
GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEETINGS

November 10 and November 12 witnessed two important meetings in the movement for the commemoration of the expedition of George Rogers Clark. Upon the invitation of the George Rogers Clark Committee of the Indiana Historical Society, a conference was held Saturday, December 10, in the Claypool Hotel to discuss the coordination of movements in the different states. On Monday, November 12, the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, appointed last June, succeeded in holding a meeting at French Lick with a quorum present. In addition to these two important occasions the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of the State of Indiana held a meeting at the Columbia Club, Indianapolis, at noon on October 17, and there have been several meetings of the committee of the Indiana Historical Society

in preparation for the conference held at Indianapolis with the other states.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEMORIAL COMMISSION OF INDIANA
October 17, 1928

The state commission adopted as its choice for the commemorative stamp, which Postmaster General Harry S. New will issue on February 25, the Yohn painting of the surrender of Fort Sackville.

It also arranged for the presentation to President Calvin Coolidge of a formal invitation to make the commemorative address at Vincennes February 25, 1929, upon the occasion of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the capture of Fort Sackville. President Coolidge has hinted to members of the commission that he will accept the invitation if it is possible for him to do so.

Miss Martha S. Allerdice, of Indianapolis, who has been acting as secretary of the state commission under appointment by its president, was formally elected secretary. Announcement was also made that the Indiana Highway Commission is working in full accord with the commission in designing the proposed bridge at Vincennes. C. W. Farrier, of the firm of Bennett, Parsons and Frost, Chicago, advisers of the City Plan Commission of Vincennes, has made suggestions both to the Highway Commission and to the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission, which will be useful in getting the full artistic value of both the bridge and the memorial.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK COMMITTEE OF THE INDIANA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

At a meeting on Tuesday, September 13, this committee adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The story of the American Revolution west of the Allegheny Mountains is too little known by those who live in the region involved, and is almost entirely unknown to those who live in other parts of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, It was the American Revolution which decided the destiny of the interior of the continent and won for the United States the region northwest of the Ohio River, developments second in importance only to the establishment of independence; and,

WHEREAS, We are now in the midst of the years marking the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution in the West; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the George Rogers Clark Committee of the Indiana Historical Society, in the belief that there ought to be at this time, throughout the states of the Old Northwest, a general commemoration of the historical deeds of those who won the West for the United States and of the Revolution in the West, hereby invite the states of the Old Northwest and Kentucky, their historical societies and patriotic organizations, to send representatives to a meeting to be held in Indianapolis, Saturday, November 10, or at such other time and place as may be agreed upon and announced later, to consider joint action and cooperation throughout the whole of the Old Northwest in educational commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Revolution in the West.

In pursuance of this resolution and invitation, the committee of the Indiana Historical Society met Saturday morning, November 10, at the Claypool Hotel, and acted as host for the conference which began at luncheon and continued through dinner. At a meeting of the committee, Monsignor Francis H. Gavisk, the chairman, C. J. Richards, and D. Frank Culbertson were appointed a sub-committee to arrange a program of speakers at Vincennes on February 25. Monsignor Gavisk and Christopher B. Coleman were appointed a sub-committee to select a chairman and professional expert to begin immediately and proceed with the production of tableaux and a colonial ball, or such other exhibitions and pageants as should seem advisable for the evening of February 25.

CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER STATES

In response to the invitation of the George Rogers Clark Committee of the Indiana Historical Society, seconded by the official George Rogers Clark Commission of Indiana, representatives of historical societies and state institutions in Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois met with the Indiana committee at luncheon in the Empire Room of the Claypool Hotel at 12:30 on November 10. The luncheon was followed by a conference in the Club Room of the Claypool Hotel, and this by a dinner

in the evening in the Empire Room. Monsignor Gavisk, chairman of the Indiana committee, presided at all the sessions. Those present included Ralph Gilbert, of Shelbyville, Kentucky, representative of the eighth district in Congress; Mrs. Ralph Gilbert; D. M. Hutton, of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, representing the Kentucky Pioneer Memorial Association; Mrs. Emma S. Backus, of Cincinnati, chairman of the Ohio George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission; Mrs. John G. Lippelman and Mrs. Frederick L. Hoffman, both of Cincinnati, appearing on behalf of the D. A. R. of that city; Theodore C. Pease, professor of American history in the University of Illinois and editor of the *Illinois Historical Collections*; James A. James, professor of American history and dean of the graduate school of Northwestern University, author of the recently published *Life of George Rogers Clark*, and editor of the *George Rogers Clark Papers* of the *Illinois Historical Collections*; John H. Hauberg, of Rock Island, Illinois, vice-president of the Illinois State Historical Society; Roger C. Holden, of the national office of the American Legion; Charles N. Thompson, president of the Society of Indiana Pioneers; John Napier Dyer, of Vincennes; Martha Allerdice, secretary of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana; Mrs. Ed Jackson; Ross F. Lockridge; and the following members of the George Rogers Clark Committee of the Indiana Historical Society: Frank C. Ball, Lew M. O'Bannon, James P. Goodrich, Francis H. Gavisk, C. J. Richards, James A. Woodburn, Mrs. Charles Arthur Carlisle, D. Frank Culbertson, and Christopher B. Coleman.

The representatives of the different states spoke of the commemoration of Clark's expedition which had been held or would be held in their states. Among the historic points spoken of were Harrodsburg and Louisville, Kentucky; Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher, and Fort Gage, Illinois; the Indian village and battleground of Piqua, near Springfield, Ohio; and the site of Fort Sackville, Vincennes, Indiana. After a general discussion of the possibility of coordinating and supporting the historical movements connected with all these places, and of working up to a climax in the national commemoration of the Revolution in the West at the completion of the memorial at Vincennes, it was generally agreed that the states of the Old Northwest would like to have the federal George

Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission indicate to each of them what contribution would be appropriate from that state toward the commemoration of the Revolution in the West and the national memorial which is to be erected.

It was also resolved that those present begin the organization of an Association for the Commemoration of the Revolution in the West, essential details to be recommended by a committee consisting of Christopher B. Coleman, Indianapolis, chairman; Theodore C. Pease, Urbana, Illinois; James A. James, Evanston, Illinois; and Ralph Gilbert, Shelbyville, Kentucky. The committee report, which was adopted, created an executive committee of three representatives from each of the states directly involved in the Revolution, namely, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin; Christopher B. Coleman to be the chairman until the next meeting of the Association, which is to be arranged at Indianapolis in connection with the meeting of the American Historical Association. This committee is to work with existing societies and to try to enlist all the people of the states mentioned in suitable observance of the events which won the country west of the Allegheny Mountains for the United States.

THE FEDERAL GEORGE ROGERS CLARK SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The federal commission met at French Lick on Monday, November 12, in pursuance of an invitation sent by C. J. Richards, chairman of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana. Ralph Gilbert, Shelbyville, Kentucky; Luther Ely Smith, St. Louis, Missouri; Albert H. Vestal, Anderson, Indiana; Lew M. O'Bannon, Corydon; Lee Burns, Indianapolis; D. Frank Culbertson, Vincennes; C. J. Richards, Terre Haute; and Mrs. Charles A. Carlisle, South Bend, were present. Thomas Taggart, Indianapolis, William R. Wood, Lafayette, and Kenneth McKellar, Memphis, Tennessee, were represented by proxies. The Commission organized by electing Senator Simeon D. Fess, Yellow Springs, Ohio, president, D. Frank Culbertson, vice-president and chairman of the executive committee, and Christopher B. Coleman, Indianapolis, executive secretary. Other members of the executive committee are Luther Ely Smith; Ewing R. Emison, Vincennes; Mrs.

Alvin Tobias Hert, Louisville, Kentucky; Thomas Taggart; C. J. Richards; Lew M. O'Bannon; Mrs. Charles A. Carlisle, and Lee Burns.

The drawing up of by-laws, the answer to the request of the Association for the Commemoration of the Revolution in the West that the federal commission indicate to the various states the part it thinks suitable for each of them to take in the memorial project, and the employment of an office staff were referred to the executive committee. The motion was passed that the Commission hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 11, at Washington and that it meet regularly every three months thereafter on the second Tuesday of the month.

Considerable time was given to the discussion of the general plan of the national memorial to be erected at Vincennes and to the best procedure to follow in designing and constructing it. All present were enthusiastic about the appropriateness of a memorial at Vincennes to the Revolution in the West and about the possibility of achieving there a memorial of great beauty and distinction.

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GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MOVEMENT

The great anniversary occasion for Indiana connected with George Rogers Clark is February 25, 1792. This is the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the date when Colonel Henry Hamilton marched out of Fort Sackville and surrendered with his forces to Colonel Clark and the state of Virginia. Terms of surrender had been agreed upon the preceding day, February 24, and the attack upon the fort had been begun on the evening of the twenty-third. The twenty-fifth, however, is the formal anniversary.

Full details of plans for the celebration will be issued in the daily papers. The program will include the appearance of the Indiana University and the Purdue University bands, each numbering a hundred pieces or more. There is still hope that President Calvin Coolidge may be present in person to make the principal address. In case he is not, arrangements are under way for another distinguished speaker to give the commemorative oration. There are to be two historical tableaux or short pageants, a program of French songs by Charles Marchand and associates, of Montreal, a colonial ball in the coliseum, and a dinner for invited guests of the state. The evening program of pageants, songs and colonial ball will be given twice, on the twenty-fifth and on the twenty-sixth. The latter date will be preeminently "Vincennes Day," and will afford ample opportunity for local attendance.

Those intending to be present at Vincennes on the twenty-fifth should inquire as soon as possible about railroad transportation and local accommodations at Vincennes. It is hoped that a number of special cars may be put on regular trains and that a special train will be run from Indianapolis and perhaps from other points as well. Sleeping accommodations

will probably be arranged most conveniently for many by special cars being kept in the railroad yards at Vincennes. Plans are being made also, which it is hoped will work out, for having special busses leave Vincennes after the close of the evening program for French Lick, Evansville, Terre Haute, and other nearby places where accommodations can be secured for the night of February 25.

Mr. Thomas Wood Stevens, Director of the Goodman Memorial Theatre, Chicago Art Institute, is in charge of the program for both days. Mr. Stevens was producer of the sesquicentennial pageant of the founding of St. Louis and of other notable pageants. The chairman of the local committee at Vincennes is Mr. B. F. Nesbitt. The general arrangements for the commemoration are in charge of the official George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana, part of whose duties, described by law, is the commemoration of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the capture of Fort Sackville, the culmination of George Rogers Clark's military career and a most decisive factor in the winning of the West for the American nation.

Meanwhile, unforeseen difficulties have delayed even the beginning of work upon a permanent national memorial. The authorization of the appropriation by Congress for this purpose included the provision that "Before any of the funds herein authorized to be appropriated shall be expended, the plans and designs of the said memorial shall be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts." The treasury department has taken the stand that not even expenses of holding meetings of the Commission can be paid until after the National Commission of Fine Arts has passed upon the plans and design of the memorial, which, of course, would involve the choice of an architect and all the work and expenses incident to the completion of the plans and designs for the construction of the memorial building. Efforts are being made to secure arrangements by which funds can be obtained for the work which must necessarily precede the adoption of plans and designs for the memorial and their approval by the National Commission of Fine Arts. Meanwhile, no steps can be taken toward the erection of the memorial or the preparation of the ground for it. However, visitors at Vincennes on February 25 will be interested in the new sea wall which is

being built for the protection of Vincennes and the memorial from the floods of the Wabash River, and in the plans which have been drawn up for the bridge across the river at the upper end of the future memorial park.

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ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURRENDER OF FORT SACKVILLE

The program for February 25 has been announced as the *Bulletin* is sent to the printer. The celebration at Vincennes will undoubtedly be over when the *Bulletin* reaches its readers. Thus neither an announcement nor an account of the celebration is called for in this issue. Thomas Wood Stevens, of the Goodman Memorial Theatre, Chicago Art Institute, director of the program, has in process of production a dramatic pageant in three episodes; Clark receiving his commission in Richmond, Virginia, at the hands of Patrick Henry; the legend of the capture of Kaskaskia; and the attack upon Fort Sackville, Vincennes. The Montreal Troubadours, under the leadership of Charles Marchand, of Montreal, have been preparing a special program of songs of the French *habitants* and the *coureurs des bois*, which will be rendered in both English and French. The local committee, under the chairmanship of B. F. Nesbitt, of Vincennes, has been working hard on local arrangements. Members of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission have also been devoting much time to the perfection of the program.

The General Assembly has voted to attend in a body the commemoration meeting Monday afternoon and the pageant in the evening of Monday, February 25. A large number of persons are expected from all parts of the state of Indiana and many from neighboring states. The commemorative addresses are to be made by Governor Harry G. Leslie and Dean James A. James, Northwestern University, author of the most recent *Life of George Rogers Clark*.

