

Starved Rock State Park  
P.O. Box 509  
Utica, IL 61373  
815-667-4726

In reply to your request for the history of Starved Rock, the Park takes its name from a siege by the Ottawa-Pottawatomi alliance against the Illini who had taken refuge atop the sandstone butte called Le Rocher by the French.

The event began in 1769 when Chief Pontiac, an Ottawa Chief was killed by an Illini at a council meeting in Southern Illinois. Through a series of battles, the Illini were chased to the Starved Rock area.

The sandstone butte, which is now called Starved Rock, stands about 125 feet above the Illinois River with sheer drops from all but the south side. From the south, access to the top could be gained with some difficulty. It was up this side that the Illini climbed with hopes of avoiding the pursuers. Once on top, the Ottawa & Pottawatomi tribes surrounded the Rock, cutting off food and water supplies to the Illini.

From the starvation of the Illini atop the rock that the French called Le Rocher, we today take the name Starved Rock.

Many of the finer details of the story are unknown since the story comes to us mainly through Pottawatomi legends. Also you will find that accounts will vary from one author to the next.



# STARVED ROCK STATE PARK INFORMATION PACKET

Includes:

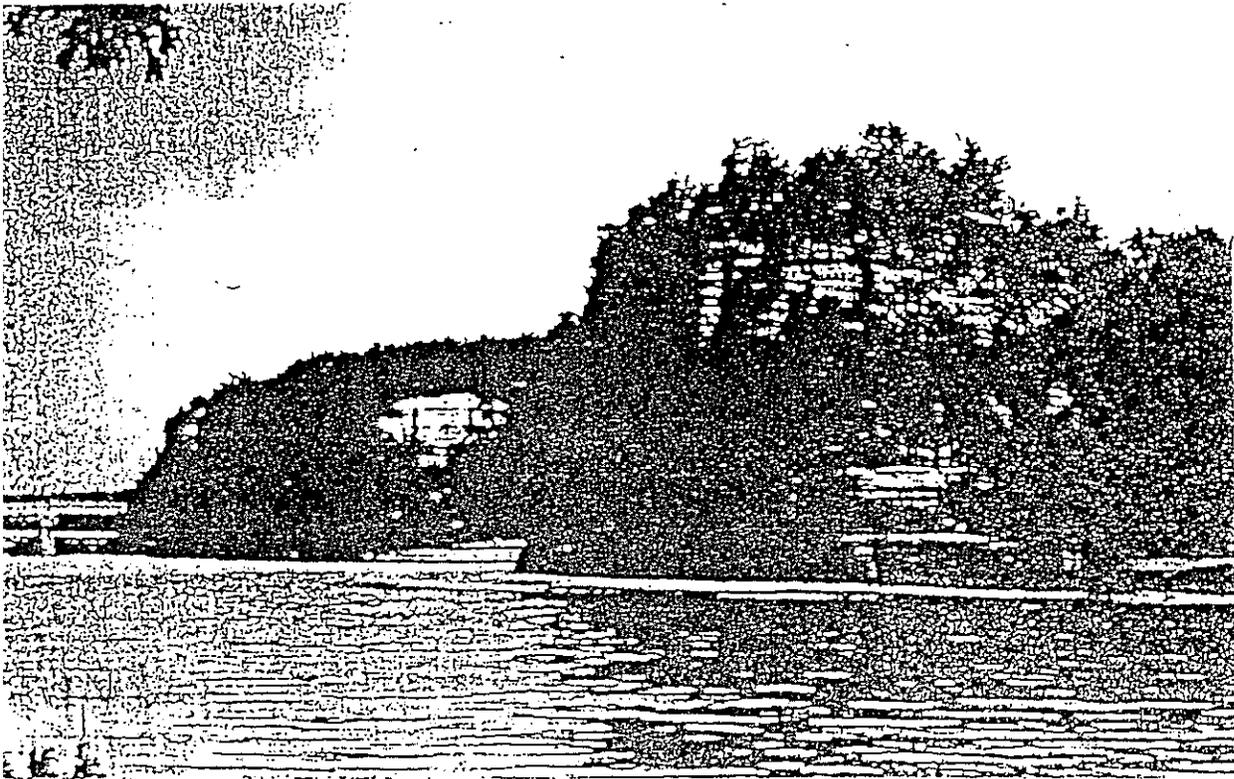
Legend Of Starved Rock  
History Of Starved Rock  
Civilian Conservation Corps  
Info about Starved Rock Itself  
Info about Lover's Leap  
Info about Lasalle and Tonti  
Info about Plum and Leopold Islands  
Bald Eagles at the Park  
Mounted Horse Patrol  
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Info about the Lock and Dam  
The Illinois River and the Illinois Waterway  
The Illinois Michigan Canal  
The Zimmerman Site



# THE LEGEND OF STARVED ROCK

## *Starvation Standoff in 'A Land of Plenty'*

By Bill Lucas, L-P High School



*A commanding view of Starved Rock where the Illini starved to their death rather than surrender. It is now the site of Starved Rock State Park, a geological paradise, with a promontory rising 125 feet above the Illinois River. This park is located south of I-80 at Utica, Illinois exit.*

*From "The History of LaSalle County" by Elmer Baldwin (1977) and from material compiled by Steve Stout, author of "The Starved Rock Murders".*

The Illinois Valley was formerly the site of the greatest Native American population in the United States. Tribes hunted buffalo herds and caught fish in the river. Around campfires, young brave learned legends from the old and performed ancient dances of war.

Archaeologists report there is evidence that archaic people lived within Starved Rock State Park thousands of years before Christ. During the following centuries the area was inhabited by the Hopewellian, Woodland and Mississippian cultures. Village sites and burial mounds have been mapped by archaeologist within the park.

The best known and possibly the largest group of Native Americans to live in this area were the Illinoi or Illiniwek from the 1500s to the 1700s. This tribe, between five and ten thousand, was divided into sub-tribes. One, the Kaskaskia, had their village extending along the north bank of the Illinois River near the locks across from Starved Rock.

In August, 1673, five French "Voyagers" led by explorer Louis Jolliet and accompanied by Father Jacques Marquette, became the first known Europeans to enter the area. They canoed up the Illinois River from the Mississippi, stopping at the Kaskaskia village. Two years later, Father Marquette returned to the village and founded the Mission of the Immaculate Conception. It was the first Illinois Christian mission near what is now Utica.

Several years later, Rene' Robert Cavalier Sieur de LaSalle and his lieutenant Henri de Tonti claimed the Mississippi

Valley for France. Their objective was to build a chain of forts to confine the English colonies to the east coast. They built Fort St. Louis on top of Starved Rock in the winter of 1682, towering above the last rapids in the Illinois River.

Native Americans settled in great numbers near the fort to gain protection from the feared Iroquois tribe and to be near a source of French trade goods. Later Fort St. Louis was used as a refuge by traders and trappers until destroyed by fire around 1720.

In the decades that followed, the French halted plans of colonization and left the area in 1765 leaving behind the loyal Chief Pontiac to fight against English invader.

Pontiac was assassinated through an English-inspired plot and the Pottawatomi, Kickapoo and Miami tribes quickly sought to avenge his murder. "Braves turned the Illinois Valley bright red with the blood of the Illini braves, women and children", wrote Stout. The enraged tribes chased the Illini to the top of the huge rock on the river.

Trapped on top of the rock, the Illini fought back their enemies several times, throwing their bodies and the bodies of the dead down the face of the rock. Legend says that the struggle went on until "the cliffs of the rock were stained red and slippery with the remains."

The last of the Illini warriors, weakened by famine, were killed by the tomahawks of the climbing enemy.

A few days later, traveling traders enroute to Canada stopped to see why flocks of buzzards were circling the huge rock. On approaching the top, the traders were sickened by the numbers of decaying bodies. The stench was so offensive that the traders left and took with them the legend of the dead.



## EUROPEANS' TALES OF THE TATTOOED ILLINIWEK

-K.O.Dawes-

A tantalizing glimpse of the Zimmerman site is in the 1690 writings of *Sieur Deliette*, one of the builders of Fort St. Louis on Starved Rock:

*"The Illinois country is undeniable the most beautiful that is known anywhere between the mouth of the St. Lawrence River and that of the Mississippi, which are a thousand leagues apart...."*

*"You find marshes, which in the autumn and spring are full of bustards (turkey vultures), swans, ducks, cranes and teals...further on are the hills covered with wood...from the edge of which are seen prairies of extraordinary extent."*

Here's Deliette's account of an annual Illiniwek bison hunt:

*"The Native Americans started out in two bands, running always at a trot. When they were about a quarter of a league from the animals, they ran at full speed and ...shot off an extraordinary number of arrows. They pursued the rest in such a manner that they were drifting toward us."*

*"As for me, I did not shoot. Their appearance filled me with terror, which set all the savages laughing, at which I was not a little mortified. It is certain those animals were frightful looking and usually terrify people who have never seen them."*

Deliette also said the Illiniwek were tattooed "behind from the shoulders to the heels, and as soon as they have reached the age of 25, on the front of the stomach, the sides and the upper arms."

Jesuit missionary Father Rasle also wrote in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century:

*"A cloak of dressed skin is worn in the summertime, and in the winter season, a dressed skin with the hair left on that they may keep warm. They adorn the head with feathers of many colors, of which they make garlands and crowns which they arrange very becomingly; above all they are careful to paint the face with different colors."*

Another missionary, Father Allouez, noted that besides bison "they live on Indian corn and other fruits of the Earth, which they cultivate...They eat 14 kinds of roots...They gather from trees and plants 42 different kinds of fruit, all of which are excellent; and catch 25 sorts of fish-among them eel."



# SITE OF INDIAN VILLAGE SAVED FOR THE SIFTING

By K.O. Dawes

"The Grand Village of the Illinois" will not go condo after all.

The only new digs on the spot where Europeans first met native Americans in Illinois will be archeologists' excavations.

A mile long, 134-acre tract near Utica on the Illinois River was saved from bulldozing last month by an out-of-court settlement just before a court fight was to begin.

"Illinois really began here," said archeologist David Keene, of Chicago-based Archeological Research, Inc., who was active in saving the land for future archeology.

"This is where (Father Jacques) Marquette and (Louis) Jolliet first met the Native Americans...a major historic event."

The state has agreed to pay \$1.03 million for the bottom land across the river from Starved Rock State Park. The developer, Landings, Inc., had asked \$4.2 million for the farmland it bought from Lucille Keating in 1988 for \$485,000.

Landings planned a 177-home development on the spot French traders called "The Grand Village of the Illinois", where 9,000 Illiniwek lived in some 400 cabins in 1680.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is asking for private grants for research by university field teams or private archeologists, said chief archeologist Tom Emerson. The land will go fallow or be farmed for low-impact crops such as hay until research funds are available. A pledge of \$150,000 has already been made, he said.

Called the Zimmerman site after its owner in 1947 when Native American artifacts were first found, the land was inhabited as early as 800 by Late Woodland, about whom little is known, Keene said. They seem to have been farmers who also hunted and fished with spears and weirs (enclosures built on the banks of the river to trap fish). They made pottery of local clay which

they fired in covered pits, he said. The site, on a flood plain, was very fertile and attracted inhabitants for centuries because it was close to many different kinds of environments.

The river was used for food and transportation. Waterfowl flocked to the wetlands. The upland plains with their elk and bison were just above the bluff.

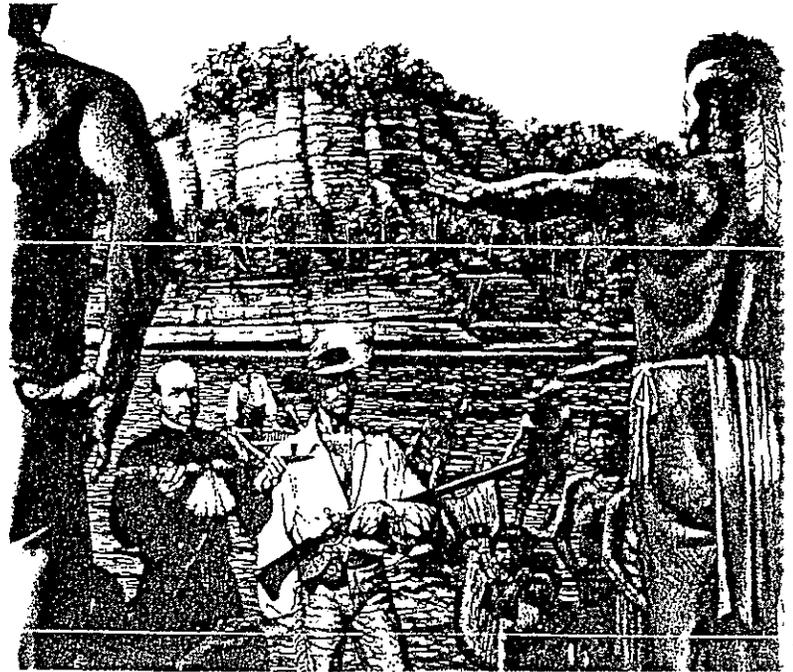


trade and cultural exchange with tribes near modern St. Louis.

Kaskaskia, part of the Illiniwek Confederacy for which the territory and then the state was named, dwelt there from 1400 to almost 1700.

"There were as many people in North America when Columbus discovered it as there were in Europe," said Keene, but by 1600 Native American populations as far west as Illinois had been diminished by diseases emanating from the large British and French settlements on the East Coast.

"European diseases spread faster than the Europeans themselves", Keene said. Up to 75% of Illinois' native



*The historic moment when Fr. Marquette & Louis Jolliet greeted the Illinois Native Americans at the Old Kaskaskia village in Aug. 1673. Starved Rock stands in the background.*

population may have been lost before any Native American saw a European, said Paula Cross, archeologist with the preservation agency.

When Marquette and Jolliet arrived in August, 1673, the Kaskaskia lived in 45 dwellings made by bending saplings into arches and covering them with mats made of river reeds.

