

Captured by Spaniards

St Louis Missouri Gazette

July 29, 1815

NEWS FROM MEXICO

Joseph Philibert an industrious inhabitant of St. Louis, arrived here on Sunday last from the Spanish Villages, near Santa Fe. He left this place on April 3, 1814, with a barge and 18 men, to trade with the Arapahah Nation of Indians, who reside on the heads of the Arkansas, Platte and Otter rivers, and had fixed his hunting camp about four leagues north of the place where Captain Pike was taken by the Spaniards.

He had dispatched on the 15th of September 2 of his men in search of beaver dams. They fell in with 40 Spaniards catching wild horses and were taken prisoners to the next village, from thence to Santa Fe. After examination by the commandant of that place, 250 men were sent to Philibert's camp where he and his men were made prisoners of and were conducted to his trading camp on the Arkansas. where the Spaniards made him show where his merchandize & beaver was deposited, which they took possession of and conveyed it as well as Philibert and all his men to Santa Fe.

On his arrival he was well treated and has the liberty of the town. After fifty days 'etention he was remanded to the frontier village, on the road to their former hunting camp. During this period the Governor wrote to the Commanding General at Durango for instructions & he was finally ordered to pay the expense of his capture and subsistence during his captivity, and he had to relinquish his merchandize to meet the demand: after which, he was liberated. Upon the whole affair it was a ruinous business.

On his leaving Santa Fe, he was informed he must be conveyed to the American territory, but owing to the inclemency of the weather he was suffered to remain at the little village of Taos, on the Rio Del Nord, until the spring, (last February) from whence he made the best of his way to this place with his broken fortune.

the above is not a complete transcription of the newspaper article, the last part is in reference to others taken captive. To see complete article click on the PDF file

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