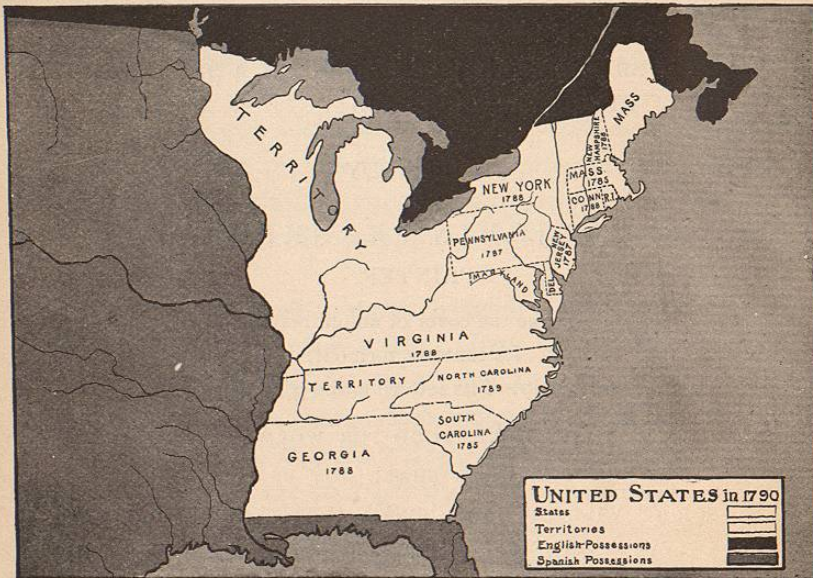
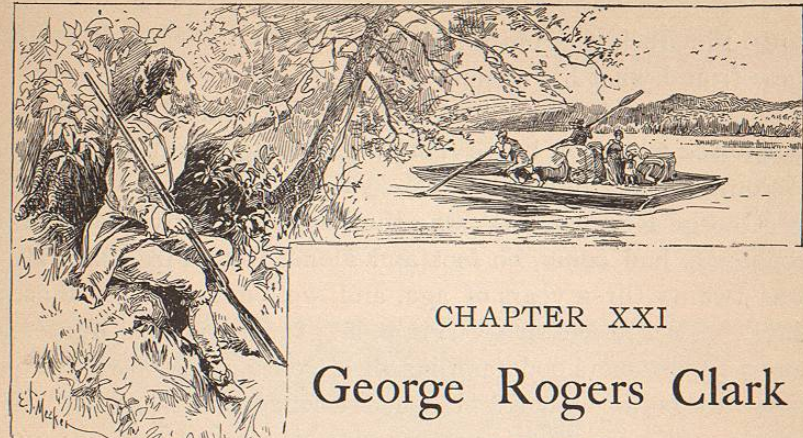


State some of the changes in American life that Franklin saw.
 Tell the story of the book and its value to Franklin.
 Give an account of "Poor Richard's Almanac."
 State some of the ways in which Franklin served his countrymen.
 Tell what Franklin had to do with the Stamp Act; with the Declaration of Independence; with the Treaty of Peace; with the Constitution of the United States.

Why do you suppose young Benjamin disliked the candle business? What different things are mentioned that helped Franklin to become a writer? Do you understand why Franklin set up those particular sentences for the London printer? What do we mean by "homely" maxims? Why should we "handle our tools without mittens"? How do "silks and satins put out the kitchen fire"? Who passed the Stamp Act and how did Franklin try to prevent its passage? What did Franklin do in France for the United States? Why was Franklin one of the greatest men of his age?



THE YOUNG NATION AT ITS START.



CLARK.

CHAPTER XXI

George Rogers Clark

1752-1818

A FEW days after General Washington and his little patriotic army entered Boston, in the spring of 1776, a young boy was hurriedly walking along a trail in the woods of what is now Kentucky. As he passed a spring, bubbling up by the side of the path, he saw a wild duck drinking the cool waters. Like every pioneer boy, he was an expert shot, and in a few moments the duck was roasting over a fire which the boy had kindled.