They grew corn, beans and watermelon and also ate deer, elk, bear, dogs, fish and birds. After bison crossed the Mississippi into Illinois between 14400 and 1500, hunting parties left home for about six weeks to hunt the beasts.

Illinois' first Christian church, the Roman Catholic Mission of the Immaculate Conception, was established by Marquette at the village in 1675. New traders arrived and old alliances shifted. The Iroquois threatened and the Illiniwek banded together for protection.

By 1680 nearly 9000 Illiniwek, mostly Kaskaskia, lived in the village of almost 400 dwellings

That year, the Iroquois attacked and the Illiniwek abandoned the village. Due to dispersion and disease, the Illiniwek virtually ceased to exist by the mid 1700s.



## STATE ACQUIRES ZIMMERMAN SITE

One of the state's most important archaeological areas- the Zimmerman Site near Utica- has been acquired by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA).

The State of Illinois paid \$1.03 million for the 134 acre site, including all structures on the property. Condemnation proceedings for the property were scheduled in July after IHPA and The Landings Inc., which had planned to develop housing units on the site, had been unable to agree on a purchase price since talks first began in 1987. The funding to purchase the property was appropriated by the legislature.

The Zimmerman Site, named for the owner of the property when artifacts were first found there in 1947, preserves the remains of Native American settlements dating from approximately 800 A.D. to 1750 A.D. It was there in August, 1673 that Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet first made contact with the Kaskaskia people who inhabited the area, opening the territory for European trade and exploration. The Kaskaskia were part of the Illiniwek Native American Confederacy, known to the French explorers as "Illinois".

The French called the settlement "The Grand Village of the Illinois". In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century nearly nine hundred residents resided in four hundred cabins spread along a two-mile stretch of the north bank of the Illinois River. Traders from the north paddled down the river to barter with the Native Americans. Father Marquette established the Mission of the Immaculate Conception there in 1675.

French influence on the Illiniwek culture is apparent in the archaeological record. The Illiniwek gradually came to use more European tools and utensils and were slowly drawn from hunting to a subsistence based on agriculture and raising chickens and pigs. Artifacts recovered from that period include pieces of brass kettles, axes, knives, awls, a French compass, a spiked tomahawk, and a unique auger tool.

Just seven years after Marquette and Jolliet's famous visit, The Iroquois attacked the village and drove out the Illiniwek, who moved to the Peoria vicinity and later settled what is now Kaskaskia in southern Illinois. Illiniwek succumbed to disease and dispersion and the tribe virtually ceased to exist by the mid-1700s.

Artifacts gathered at the Zimmerman Site range from two hundred to eleven hundred years old. Together with historical accounts, Archaeologists have pieced together a picture of Native American life in Illinois both before and after contact with Europeans. The site includes evidence of numerous Native Americans structures, burials, various types of pits and sweat lodges. Artifacts found there include European trade goods; tools and ornaments made of bone, antlers, shells, and stone; pottery; and remains of plants and animals.

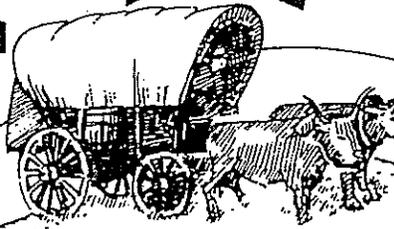
The site, comprised mostly of farmland and riverbank will be maintained by the IHPA. Further excavations will be undertaken.

(The above article comes from *Historic Illinois, Vol. 14, No. 4, Dec. 1991*)



# MUSEUMS THE GAZETTE

Jefferson National



Expansion Memorial

## The Illiniwek

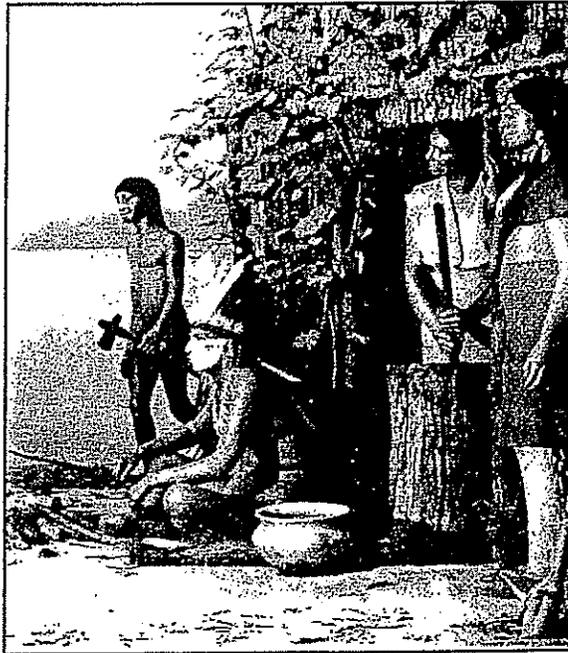
By Dan Hechenberger

In the 1600's the territory of the Illini confederacy, a tribal group composed of twelve or thirteen allied tribes, covered areas that are now part of four states. By the early 1800's, when treaties with the United States ultimately moved them away from their homeland, their population had dwindled to less than 200 people. Who were the Illiniwek people, and what brought about their swift decline?

The Illiniwek were hunters and gatherers, farmers, warriors, and traders. In the Algonkin tongue *ilini* means "man" and *iw* means "is". "When one speaks the word 'Illinois,'" said the explorer Jacques Marquette, "it is as if one said in their language, 'the men', . . . As if the other [Indians] were looked upon by them merely as animals." According to the present day Peoria Indian tribe of Oklahoma, *Illinois* means "tribe of superior men". The Illini dialect was similar to that of the Miami, and closely related to the Chippewa (Ojibway), Potawatomi, and Kickapoo.

The Illini lifestyle flowed around a clearly defined yearly cycle. Each April they returned to their semi-permanent villages of elm bark or reed-mat covered lodges, and at the beginning of May women planted crops of maize (corn), beans, and squash, sunflowers and melons (after obtaining seeds from the Europeans). The women also gathered firewood and wild foods such as nuts (hickory, black walnuts, butternuts, hazelnuts, pecans, and acorns), fruit (wild strawberries, papaws, grapes, and plums), roots and tubers (swan-potato, groundnut, wild lotus, and yellow pond lily, which they called macoupin), and plants for beverages (sumac, wintergreen, leatherleaf, and sassafra). June signaled the time for the annual buffalo hunt to the west of the Mississippi. During the six-week hunt, the women performed most of the butchering and prepared the meat and hides. By the end of July, the Illiniwek returned to their villages for the first harvest. The last harvest was in late August or the beginning

of September. Most of the harvest was dried for later use, when other foods were unavailable. Another hunt took place in the fall and early winter, for buffalo, deer, elk, bear, cougar, lynx, turkey, geese and duck. Late in winter the maple trees were tapped and the sap was made into a drink or boiled down for syrup and sugar. The early spring raids completed the Illiniwek year, and brought them back to the beginning of the cycle. The Illiniwek traded with other tribes, and the Europeans when convenient.



*Diorama showing a Peoria Lodge and people, c. 1685  
Courtesy Illinois State Museum.*

By the 1600's, the Illiniwek Confederation probably consisted of the Kaskaskia, Peoria, Cahokia, Tamaroa, Michigamea, Moingwena, Tapouaro or Tapouro, Coiracoentanon or Korakoenitanon, Espemnka, Chinkoa or Chinko, Cepoussa or Chepoussa, Maroa, and Omouahoas. In this loosely-knit confederacy, the tribal council, with a formally appointed chief, was the governing body. Each tribe had a totem, similar in function to a European coat-of-arms. Before 1600, the Illiniwek Confederacy had a Grand Chief and one or more totems to signify the entire group of tribes.

The clothing of the Illiniwek was simple. Except for winter buffalo robes, Illini dress was usually made of deer hide. Men wore a loincloth, while women wore a wraparound skirt, with a belt over one shoulder and under the other; a deer-skin wrap was worn on the upper body. Both sexes wore moccasins with quill decorations. Illini men shaved or clipped most of the hair on their heads, leaving a scalp lock and a tuft of long hair in front and one behind each ear. A woman's long hair was usually fastened behind the head. Men also tattooed their entire bodies, or painted themselves in solid colors or designs. Chiefs painted their faces red and wore scarves woven of bear and buffalo hair.

In war and raiding the Illini believed it was more honorable to take captives than to kill an enemy. Male prisoners became slaves, while captive women and children were often adopted into



families to replace lost family members. A raiding party was judged successful if they had no losses. Illini warriors began to torture captives only after receiving such treatment from the Iroquois. Illini warriors hung the scalps of their enemies on their lodges.

Oral tradition, as recorded by a French Jesuit historian in 1721, placed Illini origins on "the banks of a very distant sea, to the westward". The Illini Confederacy probably adopted the last remnants of the Mississippian culture (as it once existed at Cahokia Mounds) in the 16th century. In the 1600's Illini territory ranged from the southern tip of Lake Michigan to west central Iowa through eastern Missouri to central Arkansas. An estimate of their population mentioned by the French (probably exaggerated), accounted for 20,000 warriors in 60 villages. In the latter part of the 1600's, their population and the size of their territory began to decline due to the encroachments of other tribes, including the Iroquois, Sioux, Fox, Kickapoo and Mascouten. In addition, the French moved into Illini territory, establishing forts, missions and trading posts.

The Illini moved to the west to escape the continuous onslaught by the aggressive Iroquois League. Many Illini moved into the Osage territory on the Missouri River. The French under Robert de LaSalle and Henri Tonti encouraged them to return to live under French protection, although Iroquois attacks continued. Wars between the tribes continued, and new friction with the Cherokee, Koroa, Shawnee and Chickasaw began. Although the Iroquois made peace with the Illini in the early 1700's, tribal strength continued to decline due to smallpox, brought to North America by the Europeans. Another problem was in fighting among tribes of the Illini Confederacy. By the mid-1700's, most Illini tribes lived in the Cahokia village, the Kaskaskia village, or the Michigamea village in the Kaskaskia River area, and other tribes began to move onto lands they vacated around the tip of Lake Michigan. Smallpox and continuing war, including the "French and Indian War" (1754-1763) further depleted the Illini tribes, who become increasingly dependent on the French.

The French lost the war, however, and the 1763 Treaty of Paris ceded French Louisiana east of the Mississippi to the British. In hopes of keeping the British south of the Ohio River, the Ottawa chief, Pontiac, gathered Indian forces from many tribes to attack frontier forts. After receiving a commitment of Illini aid for his growing confederacy, Pontiac was angered when no Illini help was forthcoming. In 1766, after the failure of his uprising, a disappointed Pontiac stabbed the Peoria chief, Black Dog, during an argument. Three years later, Pontiac was in turn fatally stabbed in the Cahokia village, and buried across the river at the new settlement of St. Louis. In retaliation for the murder of Pontiac, the Midwest tribes descended upon the Illini in force. After a number of battles, including the legendary siege at Starved Rock, many of the surviving Illini moved west of the Mississippi. The Kaskaskia, however, under the leadership of Chief Jean-Baptiste Ducoign, returned to their village site on the river that now bears their name.

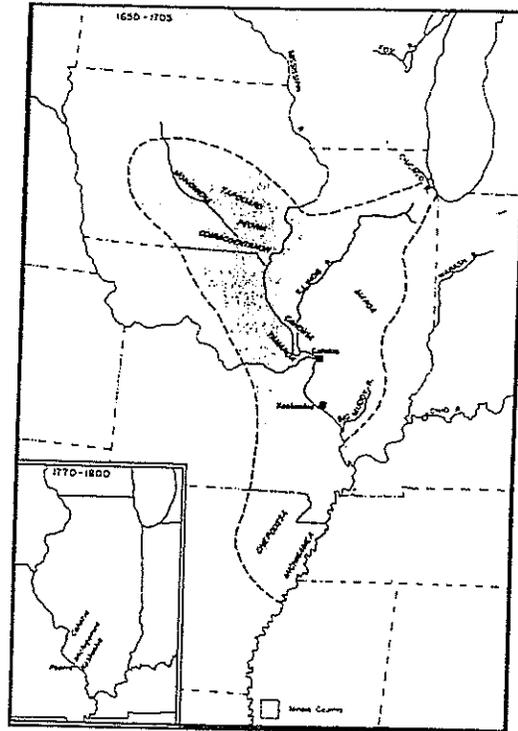
In the American War of Independence (1775-1783) the remaining Illini were again divided in their support. After George Rogers Clark and his small army took the town of Kaskaskia in a surprise attack, Ducoign, acting as chief of the Peoria and the Kaskaskia, gave the Americans his aid, providing hunters and scouts. However, when Clark's forces attacked Vincennes, part of the Peoria fought alongside Henry Hamilton's British forces.

At the end of the war, the Algonkian-speaking tribes, quietly backed by the British, fought to keep the Americans south of the Ohio. These tribes were defeated in 1794 at the Battle of Fallen Timbers by American General "Mad" Anthony Wayne. The resulting Treaty of Greenville affected the Illini directly, as Chicago, Lake Peoria, and the mouth of the Illinois River were reserved for American forts.

By 1800 there were less than 50 warriors remaining in the Peoria village near Ste. Genevieve, and less than 20 at the Kaskaskia village. In 1803, after the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from the French, the Kaskaskia gave up their claims in the Illinois country and were left with two small reserves. In 1818, the Kaskaskias moved to the Peoria village on the west side of the Mississippi. On October 27, 1832, the Kaskaskia signed the treaty of Castor Hill, Missouri, whereby they forever ceded claims to lands within Illinois and Missouri, and the Kaskaskia formally joined the Peoria. The total combined Illini tribal population (of about 140 people) was given 150 sections of land in Kansas. In 1846 the Peoria settled on the Marais des Cygnes River, and Chief Baptiste Peoria donated the land for the townsite that would come to be called by a mispronunciation of the tribe's name, Paola, Kansas. On May 30, 1854, the Kaskaskia, Peoria, Piankeshaw and Wea (formerly of the Miami tribe), a group of 259 people, were consolidated into the Confederated Peorias by treaty. A provision of the treaty declared that tribal land was

to be divided into individual plots; land not allocated to individual tribal members was sold by the government to whites. This allocation provision anticipated the General Allotment Act, or Dawes Act, of 1887, when this allocation system took effect for all of the federally recognized Indian tribes with reservation land. In 1867, the Confederated Peorias agreed to sell their remaining land in Kansas and move to the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). Some remained behind in Kansas and became U.S. citizens. In 1870, the Peoria tribal list held 164 names, while 55 had become citizens, each receiving \$1,375.47, their final share of tribal assets.

