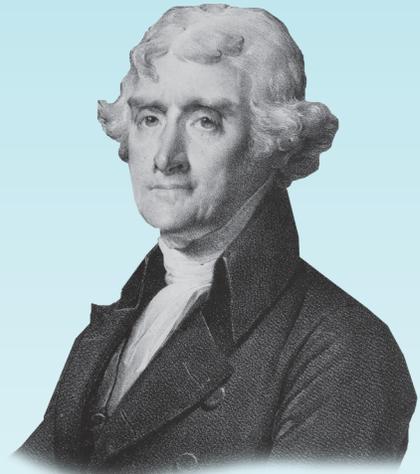


By the Kansas Historical Society

## The Purchase



*Chief of the Osage*



*President Thomas Jefferson*

President Thomas Jefferson's instructions to his delegation in France were flexible. They could negotiate possession of a portion of the Mississippi River and New Orleans, or New Orleans alone, or, at the very least, navigable rights to the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans. The slave revolt in Haiti, however, changed everything. Robert Livingston, U.S. ambassador to France, found himself in a surprising situation. He revealed the exciting news to Secretary of State James Madison in this letter.

By my letter yesterday you learned that the [French Treasurer Barbé-Marbois] had asked me on the 11th whether I would agree to purchase Louisiana ... The Consul [Napoleon Bonaparte] told him [Barbé-Marbois] ... let them give you one hundred million [Francs] and pay their own claims [debts France owed to America] and take the whole country [Louisiana] ... I was surprised ... He told me that they would go thus far ... As to the quantum [purchase price], I have yet made no opinion; the field opened to us [is] infinitely [sp] larger than our instructions contemplated ...

— April 13, 1803

And so these new negotiations proceeded. The result was a treaty signed April 30, 1803, by delegates of the U.S. and the French Republic.

*The president of the United States of America and the first consul of the French Republic ... desiring to remove all Source of misunderstanding ... doth hereby cede to the United States ... the adjacent Islands belonging to Louisiana all public lots and Squares, vacant lands and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks and other edifices which are not private property ... and Sovereignty of Louisiana and its dependances [sp] will be left in the possession of the ... United States ...*

*Article 6: The United States promise to execute Such treaties and articles as may have been agreed between Spain and the tribes and nations of Indians until by mutual consent of the United States and the said tribes or nations...*

*– Louisiana Purchase Treaty, April 30, 1803*

With the stroke of a pen, the U.S. gained possession of a piece of land that essentially doubled the size of the country. The purchase price—approximately \$15 million.



**How will this new land affect the citizens of the United States?**

**How will this purchase affect the American Indians living in the land known as the Louisiana Purchase?**

**Why were American Indians not invited to the negotiations?**

