving along with Joseph Bowman, who later would become his chief aide in the Illinois campaign.

In October a confederated army of about a thousand Shawnee, Miami, Wyandot and Ottawa under Chief Cornstalk was defeated at the Battle of Point Pleasant; and Clark took part in the Treaty of Camp Charlotte, which guaranteed unmolested navigation of the Ohio River thus opening Kentucky to settlement.

Clark was well acquainted with many of the principals in this action, and undoubtedly added to his knowledge of Indian affairs and tribal traditions during these transactions.

Dunmore's War did not end hostilities on the frontier. The basic conflict between the interests of the settlers and the Indians remained, and these differences were skillfully exploited by the British in the years which followed the outbreak of the American Revolution.

Clark at Treaty of Camp Charlotte



Settlers elect Clark

Alarmed by the Transylvania Company's efforts to create a political entity separate from Virginia, Clark visited the settlements and camps to persuade the people that a more definite connection with Virginia would be in their best interests.

He proposed a general meeting at Harrodsburg on the eighth of June for the purpose of electing deputies to take their appeal to Williamsburg. In the event they failed to secure the concessions he advocated, Clark promised that he would favor the establishment of an independent state.

Upon arriving at Harrodsburg, he was surprised to learn that the people had already elected him as their delegate, along with John Gabriel Jones. The two were authorized to ask the Virginia General Assembly to recognize Kentucky as a separate county, and to send relief and assistance to the threatened settlements.

Within a few days Clark and Jones set out for Virginia on the Wilderness Road, suffering severe hardships due to heavy rains. On reaching the capitol, they found the Assembly adjourned, and Clark sought an interview with Governor Patrick Henry.

Henry was sympathetic to the Kentucky proposals, especially since he himself had land interests in the West. Armed with a favorable letter of introduction from the Governor, Clark appeared before the Executive Council and at once requested five hundred pounds of gunpowder for the defense of Kentucky.

The Council temporized by saying they had no power to grant the request of a people "not legally united to Virginia," to which Clark retorted, "a country not worth protecting is not worth claiming."

Heeding Clark's implied threat that Kentucky might seek protection elsewhere, and that the country would then be lost to Virginia, the Council issued an order authorizing 500 pounds of gunpowder to be delivered to Clark in Pittsburgh.

In the Fall Clark went before the General Assembly, where he argued that, "should Kentucky be taken under the protection of Virginia, its population would increase; trade would develop; and a respectable body of fine riflemen would furnish an effective guaranty for the safety of the interior counties against Indian attacks."

Clark's arguments carried the day, and out of the ill-defined territory constituting Fincastle County, the Assembly formed three counties to be known as Washington, Montgomery, and Kentucky. With about the same land area as at present, Kentucky became a political unit of Virginia.

Governor Henry commissioned Clark a major and authorized him to organize a militia for the defense of Kentucky.

Early in December of 1776, Clark and Jones journeyed to Pittsburgh to collect the promised gunpowder, and to prepare for their return trip to Kentucky.

Gunpowder for Kentucky

After procuring the gunpowder at Pittsburgh, Clark learned that the Indians of the upper Ohio had gotten wind of his mission and were preparing to intercept him.

Slipping away in the utmost secrecy, he and Jones, with seven boatmen, embarked in a small boat on their journey down the Ohio River. Under constant threat of Indian attack, they managed to elude their pursuers until they reached the mouth of Limestone Creek (Maysville, Ohio).

Realizing that they did not have enough men to carry the powder into the interior, they hid the powder kegs; then, in an effort to lead the Indians away from the area, they dropped downriver a few miles before abandoning their boat.

Upon reaching some deserted cabins of the Hinkson settlement on the west fork of Licking Creek, Clark ordered the others to await his return from Harrodsburg with additional men. Soon after Clark's departure, Colonel John Todd arrived with a small military party and decided to go after the powder. They were ambushed by Indians before they could reach their destination. Jones and two others were killed; and several were taken prisoner, including Clark's cousin Joseph Rogers.

Although he too was pursued by Indians, Clark and his companions reached Harrodsburg safely and, when news of Todd's defeat reached the fort, a company of thirty men was recruited to recover the gunpowder. On January 2, 1777, the expedition, under the command of James Harrod, left Fort Harrod for Limestone Creek. Among those in the party were Simon Kenton, Leonard Helm, Benjamin Linn and Samuel Moore . . . all of whom would figure prominently in coming events.

The powder was distributed to the forts just in time, since 1777 marked the onset of one of the most trying years on the frontier. Without the ammunition secured by Clark, it is doubtful whether the settlements could have survived the events which followed.

24

Year of the "Bloody Sevens"

1777 would become known on the frontier as "the year of the bloody sevens," and developments of the coming months convinced Clark that only aggressive action could save the Kentucky settlements. In March he complied with his orders to form a militia unit, with Daniel Boone, James Harrod, John Todd and Benjamin Logan as captains.

He fully realized that the area northwest of the Ohio River was an open door, through which the hostile Indians could make hit-and-run attacks on the settlements, and he was convinced that these raids were instigated and planned from the British military posts in that country. In order of importance, these posts were Detroit, Vincennes, Kaskaskia and Cahokia.

Even before the outbreak of hostilities, leaders on both sides were considering the Indians as a factor in the contest. The garrison at Detroit in 1776 consisted of only 120 soldiers, plus some French militia and able bodied Englishmen.

Three hundred miles away at Fort Pitt, the chief American post responsible for guarding the long frontier, there was no garrison. Fort Pitt was entirely dependent on the militia of the neighboring counties for protection.

With so few British and American soldiers in the area, the 8,000 warriors of the Northwestern tribes were a temptation to both sides. In all fairness, there were a number of British and American leaders who opposed the use of savages against other white men; and at first, American efforts were devoted primarily toward securing Indian neutrality. However, as the war progressed, expediency prevailed.

Royal orders were received by Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton at Detroit, commanding that "a large body of Indians be engaged," and promising an "assortment of goods for presents." Thereafter the British proceeded to enlist Indians in the regular army, and to employ them, with more terrible results, in cutting off outlying settlements and raiding the frontiers. To this end, they lavished presents and hospitality on the tribes assembled at Detroit, and even Hamilton himself, painted and dressed as an Indian, joined in the wild songs and dances incident to the councils.

The poverty of the Americans prevented them from matching the generosity of the British, who were quick to remind the Indians that the "Big Knives" had been pushing them back for years, and would not rest "until they possessed all of the country."

In 1777, the British applied even greater pressure on the frontier in the hope that the main American army would be weakened by a withdrawal of forces to meet the attack. Although the Indians were ordered to act with humanity, and to spare women, children and the aged, these injunctions had little effect in actual fact.

Hamilton reported in July that fifteen bands of savages had been sent to raid the frontiers, and in isolated localities men often were killed or captured while working in the fields or hunting. Women and children were burned in their homes, and in some cases, entire families were taken prisoner. Hard pressed by their pursuers, the Indians did not hesitate to kill captives who hindered a rapid retreat.

Those who did reach an Indian village were commonly forced to run the gauntlet, or to endure indescribable tortures. Some were sold to British and French traders; women were forced to become the wives or slaves of warriors; and children who survived were often adopted into the tribe.

Although it cannot be proved beyond a doubt that Hamilton offered rewards for scalps, Americans generally believed him guilty of the crime, and the charge has been substantiated by the testimony of prisoners and spies at Detroit. Hamilton himself wrote, "Since last May, the Indians of this district have taken 34 prisoners, 17 of which they delivered up, and 81 scalps." The fact remains that the ire of the settlers was thoroughly aroused by these reports.

