

The committee consisting of [blank] to whom was referred the memorial of George Morgan and his associates, respecting a tract of land in the Illinois country of the Missis[s]ippi, beg leave to report ...

THE Committee consisting of to whom was referred the Memorial of George Morgan and his associate, respecting a tract of land in the Illinois country on the Mississippi, beg leave to report, That there are sundry French settlements on the river Mississippi within the tract which Mr. Morgan and his associates propose to purchase. Near the mouth of the river Kaskaskies, there is a village which appears to have contained near eighty families from the beginning of the late revolution. There are twelve families in a small village at la Prairie du Rochers, and nearly fifty families at the Kahokia village. There are also four or five families at fort Charters and at St. Philips, which is five miles farther up the river. The heads of families in those villages appear each of them to have had a certain quantity of arable land allotted to them, and a proportionate quantity of meadow and of woodland or pasture.

Your Committee are of the opinion, that from any general sale which may be made of the lands on the Mississippi, there should at least be a reserve of so much land as may satisfy all the just claims of the antient settlers on that river, and that they should be confirmed in the possession of such lands as they may have had at the beginning of the late revolution, which may have been allotted to them according to the laws or usages of the governments under which they have respectively settled. And whereas an additional quantity of land may be necessary for the support of those people whenever the settlement shall increase, and the Indian trade, by which they have chiefly subsisted, shall become less profitable, your Committee are of the opinion, that such allowance should also be made them within the reserved limits.

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Your Committee observe that in the contract which is already made for the sale of a tract of land in the western country, the purchasers are to be charged with surveying three lots which are reserved for the benefit of the United States. They conceive that future contractors may be relieved from this expence; but they would propose that every agreement hereafter to be made shall be equally binding on the contracting parties, whereupon they submit the following resolves:

That the Board of Treasury be authorised to contract with any person or persons for a grant of a tract of land which shall be bounded as follows:—Beginning on the river au Vase in the parallel of the mouth of Little Wabash river, thence running due north to the parallel of the mouth of Wood river, thence west to the Mississippi at the mouth of Wood river, thence down the river Mississippi to the mouth of the river au Vase, thence up the said river to the place of beginning, saving and reserving their possessions and titles to the antient inhabitants of Kaskaskies, la Prairie du Rochers, fort Chartres, St. Philips and Kahokia, which shall be satisfied from lands within the limits herein after to be described.

That the purchaser or purchasers shall obliges themselves to lay off the tract at their own expence into townships or fractional parts of townships, and to divide the same into lots according to the land ordinance of the 20th of May, 1785, complete returns of which are to be made to the Board of Treasury. The lot No. 16, in each township, or fractional part of a township to be given perpetually for the purposes contained in the said ordinance; and the lot No. 29, in each township, or fractional part of a township, to be given perpetually for the purposes of religion, and that each of the several townships shall be thus laid off before the original purchaser or purchasers shall have disposed of the same, or made any settlement therein. The price to be not less than two thirds of a dollar per acre for the contents of the said tract, except the reservations and gifts aforesaid, payable in specie, loan-office certificates, reduced to specie value, or certificates of liquidated debts of the United States, the principal only of the said certificates to be received in payment; and the Board of Treasury for such interest as may be due on the certificates rendered in

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payment as aforesaid prior to the first day of January, 1787, shall issue indents for interest to the possessors, which shall be receivable in payment as other indents for interest of the existing requisitions of Congress. And for such interest as may be due on the said certificates between that period and the time of payment, the said Board shall issue indents, the payment of which to be provided for hereafter.

That part of the purchase money, not less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, shall be paid down upon closing of the contract, and the remainder of the purchase money whenever the Indian claim shall have been extinguished, and the boundary line of the tract run by the geographer of the United States, or his assistant, the contents of the land which is to be sold ascertained, and a plot of the same returned to the office of the Treasury Board, on which payment a grant shall be made, and the purchaser or purchasers shall have the right of entry and occupancy.

That separate tracts shall be reserved for satisfying the claims of the antient settlers which shall be included within the following boundary, viz. A straight line to be extended from the mouth of the little river Marie below the river Kaskaskies to the old French fort on the east side of the said river Kaskaskies, and opposite the Kaskaskies village, thence north three miles, thence west across the Kaskaskies river to the ridge of rocks and high land that extends from the Kaskaskies to the Illinois rivers, then along the west side or foot of the said ridge of rocks and high land to the parallel that runs two miles north of the church at Kahokia, thence west to the river Mississippi, thence down the said river to the mouth of the river Marie.

That measures be immediately taken for confirming in their possessions and titles, the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers on those lands, who on or before the year 1783, had professed themselves citizens of the United States, or any of them, and for laying off the several tracts which they rightfully claim within the described limits, and for laying off for the benefit of said inhabitants three additional tracts adjoining the several villages, Kaskaskies, la Prairie du Rochers, and Kahokia, in the form of a parallelogram,

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extending from the river Mississippi eastward to the ridge of rocks before described, and of such extent as shall contain four hundred acres for each of the families now living at either of the village of Kaskaskies, la Prairie du Rochers, Kahokias, fort Chartres or St. Philips. The additional reserved tract adjoining the village of Kaskaskies shall be for the heads of families in that village, the tract adjoining la Prairie du Rochers for the heads of families in that village, and the tract adjoining Kahokia for the heads of families in that village, as also for those at fort Chartres and St. Philips. Such additional donation of four hundred acres to be divided by lot and immediate possession give: *Provided nevertheless*, that no person thus obtaining possession of such lands shall have power to alienate the same until he or she, or his or her heirs shall have resided at least years from the time of such division within that district; at the end of which period every such resident shall obtain a title to the reserved lot; and all lots not thus conveyed to residents shall revert to the United States.

That whenever the antient settlers shall have been confirmed in their possessions and titles, and the amount of the same ascertained, and the three additional parallelograms shall also be laid off for future donations, and such other tract as may formerly have been possessed by George Morgan, or so much of the same as he may rightfully claim, the whole remainder of the soil within the reserved limits above described, shall be considered as appertaining to the general purchase, and shall be conveyed accordingly.

That measures be immediately taken to extinguish the Indian claim, if any such claim exists to the land bordering on the Mississippi from the mouth of the Ohio to a determined station on the Mississippi, that shall be sixty or eighty miles north from the mouth of the Illinois river, and extending from the Mississippi as far eastward as may be.

That the Governor of the western territory be instructed to repair to the French settlements on the Mississippi at and above the Kaskaskies—That he examine the titles and possessions of the settlers as above described in order to determine what quantity of land they may severally claim, which shall be laid off for them at their own expence, and that he take an account of the several heads of families living within the reserved limits

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in order that he may determine the quantity of land that is to be laid off in the several parallelograms, which shall be laid off accordingly by the Geographer of the United States, or his assistant, at the expence of the United States.

That the Geographer of the United States be instructed to take the latitude of the mouth of the river au Vase, and the mouth of the Wood river, and of the north east and south eastern angle of the trace, and that in executing all other large surveys, he take the latitude of three or four of the chief corners.

Report on the Memorial of George Morgan acted in 20 June 1788