Suddenly the youth was startled by the sound of a step; but it was a firm tread, not the stealthy glide of an Indian moccasin. Looking up, he saw a young, soldierly appearing man approaching; a man "square-built, thick-set, with high, broad forehead, and sandy hair." The newcomer briskly called out:

"How do you do, my little fellow? What is your name? Ar'n't you afraid of being in the woods by yourself?"

The voice of the stranger was pleasing and cordial. The boy felt no fear of him, and invited him to taste the duck. The man was evidently hungry, for he continued to taste

until the duck was entirely eaten. Then the boy asked his new friend what his name was.

"My name is Clark," was the answer, "and I have come out to see what you brave fellows are doing, and to help you if you need any help."

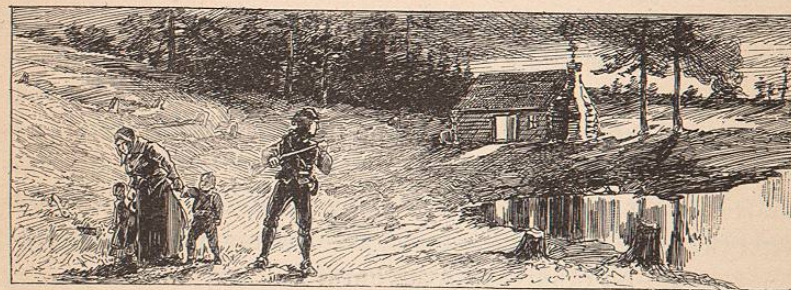
George Rogers Clark, who thus suddenly arrived at Harrodsburg, had come, on foot and alone, from Virginia. He was twenty-three years of age, and well educated for those days. Born in western Virginia, he grew up a great hunter; he was from boyhood familiar with frontier life, always exposed to Indian attack. He had learned surveying in his youth, and, armed with axe and rifle, chain and compass, he had become so used to tramping through the wilderness and the forests that he dared to travel to Kentucky without companions.

Such a life as it was in Kentucky in those days! Ordinarily the families moved into the new country in groups. First they built a stockade fort for common use. This was a square piece of land, surrounded by a palisade or wall of upright logs. At the corners were strong blockhouses, also made of logs, and fitted with portholes, through which guns could be fired. Within this palisade were cabins, so built that the back of the cabin was a portion of the palisade itself. Entrance to this fort was by a great gate, which was made as firm as possible and provided with strong bars to keep it shut against the most violent attack.

The families also had their own cabins upon the farms or "clearings" at greater or less distances from the fort. They came to the fort only when there was war with the Indians or when they feared an attack. Those days of anxiety and constant fear can hardly be understood by us.

At any time the word of warning might come. Often it

came at night. Then the family, quietly sleeping in their little cabins, far removed perhaps from any neighbor, would hear a tapping at the door. Instantly all the older people would be awake, for they were always watchful and could easily be aroused by the slightest sound. In a moment every one would be in motion. The father would seize his gun and ammunition. The mother would wake and dress the



A MIDNIGHT ESCAPE TO THE FORT.

children. The older ones would carry the younger, perhaps, or at least some household article, and, with as little delay as possible, the house would be deserted.

A light they did not dare to have. Not a sound was it safe to make. The greatest care was used not to waken the baby, who would be sure to cry. To the other children, the word *Indian* was enough to prevent a whisper. Thus the family hurried along the trail to the fort. The men then spent the rest of the night in making every preparation for the expected attack. If it did not come, all waited through the day in readiness for the dreaded warwhoop the following night.

Perhaps the Indians did not come; then the families would return home in a day or two, only to be ready again for the

next alarm. Perhaps they would go too soon; perhaps the message would not arrive in time. Then the result was too terrible almost for thought.

