

Captain Mason letter

Description

A letter written on September 16, 1818, by Stephen Long to Captain Milo Mason.

Date(s)

September 18, 1958

day having travelled 5 days in that direction, some of the men
having been previously taken sick and some lame, — and having
only provision enough left for a scanty breakfast, I thought
it best to change our course so as to avail ourselves of an ex-
tensive Prairie lying in a South westerly direction, as we could
travel with more speed & comfort on a Prairie, than we could
in the wood lands which in this part of the country generally abate
in bluffs and ravines. — This course we pursued till the ninth
day when we struck the Illinois 1/2 mile above its junction with
the Mississippi — on the 6th day a little before night, we
had the good fortune to shoot two fine yearling Bucks, which
served us for provision without bread or salt, during the remain-
der of our journey. — On the 10th we arrived at Tralle
Fountain on the Missouri which we crossed seven miles ^{at}
at Portage de Saup. — Here I left the men, and proceeded to this
place, where I arrived just at dusk, — changed my postern, — and
attended a very pleasant Ball, which lasted till 8 o'clock the next
morning, — at which there was a display of all the beauty that the
Louis could ^{muster} — ^{There} ^{fructifying} upon ^{various} both for the
is, after so long a privation, a banquet
I found, so that I was considerably out-
ing. — But fortunately finding that my legs
still so, I took courage, — soon revived, — and have since
on constant duty. —
During the journey we saw no traces of any human beings
except the remains of one or two hunting encampments of the In-
dians; — and had no other guide but my compass. — I am
fully of the opinion that a S. course from St. Charles will strike the
Mississippi near St. Louis. — Country generally Pra-
rie; — Rivers & ^{surrounding} ^{that} it, ^{skirted} with woodlands,
— Soil rich & ^{fertile}, — few specimens of lime stone and
brick clay. — Also in one place indications of coal. — My road
the country between 50 & 60 feet that we started. — Could seldom
get more than 5 or 600 yds. — — Our mode of travelling
not suited to hunting. — On my return I found ^{the}
blood on his death bed. — He died shortly after. — He was ^{injured} when
he embarked at the mouth of Greenland R. — Had no conversation
of him while on board of the boat, — was even supposed to be dead in his coffin,
— without nourishment during almost the whole voyage which lasted
I think 27 days. — You may imagine the horrid condition he was in, at
his arrival.

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8x10 inches (21x26 cm) Black & White

Keywords Signatures (Writing)

HST Keywords Documents - Letter; Long, Stephen; Mason, Milo

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