Arrangements have been made very generally for observance of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the surrender of

Fort Sackville in schools, churches, and other public institutions. It is safe to say that the significance of the most important event which has yet occurred on Indiana soil, is being brought home to the consciousness of all the people. The observance of the sesquicentennial of Clark's departure from Corn Island, which was held at Jeffersonville on June 24, 1928, was the first of the sesquicentennial celebrations commemorating the career of George Rogers Clark in Indiana. There is every assurance that the culmination of Clark's expedition in the capture of Fort Sackville will be worthily celebrated and revered in the minds of the people of the state.

The celebration at Vincennes is sponsored by the state of Indiana, through its agent, the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission, which was provided for in an act passed by the General Assembly in 1927 creating the Commission and fixing a tax levy for the commemoration, both temporary and permanent, of Clark's great victory at Vincennes. With this celebration, the state of Indiana practically turns over the leadership in the movement to the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission. February 25 might be called Indiana's George Rogers Clark Day, and February 26, at which the program of the preceding day is to be repeated, Vincennes' George Rogers Clark Day. From now on, the task confronting all those interested, is the development of the memorial park and the erection of the permanent memorial of the Revolution in the West, which is to stand near the site of Fort Sackville as a perpetual reminder that the Old Northwest was part and parcel of the American Revolution.

Senator Simeon D. Fess, chairman of the federal George Rogers Clark Commission, has addressed to the governors of all the states of the Old Northwest, a letter opening the way for the participation of their states in the erection of the memorial to the American Revolution in the West at Vincennes. In further explanation of the appropriate participation of the several states with the national government, visits by members of the federal Commission to various state capitals are being made. On Monday, February 11, D. Frank Culbertson, chairman of the executive committee of the federal Commission, and Christopher B. Coleman, executive secretary, presented the plans of the federal Commission and renewed invitation to participate to Governor Louis Emmerson, of

Illinois. They also visited Governor Myers Cooper, at Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday, February 13. In both states there is considerable interest in the commemoration of the Revolution in the West and in the dramatic and heroic career of George Rogers Clark.

OHIO AND THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL AT VINCENNES

The following resolution was introduced in the Ohio Legislature as Senate Joint Resolution No. 19, Monday, February 18, 1929:

Relative to the construction of a national memorial of the northwest territory, the creation of the George Rogers Clark memorial commission of Ohio and the making appropriations therefor

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Whereas, The war of the American revolution and the treaty of peace with Great Britain brought into the jurisdiction of the United States, the region northwest of the Ohio river, known as "the northwest territory," thereby opening to the new republic, the interior of the American continent and the means of future expansion to the Pacific ocean; and

Whereas, There has hitherto been no adequate official recognition of the acquisition of the old northwest, the first and most important additions to the territory of the United States; and

Whereas, The expeditions of George Rogers Clark in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, brought about this acquisition and are among the greatest examples of patriotism, endurance and heroism in the course of the war of the American revolution, the memory of which is worthy of perpetuation by a grateful country and by those who now enjoy the fruits thereof; and

Whereas, The state of Indiana has provided for the purchase of the site of old Fort Sackville at Vincennes, Indiana, and the congress of the United States, by resolution approved on May 23, 1928, appropriated one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for the construction on that site of a permanent memorial dedicated to the winning of the northwest territory and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the revolutionary war and has created the George Rogers Clark sesquicentennial commission, with full authority to erect such memorial; and

Whereas, The United States government has made provision for participation by the states, to wit: Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin, which were carved out of the northwest territory, in the erection of such memorial and through its federal commission has invited the state of Ohio, to participate in the construction of said memorial by the appropriation and contribution of funds to be joined with the federal funds in such construction; therefore,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

Section 1. There shall be formed a commission to be known as the George Rogers Clark memorial commission of Ohio, to consist of five members, to be appointed by the governor of Ohio, for the purpose of representing the State of Ohio, in its participation in the construction of national memorial to George Rogers Clark at Vincennes, Indiana, and in the sesquicentennial celebration of the conquest of the northwest territory. The members of such commission shall serve without pay.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury to the credit of the general revenue fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of two hundred thousand (\$200,000.00) dollars, the same to be used for the purpose of designing and constructing at or near the site of Fort Sackville in the city of Vincennes, Indiana, a permanent memorial commemorating the winning of the old northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates, in the war of the American Revolution. Such sum or any part or parts thereof, shall be paid out only upon authority of the commission created in section 1 of this resolution and shall be joined with the sums appropriated by resolution of congress approved May 23, 1928, and the sums appropriated by the other states of the northwest territory.

Section 3. There is hereby created out of any monies in the state treasury to the credit of the general revenue fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of twenty-seven hundred (\$2,700.00) dollars for the use of said commission in paying its necessary clerical, office, and incidental expenses, including necessary traveling expenses of its members.

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RETROSPECT

The observance at Vincennes on February 25 of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the surrender of Fort Sackville more than fulfilled the expectations of those who attended and received both extended and enthusiastic reports in all of the newspapers of the central west, as well as in all the metropolitan papers of the country.

Beginning about one o'clock, a heavy downpour of rain went far toward reproducing the conditions prevailing in the first days of Colonel Clark's famous march from Kaskaskia to Vincennes. As the program for the remainder of the day was indoors, the only inconvenience encountered from the rain was experienced in getting from one place to another. Good humor prevailed and the elements did not seriously mar the occasion. The observance began with the issuance of the beautiful two cent commemorative stamp at 7 o'clock at the Vincennes post office—the only post office at which the stamps were put on sale on February 25. Between thirty and thirty-five stamp collectors, in addition to thousands of the general public, availed themselves of the opportunity to buy the first day issuance of stamps; more than five hundred thousand are said to have been sold.

A special train from Indianapolis, bearing Governor Harry G. Leslie, members of the General Assembly and others, which the Purdue University Band joined at Terre Haute, arrived exactly on time. The parade was quickly formed and the whole party proceeded to the grounds of the future memorial. Here the Purdue Band rendered several numbers. Governor Leslie, in a few brief sentences, dedicated the grounds to the purpose of a memorial and the benediction was invoked by Father Gregoire, of St. Xavier's Parish. A charge of dynamite under the tower of the Kuhn elevator was exploded by President Calvin Coolidge pressing an official telegraphic instru-

tually to the acquisition of the Old Northwest by the United States. The Charles Marchand Troubadours of Old Quebec gave several old French folk songs, using in some cases the original French words and in others, the English translation. The Troubadours also sang at the dinner given to the official guests of the state, and at the evening program. Their ensemble singing was of the highest order and Mr. Marchand's solo singing was also extremely effective. They added greatly to the enjoyment of the occasion.

The commemorative meeting was followed by a concert by the Purdue Band. During the entire day the Daughters of the American Revolution kept open house at the William Henry Harrison home, and the old Legislative Hall and the Parish Library of St. Xavier's Church were also open. These were all visited by many of the guests of Vincennes—largely between the afternoon program and dinner.

The dinner was served to the invited guests of the state in the Gibault Gymnasium. The Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution also gave a dinner at the Young Men's Christian Association. Both had a very large attendance.

The evening festival was one of the most brilliant affairs ever held in the state. It was opened by a short pageant in three scenes written by Thomas Wood Stevens, director of the Goodman Theatre of the Chicago Art Institute, and directed by James Church, of Cleveland. The first scene represented the Governor of Virginia giving Colonel Clark his commission; the second, the legend of Kaskaskia, and the third one, much longer than either of the others, the capture of Fort Sackville at Vincennes. The Will H. Bryant Orchestra, of Terre Haute, did yeoman service throughout the evening for the musical accompaniment. The costumes were gorgeous and the scenery excellently arranged. All the participants acquitted themselves with great credit. It is hoped that the words of the pageant will soon be printed. They were of unusual appropriateness and beauty. The pageant was followed by a short program given by the Troubadours of Old Quebec and then by a ball, in which the large cast of the pageant, numbering more than three hundred, was joined by many of the spectators. Too high praise cannot be given to Mr. Stevens, Mr. Church, and the Troubadours for the beauty and success of the occasion.

A large number of visitors were present from other states, especially Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois. There was also a sprinkling of visitors from more remote places.

Tuesday, February 26, was Vincennes Day. This was marked by a concert by the Indiana University Band given in the presence of a packed house in the Coliseum, and by a repetition of the pageant and of the concert by the Troubadours. So great was the demand for seats at the pageant that the third performance was arranged on Wednesday evening, at which the attendance was even larger than on either the first or second night, though it was estimated that an average of five thousand people attended each of the performances.

This ended the historical commemoration which was made one of the duties of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission by the act which created it.

The public schools of Ohio very generally followed the suggestions made by Dr. John L. Clifton, state director of Education, to observe February 25, 1929, as George Rogers Clark Day. Dr. Clifton, in the August issue of *Better Schools Bulletin*, the official organ of the Department, published a program for the observance of the day. Ross F. Lockridge's *George Rogers Clark, Pioneer Hero of the Old Northwest*, has been put on the list of the Ohio Pupils Reading Circle for this year. Dr. Clifton has urged that this book be adopted, so far as possible, as a supplementary history text for the year.

Interest in the commemoration of the Revolution in the West, especially of George Rogers Clark, is rapidly growing in Ohio. Early in February a delegation of approximately fifty persons appeared before the committee of the House of Representatives at Columbus to urge the passage of a bill to mark places of Revolutionary interest in Ohio, and to provide a state park on the site of the battle of Piqua, near Springfield.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

THE STATE COMMISSION

For the vacancy in the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana made by the death of the late Thomas Taggart, the Library and Historical Board, at its meeting on Wednesday, May 22, nominated Thomas D. Taggart, of French Lick. Upon this nomination, Governor Harry G. Leslie on May 23 appointed Mr. Taggart to fill the unexpired term of his father. The terms of all members of the Commission run from March, 1927, to March, 1931.

PRELIMINARY ARCHITECTURAL WORK

The federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission at its meeting in Washington on Thursday, April 18, chose William E. Parsons, of Bennett, Parsons & Frost, Chicago, as architect of the grounds of the national memorial at Vincennes, and also as professional adviser for the program of the competition in which the plans and designs for the memorial structure itself are to be adopted. Mr. Parsons is the architect of the grounds of the great building program which the United States Government is now carrying out between the White House and the Capitol along Pennsylvania Avenue. His preliminary sketches of the grounds of the proposed memorial at Vincennes were approved on April 25 by the national Commission of Fine Arts.

A GEORGE ROGERS CLARK PAGEANT

An enjoyable pageant in eleven episodes, entitled "George Rogers Clark, a pageant of the West, 1774-1799," written by Miss Emily McAdams, principal of the Washington Irving School, Indianapolis, was presented by the students of that school on Thursday morning, May 23, and again in the evening. Various episodes depicted the founding of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, in 1774; the coming of George Rogers Clark to that settlement in 1776; social life in a Kentucky settlement of those days; the council called by Clark in 1777; the council in Virginia when Clark presents his cause to Patrick Henry; the capture of Kaskaskia; the attack on Fort Sackville in 1779, and as the final tableau, the surrender of Fort Sackville. Miss McAdams, the author, and the students of the Washington Irving School are to be congratulated on the presentation of such a valuable and original pageant, which was not only remarkably entertaining but had a decidedly educational value as well.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

Frederick Palmer, the well known war correspondent and author, has written a popular life of George Rogers Clark under the title *Clark of the Ohio*. It is a large volume, attractively illustrated, and the most elaborate publication upon "the conqueror of the Northwest" which has appeared since the movement for the Vincennes Memorial was started. (Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1929.)

The *Mount Vernon Register-News* (Illinois) issued a special George Rogers Clark edition, Monday, May 27. It contains many different articles giving the story of Clark's campaign and especially his march through Illinois from Kaskaskia to Vincennes. Governor Louis L. Emmerson contributes a brief summary of George Roger Clark's career, concluding with this statement:

To fully appreciate the import of this victory, take the map of the United States and blot out Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota, and you will have a map of our country as it might have been had George Rogers Clark not captured Fort Sackville. Moreover, it is not impossible that Jefferson would have failed to buy the great territory included in the Louisiana purchase had Clark not won from the British, the intervening territory.

Such a happening might have changed our entire history. The great states carved out of the old Northwest Territory might be an alien land had it not been for George Rogers Clark and the capture of Fort Sackville. The Mississippi River, instead of being a peaceful river, now carrying the commerce of the great midwest to the sea, might today be bristling with giant forts and Illinois and the other states won through the capture of Fort Sackville might easily be a second Alsace-Lorraine.

The Honorable William W. Arnold, a representative from Illinois in Congress also gives an appreciation of Clark's work with an account of the Vincennes campaign, and U. S. Senator Otis F. Glenn contributes a brief narrative of Clark's merits and the ingratitude shown by his country. A letter from U. S. Senator William E. Borah is printed, passing his judgment upon the importance of Clark's achievements. To quote his letter in part:

The expedition of Clark and his associates is not only one of the most thrilling in the whole history of the conquering of the West, but when we undertake to measure its worth, the beneficial consequences which followed, it stands out as one of the crowning events in our history.