Meeting with little success at Harrodsburg and Boonesborough, the Indians besieged Logan's Fort from the last of May until September 2, when Colonel John Bowman and a hundred Virginians arrived in time to rescue the heroic defenders from death by starvation or surrender. Three weeks later, 48 mounted men came to Boone's relief from Yadkin, and in October, 100 riflemen arrived from Virginia.

Diorama of Indians attacking Ft. Harrod

Diorama of gunpowder being secreted at Limestone Creek

JULY 20, 1776. THE NUMBER 78

VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

THE PUBLICK GOOD

R M

... an example and fit instrument ... ing the same absolute rule into ...

... ng away our charters, abolish ... ll valuable laws, and altering ... ly the forms of our govern...

... ending our own legislatures, ... ng themselves invested with ... egislate for us in all cases what...

... ndicated government here, by ... is out of his protection, and ... against us.

... seas, ravaged our ... destroyed

50 Warriors now ... ters.

... 27, 1777)

... has been Informed ... ion that 1150 ... White ...

... mitted by ... the usual Indian ... Detroit ...

... aws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that ...

73 Prisoners and 12... to Detroit this mon...

(Williamsburg

The "Hair-Buyer" ... paying for Scalps as we ... Victims are being Slau... delivered Prisoner. S... Atrocities against helple...

Gov. Assoti... of Savages.

(Vincent...

The Brutal ... the government... Hamilton ... It is ... Indians will ... sparing neither Women ...

... have ... submitted to a candid ...

He has refused his assent ... most wholesome and necessary for the publick good.

He has forbidden his governours to pass ... laws of immediate and pressing impor...

... FREE and INDEPEN-DENT STATES, that they are absolved ...

Clark's Plan

Despite the reinforcements, the case was still desperate for the settlements in Kentucky. The greater part of their stores of corn had been burned, the growing crop destroyed, and the cattle and horses stolen.

Clark had concluded that there was little hope of long-term survival for the settlements unless aggressive action were taken, and without confiding in anyone he slowly developed a plan.

From the outset of the Revolution, American leaders had coveted Detroit as the key to the fur trade and control of the Indian tribes of the Northwest. From this British post a trail led by way of the Maumee River and the upper Wabash to Vincennes; and another extended to Kaskaskia and other posts on the upper Mississippi. The latter were in a position to control the river traffic to New Orleans, and to furnish supplies to Detroit.

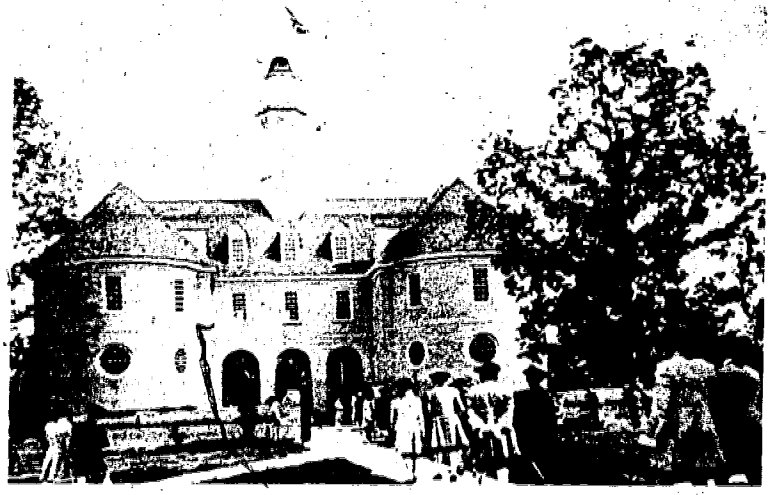
Clark decided the best approach to Detroit would be through the "back door," by way of these outlying posts. In order to assess their strength, he sent Benjamin Linn and Samuel Moore as spies to Kaskaskia. They reported that there was no regular garrison, only French militia under a British commandant, and that the post was vulnerable.

Kaskaskia was the largest of four French settlements in the "American Bottom," which stretched one hundred miles from the confluence of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers and averaged three to seven miles across. Largely inhabited by French settlers, who entertained little real love for the British, the total population of the villages was about a thousand whites and five hundred negro slaves.

Clark left for Virginia on October 1, 1777, to propose a plan of attack against the British posts in the Illinois country. He traveled 620 miles to reach his father's house by November 1, and after a short visit he pushed on to Williamsburg to present his plan to Governor Henry.

(left)
Clark sends Linn and Moore as spies to Kaskaskia

(below)
Clark arrives in Williamsburg to present plan



The Secret Orders

Patrick Henry was persuaded of the efficacy of Clark's plan, and although he hesitated to order an expedition into so distant a country, he realized that to outline the entire plan to the General Assembly would compromise the secrecy so essential to its success.

As an alternative, the details of the proposal were presented to Thomas Jefferson, George Mason and George Wythe in Executive Council. They agreed that the plan should be implemented secretly, and promised to use their influence with the Assembly to secure three hundred acres of conquered land for each enlistee if the expedition proved successful.

On January 2, after obtaining the consent of the Assembly through a general plea that the undertaking was designed for the defense of Kentucky, the Council gave its approval to a full scale military campaign against the British posts in the Illinois country.

Clark was appointed a lieutenant colonel and authorized to raise seven militia companies of fifty men each. He was advanced 1200 pounds in depreciated continental currency and given an order on General Hand at Fort Pitt for the required boats, ammunition and supplies.

Although his public orders directed Clark to go to the relief of Kentucky, his secret orders authorized him to attack Kaskaskia. Subsequent instructions authorized him to attack other strategic points. Some authorities interpret this to mean that Clark had authority to move against Detroit as well.

Reaching the rendezvous point at Redstone, below Fort Pitt, Clark encountered difficulties in recruiting the desired number of men. Few were interested in going so far from home "in defense of Kentucky," and Clark was unable to reveal his true objective.

Finally, on May 12, 1778, he set out from Redstone with 150 frontiersmen, a number of private adventurers and some twenty settlers and their families.

Liberally supplied by General Hand at Fort Pitt and Wheeling, the small army moved cautiously down the Ohio River, never knowing when they might encounter hostile Indians.

Diorama of Clark presenting plan to Executive Council

Clark leaves Williamsburg with the "secret orders" from Patrick Henry — facsimile (#9)

PART II

Contrasting Life Styles
Virginia-Vincennes

Colonial Dames

The National Society of Colonial Dames of America, of which the Indiana Society is a small part (130 members), is dedicated "to the collection of manuscripts, traditions, relics, and mementos of bygone days for preservation . . . to commemorate the success of the American Revolution."

The Society also endeavors to promote interest in American history, to inspire a genuine love of country, and to teach young people to honor the heroic ancestors who "prepared the way for success in that struggle which gained for the country, its liberty and constitution."

FURNISHINGS LOANED TO NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN THE STATE OF INDIANA FOR THIS EXHIBIT: (*) Indicates authenticated 18th century or earlier origin. Others may have been of later origin, and some are contemporary reproductions, but all are typical of the period represented.

Williamsburg

Chairman, Mrs. Morris L. Brown; *Asst.,* Mrs. H. Roll McLaughlin; Architectural Plans, H. Roll McLaughlin, S.A.I.A.

