

them out of it. Evidently the 45 year old Chief was tired of war and he remained at Fort de Chartres, just resting and waiting.

In the meantime, Major George **Croghan**, the English Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs, decided to make an effort to come to Illinois and gain a surrender of the Indian blockhouse. He left Fort Pitt (Pittsburg, Pa) on May 15, 1765 with several soldiers and a party of Shawnee Indians. On June 7, he arrived without incident at the site of Louisville, Kentucky where he dispatched Indian runners to go overland on the trail that went from there to Vincennes, and then across Illinois to Fort de Chartres. Perhaps the reader can just imagine, standing along the wilderness trail that passed through present day Clay County, and seeing those young runners passing on the trail in the month of June, 1765, carrying a message to the French Commander at Fort de Chartres.

By June 8, 1765, Major **Croghan's** boats were stopped for the night at the mouth on the Wabash, probably near the site of Shawneetown, on the Illinois shore. There they were attacked by a force of KICKAPOO and MASCOUTEN warriors. In the fight several of the English soldiers were killed and the entire party were taken prisoner, with **Crougan** himself being wounded with a tomahawk cut to his head. From there the prisoners were taken northward, up the Big Wabash, past Vincennes to Fort Ouiatenon, near present Lafayette, Indiana. When the party had passed Vincennes, runners were sent to Chief **Pontiac** at Fort de Chartres, relating what had happened. It was then that **Pontiac** decided to head out across the trails, with his entire staff, to Ouiatenon, and end once an for all, his lost cause.

In the meantime, Major **Croghan** had been allowed to go free, and he also had started overland, on the Detroit-Kaskaskia Trail, in order to speak with **Pontiac** and the French military at Fort de Chartres. The two groups met peacefully on the trail, near present Allerton, Illinois. From there they returned to Fort Ouiatenon for a formal peace council. From there runners were sent to Fort Pitt that the Illinois country was ready for English occupation without further bloodshed. On October 10, 1765, Captain **Stirling's** 42nd Royal Highlanders marched into Fort de Chartres with bagpipes blaring and the "Fleur de Lis" was lowered with honor, never again to float over Illinois.

Harley **Bonham**

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Sources: Capt Thomas **Stirling**, Correspondence, 42nd  
Reg. "America & West Indies" Vol 97 Public Records Office London  
Illinois Hist Library Pub. #12 (Inventory of Ft. Chartres)  
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