In a statement made at the request of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana, Ross F. Lockridge, of Bloomington, author of *George Rogers Clark, Pioneer Hero of the Old Northwest*, gave a list of meetings which he had addressed on the subject of Clark or on some allied subject between June 1, 1926 and June 11, 1929. The list shows the interest which has been aroused in the Revolution in the West and its formerly neglected hero, as well as the part Mr. Lockridge has played in developing that interest. The number of meetings in various States is as follows: Wisconsin 1, Minnesota 1, District of Columbia 3, Iowa 4, Missouri 5, Virginia 8, Illinois 18, Ohio 21, Kentucky 46, Indiana 249; total number 356.

The Vincennes post of the American Legion sponsored a successful pageant of the Capture of Fort Sackville, on July 4. A replica of the old fort was constructed and the events

connected with its capture on February 23, 24 and 25 were reenacted with vigor and éclat in the evening of the Fourth. It is estimated that 20,000 persons were present. Judge William B. Coulter played the part of Francis Vigo, and his daughter, Ruth, enacted the rôle of "Alice of Old Vincennes." R. L. Clifton was George Rogers Clark, and Jack Piel, Governor Henry Hamilton. The entire cast was composed of some 500 persons, including National Guard units from neighboring places.

According to a recent announcement by the State Board of Agriculture, a historical pageant depicting the history of Indiana from its early pioneer days to the present time, will be presented at the State Fair Grounds this year each night during the State Fair, under the direction of the John B. Rogers Producing Company, of Fostoria, Ohio. It was decided by the board in charge to offer this form of entertainment in view of the fact that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the capture of Fort Sackville by George Rogers Clark. This event will be featured in the pageant.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

On Monday, July 29, at the offices of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Temple Bar Building, Cincinnati, representatives of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana and of the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, presented to officials of the Cincinnati division of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad a necessity of the removal of the railroad switch of that company from the grounds of the memorial in Vincennes.

There were present from the memorial bodies, D. Frank Culbertson, chairman of the Executive Committee of the federal Commission; Clem J. Richards, Terre Haute, president of the Indiana Commission; William E. Parsons, Chicago, architectural adviser; Ralph Gilbert, Shelbyville, Kentucky; Clarence W. Farrier, Chicago; Christopher B. Coleman, Indianapolis. Among the railroad officials present were C. W. Van Horn, general manager; H. R. Lewis, freight traffic manager; Morrison R. Waite, general solicitor; R. B. Mann, general superintendent; A. H. Woerner, division engineer; A. H. Griffith, district engineer and representative of the chief engineer.

The conference, which lasted several hours, covered the general character of the proposed memorial; the provisions being made for the river wall and the boulevard; the possibility of the grade of the switch being raised to a level of the boulevard; and the possibility for the service of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to the industries below the memorial grounds being continued by a route other than that through the memorial grounds.

The railroad officials showed a sympathetic attitude toward the memorial enterprise and expressed a desire to help in any

possible way. No decision, however, can be reached for some time, as there are many factors involved and serious difficulties in the rearrangement of the railroad switch.

On July 31, the Bierhaus property on the site of the proposed memorial to George Rogers Clark at Vincennes, Indiana, was deeded to the State of Indiana for the use of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission. The purchase was negotiated by Attorney General James M. Ogden; C. J. Richards, authorized as president of the Commission to act for it in the purchase, and D. Frank Culbertson. Messrs. Kessinger and Hill, attorneys, represented Mr. Bierhaus in the purchase. The Commission has leased the property to John S. Bierhaus for one year, beginning with the date of purchase. Abstracts for additional properties adjacent to the Fort Sackville site, have been ordered up for examination, Mr. Richards reports, and the Commission will push its purchase of the memorial site to completion as rapidly as the semi-annual increase of the memorial fund by the tax levy permits.

Luther E. Smith, of St. Louis, a member of the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, was elected one of nine directors of the Missouri State Historical Society at a recent dinner given by the Society in St. Louis to celebrate Louisiana Purchase Day, a yearly custom of the Society since the World's Fair celebration of this event twenty-five years ago.

THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

The movement for the construction at Vincennes of "a permanent memorial, commemorating the winning of the Old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the War of the American Revolution," as the federal law of May 23, 1928 expresses it, has not been chronicled in the *Bulletin* since August. Only a general summary of developments since then can be given here.

The federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission met at Washington, D. C., October 23, 1929 and January 18, 1930. Its executive committee of seven members met at Indianapolis, October 4, 1929; at Washington, October 22, 1929; at Indianapolis, January 3, 1930; and at Washington, January 18, 1930. Among the items of progress to be recorded are: a detailed survey of the memorial site establishing levels and locating all lines; the issuing of the "Program of Competition" for the memorial structure drawn up by William E. Parsons, architectural adviser, and approved by the Commission; the adoption of plans and designs for the river wall along the memorial grounds; the selection of the jury of award for plans submitted in competition for the memorial structure; and the passage of a resolution requiring the rounding out of the grounds between the alley above Main Street and the property division line below Dubois Street.

Plans and designs for the memorial structure must be delivered at Vincennes by January 27. The jury of award is expected to meet and pass judgment on February 3 and 4, and the National Commission of Fine Arts, whose approval is required by law, is expected to act on or about February 10. No public announcement can be made before this last date, and possibly not before the next following meeting of the Commission.

The George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana, whose work, since the sesquicentennial celebration of February 25, 1929, is the acquisition of land for the memorial plaza, has held meetings at Indianapolis, August 22, and December 23, 1929, and January 3, 1930. Payment into the state treasury of the proceeds of the tax levy for the memorial of four mills on each \$100 of property for the years 1927 and 1928, with the exception of a small amount of delinquent pay-

ments, was completed at the end of December, 1929. The total amount was \$405,854.25, to which has been added depository interest, rent on purchased property and a number of small items, bringing the grand total up to \$410,045.83. The purchase of land has proceeded rapidly and a total of \$249,319 has been expended since the beginning for this purpose, in addition to the payment of the expenses of the sesquicentennial, of appraisals, and of the Commission. All of the purchases have been made at approximately the appraised value of the property. One condemnation suit is, at the time of writing, in the Knox County Court.

THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

PLANS FOR THE MEMORIAL BUILDING

Fifty-one architects sent drawings to Vincennes in the competition for the choice of the design for the memorial to be erected on the site of Fort Sackville commemorating the winning of the Old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the War of the American Revolution. Each competitor submitted six drawings, as called for by the program of competition, giving the front elevation, the side elevation, the ground plan, the plan of the whole memorial park including the building, a section showing the interior of the building, and the rear elevation.

The jury of award met in Vincennes Monday, February 3. It consisted of William Mitchell Kendall, of McKim, Meade and White; Frederick Lee Ackerman, of New York City, as architects from outside of Indiana and Illinois; Lee Burns, of Indianapolis, D. Frank Culbertson, of Vincennes, and Luther Ely Smith, of St. Louis, as members of the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission selected by the Commission. The jury examined the drawings and deliberated until Wednesday afternoon, February 5. It selected the plans and designs bearing the number 28. These were taken to Washington the following week-end and submitted on Monday, February 10, to the National Commission of Fine Arts, whose approval is necessary under the law creating the Commission and authorizing the appropriation for the memorial. C. J. Richards and William E. Parsons, the architectural adviser of the Commission, presented the plans at the meeting. The National Commission of Fine Arts, through its chairman, Charles Moore, approved the winning plan as the basis for the development of the final plan for the memorial structure.

The federal Commission met at the Capitol the following Friday, February 14, and formally adopted the proposed plan as the starting point for working out the further development of the memorial idea. The envelope containing the name of the successful competitor was then opened. He was found to be Frederick C. Hiron, of F. C. Hiron and F. W. Mellor, New York City. Pictures of Mr. Hiron's drawings were published in the *Indianapolis* and *Terre Haute Star*, and the *Indianapolis News* on February 14, and in many other news-

papers on that and the days following, including the photograph section of the *Chicago Tribune*.

The plan proposed shows a circular structure of classical design standing on an elevated base or platform at the four corners of which are suggestions of bastions reminiscent of Fort Sackville. The central part of this structure is entirely surrounded by a colonnade of Doric columns surmounted by an imposing entablature, the central structure rising higher in a well-defined attic. The entrance is on the north, or rather northeast, side facing the Indiana end of the interstate bridge to be erected across the Wabash at the foot of Vigo Street. The opening is quite wide and in the upper part is planned a great American eagle holding a laurel crown, which, from a distance, appears as suspended over the head of a heroic figure of George Rogers Clark standing in the center of the interior.

A meeting of the executive committee of the federal Commission was held at Indianapolis Wednesday, February 26, at which Mr. Hirons was present. Members of the committee expressed themselves as greatly pleased with Mr. Hirons' grasp of the problems involved and his attitude toward the memorial. He will be the architect of the memorial structure and the committee is enthusiastic about both the design adopted and the architect who will work it out. William E. Parsons, of Bennett, Parsons & Frost, whose work as architectural adviser terminated with the selection of the architect for the building, will continue as architect of the grounds in the memorial plaza, including whatever memorial features are developed on the Indiana end of the bridge, the river wall, and other important features of the memorial.

VINCENNES AND KNOX COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS

The General Assembly of Indiana in 1927 authorized the city of Vincennes to contribute as much as \$100,000, either from its treasury or from the proceeds of a bond issue, to the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana for the carrying out of the purposes for which it was created, and in the same act gave the same authority to Knox County. Early in February the city council of Vincennes unanimously voted for a bond issue of \$100,000, the proceeds to be contributed to the state Commission. Mayor Joseph W. Kimmel, for the Council, signed a contract to this effect and for-

warded it to the state Commission. The Knox County Council and the Board of Commissioners have also approved a bond issue of \$100,000 for the memorial in accordance with the contract to be executed by them and by the state Commission, similar to that executed by Mayor Kimmell for the city of Vincennes.

The George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana held a meeting at Indianapolis Wednesday, March 5. The Commission approved the terms of the contracts with the city of Vincennes and with Knox County and authorized its president, Clem J. Richards, of Terre Haute, to execute them on behalf of the Commission.

These contributions from Vincennes and Knox County will, it is hoped, make possible the purchase of the ground which H. Van Buren Magonigle (the original architectural adviser of the committee of the Indiana Historical Society, which started the movement for the commemoration of the winning of the Old Northwest, and also one of the competitors for the designing of the memorial building), Mr. Parsons, Mr. Hiron, and other architects of prominence have insisted was necessary for the proper development of the memorial.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The schools of Vincennes generally observed the one hundred fifty-first anniversary of the surrender of Fort Sackville to George Rogers Clark. Mayor Joseph W. Kimmell issued a statement that a public observance would hereafter be an annual occasion. The principal feature of it this year was a dinner at the Young Men's Christian Association at which steps were taken toward the organization of an association for the development of historic sites in and near the city, and at which Ross F. Lockridge, of Bloomington, delivered an address upon George Rogers Clark and Vincennes.

ANNUAL DINNER OF INDIANA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for some years has held its annual meeting on the anniversary of the surrender of Fort Sackville to George Rogers Clark on February 25. This year the dinner was held at the Indianapolis Athletic Club, and was largely attended, members and guests being present from all parts of the state. The

speaker of the evening was Paul Wilstach who illustrated his lecture upon "Tidewater Virginia" with numerous stereopticon pictures of colonial mansions, gardens, churches, monuments and towns. He paid especial attention to the place of residence and the environment of George Rogers Clark, who lived in Virginia until he was about twenty years old, principally near Charlottesville and near Fredericksburg.

CONFERENCE DINNER

Columbia Club, Friday, December 13

Arthur G. Mitten, Presiding

THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

By Clem J. Richards, Terre Haute

In the discussion of this subject one naturally begins to consider the movement which has culminated in this memorial and perhaps it is within the province of my subject to touch on this movement and recall to you at least some of the high spots.

Some of our present day writers have called George Rogers Clark "The Forgotten Hero." It is my conviction that he was never known, for as our historians delve more and more into that period of our national life, we are just beginning to realize the tremendous contribution made by Clark, not only as a warrior but as a statesman, to our present greatness.

It is not my purpose to tell you the story of Clark. More able speakers, James A. James, Ross F. Lockridge, and many others have undertaken this, so I will confine my brief remarks to my subject.

Several years ago Senator D. Frank Culbertson of Vincennes conceived the idea that there should be some proper recognition of Clark and that it possibly should be done through the State Department of Conservation. With this in mind he called on Colonel Richard Lieber, director of that department, who became very enthusiastic in the matter and suggested that Mr. Culbertson talk to Dr. C. B. Coleman, director of the Historical Bureau. This was done. Owing to the limited funds in both the Conservation Department and the Historical Bureau nothing could be done.

Later, however, Dr. Coleman, on a visit to Vincennes met with Senator Culbertson and the late Mason Niblack, and they discussed the idea of the Indiana Historical Society getting behind the movement, which as you know was done, and an unofficial committee was organized. One of the first converts to the movement was Ed Jackson, then governor of Indiana, who paid out of his emergency funds the expenses of

the preliminary plans drawn by H. Van Buren Magonigle of New York City. By this time the movement had gained considerable momentum and the press had thrown open its columns to us. Men nationally known lent their support. Former Governor James P. Goodrich, former Senator Tom Taggart, and many others were assisting. Both the Republican and Democratic parties in their state conventions indorsed the movement and pledged the support of their members in the coming legislature to proper and appropriate legislation. When the legislature met these pledges were carried out. The George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission was created and an appropriation made for their work.