Mrs. Morris L. Brown
Mahogany Queen Ann Table Tea Caddy

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley G. Cederquist
Brass Wall Sconces

Mrs. Maurice T. Harrell
*Brass Candlesticks

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander R. Holliday
*Child's Pine Chair

Mr. and Mrs. H. Roll McLaughlin
*Leather Bound Book

Morris Butler House Museum
*Windsor Chair
(Gift of Mr. Eli Lilly)

Mr. Edward B. Newill
*Poplar Blanket Chest

Mr. and Mrs. F. Noble Ropkey
*American Walnut Long Clock
*Queen Ann Mahogany Reading Stand

Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Van Riper
Antique Soft Paste Bowl (Holland)

Dr. Herman B Wells
*Chippendale Looking Glass

Anonymous
Queen Ann Arm Chair

Vincennes

Chairman, Mrs. James J. Carter

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Carr, Jr.
Table Pliante *(Gate leg table)*

Dr. George L. Compton
*Crémailière
(wooden trammel, Kaskaskia)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McMurray
Petite Table de Chevet, Chaudiere, Pincettes, Bol
(Bedside table, brass bucket, iron fire tongs, wooden bowl)

S. H. Richardson
*Assiettes, Trophée, Bol
(Pewter plates, trophy, bowl)

Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz O. Schmidt
Chandelier *(Brass candlestick)*

Mr. and Mrs. Howard G. Taylor
Petit Prie-Dieu
(Small rustic prie-dieu)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Viewegh
*Lampes de Fer Forgé *(Iron lamps)*

The Colonial Dames
*Louis XV Armoire
(with shaped panels)

*Chaises Canadiennes
(Canadian chairs, rush seats)

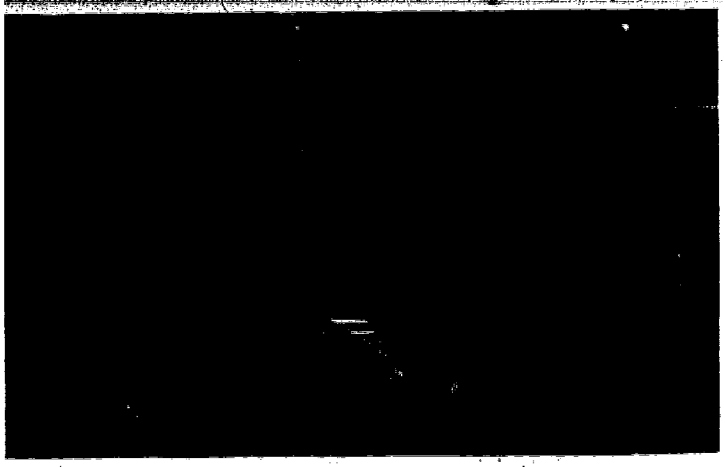
Couvrepied Piqué
(White on white quilt)

*Crucifix d' Espagne
(17th century Spanish crucifix)

*Moule à Chandelles
(Tin candle mold)

Anonymous
*Mousquet Militaire
(French infantry musket — Caliber 0.69, Charleville, 1763)

Made for this exhibit by Mrs. Howard G. Taylor
Vincennes — Lit Garni au Genre de Toile
(Bed hangings — 18th century manner)
Williamsburg — Window draperies and flounce, 18th century documentary print "Winsley"



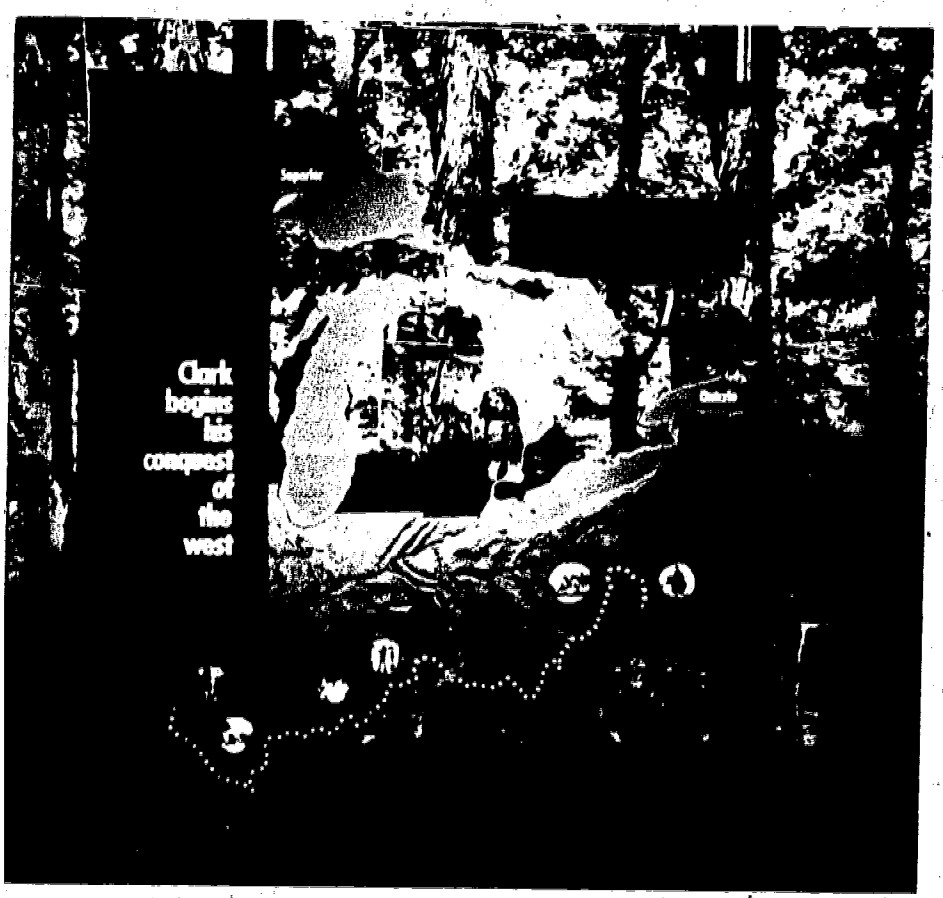
(upper left, counterclockwise) Chippewa-style bearclaw necklace (#5)
Catlinite pipe bowl, Potawatomi
Bear effigy awl, Ottowa
Chippewa wooden spoon
Ash burl bowl, Sauk & Fox
Curly maple wooden spoon with leaf design, Potawatomi
Crooked knife, Ottowa
(Unless otherwise indicated, Indian items were loaned by the Chandler-Pohrt collection, Flint, Michigan)

(Lower left, counterclockwise) Beadwork moccasins, Chippewa
Winnebago beaded bags
Miami moccasin cuff with ribbon work by Frances Slocum
Potawatomi woman's leggings, beadwork on wool
Winnebago beadwork sash, loom-woven
Moccasin-shaped paint sack, Sauk & Fox
Chippewa shoulder bag, beadwork with Thunderbird motif

(Left to Right)
Wooden canteen, "U.S. Pa."
belt axe; salt horn; powder horn, "1772"; English gorget; French gorget (#21)

PART III

The Campaign Against the British
Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes



Taking Kaskaskia

When Clark's small army reached the falls of the Ohio, he was disappointed to find that, of the reinforcements expected to join him there, less than one company from the Holston settlements and a small force of Kentuckians had arrived.

Clark chose Corn Island, in the middle of the rapids, as a supply base for his operations, since the location gave him control of the river traffic and made desertions less likely. There, for the first time, he disclosed to his men the true objective of the expedition. Most received the news enthusiastically, although there were a few desertions during the night.