Such was life in Kentucky and Tennessee at the beginning of the Revolution. Such was life in other new territories and States at a later day. Nevertheless, the hardy pioneers continued to press forward. Taking their lives in their hands, they continually moved westward, leaving the more settled regions behind them. Many men seemed to be unable to live near their fellow-men; the uninhabited wilderness alone pleased them. Like the father of Kit Carson, they would move farther into the forests because neighbors had come within three miles of them. Others would continue in their new home and see the little fort become a village, the village become a town, and the town become a city. They would let other hardy adventurers carry the advancing settlements farther west.

When Wolfe won the battle of Quebec and laid down his life, the English settlers all lived east of the Alleghany Mountains. By the treaty with France (1763), however, all the region between the mountains and the Mississippi River had been ceded to Great Britain. When the Revolution began, a few pioneers had crossed the mountains and had settled in what is now Kentucky and Tennessee. North of the Ohio no English settlements had been begun, though some traders were traveling through this great Northwest, buying furs of the Indians.

The French had built a few forts to hold this land, in the years between La Salle and Wolfe. These the British government now held. The most important were Detroit, now in Michigan; Kaskaskia, near the Mississippi River, on the western side of the Illinois; and Vincennes, on the Wabash.

in southwestern Indiana. It was very important for the final success of the United States that we should hold all this western territory, rather than that any foreign power should possess it.

Neither Congress nor Washington's army paid any attention to this territory during the entire war. Congress did not appreciate its value, and the army had all that it could attend to near the coast. One man, and one only, seemed to realize how important the region would be to the United States, and also that it could be obtained in spite of the neglect of Congress.

A year after Clark arrived in Kentucky he was carefully making plans to capture the whole of the great Northwest. Accordingly, he sent scouts into the Illinois region, who brought back to him reports concerning the fort at Kaskaskia and its condition. Then he hastened to Virginia to seek assistance from the State government. He went to Virginia, because that colony had always claimed this western territory as a part of the grant to Virginia.

Leaving Harrodsburg in October (1777), Clark started on foot, and in a month, after travelling six hundred and twenty miles, he reached his father's house. Resting here but a day, he hastened on to Williamsburg, where he was delighted to hear the news of the surrender of Burgoyne.

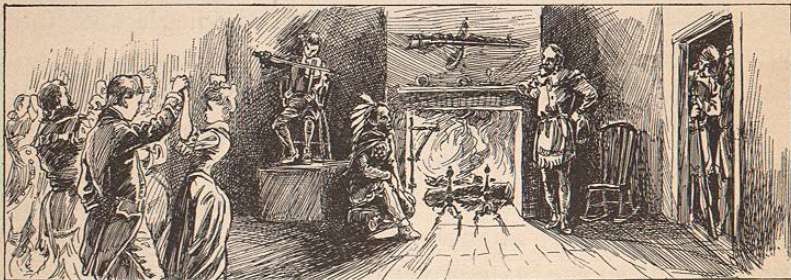
Clark at once laid his plans before Patrick Henry, the governor of the State. Henry was just the man to approve the daring scheme, and entered into it at once. He appointed Clark colonel, gave him permission to raise seven companies of militia, loaned him twelve hundred pounds, and gave him an order for supplies to be obtained at Pittsburg.

Clark raised a force of a hundred and fifty men, and, with his supplies, left Pittsburg the next May. With him went a

number of families for whom the little band acted as an escort. The party floated down the Ohio River, a distance of hundreds of miles, nearly all the way through an unbroken forest and past wild lands with no white inhabitants.

They reached the Falls of the Ohio, where Clark left the settlers, thereby laying the foundations of Louisville.

The little army took the boats again and floated farther down the Ohio. Landing opposite the mouth of the Ten-



CLARK AT THE BRITISH DANCE.

nessee River, concealing the boats in a small creek, and resting but a single night, as he desired to surprise the fort, Clark struck out rapidly across the hills toward Kaskaskia.

Arriving near the fort on the evening of the fourth of July (1778), Clark made preparation for the attack. Dividing his force into two divisions, he spread one out around the town and led the other directly to the walls of the fort.

