

Documents

Account Book of Francis Bosseron

Edited by JANET P. SHAW

Foreword

The Bosseron Account Book, printed below in the original French and in translation, owes its importance to the fact that it was kept by Francis Bosseron, a pioneer merchant and the Mayor of Vincennes, at intervals during the period from September, 1777, until January, 1782, while the forces of the British and Americans were struggling for possession of the town. It is the longest manuscript in the so-called Lasselle Collection of business and family papers, newspaper files, etc., belonging to the Lasselle and Bosseron families in pioneer times, which were gathered together by the late Charles Bosseron Lasselle, a grandson of Mayor Bosseron. The Collection was acquired by the Indiana State Library in 1908.

The chief value of the old Account Book lies naturally in the first-hand information it furnishes of conditions in Vincennes when the town was captured by the Americans, and the proofs it affords of the valuable assistance given to George Rogers Clark by Mayor Bosseron, timely and necessary aid that has never been generally recognized.

It is a very human document for it possesses the unique interest of revealing, often from day to day, the purposes and occupations of various people who are at present in the lime-light of history. With the help of a very little imagination, the student of the entries may see Captain Helm arriving in the town with almost no money and not long after, September 25th, beginning to requisition supplies for the garrison and comforts of various kinds for himself from the hospitable Mayor. All through the fall he is shown making friends with the neighboring tribes of Indians—with "Tobacco and his band", "the chief of the Pians", "the Loup chief", "the Ouyatanons", "the Outasias", "the Souteux", "the Coux savages", etc.—doubtless preparing the way for Colonel Clark to make treaties when he was free to leave the Illinois country.

In the same record may be found the facts in regard to the purchase of the historic flag of Vincennes and its maker, Madame Goderre, the "Betsey Ross of the West". It is shown here to have been a red and green pennant [*pavillon*] or company banner, presumably prepared for the volunteer company of which Mayor Bosseron was captain.

On December 17th, 1778, the day when the British army was reported to be "not three miles distant", the dauntless American obtained from his friend Bosseron, 241 pounds of beef and 150 pounds of powder, apparently in a last desperate effort to hold the fort against Hamilton and his army of Indians and Red Coats.

The Account Book is also of interest for the insight it gives into French pioneer book-keeping. All accounts are naturally recorded in French *livres*, *sous* [or *sols*], and *deniers*. The sign of the *livre* resembles a ditto mark. Spanish *piastres* and American dollars are also current coins and have the same value [five *livres*.] Individual accounts are usually labelled as due in pelts or *livres*, 12 *livres* in pelts being equal to 10 in specie in some of the business transactions recorded in Bosseron's various papers.

The text of the manuscript is reproduced here with as much accuracy as possible. The original is a thin ledger-shaped pamphlet, consisting of perhaps thirty pages, sewed together by hand and provided with a cover of brown wrapping paper. It is not possible to indicate the faded ink, the careless penmanship, the illegible and scratched out entries, the worn pages, etc. Capitals are scattered about with little regard for rule or uniformity. The spelling is, in many places, confusingly phonetic and often varies from line to line in other ways. However, in spite of all these confusing conditions, the book is surprisingly clear as a whole, and Bosseron shows himself to have been in many ways, a man of ability and one of much better education than most of the people of the time.

The account book contains five records which are all more or less distinct:

1. Bosseron's Day Book from March 9th, 1779, to the following July. This was a time of unusual prosperity in the village as a result of the payment of salaries and other bills by the British officers before their departure as prisoners of war. A statement of the division of the stores captured with

the boats intended for Hamilton, etc. (First fourteen pages of the Account Book.)

2. A memorandum of bills of exchange accepted by Bosseron from the Americans in return for supplies, loans, services to the army, etc. (Fifteenth page.)

3. One page of the British account—evidently incomplete. (Sixteenth page.)

4. The personal account of Captain Helm. (Seventeenth and eighteenth pages.)

5. An itemized bill for supplies furnished Helm for the volunteer garrison of the Fort from September 25th, 1778, until the coming of the British on December 17th. (Nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first pages.)

[ACCOUNT BOOK OF FRANCIS BOSSERON]

[First page]¹

Le 9 Mars² [1779] fort henry Patrik³

Doit M. LaSelle⁴ 1 lre ¼ sucre a 7 s [sous] En argen 10 s[sous]

Doit M. Legras ⁵	Pelteris
1. pre Soulier aho ⁶	18" [livres]
1. pre Soulier a garcon	15
3. an [illegible] a 18	54
1. an ½ ditto a Bienvenir ⁷	27
1. plaque fusil qe Bienvenir	12 [livres]
	10 [sous]
M. hunault - pre Soulier a fe	15"
M. Serrat 1 pre ditto a ho	15
Millet Cardinal 2 pre ditto a garcon	30
Capne helm 1 pre Soulier a ho	18"
1 Canif ⁸	3
Capne William 1 pre Soulier a ho	18"
Mr Vaudry ⁹ 3 an [meant for aune] 18"	54"
Canady 1. Canif	3
Chorette 1. Canif	3

¹ The pages in the original Account Book have no numbers.

² The date, March 9, indicates that this part of the Account Book deals with the period immediately following the departure of the English when bills of various kinds had been settled with the townspeople. The cargoes of the British boats captured by the Americans, were also divided among the soldiers and Creoles and add d to the unusual prosperity. The first fourteen pages of the Account Book evidently served as Bosseron's day book. The records in the back of the book are tabulations copied from some notes. These are not printed as a part of the Account Book.

³ Notice the name, *fort henry Patrick*. It is called *fort Patrick* in most of the accounts. Bosseron seldom, if ever, uses a capital *F* or *H* in the book, even in writing his own name. It is possible that he never learned to capitalize these letters.

⁴ The Lasselle family was prominent in early Vincennes. Nicolas Lasselle was keeper of stores for Hamilton. See list of Hamilton's officers in *History of the Northwest Territory*, 1778-1783., and *Life of George Rogers Clark*, by W. H. English. Hyacinthe Lasselle married Bosseron's daughter, Julia, and was the father of Charles Bosseron Lasselle to whom we are indebted for the preservation of the Account Book.

The abbreviation *s* stands for *sou*, of which 20 made a *livre*; e.g., 12" 10s = 12 *livres* and 10 *sous*.

⁵ J. M. P. Legras is frequently mentioned in histories of the period for his services to Clark. He was appointed Military Commander of the fort and became one of the first judges of the Illinois county under Governor Todd.

[Miss Shaw has been long interested in the services of Francis Bosseron to the American cause in the West during the Revolutionary War. She has labored with the papers in the Lasselle collection in the Indiana State Library for the past two years, and now presents the Account Book in the original French and in translation, believing that all who are interested in the history of the Old Northwest will gather from the document the importance of the aid extended to Clark by Bosseron.—*Editor*]

[TRANSLATION OF THE
ACCOUNT BOOK OF FRANCIS BOSSERON]

[First page]

March 9 [1779] Fort Patrick Henry.

Debtor Mr. Lasselle—1¼ pounds of sugar at 7 <i>sous</i> in silver	10 <i>Sous</i>
Debtor Mr. Legras—	Pelts
1 pr shoes for men	18 <i>livres</i>
1 pr shoes for boys	15
3 ells [illegible] at 18 <i>livres</i>	54 <i>livres</i>
1½ ditto to Bienvenir	27
1 musket plate to Bienvenir	12 10
Mr. Hunault—1 pr shoes for women	15 <i>livres</i>
Mr. Serrat—1 pr ditto for men	15
Millet Cardinal—2 pr ditto for boys	30
Capt. Helm—1 pr shoes for men	18 <i>livres</i>
1 pen knife	3
Capt. Williams—1 pr shoes for men	18 <i>livres</i>
Mr. Vaudry—3 ells [illegible] at 18 <i>livres</i>	54 <i>livres</i>
Canady—1 pen knife	3
Chorette—1 pen knife	3

¹ *Tougas Lainé* may mean *Tougas lanier*, that is *Tougas*, the wool-worker. The name *Tougas* is probably a surname. *Joseph Tougas* was named as a land owner in 1783. Bosseron occasionally used the occupation as a part of a man's name.