By this time the leaders in our national government had become interested and President Coolidge recommended to Congress that the nation join in the movement. Senator James E. Watson and Congressman William R. Wood introduced in the respective bodies of which they are members a Joint Resolution which on passage created the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, and authorized an appropriation of one million dollars, to be spent in the erection of a suitable memorial upon ground to be purchased by the state of Indiana.

These two commissions are working in perfect harmony with each other, the Indiana commission accepting the responsibility of providing the site and the federal commission proceeding with the program of competition for the selection of the architect.

Permit me to go back to the unofficial commission for just this one statement. The unofficial commission created a legislative commission for the purpose of presenting our aims and ambitions to the legislative bodies, both state and federal. Senator Culbertson was chairman of this committee and Lew M. O'Bannon and myself were in the beginning the balance of the committee. Later it was enlarged. At our first meeting held at Vincennes a program of procedure was formulated and so far has been followed almost to the letter. This I think reflects credit on the other two members of the committee as they were the resourceful ones.

To proceed with my story about the architectural competition, I would like to read part of the program as adopted by the federal Commission.

1. The Proposed Memorial. The George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission. . . . has been established by resolution of Congress for the purpose of designing and constructing at or near the site of Fort Sackville, in the city of Vincennes, Ind., a permanent memorial, commemorating the winning of the Old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the War of the American Revolution.

It is the desire of this commission to erect such a memorial as will meet the requirements of the resolution of the Congress above quoted and at the same time be a structure of such distinction and beauty as to have an aesthetic value comparable with its commemorative importance.

The commission, desiring to obtain a beautiful, appropriate, and distinctive design for the memorial, has instituted this competition. The form of this competition program and its method of procedure are in accord with the recommendations as outlined by the American Institute of Architects in its Standard Form of Competition Program and have been approved by the proper committee of the American Institute of Architects.

3. The Bridge. A bridge is to be built across the Wabash River on the line of Vigo Street extended. . . .

The approach to the bridge, with the terrace and steps on the axis of First Street as indicated on the plan, is included as a part of the bridge construction. The bridge with its approach thus becomes a fixed condition, affecting the location and design of the memorial building.

The bridge when erected will serve several national and interstate highways. The view of the memorial and grounds from this bridge and from the approach is of major importance because of the great number of people who will cross this bridge.

The drive along the river front is now being constructed, except upon the memorial grounds. This river drive will be extended down the river, passing under the bridge and through the memorial grounds at least as far as Dubois Street, and to provide access to the river drive it is essential that Dubois Street remain open for use as a public street.

As a part of the river-front development above the memorial grounds, a river wall is being built. . . . This river wall will be extended along the memorial grounds. . . .

4. The Old Cathedral. The church and library building of St. Francis Xavier were built about 1826. . . . The cathedral is one of the oldest and most interesting architectural monuments in this region and is the pride of the people of Vincennes. The cathedral tower is of a height which makes it a landmark of the countryside. . . . The cathedral and library were constructed of brick in the style prevailing in the early nineteenth century. The other buildings of historic interest in Vincennes, including the William Henry Harrison Mansion, the Bonner-Allen Mansion, and the Old Ellis Mansion, were also constructed in this style.

5. Requirements and Suggestions for the Memorial. The subject of the competition is a memorial structure and its terraces or accessories, it being a mandatory requirement that the structure shall be a building.

In the interior it has been suggested that there be mural paintings representing in pictorial form the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates, together with contemporary events which furthered the purposes of the War of the Revolution in the West. It should be observed that the episodes of Clark's career, both civil and military, leading to the capture of Fort Sackville are of such brilliant and dramatic interest as to be vivid subjects for mural representation.

The building might contain a portrait statue of George Rogers Clark, and portrait statues of his associates might also be placed in this room or on the terrace of the building or elsewhere on the grounds.

Among the associates of Clark who aided in his conquest of the Northwest Territory were Capt. Joseph Bowman and Capt. Leonard Helm, Father Pierre Gibault, Francis Vigo, a merchant of Sardinian birth, and Oliver Pollock, who aided in financing Clark's campaign. Provision for commemorating Vigo and Pollock has been made at the bridge approach and for Father Gibault in a location facing the cathedral.

While provision may be made for the exhibition of a few documents, papers, and other objects of historical interest, it is not suggested by the commission that there should be a museum within the memorial structure.

If the competitor desires to express the commemorative purpose of the memorial along other lines than those suggested, his design will receive its due consideration by the jury of awards. The above suggestions of the commission are not mandatory, except that the memorial shall be a building.

6. Fixed conditions. . . . It is a mandatory requirement that no part of the memorial building or terraces or accessories shall extend beyond the limits of the rectangle, the dimensions of which are 250 by 370 feet, as indicated on the plan. . . .

14. Competitors. Participation in this competition is open to such architects who are American citizens practicing architecture in the United States as shall have made application on or before September 15, 1929, accompanied by evidence of their training, ability, and experience, satisfactory to the commission and the architectural adviser and to such architects as may be specially invited by the commission to submit competitive designs. If a competitor enters the competition associated with another architect it is understood that if the competitor is successful such association must continue throughout the life of the job.

15. Jury of Award. There will be a jury of award which will consist of five members. At least two of the members of the jury will be architects of established reputation, chosen by the commission from those outside the States of Indiana and Illinois, and the other members of the jury will be lay or professional members, chosen by the commission from either inside or outside its membership.

17. Authority of Jury. Because of the legal requirements that the design of the memorial must be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts, the jury can not be empowered to make the final award. The jury will select the design which it considers most worthy, and the final award will be made to the author of such design upon approval by the National Commission of Fine Arts.

When the National Commission of Fine Arts has reported upon its action, the envelope of the successful competitor shall be opened and his name announced.

The commission agrees that it will make an award to design and supervise the erection of the building to the author of the design selected by the jury and approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts. . . . If the commission considers the winner to be lacking in experience, it may require that the winner associate with him an architect of recognized standing and experience.¹

We have one hundred and thirty of the leading architectural firms of the country entered into this competition. Our hopes of having the outstanding patriotic shrine west of the Alleghanies may well be realized.

In closing may I express the gratitude of the entire Indiana commission to that large army of public-spirited citizens whose coöperation and help have made this movement possible.

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Number 8

THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

A QUESTION OF NAMES

The question has often been raised as to the correct title to give to the memorial to be erected at the site of Fort Sackville at Vincennes. It is usually spoken of as the George Rogers Clark Memorial. However, the federal act authorizing an appropriation for it and creating the commission in charge of its construction refers to it as "A permanent memorial commemorating the winning of the Old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the War of the American Revolution."

From this it is apparent that while Clark is the central figure, the memorial is not intended to be personal to him. It is erected in honor of the first decisive step in the westward movement of the United States; commemorating the patriots who won the West in the Revolution, the pioneers who occupied the region west of the Ohio River, and all who contributed to the conquest and to the development of the Old Northwest.

This is difficult to put into a single phrase. Certainly the phrase quoted from the act passed by Congress is too long to be generally used. One of the best suggestions hitherto made is simply "The Vincennes Memorial." The question of inscriptions will come before the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission in the course of time. Doubtless the Commission will welcome suggestions and will devote its best thought to the selection of appropriate inscriptions and titles.

HEARING BEFORE THE LIBRARY COMMITTEES

"The hearing before the joint committee of the Library, Congress of the United States, Seventy-first Congress, second session, on Senate Bill 2643," March 21, 1930, entitled "George Rogers Clark Memorial," has been issued by the Government Printing Office and can be obtained by writing to any member of the Senate or of the House. It contains statements by William E. Parsons, F. C. Hirons, Fred V. Murphy, Luther E. Smith, Clement J. Richards, Noble J. Johnson, Louis Ludlow, Arthur H. Greenwood, and others, concerning the expedition of George Rogers Clark and plans for the memorial to be erected at Vincennes.

STOPOVER

Recognition of the historical interest in the beginnings of the Old Northwest and historic places in Vincennes is shown by the new regulation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, effective May 1, making Vincennes a regular authorized ten-day stopover point. Vincennes is one of the few cities of its size to enjoy this privilege.

HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION (Federal): Senator James E. Watson, Indiana; Senator Simon D. Fess, Ohio; Senator Kenneth McKellar, Tennessee; Representative Will R. Wood, Indiana; Representative Albert H. Vestal, Indiana; Representative Arthur H. Greenwood, Indiana; Ewing Emison, Vincennes; Mrs. Alvin T. Hert, Louisville, Kentucky; Luther E. Smith, St. Louis, Missouri; Mrs. Anne Studebaker Carlisle, South Bend; Clem J. Richards, Terre Haute; Francis H. Gavisk, Indianapolis; D. Frank Culbertson, Vincennes; Lew M. O'Bannon, Corydon; Lee Burns, Indianapolis. Christopher B. Coleman, Indianapolis, executive secretary.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEMORIAL COMMISSION OF INDIANA: C. J. Richards, Terre Haute, president; James M. Knapp, Hagerstown, vice-president; Miss Martha Allerdice, Indianapolis, secretary; James A. Woodburn, Bloomington; Frank C. Ball, Muncie; D. Frank Culbertson, Vincennes; Lee

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The contract for the construction of the river wall, along the grounds of the national memorial to be erected in commemoration of the acquisition of the Old Northwest on the site of Fort Sackville, was let on July 11 to the Premier Construction Company, Leon J. Cooper, president, of Indianapolis. The wall extends for about a thousand feet along the Wabash River and is necessary, not only for the landscaping of the memorial grounds and holding the boulevard in place, but for the extension of the levee already built by Knox County down to the alley below Main Street. The wall is to be built on piling to prevent any underground washing from breaking the concrete. The Premier Construction Company began operations within a few days after the signing of the contract, according to which the wall is to be completed within 120 days from receipt of notice to begin construction.

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THE GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The terms of the appointed members of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana expired in March of this year. On Monday, May 4, Governor Harry G. Leslie announced the reappointment of all former members and the appointment of Mrs. Lafayette LaVan (Anne Carlisle) Porter, of Greencastle, to the place left vacant by the death of her mother, Mrs. Anne Studebaker Carlisle, of South Bend.

Two members are appointed by the Governor without nomination. These are Ewing Emison, of Vincennes, and William Fortune, of Indianapolis. Four members are nominated by the executive committee of the Indiana Historical Society, two, according to the law, to be members of that committee. The four thus nominated and appointed are Francis H. Gavisk, Mrs. Ed Jackson, and Lee Burns, all of Indianapolis, and James A. Woodburn, of Bloomington. Three members are nominated by the Indiana Library and Historical Department. These are Clem J. Richards, of Terre Haute, Thomas D. Taggart, of French Lick, and Mrs. Lafayette LaVan Porter, of Greencastle. Three are nominated by the Society of Indiana Pioneers: Frank C. Ball, of Muncie, D. Frank Culbertson, of Vincennes, and Lew M. O'Bannon, of Corydon. All of these twelve appointments are for four years, dating from March 14.

In addition to these appointed members, there are three ex-officio members of the commission as follows: Walter Myers, of Indianapolis, speaker of the House of Representatives, Edgar D. Bush, lieutenant governor and president of the Senate; Christopher B. Coleman, director of the Historical Bureau.

VINCENNES MEMORIAL

Another material step in the development of the great memorial project of the local, state, and national governments at Vincennes was taken Monday, April 20, with the beginning of actual construction work on the new \$275,000 concrete bridge across the Wabash River. On that day ground was broken for the first abutment on the Indiana side. The bridge is to span the river from Vigo Street to the opposite Illinois bank of the Wabash. It is being constructed jointly by the Indiana State Highway Department and the Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings. It is to be paid for by the two states, each of which, however, in view of its being a project approved by the federal government, secures half of its payment from the United States.

Though the bridge, from the point of view of its builders and its financing, is not a part of the memorial project, from the architectural point of view it is an integral part of the memorial, the Indiana bridgehead and approach to be developed with monumental effect by the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission. Plans for this work are being studied by the architect of grounds, William E. Parsons. It is expected that they will be submitted to the Commission at an early date. Mr. Parsons has also coöperated with the engineers of the Indiana State Highway Department and the Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings in the architectural design of the bridge itself. The design has elicited enthusiastic approval by all who have studied it, though unfortunately it is rather narrow for its length, being a two track bridge. Its proportions have been very carefully studied. The arches and the superstructure are exceptionally graceful. There is every reason to believe that it will be the finest and most beautiful bridge yet built in either state or on any boundary of Indiana.

Bids for the contract for the removal of the large reinforced concrete brick-faced warehouse, formerly known as the Bierhaus Company Warehouse, by far the most substantial structure on the grounds purchased for the memorial, were opened in Mr. Parson's office in Chicago, on Friday, April 17. The low bidder was the Globe Wrecking Company of Chicago, in the amount of \$13,800. It is expected that the work of wrecking this building, begun immediately on completion of

the contract, will be completed in two months. The contract period is 120 days.