The once-powerful Illini Confederacy was depleted through war, lack of unity, and disease. They were swept up in the tide of history as Europeans and other Indian tribes competed for lands. Today, the descendants of these proud people are centered in the Peoria Indian Tribe of Oklahoma. Like many American Indians, they have been able to preserve their heritage and some of their customs, while losing the homes and lands once so important to them.



Courtesy Illinois State Museum



# **STARVED ROCK HISTORY**

**Includes:**

**Legend of Starved Rock**

**First Contacts**

**Indians at Starved Rock**

**Information about Native Americans**

**Information about Joliet and Marquette**

**The Park's Early Days**

**The Park Today**

## LEGEND OF STARVED ROCK

It is said that a band of Illinois Native Americans fled to the top of this rock for protection and were stranded here by the Potawatomi and Fox who were seeking revenge because the Illinois had killed their leader, Pontiac. Unable to fight back successfully or to escape, the Illinois eventually starved to death.

There are no written records to tell how the event actually happened. Archeological excavations have uncovered evidence that different Native Americans lived here continuously for more than 11,000 years. Numerous artifacts, including evidence of weapons and skeletons have been found.

## FIRST CONTACTS

The Illinois River was the main route of the first Europeans exploring this area in the 1600's. Paddling upriver in birchbark canoes, French voyageurs led by Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet arrived here in 1673. They were looking for people to trade with and convert to Christianity and for sites to build French forts.

Robert LaSalle and Lieutenant Henri de Tonti came to this area in 1679. Near Starved Rock they built Fort St. Louis which served as headquarters for a fur-trading post. No evidence of the fort remains, but you can see what the fort might have looked like by visiting Matthiessen State Park (one mile south on Rt. 178). You can also experience the life of 17<sup>th</sup> century fur traders at the museum on Isle a la Cache in Romeoville (63 miles northeast).

## INDIANS AT STARVED ROCK

Native Americans lived near Starved Rock for more than 10,000 years. By the 1600's they cultivated maize (Indian corn) and lived in partly sunken earth lodges. Plum Island, which can be seen out in the river, was the focus of intensive archeological studies that have recorded this long-term occupation by the Native Americans.

At the time the European contact in 1673, the Illinois people had well-established villages where they lived during planting and harvesting seasons. When they tracked bison on the upland prairies, the Illinois lived in more portable, dome-shaped wigwams.

Details about the Illinois are recorded in early European diaries. Missionary Sieur Deliette wrote, "The women...go off in canoes...to cut reeds with which they cover their cabins. They procure bundles of them, which they dry in the sun and tie together with twine..." Reed mats were placed over the wigwam framework.

## NATIVE AMERICANS

Native Americans have lived within the Park since 8000 B.C. The first inhabitants were called the Archaic. Through the centuries, Woodland, Hopewellian, and Mississippi cultures have flourished in this area. The Native American culture we have the most knowledge about are the historic Illinois people as they were here and written about in the diaries of the first Europeans that came to this area.

In 1673 Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet found the village of the Kaskaskia on the north bank of the Illinois River. The French called the village La Vantum. It had a population which fluctuated from 735 to 9,000 from 1673 to the early 1700's. The Kaskaskia village was an unusually large Native American concentration. Its size increased rapidly due to the influx of other Illinois and related Algonquin tribes who all were under the relentless attacks of the Iroquois.

The Kaskaskia, the leading tribe of the Illinois, were a people of medium build, with long legs, straight white teeth and tattoos covering most of their bodies. They were primarily hunters; hunting the bison, wild turkey, bear, elk, deer, raccoon, and beaver. They also gathered food and had simple garden-type crops. A prime area farmed in this immediate area was Plum Island, the large island that can be seen out in the river.

During the summer they stayed near their gardens, but after the harvest and storage of the crops, they left for the hunt to the south and the west where the climate was milder and game more plentiful. Their homes were formed from a framework of two parallel rows of saplings bent together and lashed at the top so as to form a series of arches. They were roofed and floored with mats made of rushes which were referred to as *wigwams*. Inside were cooking fires and storage pits. Six to twelve families were housed in each structure. Their utensils and tools were made of wood, bone and skulls, stones, and shells. They had simple pottery; copper and iron were unknown.

The French missionaries were active here until 1700. French trading rights were suspended in 1702 and Fort St. Louis was abandoned. The Kaskaskia, losing the military protection of the French and their source of trade goods, decided to follow them further south. The Kaskaskias moved their village to the mouth of the Kaskaskia River and called it Rounesac. In 1764 their number was given as 600 and rapidly declining. After losing their land rights along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, the survivors of the Illinois nation moved to Kansas in 1832. Today the survivors of the Illinois people live in Oklahoma where they have been incorporated as "The Peoria Indian Tribe of Oklahoma" since 1940.

### **JOLLIET and MARQUETTE**

The Illinois River brought the first Europeans to this area in 1673. Father Jacques Marquette (a Jesuit priest), French explorer Louis Jolliet, and their five voyager paddlers went through the Great Lakes, down the Wisconsin River into the headwaters of the Mississippi. Once they got into the Mississippi, they hoped it would take them west to find a new and shorter trade route to China. They traveled as far south as the mouth of the Arkansas River and received reports from local tribes about white men further south, the Spanish.

The Frenchmen, not wishing a confrontation, decided the river did not flow west and turned around. They heard from some area Native Americans that there was a shortcut back to the Great Lakes. When they came to the mouth of the Illinois, they followed it. Across from our present day Park, they came upon a village of friendly Illinois people called the Kaskaskia. The Chief, Chasogoac, greeted the Frenchmen and made them feel at home. The French spent much time at the village.

Marquette became ill and spent time recuperating at the mission of St. Francis Xavier. When he grew strong, he returned to the Kaskaskia village in 1675, preached an Easter mass and founded the Mission of the Immaculate Conception. (There is a memorial dedicated in his name in the town of Utica.) Marquette's disease grew worse and after a short stay, he and companions left for St. Ignace but he died enroute.

Jolliet's fame was overshadowed by that of Marquette whose journals were preserved while Jolliet's were lost. Jolliet spent his last years near Quebec with the title of Royal Hydrographer charting bodies of water until he died in 1700.

### **THE PARK'S EARLY DAYS**

Starved Rock became a state park in 1911. The land was privately owned by Daniel F. Hitt who purchased it in 1835 from the U.S. Government as part of his settlement for back pay from the Army. He eventually sold Starved Rock and 100 acres in 1890 to Ferdinand Walther for \$15,000 and an option to buy 265 more acres at \$45 per acre. Mr. & Mrs. Walther tried to develop the Starved Rock area as "The Gibraltar of the West" in the 1890's. A large frame hotel was located at the base of the south bluff below Starved Rock. An artesian-fed swimming pool was located just south of Devil's Nose. A dance pavilion was located within a

circle drive approaching the hotel and concession area. The hotel venture was not as successful as the Walthers had hoped. Through the efforts of local residents, the property was brought to the attention of the Legislature. 280 acres of land, including Starved Rock, was purchased from the Walthers by the State of Illinois for \$146,000 on June 10, 1911.

Coming to the Park in 1911 was an adventure in itself. Most traveled to the Park from the Chicago area via the inter-urban railway that ran on the other side of the river. A depot was across from the Park. Passengers for the Park would disembark and then take a ferry boat across the river to this side as there was no bridge.

In 1918 the Park purchased a miniature steam locomotive from Lincoln Park in Chicago. The miniature railroad which accommodated several people per car circled the pool. The swimming pool was encircled by a concrete wall and there was an island in the center of the pool. Traveling and local bands played at the dance pavilion including Wayne King, Louie Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Rudy Vallee, and Jo Dizzutti. A family owned garage south of the dance pavilion fueled many cars and trucks from a hand operated gasoline pump. Frank Hart, a Seneca Indian, lived in a tent during the summer along the east side of the pool. A tent campground was located where the Lodge area is now.

Room rates in 1928 at the hotel were \$3.00 per night for a first class room; bathrooms were at the end of the hall. A round trip from the Park to the Chicago area cost \$2.90 on the train. After the Lodge was completed in 1938, there was no longer a need for the buildings in the lower area. They were demolished in the early 1940's. The swimming pool had many leaks and it was filled in at the same time.

### THE PARK TODAY

The present day Lodge was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930's out of white pine logs. The CCC was a federal program to put men back to work during the depression. The men were housed in the Park's present day workshop and a barracks at Parkman's Plain parking lot. Besides building the Lodge, they built many stairways, shelters, and bridges in the Park. The Lodge project was not completed according to the original plan.

From the start of construction, the CCC's were picketed and harassed by local laborers. The CCC's completed the kitchen, dining room, lobby, and 12 cabins. Things grew so tense that the project was halted after that and private contractors finished the Lodge rooms. The cost of construction of the main Lodge and cabins was about \$250,000, while the contract for the 48 room Lodge addition was \$200,000.

Excursion boats were docked at the Starved Rock river landing and plied the Illinois River east to the canyons prior to the construction of the Lock and Dam. Following the completion of the Starved Rock Lock and Dam in 1933, excursion passengers transferred at the dam to another boat on the other side and continued their journey east to the canyons. The private river boat concession was discontinued in 1973 due to the retirement of the owner.

Our present day Park has seen a lot of changes over the years. Numerous land additions over the years have increased the Park's acreage to over 2800 acres. Sixteen (16) miles of well marked hiking trails lead the Park visitor to the 18 different canyons and rock formations found within the Park. The Park campground was moved off the river in 1977 to its present day wooded location off of Route 71. In 1980-81 the Lodge underwent a \$1,000,000 renovation project. In 1986-88 a \$5,000,000 renovation and addition was done at the Lodge. It included the 28 room addition, indoor heated pool and improvements in the original building.

The Park's Visitor Center is located near the main parking lot by the river. Scheduled hours are posted; guided hikes are available throughout the year. The Park is open year round.

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF LA SALLE'S FORT ST. LOUIS ON STARVED ROCK and THE PROBLEM OF THE NEWELL FORT

Robert L. Hull

In 1678 Rene-Robert Cavalier received from his sovereign Louis XIV a patent giving him a monopoly in the trade of buffalo hides in the vast reaches of new France that lay south of the commerce with Montreal. With it went the right to build and garrison forts and to gather about these posts settlements of Indians. After this date, history knows Robert Cavalier as the sieur de LaSalle.

### *Historical Background*

The story of LaSalle's venture has been widely known since the publishing of Francis Parkman's *Discovery of the Great West* in 1869, a book ten years later retitled *LaSalle and the Discovery of the Great West*. LaSalle was able to capitalize on Indian desire for trade and fear of Iroquois raids to assemble about him at one time a would-be empire of perhaps twenty thousand Indians in an area centering on what is now LaSalle County, Illinois. At its heart was the village of the Kaskaskia or Kaskaskia-Illinois tribe, which Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette had visited in 1673, and the fort LaSalle dedicated to his king when it was completed in the spring of 1683. LaSalle was murdered in Texas in 1687 and the fort location was abandoned in 1692, but as late as 1760 a band of the Peoria-Illinois tribe still living in the area of the old fort retained in their possession a document affirming an alliance between France and the Indians of the Illinois nation, a document signed by LaSalle himself (Kellogg 1935).

On his map of 1684 the French cartographer Jean-Baptist Franquelin depicts in some detail the deployment of LaSalle's Indian allies around Fort St. Louis. The Illinois nation is shown to be assembled in a village of twelve hundred warriors (*hommes*) on the north side of the Illinois river opposite the fort. The Shawnee (*Chauenon*) occupy a village of two hundred warriors nearly south of the fort. Elsewhere in the vicinity are villages of the Wea (*Ouiatenon*), Ouabona, *Kiletica*, *Pepikokia*, Miami (*Miamy*), and the Pianksha (*Peanghichia*). To the

north on the map and separated from LaSalle's would-be colony by a dotted line lies the Kickapoo (*Kikapou*) and other tribes or lands obviously meant by Franquelin to be identified by the group name Mascoutin (*Mascoutins*) or Fire Nation (*Nation de feu*).

If this unnatural gathering could have been kept intact it would have been a singular achievement for LaSalle and his successors, Henry de Tonti and Francois Dauphin de la Forest. As it was, the tribes gradually drifted away until there remained only the Peorias, Kaskaskias, and others making up the Grand Village of the Illinois nation, and soon most of these, too, were gone. By 1692 both French and Indians alike had removed to a location on Lake Peoria where Tonti had constructed a new and larger fort, most properly called St. Louis but more familiarly known as Fort Pimitouri (Emerson and Mansberger; chap. 11). For several generations bands of Peorias returned to the upper Illinois Valley where they settled near *le Rocher* (the rock) and the abandoned, original Fort St. Louis.

The fate of Fort St. Louis after its abandonment is not recorded. It undoubtedly fell rapidly into decay and by 1721, when its location was visited by Charlevoix, he did not recognize there the labor of his countrymen (Charlevoix 1761). Despite this, the memory of Fort St. Louis must have survived in French tradition and on maps preserved from an earlier day. We can assume this because in 1760 a young French officer, Captain Passerat de la Capel, left Detroit with a force of French and Indians with LaSalle's Fort St. Louis as their immediate destination. His ultimate objective was to reach Louisiana and avoid surrendering to the British, who had just won a decisive victory over the French at Montreal and were receiving the surrender of all French forces in Canada. After a forced march in the face of approaching winter Captain Passerat de la Capel arrived to find that LaSalle's fort had long before been reduced to burned ruins. This and other considerations caused him to return to the location now known as Buffalo Rock west of present-day Ottawa, Illinois, where he built winter quarters named Fort Ottawa

(Kellogg 1935).

