

The Fur trade in Wisconsin, 1815-1817.

Articles used by Wisconsin Fur-Traders Selected from specimens in Museum of Wisconsin Historical Society

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Reuben Gold , ed.

The Fur-Trade in Wisconsin 1815–1817

1815: AMERICAN MESSAGE TO MENOMINEE

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 3B33. Translated from the French.]

La Bay Verte 17 June 1815

Monsieur Louis Grignon

My Dear Louis —I write this line to inform you of the small returns in Peltry that are being sent you, But hope that they will Sell well. There are only 680 rats & 12 bears 18 cats 2 Martens 3 skunks 19 American martens, 3 otters 2 lvs beaver 12 deerskins 5 bear cubs 4 not very good obliged to make them cheap. They were 21 days in transit so you will see that no further Returns may be expected. I transfer to Pollitte²⁷ your half except one of the 2 lvs of beaver and 1 otter, 1 bearcub skin and 1 deer skin which remain with me to give you your half.

²⁷ This was the brother of Pierre and Louis Grignon. His baptismal name was Hippolyte, but he was usually called “Pollitte” or “Paul.” Being born at Green Bay Sept. 14, 1790, he was next to the youngest son. He was in the fur-trade with his brothers, and about 1818 wintered at Milwaukee. After the death of his eldest brother Pierre (1823), he was

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administrator for the estate. In 1825 he entered into a trading partnership with his younger brother Amable, which continued for some years. He finally settled in the neighborhood of Appleton. His first wife was a Menominee woman, by whom he had several daughters. Afterward he married Lizette Chorette, for whose father see *ante*, p. 170, note 33; Simon and Joseph Grignon of Appleton were their sons, and Mrs. James Knaggs and Josette de Crenfer of Oshkosh, their daughters. Paul Grignon was at Portage in 1836, when Pauquette was killed; see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii, p. 385.— Ed.

376 Inclosed are three notes that I request you will hand to Monsieur Bertelotte to get from him money if he can furnish it. There is nothing going on here, Pollitte is in charge as usual. I send the Peltries for Gravelle,²⁸ and note that there are 3 Martens, 1 skunk, 1 Deerskin, 68 Rats. His Pay about equals the expense A message from the Americans W. Clak [Clark] & A. Choteau²⁹ having Come addressed to the Chief and Warriors of the [Folle Avoines I have sent it to you by Monsieur Porlier, he will give you an idea of it I am with Esteem & consideration Your Brother & friend

²⁸ Louis Gravelle was an early Canadian-French settler and voyageur of Green Bay. He had a farm on the west side of Fox River. Which was confirmed to him by the land commissioners, and there he was living as late as 1832.— Ed.

²⁹ For a sketch of Auguste Chouteau, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xviii, p. 412, note 18.— Ed.

P. Grignon .

Try and make tomes do his duty they say he wishes to give a favorable reply to the Americans Tell him to take care.

1815: WISCONSIN POSTS RECOMMENDED

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office, Book 204. Letter Book 1, p. 101; Lewis Cass to Secretary of War.]

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Detroit June 20th. 1815.

Sir —I had intended by this time to have submitted to you a general view of the state of Indian affairs in this Country and of the measures necessary to be adopted, to secure permanent tranquility upon the frontiers.

But so much of my time is engaged by applications and visits from the Indians that I find it impracticable to effect this object immediately. I am only able to submit to you the accompanying propositions, which are the result of my enquiries and which if adopted will I trust cause a salutary reform in the state of our Indian relations.

The privilege which British traders have heretofore enjoyed 377 of carrying on a lucrative commerce with the Indians is a subject, which will doubtless engage the attention of the Govt., To this source may be traced most of the difficulties we have experienced in our intercourse with them, I have every reason to believe that the Indian Department opposite to us are about to adopt the same systematick course of measures, which they have so long and so successfully pursued but with renewed activity and increased exertion. A deputation of one influential Chief from each of the different tribes left Malden shortly since for the lower province and another follows in a few days. What their precise object is we have not yet been able to ascertain, but such enquiries are making as will soon disclose it to us, There is little doubt however of its relating to a general, systematick and vigorous organization of their Indian Department In the mean time a large quantity of goods have arrived at Malden to be distributed as presents and the Agents and subordinate officers are more numerous than at any former period, These unerring indications give us timely warning that the same measures are to be adopted, the same lying system continued (pardon the epithet, could all the facts be presented to you, you would say no milder term could be used) and the same plan of filling our Indian Country with the agents and Interpreters and traders which have at all former periods kept the North Western frontiers in a state of feverish alarm.

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I am aware that the Government are compelled to view the whole ground and it may become necessary to grant to the British the privileges heretofore held among the Indians in order to secure to our Country commercial rights more important to the nation at large. It is with a view to such a possible event, that I submit these propositions to you. Their adoption will be found to counteract in a very considerable degree causes which have heretofore operated without any check.

Should it be found necessary in a treaty of commerce to make such a stipulation, the evil would be diminished by allowing to British subjects this privilege under the same restrictions it is granted to American Citizens. This will secure to us the right of recalling them, When we find their machinations injurious or 378 when their obvious purpose of trading is to cover a p[olicy] for scattering disaffection among the Indians.

There are three great channels of communication, by which traders may introduce the goods into the Mississippi and Missouri Country from the British dominions, One is by the way of Chicago, and down the Illinois. Another by the way of Green Bay up the Fox River and down the Ouisconsin. This has been the great thoroughfare along which goods have been taken. Immense quantities have been smuggled to the Mississippi and it is calculated that not more than one third part of those sold in the Indian Country, every [year] pay duties. The establishment of a post at Green Bay and at Prairie du Chien will close this line of communication. Another at Chicago will effect the same object upon the Illenois. There will then remain a route to be taken, which has heretofore been little used. It is up a small river which enters lake Superior near the Grand Portage and along a number of small lakes with portages to heads of the Mississippi. I am informed by intelligent men that this is the only route, after closing those by Chicago and Green Bay which is practicable.

If the British traders are eventually to be excluded, a post near the Grand Portage will be necessary to effect this object. Should other considerations render their admission proper the post would still be necessary to ensure a collection of the duties and to enforce

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the regulations proper to be adopted. A display of the power of the United States in that remote quarter would be productive of salutary effects upon the minds of the Indians. Should it be deemed proper to establish a post in that Country the previous arrangements should be made this fall, in order that we may be ready to proceed at the opening of the navigation.

I am inclined to believe if these posts are all established and proper regulations adopted at the various agencies, that British traders may be admitted without very serious inconvenience. Certain I am that their admission will not be attended with the same evils, which have heretofore been Experienced.

Mr. Jouett the Agent for Green Bay has arrived here, he has

Lewis Cass From oil portrait, in possession of Wisconsin Historical Society, copied by Lewis T. Ives from original (Detroit, 1839) by George A. P. Healy

379 been long acquainted with Mr. Kinzie³⁰ whom I recommended to you for the appointment of Agent at Chicago, I have requested Mr. Jouett to address you upon the subject. Very Respectfully Sir I have the honor to [be] Yrs. etc. etc.

³⁰ John Kinzie was the son of John McKenzie, a British surgeon of the Royal American regiment. Kinzie was born at Quebec, Dec. 3, 1763, and in early life removed with his mother and stepfather, William Forsyth, to New York City. At the age of ten, John ran away from home, and finding his way to Quebec learned the trade of silversmith. His family having removed to Detroit, he began at the age of eighteen the career of a fur-trader, and was known to the Indians as Shawneeawkee, or "Silver Man." During his fur-trading adventures in Ohio and Indiana, he met Margaret McKenzie, an American captive, whom he married in Indian fashion. After her return to Virginia at the close of the Indian wars (1795), Kinzie married (1798) at Detroit, Eleanor Lytle, widow of a British officer, Capt. Daniel McKillip. In 1803, Kinzie removed his family to Chicago, where Fort Dearborn was about to be built, and this place became his future home, his house being just west of the

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river's mouth, on the north bank. In 1812 the Kinzie family were saved from the general massacre by the friendship of the Indians, taken to Detroit, and surrendered as prisoners of war. In January, 1813, Kinzie was paroled by General Proctor. In August of the same year, he was arrested for treasonable correspondence with the Americans, and carried captive to Quebec, where he was finally released as being a United States citizen. In 1816 he returned to Chicago, where he resided until his death in 1828. For a more extended notice, see Eleanor Lytle Kinzie Gordon, *John Kinzie* (Savannah, Ga., 1910).— Ed.

[Lewis Cass]31

31 Lewis Cass (1782–1866) was an important agent in the development of Michigan and Wisconsin territories. After an active part in the War of 1812–15, he was in 1813 appointed governor for the territory, an office which he filled until 1831, when he was called to the presidential cabinet. During his governorship he was superintendent of Indian affairs for the Northwest region. The agents of Mackinac, Green Bay, and Chicago reported to him; while those of the Mississippi region were under the charge of Gen. William Clark.— Ed.

Hon. A. J. Dallas Actg. Secty. of War .

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1815: UNITED STATES FACTORIES IN WISCONSIN

[Source, same as preceding document, but Indian Office Letter Book "C," p. 223.]

The Acting Secretary of War has the honor to represent to the President of the United States—

That the menaces of the Indians throughout the Indian countries, require immediate attention; and among the means which are proper for restoring harmony, preserving peace, and defeating the arts employed by intrusive traders to generate Indian hostilities, it

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is recommended that there be immediately established an Indian agency on the Fox river, in the neighborhood of Green bay, upon the following principles:—

1. That the agent shall make a competent establishment upon a site to be selected by him, and approved by the major general commanding the division of the north, at which an armoury proper for the accommodation of the Indians, shall be maintained under the charge of the agent.
2. That the establishment, so formed, shall be a military station, to be occupied by two companies of the troops of the United States, or such other force as the commanding general shall deem competent for its defence and support.
3. That a factory shall be connected with the establishment, so formed, to be provided with a competent supply of suitable merchandise for the Indians, to be distributed, or disposed of, in such manner as the department of War shall, from time to time, direct.
4. That notice of this arrangement be given to the major generals of divisions,—to the commanding officers of the troops of the United States at Michillimackinac, and to the superintendant of Indian factories, for the benefit of their immediate co-operation.
5. That Mr. Charles Jouett be appointed the Indian agent for the proposed establishment, to repair to the station, forthwith, having arranged with general Mason, for procuring and transporting an immediate supply of goods, to be distributed 381 in presents to the Indians, until a permanent factory be provided.
6. That the Secretary of the Navy be requested to issue orders for the co-operation of the public vessels on lake Erie, in forming the proposed establishment, in transporting troops or supplies,—and in impressing the Indians with the naval force of the government in that quarter, by navigating lake Michigan.

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7. That the Indian agent shall receive as a full compensation for his services, a salary of one thousand dollars, payable quarterly, with an allowance of six rations per diem, or an equivalent in money, according to the price at the nearest military post.

All which is respectfully submitted.

A. J. Dallas .

Department of War , 19th. June, 1815.

June 20, 1815, Approved James Madison .

Endorsed: Report to the President of the United States.

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 225.]

Department of War , June 20th. 1815.

Sir —Inclosed herewith, you will receive a commission as agent of Indian affairs, to be stationed at Fox river, in the neighbourhood of Green bay. Should you accept the appointment, you will please to repair to Detroit, forthwith, and report yourself to governor Cass, thro' whom your communications will be made to this department.

Your compensation will be at the rate of one thousand dollars per annum, and six rations a day, to commence at the time of your departure to take possession of the agency, of which you will please to notify this department. I am, Sir, very respectfully,

A. J. Dallas .

Addressed: Charles Jouett.

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[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 366.]

Indian Office Geo:town 21 June 1815

Jos. B. Varnum Jr. Esq, now at Albany

Sir —It has been determined by the Department of war to establish a military Post and an Indian military agency forthwith on the Green bay of Lake Michigan at or near where the fox River—or the streight between Lake Winebago falls into the Green Bay, and at this office to place a Factory at the same spot—as you gave me to understand when I had the pleasure to see you some time agoe that you would willingly again accept an agency in this Department and in some of your former letters while employed at Michilimackinac you expressed an opinion that the place now contemplated would be a proper location for a trading house, and that you would readily consent to remove to it, It gives me pleasure now to be able to offer this agency to you.³² The salary and subsistence money will be the same as heretofore allowed you at Mackinac—to wit \$1000, and \$365.

³² It will be seen by the following documents that Varnum did not accept this position, and that the position of first factor at Green Bay was filled by the appointment of Matthew Irwin. — Ed.

Mr. Charles Jouett the former military agent at Chicago has been appointed by the Secretary of war military agent for that post, he leaves the seat of government, tomorrow to prepare to embark at Erie Presque Isle on Lake Erie by the 16th of next month—there to embark in a public vessel which will be ordered by the Secretary of the navy to take him to Detroit, Mackinac, and to the bottom of Green Bay.

If you accept the appointment proposed and your affairs will permit you to sett of on your mission as soon, it would be usefull to the service, and very desirable to me, as you could assist with Mr. Jouett in selecting a proper place for a seite for the Post, with a view to the Interests of the factory and the convenience of communicating with the neighbouring tribes

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of Indians, and in preparing the proper buildings for the Factory so as to be enabled to occupy them with the goods before winter. 383 In this case the assortment for trade and other articles could be sent to you and deposited at Mackinac so as to reach that place it is hoped by the last of September or the middle of October. I request to hear from you immediately on the reception of this letter, and to be informed first whether you accept the appointment, and next whether you can go on as speedily as proposed, if it can [not] be done with certainty so as to join Mr. Jouett at Erie by the 16th. July, it should not be attempted should you accept and not be able to make your arrangements so as to go with him, it will then be best that you go on with the goods, say from Erie about the 1st. of Sept: sooner than which I don't think they can be prepared and sent on, owing to the yet great scarcity and high prices of the proper articles.

In either case the commencement of your compensation will be dated from the time you take up your route from your present residence for your post.

In case you should accept and determine to go on with Mr. Jouett, and to save time I enclose you the form of the requisite bond and oath of office which you can execute, and return me the same securities given in your former bond will be deemed sufficient.

It was not in my power to have given you earlier information on this subject, as the arrangement was only determined by the Department of War yesterday.³³

³³ This gives with certainty the date that the United States government decided to build a post at Green Bay, where none had been established since the departure of the British in 1763. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xviii, p. 254.— Ed.

A strong military post and a Factory will be established this fall at Prarie des Chiens, the preperations for which in both Departments have been moved some time agoe. Mr. John Johnson the former factor at Fort Madison will have charge of the factory.³⁴

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34 John W. Johnson was a native of Maryland, who while quite young received the appointment as United States factor at Fort Madison, on the site of the present Iowa town of that name. This fort was built in 1808 as a protection for the newly-established factory. It was besieged in 1812, after the fall of Fort Dearborn; and the factory, which lay without the fort, was burned by the garrison to keep it from being plundered by hostile Indians. The following year, during July and August, the garrison endured an almost continuous siege, but skilfully escaped in the night of Sept. 3, 1813, burning the fort behind them. In all of these operations, Johnson seems to have had part, and to have continued trading with friendly Indians at St. Louis or vicinity—see *Amer. State Papers, Indian Affairs*, ii, pp. 39, 44, 49, 53. In 1816 he went to Prairie du Chien, where he established the factory, and in 1818 was chosen judge of the county court for Crawford. He remained in charge of the post until the close of the factory system, when he removed to St. Louis, where he was living as late as 1837. He married a Sank woman, and by her had several children, whom he educated.— Ed.

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It is intended to renew the post and factory at Chicago in which case Mr. Irwin will be reinstated there in his former agency. It is probable that this is all we shall be able to do previous to the next winter in the trade Department in the quarter of the Lakes.

If you determine to depart immediately with Mr. Jouett on hearing from you to that effect, I will write you some additional Instructions to meet you at Erie, or at Detroit or Mackinac, as I find I shall best be in time to do, and I request in such case that you will write me before you leave Erie a list of such articles as you may think will most properly constitute an assortment for the proposed trading house to be placed under your charge having reference to an amount of about \$12 or 15,000\$ in all which is about the amount I propose to supply you with this fall as also a list of such tools and materials say Ironmongery etc. as you may suppose necessary to enable you to put up, with the aid of the military the

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requisite buildings for a small factory establishment, which can be afterwards augmented if found necessary. I am etc. etc. etc.

J. M.[ason]

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[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 379.]

Indian Office Washington 28 July 1815

Mathew Irwin Esq

Sir —Your two letters of the 11th. March and 8th. April [from] White Hall N. York were received in due course, they were not replied to as it was not very certain when or how we should reestablish our Factories in the Lakes.

It has been lately decided to place a garrison and a Factory on the Green Bay of Lake Michigan, at or near where the Fox River or the streight of Lake Winebago falls into the Bay. Mr. Chas. Jouett the former military agent at Chicago, has been appointed by the Secretary of War military agent for this post. The Garrison and Mr. Jouett are already in motion for their destination by way of Detroit and Michilimackinac.

During an indisposition by which I was confined in the early part of this Month I requested Mr. Bronaugh³⁵ to write you and to inform you, that you would be reappointed to a factory and to request you to come here, we have not heard from you yet in reply. This then is to inform you that as in your letters of last spring you expressed a preference for the position at Green Bay, you will be appointed to that factory, provided you can go on immediately, your salary will be at the rate of \$1000. per annum and allowance for subsistence money \$365.

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35 Jeremiah W. Bronough was chief clerk of the department of Indian trade, until its abolition in 1822.— Ed.

The goods intended for it are all here and now packing, they will be moved in a very few days in waggons via Pittsburg to Erie on Lake Erie, there to be embarked at any rate from that point not later than the 1st. Sept: by which time it will if you accept, be necessary that you be there to accompany the goods.

I have to request then that you let me hear from you with the least possible delay, and that you will inform, if you accept where I shall direct to you and in the meantime, if I can count with certainty—that you will be at Erie ready to embark by the 1st. Sept: should you take Philada, in your way, and be 386 able to be here by the first 5 or 6 days in august, I should be glad you would come on at once, but not otherwise, as after that time I shall probably be from home. You will necessarily see from the advanced stage of the season that there is not a moment to be lost. I am etc. etc. etc.

J. M[ason]

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 397.]

Indian office August 7, 1815

John W. Johnson Esq. U. S. F. at Prarie des Chiens .

Sir —I have received your letter of the 9 July from St. Louis, and am glad to find you had arrived safely with all your goods in so short a period.

I regret the mistake about your Tobacco, and hope you will be able to obtain it of Govr. Clarkes parcell. I will replace it as soon as possible. your draft for your quarters salary to 1 June will be paid.