As preparations for the campaign neared completion, Clark received word of the recent French-American Alliance, which he realized would make it easier for him to gain the cooperation of the predominantly French population of the Illinois towns.

On June 24, 1778, four companies of 175 picked men, commanded by Captains Bowman, Helm, Harrod and Montgomery, embarked from Corn Island, shooting the falls during a total eclipse of the sun, which Clark encouraged his men to regard as a good omen. With oars double muffled, they proceeded downstream to the mouth of the Tennessee River, where they captured a party of American hunters who consented to guide them cross-country to Kaskaskia in order to avoid detection on the river.

Hiding their boats, the army set off on a 120 mile march through forest and trackless prairie. Traveling the last two days without food, the weary men reached the shore opposite Kaskaskia at nightfall on the sixth day, July 4, 1778.

Procuring boats, they ferried across the Kaskaskia River and surprised the fort. Within fifteen minutes, the British commandant Phillippe de Rastél Rocheblave and his wife had been taken prisoner in their quarters, and the town was secured without a shot being fired. Later, because of his abusive attitude, Rocheblave was sent under guard to Virginia. His slaves were sold and the proceeds distributed among Clark's troops.

Clark reassures French at Kaskaskia

Bowman secures Cahokia

Gibault wins French allegiance at Vincennes

39

Diorama of Clark treating with Indians at Cahokia

"I come to you as a man and a warrior, and not as a councilor. In my right hand I carry War (a red belt), and in my left hand Peace (a white belt). Take whichever you please, but let us prove ourselves worthy by speaking with but one heart and one tongue."

Securing the Illinois Country

The French at Kaskaskia, having heard reports of the "savage nature" of the Americans found their worst fears confirmed by the appearance of their ragged, dirty, and often half naked conquerers, many of whom had adopted Indian dress for the long hard march.

Later Clark reported, "Giving all for lost, their lives were all they could beg for, which they did with the greatest fervency; they were willing to be Slaves to save their Families."

What occurred next is an excellent example of Clark's diplomatic abilities. Recognizing that it would be impossible to hold a population of nearly a thousand in subjection with such a small force, he gained their allegiance with assurances that "it is an American principle to free, and not to enslave, those they conquer;" and that those who swore fidelity would be extended all the privileges of American citizens. This, along with news of the French-American Alliance, quickly persuaded the French to take an oath of allegiance, and won the Americans a warm welcome among the inhabitants.

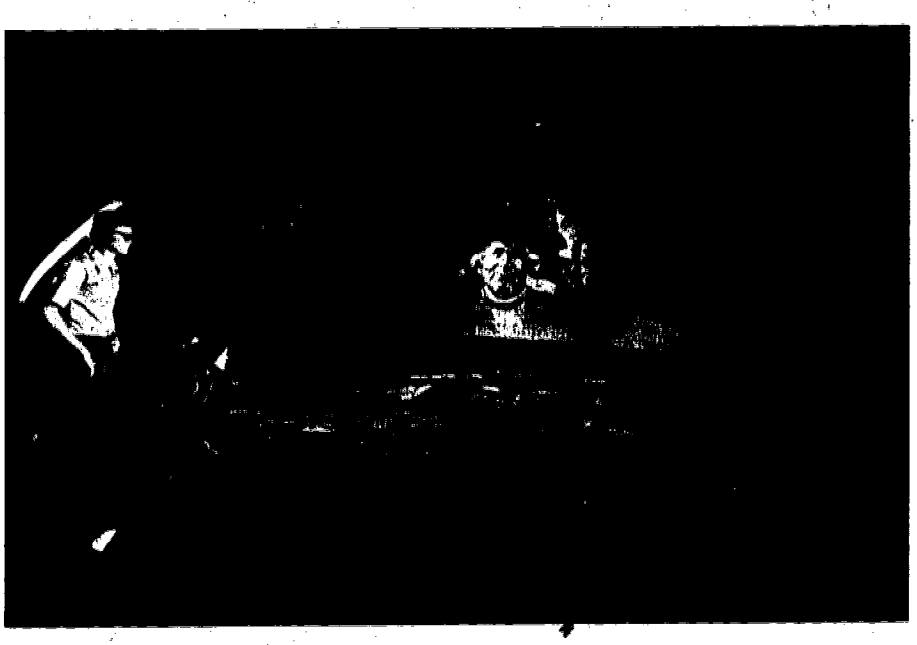
Clark dispatched Captain Bowman and thirty mounted men to take the other Illinois towns at Prairie du Rocher, St. Philippe and Cahokia, which also capitulated without resistance.

Clark's generous conduct toward the Catholic Church won him the support of Father Pierre Gibault, who rode with Dr. Jean Laffont to Vincennes with many favorable letters from the residents of Kaskaskia and an address from Clark soliciting the cooperation of the French in that settlement. Gibault returned in August to report that the American flag was flying over Vincennes, and Captain Helm was sent to take command of the French militia there.

Through the intercession of his trusted associate Francis Vigo, Clark then established friendly relations with the Spanish lieutenant-governor at St. Louis, Fernando DeLeyba, and during the five weeks of August and September he met at Cahokia with the Indians of the area in an effort to win their neutrality during the next phase of the campaign. Offering them a choice of the "red belt of war, or the white belt of peace," Clark eventually succeeded in winning over all of the tribes which had assembled from as far as 500 miles away.

(Above) Stockade entrance to environmental theatre

(Below) Climax of this exhibit is this environmental theatre where a multi-media dramatization tells the story of the Vincennes campaign



Hamilton recaptures Vincennes

Upon learning of Clark's victories in the Illinois country, Lieutenant-Governor Henry Hamilton rallied his forces at Detroit for a counter-attack.

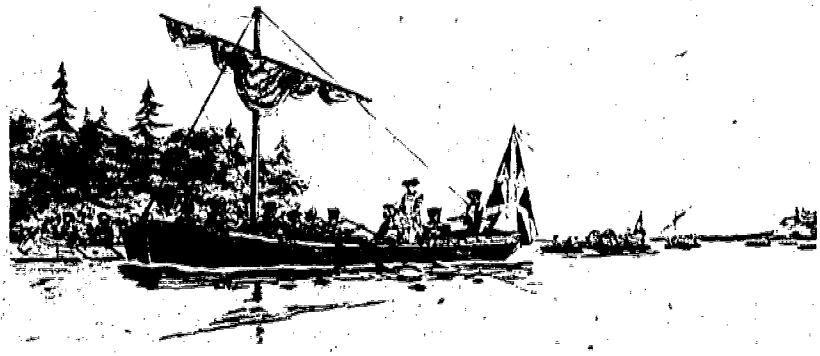
On October 7, a large and well-supplied expedition of British troops, French militia and Indians left Detroit for the 600 mile journey to Vincennes by way of the Maumee and Wabash Rivers. Augmented by additional Indians who joined the expedition along the way, Hamilton's force numbered five hundred by the time it approached Vincennes.

In addition to securing Fort Sackville, Hamilton had three final objectives in mind: to erect a fort at the junction of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to strangle American river trade; to gain control of the mouth of the Missouri River, with the hope of underselling the Spaniards and gaining favor with the Indians of that area; and to regain the Mississippi trade by dislodging the rebels from the Illinois country.