Captain Passer at de la Capel chose not to reconstruct Fort St. Louis, in part because the location "did not offer any natural means of defense against a possible attack of the English from the east" (Kellogg 1935:66-67). It is clear, however, that what this French officer saw as a natural defense was something on the order of a major body of water, since he chose a location that put both the Fox and Illinois rivers between himself and the British, explaining that "the two rivers made natural obstacles against an attack". It would, in any case, have been difficult to garrison 200 royal troops and 110 Canadian and *metis* (French-Ottawa) militia on the summit of Starved Rock together with the horses and mules that they brought with them. He chose instead to fortify Buffalo Rock. This was a geological outlier of larger size, which was the location during the 1930's of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp that the University of Chicago used as a field headquarters for its archaeological projects in the Starved Rock area in the postwar 1940s.

The burning of Fort St. Louis at *le Rocher* is confirmed by archaeology. If this burning was not accidental, then the decaying remains of the fort may have been intentionally burned by Indians or traders to salvage the forged iron nails and the iron prongs that once tipped the palisade poles to discourage scaling.

The location of *le Rocher* and LaSalle's Fort St. Louis was a matter of keen personal interest to Francis Parkman as he was writing *The Discovery of the Great West*. It was principally Parkman who attracted attention to Starved Rock as the probable location of this citadel and the only one fitting the description provided by early documents. From his correspondence we know that he toured LaSalle County in 1867 seeking out geographical features he might recognize from his historical sources. Col. Daniel Hitt's recollections of this visit are recorded in a newspaper feature written about twenty years after the event: "Parkman came down to Utica (Illinois) and after seeing the meadow and 'Starved Rock', just described all the country around and beyond as if he had been a surveyor of it. He said he got that description from the papers of Marquette, LaSalle and Tonti written 200 years ago. Mr. James Clark of Utica, now dead, and I took the historian all over the place, and it is curious, but he told us what we should see every time before we got there".

Starved Rock perfectly answers in every respect, to the indications of the contemporary maps and documents concerning "Le Rocher", the site of LaSalle's Fort of St. Louis. It is laid down on several contemporary maps, besides the great map of LaSalle's discoveries made in 1684. They all place it on the south side of the river; whereas Buffalo Rock, three miles above, which has been supposed to be the site of the fort, is on the north. The latter is crowned by a plateau of great extent is but sixty feet high, is accessible at many points and would require a large force to defend it; whereas LaSalle chose "Le Rocher" because of few men could hold it against a multitude. Charlevoix, in 1721, describes both rocks and says that the top of Buffalo Rock had been occupied by the Miami village, so that it was known as *Le Fort des Miamis*. This is confirmed by Henri Joutel who found the Miamis here in 1687. Charlevoix then speaks of "Le Rocher", calling it by that name; says that is about a league below, on the left or south side, forming a sheer cliff, very high, and looking like a fortress on the border of the river. He saw remains of palisades at the top which he thinks were made by the Illinois (*Journal Historie, Let. Xxvii.*), though his countrymen had occupied it only three years before. "The French reside on the rock (Le Rocher), which is very lofty and impregnable" (*Memoir on Western Indians, 1718, in N.Y. Col. Docs. [New York Colonial Documents], IX. 890*). St. Cosne, passing this way in 1699, mentions it as "Le Vieux Fort," and says that it is a "rock about a hundred feet high at the edge of the river, where M. de la Salle built a fort, since abandoned."

As attention turned to Starved Rock, the French curios found there became objects of more than personal interest to the finder, some being described in newspaper accounts or placed on display at the county seat. In *Pioneers of Illinois* (1882:175-76), Nehemiah Matson reports that on the summit of Starved Rock a rusted gun barrel was found imbedded in the trunk of an old cedar when the tree was cut down, and that two bronze medallions had been found, one with a representation of Louis XIV, king

of France in LaSalle's day, the other with a "head of Pope Leo X" (Giovanni de Medici, pope in 1513-21).

Matson also mentions some curious stone structures below Starved Rock, of which there may be more detail in some overlooked letter or newspaper story. In "the vicinity of Starved Rock" he says are found "many underground furnaces consisting of a large flue built of stone and mortar." Matson believed them to be devices used by the French in warming their houses, a practice he says was still in use in some parts of Canada in his time. As he describes them, these "Flues" are a puzzle. Nothing similar has been reported for the area since Matson's account, although silting of the Illinois River flood plain may have buried the evidence.

Many people have speculated on the location of Fort St. Louis, thinking it to be elsewhere than on the top of Starved Rock, but the only combination of location and physical evidence that meets the requirement is Starved Rock. People who have considered other locations either were not actually familiar with or have had to ignore historical descriptions of the site of the fort. LaSalle describes the fort in these words:

[The fort] is situated half a league below the [Kaskaskia] village, on the left side, descending the river, on the top of a rock which is steep on almost all sides, which it [the river] washes at the foot, so that one can draw water there from the top of the rock, which has about a six-hundred foot circumference. It is accessible from only one side, where white oak stakes eight to ten inches in diameter, and twenty-two feet in height, flanked by three redoubts made of squared beams, [placed] one on the other to the same height, and situated so that they all defend each other. The rest of the circumference of the rock is surrounded by a similar palisade, only fifteen feet high, since it is not accessible, and is defended by four others like the redoubts behind the palisade. There is a parapet of large trees laid lengthwise one on the other to the height of two men, the whole being covered with earth and at the top of the palisade there is a sort of *chanal de fraise*, the points of which are tipped with iron in order to

prevent a scaling. The neighboring rocks are all lower than that one, and the nearest one is two hundred paces away, the other ones being further. Between them and the fort Saint-Louis there is a great valley on two sides, which a brook cuts in the middle, and inundates when it rains. On the other side, there is a field, [prairie] which borders the river, in which, at the foot of the fort, there is a beautiful island cleared at a former time by the Illinois, and where I and my inhabitants have done our sowing within musket-range of the fort, so that one can defend the workers from inside the fort and prevent enemies from landing on the island. The edge of the rocks which surround the fort, as I have just said, is covered with oaks for a space of three or four *arpents* in area, after which there are vast fields [*campagnes*] of quite good soils [*terres*] (translated by Tucker 1941).

Henri Joutel (1962:157, 159) adds that there was a spacious *esplanade* or "place of arms" on the rock, several huts occupied by Indians, a warehouse or magazine, and a chapel. The location of the fort at the very edge of the Illinois River, so close that water could be drawn from the river to the fort, eliminates as the site of LaSalle's fort and "old fort" long known to exist at the head of French Canyon, the canyon which separates Starved Rock from Lovers Leap. Lovers Leap does not satisfy the physical description of the fort site and has never produced any evidence of French occupation. Buffalo Rock is on the wrong side of the river and the wrong side of the Kaskaskia village. The additional evidence of a French occupation on the summit of Starved Rock during the last quarter of the seventeenth century fairly well clinches the identification.

The place-name "Starved Rock" dates no earlier than the late eighteenth century. The name refers to the tradition that a village of Illinois Indians took refuge on this rock and suffered starvation while besieged by Potawatomis allied to the Ottawas. Circumstances suggest that the siege can be dated to sometime just after the murder of the Ottawa chief Pontiac in 1769 at the hands of an Illinois Indian. One of

the first published descriptions of Starved Rock in English was that of Henry R. Schoolcraft (1825, 1918:105-10), included in a description of a journey up the Illinois River in 1821. In this narrative Schoolcraft called Starved Rock the location of a former French fort and referred to it as *Le Rocher*, as did the French of LaSalle's day, and he went on to detail the contours of the top: "On gaining the top of this rock we found a regular entrenchment, corresponding to the edge of the precipice, and within this other excavations, which from the thick growth of brush and trees, could not be satisfactorily examined. The labor of many hands was manifest and a degree of industry not usually bestowed upon works of defense. We found upon this elevation broken mussel shells, fragments of antique pottery, and stones which have been subjected to the action of heat, resembling certain lavas" (Schoolcraft 1825, 1981:106-7)

The lavalike rock mentioned by Schoolcraft is possibly the material described in excavation records of Starved Rock as "slag" or "clinker", the product of an intense heat such as that which might be found in a blacksmith's forge. Schoolcraft was accompanied by a Potawatomi Indian guide who was well acquainted with the Starved Rock legend. Schoolcraft was apparently also familiar with Charlevoix's *History of New France*. Schoolcraft does not mention Starved Rock by name in this work, calling it *Le Rocher* and the Rock Fort, but he summarizes the story that gave Starved Rock the name by which this geological feature came to be known.

#### *Controlled Excavations on Starved Rock*

Scientific excavation on Starved Rock began in 1947 as part of a program of cooperative research in the upper Illinois Valley between the Illinois State Museum and the Department of Anthropology of the University of Chicago. This program attempted to identify the archaeological expression of the cultures of Illinois' historic Indian tribes. Searching historical records, Sarah Tucker of the University of Chicago had by 1941 concluded that the village of the Kaskaskia-Illinois tribe visited by Joliet, LaSalle, and others was located just upstream from the Starved Rock dam and not down farther down-stream as Francis Parkman had believed. The same location had been identified independently as the site of the Kaskaskia village by Charles W. Paape (1938), a student

technician and historian working for the National Park Service.

The existence of an extensive Indian occupation on the presumed location of Kaskaskia was confirmed in the field by Richard MacNeish in 1945, and the presence of a historic component was confirmed by the finding of burials accompanied by historic trade goods eroding from the banks of the Illinois River. An excavation was conducted at the Kaskaskia village location in the summer of 1947 as part of a field project co-directed by John McGregor of the Illinois State Museum and Kenneth Orr of the University of Chicago Department of Anthropology. During the summer several days were spent exploring the potential for excavation of the summit of Starved Rock itself. Five-foot-square test pits were dug and enough prehistoric and historic material found to justify moving the entire operation from the Kaskaskia village to Starved Rock for the 1948 season. The excavations continued in 1949, which was the last season for the University of Chicago-Illinois State Museum team on Starved Rock, but the excavation was joined in 1949 by Richard Hagen working for the State Department of Public Works and Buildings Division of Architecture and Engineering, and Hagen's project continued in 1950. Testing was resumed for a season in 1974 by the University of Illinois at Chicago and later by Illinois State University under contracts let to Robert L. Hall and Edward Jelks, respectively, but the greater part of the knowledge of the archaeology of Starved Rock comes from the excavations in 1947-50.

The largest single structure on Starved Rock attributable to the French occupation is that dubbed the "dugout", perhaps a *caveau* or cellar beneath a powder magazine or warehouse. This was a square excavation sixteen feet on a side extending to a depth of almost five feet beneath the surface, with evidence of inferior support posts and posts on the sides. This is most evident along one wall where there were four large postmolds spaced at five-foot intervals. The stratigraphic profile within the fill of this structure shows that the building above the cellar was destroyed by fire, the burning timbers falling into the cellar, where extensive strata of charcoal, ashes, burned earth, and building hardware were found in lower levels of the fill. Above this destruction debris about two feet of loam had accumulated when a pit intruded into the fill, into which was placed the body of an Indian accompanied by a triple string of

glass and shell beads, twelve brass Jesuit rings, and a stone ball. About the same time or slightly later a second aboriginal burial intruded into the fill of the cellar. This burial was that of a small infant nestled beneath an overturned brass kettle found at a depth of eighteen inches. Fill continued to accumulate, which, in its upper levels, included modern debris.

Four of the Jesuit rings were heart-shaped and one octagonal. Brass rings of these shapes are placed by Charles Cleland (1972) in the period of A.D. 1700-1780. This dating agrees with the known date for the abandonment of Fort St. Louis in 1692 as a headquarters for the trading operations of LaSalle's successors. In and below the charcoal and ash level of the cellar were found four Dutch white clay pipe fragments, of which H.G. Ormwake expresses his expert opinion that they date closer to the period of construction of Fort St. Louis in 1682-83 than to its abandonment in 1692 (personal communication, 1964).

Within the fill of the cellar there was a sequence of artifact categories that also supports the suggested dating of the cellar. Modern wire nails were limited to the top foot of fill. Hand-forged nails were found in all levels but were concentrated in the lower levels with the charcoal, ash, and burned earth lenses. Gun cartridges, ironstone whiteware, bottle caps, and other modern artifacts were found only in the upper foot of the fill. Within the fill of the cellar/dugout were found forty-four nails, forty-one of them handwrought and only three machine-made. During the excavations of 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1950 a total of 122 handwrought nails were found on the rock.

Interestingly, there was one abundant kind of artifact that was not recovered in the early fill levels of the cellar. This was the category of brass and copper patches from metal kettles. Seventeen such items were found during the excavations of 1947 to 1950, but only one of these was found in the fill of the cellar, and that was found in an upper level. Metal kettle patches may thus relate only to a postfort Indian occupation and probably represent elements discarded during the scavenging by Indians of sheet metal from old brass and copper kettles.

The structure described as a "cellar" resembles no known aboriginal construction but does correspond to some known French architecture. It lay below a building that was destroyed by fire, a fact

which agrees with the observation of Capt. Pierre Passer at de la Capel, who in 1760 found Fort St. Louis in ashes: "There was no fort; it had been burned a long time ago" (quoted in Kellogg 1935:66). The building above the cellar was destroyed early enough that several feet of fill accumulated before two Indian burials were placed in graves excavated into the location of the former cellar.