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In confirmation of the several conversations I had with you while here last spring as to the Factory to be established at Prarie des Chiens, You will if not already done proceed with the U. S. troops, or such detachment of them moving to Prarie des Chiens as will insure a safe convoy, with your assistant Mr. Belt,³⁶ and all the factory goods and implements remaining

³⁶ Robert B. Belt of Maryland became assistant factor to Johnson while the latter was in charge at Fort Madison, having been appointed in June, 1812. He must, therefore, have been a participant in the siege of Fort Madison (see *ante*, p. 383, note 34) and concerned in its evacuation and the destruction of the factory. Since his salary continued to be paid throughout the war, it is probable that he was connected with the peaceful Sauk and Foxes, who removed to Missouri on the outbreak of the War of 1812-15. Belt was at Prairie du Chien with Johnson for less than two years, when he was given charge of the new factory at Fort Edwards, on the Mississippi, below Rock Island. There Forsyth met him in 1819—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vi, p. 190, where the name is erroneously printed “Bett.” After the closing of the factories in 1822, nothing more is known by us concerning this person.— Ed.

³⁸⁷ from the establishment at the River Le Moin,³⁷ and will establish yourself at or near the village of the Prarie des Chien, in the position which may in your opinion in conjunction with the Commanding officer or any other person authorised by the War Dept. for that purpose be found best to hold a communication in trade with the neighbouring tribes of Indians and at the same time, be sufficiently under the protection of the military force. if this should be at the village, it is presumed you will be able to occupy some of the houses there that are public property, or to rent of individuals on easy terms. If it should be not at the village, it will be requisite you should build the necessary houses; in which case you will be governed as nearly as

³⁷ The first factory on the Mississippi above the Des Moines was at Fort Madison, for which see *ante*, p. 383, note 34. In August, 1814, Maj. Zachary Taylor was sent up the Mississippi to re-inforce and provision the garrison left by Gen. William Clark at Prairie

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du Chien. He found that this place had been captured by the British under Maj. William McKay (see *ante*, p. 365, note 12). Taylor had a sharp skirmish near Rock Island, and having fallen back erected Fort Johnson, not far from the present Warsaw; Hancock County, Ill.—see *Niles' Register*, viii, suppl. p. 137; and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ix, pp. 243245. This fort was burned and abandoned in October of the same year— *Ibid.*, p. 250; and *Life and Letters of Ninian Edwards* (Springfield, Ill., 1870), p. 82. There could have been no factory or factor's goods at this point. What was known as "Des Moines factory," whose reports were consecutively made from 1812 to 1815, must have temporarily been located near St. Louis, or within the protection of the American lines—for until 1816 there could have been no place near Des Moines River, where a factory of Indian goods might have been maintained. Johnson did not arrive at Prairie du Chien until May 26 of that year, for during all of 1815 the tribes on the Mississippi and Rock rivers were hostile—see *Amer. State Papers, Ind. Affs.*, ii, pp. 9, 11. Although the other hostile tribes made treaties at Portage des Sioux during the summer and autumn of 1815, the Rock River Sauk and Winnebago remained recalcitrant, and continued hostilities. Early in 1816 messages were sent to the disaffected tribes, who finally sent delegations to St. Louis, where on May 13 the Sauk of Rock River, and June 3, the Wisconsin Winnebago, bound themselves to keep the peace. In anticipation of this result, Johnson went to Prairie du Chien some months in advance of the military forces.— Ed.

388 may be by the number of houses and kind of establishment you had at Le Moin, and in every case you will be governed by the strictest œconomy compatible with the public service.

In case of buildings or repairs as it is presumed labour of no other kind can be had in that quarter, you will apply to the Commanding officer to assist you by detaching from time to time such of the soldiers as may be necessary and can be spared from duty, to whom you will from the factory funds give the same allowance for fatigue duty in money and whiskey heretofore allowed on similar occasions at your Post, keeping and rendering accurate accounts of the same from time to time, and ultimately a complete [account] of the cost

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of your buildings, or repairs as the case may be. should the position chosen not be at the village, and should it be found that you will not have time to cover yourself at it this winter, it will be adviseable to 'establish yourself at the village untill you can compleat the intended buildings at the post, in such case if the military do not generally remain at the village you will apply to the Commanding officer for a sufficient guard to protect the public property in your charge while you remain there.

You will at the new establishment, open and carry on a fair and liberal trade with the neighbouring tribes of Indians, and make your returns of Peltries Furs and other things to the agt. of this office at Saint Louis, in the same manner and under the same general instructions as you have heretofore done at the former establishment, advising me as frequently as possible of all your movements and of your prospects, particularly of the tribes with which you will come in contact in that quarter of their dispositions toward the United States their location, numbers, hunting grounds, the produce of their hunts, and the articles most proper to furnish you with for trade with them. With best wishes for your health and success, I am etc. etc.

J. M[ason]

P. S. Since you left us I have received three letters from your assist: Mr. Belt, informing me that by the advice of Gov: Clark he had furnished him with \$600. worth of Goods 389 intended for the Fox annuities,³⁸ which the Govt. had afterwards determined to give in presents to the Puttawatimies. in this last case you must get a bill on the Dept. of war for that sum and if requisite furnish anew for the Fox annuities. I have written to Mr. Belt and approve of this as well as some trafic he had made by the advice of Gov. Clark. [Word illegible] for Blankets and Tobacco.

³⁸ The treaty of 1804 with the Sank and Foxes, provided that an annuity of \$1,000 should be paid—\$600 for the former, \$400 for the latter. For the payments in 1817 and 1819, see the Forsyth papers in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vi, p. 191; xiii, p. 347. The tribesmen were

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dissatisfied with these payments, refusing (in 1817) to accept them, and claiming that the treaty of 1804 was spurious. Later, their necessities induced the acceptance, but in 1821 they claimed that goods were not furnished that could be divided among the tribe. See Jedidiah Morse, *Report to the Secretary of War* (New Haven, 1822), p. 57, and app. p. 139.— Ed.

J. M.

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 402.]

Indian office 7th Aug: 1815

The Honbl. William H. Crawford Secretary of War

Sir —As has been heretofore customary (to shew which I beg leave to refer to my letter of the 13 May 1809 to the Secy. of War and to his reply of the 15 same month) and is really necessary under the peculiar circumstances of the case—I have to solicit that you will be pleased to instruct the Commanding officers at the Posts nearest to the Factories about to be established at Prarie des Chiens and on the Missouri or Osage, at Green Bay at or near Chicago, to detach as occasion may require and place at the disposition of the United States factors respectively the requisite number of soldiers to erect for them suitable buildings for the factory establishment, from time to time to aid them in packing and beating furs and Peltries, The Factors making to the Men so employed a daily reasonable allowance for fatigue duty, which has been heretofore fixed at Ten Cents and a gill of whiskey per day (when this last can be had) during the time they are so engaged. The factors will be provided from this office with the requisite tools and materials.

The distance from the settlements at which the factories are established make it impossible to procure labour otherwise than from the military, and as the soldiers will have little else to do, it has been found that they chearfully engage in work of this kind for a small addition to their pay and comfort thus furnished from the factory fund.

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As we have had at such posts too many instances of broils between the Commandants and the Factors, detrimental to the public service as well military as civil, I will take the liberty to suggest the propriety that both should receive strong injunctions to maintain harmony and keep up constantly an intercourse of reciprocal good offices, in their respective spheres. I have enjoined and shall continue to enjoin this course of conduct strictly on all the factors.

For your information I beg leave to enclose an extract of my instructions to John W. Johnson factor at Prarie des Chiens relative to the establishment under his charge. With great Respect etc. etc.

J. M[ason]

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 406.]

Indian office August 11th. 1815

The Honbl. Wm. H. Crawford Secretary of War

Sir —In consequence of the understanding on that subject with the Dept. of war, goods to the amount of \$20,000 are now prepared at this office and will be moved in a very few days by way of Pittsburg to Erie on Lake Erie, intended for two factories one to be established at the Military post on Green Bay of Michigan and one at that which may be located at or near Chicago on Lake Michigan.

The uncertainty of getting the means of private transportation on the Lakes and the importance of a speedy conveyance at this late stage of the season, makes it very desirable to obtain this transportation by a public vessel, as I presume the navy 391 Department have vessels unemployed on that Lake, I will take the liberty to solicit if in your opinion the measure be necessary, that you will be pleased to ask of the Navy Dept. a vessel to transport these Goods, and the two agents who will accompany them from Erie

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to Michilimackinac, and thence if necessary to Green Bay or Chicago, to be ready to take them in at Erie by the 10th, or at latest the 15th, Sept: I am etc. etc. etc.

J. M[ason]

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 416.]

Indian office Washn . 20 aug. 1815

Mathew Irwin Esq. U. S. F. for Green Bay

Sir —This letter I presume will find you at Erie on your way to your Post. I enclose you herewith an Invo. of goods intended for the factory to be placed under your charge at *Green Bay* (Chicago)³⁹ containing 113 (65) Packages arno. \$15.738.06 (\$9452.34). These goods are neither as well chosen or as advantageously bought as could be desired but the scarcity and present high prices of articles suitable for our purposes left us no choice in the desire, to have in the quarter of the country to which you are going some goods at least this winter to supply the wants of the Indians. you will find with the Post master at Erie a letter from Capt. Wooly at Pittsburg who conducts the transportation informing you who is his agent at Erie and who will place these Goods on board a public vessel the Schooner Ghent to your order. The Commander has directions to furnish you with a passage, your own stores you will lay in, he will proceed directly to Mackinac with you which will be garrisoned by our troops before you reach it. you will there apply to the Commanding officer for information, and enquire also for *Charles Jouett Esq* (Col: Boyer)⁴⁰ Military Indian agent who

³⁹ The words and figures enclosed in parentheses in the following document were supplied in the second letter (otherwise identical with this), intended for Jacob B. Varnum, who was going as Indian factor to Chicago.— Ed.

⁴⁰ Col. John Bowyer belonged to a prominent family of Augusta County, Va., whose members took part in Dunmore's War (1774) and the Revolution. Inheriting military tastes,

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young Bowyer entered the regular army as lieutenant in 1792. Four years later, he was an officer of the 3d infantry, being promoted to a captaincy in 1799. By 1808 he had become major, and in 1812 lieutenant-colonel of the 2nd infantry; and in 1814, colonel of the 5th. In 1813, Colonel Bowyer was stationed on the Southern frontier, and in April of that year aided in the capture of Mobile. In the summer of the same year, a fort was built some miles below the city, and named for its commander, Fort Bowyer. Later it was dismantled, and the command removed. Colonel Bowyer had served with great efficiency, but upon the reduction of the army to a peace footing in 1815, he was discharged, and given instead an Indian agency. As shown by documents *post.* he arrived at Green Bay, in the early summer of 1816, and for a home purchased the farm of Judge Charles Reaume. He was of Huguenot descent, spoke French, and made himself as popular with the unwilling inhabitants as any American Indian agent could. He subscribed to their schools, and brought his family to live at Green Bay, where he died in 1820, while still agent for the government.— Ed.

392 is to reside at the same place, and if in time to go with the troops and military stores, you will take your passage in company with them on this or some public vessel if the troops and military stores should have gone on you will immediately follow and join them at the Post with your goods taking care not to move but in an armed vessel or under such protection of the public force, as well to ensure the protection of the property in your charge, and to this end you will apply to the Commanding Officer and the military agent will have fixed or in conjunction will fix on the particular scite at or near *Green Bay* (Chicago) deemed most proper to combine all the advantages for a military position, and for trade and intercourse with the neighbouring Indians. This done you will immediately set about erecting suitable buildings for the accomodation of yourself and the factory, it is presumed a dwelling house of about 90 by 30 feet, and a house for a store and warehouse of same dimensions will be sufficient with if necessary the aid of one or two small out houses. The Commanding officer at your Post has been instructed from the War Department to give you the requisite aid in putting up these buildings, and you will make to the Soldiers 393

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detached on this duty a fatigue allowance of 10 Cents and a gill of Whiskey to each man per day.

You will use every possible œconomy in putting up these buildings and when done render me accurate accounts of the whole cost. with your goods will be sent some tools and implements for building, and whiskey for the detached soldiers.

Should it happen that it be determined by the Military not to establish a Post this winter at the position described to you, or should it be that you arrive so late at Mackinac (which is to be avoided if it can possibly be) that it should not on account of the frost be in your power to get to that position before winter sets in, you will remain at Mackinac during winter and store your goods in some safe place untill you can proceed on the expedition in the spring; and in mean time if at or near that place you can with safety open any usefull traffic with the friendly Indians, and supply with goods for their skins furs etc., it will be best to do so to a certain extent and particularly if you find this is necessary to their real wants.

You will in all respects be governed by the general instructions, as to your conduct toward the Indians and the trade with them, given from this office to you while factor at *Chicago* (Sandusky)⁴¹ and you will make return in Peltries furs etc. thro Mackinac and Erie to Capt. Abraham Wooly at Pittsburg, who will forward them to this office.

⁴¹ Varnum had been the government factor at Sandusky, as Irwin had been at Chicago; but the War of 1812–15 broke up their respective factories.— Ed.

I beg thus early in forming a new establishment to recommend in the most particular manner to you that you will do all that may depend on you to preserve harmony, good understanding and an interchange of reciprocal good offices between the Military Commandant and yourself, as also with the military agent, the interest of the public service requires this and it is hoped that Gentlemen having all the same general object in charge, will unite each in his own sphere in producing the end desired by the Government.

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You will keep me constantly advised of your movements, and the general state of your business—be very particular in keeping your Inventories and accounts, and to make regular quarterly returns as heretofore in your former agency. Inform yourself as soon as you are able to give me detailed information with regard to all the Indian tribes within reach of you, their numbers, position, hunting grounds, produce of their hunts, articles suitable for their use etc. and their disposition toward the United States.

With best wishes for your speedy and safe arrival and the success of the establishment under your charge, I am etc. etc.

J. M[ason]

P. S. As you will probably be some time in company with Capt. Varnum(42 who goes to Chicago, I beg you will give him all the information you may think usefull as to the tribes of 42 Jacob B. Varnum was a younger brother of Joseph, who had formerly been factor at Mackinac; see *ante*. p. 326, note 69. He was born in Massachusetts in 1788, and in 1809 received his first appointment to an office in the militia. Two years later (Aug. 6, 1811), he was, through his father's influence, appointed factor at Sandusky, where the trading-house was broken up by hostile Indians (Oct. 31, 1812). During the war he served in the army, and being ordered to Maine, in command of a small coast fort, was captured (1813) by the officers of a British man-of-war, who released him upon parole. In August, 1815, having resigned from the army, Varnum was appointed factor for Chicago. He arrived there some time in the month of September, 1816, after a long delay at Mackinac, where he married Marianne Aikens. She died the year after her marriage, and in 1819 Captain Varnum married Catherine Dodimead of Detroit. The factory at Chicago was just south of the re-built Fort Dearborn. For a portion of the time Varnum boarded with Jean Baptiste Beaubien. His success in establishing trade with the Indians was very small, due to causes quite beyond his control. In the spring of 1820 he had exchanged but \$25 worth of goods

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for furs—see letters in A. T. Andreas, *History of Chicago* (Chicago, 1884), i, pp. 88, 89, 93, 94. In 1822, the Chicago factory having been abolished, Varnum removed to Washington, whence in 1828 he made a home at Petersburg, Va. A non-combatant during the siege of that town in 1863, his home was burned and he finally returned to Washington, where he died in 1874.— Ed.

395 Indians in that quarter and their trade intercourse etc. which your experience among them will enable you to do, and that you will give him your opinion at large as to the proper position in that quarter for a new Factory.

Should it happen that Capt. Varnum does not get up [in] time for the sailing of the vessel before mentioned you will take charge of all the goods, and deliver those for Chicago to the care of the Commanding officer at Mackinac to be held to the order of capt. Jacob B. Varnum.

1815: USE OF LIQUOR PROHIBITED

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 3B42. Translated from the French.]

Prairie Du chiens Oct. 22, 1815

Sir —Having learned from the account of Mr. Bettelle that you wish me to know that you have suffered a Considerable, loss since The War and that you are trying to recover since your loss has been Caused because you occupied a position under the Americans. I hope that you will be recompensed, if you make a representation and an estimate of your loss and send it with proper Certificates to Governor Edwards⁴³ at Cahoux [Cahokia], and he can perhaps protect you. As for your place as, magistrate I give you full power to exercise it since the treaty of peace, for he has invested me with these powers, until he sends you different orders. These orders are to prohibit liquor

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43 Ninian Edwards, territorial governor of Illinois, was born in Maryland in 1775. Early in life he removed to Kentucky, where he studied law and was judge of several courts, being in 1808 chief justice of the state. Upon the organization of the territory of Illinois, he was chosen governor, and served with vigor and effectiveness during the territorial period of that commonwealth. Being chosen first United States senator from Illinois, he was at the expiration of his term, appointed (1824) minister to Mexico, but resigned before visiting his post. From 1826–30 he served as governor of the state of Illinois, and died in 1833 at his home at Belleville.— Ed.

396 among the nations especially at the post. I have asked Mr Roy⁴⁴ to give you the notice that he is to post at the portage of the Wisconsin in order that you may do the same at Labez If you discover that they refuse to obey write to the Governor and he will give you a force to see that it is Executed. I am Sir, your very humble servant

44 François Roy (or Le Roy) was a son of Joseph Roy, an early settler of Green Bay. Having married Thérèse Lecuyer—whose father had lived at the Fox-Wisconsin portage, where he was engaged in the transportation business—Roy himself settled at the portage about the beginning of the War of 1812–15. When Lockwood crossed in 1817, he found Roy engaged in portaging with teams, and charging \$10 for each boat and fifty cents per hundred pounds for cargoes. Later, Roy seems to have given up the transportation business for the fur-trade, and had a home and trading house on the site where Fort Winnebago was built in after years. This location was purchased from him by the federal government, whereupon he removed to Wisconsin River, where he was living as late as 1831—see Juliette A. Kinzie, *Waubun; Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xiv, pp. 165, 166. Not long after this, Roy removed to Green Lake, probably to the house of his son Pierre, who was found there in 1840 by the first American settlers—see *Wis. Hist. See. Proc.*, 1909, p. 256. In 1856, Augustin Grignon had not heard of Roy's death. Ed.

N. Boilvin agent & Judge of the peace

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Mr. Raihome

If you have any news from Maquinac let me know it.

Addressed: A Monsieur Mons Rehome magistrat a Labez verte Favored by Mr. Roy

1815: DUTY ON FUR-TRADE MERCHANDISE

[Source, same as preceding document, but 3B44. Translated from the French.]

Michilimakinac Oct. 25, 1815.

My dear Sir —The present is to Inform that I had the pleasure of seeing one of the desmoiselles Porlier at Montreal who was very well and had much pleasure in hearing of you, 397 as well as did the Messieurs Mailliot⁴⁵ who charged me to present to you their compliments. Mr. Rolette will give you the letter I brought with me. As it is at present possible to Communicate with the Gentlemen in Illinois you will Much oblige Me by writing to Monsieur Cabané or Monsieur Chenier⁴⁶ on the Subject of a letter of Exchange that your Sister has sent for a sum amounting to 165 Piastres. I have drawn by Monsieur Boilvin On General Clarck, in My favor for a power to receive the sum next year if possible.

⁴⁵ Jacques Porlier had two unmarried sisters, who at this time were living in Verchères, Canada. One of them, Louise, was his constant correspondent. In a letter preserved in the Wisconsin Historical Library (Wisconsin MSS., 3B29), she mentions her proposed visit to Montreal. Xavier and François Victor Malhiot were Porlier's cousins, and were likewise living at Verchères.— Ed.

