

The American Revolution in the Upper Mississippi Valley



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1750



Pontiac's Rebellion, 1763

- **Solution:** Massive attacks throughout the Great Lakes and the Ohio Valley.

Pontiac's Rebellion, 1763–1764



- Every British fort except Detroit and **Fort Pitt** are **destroyed**. 500 soldiers and 2000 colonists are killed.

British Strategy

Maintain control of choke points and control the fur trade

In 1775:

Ft. Niagara 8th Foot

Detroit 8th Foot

Ft. Mackinaw 8th Foot

Ft. Gage (Kaskaskia) 18th Foot (sent
to Detroit in 1776)



George Rogers Clarke & Virginia's Illinois Regiment, 1778

Capture Kaskaskia, May 24, 1778

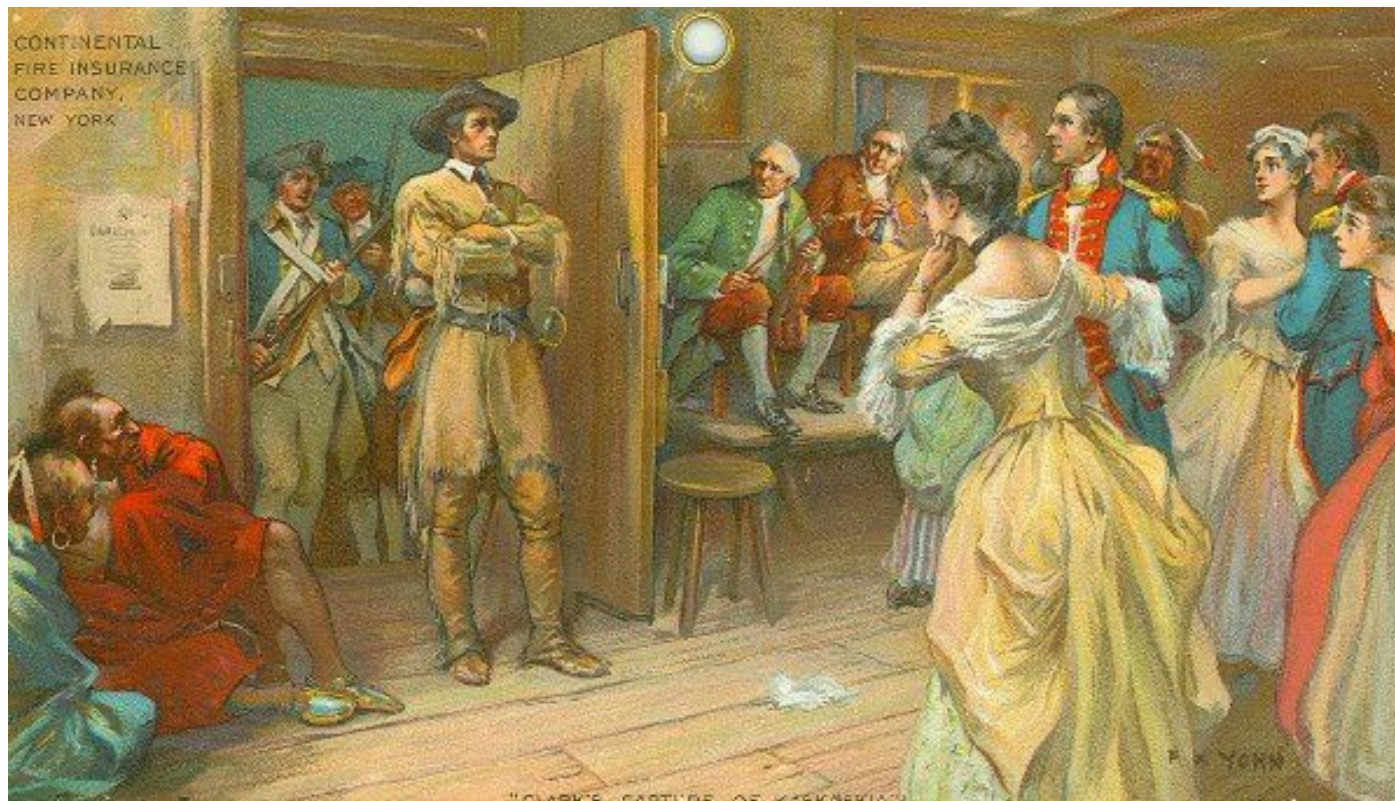


Image by Fredrick Yohn

British Lt. Gov. Henry Hamilton retakes the fort at Vincennes, Indiana, on 17 Dec 1778. He renames it Fort Sackville and then allows most of his troops to return to their homes (mostly around Detroit)



