



Pressing West

A Page In History



Missouri Gazette

VOL. I.

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Advertisements sent to this Office, without specifying the time they are to be inserted, will be continued until forbid, and charged accordingly.

LONDON, April 22.

Upon the subject of Sir John Duckworth's late cruise, we have been favored with the following extract of a letter from an officer belonging to the Squadron, dated

"Cawland Bay, April 18.

"Having run down the Bay of Biscay, and called off Capes Ortugal and Finisterre, and Lisbon, we arrived off Madeira, and found Sir Samuel Hood, laying in Funchall roads, where we remained for two days. On the morning of the 3d of February, his majesty's ship Comus, gave us intelligence of her having been chased two days before to the N. W. of Madeira, and it then became obvious that the destination of the French Squadron was the West Indies, for which we proceeded with all expedition & made the islands of St. Lucia and Martinique in twenty one days. Off the east end of Martinique we saw six sail of the line; we cleared for action, and formed the line of battle, but, on exchanging signals we found instead of enemies; it was Sir Alexander Cochrane, with his Squadron, who was waiting to give that enemy a reception which we were in chafe of, conceiving that he would take refuge in that port. Finding that his fleet was sufficient to cope with them in those seas, we passed all the Windward Islands, and anchored on the 16th of February in Bassaterre Roads, St. Kitts, where we remained only 18 hours, just long enough to take in water, but no provisions, nor

even linen washed. We proceeded to Saint Dominick where it was supposed that my had proceeded for the purpose of landing troops; our arrival there we found ships. After cruising the Mono Passage for seven days, we made all dip the coast of America, and ved off the Chesepeake 11th March. We coed with the Statira found that our Ambassador, was at the last time, to detther it should be with England. We gone in, but the Y not let us have a ply us with water which forced us to live upon half of ance; they would single pint of water stock. We let to bring us any might occur with America inhospitable for the West we procured ter a long cruize. The la Portuga but not any infor thought proceed arrived ing been made a Western journey thoufa We that veral and means to of late entertained by an amicably termination of our present negotiation with the United States. It is certain, that no article whatever of supply could be obtained by our admiral from the inhospitable and hostile Americans; and it follows of course, that the reparation offered by our government for the affair of the Chesepeake frigate was made in vain; although that circumstance alone, since so amply atoned for, was assigned by the President's proclamation as the motive for prohibiting all intercourse between the inhabitants and such British ships of war as might arrive in the Ame-

Editor's Note

The first edition of the Missouri Gazette was lifted from the Ramage press on July 12, 1808. The Gazette was four pages, printed front and back, on paper 12 inches long and 8 inches wide.

For this story, which is a work of historical fiction, Gabe Martin was a fictional character based on the life of my actual apprentice, Nathan Paschall, who was 12 years old when I hired him as a printer's devil in 1812.

Paschall gathered news for the Missouri Gazette and wrote editorials. When my son Edward Charless bought the newspaper in 1822, Paschall stayed on. Six years thereafter, Edward took Nathan into partnership and made him an editor of the Gazette, which was renamed the Missouri Republican.

Ours really was a newspaper family. In 1820, my stepson, Robert McCloud, published the first newspaper in St. Charles, Missouri, and named it the Missourian.

In the history books I'm known as "The Father of Missouri Journalism." But there's another title I much prefer - "Printer to the Territory." That's how I referred to myself on the front page of each edition of the Missouri Gazette.

Joseph Charless, 1772-1834

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- Research the history of your community newspaper. As a class, write a letter to your newspaper sharing what you found most interesting in "Pressing West," and what you learned about your newspaper's history.

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