Bids for the general contract for the construction of the memorial building were advertised for on April 11, to be opened May 9. The latter date was afterward changed to June 25. The postponement of the date for the opening of bids was necessary to allow the bidders a longer time to figure on the contract and to allow consideration of certain minor changes in some of the specifications. Plans and specifications were issued by Frederick C. Hirons and F. W. Mellor, of New York City, the architects for the building, by virtue of winning the competition held in 1929. A very complete addenda and some new drawings were issued from the architect's office the last week of May for the use of bidders.

Bids will be received at 334 State House until 11 o'clock A.M. (Central Standard time), on Thursday, June 25, when they will be publicly opened.

The building is estimated at 600,000 cubic feet, and the contract will be one of the most important of recent times in Indiana.

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THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

Revised plans, specifications, and instructions to bidders for the construction of the memorial building at Vincennes commemorating the Revolution in the West, have been issued at the office of the architects, Frederic C. Hiron and F. W. Mellor, 40 East 49th Street, New York City, under date of May 14. The time for receiving bids has been extended and sealed bids will be received at 334 State House, Indianapolis, until 11 o'clock A.M., Central Standard Time, Thursday, July 9.

The removal of the three-story and basement reinforced concrete warehouse, which was the most substantial building on the grounds acquired for the memorial, has been completed by the Globe Wrecking Company, of Chicago. The building was so strongly built and reinforced that it presented engineering difficulties for all except the most modern wrecking machinery. The work was done by building a ramp at the side of the building, up which a heavy truck hauled a derrick and other machinery. The roof and floor were demolished by raising and dropping a two-ton iron ball; the walls by swinging the ball against them. Although the contract period for the work was three months, it was completed in a little more than one month.

Advertisements have been issued for bids for the construction of 600 feet of sanitary sewer and a short run of storm drainage, the laying of which will allow the removal of the sewer which runs immediately under the site of the prospective memorial building. Bids have also been called for upon the contract of filling parts of the memorial ground, the level of which will have to be raised. The advice of the architects of the grounds, Bennett, Parsons and Frost, was that owing to the opening of new gravel pits, dirt could be secured now more cheaply than is usually the case, and it is desirable to have the deep fills made as early as possible, so as to allow time for them to settle before landscaping is begun.

At a meeting of the commission, May 22, a contract was authorized with Ezra Winter, New York City, for the execution of seven large mural paintings which will be the principal feature of the interior of the building. The paintings will be in panels around the hall. Each panel will represent, in the lower part a historic scene connected with the Revolution in the West, and in the upper part an ornamental map suggesting the region involved.

The following plan has been adopted:

1. George Rogers Clark receiving his commission at Williamsburg in the presence of Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and others; a map of the thirteen original states.

2. Clark making treaty with the Indians at Cahokia; map showing location of Indian tribes in the Old Northwest and west of the Mississippi.

3. Clark's march through the drowned lands of Illinois; map showing the route of his expedition.

4. The surrender of Fort Sackville by Colonel Henry Hamilton to Colonel Clark; map of a portion of the Old Northwest centering on Detroit and Vincennes.

5. Battle of Piqua; map of Ohio in the Revolution.

6. Transfer of the upper part of the Louisiana Purchase at St. Louis from Spain and from the French to the United States; map of the Louisiana Purchase.

7. The Westward Movement; map of Continental United States.

At a meeting of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana at Indianapolis, May 28, officers were elected for the year ending April 1, 1932, as follows: Clem J. Richards, Terre Haute, president; Walter Myers, Indianapolis, vice-president; Frank C. Ball, Muncie, member of the federal Commission succeeding the late Mrs. Anne Studebaker Carlisle. Instructions were drawn up for proceeding with the vacating of certain streets within the memorial grounds and for the purchase of additional lots.

A meeting of the executive committee of the federal George Rogers Clark Commission has been arranged at Indianapolis on June 29, and a meeting of the federal Commission has been called for French Lick and Vincennes on Monday, July 13.

THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

Bids for the construction of the memorial at Vincennes by the national government, "commemorating the winning of the Old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the War of the American Revolution," were opened in the hall of the House of Representatives at the Statehouse at 11 o'clock, Thursday, July 9. D. Frank Culbertson, vice-president of the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission and chairman of its executive committee, presided and read the bids. Sixteen contractors submitted figures. As each bid contained many items and a large number of alternate materials were involved, the bids were referred to the architect of the memorial building, Fred-eric C. Hirons, for tabulation.

The executive committee of the commission, after considering all the bids in a series of meetings, recommended to the commission acceptance of the lowest bid for an entire granite exterior, with limestone for the interior pilasters and dome,

and with marble floor, seat and wainscoting below the pilasters.

The commission met at French Lick, Monday, July 13, and after general discussion approved the recommendation of the committee and instructed it to draw up, and the chairman to execute, a contract with the lowest bidder for these materials. The lowest bidder was Walter R. Heath, of Greencastle, whose bid was \$773,800.

Most of the members of the federal commission attended a noon meeting and luncheon at Vincennes on Tuesday, July 14. Among the speakers were Senator Simeon D. Fess, of Ohio, chairman of the commission, and Senator Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee, a member of the commission, who spoke with great enthusiasm of the memorial enterprise and the plans for the memorial building. Others who spoke included Arthur H. Greenwood, member of the national House of Representatives and Frank C. Ball, newly elected member of the commission, succeeding the late Mrs. Anne Studebaker Carlisle.

THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

The Vincennes Memorial has progressed to the point where its magnitude and prospective beauty can easily be appreciated. The reinforced concrete bridge across the Wabash River at Vigo Street is structurally nearly completed. It will be open to traffic during the coming summer. Its great height and carefully studied proportions make it both an attractive and commanding sight. The contract for the memorial treatment of the bridge approach in the memorial grounds has been begun by the Premier Construction Company of Indianapolis, to which the contract was awarded on its bid of \$116,241. The approach will be considerably wider than the bridge. On

its upper side toward the city it will be terraced and surmounted by a flag staff. On its lower side toward the memorial building it will be terraced with steps into the grounds. The end of the bridge will be marked by two massive pylons.

The memorial building, which is being constructed by the Walter R. Heath Construction Company of Greencastle, has reached the stage in which the granite wall is being placed. The memorial building proper is to surmount a terrace necessarily raised to harmonize with the height of the bridge. The wainscoting is of dark green granite, topped by a narrow band of North Star Indian Red granite. Above this will be light gray Stanstead granite from Vermont. The placing of the columns surrounding the building has not been begun.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

The new bridge across the Wabash River at Vigo Street was opened to traffic the middle of July. No formal exercises were held; on account of the heat and the fact that the bridge was not finished, it was decided to postpone any formal dedication until September. The bridge is of concrete with open spandrels and open railing. It is high enough to allow clearance for vessels which may some day go up the Wabash River, which is still classed by the War Department as a navigable stream.

The proportions of the bridge are perfect; it is one of the most beautiful and impressive structures in the United States. The bridgehead on the Illinois side is an ordinary fill carrying a cement roadway. The Indiana approach, which is within the memorial grounds, is widened to continue the asphalt pavement of Vincennes streets and the bridge itself. It is being faced with stone and will carry inscriptions. On the upper side there will be a terrace and a 75-foot flag pole; on the lower side are steps into the memorial plaza.

The memorial building has been carried to the top of the columns and the interior limestone dome has been placed. The attic and the terrace, at the time of writing, have not been begun. The completion of the bridge and the rounding out of the outline of the memorial building make two things apparent

to any visitor; the memorial building could not have been smaller without being dwarfed by the bridge, and the grounds are barely large enough to serve as an adequate setting. In fact, the grounds seem too small, but this appearance may be remedied when the landscaping is completed.

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THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

SEPTEMBER 3

The dedication of the Wabash River bridge and the laying of the corner stone of the Clark Memorial at Vincennes will be the occasion on Sunday, September 3, of the observance of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Peace of Paris, 1783, which closed the War of the American Revolution. All of the three events combine to make the day one of the most interesting of the year.

The dedication of the bridge, with its monumental approach on the Indiana side within the memorial grounds, will include addresses by Governor Paul V. McNutt and by Governor Henry Horner, of Illinois. The program will begin at noon. In the afternoon at 3:30 Senator Simeon D. Fess, of Ohio, chairman of the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, will deliver the address commemorating the Treaty of Peace, the acquisition of the Old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the War of the American Revolution.

Senator Fess, before going to Congress, had been a graduate student of history and lecturer at the University of Chicago, professor of history and vice-president of Ohio Northern University, and president of Antioch College. His address will be a notable contribution to commemorative literature.

D. Frank Culbertson, vice-chairman of the federal commission and active promoter of the memorial movement from the beginning, will preside at the laying of the corner stone of the memorial building. The building is completed on the exterior, the corner stone being the last one laid. On the interior, the art bronze and art glass ceiling light remains to be placed and the large mural paintings, which are being finished in New York City by Ezra Winter, are lacking. Much work still remains to be done upon the grounds, on which little has

been done besides removing the buildings, and through which a railroad switch still runs.

Plans are being made for the installment of amplifiers so that the program can be heard by all who attend. It will be held outdoors on the memorial grounds if the weather permits.

THE INDIANA COMMISSION

The George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana which, with the federal Commission, sponsored the program, was reappointed by Governor Paul V. McNutt on July 24, without change of membership, as follows: Frank C. Ball, of Muncie; D. Frank Culbertson, of Vincennes; Lew M. O'Bannon, of Corydon; James A. Woodburn, of Bloomington; Lee Burns, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Ed Jackson, of Indianapolis; Thomas D. Taggart, of French Lick; Clem J. Richards, of Terre Haute; William Fortune, of Indianapolis; Ewing R. Emison, of Vincennes; Mrs. LaFayette Le Van Porter, of Greencastle; the Reverend Basil Heusler, of Jasper; Christopher B. Coleman, of Indianapolis, director of the state Historical Bureau; Earl Crawford, of Milton, speaker of the House of Representatives; and M. Clifford Townsend, lieutenant governor.

PILGRIMAGES TO VINCENNES

Vincennes has recently been the mecca of numerous tourists. On July 19 a group of forty students from the University of Kentucky, Lexington, arrived to visit the various historic sites of the city, the travelers camping in Harrison Park for the night. Curtis G. Shake, acting as representative of the Vincennes Chamber of Commerce, addressed the gathering. On July 22, one hundred college students from Normal, Illinois, were guests of Vincennes on the first stop of a long motor trip into Canada and the Northwest. Camp was set up for the night in Harrison Park. Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, was also represented on July 23 by forty students who visited the city.

VINCENNES, SEPTEMBER 3

The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Peace of Paris, which closed the war of the American Revolution and ceded the Old Northwest to the United States, was appropriately celebrated at Vincennes on Sunday, September 3, by the dedication of the new interstate bridge and bridge approach and by the sealing of the corner stone of the national memorial. The day was excessively hot and the afternoon program was curtailed by showers, otherwise the occasion was perfect.

Opening with a concert at the grounds just before noon by the Vincennes Band, the dedicatory program at the bridge was an impressive one, the arrival of Governor Paul V. McNutt from St. Louis shortly after 12:30 to the accompaniment of the slow firing of nineteen cannon shots as he drove from the railroad station, formally starting the ceremonies. Assembly was played by four trumpeters of the 139th Field Artillery of the Indiana National Guard at Lebanon in charge of Corporal James V. Nelson.

Following "The Star Spangled Banner" and "On the Banks of the Wabash" which were sung by the Vincennes Chorus with Professor Sebring directing, D. Frank Culbertson, of Vincennes, introduced Governor Henry Horner, of Illinois, and Governor Paul V. McNutt, both of whom made notable addresses which are to be published in *George Rogers Clark National Memorial Leaflet* Number 2.

Mark Reasoner, of Indianapolis, president of the Indiana Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, officiated at the flag raising, the Indiana National Guard Trumpeters play-

ing the salute to the colors and the Vincennes American Legion formally presenting the flag ceremonial. As the flag was raised, twenty-one cannon shots were fired. It was estimated that more than three thousand attended the dedication of the bridge and the flag raising.

Luncheon was served in the Gibault Gymnasium a short distance from the memorial building, with more than four hundred persons in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Joseph W. Kimmell, of Vincennes, who introduced Clem J. Richards, of Terre Haute, president of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana, who presided. Among the organizations represented, in addition to the state and federal Clark memorial commissions, were the Sons of the American Revolution, the Illinois and Indiana chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Francis Vigo Memorial Association.

With an attendance of between five and six thousand persons, the program for the sealing of the corner stone of the memorial building, the last stone to be placed in the structure, was held shortly after three o'clock, the trumpeters playing Assembly and the Vincennes Chorus presenting several selections. Luther Ely Smith, of St. Louis, presided, introducing Senator Simeon D. Fess, of Ohio, chairman of the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, who, on account of a shower, delivered only part of his address commemorative of the Peace of Paris, September 3, 1783, and of the close of the American Revolution. The addresses at the bridge in the morning and that of Senator Fess in the afternoon were broadcast by Evansville, Indianapolis, and Fort Wayne radio stations.

