MACKINAC ISLAND DEED IS
RETURNED TO MICHIGAN

The deed by which the British military forces at Fort Michilimackinac (Mackinaw City) acquired the island we know as Mackinac Island from the Chippewas in 1781 has returned to Michigan for permanent custody. It was found in Scotland by an English book dealer and purchased for the Clements Library by James Shearer II, of Bay City and Chicago, a member of the Board of Governors of the Clements Library Associates.

After Col. George Rogers Clark captured Vincennes early in 1779 (and with it Lieut. Gov. Henry Hamilton of Detroit) he was a constant threat to Detroit and Michilimackinac. To provide great protection, Patrick Sinclair, commandant at the northern post, decided to move the fort from the mainland to the island. The Chippewas had maintained a fishing camp there for years, and the British went through the ceremony of purchasing the island from the chieftains. Gen. Frederick Haldimand, governor of Quebec province, provided Sinclair with £5,000 York currency for the purchase price. Sinclair had two deeds drawn up on parchment, dated May 12, 1781, and signed by five chiefs with their marks.

The documents are about 18 by 25 inches in size. One deed repose in the Dominion Archives at Ottawa, apparently after it was forwarded to Haldimand. The other was kept at Mackinac, where John Coates, notary public, wrote on it, “Registered in the Deed Register of Michilima. by me.” After registering it, the original may not have been considered important, yet it is the more desirable of the two to us.

In 1796 the British finally surrendered Fort Mackinac to the Americans. Either the departing garrison took this deed away, or Sinclair had stuck it in his pocket when he left in 1782 and returned to Scotland. Anyway, it crossed the ocean; that much is clear. Whether or how it moved around in Scotland is not known, but it turned up with some books in a country auction there.

The deed is one of those basic documents in our history that ought to be in the state of its origin. Jim Shearer has performed a distinct service to the Library and to the people of Michigan in making possible the return of the estray. A facsimile will be presented to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission for the museum in the fort there. Governor G. Mennen Williams has expressed his gratification to Mr. Shearer and congratulated the Library on its acquisition.

A CHANGE
Since several communications are made with the Associates in the fall of the year, the Committee of Management has deemed it preferable to distribute the annual gift book from the Library in the spring. To avoid missing a year, it is necessary to move up the offering and distribute two books in one year in order to get on to the new cycle. Therefore, some time this spring the Clements Library will send out a surprise publication to Associates, and there will not be a gift in the autumn.
We like this limerick that appeared in Antiquarian Bookman awhile back. It was written by Leonard Gregory of Pasadena, California.

Rebuque
I know an old man from Dubuque
Descended from Kallikak and Juque.
This pigheaded bumb
Always spits on his thumb
To turn a page in a buque.

Pointed Remarks
Joseph Bartlett, graduate of Harvard in 1782, counselor-at-law, and obviously successful, took to "scribbling" between his official duties and his giving of orations on public occasions. His Aphorisms on Men, Manners, Principles and Things (Boston, 1823) contains a lengthy dose of maxims, an essay on poverty, and his only poem "Physiognomy."

In the preface of this book, dedicated to John Quincy Adams, he stoutly maintains that the 426 aphorisms are original to him; "he is too proud to copy, and has too great confidence in himself, to ask aid from others." In particular, he wanted no one to think he was indebted to the famous La Rochefoucauld, whose book of moral reflections and maxims first published in 1665, was then, as now, appearing in French reprints and English translations. Bartlett insists that he had not perused it for twenty years.

His own sage observations range through 77 topics with such edifying titles as Boasting, Appearances, Happiness, Swearing, Slander, Riches, Envy, and Scribbling. For the most part, these are not moral injunctions, but seasoned comments, only slightly hortatory, on man's behavior.

We read under Promises: "The man, who never hesitates at making promises, seldom means to fulfill them." "Engagements should be cautiously made, never violated."

And under Insolence: "As well might the toad swell to an elephant, a sheep acquire the courage of a lion, or a tyger the harmlessness of a lamb, as an insolent man, become brave, noble and dignified."

Party Spirit: "A party spirit in a small village, is the poison and curse of all social intercourse." There never was a party man, who felt or acted, as cool reason would approve.

Economy: "A man should economize his brains, as well as his purse." "A man's brains and his money, should both be put at interest."

On Courage: "There never was found a man, who ever had courage to acknowledge himself a coward."

Env: "The snakes of envy devour the happiness of man, and encircle his heart with every malignant passion."

And finally Scribbling: "The most incurable of all itches, is the itch of scribbling." "Conceit, more than knowledge, influence men to write."

These latter bits of original wisdom seem to have revealed Mr. Bartlett.

Hutches' Ohio
The Ohio River has long served as a focal point of the history of the American West. Through its discovery and its gradually increased use, the Mid-west interior began its contribution to the prosperity of the seaboard colonies and of the mother countries beyond, and in turn, the river invited the adventurous, the fur men and the traders and, finally, the settlers to investigate, to trade, and to inhabit its broad reaches.

