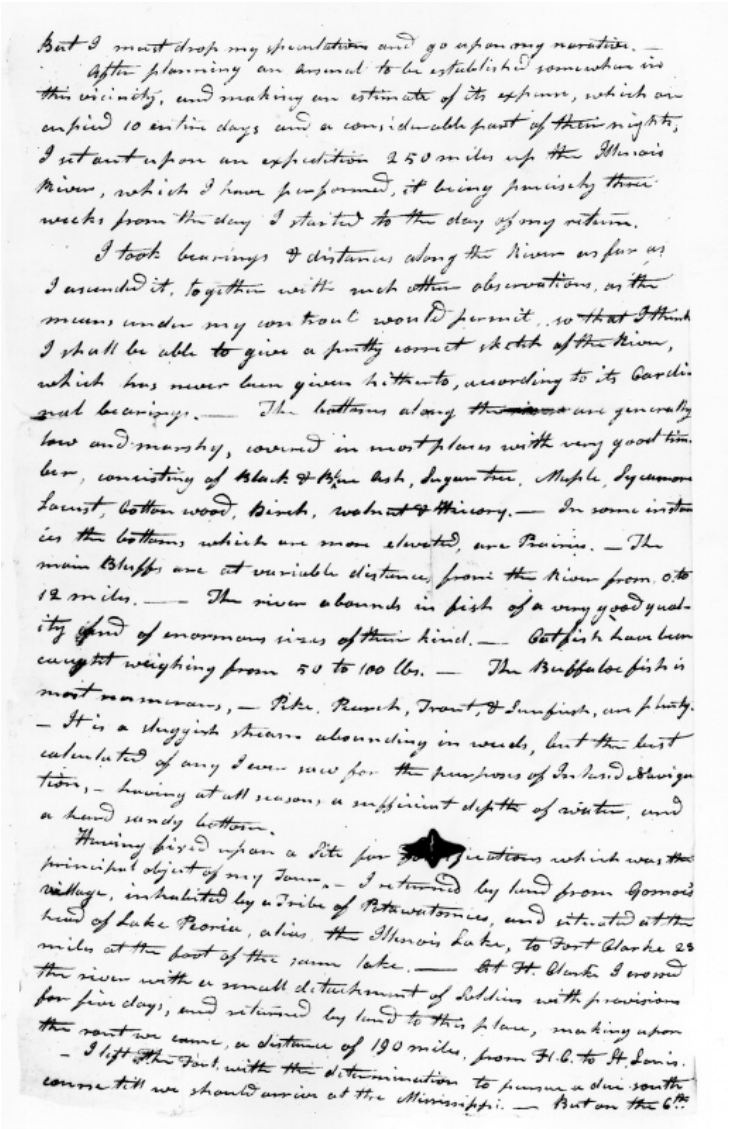
Letter from Stephen Long to Captain Mason



But I must drop my speculations and go upon my narrative. —
After planning an Journal to be established somewhere in the vicinity, and making an estimate of its expence, which are expired 10 entire days and a considerable part of three nights, I set out upon an expedition 250 miles up the Illinois River, which I have performed, it being precisely three weeks from the day I started to the day of my return.
I took bearings & distances along the River as far as I ascended it, together with such other observations, as the means under my control would permit, so that I think I shall be able to give a pretty correct sketch of the River, which has never been given hitherto, according to its Cardinal bearings. — The bottoms along the are generally low and marshy, covered in most places with very good timber, consisting of black & White Ash, Sugar tree, Maple, Sycamore Locust, Cotton wood, Birch, walnut & Hickory. — In some instances the bottoms which are more elevated, are Prairie. — The main Bluffs are at variable distance, from the River from 0 to 12 miles. — The river abounds in fish of a very good quality & kind of enormous sizes of their kind. — Cat fish have been caught weighing from 50 to 100 lbs. — The Buffalo fish is most numerous, — Pike, Perch, Trout, & Sunfish, are plenty. — It is a sluggish stream abounding in weeds, but the best calculated of any I ever saw for the purposes of Inland Navigation, — having at all seasons, a sufficient depth of water, and a hard sandy bottom.
Having fixed upon a Site for [redacted] fortifications which was the principal object of my Journey, — I returned by land from Gomo's village, inhabited by a Tribe of Potawatomies, and situated at the head of Lake Peoria, alias the Illinois Lake, to Fort Clarke 23 miles at the foot of the same lake. — At Ft. Clarke I crossed the river with a small detachment of Soldiers with provisions for five days, and returned by land to this place, making upon the route we came, a distance of 190 miles, from Ft. C. to St. Louis. — I left the Fort with the determination to pursue a due south course till we should arrive at the Mississippi. — But on the 6th

Description

This is part of a letter written on September 16, 1816, by Stephen Long to Captain Milo Mason.

Date(s)
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8x10 inches (21x26 cm) Black & White

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