

## Transcribed Excerpt from Letter from George Rogers Clark to George Mason, November 19, 1779

Louisville, Falls of Ohio, Nov. 19, 1779

My Dear Sir:

...I was determined to listen to no terms whatever until I was in possession of the fort... A flag appeared from the fort with a proposition from Mr. Hamilton for three days' cessation, (with) a desire of a conference with me immediately; that if I should make any difficulty of coming into the fort, he would meet me at the gate. I, at first, had no notion of listening to anything he had to say, as I could only consider himself and officers as murderers, and intended to treat them as such, but, after some deliberation, I sent Mr. Hamilton my compliments and begged leave to inform him that I should agree to no other terms than his surrendering himself and garrison prisoners at discretion, but if he was desirous of a conference with me I would meet him at the church. We accordingly met. He offered to surrender, but we could not agree upon terms. He received such treatment on this conference as a man of his known barbarity deserved... He asked me what more I could require than the offers he had already made. I told him, which was really the truth, that I wanted a sufficient excuse to put all the Indians and partisans to death, as the greatest part of those villains was then with him. All his propositions were refused. He asked me if nothing would do but fighting, I knew of nothing else. He then begged me to stay until he should return to the garrison and consult his officers. Being indifferent about him, and wanting a few moments for my troops to refresh themselves, I told him that the firing should not commence until such an hour; that during that time he was at liberty to pass with safety.

Some time before, a party of warriors, sent by Mr. Hamilton against Kentucky, (who) had taken two prisoners, was discovered by the Kickebues, who gave information of them... Six of them were made prisoners, two of them scalped, and the rest so wounded, as we afterwards learned, (that) but one lived. I had now as fair opportunity of making an impression on the Indians as I could have wished for – that of convincing them that Governor Hamilton could not give them that protection that he had made them to believe he could; and, in some measure to incense the Indians against him for not exerting himself to save (their) friends, ordered the prisoners to be tomahawked in the face of the garrison. It had the effect that I expected... they upbraided the English parties in not trying to save their friends, and gave them to understand that they believed them to be liars, and no warriors.