⁴⁶ These were two prominent merchants of St. Louis. John P. Cabanné, a native of Pau, France, emigrated first to New Orleans; but owing to his participation in a duel he was obliged to leave that place and settled (about 1804) at St. Louis. There he engaged in the fur-trade as a partner of the Chouteaus, and made a fortune in that business on the

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Missouri. For many years Cabanné was agent for the American Fur Company at Council Bluffs, where (in 1832) he had an affair with a rival trader, which caused him to return to St. Louis, where he had married Julie Gratiot, and maintained a fine home. He served as trustee (in 1806) for the village of St. Louis, and was in other directions a public-spirited citizen, dying there in 1841.

Antoine Chenier, of Canadian origin (1768), first ventured in the fur-trade in the neighborhood of Niagara. In 1796 he settled in St. Louis, where he married Marie Thérèse Papin, niece of the elder Chouteau. He owned much land and several buildings in old St. Louis, having a fine brick house, whose hospitality was proverbial For his portrait see J. Thomas Scharf, *History of St. Louis* (Philadelphia, 1883), p. 358.— Ed.

My dear Sir, I am Charmed that you have had your Merchandise started from the Post before the disembarkment of the Americans⁴⁷ here For you would have had to pay the duty

⁴⁷ Col. Anthony Butler, of the United States army, headed an expedition which left Detroit early in July, 1815, in a fleet of four vessels, he having been ordered to take formal possession of Mackinac. Having arrived July 18, and performed the necessary ceremonies of taking over the post, Butler departed with the fleet, leaving Capt. Willoughby Morgan in charge of the garrison. Morgan was (Aug. 31) superseded by Maj. Talbot Chambers; see *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xvi, pp. 177, 191, 200.— Ed.

398 which is very high, as you may Judge, since it amounts to 31 1/4 Per Cent of the Montreal Price.

However I doubt whether you are yet Secure, having heard it said that the Collector received Instructions Three Days ago that all the merchandise which is in the Interior before his Arrival Would be Subject to the duties. I am happy to Inform you however that your trade is arranged for in any Case. I wish you Good Health and Much Success and Am awaiting your news Your very humble Servant And friend

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J. B. Berthelot

Monseir Jacques Porlier La Bay vente

Addressed: Jacques Porlier Esq. La Bayverte Favored by Mr. J. Rolette.

Endorsed by Porlier: Berthelotte's letter 1815 recommendation of a note drawn on General Clark and announcing the high Duty at McKina

1815: ORDERS FROM ILLINOIS

[Source, same as preceding document, but 60B51. Translated from the French.]

According to The orders that I have Received from Governor Ninian Edwards, Governor of the Territory of the Illinois I have prohibited all Persons from carrying Liquors among the Nations under pain of Undergoing the punishment that The Law orders. and of being chased from the place if he is taken a second time. No License can be Granted to sell it and no Trader will be Permitted to conduct Trade who violates this injunction, and in default of a White, a Respectable Savage will be believed on his Declaration.

Prerie du Chien Oct. 29, 1815

N. Boilvin agent and judge of the peace

Endorsed: Ninian Edwards at Kaost.

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1815: INDIAN AGENT AT GREEN BAY

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book "C," p. 289.]

Department of War , Decemr. 30th. 1815.

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Sir —Mr. Jewett [Jouett] has made an application to this department to exchange the agency of Green Bay for that of Chicago. As his previous residence at the latter place has given him a general knowledge of the Indians within that agency, this exchange would be acceptable to the government, provided you have no particular objection to it. The salary is the same, and it is believed that the Agency at Green Bay is the most eligible, and the one which you would have preferred.

Should you find it convenient to make this exchange, you will advise Mr. Jewett, as well as this department of your determination. I have the honor to be etc.

[George Graham Chief Clerk]

Addressed: Col. John Bowyer, In. Agt. Detroit.

1816: PROHIBITION OF LIQUOR

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 60B53. Translated from the French.]

For the United States .

By order of Governor Ninian Edwards, he enjoins me to post the notice at this place that all Traders and other citizens must Conform to the Prohibition made not to sell or have sold any Liquor to the Nations in any place whatsoever under pain of suffering under the Law and of being driven from this Place. Given and passed the Present, and put in force the eighth day of February of the year one thousand eight hundred and sixteen at la Baye verte.

Ch les . Reaume Judge of the peace

By order of the Governor Ninian Edwards &c. at Kaost.

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[Source, same as preceding document, but 54B24. Translated from the French.]

[written about 1816]

Charles Reaume, Esq .

The urgent Situation that our gentlemen at the Buttes des Mortes are in with regard to the prohibition of rum, puts me to the necessity of sending an express to secure your opinion as to what they can do. Consider yourself that they cannot resist a number of Savages resolved to go to extremes. We consider ourselves authorized by the danger that they will incur to beg you to lift that prohibition that came so late that our gentlemen were not able to carry it out. We await your immediate reply to transmit by the same express. You will notice, Sir, that liquor having once been allowed among the Savages it is not possible to restrain them from it, and that moreover there is not force enough here to sustain such a regulation. We have the honor to be with Consideration Your very humble Servants

Jacques Porlier

L s . Grignon

John Lawe .

Addressed: Chls. Reaume Esq.

1816: TRADERS AT MILWAUKEE

[Source, same as preceding document, but 3B50. Translated from the French.]

Milwaquis Feb. 25, 1816

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Sir —After having made you my Compliments, if you will accept them from me I promise you to assist my Cousin Jaque Viaut⁴⁸ From this Place as far as the Portage of Sturgeon Bay

⁴⁸ For accounts of Jacques Vieau, the first permanent white settler on the site of Milwaukee, see the interesting narratives of his sons, Andrew J. and Peter J., in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, pp. 281–225; xv, pp. 458–469. A portrait of Andrew J. Vieau, in his twenty-first year, by the well-known artist, George A. P. Healey, is given herewith.— Ed.

Andrew Jacques Vieau From oil portrait (Detroit, 1839) by George A. P. Healy, of Wisconsin Historical Society

401 for the amount of a Fifty pound sack of Flour, if you will send it to me. I am sir your Very Humble Servant

James Michel Lepallieur ⁴⁹

⁴⁹ This is the clerk spoken of as “Mike le Pettéel” in *Id.*, xi, 220, 226. Nothing is known of him, save his services for Vieau. See likewise *Id.*, xv, p. 463.— Ed.

Addressed: Louis Grignon Bay Verte.

1816: BRITISH SUBJECTS IN WISCONSIN FUR-TRADE

[MS. in State Department, Washington. Bureau of Rolls and Library. Ninian Edwards to Monroe.]

Kaskaskia Illinois Territory March 3, 1816

Sir —Supposing it probable that the peculiar situation of this, and Missouri Territory, the extraordinary sensation excited in consequence of the Presidents proclamation, directing intruders upon public land to be removed by military force, and the various representations that have been made upon that subject, may produce seine relaxation, or alteration of that

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measure, I beg leave to mention to you one description of intruders who are entitled to no favor, and against whom, the most rigid execution of the proclamation is in my opinion recommended by every dictate of policy in relation to the government, and of justice to its citizens—I mean those British subjects who have settled themselves at the village of La Bay, which is situated on Fox river, three miles above its confluence with Green Bay, and at the village of Prairie du Chien on the Mississippi, At both of which places, those intruders are not only engaged extensively in agriculture, but constantly carry on such an intercourse with the Indians, as is prohibited to our best citizens.

These villages are within the acknowledged limits of this Territory to the latter in particular, our laws have been specially extended, and if it be true that a Foreigner while residing in our country, and receiving its protection, owes a temporary allegiance to its Gov t , and an obedience to its laws, there can be 26 402 nothing more certain than, that all those persons have violated the one, and infringed the other; for they have all without exception, been actively, and efficiently engaged in the war against us. They in fact constitute complete British establishments, and in that light must be so considered by that Gov t , from the circumstance of its having already remunerated them, for one half of all the losses, which they sustained during the war—Of which I have been informed both officially, and by several of the individuals concerned. To permit them to remain under such circumstances. and to cultivate the lands from which our own citizens are excluded, would be, not only to cherish a set of unprincipled British spies, ever ready to communicate the measures of our gov t , and to defeat, as far as possible, its endeavours to maintain the relations of peace, and friendly intercourse with the savages, but it would also continue to them evident advantages, in the prosecution of the fur trade, over our own traders.

Had it not been for the subsistence which their farms, and mills enabled them to afford the Indians in the late war, it would have been absolutely impossible to have rallied such a number against us, as were engaged in the battles of Ft Meigs⁵⁰ and other places, and therefore while the conduct of those people entitles them to no favor, the admonitions of

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experience seem to dictate precautions on our part, against the recurrence of similar evils, the more especially as at this very time, the conduct of the Indians (if concurring reports from different parts of their country can be relied upon) indicate great discontent, and disaffection towards our Gov t . And although I am convinced that we need never expect entire tranquility on our frontiers, till some more efficient, checks shall be imposed upon the machinations of British traders, or agents, yet I am greatly at a loss to comprehend the causes of the recent excitement, which from the reports of our public agents, as well as others,

50 Fort Meigs was attacked May 1–5, 1813, by Gen. Henry proctor, heading a force of nearly 2000 Indians, a large proportion of whom were from the region of Lake Michigan and the interior of Wisconsin.— Ed.

403 seems very strongly to have manifested itself simultaneously, among several different Tribes, situated at distances very remote from each other.

Should the British subjects that I have mentioned be removed from the settlements they occupy, It might I think, be advisable to permit (under proper restrictions) their places to be, supplied, by good American citizens, for the purpose of affording accomodation to our garrisons, to our traders, and to the Indians themselves. And indeed such a measure might be the most effectual means, of guarding against those casualties, to which the transportation of provisions to posts so remote from the settled parts of our country, must necessarily be exposed and of which we have heretofore had a monitory example in the necessary abandonment and distruction of F t Madison.⁵¹

51 See *ante*, p. 383, note 34.— Ed.

I discover from the newspapers, that a proposition has been made in congress, to exclude British subjects from all trade with the Indians within the limits of the United States, or those Territories. In consequence of which, though I have no knowledge whatever, of the views of the gov t relative to that subject, I beg leave to suggest it as my opinion that

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a law predicated upon such an exclusion merely, without other auxilliary cheeks, would not produce the slightest change in their trade, nor correct any part of the evils, which it would be intended to remedy. The agents of the North West Company have long resided in this country, and of course can be naturalized, at any moment upon application to the competent Tribunal. Of which they will most certainly avail themselves, in order that they may carry on the same trade, and practise the same machinations in the character of American citizens.

This policy on their part has already commenced, and tomorrow one of the most distinguished of those gentlemen, will make application to the superior court at this place to be naturalized, that he may thereby be prepared for any change that may take place. I would here with great pleasure present the result of my own reflections as to the best means, or necessary expedients for correcting those evils & evasions, were I not under some apprehensions, that this uninvited communication may already be thought rather too obtrusive, and if that should be the case I hope an apology for me, will be found, in the only motives, by which I would possibly be influenced. I have the honor to be With very great respect Sir Y r Me Obd t S t

Ninian Edwards

Honble James Monroe Sec. of State .

Addressed: The Honble James Monroe Sec. of State Washington City

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 3B52. Translated from the French.]

Michilimakinac Mar. 22, 1816

Dear Sir —The present is to Inform you that I received the honor of your two last letters of the 22 and 28 of February, and Should have been pleased to have sent you the hyson

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Tea if I could have Found any. As I am expecting some from Drummond Island,⁵² you will receive it by the Next Opportunity.

⁵² For the British establishment on Drummond Island, see *ante*, p. 146, note 94.— Ed.

I Enquired about your Tobacco There are two Barrels that Mr. Daniel Mitchel⁵³ says he received for you without telling me the Number of Livres.

⁵³ A son of Madame Mitchell, described in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xiv, pp. 35–38.— Ed.

The Express which we expected from Detroit having arrived has brought me papers which announce a Treaty of Commerce between England and America by which no British Subject has the right to Trade with the Savages on the Territory of the United States. I do not know what to think of this.

As you probably have been Informed Mr. Astor's Company sent me at M c Kinac last fall 20000 Livres of Tobacco addressed to Mr. Sam I . Abbot for the Trade of Next Year. You will learn presently that the Company of the North has succumbed 405 to Them And that it is Mr. Roeheblave under the Name of the Southwest Fur Company who has the money for it, Mr. Abbot having received a letter from Mr. Astor and Mr. Rocheblave on the Subject. Nothing more only wishing you Good Health and good Business. I am awaiting your reply, Sir, Your very humble and obedient servant and friend

J. B. Berthelot

Mr. Louis Grignon, La Baye Verte .

N.B. If I can procure for you by any Opportunity one of your Barrels of Tobacco, I will do it

Addressed: Monsr Louis Grignon La Baye verte.

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[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book "C," p. 344. Wm. H. Crawford to Gov. Cass and Indian Agents.]

Department of War , 10th. May, 1816.

Sir —I have the honor of transmitting to you the copy of an act of Congress, passed on the 29th. of April last, intended to subject the right of foreign merchants, to trade with the Indian tribes within the limits of the United States, to the absolute control of the President.⁵⁴ It is deemed expedient that the power vested in the President by this act, shall be exercised with a view to secure to our savage neighbors a regular supply of those articles, which their wants and habits have rendered indispensable. This supply must be furnished by the government, by the individual enterprize of American citizens, or by foreigners. The fund hitherto employed by the government for this object is wholly incompetent for this supply. The tribes which have been usually supplied by the traders in the employ of the North West Company, reside far in the

⁵⁴ Act of 14th Cong., 1st sess., chap. clxv. Section one thereof forbids licenses for the Indian trade to any but United States citizens, save at the direction of the president. The following sections provide severe penalties for violations. The purpose of the act is set forth in this letter of Crawford.— Ed.

406 interior to the North and to the West, and, as is generally understood, have had but little intercourse with our trading establishments, and have seldom, if ever, been visited by our licensed traders. It is therefore wholly improbable that the enterprize of American citizens will furnish an adequate supply to those remote tribes. The want of Capital in the hands of men accustomed to the trade, and who have enterprize to bear the fatigues, and brave the dangers incident to its prosecution, will, it is believed, render it necessary, for the present to permit foreigners to carry on this trade, under such regulations as shall subject them to a strict observance of the laws of the United States upon this subject; secure their exertions in maintaining peace between the Indian tribes, and this government, and between themselves; and present additional inducements to respect the laws against

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smuggling. The more effectually to secure these results, the President has judged it expedient to vest in the Governor of the Michigan territory, and in the agents for Indian affairs at Michilimackinac, Green Bay, and Chicago, the exclusive right of granting licenses to foreigners to carry on this trade. In the execution of this trust, you will necessarily enquire into the character of those who apply for permission to embark in this commerce. Where the character of the applicant shall not be above suspicion, a license must be refused. The charge of having been concerned in smuggling supported by colourable evidence of its truth, will be a sufficient cause for a like refusal. Licenses when granted are to be revoked for any of the causes which would justify their refusal in the first instance. Previous to the delivery of any license, the applicant shall give bond and security in a sum equal to one fourth of the capital which he shall state upon oath, he intends to embark in the trade, which shall be forfeited to the use of the United States, upon the violation of the laws of the United States regulating trade with the Indian tribes. He shall at the same time give the description of the persons he intends to employ in the prosecution of his business. When any application for a license shall be refused, immediate notice of such refusal, and the grounds upon which it was made, shall be given to the agents 407 to whom the execution of this law is specially entrusted by the President. It shall be the duty of the officer granting any license to give immediate notice to this department, to the Indian agents, the collectors of the customs, and to the commanding officers of posts and stations in and adjoining the Indian country, upon whom the execution of the act in question can, in any degree, possibly devolve. This notice shall contain the description of the person, his place of residence, and the amount of the capital which he intends to employ, and the number, names, and description of the persons, who will be employed in the transaction of his business with Indians.

Copies of the several acts regulating trade with the Indian tribes are forwarded, to be given to the persons to whom licenses shall be granted for the regulation of their conduct. I have the honor to be etc.

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Wm. H. Crawford .

P. S. In communicating with this department, it is expected that the changes in the present system suggested by experience, will, from time to time, be presented, with a view to render it as perfect as the subject will permit.

W. H. C.

Endorsed: Lewis Cass, Gov. of Michigan Territory. Major Wm. H. Puthuff, I. Agt. Michilimackinac.⁵⁵ Charles Jouett, I. Agt. Chicago. John Bowyer, I. Agt. Green Bay.

⁵⁵ Maj. William Henry Puthuff was a native of Virginia, probably from Albemarle County. Having removed to Ohio, he enlisted (1812) as a volunteer, but was (May 20, 1813) made captain in the 26th infantry of the regular army. In February, 1814, he was promoted to a majority in the 2nd rifle regiment, being employed in the neighborhood of Detroit, where in the summer of 1815 he was in command, and received the thanks of the citizens for his spirited enforcement of their rights—see *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, viii, p. 655. Having been honorably discharged from the army, at the reduction of its force, he was given an Indian agency and stationed at Mackinac, where he arrived in the late summer, or early autumn, of 1815. He was particularly suspicious of British influence, and his reports are stigmatized as untrue in the letters of the officers of Drummond Island—see *Id.*, xvi, pp. 369–401. He entered upon his duties with great zeal, and was president of the village (1817–21, 1823), justice of the county court (1818), and probate judge. In 1818, he was relieved from duties as an Indian agent, but continued to reside at Mackinac, where in 1822 Henry S. Baird found him exercising kindly hospitality—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii, p. 429. His death occurred Nov. 24, probably of the year 1823.— Ed.

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[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 204. Letter Book 1, p. 204.]

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Michillimackinac Agency 14th. May 1816

Dr. Sir —Discovering no provision to have been made for the supplying the post of Michillimackinac with goods destined for Indian Presents, or annuity's, Farming utensils, Mechanicks or agriculturalists for the promotion and encouragement of domestick pursuits, Industry and civilization among the neighbouring tribes of Indians, I hope I may be indulged in a few remarks on, what I conceive to be, the relative importance of that Post, and the necessity for the immediate attention of Government to so highly an interesting object.

In my communications, made to your Excellency upon the subject last autumn, I endeavoured to explain the British policy in their intercourse with the Indians living within the American limits say, in the neighbourhood of Michillimackinac, Chicago, Green Bay, Seaux St. Mary's, Lake Superior, etc.

It is a fact well known to your Excellency, that St. Joseph's now Drummond's Island, Is, and for many years has been, the grand depository for the receipt and distribution of most extensive annuities or Presents which the British Government have Semi-annually destributed with a liberal hand, to all who could be induced to attend, acknowledge the Supremicy of that Government. Pledge themselves to bring their furs to that place, or sell or trade them to none but British subjects etc., this Post is also the head Quarters of a vigorous, active. Enterprising, well informed and most, Politick and designing company, who have long and almost Exclusively monopolized the trade of the North west. It is from thence that well instructed unprincipled agents are, and constantly have been, Employed and sent ont among the many tribes of savages that inhabit the 409 extensive Western and N. Western regions within the limits of the American Government, upon the Lakes Superior and Michigan and the head waters of the Mississippi and its tributary Streams, with small out-fits to give them the pretext and appearance of Indian traders This fact is clearly proven, and has been, as I conceive unequivocally established in the late war, when it was found to be, and is, an undeniable fact, that a very great proportion of those who

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were employed in trade within our limits prior to and at the commencement of the war, immediately thereafter were found to hold commissions under the British Government, and were found to be our most active inveterate and most dangerous Enemies.

