

Martinsburgh Gazette
Feb. 21, 1812

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Uniontown, Kentucky to his friend in this place, dated 31st January, 1812.

We have been ever and ever terrified with earthquakes since the 16th of December which are still felt every day more or less - They have been extremely severe in this neighborhood - have thrown down one of Maj. Taylor's rooms. Thirty miles below this there is a crack in the earth 3 miles in length, several inches wide; and from thence down perhaps 150 miles below in New Madrid, the earth (particularly the river bottom and islands) is dreadfully torn to pieces and sunk. A widow who lives at a place where the bottom is sunk below the surface of the water in due time sought safety with her two children on a large log in the yard and floated from 2 o'clock in the morning the 16th December until late the next day before she was relieved. Every brick chimney in this country has been shattered to the earth. Mrs. Brent's at red bank, which was rebuilt after the first shock has been again shattered to the ground. The earth in this part of the world must be inordinately charged with electric fluid, by the last summer and fall which was excessively dry.