⁶ 1 *pre Soulier aho, a homme*, "1 pair of men's shoes." See also below *soulier a fe*, "women's shoes," and *soulier a gracon*, "boy's shoes." These entries are confusing in the original *Mss.* as the abbreviations are little more than signs in Bosseron's hurried script.

⁷ *An* at the beginning of this line, is evidently the abbreviation for *aune*, the old French measure which corresponds to the English *ell*. The length is said to have varied in different localities, the Paris *aune* being 42.77 inches.

⁸ The purchase of pocket knives by Captain Helm is amusingly frequent. It is probable that he found them a convenient medium of exchange.

⁹ The names of more than one hundred and fifty individuals, groups, tribes of Indians, *coureurs des bois*, etc., are mentioned in the pages of the Account Book. It is probable that Bosseron had also numerous "cash" customers. It must be remembered, however, that the average pioneer household was almost self-supporting and only luxuries and manufactured goods which were imported from Detroit, were purchased.

A S Selin 1 Canif	3
Beaudoine Jean L'Ours 1 pre Soulier a fe	12
3 Canif 3"	9
W Montgomerie [Crossed out in the Account Book]	
valade 1 Canif	3
Roy Volontaire—1 pr Soulier a ho	18
Mr Legrand 1 pr Soulier a garcon	15
M Drouard 1 chapeau	20
Vaillette 1 chapeau fin	25
un chapeau	6
Doit Laselle 1 an ½ a 18"	27
3 an Cotton a 8"	24
Mr Chabert 3 an Cotton a 8"	24

[Second page]

1779 fort Patrik Le Mars 1779

	Pelteris
Doit Le petit Peltier payé a la fleur	12-5
Doit Durbois fils 1 cuilliere a pot	6"
1 grand Bassin	9
Doit Tougas Lainé 1 chapeau	15"
1 chapeau a son frere Le jeune	15
Dt Laganier par notre bon	6 pelteris
Doit Paulette gamelin 3 an Cotton a 8"	24"
— Ditto [9 Mars] —	
Doit M Drouard	
½ Drap	5"
2 an petite tavelle	10
Doit Bounaventure Dutremble	
1 grand Bassin	9"
Doit M Legras En pelteris	
6 Moule a chandelle a 3"	18"
1 couliere ap eau	6"
Doit annaris Carabinei pelteris	
2 Livres de thais Boué a 12	24"
10 petite Basin a 2"	20"
	Plts
Doit Roy Volontaire ¹⁰ 1 grand Bassin	9"
Doit Adhemar ¹¹ 4 an ½ cotton [crossed out in the Account Book]	
Doit Mourés Bastonés	Argent
2 onche de thais Boué ¹²	3"

¹⁰ Bosseron designates the men who joined the British while they were in Vincennes, as "volunteers."

¹¹ Adhemar St. Martin was Bosseron's agent (or partner) in Detroit, to whom he sent the furs he collected in Vincennes and received in exchange the manufactured articles listed in the Account Book. There are several letters from St. Martin in the Lasselle collection giving in detail the contents of the packages in certain consignments, the prices he paid for the articles in Detroit and occasionally those paid in France. Most of the items in the Account Book seem to have a standard price.

¹² *thais Boué*—*théBohea*, Chinese tea.

To S. Selin—1 pen knife	3
Beaudoine Jean L'Ours 1 pr shoes for women	12
3 pen knives at 3 <i>livres</i>	9
Valade—1 pen knife	3
Roy-volunteer—1 pr shoes for men	18
Mr. Legrand—1 pr shoes for boys	15
Mr. Drouard—1 hat	20
Vailette—1 fine hat	25
1 hat	6
Debtor Lasselle 1½ ells [illegible] at 18 <i>livres</i>	27
3 ells of cotton at 8 <i>livres</i>	24
Mr. Chabert—3 ells of cotton at 8 <i>livres</i>	24

[Second page]

1779 Fort Patrick March 9 1779

	Pelts	
Debtor Little Peltier—paid to LaFleur	12	5
Debtor Durbois, Jr.,—1 jar ladle	6	<i>livres</i>
1 large basin	9	
Debtor Tougas Lainé—1 hat	15	<i>livres</i>
1 hat for his brother, The Younger	15	
Debtor Laganier, by our check	6	pelts
Debtor Paulette Gamelin—3 ells cotton at 8 <i>livres</i> ..	24	<i>livres</i>
Ditto [March 9]		
Debtor Mr. Drouard		
½ yard of cloth	5	<i>livres</i>
2 ells of binding	10	<i>sous</i>
Debtor Bonaventure Du Tremble		
1 large basin	9	<i>livres</i>
Debtor Mr. Legras In pelts.		
6 candle molds at 3 <i>livres</i>	18	<i>livres</i>
1 water filter	6	<i>livres</i>
Debtor Annaris, the carabinier pelts		
2 pounds of Chinese tea at 12 <i>livres</i>	24	<i>livres</i>
10 small basins or cups at 2 <i>livres</i>	20	<i>livres</i>
	Pelts	
Debtor Roy, volunteer—1 large basin	9	<i>livres</i>
Debtor Moures [Morris] Bastones	Silver	
2 ounces of Chinese tea	3	<i>livres</i>

[Third page]

1779 fort Patrick Le 10 fevrier¹³

	Pelteris
Doit adhemar 5 lre sucre	
Doit Dolfin Volontaire 1 mouchoir	7"-10
3 an Cotton a 7"-10 s	22 -10
½ an d'indienne	4"
	Pelteris
Doit Rous Volontaire 1 an ½ de drapt a 15	16" -5
11 e [Fevrier]	
Doit Daunais Volontaire en argent	25
Ditto [11 e Fevrier]	
Doit Joseph Baron Volontaire	Pelteris
1 an ½ Drap fin a 15"	22" 10
1 an ½ Cotton a 7" 10	10" 10
3 Echevaux fit a 4 s	12
Doit adhemar Compté a hamelin	
La ganiere en argent ¹⁴	69" 15
	Pelteris
Doit Beaudouin Pavé a perrodats	13"
Avoir de chorette ¹⁵ par son voyage	
qu Le Roy miamis	51 pelteris
Avoir de germain Clement pour	
son voyage au mis que Le Roy	91 pelteris
Doit pierre godere	pelteris
3 livres de plom a 30 s	4" 10
Doit le Capne La Cavallerie	
1 mouchoir 15" en argent	
Paye a Goudon 25 ditto	

[Fourth page]

1779	fort Patrick	Le 11 mars
Doit Ouvreuillet Michel	argent	
1 Cappe Camelot fin ¹⁶	60"	
1 sac avec La garniture	120	
3 livres sucre a 4 s	32 s	
	ditto [11 Mars]	
Doit adhemar 5 verges de perss		
5 an ½ indienne a		
Avoir adhemar par Baulon ¹⁷	39" 15	
Doit Legras	En pelteris	
5 Livres de poudre a 5" ¹⁸	25	
1 Rouleaux Ruban	18	
1 carabine	120	
	12 [Mars]	
Avoir d'adhemar par Masnard	25" 10	

¹³ This page of the Account Book is out of place, chronologically. It belongs after the British account on the sixteenth page as the last date there is February 5th. Many of the items also concern the business transacted for the British army or with the French volunteers. A list of these volunteers may be found in W. H. English, *Conquest of the Northwest Territory*, Appendix.

¹⁴ This is a good sample of Bosseron's banking methods. Money paid or received is recorded like other commodities.

¹⁵ *Chorette* and *Germain Clement* are perhaps two of the *coureurs des bois* whose trips are charged against the British in the account on the sixteenth page for January 28th.