The circumstances have drawn numerous hords of savages from their respective hunting grounds, yearly to the Islands of St. Josephs and Michillimackinac for the purpose of hearing their Father in council, receiving their presents, disposing of their Furs, etc. etc.

The importance of supplying the post of Michillimackinac with the means of counteracting the effects resulting from the practise of the aforementioned policy, appears to me to be of the [utmost] necessity, to effect this desirable object it will require the most active and vigilant attention of Government.

The object and policy of the British Government in their Indian relations cannot be mistaken, It has but one Primary motive, one leading principle, one great and never to be forgotten design. It always has been thus actuated and Influenc'd, to alienate the Indians from the American Government and people, to attach them to the British Interests by every and by any the most insidious means.

To effect this purpose the hopes, the Fears, the ignorance. interest and cupidity of the unfortunate deluded savage, is most adroitly enlisted on the part of these politicians who whatever may be their professions, never loose sight of their favourite object, and in my opinion should be most narrowly watch'd and closely pursued throughout every the most distant ramifications of their trade or intercourse with the Indians residing within the limits of the American Government.

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I am led Sir, to make these remarks from what has come to my knowledge of the character and conduct of the British Officer (Lt. Col. McDowell) commanding at Drummonds Island, and the Indian department there, from the *pretty* evident agency of certain British subjects (Mitchell and others),⁵⁶ living upon the Island of Michillimackinac, from certain *highly*

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suspicious persons, British pensioners, Interpreters and Commissioned Officers in their Indian Department, having actually came within our limits, and under the pretence of trading with the Indians, have destributed themselves throughout the Indian Country, and from a solemn conviction of the truth of the allegations which I have from a since of justice and duty to my Country taken the liberty thus to advance.

56 An acrimonious correspondence arose in the autumn of 1815 over the treatment of the Mitchells by the American soldiers and Indian officers; see *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xvi, pp. 298–401.— Ed.

I am fully persuaded however that the result of the late war has effected a most fortunate and sensible change [in] the attachment and prejudices of the Indians toward the British Government and people, of this the British are perfectly sensible, and to restore and mantain their wonted influence, will leave no means in their power unattempted, previous to and at the commencement of the war the Indians as an additional motive whereby to induce their decided attachment, were promised the restoration of all that Country West and North west of the River Ohio then held by the American Government, to be put and left in the possession of all the Military posts within that extensive Country. The universal and undisturb'd Masacre, Plunder and Pillage of all its then Inhabitants The undisturbed occupancy of that country and enjoyments of its spoils, with a life of savage ease and Independance and a spontaneous influx of goods, Ammunition, Arms, Provisions, Rum and Tobacco, to [be] effected and furnished by British power and munificence.

This and much more has been practised and promised by the agents employed on the part of the British Government. 411 Prophets, Juglars, and persons professing to have supernatural powers and agency, have been imposed upon that deluded people and openly supported employed and used by that Government. Specious promises, Diabolical means; all have failed, the war has been terminated, and how differently from the promises held out to and consequent expectations of the savages.

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The Indians have been deceived, grossly deceived. They have been deeply injured and imposed upon, they are sensible of it, they are mortified, disgusted and humbled, their eyes are opened to the base frauds which have been practised upon them by the British, nor will it be difficult, in my opinion by the practise of that humane candid and liberal policy which has ever characteris'd the American Government, to convince them of the[ir] true interests, and induce them to return to the peaceful pursuits of the chase and cultivation of their corn fields. They are sensible of the many and disastrous evils which they have suffered from s different line of conduct and are well disposed to return to their former habits of amity, friendship and trade with us, to take us by the hand, hold us fast and set themselves down under the protection of their great Father, the President of the United States.

Indulge me Sir, in urging to the consideration of Government the necessity for cultivating the present amicable disposition of the Indians in this section of the country, and vigilently counteracting the secret Machinations of the British agency, which, you may rest assured Sir, will be pratis'd to the utmost extent of their powers, in order to restore and maintain their wonted influence over that people. Their system has been already commenced and is in full operation, their agents have already gone into our Country, in the character of traders when the Indians shall see those who, during the late war, gave direction to their ruthless Tommahawks, and applauded the effects of their reeking scalping knives who openly encourag'd the waste of Blood, and received from their hands, with plaudits and rewards, the scalp fresh torn, alike from the hapless Father, defenceless tender and affectionate Mother, or innocent unoffending Probe, I repeat Sir, when the Indians shall see these 412 people again sent and stationed among them, when they shall be told by them, that *they* are the only persons Enabled to supply the Indian wants, that were [it] not for them they the Indians would perish. That the Americans know it and dare not prevent their coming, That their British father, who sits upon the great waters, has taken pity on them and sent them goods etc. etc. when they see and hear this and much very much more, what effect may it not be presumed to have upon their unenlightened Minds, unless

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some discretionary power be extended to the agent, whereby to enable him to distinguish between the unprincipled blood thirsty assassin and the fair, honest, and Legal dealer who claim from him a license to trade with the Indians. It will be very difficult, or rather impossible to prevent or effectually counteract the influence, and effects of that policy, which ever has been and I do verily believe is now and will continue to be practised by the British in their intercourse with the Indians living within the American limits.

Michillimackinac for the reasons already assigned and from the additional circumstances of almost all the principle Indiana from the Lakes Superior and Michigan, attending at [this] post in the course of each Summer, and that few or none of the Ottaways, or Chippeways, who reside near that post ever visit either of the other Agencies, Is in my opinion a post which requires the particular attention of Government.

The Ottaways residing at the River Shaboigan [Cheboygan] 3 Leagues [away] Lower and upper Larbré croche about 15 Leagues and at the Beaver Islands and Grand Traverse about 20 Leagues from Michillimackinac have progressed considerably in the arts of agriculture, their villages are populous and well settled they are supposed to dispose of about Twelve thousand bushels of corn and as many bushels of Irish potatoes per annum at the Island of Michillimackinac and the British post. Their corn is purchased principally for the use of the North west fur trade, with little encouragement they might be induced to locate themselves and much increase their agricultural labours, already do they supply our Market with considerable quantities of vegetables Cabbages, Turnips, Pumpkins, 413 Squashes, Cucumbers, Melons etc. etc., some of their chiefs have applied to me for cows, Hogs, Fowls, etc. etc. to be furnished them by their father the President of the U. States, For a blacksmith to make the repair their farming utensils, Traps, guns etc. etc and that he will instruct them to build houses and live as we whites live. I have promised them an answer from their great Father before the setting in of the next frosts. They have requested me to say to him that they used to draw those supplies from the red Coats, that the red Coats have told them lies, have deceived them, and that they will no more believe the red coats. They wish to settle down and make the road clear to Michillimackinac and hope

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their father will take pity upon them and supply their wants. I have the honour to Subscribe myself Your Excellency's mo. obt. hble. Servt.

Wm. Hy. Puthuff Ind. Agt. Mackinaw.

His Excellency Lewis Cass Gov. Michigan Ty. etc. etc .

1816: AGENTS OF THE SOUTHWEST AND AMERICAN FUR COMPANIES

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 3B61.]

Montreal 15 th May 1816

Mr. J. Porlier

Sir —We received your Letter of 16 th July, and M r . Rocheblare paid us Three hundred and ten pounds as you will see by the inclosed statement whereby you will find that the balance of the composition up to 1 st October next, will be Four hundred and five pounds 1 sh Currency.

It will afford us much pleasure to learn that you have been fortunate in Returns this season. We thank you for the preferance given to M r . Rocheblave in taking Goods from him, and are persuaded that he will allow you good prices for your Peltries. Muskrats however have greatly depreciated being scarcely worth half what they were. Beaver has also fallen off, 414 and Swanskins fallen off, almost to nothing. Other articles have done well owing to the very small quantities at market.

We shall forever regret that at the late Treaty of peace more favorable terms had not been procured for the Indians. What the Americans may finally decide about the Indian Trade is unknown, as we do not perceive that any act has passed thereon at the last Session of Congress.

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Mr. Rocheblave goes up again with Goods, and we hope will continue to have your Custom, but the excessive duties will now be a sad burthen to the Trade. We remain, Your most Obed t Servants

Forsyth Richardson & Co .

Endorsed by Porlier: 1816 Forsyth Richardson's letter acknowledging the receipt of a certain sum.

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book "C," p. 374.]

Department of War , June 5th. 1816.

Sir —Mr. John Jacob Astor, of New-York, has engaged extensively in the Indian trade, and has appointed Mr. Varnum, Mr. Matthews, and Mr. Ramsay Crooks,⁵⁷ his agents. I am directed by the Secretary of War to request, that you will give to these gentlemen every possible facility and aid in the prosecution of their business, that may be compatible with your public duties. I have the honor to be, etc.

⁵⁷ Joseph B. Varnum, for whom see *ante*. p. 326, note 69; for Ramsay Crooks, see *ante*. p. 347, note 91.

William W. Matthews enlisted in the Astorian enterprise as clerk, and went out to the Columbia River on the "Tonquin." While at Astoria he married the daughter of a Clatsop chief, and after the transfer of Astoria to the North West Company remained in the country until 1815. Coming back to New York, he entered Astors service, becoming the forwarding agent at Montreal.— Ed.

[George Graham , chief clerk]

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Addressed: Commanding officer at Michillimackinac, and to Wm. H. Puthuff, Indian agent at the same place.

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1816: SEIZURE OF FURS

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 204. Letter Book 1, p. 225.]

Michillimackinac June 6th. 1816.

D[ear] Sir —I arrived on here on the evening of the 4th. inst. after a most tedious passage.

On my arrival I found every circumstance relating to my Agency in such state as to most imperiously require my presence. Such has been and yet is my extreme hurry of business as to preclude the possibility of furnishing you, by the Perry now about to get under way, with particulars. I can only observe that Lesley is in custody, his examination commenced yesterday and will require one or two days to complete. I have taken possession of twelve or fifteen thousand dollars worth of furs and goods on their way from the Indian Country to Drummonds Island which has been procured Contrary to the laws of the United States regulating trade and Intercourse with the Indians.

Two hundred and fifty two Fullsawwynyes [Folles Avoines: Menominee] were here on my arrival they are well disposed towards us.

As the vessel is weighing Anchor I hope you will pardon my not furnishing you a more circumstantial report until the next opportunity. I am Sir, Your most Obedt. Hble. Servt.

W. H. Puthuff Ind. Ag. Mackinaw

His Excellency L. Cass Governor etc .-

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[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 3B65. Translated from the French.]

Mackinac 20th June, 1816.

My Dear Friend —This is the third time I have had the pleasure of writing you without however hoping that my letters have reached you. I have nothing very agreeable of which to inform you, on the contrary the vexations and troubles that 416 await you here make me almost regret having given you the first advice, especially when I have no means of preventing them—as soon as people arrive here they are seized; at least their returns [in peltry] are, and I assure you it is not without trouble that matters are arranged, and possession is gotten with cautions about coming up. The law suit should begin at Detroit next September and God only knows how it will result. These seizures are made under pretext that the Packs have been secured by trading without a License etc.⁵⁸ I say nothing more about it only that I believe it is almost impossible that you should Save your Packs (I suppose that you will carry them elsewhere than here) the avenues being too well guarded. I believe that it will be better to bring them here and run the risk of a Law suit, than to run that of a seizure in trying to elude them. Moreover that will be the final result (if one should escape them) for a person who wishes to remain some time in this Country. I tell you this, but am far from believing you have need of my advice.

⁵⁸ On this point see the report of the British commandant at Drummond Island, in *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 465.— Ed.

Take the precautions to put your Merchandise in a secure place if you have any, for fear of some domiciliary visits, and come as soon as possible to join one who is very sincerely
Your Friend

P r . Rocheblave

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Jacques Perlier Esq .

Endorsed by Porlier: 1816 letter of Rocheblare reporting the difficulties of arriving at Makinac.

[Source, same as preceding document, but 1B36. Translated from the French.]

Makinac 20 th June 1816

Dear Sir —This is the third [letter] that I have addressed you without hoping that the other 2 reached you.

All your Packs were seized before arriving and it is only with great trouble that we have been able to recover them in 417 giving security for the value of the Peltries. These proceedings have taken place they say, because these people have had no license to trade with the Savages. The suit to decide the validity of these seizures will be tried in Detroit next September.

I believe that you would better come here immediately with your Packs and run the risk of a suit at law, rather than run the risk of a seizure at your place where they would pass the winter. If you have any merchandise you would better put it in a place of safety for fear of a visit. I give this as my opinion, but do not pretend to advise as to what is best. Hoping to see you I sign myself Sincerely, dear Sir Your very Humble Servant

[Pierre Rocheblave]59

59 The signature in the original document has been destroyed; but the letter is in the same handwriting as the preceding one.— Ed.

Addressed: For Mr Louis Grignon, Green Bay.

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[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 204. Letter Book 1, p. 239. William Henry Puthuff to Governor Lewis Cass.]

Michillimackinac 20th. June 1816

Dr. Sir —By return of the vessel Com. Perry, I gave you a hurried account of the situation of the agency here, my business has continued on the increase and kept me incessantly employed, on the 17 inst. I met 39 Ottaways from Green Bay 202 Chippeways from Lake Michigan, 584 Fallsawynes from Green Bay and its dependencies, 167 Wynabagoes from Green Bay or near that place and 141 Sieux from the Neighbourhood of Praire du Chéne in Council the pipe of peace was presented to the Orators of each tribe or nation respectively in the name of their nations and on behalf of the whole collectively.

The council opened on the part of the Fallsawyne by Tomah their principal chief who professed on behalf of his tribe and the whole present, the most amicable sentiments and feelings toward us, and asked that we would send them traders to reside among and with them. Charged the British with having induced them to embark in the late war, expressed his regret at having done so, and observed that he was now going [to] tell them so and demand his *discharge* from them, that he had now done with them and would never again quit his great father the President of the United States, he was followed by Ech Chaguin a young man so called, or private Orator for the Wynnebagoes a tribe of about 770 warriors living principally near Praire du Chéne and between there and Green Bay, who expressed the same wish in relation to the sending traders among them, but expressed no determined resolution to abandon the British acknowledged no wrong at the part of his people in the part they had taken during the late war nor made any promises or professions other than a wish to remain at peace and never again raise the Tomahawk. The Chippeway's expressed the same sentiments which had been advanced by the Falls-awynes, and the Sieux closed the council by a restoration of the sentiments, wishes, Professions and acknowledgements of the Falls and Chippeway's. I assured them that their Great Father the President of the United States, would comply with their request

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in sending traders among them, receive them under his protection and attend to their real wants etc. etc.

The Wynebagoes have no doubt many among them who are disaffected towards us, and cannot in my opinion be rely'd further than their weakness and want of support from the neighbouring tribes will justify. The Fallsawynes or a very decided majority of them, are decidedly favourably disposed to the Establishment of an American post at Green Bay, so are the Chippeways and Ottaway's in the vicinity of that place.

This day I have met in Council the Chiefs and head men of the Ottaways and Chippeways within my immediate agency, or near this Post. They have in the name of their respective tribes declared openly their determination forever to abandon the British Interest, have taken their American father by the hand, and have declared the determination never again to 419 abandon us have acknowledged their error in having listened to other councils, stated that they were forced to take up tiao Tomahawk, were promised much and much disappointed, asked permission occasionally to visit Drummonds Island for the purpose of collecting their dues, and in a word, promised to conform strictly to our wishes in all things, and asked for advice, and orders. My answer was to assure them of our sincerity and the promises of protection we had accorded them, in the forgiveness of the past and necessity for their careful observance of their promises and professions for the future, this they most solemnly promised and pledged themselves it should be comply'd with.

I am sincerely of the opinion that no good grounds for a doubt of the sincerity of their professions exists, I think I can venture to pledge myself for them, that so long as a respectable force shall be kept at this post, they will decidedly adhere to us. I must beg leave again to repeat that they have been grossly deceived, they are sensible of it, and well disposed to return to their former habits of intimacy and friendship with us.

The issues here for the Indian Department have as will be seen by the subjoined report of Indians visiting this Post, far exceeded my expectation. I have been and shall continue to

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be as economical on that subject as possible. Many of the Indians from Lake Superior and its tributary streams may be expected to visit this Post shortly, several Canoes have this moment arrived, who report that many more may be immediately expected.

I expect to meet them collectively in Council in one or two days. the Potawatomes and neighbouring Indians from Chicagou and its vicinity will it is said soon visit us, by the next vessel I expect to be enabled to give you a particular account of their profession and requests, which I am inclined to believe will be similar to those of the Fallsawynes, Chippeways and Sieux. the Wynibagoes I am fully persuaded are the most hostile towards us of any tribes in this district of Country, and are encouraged in that hostility of feeling and disposition toward us, by certain traders Roulette, Grinois etc. who are 420 now at the Green bay. I have good grounds for advancing this opinion and hope to succeed in arresting these fellows, who will be held to account for their ungenerous, Illiberal and Hostile conduct to an injured Country, who has but too long cherished reptiles of their description in its bosom in the character of traders, they will not easily escape the vigilance of this post. 4 Boats are almost constantly manned and cruising here for the purpose of intercepting all Boats, Canoes or other conveyances for Furs obtained without License in the Indian Country, my information on the subject of that trade, is general.

I am already apprized of every Trader who has thus gone into the Country and their place of trade, and the place where their Furs have been collected and probable time that they may be expected at the Foot of Lake Michigan. Colonel Chamber's⁶⁰ exertions to arrest them is unremitting, nor will any of them in my opinion be enabled to escape, the subjoined list of seizures made here, will inform you of our vigilance, the mode I have adopted, at the request of the respective owners, in releasing Goods, Wares and Merchandize thus seized, as will appear by Bonds herewith transmitted, will, I hope meet your approbation I was induced to adopt this mode from a belief that no injury would or could arise to the Country there from, and from a belief that the manner in which I have drawn up the Bonds (a copy of which I furnished Mr. Abbott—Notary Public and who has been employed to draw them up and have them signed pursuant to that Copy) will obviate any difficulty that

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might otherwise have arisen from the want of a regular process in releasing the goods so seized on this subject I wish for your opinion and advice by the first Opportunity.

60 Col. Talbot Chambers, of the rifle regiment. His military history is given in detail in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, p. 393. In August, 1815, he was sent to command at Mackinac; the next July he accompanied the military expedition to Green Bay, and was during the winter left in command at Fort Howard. Early in 1817, Chambers was transferred to Prairie du Chien, where his tyrannies are related in *Id.*, ii, pp. 128, 129. His later history is told by Shaw, pp. 229, 230; see also his letters, *post.*— Ed.

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Lashley has been arrested and is now in confinement here he has requested permission to remain for a short time for the purpose of settling his Business here, in which request I have indulged him, he will be sent down probably in the next vessel for his trial.