Meanwhile, Captain Helm at Vincennes was uncertain of Hamilton's whereabouts until he was within three miles of the town. Panic seized the French at the first sight of the impressive British force, and they deserted, leaving Helm with only one American soldier to defend the fort. As Hamilton approached, Helm wrote to Clark:

> "At this time theer is an army within three miles of this place. I heard of their coming . . . sent spies. The spies being taken prisoners I never got intelligence.
>
> "I know it's out of my power to defend the town as not one of the militia will take arms . . . though before sight of the army no braver men. Their flag is at a small distance. I must conclude."
>
> Yr. humble servt.
> Leo D. Helm

Resistance was out of the question, and Helm surrendered the fort on December 17, spending the next two months as Hamilton's prisoner.



Hamilton leaves Detroit for Vincennes

Hamilton strengthens fortifications at Ft. Sackville

Helm's letter to Clark is captured. Vigo brings the news to Kaskaskia in January.

Clark decides to Attack

Helm's letter never reached Clark, and it wasn't until January 29, 1779 that he learned of the surrender of Fort Sackville. The news was brought to him by Francis Vigo, who had been permitted to leave Vincennes to conduct business at St. Louis. He also informed Clark that Hamilton had sent his Indian allies home for the winter months and was strengthening the fortifications at Sackville in preparation for an attack against Clark in the Spring.

Clark, having despaired of receiving reinforcements from Virginia or Kentucky, realized his troops could not defend the Illinois towns if Hamilton were given sufficient time to reassemble his army in the Spring. "It was at this moment," he declared, "I would have bound myself seven years a Slave to have had five hundred Troops."

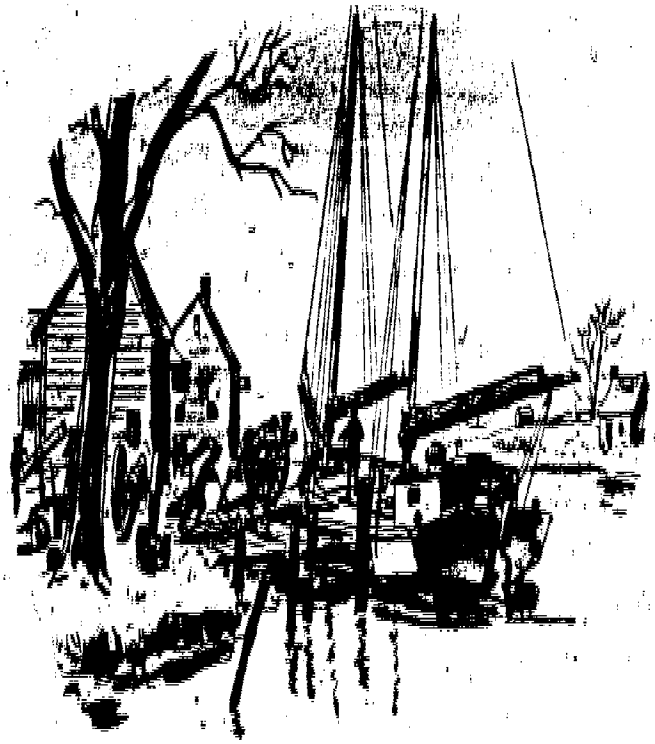
Out of desperation, Clark decided upon a bold gamble. He proposed an immediate attack on Fort Sackville "In the Debth of Wintor" when the enemy would least expect it. So confident was he of the strategy's success, that his enthusiasm was communicated not only to his own men, but to the French as well.

Two companies of French militia volunteered to accompany the expedition, and the ladies of the village busied themselves sewing flags.

As Clark and his chief aide Major Bowman completed their preparations, Clark wrote to inform Governor Henry of his decision, saying, "If I fall through in this Expedition the whole Cuntry is lost and I believe Kentucky also. But great things have been Done by a few Men. Perhaps we may be fortunate."

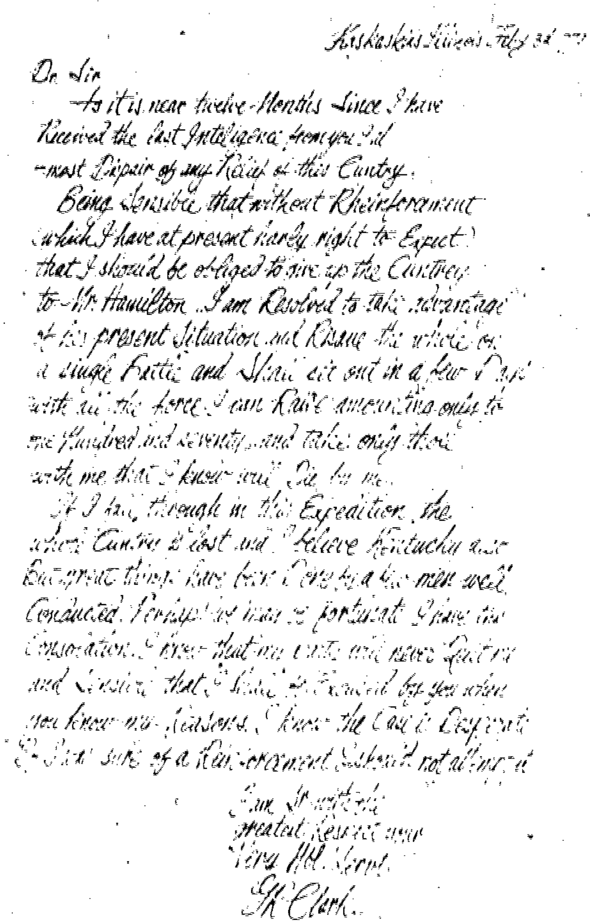
On February 5 the Willing, the first armed boat on the Ohio River, mounting "two 4-pounders and four swivels," set off with a crew of forty men under Lieutenant John Rogers, with orders to guard the mouth of the Wabash and rendezvous with the main force below Vincennes. The Willing carried artillery, gunpowder and other supplies too heavy to be carried overland. The ground troops were to travel light, sleeping on the ground and shooting game for food along the way.

The following afternoon Clark, mounted on a fine stallion, led his small army of 172 men out of Kaskaskia to begin one of the most heroic and dramatic undertakings of the whole Revolution. The



French volunteers join the Americans, and Clark prepares to march on Vincennes.

march would take them through 240 miles of wilderness and across rivers flooded by constant rain. What would normally have been a five or six days journey was to require sixteen days, the last without food or dry powder. Seldom has so much been endured, or accomplished, by so few.



Kaskaskias Illinois Feby 3d [illegible]

Dr Sir

As it is near twelve Months Since I have Received the last Intelligence from you I al-most Dispair of any Relief of this Cuntry. Being Sensible that without Rheinforcement (which I have at present hardly right to Expect) that I should be obliged to give up the Cuntrey to Mr. Hamilton. I am Resolved to take advantage of his present Situation and Risque the whole on a single Battle and Shall set out in a few Days with all the force I can Raise amounting only to one Hundred and seventy, and take only those with me that I know will Die by me. If I fail through in this Expedition, the whole Cuntry is lost and I believe Kentucky also. But great things have been done by a few men well Conducted. Perhaps we may be fortunate. I have this Consolation. I know that my cause will never Suffer and Sensible that I shall be Excused by you when you know my Reasons. I know the Case is Desperate [illegible] of a Reinforcement [illegible]

I am Sir with the greatest Respect your Very Hbl. Servt.

G R Clark

Clark's letter to Patrick Henry

"a few men well conducted." . . .