[Third page]

1779 Fort Patrick 10th of February

	Pelts	
Debtor Adhemar—5 pounds of sugar		
Debtor Dolfin, volunteer—1 handkerchief	7 livres-10s	
3 ells of cotton at 7 livres—10s	22	10
½ ell of calico	4 livres	
	Pelts	
Debtor Rous, volunteer 1½ ells of cloth at 15 L	16 livres	5
— 11th [Feb.] —		
Debtor Daunais, volunteer in silver	25	
— Ditto [Feb. 11] —		
Debtor Joseph Baron, volunteer		
1½ ells of fine cloth	22 livres-10	
1½ ells of cotton at 7 livres—10s	10 livres-10	
3 skeins of yarn at 4 s		12
Debtor Adhemar—account of Hamelin—		
[Paid to] Laganier in silver	69 livres-15	
	Pelts	
Debtor Beaudoin—Paid to Perrodut	13 livres	
Creditor to Chorette for his journey		
for the King to the Miamis	51 pelts	
Creditor to Germain Clement for		
his journey to the allies for the King	91 pelts	
Debtor Pierre Godere pelts		
3 pounds of lead at 3 s	4 livres-10	
Debtor the Captain of the Cavalry		
1 handkerchief	15 livres in silver	
Paid to Goudon	25 ditto	

[Fourth page]

1779 Fort Patrick 11th of March

	Silver	
Debtor Ouvreuillet Michel		
1 fine chamois skin cap	60 livres	
1 embroidered coat	120	
8 pounds of sugar at 4 s		32-s
— ditto [11th of March] —		
Debtor Adhemar—5 rods of dark blue cloth		
5½ ells of calico		
Creditor Adhemar by Baulon	39 livres-15	
Debtor Legras in pelts		
5 pounds of powder at 5 livres	25 livres	
1 piece of ribbon	18	
1 rifle	120	
— 12 [March] —		
Creditor Adhemar by Mesnard	25	10

¹⁶ Notice the luxurious cap and embroidered coat.¹⁷ Nippolite Baulon was an Indian interpreter.¹⁸ The price which Bosseron charged for powder was low compared with that in other places and was probably one reason that the possession of the western posts was important to the United States. He charges from 5 to 8 livres (\$1 to \$1.60) a pound. Clark paid \$2 a pound in Kaskaskia (English, *History of the Northwest Territory*). Oliver Pollock purchased ten thousand pounds for \$18,000 in New Orleans in April, 1776, for the use of the Colonial Army. See James, *George Rogers Clark*, p. 83.

Avoir de Charles guilbauht ¹⁹	
pour son voyage	100" en argent
Doit Charles Guilbauts par mon bon	15"
En argent	
Avoir de Joseph Dubé par pierre	21"
Ambleton en pelteris	
Doit Valé 1 an Cotton	8" pelteris
½ Drap fin	5
— 13 [Mars] —	
Doit Beaudouin volontaire	59 pelteris
Paye a M Ambleton	
Pour Ruban	45 argent
— 14 [Mars] —	
Doit pierre goderre 1 lre plomb	30 s

[Fifth page]

fort Patrick Le 14e mars

Avoir de Paul Gamelin ²⁰ par une lettre	
dechange du jour de hamilton	186" en argent
Avoir de M Lafoy pour reste de sa paye	
payé a M hay ²¹	120 En argent
Avoir de nicolas LaSelle pour reste	
sa paye payé a M hay	120" En argent
Avoir de Joseph andré pour une	
chaudiere que Le Roy	60 En argent
Avoir de Fr Bosseron	
pour vue par Le Congrès pour bois et Madrier	550
Chaudiere fournice a M hay	60 En argent
Par Le Congrès pour Lard	779" 10
— 14 [Mars] —	
Doit M Lafois	pelteris
1 an ½ de Cotton a 7" 10 s	11" 5s
— 14 [Mars] —	
Doit Mr Charlle Rehornew	pelteris
1 an ½ Cotton a 7" 10 s	11" 5s
— 14 [Mars] —	
Doit Bodoin	pelteris
paye a vdrille	54
— 14 [Mars] —	
Doit M Legras	
paye a Laselle	10" En argent
payé a fr Languedaux	109 argent
Doit Charles Languedaux	Pelteris
Reste Sur du Coton	2" 10

¹⁹ Charles Gilbaut was evidently a *coureur des bois*. He was a householder in Vincennes.

²⁰ Paul Gamelin was one of the French volunteers in the British army. He married Margueritte Drouet de Richeville, Bosseron's sister-in-law and ward.

²¹ Major John Hay was the British officer second in rank to General Hamilton.

Creditor to Charles Gilbault— for his journey	100 <i>livres</i> in silver
Debtor Charles Gilberts—by my check	15
in silver	
Creditor to Joseph Dubé by Pierre	21
Ambleton in pelts	
Debtor Valé—1 ell of cotton	8 <i>livres</i> pelts
½ ell of fine cloth	5
— 13 [March] —	
Debtor Beaudoin—volunteer	59 pelts
Paid to Ambleton	
For ribbon	45 <i>livres</i> silver
— 14 [March] —	
Debtor Pierre Goderre—1 pound lead	30 s

[Fifth page]

Fort Patrick 14th of March

Creditor Paul Gamelin—by a letter of exchange on Hamilton	186 <i>livres</i> in silver
Creditor Mr. Lafoy for the remainder of his salary paid to Mr. Hay	120 <i>livres</i> in silver
Creditor Nicolas Lasselle for the remainder of his salary paid to Mr. Hay	120 <i>livres</i> in silver
Creditor Joseph André to one boiler for the King	60 in silver
Creditor Francis Bosseron— For wood and joists ordered by Congress	550
Boiler furnished to Mr. Hay	60 in silver
By Congress—for bacon	779 <i>livres</i> 10
— 14 [March] —	
Debtor Mr. Lafois, pelts 1½ ells of cotton at 7 <i>livres</i> 10s	11 <i>livres</i> 5s
— 14 [March] —	
Debtor Mr. Charles Rehornew pelts 1½ ells of cotton at 7 <i>livres</i> 10	11 <i>livres</i> 5s
— 14 [March] —	
Debtor Bodoin, pelts Paid to Vodrille Vaudry	54
— 14 [March] —	
Debtor Mr. Legras Paid to Lasselle	10 in silver
Paid to Fr Languedaux	109 silver
Debtor Charles Languedaux pelts	
Amount due on cotton	2 <i>livres</i> 10

[Sixth page]

1779	Doit Consinot ²²	
mars 19		
payé par Mon bon a M perot	76" 10s	
En pelteris		
Doit Majord Boman ²³		
1 Renard	3" argent	
Doit olivier pelletis ²⁴		
une farramente dechario		
Completo	100"	
Doit muris virginien		
2 an de Ruban	6"	
1 Renard	3	
Doit Canaday		
1 LaSelle chodiere	65"	
1 Renard	3"	
Avoir		
paye pour du rum	20"	
Doit Laganiere, pelteris		
1 Livres depoudres	6"	
	— 20 [Mars] —	
Doit Durachés	pelteris	
1 an ½ des equive a 12" 10s	18" 15	
Doit Lardoize		
4 Livres de plom a 30 s	6"	
Avoir de jh Lamoureau	Pelteris	
par chartier	37	

[Seventh page]

Mars 20	Doit Petite peltier	Pelteris
1779		
Paye a Denoon		
pour Brülere ²⁵	12" 10 s	
	— 20 [Mars] —	
Doit pierre Blanchard, argent		
Reste sur du Coton	20"	
Doit M fr Barois		
2 Livres de poudre		
6 liv deplom		
	— 20 [Mars] —	
Avoir de M Lafaures		
en argent	60"	
Dit	7"	
Ditto par perette	15"	
Doit gilbaun	pelteris	
2 Liv de plom a 30s	3 [livres]	
Doit M Ste Marit	pelteris	
4 liv de plom a 30s	6	
Avoir de M Ste Marit		
En pelteris	10" 10s	

²² This account apparently concerns the spring consignment of furs to Detroit.²³ "Majord Boman" probably refers to the American, Major Bowman. He is not mentioned elsewhere in the Account. He probably needed a new cap and purchased a fox pelt to make one.²⁴ *Olivier pelletis* may mean Olivier, the furrier. The Account Book contains names which may be explained in this way. Cf. *Jean L'Ours*, John Bear, *Tougas Lainé* (Tougas, the worker in wool). Possibly *pelletis* is intended to be *pelteris*.²⁵ It is not clear whether the word Brülere is the name of a person or is intended for Brûloir, (a roaster,) or some other word.