John Dousman,⁶¹ who has determined on remaining here has consented to command the company of Militia to be organized a; this place, may I ask that you will forward Iris commission by the first Opportunity.

61 John Dousman was of Pennsylvania birth, and came West some time before 1805, being engaged as an army sutler. He lived for some time at Green Bay, married Rosalie Laborde, daughter of a resident of that place, and had much property there. Some time during the War of 1812–15, he removed to Mackinac, and seems to have remained on the island until about 1824, when he returned with his family to Green Bay. He was (in 1818) associate justice of the Mackinac county court, and his affidavits for the Green Bay land claims were made at the former place. See account of his return to Green Bay, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xv, pp. 211, 212.— Ed.

The Indians who have lately attended here in Council from Green Bay, Praire du Chéne etc., are now at Drummonds Island they have promised to call on their return and report what shall be said to them there, how sincere they may be in this promise, or how far their

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reports may be relied upon, is, perhaps in some degree doubtful, Yet I am inclined to believe much important information may be collected from them. A party [of] Wynebagoes who had left this Post from [for] Drummonds Island the day or two previous to my arrival, have since returned here and proceeded on to their Summer residence near the Green Bay. They report that the British detained one Canoe of their Young Men, until they should hear from the King, when these young men, so detained are to return to their nation with the news. Many of the traders have been extremely active in the Chicago and Green Bay Countries, in souring the minds of the Indians, encouraging the disaffected, exciting their fears and preparing them to oppose the establishment of American posts at for one year longer in their Country.

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The Wynebago Orator Ech-cha-gun made this request in private council, he stated that though his chiefs would not permit him to do so in Public, yet that it was their real sentiments and that they would have asked or made the same request in Public, had they not feared a refusal, and that their father would be angry at them for doing so.

His reasons were that many of his Young Men were dissatisfied and might strike our young men if they came among them too soon, that by the next summer his Young men could be reconcil'd and there would then be no danger to be apprehended from them. That their Chiefs and great men were sincere in their professions of friendship towards us, that they had used every means in their power to satisfy and quiet their young men, but had not as yet entirely succeeded, but by the next summer he had no doubt, they would be enabled to quiet them and therefore asked his great Father the President not to send his soldiers among them until the next summer. Shortly after this request had been thus made, many of the same tribe, who had received information of its nature and my Answer, called upon me to request that I would pay no attention to their Orator, that he was himself one of the most disaffected among them and had with many others endeavoured to form a Coalition of all the Indians in that district of country against us but had failed, as not a single nation even their own the Wynebagoes, would consent to it or agree again to raise

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the Tomahawk they were tired of the War and sincerely wished for peace, that there were some among them hostile toward us but that it was only a few who would not dare to acknowledge their hostility when we did come among them. The small party who left this previous to my coming 30 or 40 in number, made the same request in council with Col. Chambers, from these different and conflicting accounts, little doubt exists of the unfriendly disposition of a part of this tribe at least, how far it may or will be evinced by their conduct on the establishment of a Military post at Green Bay, I am not prepared to venture a decided opinion, but am inclined to the belief that a respectable Military force will, the moment it appears among them, Quiet 423 all murmuring and produce the most happy effects in restoring an amicable intercourse between those Indians and our Government and People. They have been told by the restless unprincipalled traders who are yet with them, that it was the intention of our Government to take the lands from them and drive them still farther back upon the extensive Wilderness between them and Pacific Ocean. That we were determined to take their fur, skins etc. for a mere nothing and a thousand reports have been industriously circulated among them by the restless and designing men, at Drummonds Island the Indians are informed that presents cannot as yet be made them to a large amount because of the determination of the American Government to prevent British Traders from living or residing with the Indians, and thus deprived of their best friends and natural protectors, the Americans will rob them of any valuable presents which they should receive.

I mentioned these reports merely to shew the spirit which is so industriously attempted to be raised and encouraged on the part of individuals attached to the British Government, among the Indians, there is no reason however to believe that any serious evil will grow out of this mode of procedure, as the Indians openly profess to believe it only calculated to evade the promises made them by that Government and call them Liars.

I have seen a letter addressed by J. J. Astor to a Mr. Franks a British trader now at this place in which Mr. Astor expresses surprise and regret at the passage of a law forbidding British subjects from trading with Indians, within the American limits etc. but observes

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that power is vested in the President to grant special license for that purpose and that he Astor has dispatched a messenger to the President from whom he entertains no doubt that some may be procured and will be immediately forwarded to Mr. Franks and Mr. Astor's friends in the North west trade. I wish to god the President knew this man Astor as well as he is known here. Licenses would not be placed at his descretion to be distributed among British subjects, Agents or Pensioners. I hope in god no such license will 424 be granted, his British Friends here calculate confident on his success in this matter, that they may be disappointed is my most sincere wish, should they succeed incalculable evil will assuredly grow out of the measure.

I am Sir, Your most obt. and Hble. Servt.

Wm. Heny. Puthuff Ind. Agent Michillimackin[ac]

His Excellency L. Cass Gov. of M. Ty. etc .

The within despatch have been made up under the greatest possible pressure of business. Errors will I hope be excused.

1816: TROOPS AT PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

[MS. in Burton Library, Detroit, vol. 112, p. 138.]

Prairie du Chien 23d June 1816

Sir —On the 20th the United States Troops arrived here commanded by Brig d . General Thomas A. Smith and accompanied by Major Graham Indian Agent for the Territory of Illinois,⁶² on the 21st they commenced regulating the village

⁶² Thomas A. Smith, of Virginia birth, enlisted in the regular army in 1803 as lieutenant in the artillery service. In 1808 he was promoted to a captaincy in the rifles, and became successively lieutenant-colonel and colonel of the same regiment. In 1814 he was

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brevetted brigadier-general, and served on the Lake Champlain frontier. After taking possession of Prairie du Chien, he retired, leaving a detachment, and in 1818 resigned from active service in the army.

Richard Graham was born in Virginia, but in early life emigrated to Kentucky, whence he entered the United States army (in 1801), serving through the regular grades until honorably discharged at the reduction of 1815. The same year, he was appointed Indian agent for Illinois, and assisted at the treaties of St. Louis, in the summers of 1817 and 1818. Later, he was transferred to the Osage agency, and in that capacity drew the treaty of 1822 with that nation. In 1825 he was transferred to the agency for the Delaware, Shawnee, and Kickapoo of Missouri, which he maintained until about 1828. His residence was principally at St. Louis, and there for his second wife, he married Catharine Mullanphy. He seems to have been an efficient and active agent.— Ed.

425 by requireing of the Traders here to show their Licences, those who had not any, their goods were seized, your goods came under the Seizesure. They have taken possession of some Houses, Condemning them for public purposes. Those I live in are Seized and turned over to me for the United States Indian trading houses, forbidding me at the same time to pay no rent for them after that date. Thus you find how things are changed. Charges have been brought from St Louis against Mr M Brisbois he is arrested & will be sent to St Louis for Trial,⁶³ perhaps others here will accompany him. Mr Henery can inform you more particulary should you not return write me, in haist I remain your Hbl Svt

63 For this Incident see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii, p. 128, ix, p. 284. Brisbois is noted *ante*, p. 318, note 56. He had accepted an American commission before the war, and was thus liable to punishment.— Ed.

Jno W Johnson U S A

Mr Francis Bouthilier now at Mackinack 64

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64 For this person see *Id.*, xviii, p. 463, note 85.— Ed.

1816: LICENSES FOR FOREIGNERS

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 204. Letter Book 1, p. 271.]

Michillimackinac 12th. July 1816

Dr. Sir —In addition to the points on which I have felt myself bound to obtain your instructions before I should proceed farther, in relation to Indian Trade etc. as will appear from my former communications on that subject, many new and embarrassing principles have since arisen, from the nature and intention of the instructions from the Department of War of the 10th, of May 1816 combined with the very limited information I am in the possession of relating to that extensive District of Country West of the Mississippi River and above Praire du chien, embracing the Sieux etc. etc. etc.

How far that district of Country may be supplied with goods by American Citizens I am wholly uninformed. The South West Company have been in the habit of sending extensive supplies of goods, by way of Lake Michigan, Praire du Chien and Mississippi to that country and have applied to me for licenses, for that trade for the ensuing Year, and state that no American trading house, has ever heretofore been established there. the Sieux and other Indians from that quarter have been very importunate with me, to send them Traders. Under these circumstances I have proposed as the only means within my power to reconcile the supply of that Country, by foreigners, with the intention of the Instructions from the Department of War on that subject, That to such persons (foreigners) whose characters were unexceptionable, Licences would be given conditioned that they should be permitted to go into the Country with their Merchandize and should there be no American Establishments there, then to carry on their trade for one year; but not to open their goods or in any wise dispose of them to Indians at a village or hunting camp

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which they may find thus supplied by American Citizens; some two or three licenses will be taken on this condition, but the South West Company conceive the condition to be inadmissible. As I could not [feel] myself authorized to indulge them in erasing it, I have consequently referred Mr. Crooks, their agent, to your decision, have the goodness to write me particularly on this subject. the Interior Lakes will be amply supplied by american Citizens from this post [to] Lake Superior in part, and in part by foreigners. I have refused licenses in all cases to foreigners except the persons actually intended to go into the country, should himself, appear to support a character unexceptionable.

The Sieux, Foxes, Wynebagoes, Chippeways, and Potawatomes who some time since, visited Drummonds Island are now here on their return, they profess to be entirely pacific in their intentions and wishes towards us. while the Military force in this Country is respectable, I apprehend no danger from them nor do I believe any the most distant opposition will be made on their part, to the establishment of our posts at Chicago and Green Bay.

427

I unfortunately have a lame hand and can scarcely write intelligibly. Much matter which I should otherwise communicate, must necessarily be defered for a short time, as I write in the most excruciating pain, from a bile on my wrist. I am Sir, Your most obt. Hble. Servt.

Wm. Hy. Puthuff Ind. Agt.

His Excellency Lewis Cass Governor etc .

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 278.]

Detroit July 20th. 1816

Dear Sir —Mr. Crooks arrived here yesterday bringing with him your letter.

Library of Congress

Upon a view of the whole ground in relation to this subject, I have no doubt but it will be expedient to grant licenses without any condition to such Agents and traders of the Company to which you refer, as cannot from their character and conduct be suspected of a design to thwart the objects intended to be secured by the law.

Whether this law be wise and politick with a view to our Indian relations, or whether that necessity for the introduction of foreign traders, which appears to have produced the passage of the law in reality exists, are questions which we are not bound to determine.

In the execution of the trust reposed in us, we have nothing to do, but to ascertain as nearly as possible the views and objects of the Government, and to carry them into effect.

From all the information, which has reached [me] I have no doubt but the Government expect that the Country North and West of us will be supplied with goods by the Capital and enterprize of this Company, and I apprehend the question submitted to us as Agents under the law is not whether the Country shall be thus supplied by Foreigners, but whether the person applying for a license be one who can be safely admitted to trade in the Indian Country. In the resolution of this latter question is room for our discretionary powers. The character of the applicant, his former conduct, his present situation and connections, and his probable views must guide us in determining whether his admission into the Indian Country will be injurious to the United States.

But I apprehend the former question with respect to the course of the trade has been definitively determined by the Act of Congress and the Instructions of the Government.

Under this view of the subject I have no hesitation in advising you to grant licenses to applicants, whose characters are above suspicion.

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With respect to Mr. Crooks, himself, I would grant him a license, but that he passes immediately through your Agency and I have a great aversion to making cyphers of any Officers.

I apprehend it would be improper to clog the licenses with any conditions, I doubt both its legality and expediency.

Upon the whole matter my opinion is that all the Agents and traders of this Company, to whose personal character and conduct, there can be no objections should be furnished with licenses. With much respect I am Dr. Sir, yo. obt. Servant

[Lewis Cass]

Majr. Wm. Hy. Puthuff Indian Agent Michillimackinac

1816: GREEN BAY TRADERS AND PRICES

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 3B68. Translated from the French.]

Michillimackinac July 24, 1816

My dear Brother —As I find it necessary to go in the Washington⁶⁵ if the arrangement between us and Mr. Lawe is concluded you will take my Equipment according to the Memorandum that will be given you by our brother & Mr.

⁶⁵ Both Lockwood and Augustin Grignon speak in their recollections of the voyage of the "Washington," that brought the troops from Mackinac to Green Bay. Grignon acted as pilot therefor. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii, p. 103, iii, p. 281.— Ed.

429 Porlier of the Merchandise of Messrs. Franks & Co. and you will adjust it as you think necessary as I would do myself.

Library of Congress

N. B. if the arrangement that I mention to you above has not taken place you will do as our brother thinks best. Your brother

Agt. Grignon

Mr. Louis Grignon Present

[Source, same as preceding document, but Account Book 14. Translated from the French.]

Mka August 3 Southwest Company Dr for the Peltries of the invoice of Merchandize 1816

1100 deerskins 1.00 1100 85 bearskins 5.50 467 50 20 bearcub skins 2.75 55 4360
muskrats 15cts 651 50 267 do poor 6¼ 16 68¾ 220 lv of beaver 3 50 770 361 Cats 62½
225 62½ 40 Do poor 20 8 141 Skunks 1 25 176 8 Do poor 33# 2 66# 70 otters 4 50 315
20 red foxes 1 25 25 3 Do poor 20 60 5 Do virgin 50 2 50 9 Lynx 50 4 50 1 loup cervier 75
217 mink 66# 144 66# 20 Do poor 25cts 5 516 marten 1.00 516 24 bearskin covers 1.50
36 4582 99½ 430

1816: TROOPS AT GREEN BAY

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 204. Letter Book 1, p. 290.]

Michillimackinac 4th. Augt. 1816

Dear Sir —Nothing has transpired here since my last, relating to Indian matters worthy of communication, except the very extraordinary Issues of arms and ammunition made to the Indians at Drummonds Island, as many as 18 hundred have visited this post in one day, every *man* and *boy* has been furnished with arms and ammunition far exceeding the issues made at any one time during the late war. The Indians are told that the British and American Government are at Peace that they are included in that peace provided they wish it, that by the article including them it is provided that they shall be left in full possession of their lands, that the Americans never heretofore had a Post at Green Bay,

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But that they (the Indians) are now with the Americans and consequently may do as they think proper, if they choose to invite the Americans to come among them they may do so. But it is, I have good reason to believe, plainly insinuated that the Americans will impose upon them by fair promises until they obtain *Foot hold* that then their fate will be that of their red Brethren who have, as they are informed been thus driven by degrees from the lands they formerly inhabited.

I have however no cause to alter my former opinion, that however adverse the British Government may be to the Military occupation of Green Bay, Grand Portage, Praire du Chien, etc. by American troops, and however anxious they may be by indirect means, to prevent it, Yet there is no good grounds for a belief that they will succeed in the inducing open hostility on the part of the Indians of that district of Country, when we shall appear in respectable force. The Indians are not destitute of common sense, and certainly have more judgement, prudence and policy, than is generally believed to influence their political decisions. They are well apprised of the disastrous consequences that would ultimately result to them from a hostile 431 opposition to the landing or entre[n]ching our troops at those posts, there are however many of their more vicious and impolitic Young men that might and perhaps would proceed to open hostilities in opposition to the advice of their principal hereditary or Village Chiefs, should we appear in small force among them. Ambition for rule and power has made greater progress with that [them] than is generally believed, nor will the self and British created War Chief easily resign his powers and influence to the village Chiefs. it is upon the former that the insidious policy of the Indian Agency at Drummonds Island is intended to operate, how far it may succeed is perhaps, measurably doubtful, but that open hostilities with the Indians will not take place, I feel pretty confident.

Under those circumstances Colo. Miller⁶⁶ ordered two companies of Infantry and a detachment of Artillery from the garrison here to cover the landing and aid in securing the encampment of the troops destined to garrison Green Bay, the Colo. commands the expedition in person. On the 29th. Ultó, the transports with the whole command were lying

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off the month of Green Bay at anchor, light winds and contrary. I entertain no doubt of their having reached their point of destination before this time.

66 For a brief biographical sketch, see *Id.*, i, p. 51.— Ed.

By the next vessel I will furnish you a descriptive list of the persons, foreigners, who have obtained License for Indian Trade, there are as yet but three, Barthalott, Aird and Johnston. the S. W company's list is now before me, it contains many names that were of the British Indian Department, during the War, to them I have objected, my reasons with a list of their names and rank they held will be also forwarded to you by next vessel.

I am Sir, yo. mo. obt. Servt.

Wm. Hy. Puthuff Indian Agent Mackinaw

His Excellency Lewis Cass Govr. etc. etc .

P. S. I have written most pressingly to Mr. Stockton to 432 request Colo. McDougall to forward the Indian goods I left with him, those goods are much wanted here, nor can I obtain an answer or reason why they have not been forwarded. I sincerely hope goods may have arrived at Detroit for this Agency before this, when any may arrive will you have the goodness to direct Colonel McDougall to forward them immediately, he, I fear, is *slow* to act without a *spur* .

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 303.]

Michillimackinac 18th. August 1816

Dear Sir —By the return of Colo. Miller from Green Bay we are informed of the result of the expedition under his command. The troops were landed without opposition, or even appearances of hostile feelings on the part of the Indians of that District of Country, with the particulars however, Colo. Bowyer has no doubt made you acquainted.

Library of Congress

There are but few Indians at this place, those of the neighbouring villages only occasionally visit us. They are apparently perfectly reconcile[d] to our troops having occupied Green Bay and Chicago.

Herewith I send you a list of licenses issued to Foreigners. Applications for licenses within the districts of Green Bay and Chicago, have been referred to the respective agents at those posts.

I am now engaged collecting the most correct information of the different trading Posts visited by Foreigners, the number of Indians at those posts, and the amount of goods introduced, with a view to inform our Government of the true state of trade in this quarter, and the more effectually to enforce the opinion I formerly advanced, that there is not a necessity for the introduction of a *single foreigner*, except perhaps on Lake Superior, to furnish an ample supply of goods to our Indians. I will, this fall, furnish you with the result of my enquiries.

Such goods as you can spare me are much wanted here, by the Hunter I received goods for Green Bay and Chicago, those for Green Bay have been forwarded, those for Chicago shall go 433 by the first vessel, Colo. McDougall writes me that he "had not time to put up the goods I left to forward by the Hunter." I am, Sir, your most obt. Hble. Servt.

Wm. Hy. Puthuff Indian Agent.

His Excellency Govr. Cass

1816: FACTORY AT PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book "D," pp. 126, 128.]

Indian Office Geo:town 30 aug: 1816

Library of Congress

To John W Johnson Esq Prairie du Chien

Sir —Your several accounts and vouchers for the quarter ending with the 30 June 1st, I received in due course of mail. The expenditures are considerable, but I take for granted they have been made with all the economy of which the case admitted. Having completed the buildings at P. du Chien, those will not recur; and from the stock of merchandize now on hand, added to the handsome supply now in motion, according to your last order, I anticipate with confidence, and pleasure, a very extensive display of profitable and harmonious operations. Your location at P. du Chien, from the best information, is of the very best for a large trade; and this together with your exertions, in which I am sure you will not be wanting, justify the hopes I entertain; and promise their ample realization.

