

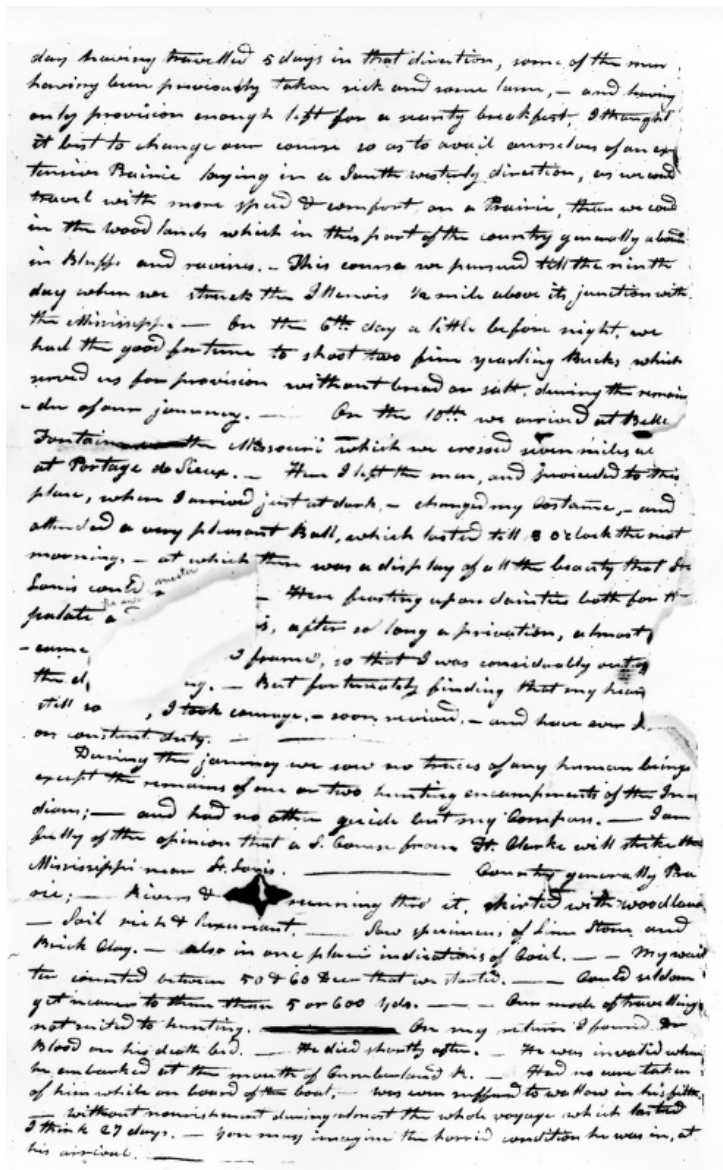
# Captain Mason letter

## Description

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

Date(s)

September 18, 1958



day having travelled 5 days in that direction, some of the men  
having been previously taken sick and some lame, - and having  
only provision enough left for a scanty breakfast, I thought  
it best to change our course so as to avail ourselves of an ex-  
tensive Prairie lying in a South westerly direction, as we could  
travel with more speed & comfort on a Prairie, than we could  
in the wood lands which in this part of the country generally abound  
in bluffs and ravines. - This course we pursued till the ninth  
day when we struck the Missouri 1/2 mile above its junction with  
the Mississippi - on the 6th day a little before night, we  
had the good fortune to shoot two fine yearling bucks which  
served us for provision without load or salt, during the remain-  
der of our journey. - On the 10th we arrived at Belle  
Fontaine on the Missouri which we crossed seven miles  
at Portage de Saucy. - Then I left the men, and proceeded to this  
place, where I arrived just at dark, - changed my quarters, - and  
attended a very pleasant ball, which lasted till 8 o'clock the next  
morning, - at which there was a display of all the beauty that the  
Louisiana <sup>country</sup> could furnish. - Then fasting upon a diet both for the  
palate & <sup>mind</sup> - after so long a privation, almost  
I found, so that I was considerably out of  
my. - But fortunately finding that my health  
still so, I took courage, - soon revived, - and have ever been  
on constant duty. -  
During the journey we saw no traces of any human beings  
except the remains of one or two hunting encampments of the In-  
dians; - and had no other guide but my compass. - I am  
fully of the opinion that a S. course from St. Charles will strike the  
Mississippi near St. Louis. - Generally generally, Pra-  
irie; - Rivers & <sup>woods</sup> - surrounding this it, sparsely with woodland  
- Soil rich & abundant. - Saw specimens of Iron Stone and  
Black clay. - Also in one place indications of Coal. - My assid-  
tous search between 50 & 60 feet that we started. - Could seldom  
get more than three 5 or 600 lbs. - - Our mode of travelling  
not suited to hunting. - On my return I found the  
blood on his death bed. - He died shortly after. - He was in great pain  
when he embarked at the mouth of Cumberland R. - Had no conversation  
of him while on board of the boat. - was very surprised to see how in his fit-  
ness without nourishment during almost the whole voyage which lasted  
I think 27 days. - You may imagine the horrid condition he was in, at  
his arrival.

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8x10 inches (21x26 cm) Black & White

Keywords Signatures (Writing)

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

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