One author has stated that the Ohio Country and, in fact, the entire region of the Great Lakes and the great system of rivers that serve as its highways were a well traveled and well known area years before the first settlers came over from the eastern seaboard to pioneer. But this information was actually known to only a few. These few were the specialists who spent their lives gathering the rich fur harvest of the Indians and shipping it to the markets of the Old World. The French, the Dutch, the English each kept secret the geographical knowledge they were able to gather. With the elimination of the Dutch and the French, the English began their era of domination and with it came an ever increasing flow of reports and descriptions of this new wilderness.

Here in the Clements Library we have many of these documents (the letters, reports, maps, etc.) which tell this story of exploration, of battles, of forts and of the men who...
had the curiosity to search and report their findings. One of the most interesting and important of the maps from this time is the first hydrographic survey of the Ohio made by Thomas Hutchins during the summer of 1766. The expedition, commanded by the famous Indian trader, George Croghan, left Fort Pitt on June 16, 1766, and arrived at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi on August 7. The map, "A Plan of the River Ohio from Fort Pitt to the Mississippi. By Order of ye. Chief Engineer; Tho. Hutchins Assist. Draughtsman [1766]," is the result of the careful surveys made by Ensign Hutchins and his co-cartographer, Captain Harry Gordon, who was the "Chief Engineer" in the Western Department of North America.

The care with which the "Plan" was drawn can easily be seen upon examination. It is in strip form, only the river being drawn; it begins at "Fort Pitt Lat. 40° 30'" and continues to "Logs Town" just before which is a "Creek 8 yards wide." Numerous islands are shown in the river and the shore line is carefully delineated. Latitudes are noted at important turnings of the river and all the creeks and rivers flowing into Ohio are given with their widths at the mouth of the stream. A number of "Safe encampments" are also given so that one can trace the expedition's journey down the river during the summer. One very interesting notation made on the map is at "Latitude 38° 53'," where there were "Elephant bones found in this Creek." And this fact has since been authenticated—they were actually the bones of long extinct mammals who at one time, thousands of years ago, roamed the area. At the "Latitude 38° 08'," there is noted a "Rapid or Falls" which are the famous Falls of the Ohio. Very near the mouth, on the north shore of the stream, Fort Massiac is noted and the map finally terminates at the "Mouth of the Ohio in Lat. 36° 43'."

With the publication in London in 1778 of his A New Map of the Western Parts of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and North Carolina...with its fund of information about the West, and, in turn, the multitude of maps and guides which followed its lead and were based upon it, we see the culmination of the work of Thomas Hutchins. The Ohio has had many visitors since, led there and guided by Hutchins' detailed survey.

**Michigan DFPA**

In our last issue we were pleased to announce the establishment of a fund by the Michigan Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America for the purchase of manuscript material on the Old Northwest Territory. Now the society has added another sum to the fund. The Library has made one purchase: a letter from Secretary of War Dearborn to the commandant at Fort Mackinac in 1809. Again, our warm thanks!

**Basic Source**

The Library has acquired a book of imposing importance on the Spanish conquest of Peru in the sixteenth century. It is Diego Fernandez' Primera, y Segunda Parte, de la Historia del Peru (Sevilla 1571). It gives the history of the Spanish invasion of 1556 in which the author participated. The work was suppressed soon after publication, and many copies were destroyed. The ban was lifted in 1729 for two years then imposed again. Prescott said of it: "No history of that period compares with it in the copiousness of its details, and it has been accordingly resorted to by later compilers, as an inexhaustible reservoir for the supply of their own pages."

Our copy is an especially fine one, handsomely bound and boxed and bearing the author's autograph twice. Two other copies are known in this country, and probably a couple of others exist here also.

**The James Furnis Letter Book**

A detailed account of the taking of Fort William Henry in 1757 by Montcalm is the high point of the James Furnis letterbook recently purchased by the Associates for the Library. Because of laxity in the handling of ordnance stores, Furnis, comptroller of the ordnance in North America, found it necessary to visit Forts Edward and William Henry to take an exact return of the powder and other supplies kept there. He found everything in the greatest disorder at Fort Edward, but set about the return which he was able to finish in a few days. Leaving Flavell Ewing to be clerk of the stores at that fort, he proceeded to Fort William Henry where he arrived on July 29th in the company of General Webb. Taking an inventory of stores there and getting the powder supply in order occupied him until the evening of August 2nd.

On the morning of the 3rd, Montcalm's forces came down Lake George and advanced on the fort. Having a much larger military force, Montcalm immediately demanded the surrender of the fort. On being refused by the British, the French launched a spirited attack that lasted until the morning of the 9th at which time the British surrendered. The Indians who had fought with the French were disappointed with the plunder taken and on the morning of the 10th attacked the captives as they were preparing to march from the fort. How Furnis was captured by the Indians, released to the French, and finally returned to Fort Edward is detailed in his narrative sent to the Board of Ordnance in London.