Clarke marches 170 men including some from Illinois to Vincennes to retake the post on 25 Feb 1779 after a two-day siege

Details at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/vincennes>

Image from Wiki commons

Image from American Battlefield Trust

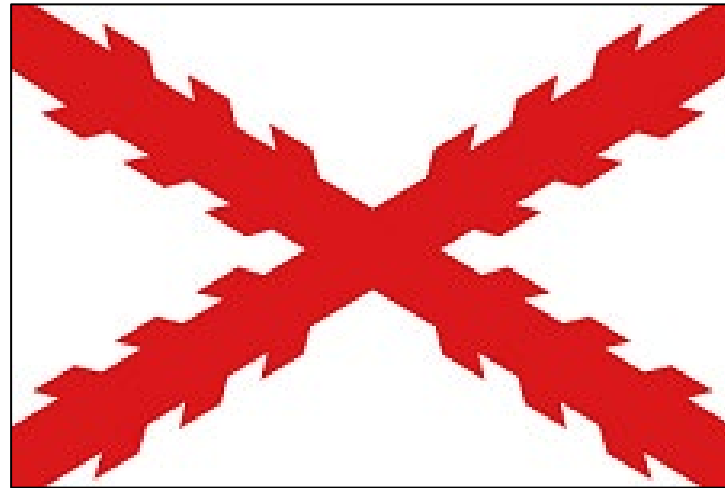
Old Northwest Campaign 1778/1779

- 4 July ~ Clarke captured Kaskaskia
- 5 July ~ Clarke captured Cahokia
- 20 July ~ Clarke captured Vincennes
- 17 December ~ British recaptured Vincennes and rename it Fort Sackville