A list of the contents to be placed in the corner stone was then read by D. Frank Culbertson, which included, among other important items, a copy of the *Holy Bible*, the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Indiana, the Act creating the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana, the United States Statute creating the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, President Calvin Coolidge's recommendation of a national memorial to George Rogers Clark in his annual message to Congress, December 6, 1927, a photostat of the Treaty of Paris, September 3, 1783, from the Department of State, several books on the life of

George Rogers Clark, photographs of prominent persons connected with the memorial movement, and copies of newspapers containing accounts and illustrations of the Memorial, of the celebration in February, 1929, of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the capture of Fort Sackville by George Rogers Clark, and of the celebration at Vincennes on September 3, 1933. The copper box was then placed in the corner stone and officially sealed, the program closing with music by the Vincennes Chorus.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AT VINCENNES

The formal dedication of the George Rogers Clark Memorial at Vincennes will take place late Sunday morning, June 7. The work on the memorial grounds cannot be completed by that time, but the memorial building and the principal features of the plaza have been completed. The bridge approach was finished two years ago and the statue of Pierre Gibault has been in place before the old Cathedral for some months. The large granite statue of Francis Vigo, it is expected, will be in place before the end of this month.

The program for the dedication has not yet been announced. We are informed that it is probable that the statues of Gibault and Vigo will be unveiled on the day of the dedication. The dedicatory address is to be made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As the President has promised to stop off at Vincennes for this occasion on his way from the celebration of the centennial of the independence of Texas from Mexico, his stay in Vincennes will necessarily be brief.

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DEDICATION OF NATIONAL MEMORIAL AT VINCENNES

The memorial commemorating the "acquisition of the Old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the War of the American Revolution," was officially dedicated on Sunday morning, June 14. The memorial building, the bridge approach, and the statues of Francis Vigo and Father Pierre Gibault have all been finished. The grounds are not yet completed; the obsolete gas plant which mars the lower end of the plaza is to be removed and it is hoped that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad switch, at present running the entire length of the memorial grounds, may be replaced by an ornamental boulevard. Both the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission and the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana are continuing their work.

At the general dedication of the memorial at 9:30 Sunday morning, June 14, D. Frank Culbertson, vice-chairman of the federal commission, and chairman of its executive committee, presided. Governor Paul V. McNutt presented the President of the United States, who dedicated the memorial with an address in which he emphasized the religious element in the acquisition and the development of the Old Northwest and the present-day necessity of conserving and improving its natural resources. The program was begun with a flag-raising ceremony at which Battery D, 139th Field Artillery Band, played "The Star Spangled Banner." The Glee Club of the American Legion Auxiliary sang "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away," and Bishop Joseph E. Ritter, of Indianapolis, gave the invocation.

After President Roosevelt's address the statue of Francis Vigo was dedicated by a program on the same platform from

which the President spoke, in front of the memorial building. Charles L. Barry, of Indianapolis, who was introduced by Colonel Robert Moorhead, state president of the Sons of the American Revolution, delivered an address upon Francis Vigo, and Miss Bonnie Farwell, state regent of the D. A. R., also made an address. Dr. Bruno Roselli read a message from the Mayor of Mondovi, Italy, birthplace of Francis Vigo, and the Royal Italian Ambassador, representing the Italian government, delivered the closing address.

At 11:30 the statue of Father Pierre Gibault, in front of the Church of St. Francis Xavier, was dedicated with religious services and an address by Bishop J. H. Schlarman, of Peoria, Illinois. The ceremony included a processional of altar boys, clergy, and prelates, the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," and the "Marseillaise," by a choir of three hundred voices, the blessing of the statue by Bishop Ritter, and the singing of the hymn, "Te Deum."

The *Vincennes Sun-Commercial* and the *Vincennes Post* both published special souvenir editions on Sunday, June 14, containing numerous illustrations and historical articles about Clark's campaigns and about the memorial. The first monument marking the site of Fort Sackville, constructed in 1905 by P. J. Burns, under the sponsorship of the Fort Sackville Daughters of the Revolution, has been reset in the center of shrubbery at the northeast corner of the memorial building. For nearly twenty-five years this little stone marker with its brass plate, was the only indication of this historic site. Its inscriptions reads:

Site of Fort Sackville. Captured by Colonel George Rogers Clark from the British, February 25, 1779, resulting in the United States acquiring the Great Northwest Territory, embracing the states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

The magnificent memorial which now stands on the banks of the Wabash offers the world an appropriate reminder of the character and the significance of the American Revolution in the West. The dedication of the memorial, attended by perhaps one hundred thousand persons who braved the heat of a June sun, was a fitting tribute, not only to George Rogers Clark and his associates, but to the group of men and women who, for ten years, gave their best thought and energies to securing and erecting the memorial.

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SEPTEMBER 3, 1933



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INDIANA HISTORY BULLETIN

VOLUME XI

No. 3

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK AND THE CONQUEST OF THE OLD NORTHWEST

By the Honorable Henry Horner, Governor of Illinois

An address delivered at the dedication of the Wabash River Bridge, erected by the states of Illinois and Indiana, at the Vincennes National Memorial commemorating the acquisition of the Old Northwest. Held on September 3, 1933, the sesquicentennial of the Treaty of Paris between the United States and Great Britain.

This is a great day in the history of two states—Illinois, which I have the honor to represent, and our sister state, Indiana, for which your own loved and distinguished and eloquent Governor, Paul V. McNutt speaks. Both states are represented in this great audience, both vie with each other in paying honor to one of our great American figures—George Rogers Clark, a man whose name is inseparably connected with the history of both commonwealths.

The two states have a common heritage. Together they were first under French dominion, then under British rule. Before the Union of States was brought about by the adoption of our constitution, they both formed part of Virginia under such governors as Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson. Later they were both part of the great Northwest Territory, created by the Ordinance of 1787.

In 1800, when Indiana Territory was established, what is now Illinois was a part of that territory. William Henry Harrison—old Tippecanoe—later President of the United States, was then our governor, as well as yours. Vincennes was our seat of government, as well as yours. The territorial union of Indiana and Illinois continued until 1809, when Illi-

nois was carved out of Indiana's loins as a separate territory. Although we were geographically divided in that year, after years of happy joinder, our hopes and ambitions are still alike. Let us hope we shall always remain so in all the centuries to come.

That year of 1809 was a memorable one. In that year, in the State of Kentucky, which like Illinois and Indiana had formed part of Virginia in the early days, there was born a child, Abraham Lincoln, who was destined to draw closer the bonds between all the states and to unite the nation forever.

As he was growing to manhood, the conquest of the prairies of the Mississippi Valley was going forward. To the fertile plains came men from the North, men from the South, men from the East, men from various parts of Europe. As they built their cabins side by side in the wilderness, they worked shoulder to shoulder to lay the firm foundation of the two great states of Indiana and Illinois—monuments to democracy.

We feel, as we gather here, that the bonds of brotherhood which united the people of the two states are secure, that the people of both are animated with the same purpose and that they truly appreciate what our union of states means. Not even the wide waters of the Wabash over which has been erected this magnificent bridge—one of the noblest specimens of the builder's art—can separate us.

Sentiment and sameness of interest make us feel today as if we were again citizens of the same commonwealth, even as we were more than a century ago.

May this memorial bridge always serve as a symbol of the many other links that bind our states together. Built by the joint efforts of both states, and completed last fall, it will make it not only easier for intercommunication and intertravel, but it will remind us of the pioneers of both states who forded the Wabash at this point and who contributed mightily to the development of both states. The roads this bridge connect were once the worn path of the buffalo, used as the trail of the white men who came from the Falls of the Ohio to build their homes and erect their altars on the prairies. Many call this the Lincoln Bridge—it is well named so, for it is established that at, or near the point where it majestically spans the beautiful Wabash, the family of Abraham Lincoln crossed from Indiana to Illinois. It marks the travel of that best

product of the soil of Kentucky and Indiana and Illinois—for it was those states that developed him as one of the most perfect of the human species.

When Lincoln was a boy of seven, his family trekked westward from Kentucky to Spencer County, Indiana, where he lived until he was twenty-one; thence the family, moving westward, crossed the Wabash at Vincennes into Illinois. An Illinois commission has carefully marked the trail that Lincoln's family took in Illinois from the west bank of the Wabash at this point to the little town of New Salem near Springfield, where he began to carve out his wondrous career. Our state expects to build shortly a beautiful Lincoln Memorial Highway along that trail. Kentucky has a commission, like that of Illinois, which will fix the path the Lincoln family took from Lincoln's birthplace in Kentucky to the Indiana line, over which that state will build its Lincoln Memorial Highway. A like commission of the State of Indiana is engaged in preparing for a similar memorial highway over the trail the family took through Indiana. This beautiful and substantial bridge will connect the west end of the Indiana Lincoln Highway and the east end of the Illinois Lincoln Highway. When the Lincoln Highways of those three states are completed, the tourist, the seeker for inspiration from the Lincoln theme, will be able to travel from the place of the birth of the emancipator in Kentucky, through Indiana, to his last resting place in Illinois, along a continuous, majestic highway, in contemplation of the great and magnetic American character who passed that way more than a century ago. And this beautiful bridge will be always an important link in that historic way.

The place at which we meet today is indeed a memorable one. Here, at Vincennes, was enacted that great historic drama which decided for all time whether Illinois, Indiana and the other Lake states should form a part of the United States, or of the Dominion of Canada. Here, around the walls of old Fort Sackville that fell before the intrepid little army of less than two hundred men, led by Colonel George Rogers Clark, was staged a battle which deserves to be enumerated among the decisive victories in American history. Not even Saratoga or Yorktown play a more important part in the history of the United States than did this comparatively bloodless conflict around the wooden walls of Fort Sackville. By reason of Clark's victory here, the Treaty of Paris which

terminated the War of the Revolution, designated the Mississippi River instead of the Ohio as our then western boundary. And I congratulate those who selected this day as the day of the celebration of the laying of your cornerstone of this fitting Clark Memorial. For this day is the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783.

We are gathered to pay tribute to the memory of a genius who was not truly appreciated in his own time and to whom history has done scant justice. But his reputation is enhancing as the years go by. Even today, when the facts concerning him have dispelled the cloud with which enemies had surrounded his reputation, there are comparatively few of the citizens of the two states who owe him so much, who really understand the importance of the part he played and who know how and with what genius he played it.

This majestic memorial, so appropriately located, will be a reminder to those who have forgotten—a monument to this generation and the generations that are to follow. This memorial will in some measure make up for the neglect of those authors who have failed to embrace the opportunity offered by the life of George Rogers Clark. His true biography would read like a romance—a romance that needs no embellishment upon truth. It is the story of the deeds of a man whose almost miraculous foresight, dauntless spirit and courage won for his country the territory which is now, we believe, its most essential part.

George Rogers Clark came from an illustrious family which did far more than its share for its country. His parents had six sons, five of whom were officers in the Revolutionary War, two of them generals, one a captain, and two others were lieutenants. The sixth son—William—too young a child to fight during the Revolution, also became a general and the first territorial Governor of Missouri. This son immortalized his name as the Captain Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition which first reached the Pacific Coast, and opened to American settlement the wonders of the Pacific Northwest.

Born in Virginia in 1752, George Rogers Clark, whose family's resources would have enabled him to lead the idle life of the tidewater aristocracy of the day, became of his own choice a backwoodsman and an Indian fighter when only twenty years of age. A giant in physique, standing six feet

two inches tall, his head crowned by a wealth of red hair, possessed of a keen mind which later made him one of the greatest military strategists of his time, he soon assumed a leadership among both the whites and the Indians with whom he was associated. His features and figure were like those of Washington, and Washington, twenty years his senior, was one of his idols. At twenty years of age, Clark was a captain of militia, taking part in those struggles with the Indians which were known as Cresap's and Dunmore's wars. Both of these conflicts had been fomented by royal governors of the American colonists with the object of preventing the Revolution, it being believed that the colonists would fear to begin the unescapable struggle with Great Britain while the Indians were menacing their outlying settlements. At twenty-three years, Clark became a commander of the Kentucky militia and at twenty-four he was a delegate to the Virginia legislature. There he pleaded with Governor Patrick Henry for the protection of the Kentucky settlers from invading Indians, and obtained for them badly needed ammunition to defend their homes.

At this time, the American Revolution had broken out and the British governor at Detroit had been given permission by the British Ministry to turn loose the Indians upon Kentucky. Only by the strictest discipline and his courageous example was Clark able to save the settlements from annihilation. But while he was waging the fight for the Kentuckians, Clark was conceiving his great idea. Realizing, as have all great military leaders, that the most successful defensive is a strong offensive, he determined to rid Kentucky of the invader by striking at the center of the foe's power. With the capture of that center, Clark believed the pressure upon the settlements south of the Ohio River would be removed. Governor Patrick Henry permitted him to lead an expedition into what was then British territory. That permission and a few hundred dollars in already fast depreciating continental currency were all he obtained. He was forced to raise his own army and to overcome difficulty after difficulty which was placed in his way.