* * * * *

It appears to me to be proper in the present state of the property rented by you of the Mackinac company, to withhold the price of the rent, *for the present*. the seizure of it by Genl. Smith, a Commanding officer in the United States army, and his assurance that it is the property of the United States, will justify this course. If the question of right shall occur; and if it shall be found to be in the Mackinac company, then of course you will pay the price agreed on for the rent of it.

It is exceedingly to be regretted that there should be any collisions between Gentlemen engaged in serving the interests 28 434 of our common country. I know well the disposition of the War Department is to afford to the Indian factories as much aid from the military as is consistent with its regular duties. I sincerely hope Genl. Smith will not persist in denying reasonable aid, which is all that you would require, to the factory, and especially so, as by the allowance made the soldiers, their consent would no doubt be voluntary.

I am happy to learn the pleasure of the Indians, on their satisfaction, much of your success will depend, as you well know.

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I will write you further in reply to other parts of your letter, soon. Respectfully etc. etc.

T. L. Mc.Kenney 67

67 Thomas Lorraine McKenney was born in Maryland in 1785, and during the War of 1812–15 acted as vidette and adjutant of the District of Columbia militia. For a year or more he was in business in Georgetown, where (April 2, 1816) he was appointed commissioner for Indian trade, to supersede Gen. John Mason, resigned. This position he held until the factory system was (in 1822) abolished. In 1824, upon the erecting of a bureau for Indian affairs in the war department, McKenney was placed in charge, and continued there until August, 1830. In 1826 he was made special commissioner to hold a treaty at Fond du Lac, Lake Superior; his experiences en route are embodied in his book, *Tour of the Lakes*. The following year he held an important treaty at Butte des Morts, and subsequently passed over the Fox-Wisconsin route to the Mississippi. Upon the latter river he visited the Indian tribes of the Southern states. After leaving the Indian office, Colonel McKenney devoted himself to publishing and lecturing in behalf of the Indian wards of the United States. In 1845 he published his *Memoirs*, and later (with a co-editor) three volumes of Indian biography. In his later years he lived in Brooklyn, and died in New York in 1859. He contributed to *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, v, pp. 178–204, a history of the Winnebago War.— Ed.

Indian Office Geo Town 2 Sept. 1816

To John W Johnson Esq

Sir —I addressed a letter to you on the 31 Ult. in part answer to your of the 30. June last.

I have considered what remains, and particularly the desire 435 of the Sac Indians near the river St. Peters; and that also expressed by the Fox Indians near the lead mines, to be supplied with merchandize. It is entirely within the scope of our policy to extend every reasonable assistance to all the Indians within our limits, so far as that may be

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practicable, and consistent with the amount of our trading capital. At present however, I am unable to see how this can be done, to any considerable extent or at all unless you could send supplies from Prarie du Chien and out of your stock now in trade, which might be augmented, somewhat for this purpose. To make a depot at St. Louis, and supply Individuals from it, at cost and charges, however valuable the results might be in putting down the british traders, and in attaching the Indians to us, cannot be done at this time. This however may be done if congress shall accede to the plan of the Honbl. the Secy. of War, in augmenting the capital of this establishment—and under judicious regulations, much good would no doubt result from it. Meanwhile you can exercise your discretion, in pushing on occasional supplies from the factory at Prarie du Chien, which as I have said, shall be occasionally, and additionally replenished.

It is hardly necessary for me to call your attention to the risque that is involved in sending out traders. I am very sure that you will have an eye upon their honesty and fair dealings; and in case you shall be deceived, to have in your possession sufficient security, as a reserve to bring up their arrears, this point well guarded, and which must of course be left to you, I shall be gratified if those Indians on the river St. Peters, and at the lead mines could have their wants supplied, if but partially. It is but due to you to apprise you, that much is expected from the operation at Prairie du Chien, your own experience, your location there—perhaps the very best, your Forty thousand dollar capital, make a combination of points that afford just grounds for large expectations. To succeed well, and profitably, and to give entire satisfaction to the 436 Indians with whom you will trade, will, I have no doubt, give much satisfaction to you. I need hardly assure you that I shall partake largely with you in this satisfaction. I hope ere this you have received the goods, as well as my letter of april last.

I franked, and forwarded your letter as you requested, to your brother. dont lose sight of Pryor and Butler. Respectfully etc. etc.

T. L. Mc. Kenney .

Library of Congress

1816: POST BUILT AT GREEN BAY

[MS. in Library of Congress. McArthur Papers.]

Mouth of fox river Green Bay 24th. September 1816

My Dear Sir —Having received many instances of your friendship and believing that I am still honoured with its possession, I am emboldened to address you upon a subject of material consequence to me and depending much upon your approbation and support.

I have, my dear sir, lost all prepossessions for the army and determined to withdraw from it as soon as practicable;—a change of [se]ntement produced by the most substan[tial] reasons; among them may be cited the [con]duct evinced by my Cong Genl. to the [district] to which I belong, having employed i [MS. torn] intending still to employ it, in performi[ng] the duty of Pioneers to the other corps, [MS. torn] remain at a Post no longer than the com[ple]tion of the Fort. The loss next Spring of a large proportion of my Company by discharges, the only remaining tie that binds me to the Army and what is of the most serious concern to me finding, that, in these remote and inaccessible quarters of the world, my pay is entirely inadaquate to my support—Being poor, I as yet have no wish to return to the Country of my friends, altho I still and must ever retain for them the tenderest regard, and do often sigh for their society: But my pride and principles of 437 independence require a seperation till I possess greater means; and the longer I remain in the Army the greater will be the barriers to my return.

Weighing maturely all these facts, with others of equal consideration, have resolved me to make application for an [India]n or Factors Agency, To be situated [at] the Portage of this River and the Ousco[nsin w]here a Fort is to be erected next spring, I [sho] uld most prefer, but would be perfectly s[atisf]ied with a situation on the Mississippi or a[ny] of its waters. An Indian Agency, being reckoned the most responsible, would be my Choice.

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We arrived here on the 8th of August last, in four vessels, without experiencing any difficulty in the navigation of this Bay, which was entirely unknown, or in crossing the Bar opposite the mouth of this river. Two companies of Riflemen and the same Infantry, commanded by Brevet Lieut Col Chambers, constitute the force intended for this Post, but an additional one, consisting of a detachment of Artillery and two companies of Infy with Col Jno Miller, accompanied the expedition hither,⁶⁸ as a precaution against any opposition from the Indians, it having been reported, the most fa[lse]ly, that 800 warriors were embodied to [op]pose the Military establishment h[ere] but the few we found manifested [much] humility and friendship. Major [Graham who] is with as and often speaks of you with [much] regard, has selected for the Fort the pos[t], where the old French one once stood, [si]tuated about one mile up the river and one half mile below where commences a Mongrel French settlement that extends about five miles on both sides of the river and is occupied by about forty families, many of whom, in consequence of their extreme indolent habits and frequent Indian depredations upon their property, are reduced to the most distressing want. Prior to the war this settlement is represented to have been in a flourishing condition, being of itself completely capable of its

⁶⁸ For another contemporary account of the American occupation of Green Bay, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xiii, pp. 441–447.— Ed.

⁴³⁸ support—having Grist, saw, horse mills and Distilerys, and abounding with cattle and horses and some hogs—but during the war the former were abandoned, the latter destroyed and their fields neglected.

The prospect of this country, to the extent of the settlement and in the direction of the Bay. is beautiful and interesting. The climate uniform, much milder than at [Detro]it, and experience has proved it to be [more] healthful. The soil as fertile as that of [MS. torn] and Kentucky, having observed in many p[laces] black light mold of fifteen inches deep. [with] garden productions in size larger than I h[ave] ever seen in any country, and vegetation, in [gen]eral, more luxuriant. This river, I would adjudge to be about four hundred yards

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wide, of a gentle current and sufficiently deep for the largest Vessels on the Lakes to the rapids, which is five miles from the mouth. This Bay is computed to be about 90 miles long, and from this place to Mackinac is calculated to be about 180 and to the Mississippi about 350 miles. The portage, which is half way to the Mississippi, is represented to be the most desirable part of this Country, and in time, from its peculiar position, must become a place of the first consequence. A Public trading House at that place would be profitable to Government and of the first import[ance] to the Indians, as it would, if prope[rly co]nducted, completely secure them from [the] monstrous impositions that are [being] practised upon them by British [an]d American Traders. And an India [n agen]cy as necessary for the control and Amer[can]izing the Winabagos who reside in its neigh[b]ourhood, a numerous mischievius and ungouvornable people. Agreeable to the Opinion of the most reputable inhabitants of this country the place in question is more resorted to by Indians from the Lakes and the Mississippi than any other at which there is a Military establishment. Will you be pleased, my dear Sir, to de me the favour of communicating to me this winter by the way of Detroit, your opinion and advice upon the subject to which I have solicited your attention two [times] in the course of that season will 439 pro[ceed] thence hither. W[ith] perfect respect Believe me your [si]ncere friend

Jno. O'Fallon 69 Capt. Rifle Regt.

69 John O'Fallon was born in Louisville, Nov. 23, 1791, the son of Dr. James O'Fallon and the youngest sister of George Rogers Clark. He was practically the adopted son of his illustrious uncle, and spent most of his time with him until sent in 1803 to a boarding school. In 1811 he joined the army under Harrison, and was severely wounded at the battle of Tippecanoe. After convalescence at Vincennes, and a visit to St. Louis early in 1812, where he took part in Whiteside's Illinois expedition, he joined the army in October and was assigned to Harrison's staff. In that capacity he took part in the defence of Fort Meigs and the battle of the Thames. He remained with Harrison until the latter's resignation in May, 1814, and in 1815 was in station at Malden—for a short time, in command. As captain in the 1st rifles, he was sent first to Mackinac, then to Green Bay.

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He did not resign from the army until 1818, when he settled at St. Louis and entered a business career that proved successful. He was president of several banks and of an early railroad company, and aided much in building up the industries of Missouri and of the Mississippi valley generally. O'Fallon was a man of great philanthropy, and founded several institutions, such as the O'Fallon Polytechnic, St. Louis Medical College, and Home for the Friendless. His correspondence with Dr. Lyman Copeland Draper is a valued part of the Wisconsin Historical Society's collections. When he died in 1865, it was said of him that one "never knew a finer or nobler man."— Ed.

Addressed: Genl. Duncan Mc. Arthur⁷⁰ Chillicothe Ohio

⁷⁰ Gen. Duncan McArthur (1772–1839) was general of the Ohio militia during the War of 1812–15, and in 1814 succeeded Harrison in command of the Western army. He was a commissioner to negotiate Indian treaties (1815–17), and later a member of Congress (1823–25), as well as governor of Ohio (183–32). His papers are in the Library of Congress.— Ed.

Endorsed: John O'Fallon

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1816: FACTORY AND LICENSES AT GREEN BAY

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 204. Letter Book 1, p. 319.]

Green Bay Agency [Oct. 1, 1816]⁷¹

⁷¹ The following letter is undated in the original but the letters in the archives are inserted in chronological order, and this lies between one of Sept. 27 and another of Oct. 4, 1816. — Ed.

Library of Congress

Sir —I have seen most of the principal chiefs residing in this quarter. They all appear to be friendly disposed, and have generally expressed themselves well pleased with the establishments at this place. The Winnebagoes were opposed to the building of a Fort, when they first visited me, but after I held two or three talks with their Chiefs, they left me apparently well satisfied. I have had some trouble, from the want of Medals, Armbands, and small flags, believing these necessary articles would be here in a short time, I demanded from the Chiefs the medals etc. they had received from the British, promising to replace them with those of the United States, most of the Chiefs who have visited me since I made the demand, have delivered up their Medals etc. they had received, not having any to give in return, I considered myself bound to pay them well for what they gave up, and promised to replace them as soon as possible.

The whole of the goods intended for this Agency has gone to Chicago, and I have only received a few articles marked for that Agency, without Invoice or letter accompanying the packages I have made this statement to the Secretary of War, and have requested him to forward on Medals etc. in the Spring.

* * * * *

Jno. Bowyer Ind. Agent.

His Excellency Governor Cass Detroit

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[MSS. in Burton Library, Detroit, vol. 112, p. 224.]

Green Bay Agency October 3d. 1816

Received of Mr Peire Grignon fifty Dollars on Account of Mr Botillea [Bouthillier] for his Licence to trade with the Indians.

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Jn Bowyer Indian Agent

Green Bay Agency October 3d. 1816

Received of Mr Peire Grignon on account of Mr Rolette for Licence to trade with the Indians. one hundred Dollars.

Jn o Bowyer Indian Agent

1816: LEGAL OPINION ON LICENSES

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 1D20.]

Opinion of Colonel Benton

Having carefully examined the Act of Congress passed 29 th . April 1816 and also the Acts passed 30 th March 1802, regulating the trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes and have also Considered Other Acts on the same subject and the Provision of the Treaty of Ghent

I do therefore give it as my Opinion that Any Foreigner is at Liberty to introduce Goods into Any Part of the United States to which the Indian title has been extinguished without a Licence from Any Governor or Any Other Officer to trade with Indians Provided he has a Licence to sell Merchandize Generally under the several Laws of the United States as All Merchants Must have whether citizens or aliens.

And I also give it as my Opinion that no Goods [brought] By a foreigner into the United States According to Law And on which the Customary duties have been paid can be Seized by the Military or become forfeited or incur Any penalties 442 which [while] kept or Vended Upon Any Territory within the United States to which the Indian title has been extinguished.

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Benton atty & Counseller at Law72

72 Thomas Hart Benton (1782–1858) came to St. Louis in 1815, and practiced law there until his election (1820) to the United States senate. His later career is a matter of national history— Ed.

Given at my Office at St Louis this 8 October 1816

1816: AFFAIRS AT GREEN BAY

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book “D,” p. 54.]

Indian office Geo Town 21 Oct. 1816

M. Irwin Esq

Sir —I am notified by your letter of the 30 aug: of your arrival off Green Bay on the 26th. of that month; and am gratified to learn that you have received favorable impressions of that place.

It seems to me that Col: Boyers testimony in the case of the plunder by the rifle corps, is sufficient to justify you in appealing to their commander for remuneration, which can be come at in a summary way, by ascertaining the amount stolen; and apportioning it amongst the parties concerned, and deducting it from their wages. I can see no reason why soldiers, more than other people, should steal with impunity. You will look to this affair. If you receive from the Commander of the rogues, the amount stolen by them, the mode and extent of chastisement will be with him to settle.

Let me hear from you as constantly as possible and when you look about you a little, give me some account of Green Bay with its relative position with other places of more note. Respectfully etc. etc.

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T. L. Mc.Kenney .

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1816: LICENSES TO FOREIGNERS

[Source, same as preceding document, but Letter Book "C," p. 439.]

Department of War , 29th. October, 1816.

Sir —I have the honor to enclose for your information and guidance, copies of the instructions which have been given to the several agents authorized to grant licenses to foreign traders. This authority was confined to the agents on the North Western frontier, because they were the only agents to whom it was probable that application would be made for original licenses. The agencies at Green Bay and Chicago were placed under the superintendence of the Governor of the Michigan territory, because the facilities of communication with Detroit were much greater than with Kaskaskias, and their supplies would necessarily take that direction; and because it was not absolutely certain in what territory those agencies would be, when a due North line from Post Vincennes should be accurately run; different maps lay down differently the relative situation of that place and Lake Michigan. I have the honor to be etc.

[George Graham Acting Secretary of War]

Addressed: Ninian Edwards Gov. of Illinois Territory .

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 441.]

Department of War , 30th. October, 1816.

Sir —The letter of the 10th. of May last, empowering certain agents to grant licenses to foreign traders, did not authorize any charge to be made on account of issuing such licenses, nor was it contemplated by the government that any agent would make

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such a charge; information has however been received at this department, founded, as it is represented, on the declarations of the traders who had obtained licenses at Michilimackinac, that they had paid fifty dollars for each license, and that they had paid for the release of certain cargoes of furs which had been seized at that place. Among others Rollette 444 and Aird are stated to have paid a considerable sum on these accounts. It is believed that these representations are altogether unfounded, but it has become necessary to call on you for an explanation, which will no doubt be entirely satisfactory.

Should the fact however be satisfactorily established that any traders have made unfounded representations on this subject, they ought to be punished by recalling their licenses. I have the honor etc. etc.

[George Graham Act g Secretary of War]

Addressed: Majr. William H. Puthuff, Ind. agent, Mackinac

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 55B71.]

ss To all whom it may Concern

United States of America

District of Michilimackinac

Whereas William Dixon a foreigner residing on the River S t Peters⁷³ United States hath made application to trade with Indian Tribes at the River S t Peters or in the Mississippi Country under the Law of Congress on that Subject passed 29 th April 1816 and hath given the amount of goods he intends to embark in his Trade on Oath Viz Not exceeding Six thousand three hundred Dollars and 00 Cents

⁷³ William Dickson was the son of Col. Robert Dickson and a Sioux mother. He was educated by his father, and assisted him during the War of 1812–15. At this time, he was

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said to be still in the pay of the British government (*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, 350); it does not therefore speak well for either the acumen or the integrity of Puthuff that he should grant him this license. Later Dickson continued the fur-trade on Red River and vicinity, and in 1832 was on the Missouri, where Maximilian, Prince of Wied, met him. See Thwaites, *Early Western Travels*, xxiv, pp. 96, 97. In 1836, Dickson incited a half-breed and Indian insurrection on Red River, and suicided two years later. See Edward D. Neill, *History of Minnesota* (St. Paul, 1882), p. 452; also *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, p. 141.— Ed.

Now therefore he the said W m Dixon being of good Reputation 445 & having given Bond & Security agreeably to Law, is hereby licensed by authority of special powers, by the president of the United States of America to me for that purpose delegated, To Trade with Indian tribes on the waters of the Mississippi above prairie Duchien, for a term not exceeding one year from the date of these presents, Conditioned Specially that he the aforesaid William Dixon his clerks, interpreters or others employed by him in his trade or conveyance of goods in the Indian country Shall in all manner of things Strictly and literally conform to the Law above mentioned a copy of which is delivered to him with this licence

Given under my hand and Seal of my agency at Michilimackinac this 1st day of November
One thousand Eight hundred & Sixteen

W m . Henry Puthuff In Agent Michilimackinac

Endorsed: One of the \$50 permits of which Mathew Irwin speaks off.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ For Matthew Irwin's report on the sale of these licenses, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii, p. 271.— Ed.

1817: DIFFICULTIES OF WISCONSIN TRADERS

[Source, same as preceding document, but 4B51. Translated from the French.]

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Sir and friend —It is without doubt a matter of indifference to you to receive news from this place where my ill fortune has brought me. I should have written you sooner but not being well informed my narration would have been incomplete.