1779

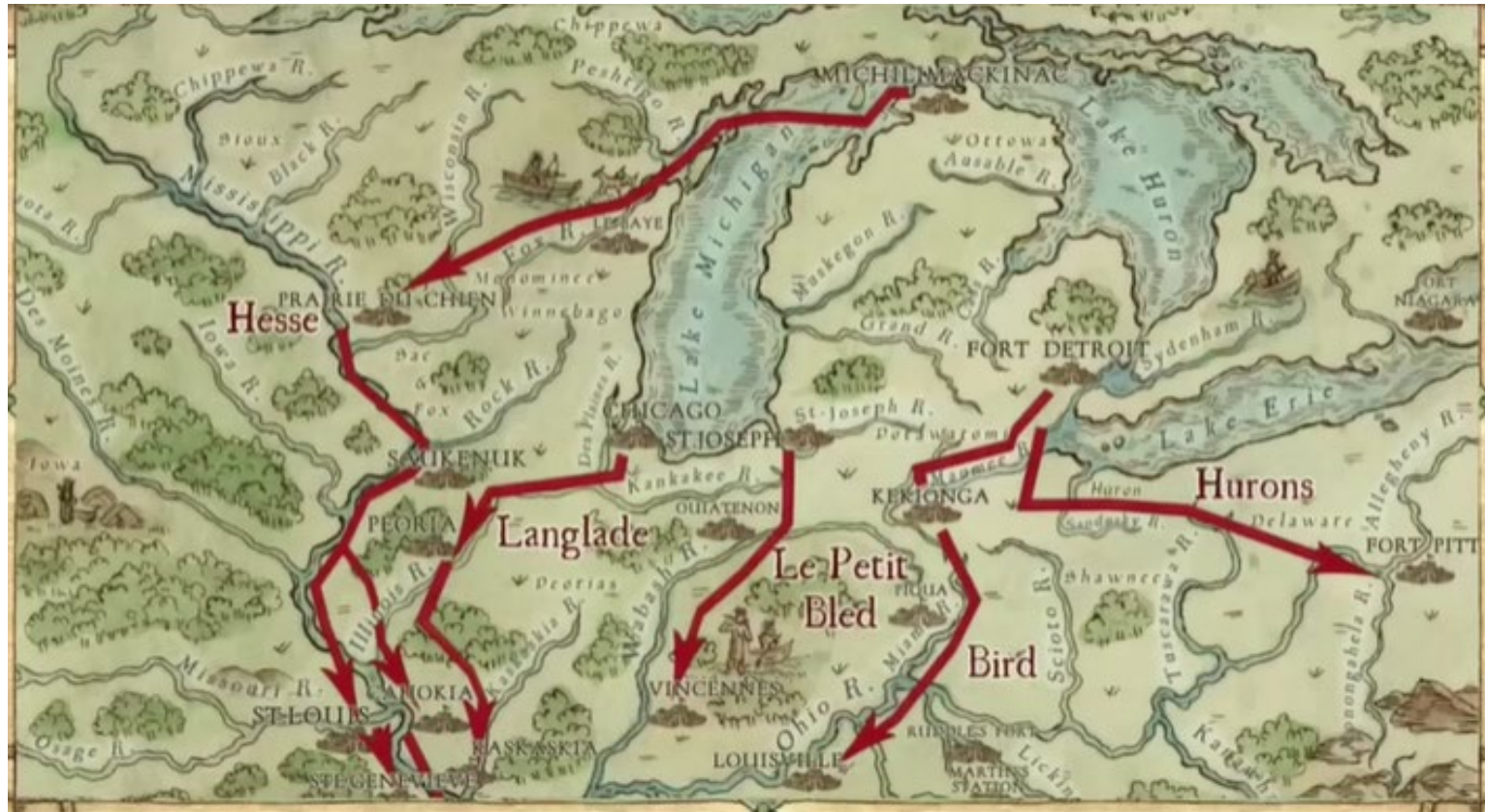
- 25 February ~ British surrendered Fort Sackville to Clarke
- 21 June ~ Spain enters the war (news reaches New Orleans 7/17)

Spain Declares War against England



In the **Treaty of Aranjuez**, 12 April 1779, Spain agreed to support France in its war with Britain. This was in return for assistance in recovering its former possessions of Gibraltar, Minorca, and Spanish Florida.

British found out that Spain declared war before the Spanish did in North America; they planned to liberate Louisiana with assistance from Native American and French traders



Red routes were planned; only the Hurons and Bird reached their final destinations

Image from Kling

British Mississippi Campaign 1780

- 14 March ~ Spanish capture Mobile
- Spring ~ British gather supplies and warriors at Prairie du Chien
- 29 April ~ Gratiot's supply boat under American and Spanish passes captured near the Turkey River
- 2 May ~ Wabasha's & Hesse's column, primarily Native warriors leave PdC and travelled south on the Mississippi
- ? May ~ stopped at Mines of Spain (Dubuque, IA) and captured a supply of lead
- ? May ~ stopped at Saukenauk (Rock Island, IL) and coerced Sauk & Fox to join the expedition
- 25 May ~ Bird expedition leaves Detroit
- 26 May ~ attacks on Cahokia and St. Louis; the Sauk & Fox break off during the battle, causing the Native Warriors to break off and withdraw north
- 24 June ~ Bird attack Ruddle's Station & Martin's Fort in Kentucky