One after another of the obstacles was overcome and finally in June of 1778, when he was only twenty-six years of age, Clark was ready for his great achievement. With his little army of one hundred and seventy-five volunteer rifles which

he had managed to assemble, he advanced against the British regulars who were aided by the Canadian militia and thousands of bloodthirsty Indians.

Kaskaskia, in Illinois, the farthest west of the British settlements, situated on the Mississippi River near what is now Chester, in Randolph County, was selected as his objective. To reach it safely, an overland march was necessary and Clark led his little army forward from old Fort Massac through a wilderness occupied by hostile Indians. A night attack on the fort at Kaskaskia resulted in its capture without the loss of a single life.

Cahokia, in Illinois, opposite St. Louis, soon met the same fate as Kaskaskia. The capture of the two settlements spread the fame of Clark throughout the Northwest. Many of the Indians who heretofore had been the allies of Great Britain were anxious to join what now appeared to be the winning side. Here was another occasion on which Clark showed his genius. He refused to accept them as allies, but straightforward dealing convinced them that they must take no part in the war between Great Britain and their colonists. In this they acquiesced after swearing allegiance to the United States.

Clark's next thought was of Vincennes, the place where we are gathered today. His genius enabled him to win it for the colonies by an expedition composed of two men—Father Gibault, who was vicar-general of the Northwest, and Dr. Jean B. Laffont, a French physician. They went to Vincennes as envoys of Clark and easily induced the French inhabitants to swear allegiance to Virginia instead of Great Britain. Fort Sackville hoisted a new flag and Captain Leonard Helm, accompanied by one soldier, arrived to take command of its garrison of French militia.

But the real struggle at this point was to come. British regulars, Canadian militia, and countless Indians advanced against the little settlement on the banks of the Wabash. The French militia dispersed. Captain Helm and his garrison of one soldier held off the British army by a show of force compelling the enemy to give him honorable terms of surrender, refusing to lower the flag, leaving it to the invaders to do so.

Upon this incident is founded the story of *Alice of Old Vincennes* with which most of you are familiar. The enemy

occupied Vincennes and the fort without fear of Clark who was in distant Kaskaskia. It was midwinter and between the Illinois town near the Mississippi and the Indiana town on the Wabash, the territory seemed impassable because of the floods. Clark, however, had no intention of abandoning Vincennes. Most of his forces were needed to hold Kaskaskia and Cahokia. He could muster only seventy Kentuckians for the capture of Vincennes. Sixty of the French settlers of Kaskaskia volunteered to accompany him, the first native Illinoisans to fight under the Stars and Stripes.

Across the flooded plains of Illinois, Clark led the gallant band. No greater hardships were ever experienced by soldiers. The stories of Xenophon's retreat with the ten thousand, and that of Napoleon from Moscow, are the only ones that bear comparison with the story of this march of Clark's men. And it must be borne in mind that Clark's men were not retreating, but advancing. Only the encouragement of their lion-hearted leader enabled them to brave the perils of flooded rivers filled with ice floes. When the Wabash was reached, food had given out, the men were exhausted and the small army then sank hopelessly in the ooze along the banks.

Then again, the spirit of Clark prevailed. He plunged into the stream, breaking the ice with his breast. His men, hurrahing as they went, followed him, the stronger helping the weaker. The opposite bank reached, some Indian squaws with a supply of buffalo meat were captured and the advance against Vincennes was resumed.

Here, once more, Clark showed his strategy. The garrison outnumbered his own force. Hundreds of hostile Indians surrounded the fort. But when the little army left Kaskaskia, it had been well supplied with one thing—banners. There were nearly a score of these. Marching and counter-marching his men behind inequalities in the land, the flags visible and the officers appearing at intervals mounted on steeds captured from duck hunters, Clark thus gave the British commander at Fort Sackville the impression that an army of at least a thousand men had come against him. The steady fire of Clark's riflemen emphasized that impression.

Gradually the steady fire whittled down the British garrison. Clark's report mentions only a few of his men being wounded and no fatalities. The British general, indulging in

some rhetoric, raised the white flag and the Stars and Stripes again floated over Vincennes. The conquest of the Northwest was accomplished.

This was the pinnacle of Clark's career. After it there was little for him but discouragement. He was forced to the thankless task of defending a frontier with men who were unpaid and sometimes unfed. He, himself, never drew a cent in pay. Financial difficulties arose. He was never recompensed for the money he had advanced for the expenses of his expedition. He was sued by those from whom he had borrowed the funds with which to pay and clothe his men.

Meantime, Clark's enemies had been busy. False stories about him were circulated. "Facts will prove themselves" was his only answer to the charges made against him. They have; but the proof came too late for Clark. At the age of thirty-five, he retired from public life. Serious illness overtook him and in 1805 he was so feeble that he could not leave his arm chair. He died in poverty in 1818, the year Illinois became a state.

During his declining years, a feeble effort was made to do him justice. The Virginia legislature met and for the third time voted him a sword. It was presented to him as he sat invalided in his arm chair.

"When Virginia needed a sword, I gave her one. She now sends me a toy. I now want bread," was his reply to the delegate of the Assembly, as he thrust the sword into the ground. It was not until after his death that any justice to him was attempted. Early historians were too much concerned with the battles in the east to give any more than a passing reference to the conquest of the wilderness. Those who did write of him were his personal enemies. For years their stories were accepted. It was not until comparatively recently that the records which "prove themselves" as he expressed it, were found. Even today there are few memorials to this great American.

This magnificent bridge, constructed jointly by the states of Illinois and Indiana, and this monument, erected on the shores of the Wabash by an understanding federal government, are now ever living testimonials to his worth. While they are splendid tributes to George Rogers Clark, yet they cannot undo the wrong that was done him during his lifetime.

They do prove, however, that after all truth is eternal and will survive. Justice is now being done him today after more than a century of almost indifference.

I like to feel that the spirit of Clark is with us today. He was a dreamer who made his dreams come true. He dreamed of a great and prosperous Kentucky. He dreamed of creating on the banks of "La Belle Rivière," as the Ohio was known in his days, the most beautiful city in the world. He did not live to see his dream realized; neither did he live to see his dreams of the development of mighty states in the wilderness of the Northwest come true. He, however, did live to see the beginning of its realization. Ohio had been made a state in 1803; Indiana had added another star in the field of blue in 1816, and 1818, the year of his death, saw Illinois take her place among the great commonwealths that make up our Union.

He served the nation well when he lived. His memory stirs us who imbibe his spirit, to emulate that service. His life was made miserable by calumny when the nation should have hailed him as one of its deliverers. The attacks made upon his reputation by his enemies cannot dim the lustre of his fame. Clark is not the only American who has been traduced. Even Washington suffered the most vicious attacks. Lincoln was assailed as no American living has been attacked. Grant, Clay, Webster, and others whose names are immortal, have been the victims of slander and vicious pamphleteers. Happily most of them had justice done to them before or soon after their death.

The public men of today, devoted to their public tasks, must find consolation in the assurance that truth and right will ultimately prevail as it did in the case of George Rogers Clark; these memorials and the ceremonies of today prove that.

The memorial will aid in bringing even closer together the people of the great states that have been carved out of the great Northwest which Clark won for us. It emphasizes that they have a common history, a common destiny, that what is for the benefit of one is for the benefit of the others. Petty jealousies between communities will be dissipated by the bright rays of Clark's accomplishments.

The story of his achievement recalls the debts of Illinois to Indiana and the obligation of Indiana to Illinois. It binds both more closely to Kentucky and old Virginia. It incites

all of us to a greater love for our common country, a greater determination to be worthy of the great heritage that has come to us through the deeds of this great American and his patriotic band.

I like to picture Clark as he is portrayed in Winston Churchill's book, *The Crossing*, when just after the capture of the fort at Vincennes, and his gaining for his country an empire never to be lost, the author causes him to say:

"We have not suffered all things for a reward, but because a righteous cause may grow. And though our names may be forgotten, our deeds will be remembered. We have conquered a vast land that our children and children's children may be freed from tyranny."

George Rogers Clark, this memorial shall bring it to pass that neither you nor your fame shall be forgotten! Nor will the glorious purpose for which you fought and wrought be neglected by your countrymen who follow you and appreciate the blessings of free government.

THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL BRIDGE

By the Honorable Paul V. McNutt, Governor of Indiana

An address delivered at the dedication of the Wabash River Bridge, erected by the states of Indiana and Illinois at the Vincennes National Memorial commemorating the acquisition of the Old Northwest. Held on September 3, 1933, the sesquicentennial of the Treaty of Paris between the United States and Great Britain.

Some three months ago in this city of Vincennes it was my happy privilege to call for the observance here of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain at the end of the War of the American Revolution. This assembly and the dedication of this interstate bridge with its memorial court, may well serve as such an observance.

This national memorial, which commemorates the conquest of the West, commemorates also the treaty of peace which gave it to the United States. It commemorates the fighting men of the frontier: George Rogers Clark, Leonard Helm, the Bowmans, Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, and their associates, both Virginian and French. They marched through wilderness and flood against the soldiers of King George and his savage allies. Their daring, their resourcefulness, the hardships they endured and the sacrifices they made, for long almost forgotten, have now, thanks to this memorial, become a permanent part of our heritage. It commemorates, also, a fair and honorable treaty of peace. The American negotiators, in this, the first treaty of peace in which the United States ever engaged, set a standard of ability, fairness, breadth of vision, and diplomacy which adds luster even to the great names of John Jay, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin. On the other hand, the Earl of Shelburne, the prime minister of England, whose representative signed the treaty, was able to say that whatever happened thereafter, he had laid the foundation in the Peace of Paris for enduring friendship between the mother country and her former colonies.

We here honor, also, pioneers whose heroism was neither that of the battlefield nor of diplomacy: Father Pierre Gibault, spiritual leader of the French who helped win for the new republic the land they had lost to England; Oliver Pollock,

the financier of the Revolution in the West, who from Spanish New Orleans furnished the American soldiers with powder and equipment; Francis Vigo, the genial Italian trader, who used his fortune to supply the destitute soldiers of Virginia—a debt not repaid till long after his death. In him, our citizens of Italian descent have a representative among the founders of our nation as worthy as any of honor and emulation. I think that the memorial should also remind us of the women of old Vincennes who, on that fateful morning of February 24, 1779, fed Clark's hungry soldiers, setting an example of hospitality their descendants have followed down to our own day.

The winning of the West was the work of peace as well as of war. It was the settlers who left the security of their homes on the Atlantic seaboard, traversed the passes of the Appalachian mountain ranges and made their perilous way along rivers and over wilderness trails to build houses in this great valley—it was these pioneers of toil and hope who insured its possession to us. The men who cleared the forests for their little farms, the women who reared their families in loneliness and privation, the children who almost from infancy helped in the endless work of the frontier home—these, all of them, share this memorial with the soldiers and diplomats whose names are written in larger letters on the pages of history.

A greater memorial than this bridge and court and shrine is the remembrance of these conquerors of the West in the hearts of men everywhere throughout the nation. Monumental court and plaza and shrine will fail of their purpose if they do not transmute themselves in our heart's core into the high resolve and courage and endurance of those they commemorate. "They were stern men with empires in their brains." We need today, we will always need, the spirit which led them through forbidding paths to victory over their enemies and to mastery of a great continent. Theirs was the true standard of living, a standard measured not so much by comforts or luxuries, or material wealth, as by determination and achievement.

The bridge and monumental bridgehead built at this historic place, now to be dedicated on this, the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Paris, are inevitably rich in associations. Standing on the old prehistoric trail between the Falls of the Ohio and the crossing of the Mississippi, they

overlook the scene of the victory which made certain the cession of all this region to the United States. Over the road they carry, passed the rulers and the humbler pioneers of the West. Here Indiana gave Abraham Lincoln to Illinois. Here, on a national highway, the travel and the traffic of a continent cross the Wabash River, the arterial waterway of the Old Northwest.

A pleasant and significant association of this bridge is the relationship it involves. It has been built by the states of Indiana and Illinois with the aid which the federal government has extended to approved highway projects: it is both interstate and national. Its construction involved such a full measure of coöperation between us and our neighbors across the river that two bridges were built at the same time, one at Vincennes and the other at Mt. Carmel. Each state extended both hands across the Wabash, a symbol of friendliness which I trust will always prevail between us.

May I take this occasion to recite an earlier instance of our friendliness to Governor Horner's state? The state line, which, according to laws going back to the Ordinance of 1787, was to be run due north from Vincennes from the point where such a line last touched the Wabash, was in fact run by the commissioners slightly to the northeast, so that Indiana gave its younger sister as its first birthday gift a long narrow strip of land and a bit of lake front near the Governor's home town.

The bridge which we dedicate today is in every way worthy of the associations connected with it. Its lines and its proportions make it one of the most beautiful bridges in the United States. For this I want to record our acknowledgment to the engineer who drew its plan, Fred Kellam, bridge engineer of the Indiana Highway Commission, and to William E. Parsons, of Chicago, who acted as consulting architect. Speaking for the State of Indiana, I am proud to dedicate such a bridge as Mr. Kellam has here designed to the service of the people, not only of Indiana and Illinois, but of the whole nation. As times goes on, it will add to the fame of the place which has already given fame to the bridge.