The surprise was complete. Within, a dance was in progress, and even the sentinels had left their posts. Clark placed his men at the entrance; then he quietly entered a rear gate and the dance-hall itself. There he stood, silently leaning against a doorpost, watching the dancers.

Most of the Indians who usually hung around the fort

were at the time on a hunting expedition, but one of them had not gone; he lay upon the floor near the entrance. No one else noticed the newcomer; but the Indian gazed earnestly at him, and then sprang to his feet with a war-whoop.

The dance ceased; all was confusion. But Clark quietly told them to continue. He added, however: "You are now dancing under Virginia, and not under Great Britain." The men then burst in, the commandant, Rocheblave, was seized, and Kaskaskia changed hands without bloodshed. The people were mainly French, and were not unwilling to take the oath of allegiance to the United States.

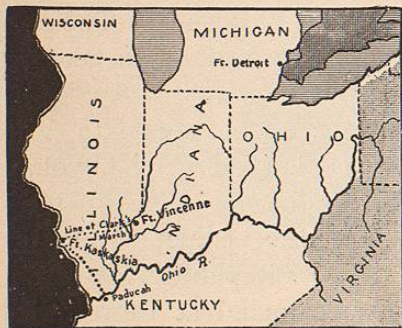
The French priest at Kaskaskia offered to go to Vincennes and persuade the French people there to yield voluntarily to the United States. In this he was successful; the Stars and Stripes were hoisted, and the people met in the church and swore allegiance to the new Republic. Governor Hamilton, the English officer in command at Detroit, led out a large force and retook Vincennes without opposition. He had five hundred men with him, while Clark had but one hundred at this time at Kaskaskia. The latter did not dare make an attack, and winter found them both still waiting for the next move.

Little by little, however, Hamilton's force grew smaller, until at the end of January (1779) Clark learned that the British commander had but eighty men at the fort. He decided upon an immediate attack. Early in February Clark set out from Kaskaskia with one hundred and seventy men. The distance to Vincennes was over two hundred miles, across a country covered with water. The ice in the rivers had melted and freshets had overflowed the land.

The men, with little food, suffering severely from hunger,

were obliged to wade for miles through water breast deep, with floating ice all around them. That was a terrible march. The sufferings of the men cannot be told. After sixteen days of such travelling, the little army reached Vincennes, surprised the town, and laid siege to the fort. The next day Hamilton and the garrison surrendered.

Thus Colonel Clark, with a few men, by his own bravery, his strong personal character, and his great military skill, in spite of untold obstacles and terrible sufferings, conquered the entire Northwest Territory. He obtained possession of all the important forts and settlements, and gave to the United States complete possession of the Ohio River and the eastern bank of the Mississippi as far south as the Florida boundary. When the treaty



THE OLD "NORTHWEST."

of peace was made with England (1783), the United States, after much discussion, finally secured this Western region, largely on the ground that Clark had conquered the territory and held military possession of it at the time the treaty was made.

Clark captured the country for Virginia and under the direction of the Virginia government. The assembly of that State thanked him and his officers and men "for their extraordinary resolution and perseverance, and for the important services which they had rendered their country." Afterward it granted two hundred acres of land to each of the soldiers.

Give an account of how Clark entered Kentucky.

Describe a frontier palisade.

Tell the story of an Indian alarm.

State the situation in the Western region at the beginning of the Revolution.

Tell the story of Clark's journey to Virginia; of his voyage down the Ohio; of his capture of Kaskaskia; of his march to Vincennes.

In what was Clark like Washington? Why was a light not permitted nor sound allowed, when the settlers were hastening to the fort? Do you know of any Western fort that is now a city? Why was possession of the Western region "necessary to the success of the United States"? Has it been of any advantage other than a military one? Was an escort needed by families who were moving west down the Ohio River? Why were the French settlers at Kaskaskia and Vincennes ready to take the oath of allegiance to the United States?



PIONEER FAMILIES PUSHING INTO THE NORTHWEST.