LaSalle's description of Fort St. Louis indicated that it included seven redoubts constructed of squared timbers extending to the edge of the rock, between which were palisade walls of vertical timbers. If no convincing evidence of this construction has been found, it need not be for the original absence of this evidence. During the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps. (CCC) was employed to landscape the top of Starved Rock. The activities of the CCC included the clearing and burning of brush and filling of many depressions scattered over the summit of the rock. The archaeological stratigraphy clearly shows the evidence of twentieth-century rubbish burning in some depressions and the subsequent covering of this burned rubbish with artifact-filled clay excavated from the edge of the rock, where evidence of the fortifications might have been present. This resulted in a locally reversed stratigraphy with seven to nine thousand-year-old, early Archaic flint artifacts placed over materials dating to the depression area.

The earth at the edge of the summit was removed to bedrock around much of the perimeter beginning sometime at the beginning of the century. Plans for landscaping drawn in 1939 show that masonry retaining walls were planned to replace decayed, aging, wooded retaining walls. This landscaping produced a pleasing appearance for visitors to Starved Rock but undoubtedly destroyed much buried evidence of the fortifications that originally rimmed the rock. The evidence of this rubbish burning is clearly distinguishable from the burning of the fort buildings during the French regime both for reasons of stratigraphic position and because of the twentieth-century artifacts abundantly mixed with the charcoal and ashes left by the landscaping crews.

Objects bearing actual dates were found only among the artifacts obviously modern in age. Being modern, they are important to the archaeologist at this site only for the information they provide on the degree of mixing, or lack of it, between recent and earlier historic and

prehistoric materials. Twenty-six recent coins were found, all but two of them in the top (0-6") level excavated. One exception was a 1919 Lincoln penny from 6-12" level of a square dug in 1949 partially over a test pit excavated in 1947. The other was an 1889 Indian head penny found in the second 6-12" level of a square excavated in arbitrary horizontal levels in a sloping deposit over an early historic ditch. This coin could belong legitimately in its second-level provenience, but its location might also have been within the topmost six-inch level if levels had been measured from the sloping surface rather than from an arbitrary horizontal level. The coins with dates ranged in age from 1886 to 1940. The only coin that might belong to the French occupation at Starved Rock is a thin (0.35 mm) silver coin found in the 12-18" level of the fill of feature 13, the presumed cellar of the fort. This level is too high to make the deposit contemporaneous with the occupation or destruction of the fort. The coin itself is actually older than the fort, but it came to rest in its find spot after the destruction of the fort. The coin bears no date, but it has been placed within narrow limits by Jefferson T. Warren, director of the John Woodman Higgins Armory, Worcester, Massachusetts (personal communication, 1964). Warren noted its similarity to a silver *douzaine* struck by Francis I of France (reigned A.D. 1515 - 47). There is little resemblance to the coinage of Louis XIV or later French kings. The edges of the coin were trimmed at one time to the extent that the only letters legible are several that appear to spell *Dni*, presumably part of the working *Sit Nomen Dni(Domini) benedictum*.

A lead bailing seal also found in the fill of feature 13 is of special value in determining the age of this cellar and the surface structure associated with it. The embossing on this seal reads "F-L-14-RE," presumably the greater part of an abbreviation for the Latin text "FRANCORUM-LUDOVICUS-Q4-REX" (Louis 14 King of the French). This clearly dates the making of this seal to the long reign (1643-1715) of Louis XIV. Unlike coins, which remain in circulation for many years, bailing seals were intended for one-time use. This one was found with other early historic material - hand-forged nails, iron and brass scraps, gun parts, ash, clinker and building hardware - within the 30-42" level of feature 13, a zone including the greatest concentration of debris left by the fire that destroyed Fort St. Louis. Part of another lead

seal was found in 1949 in feature 3, a refuse-filled pit dating from the period of the French occupation, but this item bore no writing.

The quantity of historic material of European manufacture found on Starved Rock is impressive, but only a fraction may date to the period of occupation of Fort St. Louis. For example, of approximately twenty-eight hundred glass trade beads only twenty were found in the cellar fill (feature 13), and of these twenty only half may predate the destruction of the fort.

The distribution of gun flints suggests that the spall type made of tan French flint antedates the blade type of honey-colored French flint. This is indicated by the sequence in feature 13 as well as by the sequence represented in superimposed features 32 and 31. Pit F32 contained one gun flint of blade type made of honey-colored flint and underlying pit F31 produced three gun flints of the spall type made of tan flint.

#### THE NEWELL FORT

As the site of Fort St. Louis, the only competition to Starved Rock given serious thought in this century has been the Lovers Leap/Eagle Cliff bluff location and that of the Newell fort at the head of French Canyon. The Lovers Leap/Eagle Bluff location was proposed by Allan Westover (1984) and the French Canyon location by two residents of nearby Utica, Jack Newell and his son, John. Both suggested alternative sites lack important requirements of the physical descriptions given us by LaSalle himself and others (see above), requirements which only Starved Rock in the area satisfies (Hall 1986), but the Newell fort was obviously either a fortified Indian village or a stockaded trading post of the early French period and has never been accounted for by existing historical documents nor eliminated as a possible adjunct of Fort St. Louis itself.

The Newell or French Canyon fort was surveyed by Col. Daniel Hitt a century ago and its plan published in a history of LaSalle County (Baldwin 1877). About sixty years ago purchase of the site was included in recommendations to the state, because the location lies just yards outside the boundaries of Starved Rock State Park.

During the 1930's John ("Jack") Newell of Utica obtained for ten dollars per year a lease to excavate the fort site, and he proceeded to do

so, excavating two-thirds of the entire site, which covered a fairly large area. The enclosure mapped by Colonel Hitt was about 390 feet from east to west and 185 feet from north to south but was irregular in form and covered only about an acre.

I interviewed Jack Newell in June of 1962 when he was eighty-two years old, examined a small cabinet of historic artifacts from the fort site and visited the site with Newell himself. He said that he began testing around Utica, looking for a location to find arrowheads to sell for a profit during the depression. In looking for places to dig he eventually went to the Lovers Leap bluff next to Starved Rock, to the "Gorbet" farm (Corbin farm), and then to the enclosure at the head of French Canyon, which was owned by James Mitchell, whose son Edwin married Elizabeth Newell. Jack Newell's son John laid out the site in squares and excavation proceeded using pointing trowels, whisk brooms, ice picks, and tiling shovels, techniques they had apparently learned from working with Dr. A.R. Kelly, then of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who conducted excavations on nearby Plum Island and in the Utica Mound Group in 1930. A hat was placed next to the Newells' dig for donations because these were depression years, but no artifacts were actually sold.

The entire outline of the enclosure was excavated by the Newells. Below the surface this outline was represented by a trench whose fill was three to four feet deep and about three feet wide but said to have been without evidence of individual postholes. Newell said there was a gap in the enclosure trench at the east end, an "entrance" which he remembered to be about fourteen feet wide; Colonel Hitt's plan records a ten-foot gap in the surface indications of the enclosure at the same point. Newell said that one-quarter of the whole stockade line, the part on the northwest, was double with the walls "3 rods" (49.5 feet) apart. I would interpret this as an enlargement of the stockade. The stockade could only be enlarged on the northwest and northeast because the southwest and southeast sides border on French Canyon and a tributary ravine.

Newell said that he excavated twenty-one houses within the stockade, each rectangular in outline, formed into a "circle" and set apart from the stockade line "a short distance". Twenty-one houses, each say, twelve by eighteen feet in dimensions, would occupy only 4,536 square

feet, about one-tenth of an acre. Jack Newell's son John showed me the distribution of houses within the enclosure by placing eight marks on a copy of Colonel Hitt's plan in pattern roughly concentric with the outline of the stockade line. The houses were said to have been destroyed by fire. In the center of the stockaded enclosure was a round feature three feet across and fourteen feet deep, called by the Newells a "well".

John McGregor, Kenneth Orr, and others of the Old Kaskaskia dig group also talked with the Newells at the time of their 1947 excavation and their report on file at the Illinois State Museum contains a list of the following materials:

1	whole gun barrel (bore 1.2 cm) and 3 partial barrels
5	"flint holders" (hammers)
5	triggers
10	flintlock hammers (batteries)
2	gunstock butt plates
15	flintlock springs
4	trigger guards
3	powder pans
1	lock plant with "flint holder" (hammer) attached
10	ornamental pieces from gun "butts" (stocks)
	Several hundred musket-balls (lead of various calibers)
30	iron knife fragments
8	iron axes, 1 whole
1	iron nails 13mm wide and 7mm thick
14	fragments of brass or copper kettles, some with rivets and lugs
100	copper "tinkling cones"
	copper bracelets of both rolled and drawn wire
6	copper or brass rings with designs, 2 marked "IHS"
50	"white, globular glass beads ('bristol' beads)"
2	"black, octagonal 'rosary' beads:
30	elliptical white porcelain beads, varying sizes
15	"blue glass beads with star and half-moon designs inlaid in white (Orchard's 'beads made from the Moorish

trade")

- 25 octagonal blue glass beads
- 5 elliptical polychrome beads
- 1 raspberry-shaped blue glass beads

A second report of the visit adds to the above list the following:

- 1 copper triangular projectile point
- buckles
- scissors
- thimbles
- rings with religious symbols, "IHS, TY, small hearts, arrows, etc."

This latter report in the files of the Illinois State Museum conveys the erroneous impression that the Newell's historic materials were excavated at a site on the Lovers Leap/Eagle Rock bluff. I know this not to be true because I visited the location of the dig with Jack Newell himself, but the Newell's old fort would have been in a direct line behind Lovers Leap/Eagle Cliff if one were pointing out the location of the fort and dig from the south end of the Old Kaskaskia village at the Starved Rock dam.

I saw less of the Newell artifacts than McGregor, Orr, and the others, but I was able to measure the lead musket balls and take notes on the gun flints. I saw thirty-five spall-type gun flints of gray and tan French flint, mostly badly used, twenty-six fragments of gun flints of the same material, and two blade-type gun flints of honey-colored French flint. This distribution would be consistent with an occupation during the French or early British regime in Illinois and would argue against a dating within the American period, by which time some blade-form gun flints of gray-black English flint should have been present.

Twelve lead balls ranged between about 0.54 inch and 0.59 inch, averaging 0.56 inch, with two balls well out of this range at 0.63 inch and another at 0.44 inch. These diameters were based upon the average of three measurements taken on each ball with a micrometers; obviously impacted balls were not measured. The central range of 0.54 to 0.59 inches can be compared to a range of 0.53 to 0.62 inches for thirteen balls I measured among some found in and around the Fox Fort at Arrowsmith,

McClellan County, Illinois, besieged by the French and their Indian allies in 1730, and to a range of 0.50 to 0.60 inches for fifteen measurable musket balls found in the Starved Rock excavations of 1947-50.

The best clue to the age of the French Canyon fort may be a black oak tree with 160 years of growth identified by Col. Hitt within the stockade line ditch (Baldwin 1977). Hitt was a surveyor and an engineer and presumably well aware of the significance of the tree for the history of the fort; tree growth was commonly used at the time to estimate the minimum ages of earth mounds. Since the plan was published in 1877 this would seem to place the burning of the fort in a year some time before 1717.

Depending in part upon whether the engraving by Rand McNally took into consideration the delay between the gathering of the data and its publication by Elmer Baldwin (1877), the Newells' fort could actually have been contemporary with Fort St. Louis, as was once suspected - perhaps a village of refugee Shawnees, Delawares, or Mahican associated with LaSalle - or it could have been a village of the Peorias. Even though the Kaskaskias had left for their new village in southern Illinois by the beginning of the eighteenth century, their kinsmen the Peorias and Moingwenas moved into the Starved Rock vicinity sometime between 1703 and 1713, and by 1718 about one hundred cabins of Indians were living in the vicinity of Starved Rock. In 1722 the Fox attacked the Illinois living in the area, and latter were forced to retreat for protection to the top of Starved Rock, as would their descendants again round 1769, the era of the legendary Starved Rock massacre.

The plan of the stockade line and distribution of the houses in the Newell Fort bear little resemblance to any European establishment but are perfectly conformable with a stockaded Indian village of, say, 126 inhabitants (figuring six to a house), and this would account for the mention of only a single iron nail among the metal objects recovered. The date of the burning of the Newell fort (pre 1717) is close to the date of the routing of the Illinois at Starved Rock by the Fox in 1722, assuming an error of five or so years in counting the rings on the stump.

#### CONCLUSION

The nature and pattern of remains on the summit of Starved Rock



are consistent with the identification of Starved Rock as *le Rocher* of the French and the location of the first Fort St. Louis constructed in Illinois - that built for LaSalle by his lieutenant Henry de Tonti in the winter of 1982-83. The enclosure mapped by Col. Daniel Hitt near the head of French Canyon in the last century, and excavated by the Newell family around 1932, does not satisfy the requirements for identification as Fort St. Louis itself but does conform to what one might expect of a fortified village occupied by the non-Illinoisan Indian allies of the French at Fort St. Louis during the period 1683-92 or by the Peoria-Illinois in the latter part of the period 1692-1722.