The inscription carved on the terrace of the bridge approach is the record with which, in substance, on behalf of the State of Indiana, I dedicate the bridge to the general welfare:

Two ancient ways crossed here. From time immemorial Wabash River linked North to South. East and West

to its ford led Buffalo Trace, worn broad and deep by countless herds. Indians used these paths. At their village the French planted Post Vincennes. Then came the English. To the Americans they surrendered at this strategic post the Ohio Valley frontier.

This way, between the Falls of Ohio and Kaskaskia, went George Rogers Clark, hero of the Old Northwest; and William Henry Harrison, governor at Vincennes of Indiana and Louisiana. Abraham Lincoln, grown to manhood in Indiana, here crossed to Illinois. Along the old road and down the Wabash slowly moved the builders of the West and the products of its fertile lands—portents of democracy and hope.

Over pavement and bridge, from Capital to Golden Gate, now runs the Highway. Along the River, roads bind Lakes to Gulf. Travelers speed from East, West, North and South. For all who come, this memorial of park and bridge and shrine has been created, to keep alive forever the spirit and the daring which won the West.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By Simeon D. Fess, United States Senator from Ohio

Chairman of the

George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission

An address delivered at the sealing of the cornerstone of the National Memorial at Vincennes, Indiana, commemorating the acquisition of the Old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the War of the American Revolution, September 3, 1933, the sesquicentennial of the Treaty of Paris between the United States and Great Britain.

The occasion which brings us together has a twofold significance. The first is to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Independence, which opened the way for the building of the great republic, which, while one of the youngest governments in the world, is the oldest republic in history representing "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

The real meaning of American independence was never better stated than by Thomas Jefferson when he enunciated the fundamental basis of popular government, in which he laid the stress upon the principle that the right to govern must come from the consent of the governed.

This announcement was made as a conclusive decision resulting from a long list of arbitrary acts of imperialistic character subversive of rights of English citizens, such as legislation without representation, to say nothing of the effete customs of hereditary government, life tenure in office, primogeniture and entailed estates, as well as other practices thought inimical to self-government. Resistance to these arbitrary laws and practices led to military coercion and war.

Seven years conflict from Lexington to Yorktown, known as the American Revolution, which Englishmen have agreed to mention only when they cannot help it, was necessary to open the way for the Treaty of Independence, the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of which we celebrate here today.

Measured by results this was one of, if not the greatest achievement, in the history of popular civil government among men. Independence upon that basis opened the way for planting in virgin soil, free from Old World prejudices and customs,

the first real republic, built upon the will of the people, the youngest government, but oldest real republic in history, based upon a written constitution. Here is the machinery of government by the people through their popularly chosen representatives, with powers essentially checked and balanced among its legislative, judicial, and executive branches, in the interest of wise legislation, fair interpretation, and impartial execution.

These one hundred fifty years have covered the most wonderful period of written record, the growth and development of the greatest people of history, drawing its inspiration from the Declaration of Independence, and built upon the sanction of law as outlined in the Constitution of the United States, pronounced ninety years later by the greatest British statesman of the century as "the most wonderful instrument ever struck off by the brain or purpose of man." This instrument, of but seven short articles, thirty-nine brief sections, and eighty-four paragraphs, is the basis of authority to the makers, interpreters, and enforcers of law. It thus limits authority as against despotic action, on the one hand, and forestalls the dangers of anarchy, on the other.

It is the achievement made possible by the Treaty of Peace in 1783 that is the first justification of our meeting here today to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its promulgation. This has to do with character and principle. Men come and go, but principles abide forever.

The second purpose of our coming together is to do honor to one of the great military actors in the drama of the War for Independence, George Rogers Clark. Though neglected by history, he can rightfully be placed second only to George Washington in his efforts resulting in the expansion of our republic.

This is not the time, nor am I the person, to detail the activities of this great soldier who fought the combined Indian and British forces in the wilderness, winning many victories, including the surrender of Hamilton, the British commander, here at Vincennes, a decisive victory.

I do not mean to say, nor do I believe, that without the service of Clark the surrender at Yorktown never would have become history. What I do here assert is that without his service our northwestern boundary would have been the Ohio, and the vast area lying beyond would undoubtedly have remained British. In that case our country would have been

destined to be a small continental country, with limited possibilities. Expansion from ocean to ocean would have been impossible, to say nothing of the influence we have wielded throughout the world. Had British power been once established along the Ohio and the Father of Waters, she would never have been dislodged, and the empire of American influence would have been unknown. In its place would have been the sceptre of the influence of the United Kingdom. That possibility was forestalled, and the present position of the United States of America in the counsels of nations is in that degree due to the leadership of George Rogers Clark.

Our people, for reasons difficult to understand, neglected for more than a century any real recognition of the services of this man. Various localities where he operated took tardy recognition, but not until the public spirited leadership in Indiana, and especially here in Vincennes, brought the matter to national attention was any substantial effort undertaken looking toward proper recognition.

I am glad, as chairman of the Library Committee of the Senate, to have conducted hearings which led to a favorable decision, and later to have taken the chairmanship of the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, under whose auspices the work has been done.

While I cannot say more than that unlimited praise is due the members of the commission for the untiring energy displayed, especially by the executive committee which took on the task of detail, and while I cannot make personal mention of all the members of both the commission and the committee, I do want to mention especially the work of your fellow-townsmen, D. Frank Culbertson, who had much more to do than any other person in bringing the work to a consummation.

Here on this historic spot is arising, and we hope will be completed and dedicated next year, a memorial in dimension and beauty second only to the wonderful Lincoln Memorial on the banks of the Potomac. It is a recognition, though tardy, yet abiding, of valiant and inestimable service of a great American in opening the way for a great republic, whose influence is, and will continue to be, boundless. This is the occasion of our meeting, and the justification of the vast expenditure by state and nation for the George Rogers Clark Memorial.

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THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL

On June 30 the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, in accordance with the Act under which it has been operating, expired. Up to that time, though the title to the land has been in the State of Indiana, the erection and completion of the building has been in entire charge of the federal commission. On July 1 the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana took over charge and control of the building and the grounds. The Indiana commission has continued the present watchman, Charles Kuhn, as watchman and custodian.

At a meeting of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana at Indianapolis, July 13, the purchase of two additional lots within the proposed boundary of the memorial grounds was authorized. Arrangements were also started for the proper upkeep and maintenance of the memorial building, especially for the renewal of the calking in places where it has been impaired by inevitable expansion and contraction during the five or six years since the exterior was completed.

The Indiana Commission consists of Lew M. O'Bannon, Corydon, chairman; Mrs. LaFayette LaVan Porter, Greencastle, vice-president; D. Frank Culbertson and Ewing R. Emison, Vincennes; Lee Burns, William Fortune, and C. B. Coleman, Indianapolis; Reverend Basil Heusler, Jasper; Lieutenant Governor Henry F. Schricker; James M. Knapp, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Frank C. Ball, Muncie; Professor Emeritus James A. Woodburn, Bloomington and Ann Arbor; Virgil Simmons, chief administrative officer of the State Department of Public Works; Thomas D. Taggart, French Lick. The vacancy left by the death of the late Clem J. Richards, former chairman of the commission, has not yet been filled.

At the meeting of the commission, Mr. Culbertson reported that a bill had been introduced in Congress May 25 providing

“That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to accept on behalf of the United States title to such property within one mile of the said memorial, after establishment thereof, as may be donated for addition to said memorial and upon acceptance thereof the same shall be a part of the said memorial. That the administration, protection, and development of the aforesaid national memorial shall be exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National Park Service, subject to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), entitled ‘An act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes,’ as amended.” This bill has passed the House of Representatives and is before the appropriate committee in the Senate. It is the general understanding that the National Park Service is favorable to the development of the memorial as a national memorial.

THE GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEMORIAL COMMISSION

At a meeting of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission, which is now in entire charge of the Vincennes Memorial, held on Thursday, July 13, at the State Library and Historical Building, it was arranged to have all the abstracts purchased by the Commission deposited with the deeds in the Land Office of the State Auditor, where the titles to all real estate belonging to the State of Indiana are filed; also, to obtain information about the cost of a bronze plaque or bronze plaques with the names of all the members of the federal Sesquicentennial Commission (now terminated) and the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana.

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The Commission also directed the drawing up of specifications for putting the memorial building into condition for proper maintenance with estimates of cost. This has hitherto been under the federal commission but that commission devoted its resources to construction and other activities and a considerable number of accumulated items of maintenance and repairs are judged necessary. The Commission also confirmed the provisional arrangement for the employment of a watchman to protect the grounds and building. Directions were also given for the completion of the purchase of two lots below (southwest of) the memorial building which are inside the proposed limits of the memorial grounds but which have not yet been acquired by the Commission.

The bill referred to in the July *Bulletin* authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to accept, on behalf of the United States, title to the memorial and to such property within one mile of it as may be donated and accepted by him as a national historical memorial, was passed by Congress in the last week of its late session but was vetoed by the President, according to a newspaper report. The President took the position that, for the present, at least, the provisions of the law governing the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission and authorizing an appropriation for the erection of a memorial should not be changed and that the State of Indiana should maintain the memorial. Accordingly, when the state commission has finished its work and requests the Governor to dissolve it, the Department of Conservation is to take charge as provided in *Acts 1927 Indiana*, pp. 57-70.

THE GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEMORIAL

The George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana held its final meeting Tuesday, August 20, at the Historical Bureau in the State Library and Historical Building in Indianapolis. At that time it requested the Governor to issue an executive order dissolving the Commission and turning the memorial over to the Department of Conservation for development and maintenance. At a previous meeting, December 19, 1939, the Commission had requested its dissolution and the transfer of the memorial to the Department of Conservation on March 1, 1940. The order was not issued at that time, however, as papers connected with the purchase of the land, some of which had been kept in Vincennes and had not been recorded, were not in the hands of the Auditor of the State as required by law.

The statute creating the Commission provided that "when the George Rogers Clark memorial shall have been finally completed and when any celebration which may be arranged for in connection therewith shall have been concluded, the governor, on request of the commission, shall issue an order declaring that the commission be dissolved." The exact observance of this act proved impossible. In the first place, the memorial was dedicated in a ceremony Sunday, June 14, 1936, made memorable by an address by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, when the memorial grounds were not completed. In the second place, completion of the memorial according to the fully developed plans has not yet been achieved. One lot inside the limit of the memorial as extended by the state and federal commissions, has not yet been acquired. Also, the switch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad running through the memorial grounds between the memorial building and the Wabash River where a boulevard is called for, has not yet been removed; the lowering of the grade of the railroad under the interstate bridge and the filling of the rest of the memorial grounds so as to raise the elevation of the memorial building have cut the plaza in two with a ditch and railroad traffic—a serious blemish on the otherwise impressive "memorial of the acquisition of the Old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the war of the American Revolution."

The George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana was created by an Act of the General Assembly, approved February 23, 1927. The Act was passed in contemplation of the erection of the memorial at Vincennes by the state commission, with a grant or subsidy from the federal government in addition to the proceeds of the state tax levy and the bond issue of the City of Vincennes and Knox County. When the aid of the federal government was enlisted, however, the resolution of Congress approved by President Calvin Coolidge, May 23, 1928, authorizing an appropriation, created a federal commission, the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, and provided that this federal commission erect the memorial on land to be furnished by the State of Indiana and its subsidiary governmental units with title in the state clear of all encumbrances. The executive committee, of which D. Frank Culbertson was chairman, carried out the plans and directions of the Commission in the erection of the memorial.

Thus the state commission confined itself practically to the purchase of the land. The improvement of the grounds, the erection of the memorial building, the memorial features of the Wabash River bridge, the erection of statues of Father Pierre Gibault and Francis Vigo, and the control of the property were in the hands of the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission of the United States.

After several extensions, the federal commission expired June 30, 1939. From then until August 31, 1940, the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana was in entire control. The transfer of the memorial to the Department of Conservation is in line with the policy which has prevailed in the state since the creation of the Department of Conservation of giving that department charge of state parks and memorials. The department has taken over the Vincennes memorial and has already made plans for maintenance and repairs.

As the George Rogers Clark Memorial at Vincennes is historically, and in fact, a national memorial, it may ultimately be combined with other important sites, such as the William Henry Harrison mansion, and the Angel Mounds in Vanderburgh County, in a national historical monument under the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, as is the national Revolutionary Monument embracing Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg, Virginia. The importance of the achievement by which the United States won the Old Northwest from England and the Province of Quebec, and the heroism manifested in the campaigns of George Rogers Clark justify commemoration by the whole nation. The federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission and the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana have succeeded in establishing a memorial worthy of this first and this decisive step in national expansion. The location above a bend of the Wabash River, the background of the Old Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier, the well-proportioned arched bridge with its massive approach, the statuary, and the memorial building itself make a combination which commands the admiration of all visitors. It is the general verdict that the Vincennes Memorial stands side by side with the Lincoln Memorial at Washington in its beauty and its impressiveness.