[Sixth page]

1779	Debtor Consignment	
March 19		
Paid by check to M Perot		76 livres 10s
in pelts		
Debtor Major [d] Bowman		
1 fox		3 livres silver
Debtor Oliver Pelletis		
1 set of iron work for cart—		
complete		100 livres
Debtor Morris, Virginian		
2 ells ribbon		6 livres
1 fox		3
Debtor Kennedy		
1 salt kettle		65 livres
1 fox		3 livres
Creditor		
Paid for rum		20 livres
Debtor Laganiere	pelts	
1 pound of powder		6 livres
	— 20 [March] —	
Debtor Durachés	pelts	
1½ ells [illegible]		18 livres 15
Debtor Lardoize		
4 pounds of lead at 30s		6 livres
Creditor Jh. Lamoureau	pelts	
By Chartier		37 livres

[Seventh page]

March 20	Debtor Little Peltier	pelts
1779		
Paid to Denoon		
For a roaster		12 livres 10s
	— 20 [March] —	
Debtor Pierre Blanchard		
Amount due on cotton		20 livres
Debtor Mr. Fr. Barois		
2 pounds of powder		
6 pounds of lead		
	— 20 [March] —	
Creditor Mr. Lafaures		
In silver		60 livres
Ditto		7 livres
Ditto par Perett	argent	15 livres
Debtor Gilbaun		
2 pounds of lead at 30s		3
Debtor M. Ste Marit [Marie]	pelts	
4 pounds of lead at 30s		6 livres
Debtor M. Ste Marit [Marie]		
In pelts		10 livres 10s

Doit Valcour	pelteris	
2 Liv de plom a 30s		3"
Avoir de M chapeaux		
Par Barois	En argent	35
Doit a Bte chartier	pelteris	
1 Mouchoir Rouge		7" 10
Doit Bodoin	pelteris	
4 Livres de plom payé		
a Belfin [?]		6

[Eighth page]

1779	Doit pierre Baron	En pelteris
Mars	1½ liv de plom a 30s	2" 5s
29		
Doit tousin godere		
Paye a mayott		5"
Doit Lafleure	pelteris	
Paye a Mayott		30"
Doit Sergent Grine ²⁶	argent	
1 an ¼ de Coton a		12" 10
1 an ¼ de Coton a		15"
Doit Canaday ²⁷	argent	
100 Broquettes		2" 10s
Doit aselin	pelteris	
10 an de bord—a 7s 6d [deniers]		3" 15s
Doit Bodoin	En pelteris	
1 Couverte		12" 10s
½ de drapt		3"
3 an de Cotton a 8"		24"
3 an de Ruban		16"
Paye a M Dagitett		3"
Paye a Marié pont [pour?] Rouvre		15"
Doit Michelle Neaun	En pelteris	
1 plaque afusillo		12" 10s
Doit—Dielle	En pelteris	
1 gros ahe ²⁸		15
1 [illegible]		3

[Ninth page]

Doit Durbois fils		pelteris
Avrille		
5		
1 gros ahe		15"
Doit Comparés		pelteris
1 grose ache		15"
6 an de Ruban a 3"		18"
Doit Louis garvais	En pelteris	
1 paire de Soulier		12" 10s
Pour du Ruban		10" 10s
Doit Legrand Laviolette		
½ Livres de thais		3"

²⁶ Notice the spelling of *Sergent Grine* (Green).

²⁷ *Canady* is evidently phonetic spelling for Kennedy. Bosseron seldom spells the name twice alike. Cf. *pathrique Kanady*, eleventh page Patrick Kennedy was General Clark's quartermaster.

²⁸ The entry *gros ahe* appears several times with various spellings. It is evidently phonetic spelling for *gros hache*, a big hatchet; i.e., an axe.

Debtor Valcour	pelts	
2 pounds of lead at 30s		3 livres
Creditor Mr. Chapeaux		
By Barois	in silver	35 livres
Debtor Bte Chartier		
1 silk handkerchief		7 livres 10
Debtor Bodoin	pelts	
4 pounds of lead paid to Belfin [?]		6

[Eighth page]

1779	Debtor Pierre Baron	In pelts
March	1½ pounds of lead at 30s	2 livres 5s
29		
Debtor Toussaint Godere		
Paid to Mayott		5 livres
Debtor Lafleure	pelts	
Paid to Mayott		30 livres
Debtor Sergeant Green	silver	
1¼ ells of cotton		12 livres 10
1¼ ells of cotton at		15 livres
Debtor Kennedy	silver	
100 tacks		2 livres 5s
Debtor Seline	pelts	
10 ells of binding at 7 s 6 deniers [12d=1 sous]		3 livres 15s
Debtor Bodoin	in pelts	
1 table cloth		12 livres 10s
½ ell of cloth		3 livres
3 ells of cotton at 8 livres		24 livres
3 ells of ribbon		16 livres
Paid to M Daginett		3 livres
Paid to Marié for Rouvre		15 livres
Debtor Michelle Neaun	in pelts	
1 rifle plate		15
Debtor Dielle		
1 axe		12 livres 10
1 [illegible]		3

[Ninth page]

April

5

Debtor Durbois, Jr.	pelts	
1 axe		15 livres
Debtor Comparés	pelts	
1 axe		15 livres
6 ells of ribbon at 3 livres		18 livres
Debtor Louis Garvais	in pelts	
1 pair of shoes		12 livres 10s
For ribbon		10 livres 10s
Debtor Legrand Laviolette		
½ pound of tea		3 livres

Doit fr Bosseron		
Payé a M Legras argent	720"	
Doit M St obin dejanot pelteris		
1 Douzen d'asiett de tin	24"	
Doit Louis Laderoute		
Payé a M Courniere En argent	30"	
fr Bosseron, Doit		
1 ache		
1 littr Ronde [Vonde?]		
Doit j Bte Donnais volontere argent		
Pour Ruban	36" 5	
Doit francois Bosseron		
payé a M Legras argent ameriguenne	946"	

[Tenth page]

Avril 18

1779

Doit M Doroure J Bte Maloriv pelteris		
6 an ½ Ruban a 3"	19" 10s	
3 an de Ruban Largé a 3" 15 s	11" 5	
		30" 15
22 [Avril]		
Doit charlle guilbeaux argent		
payé a fr ste pierre	40"	
Doit Bodioin argent		
derrier Compt		
3½ an de Ruban Largue a 7" 10s	45" ²⁰	
Doit M St Maritt pelteris		
Paye a Bte A Vilmartte	10"	
23 [Avril]		
Doit Lanfans volontaire argent		
Pour Ruban Reste	30"	
21 [Avril]		
Doit olivieé En pelteris		
1 milliere Broquettes	12" 10	
30 [Avril]		
Doit M Kanaday argent		
payé a Borthiomis	15"	
payé a Mons tararouge	8"	
Mais		
2		
Doit Lamoureuse pelteris		
pour Ruban fin	7" 10	
Mais		
2		
Doit andrés Roy pelteris		
un ferman de charue	100"	

[Eleventh page]

1779	Doit M Ste Sire	
Mais 4	2 Couverte fine 2½ pt a 25"	50"
	5 an ¼ de drapt a 20"	105"
	2 moulle a chandelle a 5"	10"
	26 Livres de vermillon a 15"	390"
	Avoir 111 piastres a 5"	555"

²⁰ 3½ ells of ribbon at 7 livres 10s would amount to 28 livres 5s. Therefore the former account must have been 18 livres 15 sous.