Another interesting letter to the Board was written by Furnis in 1755 when he was commissary and paymaster of the artillery. The letter dated at Fort Cumberland on July 23, 1755 tells of Braddock's defeat. 

"...the Enemy had greatly the Advantage, by securing themselves behind the Trees, in such
A manner, as they could not be seen, while our people by keeping together in a Body were a Butt for them to fire at, and only threw away their Ammunition..."

Many other letters to officers of the artillery, to colonial merchants supplying ordnance materials to the British troops, and other letters to the Board of Ordnance make this letterbook a valuable source in the study of the British army in America.

Aloha There!
Our foreign students are always a source of pride to our University. Early in the nineteenth century another school proudly listed its students and their home addresses, some of them far distant. The Foreign Mission School, Cornwall, Connecticut, had pupils from Canada, the Sandwich Islands (present Hawaiian Islands), and the Society Islands (Tahiti, the chief island).

The occasion for printing the roster and the curriculum was the publication of a volume made up of several pieces relating to the founding of the school. The lead off item concerns the Memoirs of Henry Obookiah, a Native of Owhyhee (Elizabeth-town, N.J., 1819). The narrative, complete with his portrait in Yankee suit, describes the loss of his parents in a native war, and his voyage to America where he was educated by kindly friends in the English language and Christian religion.

Henry, who died at the age of 26 from typhus just before the school opened, had accompanied the fund solicitors as a demonstration of the effectiveness of missionary training. Other pieces in the book are the sermon by Lyman Beecher at Obookiah’s funeral, and inaugural addresses given at the opening of the school, May 6, 1818.

The school under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was designed to train both native and American missionaries, and its founders argued it would be cheaper to train both here than in vari-

ious mission posts over the world.

One of the speakers predicted that Christianity would be carried from the Sandwich Islands to the western coast of California and thus the western tribes so remote from the east could be evangelized. Apparently it was not necessary to recruit these students; even those from the Pacific had been “providentially brought to our shores.”

NEW BOOK
A new group of letters in the von Jungkenn papers, the correspondence of Major Baum- meister running from 1776 to 1782, has been translated by Bernhard Uhlenkodu and published by Rutgers University Press, at $9. It is entitled Revolution in America. Baumeis-
ter was unusually active and articulate, so that he makes observations on most of the campaigns. As a general staff officer he was in a good position to collect information and gossip. He criticized the Brit-

ish, commented on social and economic conditions in America, on Washington and on the Congress. Almost a hundred long letters make up the book.

Dr. Uhlenkodu is editor for the Engineering Research Institute and has edited some other journals from the von Jung- kenn papers under the title of The Siege of Charleston. The Library congratulates Dr. Uhlenkodu and is delighted to have the Baumeister letters in translation as well as a printed index to them.

We are reprinting the “catalog” just as it appears at the end of the book.

In the Foreign Mission School, there are at present twenty-three scholars, and seven different, native languages.

THE STUDENTS ARE

Samuel Ruggles
James Ely

Thomas Ho-po-o
William Ten-nu-o-e
George Sandvich
George F. Tan-o-re-o
John Ho-no-re
William Koo-ne-ni-ke
Stephen Po-po-bee Natives of the
Society Islands
Adin C. Ghio, An Indian youth from Pennsylvania
Simon W. Annance, Do. from Canada
Elias Boudinot
Leonard Hicks
Thomas Basil
David S. Tar-chee-chy
John Ridge
John Vann
James Fields
Mc Kee Foshon
Joseph Potang Snow
Arnold Krygman

Eight of the above youths are professors of religion.
The studies at present pursued in the School are: Reading, Writing, Spelling, and
Defining, Arithmetic, English Grammar,
Rhetoric, Composition, Geography, Sur-
veying and Navigation, Natural Philosophy,
the Latin and Greek Languages, and
Theology.

The Students attend morning and evening prayers, connected with reading and
Scriptures and singing. They daily receive
religious instruction: A Lecture is delivered
to them on Sabbath morning by the Prin-
cipal; and they regularly attend public worship and other religious meetings.
The School is dependent upon the char-
ity of the Christian public for its support;
and needs their prayers, as well as alms, for
its prosperity.

It is expected that a mission will be sent
to the Sandwich Islands, as soon as a suit-
able person can be found to superintend it,
and a vessel to convey the missionaries.

Honoring Dr. Reynolds
Associate Charles E. Feinberg has recently given the library a fine group of H. A. S. Dearborn letters. The gift is in honor of Dr. Lawrence Reynolds, member of both the Li-

brary and the Associates governing committee. The letters are addressed to Colonel Thomas Aspinwall, Unit-
ed States consul in London, and are
dated from 1816 to 1826. They are chiefly concerned with securing
Aspinwall’s help in obtaining books and household articles from Eng-
land. The letters also contain some interesting comment on the presi-
dential elections of 1816 and 1824.

Those after 1829 relate to the newly
founded Massachusetts Horticultur-
al Society of which Dearborn was the first president.

One of the most interesting letters
tells of Dearborn sending some prize currant bushes to Lord Castlereagh.