Quotations from Joseph Bowman's Journal and Other Commentary
Illustrated by Visuals from the Exhibit's "Environmental Theatre"

1779

"Feb. 5 — Raised another company of volunteers . . . . increased our number to 170 men . . . . about 3 o'clock we crossed the Kaskaskia with our baggage, and marched about a league from town. Made a good march for about 9 hours; the road very bad, with mud and water. Pitched our camp in a square, baggage in the middle, every company to guard their own squares."

"Feb. 8 — Marched early through the waters, which we now began to meet in those large level plains . . . . notwithstanding which, our men were in great spirits, though much fatigued.

"Feb. 12 — Marched across Cot plains, saw and killed numbers of buffaloes. The road very bad from immense quantity of rain that had fallen. The men much fatigued: Encamped on the edge of the woods. This plain or meadow being 15 or more miles across, it was late in the night before the baggage and troops got together. Now 21 miles from St. Vincent (Vincennes)."

The next day, the army reached the first of the two branches of the Little Wabash which were flooded into a single stream, five miles wide and three feet deep in the shallowest places. Clark ordered canoes built to ferry men and stores to the far side, where a scaffold was built to hold the baggage until the pack horses could be taken across. The second branch was crossed in the same manner.

Encamped on high ground the evening of February 15, Clark records that he was able to divert the minds of his men from their hardships "with the assistance of a little Antick Drummer who floated by on his drum."

"Feb. 17 — Marched early; crossed several runs, very deep. Sent Mr. Kennedy, our commissary, with three men to cross the river Embarras, if possible, and proceed to a plantation opposite Post St. Vincent, in order to steal boats or canoes to ferry us across the Wabash. About an hour; by sun, we got near the river Embarras. Found the country all overflowed with water.

"Feb. 18 — At break of day heard Governor Hamilton's morning gun. Set off and marched down the river."

There still was no sign of the Willing with the provisions and heavy artillery, and since they were within nine miles of Vincennes, they were unable to use their guns to shoot game for food. As the men's hunger grew, Clark and his officers were hard-pressed to prevent desertions.

"Feb. 19 — Captain McCarty's company set to making a canoe . . . . the canoe finished, Captain McCarty, with 3 of his men, embarked in the canoe and made the third attempt to steal boats . . . . No provisions of any sort, now two days. Hard Fortune!

"Feb. 20 — Camp very quiet, but hungry. . . . Fell to making more canoes, when, about 12 o'clock, our sentry on the river brought-to a boat with 5 Frenchmen from the post, who told us we were not as yet discovered; that the inhabitants were well disposed towards us. One of our men killed a deer, which was brought into camp, very acceptable.

"Feb. 21 — At break of day began to ferry our men over in our two canoes to a small hill. . . . The whole army being over, we thought to get to town that night, so plunged into the water. . . ."

At this point, the horses had to be left behind, and in the darkness, they pushed on through three miles of water, often shoulder-high. Clark records that if the weather had not been mild, they "would have perished." The expedition encamped at a maple sugar camp, six miles from Vincennes, and the weather turned colder. By morning there was a half inch of ice on the quieter water.

Feb. 22 — Col. Clark encourages his men, which gave them great spirits. Marched on in the waters. Those that were weak and famished from so much fatigue went in the canoes. . . . Heard the evening and morning guns from the fort. No provisions yet. Lord help us!"

"Feb. 23 — Set off to cross the plain called Horse Shoe Plain . . . . Col. Clark being the first, taking care to have the boats try to take those that were weak and numbed with cold into them. Never were men so animated with the thought of avenging the wrongs done to their back settlements as this small army was. . . . About 1 o'clock, we came in sight of the town. We halted on a small hill of dry land called Warren's (Warrior's) Island, where we took a prisoner hunting ducks, who informed us that no person suspected our coming at that season of the year. Col. Clark wrote a letter by him to the inhabitants. . . . In order to give time to publish this letter we lay still till about sundown, when we began our march, all in order, with colors flying and drums braced."

Clark employed a clever ruse at this time, ordering all of the flags marched to and fro behind a small elevation, so that the actual number of men could not be seen. The British were thereby deceived into believing that the American force numbered nearer a thousand than a mere 170 men.

"After wading to the edge of the water breast high we mounted the rising ground the town is built on about 8 o'clock. . . . The cannon played smartly. Not one of our men wounded. Men in the fort badly wounded. Fine sport for the sons of Liberty."

British cannon, mounted eleven feet above the ground, were incapable of doing much damage to the attackers, and merely succeeded in hitting a structure or two in the village. Entrenched within 200 yards of the fort, small squads advanced within 30 yards of the walls. The sharpshooting frontiersmen kept up such an accurate fire that the British were afraid to open their gunports.

"Feb. 24 — As soon as daylight, the fort began to play her small arms briskly. One of our men got slightly wounded. About 9 o'clock, the colonel sent a flag with a letter to Governor Hamilton."

Clark demanded a British surrender while his men enjoyed their first regular meal in six days. Hamilton rejected the terms and Clark ordered the battle to resume.

Two hours later, Helm was sent to the American lines with an offer of surrender on "reasonable terms." Clark, fearing reinforcements on the way, demanded immediate surrender within thirty minutes. Hamilton countered with a request for a three day truce, which Clark also rejected.

In the meantime, the Americans captured a band of Indians returning from the Falls with two prisoners and a number of scalps. In order to demonstrate to the Indian allies of the British that their friends were no longer capable of protecting them, Clark ordered the Indians tomahawked in full view of the fort.

Toward evening, an unconditional surrender was signed, delivering Fort Sackville and all stores to Clark, the garrison becoming "prisoners at discretion." Subsequently, Clark sent Hamilton, seven of his principal officers, and eighteen other prisoners to the gaol at Williamsburg, where Hamilton was held until late 1780.

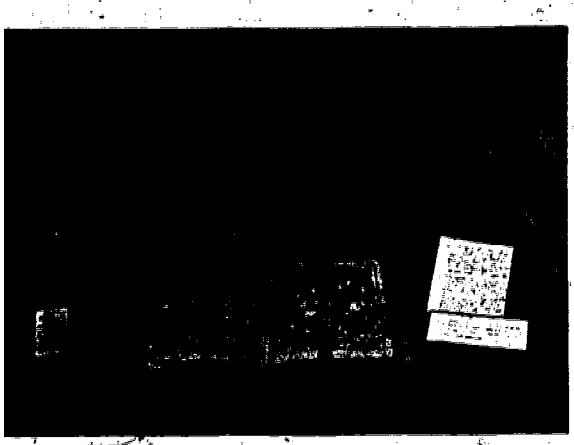
"Feb. 25 — "About 10 o'clock Captain Bowman's and Captain McCarty's companies paraded on one side of the fort gate. Governor Hamilton and his garrison marched out, while Colonel Clark . . . marched into the fort, relieved the sentries, hoisted the American colors, secured all arms."

Clark, renaming the fort "Patrick Henry," found it well stored and garrisoned, mounting twelve guns, and was surprised that it had been given up so easily.

All credit belongs to Clark, who conceived and executed the daring strategy which won even the gruding admiration of Hamilton himself.

On February 27, the Willing finally reached Vincennes, with a messenger bearing the thanks of the Virginia Assembly for Clark's less significant victory at Kaskaskia, and promising suitable rewards for the troops.

Despite the fact that Clark never received sufficient support to carry out his ultimate plan to occupy Detroit, the British were unable to regain their posts in the Illinois country and, at the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the entire area north to the Great Lakes and west to the Mississippi River was ceded to the United States.