Image from Kling

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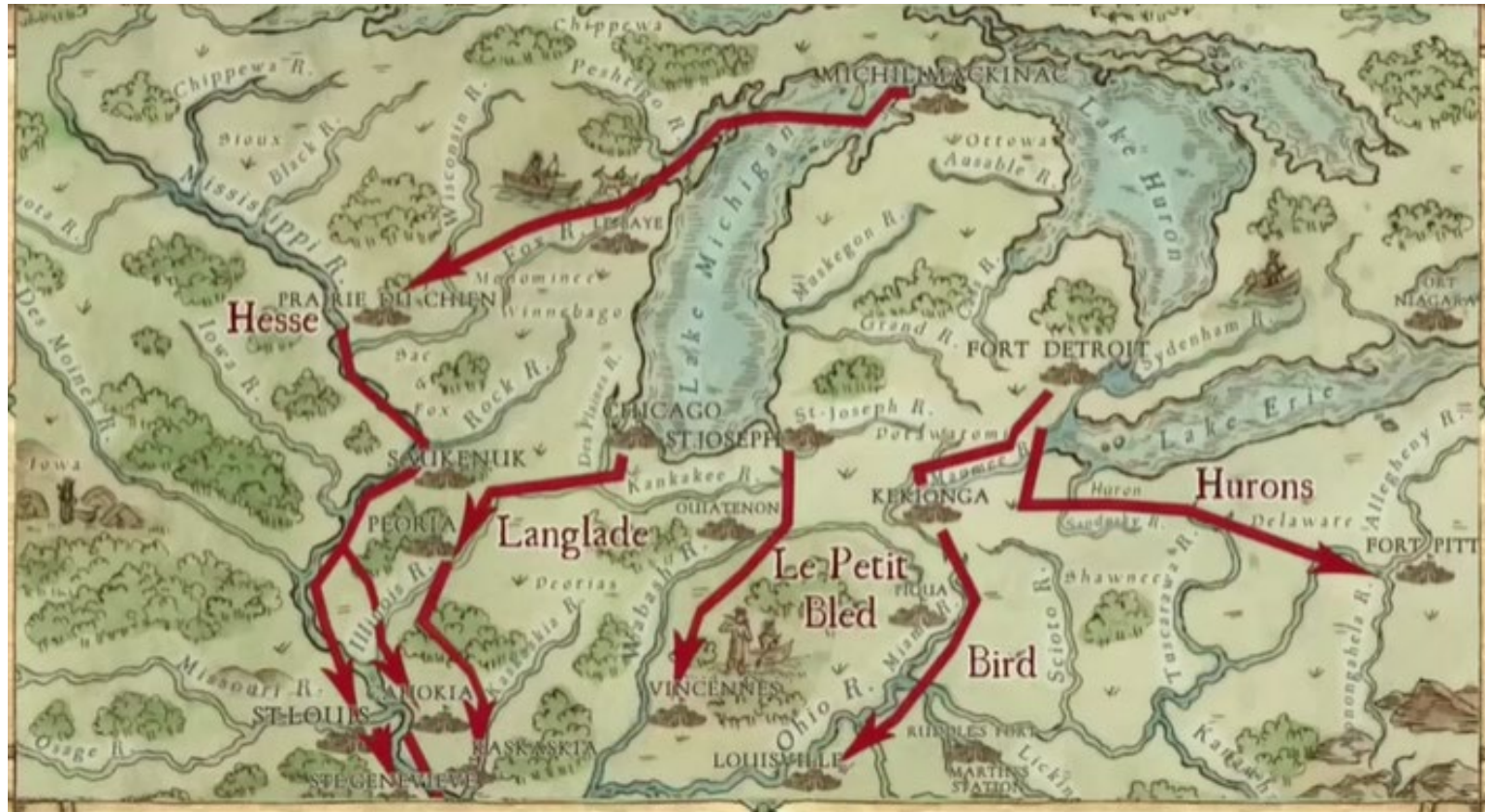


Image from Kling

Battle of St. Louis, 26 May 1780



Painting by Oscar E. Berninghaus

Western Campaign 1780 & 1781

- 12 February ~ Spanish troops capture St. Joseph
- 22 April ~ Natchez revolt against the Spanish

1781

- 5 November ~ de la Balme Massacre near St. Joseph by Miami Warriors under Little Turtle
- 5 December ~ Hamelin expedition and plunder of St. Joseph

1796

- 11 July ~ Fort Detroit handed over to Americans in response to the Jay Treaty
- 1 September ~ Ft. Mackinac turned over to Americans