The Newell Fort can now, almost too late, be recognized as having been an important archaeological site that would have merited inclusion within the bounds of Starved Rock Park, as was recommended to the state in 1929. The extent of the excavations by the Newells was limited enough to suggest that much probably remains for scientific investigation, enough certainly for a surer identification of the site's inhabitants.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS RELATING TO THE STORY OF STARVED ROCK

- 1519 - Alvarez de Fineda entered the Mississippi River.
- 1535 - Jacques Cartier entered the St. Lawrence River and ascended to the present site of Montreal.
- 1541 - Ferdinand DeSoto explored the Mississippi River as far as Arkansas.
- 1608 - Champlain founded Quebec.
- 1654 - Jean Nicolet voyaged to Green Bay to accept peace offering from various Native American tribes. His mission introduces the entry of the French into the regions west of the Great Lakes. While at Green Bay, Nicolet heard from the Native Americans of the "great water" to the west.
- 1659 - Pierre D'Espirit Radison and his brother, Medard Chouart, apparently saw the Mississippi and were kindly received by the "Alimiwec" (probably the Illinois) while fur trading in the upper Mississippi Valley.
- 1669 - Robert Cavalier Sieur de LaSalle was dispatched by the government of New France to take formal possession of the western regions. He left Quebec and was not heard of for several years, but during this time explored the Ohio River and possibly the Illinois.
- 1673 - May 17: Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet left St. Ignace carrying "Indian corn and some jerked meat as well as suitable good as presents to the natives..."
- June 17: They entered the Mississippi from the Wisconsin River.
- July 17: They started their return from below the mouth of the Arkansas River and soon entered the Illinois. "We had never seen anything like this river for the richness of the soil, the prairies and woods, the buffaloes, the elks, the deer, the wild cats, the bustards, the wild geese, the ducks, the paraquet, and even the beaver. It is made up of little lakes and little rivers." That upon which we voyaged is wide, deep and gentle for sixty-five leagues." They visited Illinois Native Americans at Peoria and at Kaskaskia which then contained 74 cabins, and returned to Green Bay late in the year.
- 1674 - Marquette began his return to Kaskaskia village but was taken sick and spent part of the winter at Chicago.
- 1675 - April 9: Marquette reached Kaskaskia village and founded the Mission of the Immaculate Conception. He preached a short time then started his return to Mackinac but died on the way near Ludington, Michigan.
- 677 - April 27: Father Claude Allouez arrived at Kaskaskia and re-established the Mission of the Immaculate Conception.
- 678 - LaSalle built Fort Conti on the Niagara River to control the portage there. With LaSalle was Henri Tonti, his trusted aide, and Father Hennepin, the historian of LaSalle's expedition.
- 679 - LaSalle launches the Griffon, the first sailing vessel on the Great Lakes, which sails to Michilimackinac where Tonti sets up a trading post.

November: LaSalle built Fort Missi at the mouth of the St. Joseph River in Michigan.

December: LaSalle and Tonti descend the Illinois River, visit Kaskaskia village, then continue to Peoria where they built Fort Creve Couer.

1680 - February 29: Father Hennepin begins a journey to the Northwest to visit the Sioux.

March 10: LaSalle, on his return to Canada, stops again at Kaskaskia village; he noted the defensive possibilities of Starved Rock and dispatched men to go back to Tonti with orders to build a fort there.

May 6: LaSalle arrived back at Fort Frontenac, Canada, where he soon heard that the men at Fort Creve Couer had deserted and destroyed the fort and later rifled Mackinac, Fort Miami, and Fort Conti. Tonti was left stranded in Kaskaskia village.,

September 10: War parties of Iroquois reach Kaskaskia village but are prevented from an immediate attack by Tonti's intervention. The Illinois flee down the river with a bloody pursuit by the Iroquois while Tonti and his party leave for the north and eventually reach Sturgeon Bay.

During the fall, LaSalle returns to the Illinois country, finds Kaskaskia village a deserted shambles and no fort at Starved Rock. He descends the Illinois River to the Mississippi looking for Tonti then returns for winter at Fort Miami.

1681 - In March LaSalle returns to Kaskaskia where he succeeds in allying the Miami and Illinois people. He then returns to Fort Miami conducting further alliances there and leaves for Montreal. On the way LaSalle and Tonti are reunited at Mackinac.

November: LaSalle returns to Fort Miami.

December 2: LaSalle, Tonti, Sieur D'Autray, Father Membre, 25 French and Native Americans with women and children, 54 people in all, start for the Mississippi.

1682 - February 6: The expedition entered the Mississippi River and by April 6 had reached the delta where LaSalle took possession of the river and all the land it drained. On their return the party rested at Chickasaw Bluffs near Memphis where they built Fort Frudhomme.

August: LaSalle had returned to Fort Miami and in September he went to Mackinac but was soon back in the Illinois country.

December: LaSalle, Tonti and party of men went from Fort Miami to Starved Rock and began to build Fort St. Louis.

1683 - Fort St. Louis was finished between January and May while during the winter LaSalle was gathering Native American allies near the Rock. In the autumn LaSalle left Fort St. Louis to return to France because of troubles with the administration in Canada. At Chicago he met Chevalier de Baugis who had been sent to take over the Fort.

1684 - March 20: A party of Iroquois attack Starved Rock but withdraw without success.

May 21: Durantays arrives at the Rock to relieve Tonti who returns to Quebec in discouragement.

During this year LaSalle had succeeded in winning favor in Paris and was outfitted with ships and colonists for a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi.

- 1685 - In June Tonti returned to the Rock having been given command of the Fort again. He soon restored broken harmony among the Native American allies.

LaSalle's expedition missed the mouth of the Mississippi in a storm and were shipwrecked on the coast of Texas.

- 1686 - The survivors of LaSalle's expedition suffered hardships; some escape with part of the fleet; some are killed by Native Americans; some are captured by Spaniards; and some wander with LaSalle in a vain attempt to find the Mississippi.

Meanwhile Tonti leaves Starved Rock for the delta to seek LaSalle but finds nothing and returns. At the mouth of the Arkansas on the return trip, ten men are left settled in a house surrounded by palisades.

During the summer Denonville Governor of Canada, mobilizes an army to fight the Iroquois and a detachment from Fort St. Louis under the command of Tonti leaves to assist.

- 1687 - March 19: LaSalle is murdered by disgruntled members of his party, after which a small group, including his brother, Abbe Cavalier, make their way to the Mississippi and eventually to Fort St. Louis.

July 12: The Iroquois are decisively defeated and Tonti returns to the Rock where he meets the survivors of the LaSalle party. They tell him nothing of LaSalle's fate being fearful of their welfare if the bad news were known.

- 1688 - The winter of 1687-1688 was spent quietly at Fort St. Louis and in the spring the LaSalle expedition survivors left for Canada and France without having told of their leader's death.

In September Tonti finally heard of the fate of LaSalle and he immediately set off down the Mississippi to rescue the colony. He found no one and accomplished nothing.

Tonti continued as commander of Fort St. Louis.

- 1690 - Tonti and LaForest were given joint proprietorship of Fort St. Louis and for several years carried on profitable fur trading with LaForest at Chicago and Tonti at Starved Rock.

- 1692 - Tonti built another fort at the village of Pimitoui or Peoria.

- 1699 - An expedition of inquiry, under Montigny and with St., Cosme as historian, journeyed to the Illinois country and obtained the services of Tonti as guide down the Mississippi.

By this time the village of Kaskaskia was almost abandoned, the Native Americans having moved down the river to Peoria or below.

- 700 - Father Gravier toured the Mississippi country and noted that Englishmen were already in Tennessee

trading with the native Americans.

Tonti left with twenty men to join d'Iberville in the colony on the Mississippi.

- 1702 - Royal proclamations ordered Fort St. Louis to be abandoned, LaForest to return to Canada and Tonti to join with d'Iberville on the Mississippi. This marked the last days of Fort St. Louis. The population, both French and Indian, shifted to the Mississippi settling at the new posts of Cahokia and Kaskaskia ( a new village at the mouth of the Kaskaskia River) and at other points further south.
- 1703 - A band of Peoria and Moingena settled at the Rock sometime during these bad  
1715 years.
- 1718 - The Rock had once again quasi-official recognition as the home of French traders from Canada, but most of the old trade had gone. About 100 cabins were reported as making up the old Kaskaskia village at the Rock.
- 1721 - Charlevoix visited the rock and found the ruins of palisades and rough cabins which he thought were Native American work. He also found French and Native Americans living on a large island above the Rock (probably Delbridge Island)
- 1722 - Increasing hostility between the French and the Fox led the latter to attack the Illinois. A group of Illinois was driven to the top of Starved Rock and there besieged for several days. A party of French happened by and helped to lift the siege; the Fox fled to the north for asylum with the Sioux.
- 1730 - The Fox started a trek eastward to join up with the Iroquois but an army of 1400 French and allied Native Americans closed upon them. The Fox fortified themselves on the banks of the Vermilion River, not far from Starved Rock but were soon exhausted and massacred. The few survivors fled north to join the Sacs.
- 1751 - The Salteurs, a tribe of canoe Native Americans, killed a Frenchman in the vicinity of Starved Rock.
- 1760 - The first English traders appeared on the Illinois River and called the Native Americans to trade with them at Starved Rock.
- 1760 - During the winter of these two years a detachment of French soldiers numbering 500,  
1761 fled south to prevent their capture by the British at Montreal. Their commander, laChapelle, intended to spend the winter at Fort St. Louis and then go on to New Orleans. He found Fort St. Louis in ruins and so built Fort Ottawa in the north bank of the river probably on Buffalo Rock. In the spring the French left for New Orleans.
- 1763 - The Illinois country was ceded to the English. The French moved west of the Mississippi but continued to trade along the Illinois River.
- 1765 - The British firm of Baynton, Wharton and Morgan of Philadelphia sent trade goods into the Illinois country to compete with the French.
- 1769 - In June Pontiac, a great Ottawa chieftain, was killed by an Illinoisan. The Pottawatomie, one of Pontiac's controlled tribes, attacked the Illinois and drove them to the top of Starved Rock where the

Illinois were soon starved out and massacred. This event has more basis in Pottawatomie legend than in any historical source.

- 1779 - Americans took over the Northwest Territory and were welcomed by the French who preferred them to the British.
- 1790 - In this year the once great Illinois people had been reduced to 100 families who were then moving across the Mississippi into oblivion.
- 1805- A growing legend that Tonti had buried gold on the rock led to much digging there by residents of Peoria, and ever since, until Starved Rock became a State Park, there has been desultory vain searching.
- 1812 - The War of 1812 had its effects upon the Illinois country. The garrison of Fort Dearborn at Chicago was massacred and resulted in retaliations upon Native American villages in the Illinois Valley.
- 1813 - Fort Clark was established at Peoria; the Native American occupations of Illinois were nearly over.
- 1818 - Illinois was admitted to the Union as a state.
- 1821 - The historian, Schoelcraft, visited the Rock and identified the fortifications lying in the ruins there as too extensive for Native American work.
- 1834 - Simon Crozier settled at a point nearly opposite the Rock and built a store and warehouse to keep supplies for the steady influx of settlers.
- 1911 - Starved Rock was established as a State Park.



## THE LEGEND OF STARVED ROCK

Starved Rock obtained its name from a legendary incident that supposedly occurred in the 1760's. Most of the Illinois lived along the Mississippi but a small village of 500 Peoria Native Americans still lived in this area. The dominant tribe of the day were the Ottawa who controlled the Potawatomi and Fox that lived up river from here.

It was the Ottawa Chieftain, Pontiac, who went to the southern part of the state to negotiate some trade agreements with the French and was murdered by an Illinois of this area. Word got back that the great chief was dead. Pontiac's tribes wanted to avenge their leader's death. The Potawatomi and Fox paddled down river and attacked the Illinois Village by the great rock. A fierce battle was waged for several days; the Illinois' number was reduced in half. The Potawatomi and Fox went back to their village to regroup; the Illinois knew that if they were to survive, they would have to abandon their village. They decided to seek refuge on top of the great rock.

The Illinois hoped the Potawatomi and Fox would by-pass them on their way to tribes further south; however, the Potawatomi and Fox surrounded the base of the rock. As the Illinois attempted to get water from the river by lowering buckets. The buckets were easily shattered with arrows or the ropes were cut. The Potawatomi and Fox periodically went to the top of Devil's Nose and showered the Illinois with arrows. As the Illinois grew more desperate, they tried to sneak off the rock at night but all were killed. Eventually all of the Illinois on top of the rock starved, and ever since, this site has been called "STARVED ROCK".

There were no written records to report this event actually happened. The story came down through the years from Native American story-tellers. However, due to the strategic location of the rock, we do have evidence it was used countless times as a battleground. Archaeological excavations have revealed numerous artifacts including skeletons and weapons used over thousands of years ago.

## HISTORY OF STARVED ROCK

Starved Rock, now mostly appreciated as a State Park for its natural beauty, really has a wealth of prehistoric and historic importance associated with it which should not be overlooked. We have learned much about the prehistory from the archaeologists who have worked in the area. They tell us that there is evidence that the Native Americans lived within the park area as far back as 8000 B.C. These were known as the Archaic, and were one of the first peoples to make tools out of copper. They lived, for the most part, by hunting and gathering. The area was

inhabited from that time until the French entered it in 1673 by various kinds of people, such as the Hopewellian, Woodland and Mississippian. The Native Americans who met the French, in particular, Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette, were known as the Illinois. This tribe was divided into about eight sub-tribes, the better known ones being the Kaskaskia, Peoria, Cahokia, and Tamaroa. The Kaskaskia were the ones who had their village extending along the north bank of the river directly across from the park. The other bands lived in smaller villages throughout the area. In 1675 there were about 500-600 houses in the village. These houses were of small, rectangular shape, constructed of poles and mat covered. They had one doorway, no permanent fireplace, and several storage and trash pits. We learn from archaeological evidence that these houses were often built upon the exact location of previous houses, perhaps as a result of seasonal abandonment of the village. We can only speculate that their occupation of the site extends back to about 1500.

In 1673, Father Marquette and Louis Jolliet entered the area and were accepted quite well by the Native Americans in the area. In the beginning of 1675 Father Marquette founded the first mission within Illinois - that of the Immaculate Conception - in the previously mentioned Kaskaskia village. Since the French visit was only a short one this time, the Native Americans did not change their religious practices.

When Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de LaSalle, along with Lieutenant Tonti, entered the area, about five years later, the French-Native American relationship became more meaningful. At this time, they allied their forces against the invading Iroquois. In 1683 LaSalle and Tonti built a fort, Fort St. Louis, on top of the present day Starved Rock. Thousands of Native Americans congregated around the fort, and a fairly extensive fur trade was established. LaSalle granted tracts of land on a feudal basis to his followers. The fort remained in use until 1691 when the Native Americans left the area for one with more plentiful animal resources, and a new Fort St. Louis was built at Peoria. The old fort was then used only as a wayside stopover for travelers. All evidence of the fort had disappeared by 1720.