(Top left, counterclockwise) Cope, late 19th century
Ablution cup
Biblia Sacra, published 1741 in Paris (two books)
Spanish prayer book — belonged to Francis Vigo
Rosary
Missal, published in Paris 1742
Facsimile of Bill of Goods signed by Francis Vigo
Facsimile of parish records, Old Cathedral, Vincennes, [illegible] (#13)

Portrait of Clark,
late 1820's, Jouett (#1)

Hessian sword — accession #X123.1; Revolutionary War drum — accession #18992. (Indiana State Museum collection)

Epilogue

Although this exhibit concludes with Clark's capture of Fort Sackville in 1779, it is appropriate to add a sketch of his subsequent service.

Charged with the defense of the frontier, Clark realized that the best defense was contingent upon the capture of Detroit, the British headquarters for western operations from which the raids against the Kentucky settlements were being planned and supplied. Unfortunately, neither Virginia nor the Continental Congress were ever able to supply the men or money necessary for this venture.

Clark proceeded to garrison Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes, and then built Fort Jefferson on the Mississippi below the mouth of the Ohio in the Spring of 1780. During that same year, the British attempted a three-pronged offensive to regain control of the lower West.

In response to urgent pleas for help, Clark hastened to Cahokia, arriving just twenty-four hours before the British attack. A simultaneous blow was aimed at St. Louis, the Spanish headquarters for upper Louisiana. Clark repelled both attacks.

He then hurried back to Kentucky, where a third force, commanded by Colonel Henry Bird, was ravaging the settlements with an army of more than a thousand Indians and British. Only 100 of the 350 prisoners taken by Bird's force at Ruddle's and Martin's Stations survived, and a thousand volunteers responded to Clark's call to rally at the mouth of the Licking for a counter-attack.

Crossing the Ohio, they defeated the Indians at Piqua (near present-day Springfield, Ohio) and forced Bird to pull back to Detroit. In a thirty-day campaign, Clark's men covered 480 miles; and in a four-month period, Clark defeated three British thrusts along a thousand-mile front. In 1781, Governor Jefferson commissioned Clark a brigadier-general in recognition of his valorous service.

In 1782, the Kentuckians suffered their most terrible defeat at the hands of the Shawnee at the Battle of Blue Licks. Upon receiving the news, Clark promptly organized and led a successful campaign against the Shawnee stronghold at Chillicothe. Clark knew that a continuing migration into Kentucky would insure the survival of the western settlements if he could hold back the Indian menace, and his action against the Shawnee succeeded in buying more time for the beleaguered frontier.

Thomas Jefferson secured for Clark an appointment to a national commission in charge of treating with the Indians of the Northwest. He participated in a series of councils which resulted in the cession of vast areas of land and Indian recognition of American sovereignty at the Treaties of Fort McIntosh in 1785 and Fort Finney in 1786. The

Indians held Clark in the highest esteem, calling h[redacted]rst man living, the great and invincible long knife."

Clark played an active role in the administration of the Illinois (Clark) Grant in southern Indiana to his troops, and in 1784 he founded Clarksville, the first English-speaking settlement in the Old Northwest. He also was the founder of Louisville, Ky.

In 1803, Clark retired to Clarksville where he indulged his life-long interest in natural history. As a pioneer archaeologist of the area, he collected the remains of extinct animals and other fossils, sending many specimens to Thomas Jefferson for his personal collection. In later years, Clark was also a trustee of Transylvania University.

During his defense of the frontier, with grossly inadequate support from Virginia, Clark had found it necessary on many occasions to pledge his own resources in order to obtain essential supplies for his troops. For the rest of his life, he was plagued by these debts, and his salary as an officer of the Virginia Militia was years in arrears. It was not until 1812 that Virginia finally awarded him a ceremonial sword and a lifetime pension of $400 a year.

For more than a decade, Clark had exercised great authority and leadership in the West, with his power depending more on personal charisma and capacity for command than on his commissions from Williamsburg. It was perhaps inevitable that such preeminence would attract enemies and an envy which was to shadow his later years.

After suffering a crippling paralytic stroke in 1809, he went to live with his sister, Lucy, and her husband, William Croghan, at Locust Grove near Louisville. He died there on February 13, 1818, at the age of 65.

In his funeral oration, Judge John Rowan conferred a most appropriate epitaph: "The mighty oak of the forest has fallen . . . the father of the western country is no more."

Of Clark's finest hour at the surrender of Fort Sackville, his chief biographer, James Alton James, says:

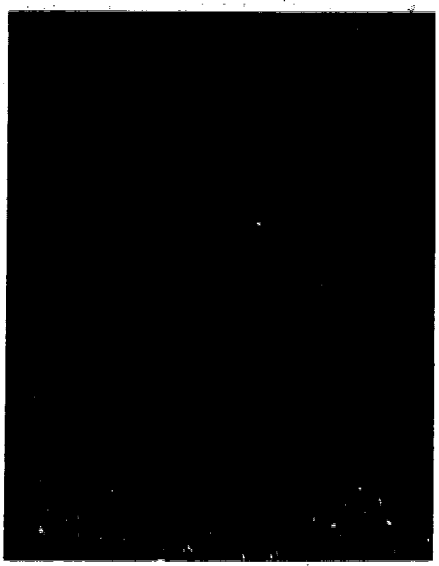
"This victory marks the climax of one of the most heroic and notable achievements in history. The boldness of the plan, the skill with which it was executed, the perseverance in overcoming obstacles, seemingly insurmountable, excited the admiration even of (Governor Henry) Hamilton."

At the site of this victory in Vincennes, Indiana, a grateful nation dedicated in 1936 the George Rogers Clark National Memorial, an imposing tribute to Clark's courage and leadership . . . and an inspiring example of what can be accomplished by "a few men well-conducted."

Documents Study Room

The materials in the Documents Study Room were prepared by th Indiana Historical Society.

"Hamilton's Surrender at Ft. Sackville" by Indianapolis-born illustrator Frederick Coffay Yohn (1875-1933). Executed as a cover for the *Youth's Companion*.
(#29)



Father Pierre Gibault — artist unknown (#23)

Loaned Materials and Special Exhibits

We wish to thank the following institutions, organizations and individuals who are loaning historical materials to this exhibit. (If items will not remain for duration, exhibit dates are shown. Those illustrated in this catalog are keyed to the lender's number.)

CLARK MATERIALS

1. The Filson Club
   Louisville, Ky.
   (To 10/1/76)
2. Locust Grove, Historic Homes Foundation, Inc.
   Louisville, Ky.
   (To 9/1/76)
3. Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Stalker
   Lakeside, Cal.
4. Mrs. George S. Wheaton
   Pasadena, Cal.