Debtor Francis Bosseron		
Paid to M Legras	silver	720 livres
Debtor Mr. Stobin Dejanot	pelts	
1 dozen wooden dishes		24 livres
Debtor Louis Laderoute		
Paid to M Courniere	in silver	30 livres
Francis Bosseron, Debtor		
1 ax		
1 liter of sweet wine [?]		
Debtor J Bte Donnais, volunteer	silver	
For ribbon		36 livres 5
Debtor Francis Bosseron		
Paid to Mr. Legras—American silver		946 livres

[Tenth page]

April 18
1779

Debtor Mr. Doroure J. Bte Maloriv	pelts	
6½ ells of ribbon at 3 livres		19 livres 10s
3 ells of broad ribbon at 3 livres 15s		11 livres 10s
		30 livres 15s

22 [April]

Debtor Charles Guilbeaux	silver	
Paid to Fr Ste Pierre		40 livres
Debtor Bodoine	silver	
Former account		
3½ ells of broad ribbon at 7" 10s		45 livres
Debtor M St Marie	pelts	
Paid to Bte A Vilmartte		10 livres

23 [April]

Debtor Lanfans, volunteer	silver	
For amount due on ribbon		30 livres

29 [April]

Debtor Oliviee	in pelts	
1 thousand tacks		12 livres 10

30 [April]

Debtor M Kennedy	silver	
Paid to Berthiomis		15 livres
Paid to Mons Tararouge		8

May

2

Debtor Lamoureuse	pelts	
For fine ribbon		7 livres 10

May

2

Debtor Andrés Roy	pelts	
1 set iron work for a cart		100 livres

[Eleventh page]

1779

Debtor Mr. Ste. Sire		
2 fine table cloths—2½ pt—at 25 livres		50 livres
5¼ ells of cloth at 20 livres		105 livres
2 candle molds at 5 livres		10 livres
26 pounds of vermillon at 15 livres		390 livres
		555

Creditor 111 piastres at 5 livres

Juliett	
10	
Doit peltiere pelteris	
payé argent achevalle	40"
13 [Juillet]	
Doit Michelle Brouilliett pelteris	
1 fusill fine	50"
Doit Baringon pelteris	
1 piece de toile Rusy	150"
avoir de Baargon pelteris	
1 paiece de Beufa	350"
1 tord de quarter an	100"
29 [Juillet]	
Doit jh chabott pelteris	
800 Broquettes a 40 s	6"
30 [Juillet]	
Doit pathrique Kanaday pelteris	
payé a ste antoinne	49"
payé a Chartier	5"

[Twelfth page]

Doit francois Brouliet pelteris	
pour etchange d'un juman	49"
12 Livres de Beuf a 10 s	6"
Doit Boudoin paye a jan hourch	
payé an argent	180"
payé a Rogé	4
paye a M Dagenet	32
avoir de Lamoureux pelteris	
par Dagnaron	27
Doit adhemar	
3 paire de bas de Sois ³⁰	
avoir de fr Bosseron argent	
6 Beuff fournie au Congrèa a 400"	2400
2 vache ditto a 400"	800
200 Livres de tabac a 6"	1200
par chanonne [one word illegible] et dues ³¹	
homme pour pansion	1000
Doit M Legras in pelteris	
payé 1 vache	150
Doit francois Bosseron pelteris	
payé a Manan	140"

[Thirteenth page]

avoir de fr Latour	
par lui 116 Livres de peau Rase	116"
par vieu pour lui	115"
avoir de dugalle	
143 Livres depeau Rase	143"
Doit Bodoïn a fr Bosseron Seulle	
1 paire de Coulott de toille ³²	
1 paire de Coulott de Cuivre	
1 couverte	
paye pour Son Capeaux	
Doit fr Bosseron	
En pelteris payé a Daginett	52"

³⁰ 3 paire de bas de sole, 3 pairs of silk stockings. This is the only example of the use of such a luxury.

³¹ Par Channone, etc. This line is entirely vague in meaning.

³² 1 paire de coulott is evidently phonetic spelling for 1 paire de culotte.

July

10	Debtor Peltiere	pelts	
	Paid silver to Chevalle		40 <i>livres</i>
13 [July]	Debtor Brouilliet	pelts	
	1 fine shot gun		50 <i>livres</i>
	Debtor Baringon	pelts	
	1 piece of Russian cloth		150 <i>livres</i>
	Creditor Baargon	pelts	
	1 piece of beef		350 <i>livres</i>
	1 quarter of a heifer		100
29 [July]	Debtor J. Chabott	pelts	
	300 tacks at 40s [per hundred]		6 <i>livres</i>
30 [July]	Debtor Patrick Kennedy		
	Paid to Ste Antoinne		49 <i>livres</i>
	Paid to Chartier		5 <i>livres</i>

[Twelfth page]

	Debtor Francis Brouillet	pelts	
	For exchanging a mare		49 <i>livres</i>
	12 pounds of beef at 10s		6 <i>livres</i>
	Debtor Boudoin—Paid to Jan Hourch [?]		
	Paid in silver		180 <i>livres</i>
	Paid to Rogé		4
	Paid to M Dagenet		32
	Creditor Lamoureux	pelts	
	By Dagnaron		27
	Debtor Adhemar		
	3 pairs of silk stockings		
	Creditor—Francis Bosseron	silver	
	6 beeves furnished to Congress at 400 <i>livres</i>		2400
	2 cows ditto at 400 <i>livres</i>		800
	200 pounds of tobacco at 6 <i>livres</i>		1200
	By Shannon for [illegible] and housing of the men (?)		1000
	Debtor Mr. Legras	in pelts	
	Paid for 1 cow		150
	Debtor Francis Bosseron	pelts	
	Paid to Manan [Magnian?]		140 <i>livres</i>

[Thirteenth page]

	Creditor Fr. Latour		
	By himself 116 pounds of shaved skins		116 <i>livres</i>
	By Vieu [Viau?] for him		115 <i>livres</i>
	Creditor Dugalle		
	143 pounds of shaved skins		143 <i>livres</i>
	Debtor Bodoin to Francis Bosseron himself		
	1 pair of cloth breeches		
	1 pair of copper-colored breeches		
	1 table cloth		
	Paid for his hat		
	Debtor Francis Bosseron		
	In pelts, paid to Daginett		52 <i>livres</i>

Avoir de fr Bosseron	En pelteris	.....
Par Latoure pour fr Bosseron		600"
Doit fr Bosseron	pelteris	.....
payé a Lardoize		188"
Avoir du Carabinieé Knary		.....
En pelteris		10"
Doit Bte Chartier	pelteris	.....
9¼ de fere a 40 s		18" 10

[Fourteenth page]

Doit Baargon paye a M		.....
Lagenes	En pelteris	50"
paye a joph Dajenett		31"
avoir de francois Bosseron		.....
Payé a Baargon	En pelteris	31"
Paye a Mr Legras pour une		.....
piece de toille Rusy que La Sosiete ³³		.....
Luis devais ³⁴		250"
paye a dite ferante parson pour La Somme		.....
de Deux mille Sept Cent quatre vingt Livres		.....
En pelteris que La Soisiete devais		2780"
Paye a lettire [?] Cageron une piece va Rusy		250"
Paye aperette six Cenquarante		.....
Livres Dis Solle Enpeaun Raze ³⁵		640" 10
payé a Lamirande pour		.....
une piece de toille de Rusy		300"
Paye a Mr Louis Malette pour une		.....
piece detoil Rusy ³⁶		300"
Paye a charlle Lachine une		.....
piece detoil Rusy		300"
Doit fr Bosseron par		.....
pana		21"
Par mixie		50
Avoir par fr Bosseron		50
paye a fr chevodier		50
avoir de fr Bosseron		.....
Paid to Lachine	in pelts	19" 5
payé Do		2" 10

³³ *La Sosiete*, the society, or company, is frequently found in the business letters in the Lasselle collection. There was evidently some kind of a partnership, or business agreement, existing among the fur traders in various posts and their agents in Detroit.

³⁴ *Payé a dite fernate parson* is evidently phonetic. The writing is not clear. It may mean, "paid to different persons."

³⁵ Shaved skins, or tanned leather, had a standard value as a medium of exchange.

³⁶ There is a receipt in the Indiana State Library signed by Louis Nalette which may be the one recorded here, but the lack of a date for this entry makes identification impossible. This is true in regard to several entries. *Toile d Rusy*, Russian cloth, seems to have been much used but no description of it has been found.