The area goes historically unaccounted for until 1769 when we learn that several different Native American tribes were living in the area. Among them were the Ottawa, with their chief, Pontiac. He had gone down to Cahokia, Illinois to negotiate some matters with the Europeans with whom he had refused to ally. Consequently, the Ottawa, Pottawatomi, and Fox banded together to wipe out the Illinois in the Starved Rock area. The Illinois thought they had the advantage by escaping to the summit of the Rock, where the other tribes could not get them; but, the plan backfired, and the Illinois were forced to starve to death on top of the rock.

## STARVED ROCK

According to Native American legend several hundred Illiniwek starved atop this rock while being attacked by the Potawatomi and Fox. In the winter of 1682-83 Fort Saint Louis was built on Starved Rock by Robert LaSalle and Henri de Tonti. This Fort and its soldiers provided protection to the surrounding Illinois people and in return the Native Americans provided food and furs for the French. In 1692 the Illinois moved down river for better hunting and fishing. The French soldiers also left. In 1702 by Royal proclamation, Fort Saint Louis was officially closed by King Louis XIV for which it was named. The abandoned Fort then began decaying and disappeared by 1720.

## LOVER'S LEAP

Lover's Leap was named from a legend that contends an Illinois boy and a Potawatomi girl from enemy tribes met and fell in love. Since the two tribes were at war, neither chief would allow them to marry. The lovers decided that if they could not marry, they would die together. They proceeded to the cliff, joined hands, and jumped off so they could be together for all eternity.

The visible white sand beach cove water is the mouth of French Canyon. The park's 18 canyons all have their mouths on the Illinois River as the streams that flow through them seek the bigger and lower body of water. There is no wading or swimming from any park shore due to the hazardous undertow created by the dam.

## LASALLE and TONTI

Following Marquette and Jolliet, the next Frenchmen to come through this area were Robert Cavalier Sieur de LaSalle, his lieutenant, Henri Tonti, and 20-30 voyage paddlers. It was their mission to build a chain of forts so King Louis XIV's claim in the new world could be maintained. After building forts on the Niagra River and the St. Joseph River in Michigan, LaSalle came down the Illinois River around 1678. They stopped at the Kaskaskia Village, noted the sandstone butte across from it and continued down to the Peoria area where they built Fort Creve Coeur in 1680. LaSalle left Tonti in charge and he then went back to Canada to supervise operations. In the spring of the next year, LaSalle heard that there had been trouble with the Native Americans of the area as well as with his own men. The fort had been destroyed, all men deserted except Tonti who was later found by LaSalle at the Kaskaskia village. The next few years, LaSalle was involved in a trip down to the Mississippi Delta which he took possession of for France. On the return, his party built Fort Frudhomme near present day Memphis, Tennessee.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, little is known of the area. The French had moved out, and the English had not as yet moved into this part of Illinois. There were still some Native Americans in the area but they were apparently not the original groups, nor do they seem to have been at the old Kaskaskia village.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, the area started to be taken advantage of for its recreational use. In 1890, a wood frame hotel was built, and several cabins were added. There was a large pool as well as a dance pavilion. In 1911 the State of Illinois bought 280 acres in the area and it became a state park. The Civilian Conservation Corps built the lodge and cabins that you see and enjoy in the Park today in the 1930's.

### CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

In front of you is the Starved Rock Lodge which was built 1933-1939 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. There were three different companies stationed here in the seven year period. Companies 614, 1609, and 2601 were made up of young men 17-23 years old. Many of the men in these companies came from the local towns of Utica, Oglesby, LaSalle-Peru and Ottawa. The men were housed in the present day maintenance shop and warehouse shop near the Park office and at a camp at what is now Parkman's Plain parking lot. They built the Lodge, cabins, kitchen, dining room and main lobby with a fireplace at a cost of \$200,000. The hotel section was built by private contractors at a cost of \$250,000. The furniture in the main lobby is original from 1939 when the lodge opened.

The C.C.C. men also built bridges, shelters, moved dirt out of the canyons, and developed many of the trails in the Park. Many of the things built by the C.C.C. are still in the park today.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a federal program developed by Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930's during the Great Depression. The goal was to conserve our natural resources, reforestation, stop soil erosion, and bring the country out of the Depression by putting unemployed male youth to work. The participants earned \$25 - \$35 per month, but they were only able to keep \$5 - \$7 as the rest was sent home to their families to buy food and clothing. The term of enlistment was 6 months with the opportunity to re-enlist which many of the young men did.

cable car ride which transported people between the park and the island.

Both of these islands provide resting spots in the trees for Bald Eagles that frequent this area in cold winter months to feed on fish they find in the unfrozen turbulent water just below the dam.

### BALD EAGLES AT THE PARK

Bald Eagles have been sighted in the Park on occasion, particularly during severe winters. The northern eagle's main flyway is the upper Mississippi River; however, in severe winters when waters freeze over, they go in search of open water off the Mississippi. The water below Starved Rock Dam does not freeze over because of the turbulence, and can be a good place for eagles to catch one of their main foods, fish.

The bald eagle's head feathers and tail feathers turn white when the birds reach 4 - 5 years of age and are mature enough to breed. The adult wingspan is 6 - 7.5 feet, and average weight is 12 pounds. The females are larger than the males. Eagles mate for life and return to the same nest yearly. Some nests or *eyries* may weigh up to 4000 lbs. and may be 6 feet deep and 10 feet across. Two eggs are generally laid but many times only the dominant chick survives.

The bald eagle is a threatened species. Loss of habitat and the use of DDT and other pesticides is largely responsible. DDT was once commonly used on crops; it eventually drained into many streams and rivers in the Mississippi Basin and other major river systems throughout the United States. The fish were eaten by eagles, the chemical affected the shells of the eagles' eggs. Thousands of eggs did not hatch over the years, and the bald eagle numbers were dangerously reduced. With the ban of DDT and more concern for our national symbol by the federal government and private citizens, the eagle is making a slow comeback.

### MOUNTED HORSE PATROL

The Department of Natural Resources instituted horse patrols in state parks in the summer of 1981. The patrol affords the park staff better access and mobility to the trails and saves gas by not using park vehicles.

The mounted rangers on horseback have many functions which include: patrolling trails and answering questions about trails, horses, and general park information. They also have portable radios to contact the park office in case of emergency. When you see a ranger on horseback feel free to stop and ask them about their horses or other questions you may have. Since the horse patrol program was initiated in 1981, accidents have been reduced significantly at Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks.

In the winter of 1682 - 83, LaSalle and his men constructed Fort St. Louis on top of Starved Rock. The fort commanded a strategic position on the Illinois River and offered protection to the Illinois people of the area from the dreaded Iroquois. The Iroquois hated the French for their intrusion on the land and wanted the Illinois farmland. Many battles occurred during the next 20 years.

In the intervening years a very successful trade flourished between the French and the Illinois. There was an abundant supply of wildlife in the area including beaver. There was a great demand for beaver fur in Europe. Beaver hats and coats were in high fashion. The Native Americans would trap and trade beaver pelts for French trade goods such as beads, blankets, tools and cloth. The alliance grew between the French and the Illinois while the French manned the Fort during the 1680's and 90's. LaSalle seldom stayed in one spot very long. He went in search of the Mississippi Delta from the Gulf coast. He overshot the Delta. He and his party ended up along the Texas coast. LaSalle was murdered in 1687 by members of his own disgruntled party. Tonti went to the Peoria area in 1692 and built a fort at the Village of Pimitoui or Peoria.

In 1702 royal proclamation ordered Fort St. Louis to be abandoned and trading rights suspended. Both the French and Native American populations moved down into the lower Illinois River and into the Mississippi, eventually settling at the new posts of Cahokia and Kaskaskia. Fort St. Louis was used as a stopover place for hunters and trappers and reportedly dismantled in the 1720's.

Tonti may have died in 1704 from yellow fever after he traveled south to join the Governor of the French Colony of Louisiana at Old Biloxi. Another account says he was brought back to the old fort in 1718 by a faithful Native American companion to die. Supposedly before Tonti died, he buried his fortune of gold which he had accumulated over the years. He gave a map of its location to a priest but the priest drowned in the river. The map of the gold has never been found.

### PLUM and LEOPOLD ISLANDS

Leopold Island is the small island just below the dam and is owned by the Federal Government. Plum Island is just down river from Leopold Island and contains 23 acres. It is privately owned as are many islands in the Illinois River.

Up to 1975 there was an airstrip on Plum Island where small planes would take off from and give park visitors a short ride directly over the park. This private concession also had a cable car ride from the park to the island. The red structure on Plum Island is what remains of this

operations and the area's history. From the observation deck, you can view the working lock

### THE ILLINOIS RIVER AND THE ILLINOIS WATERWAY

The Illinois River is formed at the junction of the Kankakee and Des Plaines Rivers. It flows 272 miles through north central Illinois where it joins the Mississippi at Grafton, IL. Before 1933 when the Illinois Waterway Lock and Dam system was opened by the federal government, navigation on the River was extremely difficult. An average water depth of 18" combines with many sets of rapids and a river drop of 140 feet from Lake Michigan to Starved Rock made the 102 mile trip take 10-23 days during the 1700's and early 1800's. The Illinois River was directly connected to Lake Michigan in 1848 by the I & M Canal, which was replaced in 1900 by the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal. Seven locks and dams, which still exist today, were eventually completed in 1939 to make the river navigable. An 8<sup>th</sup> lock and dam, the Thomas J. O'Brien, was completed in 1960 on the Calumet River as a part of the Calumet-SAG navigation Project. It prevents reversals of flow into Lake Michigan and permits control of water levels west of the lock. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains the channel 200 feet wide and 9 feet deep along the 333 mile length of the waterway.

The Starved Rock Dam, completed in 1933, spans the river 1300 feet with a typical difference of 18.7 feet from the upriver water level to that below the dam. The lock across the river is 110 feet wide and 600 feet long, capable of handling eight barges and a towboat. Each barge can carry the equivalent of 60 semitrailer truck loads. Over 45 million tons of coal, gravel, silica sand, soybeans, grain, fertilizers, petroleum, iron products, and chemicals are locked through here each year. There is no charge to lock through on the Illinois Waterway. This goes back to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 that stated that all federal waterways shall be free.

Note the brown building to the left of the red and white tower. This is the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center which has many interesting displays on the operation of the Lock and Dam, history of the area, along with an observation deck overlooking the lock.

### THE ILLINOIS MICHIGAN CANAL

The Illinois River was difficult to navigate and for this reason the Illinois and Michigan Canal was built between 1836 and 1848 at a cost of \$9.5 million. It connected Lake Michigan via the Chicago River with the Illinois River to LaSalle. It followed the bed of a river that is thought to have flowed down the same route 8000 years ago. The canal was 96 miles long, 6 feet deep, 60 feet wide and had a series of 15 locks each 110 feet long and 18 feet wide. The towpath, a trail

## LOCAL GEOLOGY

This 80 foot deep canyon and numerous other canyons that are prominent features of this park were carved in the bedrock by water as upland streams drained into the Illinois River.

About 16,000 years ago, a catastrophic flood, known as the Kankakee Torrent, surged through this region as water from melted glaciers were released. When the flood receded, much of the landscape had been scoured down, exposing the bedrock of St. Peter Sandstone, including Starved Rock. Five miles east of here the same stone is exposed at Buffalo Rock State Park. To the west, however, beyond Split Rock, the bedrock is buried 1,000 feet below the surface.

St. Peter Sandstone is used to make a variety of glass products, such as bottles and car windows. For this reason, there are several glass factories located east of Starved Rock.

## MINING

The barren hills across the river are those left by the mining companies. Coal was mined extensively in LaSalle County. Production of the "Burning Rock" started in the early 1800's and peaked when the railroads came to the area. As late as 1924, there were 35 mines still operating in LaSalle County. Because the two foot thick veins of coal were located only 20-25 feet below the surface, strip-mining was used. The mid-forties saw the supply of coal exhausted. Now there are federal laws about strip-mined land that we must balance against our need for coal as a source of energy.

## WHY THE FENCE

The railings and decks that surround Wildcat Canyon were constructed in November 1981 for safety reasons. Five people died from falls in this canyon from 1978-1980. By constructing this fence, it is hoped to alert hikers of the danger that exists in getting too close to the edge.

Anytime a hiker leaves the main trail that is marked by the colored dots on trees, his life can become in jeopardy.

Erosion is a major problem in the park due to the soft sandstone. To preserve the sandstone and to provide safety to the visiting public, no climbing is allowed. Please stay on the marked trails.

## LOCK AND DAM

The Starved Rock Lock and Dam is part of a "water stairway" that connects Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. In 1933, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a system of seven locks, called the Illinois Waterway, to make the shallow Illinois River usable for commerce.

Before the Illinois Waterway, boats moved through the narrow I & M Canal located to the north of the river. Its locks could only hold a single barge or boat at one time. Today's locks are capable of handling eight barges and a towboat. More than 45 million tons of coal gravel, silica, soybeans, grain, fertilizers, petroleum, iron products and chemicals are locked through each year.

The Illinois Waterway Visitor Center across the river has displays about lock and dam

for the animals that pulled the packet boats, extended 90 feet from each bank. Passengers paid 6 cents per mile to make the 22 hour journey from Chicago to LaSalle. The boats also carried tons of lumber, pork, wheat, coal, machinery and was responsible for the growth of Chicago and many other cities along its route such as Joliet, Morris, Ottawa, and LaSalle-Peru.

From LaSalle to the Mississippi River, the Illinois River had a minimum depth of 2 feet which in most cases was sufficient for navigation; wooden locks and dams were constructed down river in the 1870's. The canal was an immediate success and through its toll charges and leasing of unused land was also a financial success. Six years after opening the canal, the Rock Island Railroad was competing for the freight traffic. In 1860 the city of Chicago deepened the canal so it could flush the Chicago River. In 1892 construction was begun on the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal. By the late 1800's the canal was heavily polluted.