WOODLAND INDIAN MATERIALS

5. Milton G. Chandler
   Pasadena, Cal.
6. Cranbrook Institute of Science
   Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
   (8/27/77 – 2/23/78)
7. Dayton Museum of Natural History
   Dayton, Ohio
   (2/25/78 – 8/25/78)
8. Field Museum of Natural History
   Chicago, Ill.
   (2/25/77 – 8/25/77)
9. Indiana Historical Society
   Indianapolis
10. Milwaukee Public Museum
    Milwaukee, Wis.
    (8/27/76 – 2/23/77)
11. Richard A. Pohrt
    Flint, Mich.
    (To 8/25/76)
12. Science Museum of Minnesota
    St. Paul, Minn.
    (8/27/78 – 6/1/79)

REVOLUTIONARY WAR ITEMS

13. Brute Library and
    Old Cathedral Church
    Vincennes, In.
    (To 6/25/76)
14. George L. Compton, M.D.
    Tipton, In.
15. Mr. and Mrs. Noble W. Hiatt
    Indianapolis
16. Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution
    (Stairwell exhibit changes Aug. and Jan.)
17. Kentucky Pioneer Memorial Assoc.
    Harrodsburg, Ky.
18. Mrs. James L. Murray, Jr.
    Noblesville, In.
19. National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Indiana (page 29)
20. John Nixon
    Cambridge City, In.
21. Ralph W. Reid Family
    Indianapolis
    (To 6/1/77)

EARLY AMERICAN TOOLS

22. Fred R. Malott, M.D.
    Converse, In.
23. Ray Wilson
    Indianapolis

18th CENTURY FIREARMS

24. Anonymous

CONTEMPORARY AND VISUAL MATERIALS

25. George J. Clingman
Indianapolis

26. Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation
Williamsburg, Va.

27. Mrs. Dorothea Houppert
Indianapolis

28. Embroiderer's
Guild of America, Inc.
Indianapolis Chapter

29. Indiana Historical Bureau
Indianapolis

ART GALLERY SCHEDULE

1976	
Feb. 25 – May 14	
A Segment of the Ohio River Valley	Harry Davis, *artist*
May 23 – Sept. 22	
3rd Contemporary Art Exhibit	Indiana Artists
Oct. 3 – Jan. 16	
American Heritage in Stitchery	Embroiderer's Guild
1977	
Jan. 23 – May 15	
18th all Indiana Salon of Photography	Ind. Photo Clubs
May 22 – Sept. 17	
4th Contemporary Art Exhibit	Indiana Artists
Sept. 26 – Jan. 15	
Circus Heritage in Indiana	Robert Weaver, *artist*
1978	
Jan. 22 – May 14	
Fred C. Yohn, Indiana Illustrator	*Fred Yohn, *artist*
May 21 – Sept. 17	
5th Contemporary Art Exhibit	Indiana Artists
Sept. 25 — Jan. 14	
Americana Heritage	George Compton, M.D., Collector
1979	
Jan. 28 – May 14	
Watercolors and Drawings	Paul J. Sweany, *artist*

*Deceased

Indiana State Museum Society, Inc.

The Indiana State Museum Society, Inc., was founded in April of 1967 to assist in the promotion and development of the Indiana State Museum. This quarter of a million dollar exhibit is the most ambitious project ever undertaken by the Society, and the following individuals have played major roles in making it a reality.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Jack B. Kammins, Pres.
Don E. Shafer, V.P.
Victor G. Wallisa, Treas.
Mrs. Charles V. Reed, Sec.
Carl H. Armstrong, Exec. Sec.
Eldon L. Alig
Mrs. Jess C. Andrew, Jr.
Dr. I. George Blake
Alembert W. Brayton, III
Mrs. Ralph B. Coble
Wayne Guthrie
Arthur R. Hanje
Earl J. Lynn
Mrs. Robert McDougal
Edward B. Newill
Mrs. James E. Noland
Kurt F. Pantzer
J. Edward Ransell
F. Noble Ropkey
Mrs. Carroll E. Sipe
Mrs. John Evan Stiers
Matthew E. Welsh
Mrs. Irwin P. Egan,
Chmn. Museum Volunteers

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ralph B. Coble, Co-Chmn.
Mrs. James E. Noland, Co-Chmn.
Don E. Shafer, Exhibit Director
Mrs. Noble W. Hiatt
Mrs. E. Havens Kahlo
Jack B. Kammins
Gene E. McCormick
Edward B. Newill
Mrs. Charles V. Reed
Mrs. J. Evan Stiers
Mrs. Thomas H. Thompson
Matthew E. Welsh
Carl H. Armstrong

HISTORY ADVISORS

I. George Blake, Ph.D.
Donald F. Carmony, Ph.D.
*Richard H. Gemmecke, Ph.D.
Hubert H. Hawkins
George M. Waller, Ph.D.

EX-DIRECTORS 1973-75

Robert C. Braun
Jack C. Brown
Mrs. S. P. Davidson
Dr. George W. Geib
*Dr. Richard H. Gemmecke
Mrs. Noble W. Hiatt
Dr. Frederick L. Hovde
Herbert A. Huene
Mrs. E. Havens Kahlo
Gene E. McCormick
Charles R. Meyer
George A. Rieder
G. Rex Shields, Jr.
Earl C. Townsend, Jr.
Mrs. John H. Warvel

STAFF

Betty LeMaster, Office Mgr.
Beth Muckerheide, Bicentennial Affairs Coordinator

*Deceased

Indiana State Museum

The Indiana State Museum was created officially in 1869 when several collection cabinets assigned to the State Geologist were set aside for Civil War trophies and mementoes. However, it was not until 1967, when the museum was installed in a permanent home with a full time professional staff, that the development of a fully accredited museum began.

The present museum structure, which was fully restored and adapted for museum purposes, is listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*, and is the former Indianapolis City Hall. Built of Indiana limestone, it is recognized as one of the finest examples of early 20th century public architecture in the state.

The State Museum is specifically charged with the preservation and interpretation of the natural and cultural history of Indiana. It is a free facility, supported by public funds. Volunteers staff a tour program, and operate book and gift shops which feature items pertinent to the state. (Open Monday through Saturday, 10-4)

The Indiana State Museum is administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, under the Division of Museums and Memorials.

Otis R. Bowen, M.D.
Governor of Indiana
John A. Hillenbrand, II
Chmn., Natural Resources Commission
Joseph D. Cloud
Director, Dept. of Natural Resources
John T. Costello, Deputy Director
Dept. of Natural Resources
Carl H. Armstrong, Director
Indiana State Museum and Division of Museums and Memorials

Museum Department Heads
Diane Alpert, *Collections*
Jan Finney, *Education*
Mary Jane Meeker, *Research*
Albert McClure, *Maintenance*
David McLary, *Exhibits*
Ronald Tapp, *Security*

59

Exhibit Outreach Programs

Filmed Tour of George Rogers Clark Bicentennial Exhibit

"GEORGE ROGERS CLARK, AND THE WINNING OF THE OLD NORTHWEST"
(28 min., sound and color, 16 mm. film or video-tape cassette)
Available free on loan, or for purchase at cost

Produced by the Indiana State Museum Society as an extension of the Exhibit, for use by community groups, schools, and television stations throughout the state, this film will be available in the Spring of 1976 through local library film divisions or the Indiana State Museum.

Primary and Secondary School Teaching Units and Film Strips

The first comprehensive teaching units ever prepared on the subject of George Rogers Clark and the Revolutionary War period in the Old Northwest. Funded by the Museum Society and developed by professional educators under the direction of John A. Harrold, Social Studies Consultant, Indiana Department of Public Instruction, 120 West Market Street, Indianapolis, 46204. For further information, contact the Curriculum Division.

Group Tours

All schools are required to schedule group tours a minimum of two weeks in advance with the Museum's Education Department. Conducted tours for groups of 15 or more persons are also available by prior arrangement. Unscheduled groups may be delayed admission if a scheduled tour is in progress. There is no charge.

"Commemorative History of the George Rogers Clark Bicentennial Exhibit"

This illustrated narrative history of George Rogers Clark and the Bicentennial exhibit may be purchased at *The Museum Shop*, The Indiana State Museum.