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Letters and Documents
Related to a Dispute of the
Potawatomi Indians,
St. Louis, March 1815

by William Clark

DOCUMENT NO. AJ-148



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To the Potawatimies of Illinois River
My Friends

The Great Chief of all the Americans is
very sorry that his Youngmen has killed your relations.
His Youngmen thought that all the Potawatimies were hunting
on the West side of Illinois River and that all Indians
they would meet with would be bad Indians, his Youngmen
dont speak your language, nor do they know one Indian from
another is the reason your relations were killed, for if his
youngmen had known that they were Potawatimies, they would
not ^{have} ~~been~~ done of ~~the~~ dogs. The Great Chief of all the Americans
is willing to cover the dead with goods, and would have
sent them up now with your relation & his Child, but their horses
are too poor, but will send up the goods in the spring.
However you must now let me know by the return of the
de la plaine if the goods will be accepted or not, if you accept
the goods every thing will be buried & forgotten, and we will be
good friends as usual, if to the contrary I must consider you
as enemies, and prepare accordingly.

Signed William Clark

Speech of the B. Pather & Patchado chiefs of
the P. Nations of Indians residing in Illinois River at
Governor de Calves - Fort Clark 4 Decr 1815.

Chief Friend

We received by Le Claire your talk respecting
the killing our friends by your young men -

Chief friend

^{that} We know among all nations the young men are foolish
and will not be advised by their chiefs -

Chief friend

We know it never was your intention to injure us &
we would prevent your young men from doing us harm if it was
in your power &

Our friends

We smoke your Tobacco and find it good
and as you intend covering the ^{the men of your} dead we will then forget all
that is past -

Our friends

We see you wish to do good, as you have sent
some of our relations the woman & child who was taken from
with four horses, and we hope you will send the other horses
some another time -

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Chief friend We have never let our hand go since we gave
to the ~~the~~ Genl. Jackson at Detroit and we see that you

do not wish to let ours go -

Our friends -

We now hold your hand faster than ever, and we are happy to hear that you have not forgot our talks we sent you last fall as we are naked and in want of every thing -

Indian Springs