

Manifesto issued at Mobile by Major Farmar

By Mister

Robert Farmar

Major of the 34th. Regiment and Commander of His Britannick Majesty's Troops in Louisiana, &c., &c., &c.,

Whereas, by a Definitive Treaty of Peace signed the 10th. Of February and ratified the 10th. Of March, 1763, that portion of Louisiana lying to the left-hand side, or on the Eastern bank of the Mississippi River, from its source to the Iberville River, and across Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartain to the sea, is ceded in full possession to His Britannick Majesty.

By these presents it is commanded, and required of all persons engaged in the administration of Civil Law, to discontinue all proceedings, suits instituted and defended, nor to sue henceforth at law, or pleadings, in the form and practice of the Laws of France, the present inhabitants having become subject to the Laws of England, by which they shall be peaceably protected in their rights and properties, and in order that the Courts of Justice may suffer no delay or retard, all cases, suits and subjects or complaint shall be submitted in writing to the Commander at Mobile, and all trivial disputes to the Commanding Officer of the Posts nearest the aggrieved parties.

The Inhabitants by these presents may rest assured of being protected in their rights and properties, and not at all bothered or inconvenienced in any manner, without grounds, by the Troops, and it is expected that on their part they shall behave likewise towards the Troops, furnishing them with the things they may need and the country produces for which they shall be paid in ready money.

To prevent as far as may be possible all frauds and disputes with reference to purchases or sales of lands and real property, all landed estates shall be recorded within one year of the publication of these presents, and it shall not be at all permissible to dispose of any lands or real property until the titles and tenure to said property can be verified by the recording thereof, and approved by the Commanding Officer.

Those among the French inhabitants who shall choose to remain in their diverse abodes and live under the laws of England and His Britannick Majesty's government, as soon as may be possible shall repair to Mobile there to take oath of allegiance. Those who will not at all comply hereunto within three months of the date of these presents shall be dispossessed and compelled to quit this portion of

the country ceded to the English nation. Those complying hereunto shall be protected in their property and their religious rights as stipulated in the peace treaty, they behaving themselves peacefully, without plotting and designs of the detriment of other subjects of His Britannick Majesty of its government. But whenever it shall be discovered that they are guilty of maliciously prejudicing the Indians to the disadvantage of the English, or act in any manner of their detriment, or should make attempts to overthrow the English government, they shall be proceeded against as rebels.

Those among the inhabitants who shall be possessed of an inclination to quit their present abodes and withdraw from this portion of the country, shall be afforded secure and safe transportation of their chattels as provided by the peace treaty.

These presents shall be read in the Church of each parish by the Rector, or whomsoever should officiate for him, for four consecutive Sundays, and shall be posted on the doors of the Churches and all other public places that no person may plead ignorance thereof.

Given at Mobile, the present seat of the English Government in Louisiana, this twentieth day of October, 1763.

Robert Farmar.

Translation from *Mississippi Provincial Archives 1763-1766: English Dominion*, edited by Dunbar Rowland (Nashville: Brandon Printing Company, 1911), 60-63.