The tribunal of a mercantile inquisition has not allowed me to go and winter with the Sacs as I had proposed. I was not clothed with the spotless robe, without which one could not be admitted to the number of the privileged ones. Far from it, I was found lacking in all ways as much for my self as for my men who no more than I were admissible. The season being too far advanced to allow me to turn back (even if they had been willing to permit it) I decided to winter at St Charles a 446 little village on the Missouri 8 leagues from St. louis where for 100\$ I found a shelter and warehouse for my goods for 6½ months which cost me more than double that in Capital. Alarmed at the difficulties, afraid that some would come up who would foil me I bought a half licence at the price of a whole one, for this place, dearly obtained, and I bargain daily for a shilling in thread and needles and am known throughout all the County as a merchant in these articles.

My store is on the 2 nd floor where I have only a very steep stairway, so that it is frequented only by young people, the old having to remain at the foot; That is the most beneficial result of my licence.

Mr Bouteiller, that Sheep of the Good God, after so many hardships having been taxed with being at the head of the Savages during the war on a Great white horse with a great white plume and a long Saber and on the very point of having his scalp lifted and his neck cut, has succeeded in dissipating the prejudice against him with the aid of his purse. He has obtained at great expense a licence, and being admitted among the number of the elect, winters at the 2 rivers and informs me that he hopes to do a good business.

The Sacs have taken care of Lagotry⁷⁵ and have hidden him so well that no one can find him. it is to be presumed by the reports that he will do well. The Rumor runs that they sent to take him, but the contrary occurred. They were only troops who came down, as they

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say, trying to find him but could not. I await the result to know whether I did well or ill not to have followed him it having been impossible to undertake it by myself. All I can say is that the dispensors of favors must have carried a high head if they suffer such a check.

75 Very little is known of this trader, Edward Lagoterie. He seems to have come out from Canada, and to have had a trading stand among the Sauk, especially at Black Hawk's village, at the mouth of Rock River. He was employed by Robert Dickson in 1812–14, to secure the Sauk allegiance; and by the United States commissioners in 1815 to invite the same tribesmen to the treaty of Portage des Sioux. For his arrest in 1817, see *post.*— Ed.

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Up to the time that I left the Bay they had received only good treatment from the Government the one in command [Col. Talbot Chambers] although violent and exacting showed himself just and sociable The agent [Col. John Bowyer] was all that could be asked, instructed at Mk a that money accomplishes all, he proved to be accommodating enough, the factor [Matthew Irwin] is a Gentleman, not to him is the harm to commence to be imputed.

The arrangement we have made for a partnership will make trade succeed for us at La Bale in all probability. We must have 4 partners in the dependencies the opposition not appearing to be united, I believe that they will retire. The Store at la Bay is kept by Mr. Law & Mr. L. Grignon is there at the head of a contract with the government for a quantity of timber for the buildings of the government. This will be profitable if he can accomplish it.

I seriously regret having come here although I estimate that I can realize here either a loss or gain of at least 500£. All that I hope is to realize the first cost of my goods since only persons of means pay in currency, nor can I expect to recoup myself on the price of peltries they sell here for the same or less than at Mka. Deerskins sell these days at 40 sol per pound. If you have an opportunity let we know the prices at Mk a so that I may make use of this information.

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[Jacques Porlier]

Endorsed: to Pre. Rocheblave. 181776

76 This letter is but a draft or copy of one sent to Rocheblave, and is undated, except for the year. It is not certain whether it refers to the winter of 1816–17, or of 1817–18—but probably the former.— Ed.

1817: FACTORY RECEIPTS

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book “D.” p. 476.]

Office Indian Trade Geo Town 6 Jany. 1817

Mathew Irwin Esq Green Bay

Sir —I received your letter and its accompaniment—a Copy from your Journal. Since you have been at Green Bay your 448 returns have been very irregular and the business you have been doing, very limited. The whole amount of your sale appears to be only \$5384, and of this sum it would seem about \$1800. had been sold to Indians.⁷⁷

77 In view of the figures given for the Green Bay factory in the summary (*Amer. State Papers, Indian Affairs*, ii, p. 208), these figures and the admonition to Irwin seem extraordinary. The factor had but \$4,617.28 worth of goods in all. Probably the sales aggregated only \$538.40 and \$180.00.— Ed.

I wish you to inform me with as little delay as possible the causes of the barren state of your factory, and whether the prospect is favorable for better business in future. Unless something in addition to present operations be done, I shall be compelled to recommend a breaking up of the Green Bay establishment.

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Be pleased to give me all the information you can; and as soon as possible. I am etc. etc.
etc.

T. L. Mc.K[enney]

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 226.]

Office In: Trade, Geo. Town 22d. Jany. 1817

To James Kennerly Esq 78

78 James Kennerly (1792–1840) was of a Virginia family, related to Mrs. William Clark. He came to St. Louis about 1813, and entered the mercantile business, being associated with John O'Fallon, later with his brother George Kennerly. From 1827–37 he was sutler for the troops at Jefferson Barracks. At the time of this letter, he was forwarding agent at St. Louis for the United States Indian factories in that vicinity.— Ed.

Dear Sir —The contents of your letter of the 22d. ulto. have occasioned me much uneasiness, as well from the apprehensions of the final safety of the merch'ds. for Prairie du Chien; as from the incalculable disadvantage which will result to the Factory on account of its delay. “They are now, you say, in the mouth of Le Moin [Des Moines] River, and will remain there untill some rise of water, or untill some method is adopted to get them on.” I sincerely hope you have been active in ascertaining what method was best; and that you have promptly adopted it. If so, the goods are before this at Prairie du Chien otherwise they are no doubt where you state them to have been, unless indeed some casualty, to which I should suppose them constantly liable, has put them out of our power to controul, in future.

Ferron and Connellys receipt being dated the 18th. of august, time enough in all conscience was at the disposal for *those* goods to have reached Prairie du Chien. There is nothing easier however, than to throw into the scale which is to balance that of *delay* and

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indifference , as much "*low water*," as would make a River. And it happens unfortunately for the *public* business that this impediment is a standing apology with those Boatmen, when private individuals get along notwithstanding. I apprehend, Sir, that unless Boatmen can be had whose honesty will stand the test, our business will thus always drag. That some are more to be relied on than others, I take for granted—you would Do well to employ such men, *only* . I can see no possible advantage in having a Boat, if she is to be navigated by men who are indifferent about prosecuting the voyage; and who have as little concern, generally, when a Boat sinks, as when she swims. Still, however, some plan must be devised by which the public property can be made to keep pace at least with that belonging to private Traders. If to have a Boat at Saint Louis will do this, a Boat shall be had, but it must depend on the agent to select men for the voyage on whom some reliance can be placed. I am willing to put all necessary means in the hands of the agent, but at all hazards the merchandize *must go on* . I see, and am willing to make every allowance for the difficulties of the navigation; and for the delay consequent upon absence of boats and boatmen, but I must nevertheless believe that this is trifling compared with the worthless character of the boatmen generally. You state yourself, that the delay of the Osage merchandize, was owing to the *faithlessness* of the undertaker, who left the packages about # rds. of the way—from this to Ft. Osage.

I will suggest perhaps how this inexcusable evil may be 29 450 remedied, but really my dear Sir, this being so exactly within your province, I attempt it with reluctance, because the means, the prospects, the characters, being all there you only can judge of the best plan. I would suggest however—seeing that doubt must always hang upon a voyage, that you obtain security for the delivery of the Merchandize at the place of destination within stated periods, outside of such events as would forestall any human exertions, the existence of which, it should be obligatory on the undertaker to support by unquestionable testimony. To an undertaker of this sort pay an additional price. This may secure exertions, possibly, which without some such arrangement, I fear, I shall never witness.

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I console myself in some measure with the hope that during the four weeks of spring like weather which prevailed here in December, the goods were progressed with, and reached Prarie du Chien. If not, I almost despair of their ever getting there.

I need not protract this communication by pronounceing upon the importance of promptitude in our remote agencies. It is known to you, I am sure, as an all important affair. Evils of an incalculable nature, growing out of a breach of the policy which the Government is sustaining thr'o this Department, towards the Indian tribes, are to be apprehended from proc[r]astination, and want of vigor in the prosecution of the public trust, far more to be dreaded than any losses in a Commercial point of view, however important it is to maintain also this branch of the subject. All this is known to you—and now my clear Sir let me hear from you, immediately if you please on the subject of those goods destined to Prarie du Chien, let me know what their fate is; and also suggest some plan by which such delay may be avoided in future. For some plan must be adopted, and I will sanction which ever may be best. Respectfully etc. etc. etc.

T L Mc.K[enney]

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1817: AMERICAN FUR COMPANY'S AGENTS

[Transcript in Burton Library, Detroit. Letter Book of Ramsay Crooks, p. 158.]

New York March 17, 1817

You know that I have bought out for account and on behalf of the American fur Company, all the interests which the gentlemen of Montreal held in the South West fur Company, consequently there will be wanted two Agents to conduct hereafter said business at Montreal, New York, Michilimacinac, and at all other places, who are to give their whole time and attention to said business, and not to trade for account of themselves or any other person whatsoever, except for the American fur Company—as I have great

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confidence in your ability and integrity, I have proposed you to be one of the two agents, and that you are to receive as a compensation, Two thousand Dollars per annum, and your expenses while absent on business of the company is to be paid by the company, in addition to which you are to have the profit or loss on five shares (out of one hundred shares in said business)

The profit or loss is to be declared after all interest and expenses are paid and deducted as well as two and a half per cent. commission which is to be charged by me, on the sale, or exportation on furs received as returns or otherwise.

You are to continue to be Agent for three years should the business be so long continued, it being understood that you are to receive and attend to all the goods comprehended in the outfit. [Those of] 1816, are included.

John Jacob Astor For American fur Com.

Mr. Ramsy Crooks

Endorsed: agreement with J. J. Astor Esq. 1817

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1817: ABUSE OF LICENSING POWER

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book "D," p. 258.]

Indian Office Geo Town March 19th. 1817

To Geo Graham Esqr. Acting Sectry. War

Dear Sir —Every Letter I receive from P. du Chein, confirms the fact, that licences to trade with the Indians are issued to an undue extent. I am aware of the broadness of the Law; and how easy it is to obtain this privilege, under its provisions—still, however, I apprehend,

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with all its extent of privilege, the use made of it, in many cases, is at War with its spirit, and certainly with the design of the Government.

The following is an extract from a Letter this day recd. from Jno. W. Johnson U. S. Factor at Prairie du Chien, dated 8th. Jany. last.

“How Major Puttoff, Indian Agent at Mackinac could licence Traders *for this Territory*, is surprising to all the Americans here. The blackest of characters were permitted, and are now trading with the Indians in every direction. Will you do me the favor to find out whether Mr. Puttoff received unlimited instructions from the President? Each (trader) paying 50\$.”

Our Trade must suffer under such pressure, and so must the Indians. Nor can any thing tend to the destruction of both more rapidly.

I submit it to the Dept. of War to provide suitable Checks for the evil, and hope some plan may be adopted that will correct the extent to which it is carried. Very respectfully etc.

T. L. McK [enney] S[uperintendent] I[ndian] T[rade].

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1817: PRICES FOR FURS

[MS. in Burton Library, Detroit, vol. 113, p. 84.]

Green Bay April 13th 1817

Mr W Woodbridge 79

79 William Woodbridge (1780–1861) was born in Connecticut, but removed as a boy to Marietta, Ohio, where he began the practice of law, and was active in Ohio politics. At the close of the War of 1812–15, he was appointed secretary of Michigan Territory, and with his family removed to Detroit, of which he became a leading citizen. He was first the

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territorial delegate in Congress, then judge of the supreme court of the territory, served as a member of the state constitutional convention (1835), of the state senate (1837), was governor (1839–41), and finally was United States senator from Michigan (1851–47).—Ed.

D. Sir —Yours of the 6th of March last I received on the 9th Inst. and I am very sorry that not withstanding I have lived for near two years in this country I am not able to give you the particular information you require respecting the prices of the different kinds of Furs etc. The best season for making a purchase at Mackinac is in the Months of June & July & I suppose that Bear will be about \$3, Otter 2, Martin 1.50 Muskrat \$16 pr. 100. Letters rec d . from the eastward by the last express state that Muskratt Sold last fall at Boston for \$15. pr. 100. As to the currancy of the different Bank notes & places of deposit, I would advise Mr. Woodbridge to make his deposits in one of the pittsburgh Banks, and to procure as many N. Y. notes as possible there is now 25 pr. cent discount on Ohio money at this place. Owing to the small quantity of goods that are at this place I presume there will be very few Furs sold here this spring, they will all be taken to Michilimackinac and there is no person there that I could recommend as an agent to make the purchase unless Major Puthuff would be induced to do it for a handsome commission.

I expect to leave this about the first of June for Pittsburg, should I have an opportunity of procuring you a good Robe, you may rely on my taking it on with me to Detroit, where I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you & personally thanking you for relieving my friends anxiety respecting my safety.

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The letter from Gibbs that you mention in yours I have not rec d . but expect to by the first vessel from Mackinac which we expect about the last of the Month.

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Should you write to Mr. D. Woodbridge or any of the family, will you please to have the goodness to tender my warmest respects to Mrs. Woodbridge etc. believe me to be Sir, yours respectfully

L. Morgan 80

80 Probably Lewis Morgan, who had entered the army from Pennsylvania, and after serving in the artillery for four years, resigned in 1816 to enter the Indian trade. He was agent of fortifications at Green Bay in 1820, and perished there in 1824 during a winter storm—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii, pp. 258, 259. When he speaks of being in the country “near two years,” he probably refers to his first station (in 1815) at Mackinac, and the next year at Green Bay.— Ed.

Address: Mr. Woodbridge Detroit, M. T.

1817: INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHIPPING FURS

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book “D,” p. 278.]

Indn. Trade Office Apl. 15th. 1817

To John W. Johnston Esq U S Factor P. du Chien

Dear Sir —This is to request you to forward with as little delay as possible, the furs and Peltries you may now have on hand; and as many as you may receive in time to reach here by October, to James Kennerly Esqr. at St. Louis. The manner of securing them is important, and especially during the summer Months. I request with a view to their better security, in more ways than one, but especially as it relates to their preservation against the worm, that you prepared them well; sprinkle them with spirits of Turpentine, and pack them in Tierces, such as the Merchandize is sent in—I mean the fine and small furs. I request the favor of your particular attention to this.

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Your Letter and its enclosures of the 31st. Decemr. came to hand in proper time, and shall have my reply soon.

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You shall be served and well served with Goods of the best qualities and kinds. Very respectfully etc.

T. L. Mc.K[enny] S. I. T.

1817: WINNEBAGO HOSTILE

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 203. Letter Book 2, p. 33. C. Jouett to Lewis Cass.]

Chicago 29 April 1817.

Sir —The bearer who was sent to Green Bay, on his return gives accounts that the Winnebagoes are determined to do us mischief it seems that a small party have had their war dance, the object of which is to shed blood at or in the neighborhood of this post this information comes from a Mr. Boubia [Beaubien]⁸¹ corroborated by the Potawatomes of Milliwakee, it does not appear that is a national movement but confined to a few who have lost relations in the late war, I have sent to their village on Fox river, five respectable Indians, to ascertain the truth of the report and a; the same time to use their influence to prevent any war party from setting out and should they fail in their object, they are to send me a runner with the earliest

⁸¹ Probably Jean Baptiste Beaubien, one of the earliest permanent settlers of Chicago, and an early Milwaukee trader. Born at Detroit of the family of Cuillerier *dit* Beaubien (see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xviii, p. 235), he entered the fur-trade as a clerk for Joseph Bailly at Grand River, where he was located in 1808. Later he removed to Milwaukee, where (In 1814) the Potawatomi unsuccessfully planned to murder him and seize his goods.

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About 1818 he was removed from Milwaukee to Chicago by the American Fur Company, but seems to have established his family at the latter place at an earlier date. After the abolition of the United States factory, Beaubien bought the premises and lived thereon until 1840. He was chosen colonel of militia in 1834, and brigadier-general in 1850. He was usually known to early Chicagoans as Colonel Beaubien. In 1840, having lost his property in a government suit, he removed to a farm on the Des Plaines; later, he was again in Chicago for three years (1855–58), whence he removed to Naperville, Ill., where he died in 1863.— Ed.

456 intelligence. This nation must be done something with, they have been altogether unfriendly to our Government. I think a treaty of some kind should be made with them, by which we could have some little hold upon them.⁸² Otherwise a drubing is indispensable, they threaten to cut off the communication to Green Bay. The Potawatomes, Chippewas and Ottawas are entirely friendly.

⁸² The Winnebago were consistently opposed to the Americans, forming (in 1811) a large part of Tecumseh's army, and following Dickson's lead to the battles in northern Ohio and around Detroit. The bands on Rock River and its upper waters in Wisconsin refused to attend the treaties at Portage des Sioux and St. Louis (1815–17). In 1816, one band, residing on Wisconsin River, was induced to sign a treaty with the commissioners at St. Louis, but no other was concluded with the tribe until that of Prairie du Chien (1825).— Ed.

This Agency has suffered many inconveniences for want of the Blacksmith tools. I hope I shall have the honour of hearing from you by the first opportunity. I am Your Obedt. Servant,

C. Jouett Ind. Agt.

1817: PURPOSES OF PRIVATE TRADERS

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book "D," p. 294.]

Library of Congress

Office or Indian Trade Geo: Town May 2d. 1817

John W Johnson Esqr. U. S. F. P. du Chien .

Sir —I am very much in want of Wampum for the factory at Osage. No effort of mine, though they have extended to all the principal Cities, have been able to command it. There appears a total disappearance of the article. This is to ask you, (if you can spare it) to forward in suitable packages such portions of white and blue, as you may be able to part from, even tho' the quantity shall be small, by letter, under cover to Mr. Kennerly at St. Louis, with directions for him to forward it by the earliest conveyance to Fort Osage.

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Your supplies of of Merchandize will reach you in good time. The selections I hope will give you power over the private traders enterprize that surrounds you. What effect would it have on the surrounding tribes to send runners to anounce your moans of serving them? Would its novelty awaken any additional attention to the Factory? And if so, the private traders must feel it in the same proportion.

Those traders are certainly at war with the interests and welfare of the Indians. Every advantage over them that can be fairly taken; and which includes the harmony of the tribes, and Justice, is within the limits of the duty we owe these unfortunate people, whose want of knowledge of what constitutes their happiness alone prevents them from putting to flight those speculators on their toils. Cherish these people, and as I am sure your own heart dictates, leave no means untried to impress them with the friendship of the Government; and of their interest in negotiating through its Agencies. Very respectfully etc.

T. L. McK [enney] S. I. T.

1817: FOREIGNERS NOT EXCLUDED

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 35.]

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Department of War , 4th. May, 1817

His Excellency. Gov. Cass.

Sir —I am directed by the President to inform you, that the instructions dated the 10th: of May last, relative to the granting of licenses to foreigners are to be considered as still in force. The President thinks it probable that he shall be at Detroit himself, in the course of the ensuing summer, when he wishes this subject to be brought before him for final decision.

A letter has been received from Major Puthuff since I last wrote to you, referring to one dated in November, but which has not been received at this department, for an explanation of 458 his conduct in relation to the fees taken for granting licenses to trade with the Indians. It is understood, that he has received on that account, at least three thousand dollars.