By 1905 the I & M Canal was becoming a remnant of a by-gone era, although some use was made out of it until the early 1930's.

In 1974 the canal was transferred to the Department of Natural Resources for the development of a recreational area to be used for hiking, bicycling, canoeing, picnicking, fishing and snowmobiling.

The Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor was established in 1984 when Congress enacted legislation that recognized the area's unique contributions to the nation's development. The 1984 law specified that the corridor's cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and economic resources will be retained, enhanced and interpreted for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations.

#### STATE ACQUIRES ZIMMERMAN SITE

One of the state's most important archaeological areas- the Zimmerman Site near Utica-has been acquired by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA).

The State of Illinois paid \$1.03 million for the 134 acre site, including all structures on the property. Condemnation proceedings for the property were scheduled in July after IHPA and The Landings Inc., which had planned to develop housing units on the site, had been unable to agree on a purchase price since talks first began in 1987. The funding to purchase the property was appropriated by the legislature.

The Zimmerman Site, named for the owner of the property when artifacts were first found there in 1947, preserves the remains of Native American settlements dating from approximately 800 A.D. to 1750 A.D. It was there in August, 1673 that Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet

first made contact with the Kaskaskia people who inhabited the area, opening the territory for European trade and exploration. The Kaskaskia were part of the Illiniwek Native American Confederacy, known to the French explorers as "Illinois".

The French called the settlement "The Grand Village of the Illinois". In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century nearly nine hundred residents resided in four hundred cabins spread along a two-mile stretch of the north bank of the Illinois River. Traders from the north paddled down the river to barter with the Native Americans. Father Marquette established the Mission of the Immaculate Conception there in 1675.

French influence on the Illiniwek culture is apparent in the archaeological record. The Illiniwek gradually came to use more European tools and utensils and were slowly drawn from hunting to a subsistence based on agriculture and raising chickens and pigs. Artifacts recovered from that period include pieces of brass kettles, axes, knives, awls, a French compass, a spiked tomahawk, and a unique auger tool.

Just seven years after Marquette and Jolliet's famous visit, The Iroquois attacked the village and drove out the Illiniwek, who moved to the Peoria vicinity and later settled what is now Kaskaskia in southern Illinois. Illiniwek succumbed to disease and dispersion and the tribe virtually ceased to exist by the mid-1700s.

Artifacts gathered at the Zimmerman Site range from two hundred to eleven hundred years old. Together with historical accounts, Archaeologists have pieced together a picture of Native American life in Illinois both before and after contact with Europeans. The site includes evidence of numerous Native Americans structures, burials, various types of pits and sweat lodges. Artifacts found there include European trade goods; tools and ornaments made of bone, antlers, shells, and stone; pottery; and remains of plants and animals.

The site, comprised mostly of farmland and riverbank will be maintained by the IHPA Further excavations will be undertaken.

(The above article comes from *Historic Illinois, Vol. 14, No. 4, Dec. 1991*)

#### EUROPEANS' TALES OF THE TATTOOED ILLINIWEK

-K.O.Dawes-

A tantalizing glimpse of the Zimmerman site is in the 1690 writings of *Sieur Deliette*, one of the builders of Fort St. Louis on Starved Rock:

*"The Illinois country is undeniable the most beautiful that is known anywhere between the mouth of the St. Lawrence River and that of the Mississippi, which are a thousand leagues apart...."*

*"You find marshes, which in the autumn and spring are full of bustards (turkey vultures), swans, ducks, cranes and teals...further on are the hills covered with wood...from the edge of which are seen prairies of extraordinary extent."*

Here's Deliette's account of an annual Illiniwek bison hunt:

*"The Native Americans started out in two bands, running always at a trot. When they were about a quarter of a league from the animals, they ran at full speed and ...shot off an extraordinary number of arrows. They pursued the rest in such a manner that they were drifting toward us.*

*"As for me, I did not shoot. Their appearance filled me with terror, which set all the savages laughing, at which I was not a little mortified. It is certain those animals were frightful looking and usually terrify people who have never seen them."*

Deliette also said the Illiniwek were tattooed "behind from the shoulders to the heels, and as soon as they have reached the age of 25, on the front of the stomach, the sides and the upper arms."

Jesuit missionary Father Rasle also wrote in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century:

*"A cloak of dressed skin is worn in the summertime, and in the winter season, a dressed skin with the hair left on that they may keep warm. They adorn the head with feathers of many colors, of which they make garlands and crowns which they arrange very becomingly; above all they are careful to paint the face with different colors.*

*Another missionary, Father Allouez, noted that besides bison "they live on Indian corn and other fruits of the Earth, which they cultivate...They eat 14 kinds of roots...They gather from trees and plants 42 different kinds of fruit, all of which are excellent; and catch 25 sorts of fish-among them eel."*



## ST. PETER SANDSTONE

It is made up of pure quality sand of fine medium size. The rock is easily crumbled in the hand because there is little cement between the particles to hold them together. Exposed surfaces of the rock appear to be red in color because of the iron particles which have been concentrated on the surface due to evaporation and leaching.

## OUTCROPS

Rock strata which is exposed at the surface is called an outcrop. Wind, rain, plants and animals all combine in a process called weathering which breaks down the rocks.

The particles of which a rock consists are held together by a mineral precipitant called cement. This cement is usually either silica, calcic or iron. Not all parts of the rock contain equal amounts of cement thus some are more firmly cemented than others. Because of this, the outcrop is not uniform. The weaker parts break away more easily. This is called differential weathering.

It is this differential weathering that maintains the vertical walled canyons. The upper part of the formations are more firmly cemented than the lower part thus the upper part shields the lower part from rapid decay. If it did not, the sandstone would become a sand hill.

## STRUCTURE

The layers of the St. Peter Sandstone appear to be horizontal, but they are actually dipping slightly toward the east. The rocks at Starved Rock State Park form the east limb of an asymmetrical anticline called the LaSalle Anticline. An anticline is rock strata bent upward due to folding as in the form of an arch.

## ROCKS

All rocks found at Starved Rock are Sedimentary rocks. Sedimentary rock is formed from broken bits of pre-existing rocks. Most of the rocks were formed along the bottom of a sea which existed in Illinois about 460 million years ago, during a time period called Ordovician age or the Pennsylvania Age.

## FORMATIONS

Formations are successive units of rock that have some degree of uniformity or be characterized by distinctive rock features. The dominant rock formation at Starved Rock is St. Peter Sandstone which is named for the St. Peter River in Minnesota, now called the Minnesota River. A formation can be divided into members. A member is defined as a persistent subdivision of a formation that can be distinguished from adjacent parts of the formation. The St. Peter Sandstone is subdivided into the Kress, Tonti, and Starved Rock Members.

The Kress Member appears as layers of sheet green and white shale, white claystone. Sandstone and conglomerate is found in Potawatomie Canyon in the nature preserve.

The Tonti Member is fine grained sandstone. It can be viewed at the lower ledge about

The Tonti Member is fine grained sandstone. It can be viewed at the lower ledge about the river at Starved Rock.

The Starved Rock Member is made of coarser sand than the Tonti Member. All of Lover's Leap and all of Starved Rock, except the lower most 20 feet are made of Starved Rock Member.

### GLACIERS

Within recent geological time Starved Rock State Park was once covered with 3000-5000 feet of glacial ice. This ice is part of the continental glacier which invaded this region several times in the past 700,000 years. The glaciers which covered this region has their center of accumulation east and west of Hudson Bay. Maximum thickness of this glacier has been estimated at up to two miles thick.

Glacial ice can only move forward, never backward. When a glacier is said to be retreating, it is actually melting faster than it is moving forward. If the ice moves forwards faster than it melts, it is said to be advancing. If it melts at about the same rate as it is moving forward then it appears to be stagnant. The forward motion of the ice has stopped.

As glacial ice can only move forward, it picks up rocks and carries them in the ice. When the ice melts, these rock particles are dropped at the point of melting. All dropped rock material is called drift. Drift found at the point of melting is called till. Till is unsorted glacial drift.

When the glacier is stagnant, the drift accumulates into a pile called an end moraine. After the glacier has retreated, it leaves a range of irregular hills which are the end moraines.

The melt waters of the glacier were so great that it would accumulate behind the moraines and form vast lakes. The streams that drain these lakes were gigantic compared to today's streams. The Illinois Valley was formed by one of these streams.

### PRE-GLACIAL HISTORY

600 million years ago Northern Illinois was part of a broad upland that was undergoing extensive erosion. The erosion wore the land down to near sea level. Erosion that forms a near-sea level surface is called a peneplain. This peneplain was submerged several times by sea water and several layers of sediment were laid on the surface.

### GLACIAL HISTORY

Prior to Pleistocene continental glaciation, the Starved Rock area was part of a large plain. The drainage was totally different from today's drainage system. There was a major north-south river location about 30 miles west of Starved Rock. There was also a major east-west river about 90 miles south of the Rock. The north-south river was the predecessor to the Mississippi River and the east-west river was one of its tributaries.

During the Kansan ice age, many of the pre-glacial stream were blocked off and their water were diverted elsewhere. The river Ticona, which was located about 6 miles south of starved rock is an example of such a stream.

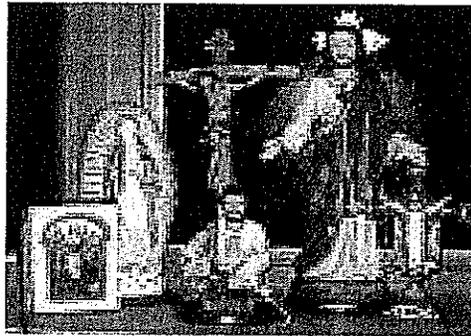
## WHO WERE THE KASKASKIA?



*Portrait of the Nation of the Kaskaskia.*

The Kaskaskia were part of a loose confederation of tribes grouped under the name Illiniwek (from *illini*: meaning man *iw*: is *ek*: gives plural ending...TRANSLATION: "The Men") a term which the French changed to "Illinois". Other Tribes that made up the Illiniwek were the Cahokia, Michigamea, Moingwena, Peoria, and Tamaroa. The confederacy occupied southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois and parts of Iowa. Originally a single tribe, it evolved into bands which then assumed a single tribe status. Illini Indians spoke an Algonquian language very similar to the Miami tongue and closely related with other Algonquian languages such as Ojibway, Potawatomi, and Kickapoo, to mention a few.

## WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF CATHOLICISM IN THE FRENCH COMMUNITY?



On the frontier Catholicism was seen as a civilizing and stabilizing force. In many ways, the church played a pivotal role in people's lives. Important life events, such as birth, marriage, and death had a corresponding church ceremony. Priests were often seen as the upholder of morality and lawful behavior. All of the villages along the upper reaches of the Mississippi had a church by the mid 1700's. Built as a place for people to gather, the churches were rugged structures and the largest buildings outside the fort.



## HOW WERE INDIAN LIFEWAYS THREATENED BY THE FRENCH?

As with Marie Roussea, some native Americans gave up their belief system for Christianity. This is only one of the ways in which the French came to dominate the Illinois Indians.

Between 1700 and 1763, the number of Illinois Indians dropped from about 6,000 to 2,000 persons. This dramatic decline in the Illinois Indian population can be attributed to their exposure to

European diseases (against which the Indians had no immunity), abuse of alcohol (which was first introduced by the French), and the constant raiding and warfare waged upon the Illinois by other Indian tribes who were anti-French. While the Illinois population declined, the French population grew.

Moreover, the French dominated the Illinois through certain technological advancements: guns, canyons, metallurgy, farming techniques and implements, a written language and means of mass-producing that language- the printing press.

## French Frontier Time Line 1673-1785

1673	Father Marquette and Louis Joliet explored the Illinois country.
1675	Marquette founded Jesuit mission with Kaskaskia Indians near Starved Rock.
1680	LaSalle built Fort Creve Coeur near present day Peoria
1691	Starved Rock mission moved to Peoria area and some French settlers collected around the mission and the fort.
1699	Priests of the Seminary of Foreign Missions established a mission with the Tamaroa Indians at Cahokia.
1700-1703	Jesuits moved mission from Peoria to the Mississippi Valley, settling briefly at Des Peres River and then founding the mouth of the Kaskaskia River.
1718	New Orleans was founded. Governance of Illinois country was transferred from Canada to New Orleans and assigned to the French Company of the Indies, a coal-chartered enterprise.
1719-1721	First Fort de Chartres was built of palisades and center of French colonial government in Illinois was established there.
1722	Company of the Indies awarded first land grants to prominent people.
1723	Philippe Renaut established an active lead-mining operation on the west side of the Mississippi and founded St. Philippe.
1730	French and Indian allies attacked the Fox Indians who threatened the French in central Illinois.
1731	Illinois became a royal province governed directly by the French crown.
1732	Village of Prairie du Rocher emerged.
1735	Population pressure in Cahokia led over half the Cahokia Indians to move ten miles to the North. Chapel was built on Monks Mound.
1750	St. Genevieve was established on the west side of the Mississippi River by settlers from Kaskaskia and Cahokia

1763	Jesuits in Illinois received word that their religious order had been disbanded by the French crown. They were expelled from Illinois. Fearing the same persecution the Seminarian priest at Cahokia sold the mission there and fled. The French and Indian war ended. Illinois country ceded to Great Britain.
1764	Settlement of St. Louis began on west side of Mississippi River.
1765	British slicers took over Fort de Chartes and many French families chose to move to the Spanish (Catholic) controlled area west of the Mississippi rather than live under English (Protestant) rule.
1778	George Rogers Clark and his American troops arrived to claim the Illinois country which became a county of Virginia.
1779	First few American settlers came to the Illinois country.
1784	Virginia ceded Illinois to the U.S. government.
1785	As part of the Northwest Territory Illinois was to be surveyed and divided into townships with land set aside from support of public schools. Slavery was abolished by law but persisted in the region.