Creditor Francis Bosseron	in pelts	
By Latoure for Francis Bosseron	.....	600 <i>livres</i>
Debtor Francis Bosseron	pelts	
Paid to Lardoize	.....	188 <i>livres</i>
Creditor the Carabinier, Knary		
In pelts	.....	10 <i>livres</i>
Debtor Bte. Chartier		
9¼ pounds of iron [arrow heads?] at 40s	.....	18 <i>livres</i> 10

[Fourteenth page]

Debtor Baargon, Paid to		
Mr. Lagenes	in pelts	50 <i>livres</i>
Paid to Joph. Dajenett	.....	31 <i>livres</i>
Creditor Francis Bosseron		
Paid to Baargon	in pelts	31 <i>livres</i>
Paid to M Legras for one piece of Russian cloth		
which the Company owes him	.....	250 <i>livres</i>
Paid to different people the sum of two thousand,		
seven hundred eighty <i>livres</i> , in pelts, which		
the company owes	.....	2780 <i>livres</i>
Paid to Lettire Cageron one piece of Russian cloth ..		250 <i>livres</i>
Paid to Perette, six hundred and forty <i>livres</i> , ten <i>sols</i> ,		
in shaved skins	.....	640 <i>livres</i> 10
Paid to Lamirande for one		
piece Russian cloth	.....	300 <i>livres</i>
Paid to Mr. Louis Malette for one		
piece Russian cloth	.....	300 <i>livres</i>
Paid to Charles Lachine, one		
piece Russian cloth	.....	300 <i>livres</i>
Debtor Francis Bosseron to		
Mr. Pana	.....	21 <i>livres</i>
By miscellaneous sums	.....	50
Creditor Francis Bosseron	.....	50
Paid to Chevodier	.....	50
Creditor Francis Bosseron		
Paid to Lachine	in pelts	19 <i>livres</i> 5
Paid to do.	.....	2 <i>livres</i> 10

[MEMORANDUM OF BILLS OF EXCHANGE
OWED TO BOSSERON]

[Fifteenth page]

Memoire Des Laitre deschange que⁸⁷
janporte Le Compt Da diemarkt Compagne a ste vincenne a 21 janvier
1782 pour Les Reiglés avec Le generale Clarche⁸⁸
un Compte par un Rien Canday adatté
du 27 8ter aux jlinois 1780
de La Somme de Six Mille Cincen neufe Livres En argent
Surlesquelle CinCendix Livres pour mois
une Laitre deschange No 161 de
Laquantite de 2863 2-5 de piastres
a Date 18 Sept 1779 Signé Wm Shannon
une autre No 155 de 3803 4-5 piastres Shannon andatté
12 Aous 1779
une autre No 153 de 400 piastres andatté Aous 12 1779
une autre No 166 andatte 8ter 10th 1779
Aux mon du Capt helm—1500 piastres signé Shannon
Une aur faite aux illinois par le Capt
helm andatte 9bre 19 me 1779 de 1067 piastre
Surle trezuore de Lavirgini Signé helm
d'ou andosé parluis⁸⁹

[BRITISH ACCOUNT]

[Sixteenth page]

Levées pour Le Compt de Sa Mageste⁹⁰

Janviere
28

5 voyages que poste Les vivres dabord ce [illegible]	[?] ⁹¹
2 vouage de Bois pourr Lessivé blés ⁹²	[?]
2 Boutaill vinde 3"	[6"]
3 Baritte ⁹³ pour maiter Lagres a 13"	[39"]
5 pouche a 6"	[30"]
30 [Janvier]	
2 Baritte pour Ledepartemens	
de Capt McClomb a 12	[24"]
Fev 1	
27 minot ½ de mahis	
payé a deuvior a 6	[?]
1 champlure a LaSelle	7" 10
5 [Fevrier]	
16 Minot ⁹⁴ Mahis ⁹⁵ a [illegible]	12" 10 pelteris
paye a LaCroix	64" 10 en argent
pour LeBouche	90" En argent
pour facon des Bles Lessivé	160 En argent

⁸⁷ This memorandum lists six of the letters of exchange owed to Mayor Bosseron in January, 1782. Evidently incomplete as the total amount due on these vouchers is \$10,936, less than half of the five thousand twenty-four pounds, ten shillings, six pence, allowed to him by the Virginia commissioners. See record copied in sketch of Bosseron's life, above.

⁸⁸ It is evident that the spelling is worse than usual on this page of the Account Book. It is easier to make sense if the sound of the words is considered rather than the written form. The penmanship is also difficult to read and perhaps indicates the mental worry of Bosseron.

⁸⁹ This entry seems to be the "certified account numbered 5" which was returned to Bosseron by the Virginia commissioners in 1783. See record copied in sketch of Bos-

[MEMORANDUM OF BILLS OF EXCHANGE
OWED TO BOSSERON]

[Fifteenth page]

Memorandum of Letters of Exchange which concern the disbanded company at St Vincennes, to January, 1782, for the settlement with General Clark.

An account by one Rien Canday, dated the 27th of October, 1780 in Illinois, for the sum of six thousand five hundred nine livres, of which the sum of five hundred ten livres are for me.

A bill of exchange, No. 161, for the sum of 2863 % *piastres*, dated the 18th of September, 1779, signed Wm Shannon.

Another, No. 155, for 3803 % *piastres*, [signed by Shannon] dated the 12th of August, 1779.

Another, No 153, for 400 *piastres*, dated August 12, 1779.

Another, No 166, dated October 10th, 1779, to M Capt Helm, 1500 *piastres*, signed [by] Shannon.

Another made in Illinois by Capt Helm, dated November 19th, 1779, for 1067 *piastres* upon the Treasury of Virginia, signed [by] Helm and endorsed by him.

[BRITISH ACCOUNT]

[Sixteenth page]

Items for the account of His Majesty

January
28

5 trips to carry provisions on board (or to land?) ..	[?]
2 journeys through the woods for corn treated with lye [Hominy]	[?]
2 bottles of sweet wine at 3 <i>livres</i>	[6 <i>livres</i>]
3 berets for Maitre Lagres at 13 <i>livres</i>	[39 <i>livres</i>]
5 pouches at 6 <i>livres</i>	[30 <i>livres</i>]
30 [January]	
2 berets for the department of Captain MacLomb at 12	[24]
February 1	
27½ pecks of maize [Indian corn] paid to Deuvior at 6	[?]
1 [Champlure?] tap hole to Lasselle	7 <i>livres</i> 10
5 [February]	
16 pecks of maize	12 <i>livres</i> 10 in pelts
Paid to Lacroix	64 <i>livres</i> 10 silver
For Lebouche	90 <i>livres</i> in silver
For preparing corn with lye	160 in silver

eron's life, above. It is also almost certainly the account for the supplies provided Captain Helm for the garrison in the fall of 1778.

⁴⁰ This account is evidently incomplete as General Hamilton had held the fort for six weeks before the first entry. The right margin of the page is badly worn and most of the amounts charged are lacking. See the third page of the Account Book for other British accounts.

⁴¹ *Lessivé blé*, corn treated with lye; i.e., hominy.

⁴² The spelling *Baritte* makes possible three meanings; *barett*, a smaller *barrette*, a flat cap; *barillet*, a small barrel. The second meaning seems best.

⁴³ The *minot* was the old measure of 39 litres, also a large quantity, a peck.

⁴⁴ *Mahis* = mais or maize [Indian corn].

paye a M huberdeau 140" (?) En argent	[140"]
4 L Cloux { que Le Detachement des mis	[?]
8 L poudre {	[?]
300" en argent par Baulon	[300"]
3 pirogues ⁴⁵ a 160	[480"]
pour magazinage	[?]

[PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF CAPTAIN HELM]

[Seventeenth page]

Doit Mr le Captne helm⁴⁶

1778

8bre 20	1 chapeau	50"
	1 jeu de Carte	3
	7 an ½ rubane fin a 4" 10	33" 5
[Octobre] 5	3 Bouteilles taffias a 10	30
	1 an flanelle	5
[Octobre] 10	4 an ¼ toille fine a 10	42" 10
	1 an toille de russy	10
[Octobre] 13	a luy prette pour Jean L'ours ⁴⁷	79
	ditto pour M huberdeau	25
[Octobre] 16	4 mouchoirs par Kennedy	17" 10
[Octobre] 17	1 pot taffias que ditto	20
	1 Bouteille ditto	10
[Octobre] 24	Payé a James	80
9bre 1	1 Capotte	95
	1 canif	3
[Novembre] 28	Payé a huberdeau 1 pot et chopine ⁴⁸	
	franche Eau de vie 25	31" 5
[Novembre] 29	2 mouchoirs a 10"	20
[Novembre] 30	1 Bouteille Taffias	10
	1 habillement pour	150
	payé a James	
	par Compte chez Brouillet quatre	
	Bouteilles taffias a 20" pot	40
	par ses Bons 5 pots taffias a 20"	100
	En differents fois chez Brouillet ..	
	3 pots taffias a 20	60
Dbre 26	3 pots taffias chez Brouillet a 20 ..	60
	payé a Renaux	20
	1 potte pour Les Sauvages	20
	paye Crepeaux	10

[Eighteenth page]

Suite de l'autre part	
payé a Mr Dajenette	13" 10
3 pot de Taffias	60

1779

Mars 28	Paye pour Sapart d'une Bte de	
	Taffias	20

⁴⁵ It is interesting to note the occupations of the British on February 5, the day that General Clark set out for Vincennes. The three pirogues were probably purchased for the purpose of searching for the lost ships with supplies which the British expected.

⁴⁶ This is the personal account of Captain Helm. It is not included in that sent to General Clark for the expenses of the garrison.

⁴⁷ The name of *Jean L'Ours* is spelled in many ways. He is also known as *Dominique Bergante* in some of the legal papers in the Indiana State Library.

⁴⁸ *L pot et chopine* = about two quarts and a pint. Old French Measures.

Paid to Mr. Huberdeau 140 <i>livres</i> [?]	[140 <i>livres</i>]
4 pounds of nails } for the company of Indian	[?]
8 pounds of powder } allies	[?]
300 <i>livres</i> in silver by Baulon	[300 <i>livres</i>]
3 pirogues at 160	[480 <i>livres</i>]
For storage	[?]

[PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF CAPTAIN HELM]

[Seventeenth page]

To Captain Helm, Dr.

1778

Oct. 20	1 hat	50 <i>livres</i>	
	1 pack of cards	3	
	7½ ells of fine ribbon at 4 10s	33 <i>livres</i>	5
[Oct.] 5	3 bottles of taffias rum at 10	30	
	1 ell of flannel	5	
[Oct.] 10	4½ ells of fine muslin at 10	42 <i>livres</i>	
	1 ell of Russian cloth	10	
[Oct.] 13	Lent to him for Jean L'Ours	79	
	Ditto for M Huberdeau	25	
[Oct.] 16	4 handkerchiefs by Kennedy	17	10
[Oct.] 17	1 jug of taffias by ditto	20	
	1 bottle ditto	10	
[Oct.] 24	Paid to James	80	
November 1	1 overcoat	95	
	1 penknife	3	
Nov. 28	Paid to Huberdeau		
	1 jug and a chopine of pure		
	brandy at 25	31	5
Nov. 29	2 handkerchiefs at 10	20	
Nov. 30	1 bottle taffias	10	
	1 suit for	150	
	Paid to James		
	By account with Brouillet		
	4 bottles taffias at 20 per jug	40	
	By check—5 jugs taffias at 20	100	
	At different times with Brouillet		
	3 jugs taffias at 20	60	
December 26	3 jugs taffias with Brouillet at 20	60	
	Paid to Reneaux	20	
	1 jug for the Indians	20	
	Paid to Crepeaux	10	

[Eighteenth page]

Continued from the other part.

	Paid to Mr. Dajenett	13 <i>livres</i>	10
	3 jugs taffias	60	
1779			
March 28	Paid for his part of one case ² of		
	taffias	20	

² This account is probably responsible for Helm's reputation of being a heavy drinker. It is only fair to remember that the account covers the time from October 5th to April 27th. Three of the purchases were for other people and the other nine were evidently for social occasions usually shared with his friend Brouillet.

Case seems the correct translation for *Bte.*, in this instance. *Bte.* could hardly be meant for *bouteille*, as a bottle of taffias sold for ten *livres*. *Bte.* is here probably an abbreviation for *boite*.

[Mars] 29	1 lancette	5
Avril 23	1 liv devermion	20
[Avril] 27	Paye a jh vodrill	5

[ACCOUNT WITH THE UNITED STATES]

[Nineteenth page]

1778 fournie au Capne Helm pour les Compagne des Etats.⁴⁸

	Savoir	comme suit	
	1 gre mitasse ⁵⁰ que L'interprete ..	7"	10
7bre 25	2 Barils vinde ⁵¹	22"	
	1 gre Mitasse	7"	10
[Septembre] 27	Payé a La fremiere	10	
[Septembre] 28	365½ Boeuf a 10 s	182"	15
	Par un bon de M. monbrun		
	2 pr soulier a 50 s	5"	
[Septembre] 30	2" poudre a M. Rogen 8"	16	
8bre 4	363"½ Boeuf a 10 s	181"	15
[Octobre] 10	365" Boeuf a 10 s	182"	10
[Octobre] 15	au Tabac chef Sauvages		
	2 mouchoirs soye	25	
[Octobre] 20	1. gre mitasse a vu Chasseurnous	10"	
[Octobre] 23	4 mains de papier a 5"	20"	
	3" fer a 3"	9	
9bre 1	3 Carottes tabac qu Lese Sauvages	15	
[Novembre] 4	pour avoir Levé La Compaignie ..	500	
[Novembre] 6	paye a M Roy 245 boeuf a 10 s ...	122"	10
[Novembre] 11	336" Boeuf a 10 s	168"	
	paye pour La Cheminée du		
	Corps garde	80	
	pour avoir recouvrir		
	La maison du fort	10"	
[Novembre] 12	payé a ste Marie 5 an serge ⁵²		
	rouge qu Le pavillon 9"	45"	
	Paye a M Dajenett 3 an ¾ serge ..		
	verte a 10"	37"	10
	paye a Madme goderre pour		
	Lafacon du pavillon	25"	
En L'autre Part		L	1682

⁴⁸ This account was made out in duplicate by Bosseron in the Account Book. As the two records are almost identical, it has not seemed necessary to print both. The form given here is that of the second bill as the spelling seems somewhat clearer in places.

⁵⁰ The meaning of *mitasse* is not clear. It is possibly the phonetic spelling for *mitrailes*. The French Dictionary by Clifton, Grimeaux, & McLaughlin derives this word from *mitaille*, O.F. From *mite*, meaning a small coin. *Mitasse* seems more likely to be a contraction of *demi tasse*.

⁵¹ *Vinde* is colloquial for *vin doux*, sweet wine.

⁵² The items listed on November 12th are of general interest as they give all the facts available concerning the red and green flag raised by Madam Goderre, which is often confused with the American flag raised over Fort Sackville by Father Gibault. It should be noticed that Bosseron calls this *Le pavillon*, the pennant, or company banner. A national flag is called a *drapeau*. It was probably not made until late in the fall as it was not paid for until November.

March 29	1 small lance	5
April 23	1 pound of vermillion	20
April 27	Paid to J. Vodrill	5

[ACCOUNT WITH THE UNITED STATES.]

[Nineteenth page]

1778 Furnished to Captain Helm for the Company of the States.

Items		as follows	
September 25	1 large half-cup of [grape shot] which the interpreter [bought]	7 livres	10
	2 barrels sweet wine	22	
	1 large half-cup of [grape-shot] ..	7	10
Sept. 27	Paid to Lafremiere	10	
Sept. 28	365½ pounds of beef at 10 s	182 livres	15
	By a check of M. Monbrun		
	2 prs shoes at 50 s	5 livres	
Sept. 30	2 pounds of powder to M. Rogen 8	16	
October 4	363½ pounds of beef at 10 s	181 livres	15
Oct. 10	365 pounds of beef at 10 s	182 livres	10
Oct. 15	To Tobacco, chief of the Indians ..		
	2 silk handkerchiefs	25 livres	
Oct. 20	1 large half-cup of [grape-shot] to the order of our hunters	10 livres	
Oct. 23	4 quires of paper at 5 livres	20 livres	
	3 pounds arrow heads at 3livres ..	9	
November 1	3 rolls of tobacco for the Indians ..	15	
Nov. 4	For having raised the Company ..	500	
Nov. 6	Paid to M. Roy—245 pounds of beef at 10 s	122 livres	10
Nov. 11	336 pounds of beef at 10 s	168	
	Paid for the chimney of the guard house	80	
	For having repaired the house of the fort	10 livres	
Nov. 12	Paid to St. Marie for 5 ells of red serge for the company flag 9 livres	45 livres	
	Paid to M. Dajenett 3¼ ells of green serge at 10 livres	37 livres	10
	Paid to Madam Goderre for the making of the flag	25 livres	
	To the next part		
		1682 livres	

[Twentieth page]

1778		Rapporte de L'autre Part	L 1682
	9bre 13	40" Balles a 40 s	80"
[Novembre]	17	160" farine a 8 s	64"
		2 pots taffias a vu chef plans ⁵³	40"
[Novembre]	18	2 pots ditto aux outasias 20"	40"
[Novembre]	19	4½ ditto aux Tabac chef	
		et Sa Bande 20	90"
		1 pot ditto a vu Loup chef	20
		1 Baril vinde	6
[Novembre]	21	1 Bouteille taffias qu vu Loup	10"
[Novembre]	22	1 pot ditto a deschasseurnous	20"
[Novembre]	24	2 pots ditto aux ouxyatanous	40"
[Novembre]	27	1 Bouteille ditto pour ditto	20"
		paye a Cardinal 389 lre Boeuf a	
		10 s	194" 10
[Novembre]	28	1 Bouteille taffias quvu chef	10
[Novembre]	29	10 lres poudre a 8"	80"
[Novembre]	30	4½ pots taffias qu des souteux	90"
		1 cochon	30
[Decembre]	1	1 Bouteille taffias a vu Chef. mis..	10 [livres]
		2 Bouteilles ditto aux chasseurnous	20
[Decembre]	2	2 pots et pinte taffias a vue	
		Band Sauvage Coux 20"	50
		402" Boeuf ⁵⁴ a 10 S	201
[Decembre]	3	2 pots taffias a des outasias	40
[Decembre]	4	1 pot ditto aux memes	20
		payé au sorgeron pour avoir	
		raccomoder Les fers	6
		Pour la facon de la gueritte	30
[Decembre]	8	322½" Boeuf a 10 s	161" 5
[Decembre]	11	5 pots taffias qe Les Pians	100
		1 Baril vinde	6
[Decembre]	12	1 pot tassias aux ouyatanons	20
[Decembre]	13	126" a 10 s	63
		cy Contre	3233" 15

[Twenty first page]

1778		rapporte cy contre	L 3233 15
[Decembre]	13	9 pots taffias pour les Couriers	
		envoye aux Ouyas 20"	180
		6 lre pains a 40 s	12"
		2 Barils vinde a [7 livres]	14

⁵³ It is interesting to notice the number of items recorded in this account from which it is evident that Captain Helm was making efforts to win the Indians around Vincennes to the American cause. There are twenty different entries of this nature.

⁵⁴ Bosseron provided over three thousand pounds of beef for the garrison of the fort during the period when held by American troops in 1778, and in many cases had to pay cash for it.

[Twentieth page]

1778	Carried from other part	1682 livres
November 13	40 pounds of balls	80 livres
Nov. 17	160 pounds of flour at 8 s	64 livres
	2 jugs of taffias for the chief of Pians	40 livres
Nov. 18	2 jugs [jars] ditto to the Outasias 20 livres	40 livres
Nov. 19	4½ ditto to Tobacco, the chief and his band at 20	90 livres
	1 jug ditto to the Loup chief	20 livres
	1 barrel of sweet wine	6 livres
Nov. 21	1 bottle taffias for Loup	10 livres
Nov. 22	1 jug ditto to our hunters	20 livres
Nov. 24	2 jugs ditto to the Ouyatanous	40 livres
Nov. 27	1 bottle ditto for ditto	20 livres
Nov. 28	Paid to Cardinal 389 pounds of beef at 10 s	194 livres 10
Nov. 28	1 bottle taffias for the chief	10
Nov. 29	10 pounds powder at 8 livres	80 livres
Nov. 30	4½ jugs of taffias for the Souteux 1 pig	90 livres 30 livres
December 1	1 bottle taffias for the chief of our allies	10 20
[Dec.] 2	2 bottles ditto for our hunters	
	2 jugs and a pint for a band of savage Indian Coux	50
	402 pounds of beef at 10 s	201
[Dec.] 3	2 jugs of taffias to some Outasias	40
[Dec.] 4	1 jug ditto to the same	20
	Paid to Corgeron for having re- paired the arrows irons	6
	For the making of the guard house	30
[Dec.] 8	322½ pounds of beef at 10 s	161 livres
[Dec.] 11	5 jugs of taffias for the Pians	100
	1 barrel of sweet wine	6
[Dec.] 12	1 jug of taffias to the Ouyatanons	20
[Dec.] 13	126 pounds of beef at 10 s	63
	To the next account	3233 livres 15s

[Twenty first page]

1778	Carried from last account	3233 livres 15s
December 13	9 jugs of taffias for the couriers .. sent to the Ouyas 20 livres	180
	6 pounds of bread at 40 s	12 livres
	2 barrels of sweet wine at 7 livres	14 livres

[Decembre]	14	5 pots et pinte taffias pour	
		Les Ouyatanons et les mis 20	110
		16" lard a 30 s	24 [livres]
		2" poudre a vu sauvage a 8 [livres]	16
[Decembre]	17	241 Boef a 10 s	120" 10
		150" poudre a 8"	1200
			4910" 5s
			200"

Avoir en argent⁵⁵ 40 piastres
 reçu La Balance du Compte cy dessus par
 un ordre du Capne helm sur George Clark
 Colonel Commandent aux Jlinois
 La Somme de quatre mille Sept Cens dix
 Livres Cinq Sols au fort st Vincenne
 Le 14 Janvier 1779.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ The value of a *piastre* is shown to be five *livres* or one dollar, since 40 *piastres* are given as equivalent to 200 *livres*.

⁵⁶ It seems almost certain that this account of Bosseorn's is the one numbered No. 5 in the Proceedings of the Virginia House of Delegates and that "Bill of Exchange No. 9" is the order upon General Clark mentioned here. There are two discrepancies. The date given here is January 14, 1779, and that given in the discussion of Bill of Exchange No. 9 is November 19, 1779. The amounts differ somewhat also. Bill of Exchange No. 9 is for 1067 dollars; the amount due here is 5710 *livres* and five sous, or \$942.05. On the other hand, this is the only certified account of which we know Bosseron sent to the Virginia House of Delegates. It is certain that no money was available for paying Clark's bills in 1779. It is quite probable that Bosseron was called on to provide additional supplies for the garrison during 1779, and that these were added to the earlier account.

[Dec.] 14	5 jugs and a pint of taffias for the Ouitanons and the allies at		
	20	110	<i>livres</i>
	16 pounds of bacon at 80 s	24	
[Dec.] 17	2 pounds of powder for the In- dians	16	
	241 pounds of beef at 10 s	1120	<i>livres</i> 10
	150 pounds of powder at 8 <i>livres</i>	1200	
Received in silver 40 <i>piastres</i>		4910	<i>livres</i> 5s
		200	<i>livres</i>
Received the balance of the account above by an order of Capt. Helm on George Clark, Colonel commanding in Illinois the sum of four thousand seven hundred ten <i>livres</i> and five <i>sols</i> at the Fort St. Vincent January 14, 1779.			