Mr. Astor having represented to this department, that he had purchased the whole of the interest in what is termed the South West Company, you will afford to him and his agents, every facility in your power, consistent with the laws and the regulations. I have the honor etc.

George Graham , A. S. W.

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 4B6.]

La Prarie Des Chien 10th May 1817

Dear Lawe —The unexpected conveyance this moment presents itself which will hardly afford me time to say That we arrived Safely, enjoy good health, and estimate the many proofs of disinterested friendship, which we received from you, whilst at Green Bay, more highly than ever.

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I can give you no news, there is still a talk of a rupture with the Indians, but I do not believe, at once that all British traders will be prohibited from having any intercourse with the Indians, but the truth of the matter is yet to be realized—do not take any steps, about making preparations for sending a party of men and boats into this country, until you hear from me again, I shall inform you as early as may be practicable. It is uncertain whether I remain in command here, the ensuing winter or not, but should I remain, you must certainly calculate on every exertion which I can make for you. The com dg Officer here has a great deal in his power, it shall be exerted to the utmost in your behalf, but keep every thing which I write you, *quiet* .

O'Fallan is writing you. Dickson is well but in a [MS. torn] humour about a dance, which he has been prevented in going to by a Roman Chatholic Priest. You will see him probably in two or three weeks.

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I am in great haste—farewell and believe me Sincerely and ever Your friend

T. Chambers

Dont forget to write me a long letter by the first opportunity and tell me your wishes.

Addressed: Mr. John Lawe Green Bay

Endorsed: Letter from Colonel Chambers dated Prarie du Chien 10 th May 1817 no answer.

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: indian Office Letter Book "D," p. 303.]

Office In: Trade, Geo: Town 10 th , May 1817

John W. Johnson Esq

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Sir —Your letter of 10th. Feb is at hand, and I notice with regret the prevalence of an evil which it shall be my business to keep before the authorities, who, like myself, will be happy to see its consequences lessened—a final death can only be inflicted by the Congress. I refer to the extensive limits of the licence system. Extracts from your letter above referred to, I have laid before the Secretary of War. You will lodge your complaint against Nicholas Bolvoin, with the Governor of the Illinois Territory, and if on your statement, the Gov. can be satisfied of the impropriety of his conduct on such representation being made to the War office, by the Gov., Bolvoin will be removed; *or any other man* who can be fairly committed for any violation of the laws regulating Trade with, or for the better government of the Indian Tribes. The agent at Mackinac seems to have got himself into trouble. *I learn* , orders have been issued for him to refund the premiums received for licences. I hope this may be true. Be vigilant in your efforts to detect individuals who regardless of their duty, and of justice, go forth to speculate on the already too impoverished and miserable Indians, and make your reports direct to the Governor of the Illinois Territory, sending me copies of all your communications.

Rolette has been well informed no doubt; and the prices he 460 is giving for skins are justified by the foreign demand. But I have not thought it prudent to issue orders to rise in our price, for two reasons. *First* , This demand will cease when the scarcity is supplied which may be before we could make sales.

Second , Our fair dealings will not permit us to supply the chasm made by the high prices for Furs, by a correspondent increase on the cost of our goods. Justice forbids it, at least that *propriety of intercourse* , which it is desirable to keep up with the Indians. This is a sort of chicanery which suits very well the honor of tricky and low minded Men, whose avarice is always on the alert to *deceive* , if not by radically unjust means, yet by such as shall serve their ends as well. This however may not be [Mr. Rolettes plan.

I shall afford you all the power that *good* goods, and *cheap* goods can impart; and will always second your efforts to rid the country of the swarms of private traders, whose

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regard for the Indians is measured by the profits of their intercourse with them. If you have any accumulation of bad goods which the scarcity during the War, forced upon my predecessor, get them off as well as you can. They will be more in the way as your stock increases by the supplies of last year, and of this year. write me as often as you can, and keep me constantly informed of whatever relates to the factory. I am etc. etc.

T. L. McK [enney]

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 203. Letter Book 2, p. 69. Cass to W. H. Puthuff.]

Detroit June 8, 1817

Dear Sir —By a letter from the War Department dated May 4, 1817, I am informed that “Mr. Astor has purchased the whole of the interest, in what is termed the South West Company,” and I am instructed to “afford to him and his agents every facility in my power consistent with the laws and the regulations.”

To Mr. Crooks the Agent of Mr. Astor you will please to afford every assistance, which the nature of his business may 461 require. From a correspondence, which Mr. Crooks has submitted to me, it is the intention of the Government that Mr. Crooks as the agent of Mr. Astor should have the selection of such persons to enter the Indian Country and conduct the business as he may require. To such persons therefore as Mr. Crooks may designate you will please to grant licenses, taking the security required by law or the regulations of May 10, 1816.

On mature reflection upon the subject I would recommend that as few licenses as may be, consistent with those regulations be granted, rather reducing than exceeding the number.

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I do not recommend Mr. Crooks to your hospitality. That I know he will receive. But I recommend to your aid and assistance the objects of his journey. With much esteem I am
Dear Sir, Yo. obt. Servt.

[Lewis Cass]

Maj. W. H. Puthuff Ind. Agent

1817: NEWS FROM MACKINAC

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 4B13.]

Michillimackinac 18 th June 1817

Dear John —I parted with your uncle Franks at Lachine on the 11 th of May. He I suppose has informed you ere this, that by an arrangement he made with M r . Stone⁸³ his goods. come by way of New York; and consequently from Montreal he had but little to bring up, which I had imagined would considering

⁸³ David Stone was a New England capitalist, whose home was at Walpole, N. H. He had been in the fur-trade at Detroit before the War of 1812–15, in partnership with S. Conant. After the war, he continued under the name of David Stone & Company; later, Stone, Bostwick & Company, with a branch house at Cincinnati. This was the only large Eastern competitor of the American Fur Company, and received government encouragement; until, in 1824, an agreement was made to combine with the American Fur Company for three years. David Stone removed in 1828 to Dayton, Ohio, and appears to have retired from the fur-trade about that time.— Ed.

⁴⁶² the number of men, and the lightness of his Peat, have enabled him to reach this place before me. He is however still absent, but by the arrival of M r . Courselle⁸⁴ last evening I learn he was detained at the Portage of York much longer than he anticipated

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owing to the North West Boats having the preference of transportation. We look for him in a very few days.

84 Michel Courselle was a British trader in the Michigan peninsula before 1812. In 1816 he was granted a lot on Drummond Island.— Ed.

You have no doubt heard before this of his having been joined in the holy bands of matrimony to Miss Solomon—the courtship you know having been uncommonly *short*, the consequences which naturally follow such *precipitate* matches, are verified in your case. He has beyond all doubt got an excellent wife—one who loves him with no ordinary affection, who seeks every opportunity to minister to his comfort, and who takes great pains by anticipating his wishes, to make him happy—to say all in a few words, He has obtained the *first prize* in this, *most hazardous* Lottery. I arrived here yesterday by way of Few York, and the Lakes. I left Montreal the 12 th May. Mr. Lemoine (Despins)⁸⁵ has gone up for Lord Selkirk, and strange as it may appear, our friend Mr. Robert Dickson has accompanied him with the intention of joining the Earl at Red River or elsewhere in the interior.⁸⁶

85 Jean Baptiste Lemoine *dit* Despins had been trading in the Upper Country since the opening of the nineteenth century. In 1812 he married at St. Louis, Céleste Sanguinet, related to the Chouteau family.— Ed.

86 Thomas Douglas, earl of Selkirk (1771–1820), purchased in 1811 a large grant of land from the Hudson's Bay Company, on which to found a colony of Scotchmen. This proceeding was opposed by the members of the North West Company, and in 1816 a battle was fought, in which Robert Scruple, governor of the colony, was killed. Selkirk thereupon proceeded to Fort William, and in his capacity of magistrate sent down to the colony under arrest, the principals of the North West Company. Selkirk proceeded in 1817 into the interior, where Dickson planned to join him. This portion of Dicksons career was

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not known, when the biographical sketch of that well-known trader appeared in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, pp. 133–153.— Ed.

463

We have nothing new here. Provisions are abundant & cheap I hope you have passed a pleasant & prosperous winter. I am sorry to hear of Mr. Porlier's bad fortune, but I trust you will nevertheless make out pretty well. Wonders you could not expect to do. Hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you here at an early day I remain Dear John Yours truly

Ram y Crooks

Mr. John Lawe .

Your uncle reached Drumond Island last evening I suppose he will be here to-day.

R. C.

Addressed: Mr. John Lawe Green Bay Hon d by Major Gratiot.

Endorsed: Letter from R. Crooks dated M c Kinac 18 th June 1817 answered

1817: INSTRUCTIONS FOR WISCONSIN FACTOR

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book "D," p. 346.]

Indian Trade Office 24th. June 1817

To John W. Johnston Esqr U. S. F. P. du Chien

Sir —Your letter of the 28th. April accompanied by your quarterly returns closing 31st. March preceding, arrived in due time.⁸⁷

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87 The omitted portions in this and some of the succeeding documents deal with financial accounts and errors, unnecessary to the present publication.— Ed.

* * * * *

It will be necessary for you to use extreme caution in trusting out goods to traders. Boats may get upset, as in the case of Dorion⁸⁸—and even if like him this should escape being drowned, the tomahawk may put them to rest, and relieve you from the trouble of counting their returns. The very fact

88 There was in the Illinois settlements a considerable family by the name of Dorion. Pierre accompanied Lewis and Clark as Interpreter, and his son was with the Astorian expedition; see Thwaites, *Early Western Travels*, v. p. 38.— Ed.

464 you mention viz. the difficulty of traders giving security must render their access to the credit of the Factory more difficult. I wish you nevertheless to have all the chances that such aid can afford you, and authorize you to let out to discreet and honest men on the best security you can obtain, goods to limited amounts, to no one trader more than might be deemed a reasonable amount, not to be repeated 'till he settles for them when he is to have more.

I regret to notice the damage sustained by some of the goods, which remained so long at the rapids of De Moin. I have reported the transport agent (Mr. Bronaugh) your suggestion respecting a Column for the weights of each package, this will be attended to.

It affords me pleasure to learn that those goods are so very acceptable. It is surely high commendation you bestow, and it is the more welcome, because you certainly know how to estimate an entire suitability of the articles to the tastes of Indians in your quarter.

I notice with pleasure that you are attracting by means of those goods the attention of the Indians, and that you took a thousand dollars worth of good furs in April. I hope the period is not distant when you will be rid of British traders. You should report Dixon to the

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Governor, he *cannot* have authority.⁸⁹ I wait daily to hear of your skins etc. being on the way to St. Louis. I presume we shall hold the property at P. d Chien I am not informed why we shall not. Very respectfully etc.

⁸⁹ See Forsyth's report of Dickson at Prairie du Chien in 1817, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, p. 350.— Ed.

T. L McK [enny] S I T.

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[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 356.]

Office of India Trade Geo Town July 10, 1817

M Irwin Esqr. U. S. F. Green Bay,

Sir —Your letters of the 15th and 17th May are received.⁹⁰

⁹⁰ For other letters passing between Irwin and McKenney from 1817–21, see *Id.*, vii, pp. 270–282.— Ed.

* * * * *

It is required that duplicate vouchers accompany the Contingent account. You have sent me none, nor have I received any *regular* accounts since your arrival at Green Bay. I must urge the necessity of some efforts to prepare the factory buildings. I suggest that you address a letter to the Commanding officer, asking for assistance. If he refuse it, let his answer come before me; and his scruples shall be adjusted by the War Department. In truth, Gentlemen mistake their duty exceedingly, when they manifest no interest for the operations of the *general* Government, outside the particular branch over which they preside, as well, in the language of the Patriotick Genl. Gains on this same subject, might the hand refuse its aid to the foot.

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I cannot but flatter myself with the hope that the Commanding officer, influenced by a regard for whatever concerns the Government of his Country and its views, will unite in the accomplishment of its designs even the' they be outside the special trust placed in his hands. The War Dept. could do no more than issue a *conditional* order: But of that condition the Commanding officer is constituted judge.

* * * * *

You did well to sell the furs to preserve them from a loss on your hands. I do not wish sales made at either Green Bay or Mackinac, excepting under such circumstances. I am etc. etc.

T. L. McK [enney] 30

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1817: PROCEEDS OF FACTORIES

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 366.]

Office Indian Trade Geo Town 14th. July 1817

To James Kennerly Esq

Dr. Sir —Your favor of the 15 Ult. is before me, from which I learn that you have shipped from St. Louis, all the furs and Peltries that remained on hand, consisting of One hundred and fifty nine packages deer skins, Twenty eight of Beaver, and otter; Twenty one packs Rackoon, Cat, Rat and dressed Elk skins, 19 Packs of Bear skins—all from the Osage Trading house: also from Prarie des Chien—Twenty packs Deer 12 Bear 6 Racoon and 28 Muskrat, 7 Beaver four Packs otter. and three of Otter, Cat, Rat, Fishes, mink, wolves, Foxes and Rabbit total 300 Packs. I am gratified to learn that those furs etc. left St. Louis

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in prime order; and that you provided in your contract for suitable inspections on their passage to Pittsburg. I wish you much happiness in the married state. I am etc. etc.

T L Mc.K [enney]

1817: PROHIBITION OF LIQUOR

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 203. Letter Book 2, p. 147.]

Green Bay Agency 22d. July 1817

Sir —I have made the arrangements for this agency, so as if possible to keep the expenditures within the stun of five thousand Dollars, but this I fear will be impossible untill houses are built for this establishment, as it will require at least five hundred Dollars per annum for house rent, and the houses no better than hovels. Fuel will also require a considerable Sum, the price established by the troops for wood is five Dollars per Cord.

I wrote the Secretary of War last fall, I had taken from the Chiefs their British medals, arm bands and Flags, and had promised to replace them this summer. I have received no 467 answer on this subject, I also requested a moderate supply of presents for the chiefs and their families. I may have acted improperly in taking those things from the chiefs and promising to give them others, but as I acted from the best of motives and my word is given, I hope you will have them forwarded as soon as convenient, I will thank you to forward to me a set of the laws of the United States, and if possible have the civil law established at this place.

The indians from fear more than from principle, appear friendly, it will for sometime require Strong Measures to destroy the British influence in this quarter, indeed so long as british subject[s] are suffered to have intercourse with the Indians, I feel confident British influence will continue, and it will be an expence without any advantage either to

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the United States or the indians to have agents or Factors in the Indian Country, unless positively ordered, I will give no Licences to British subjects this year.

I have prohibited the landing of every discription of spirits in this agency, for the purpose of trade or Barter, I hope this will meet yours and the President's approbation. I have taken the liberty of enclosing to you the Copy of a treaty made at St. Louis with the Menomenee Tribe of Indians. The fellows who have Signed this treaty, have no influence or character with the Indians, and I am confident this treaty has been made without the knowledge of the principle chiefs, and of nine tenths of the nation knowing or even hearing of the transaction.⁹¹

⁹¹ None of the signatures to this treaty of St. Louis (made March 3, 1817) are those of prominent, well-known Menominee chiefs. See *United States Indian Treaties* (Washington, 1837), p. 306.— Ed.

I would have written you by the General Jackson, but was on daily expectation of seing you at this place. I have the honor to be Sir, Very respectfully Your Obedt. Servt.

Jno. Bowyer Indian Agent

Govt. Lewis Cass.

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[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 5B21.]

Sir —You have permission to trade with the Indians (whiskey) for Sturgeon not exceeding six Gallons at this time. Yours respectfully

Jn o Bowyer Indian Agent

Green Bay 23 d July 1817

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Mr Louis Grignon

1817: BRITISH SUBJECTS AT GREEN BAY

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 203. Letter Book 2, p. 165.]

Green Bay July 24, 1817

Sir —The Superintendent of Indian Trade directs me in his letter of the 28th. May last, to report to you, such of the British Traders, at this place, as are known to me, as having been hostile to the United States, during the late War with the British nations, for the purpose of enabling you to communicate their names to the War Department.

After a particular and strict enquiry, I learn that the following persons were Hostile to the United States during the late War, that they are British Subjects, in the practice of trading with the indian tribes, the most of whom have resided many years and hold landed and personal property here; that they were particularly active in exciting the Indians, residing in the Territories of the United States, to take up Arms against Michillimackinac, Detroit, Sandusky and La prairie du Chien, acting as their leaders in the several Capacities annexed to their Names (viz)

James Porlear Senr. Capt. of Milita. and Commissary

James Porlear Junr. Lieut of the Indn. Dept.

Peter Grignon Captain of ditto

Lewis Grignon Lieut of ditto

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Augustus Grignon Interpr. and Commissary

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Presch Grignon ditto ditto

John B. Grignon Serjt. of the Ind. Dept.

Paul Grignon Ensign of ditto

Amable Grignon ditto of ditto

Charles Grignon Interpreter of ditto

Jacob Franks Captain of ditto and Commissary

Joseph Rolette ditto of ditto

Lawrence Filley Serjeant of ditto

Peter Powel Lieut of ditto and

Robert Dickson Superint., and Agent of ditto.⁹²

⁹² All of the above-mentioned inhabitants of Green Bay have been sketched in previous notes in this volume, save the two youngest.

Joseph Jacques Porlier, Jr., was born at Green Bay about 1796. He was educated in Montreal, and returned to his Western home about the commencement of the War of 1812–15. He enlisted as a lieutenant: in the Michigan Fencibles, and served with great credit on the Prairie du Chien campaign, réceiving enconiums from his superior officers; see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, p. 118; xiii, p. 58. At the close of the war, young Porlier was recommended for an ensigncy in the regular army (*Id.*, xiii, p. 93); but preferring civil to military life, he remained at Green Bay with his father, entering actively into the fur-trade—see documents *post*. He married Agatha Grignon, and was for some time on the upper Wisconsin. Finally, he settled at Grand Kaukauna, where in the spring of 1839 he died.

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Amable Grignon was the youngest of that family, having been born In 1795, after his father's death. During the War of 1812–15, he acted as a corporal in the Green Bay detachment. In 1817 he went to St. Peter's River, under engagement with Duncan Graham (Wisconsin MSS., 5B4.). The following spring, in the rendezvous at Lake Winnipeg, he had the fortune to please the governor of the Hudson's Bay Company. and was for the following year sent to Athabasca (*Ibid.*, 4B87, 1C25). The next year he renewed his engagement, and was stationed at Great Slave Lake (*Ibid.*, 5B13, 56B102). While there, because of his "well-known resolution" (*Ibid.*, 1C36) he received orders to arrest traders of the North West Company. The following year he was at Fort Wedderburn (*Ibid.*, 1C52), and in 1821 at Fort Chippewyan (*Ibid.*, 9B89). In 1823 he returned from the North, just too late to see his mother before her death, which occurred Oct. 25, 1823 (*Ibid.*, 15B49). At this time he brought with him as his wife, Marie Judith Bourassa, whom he seems to have married at Mackinac. Having saved a small capital during his service with the Hudson's Bay Company, Amable went into partnership with his brother Paul, and secured an outfit for the Wisconsin trade. Later, they were located on the upper Wisconsin, where Amable made his home at what is now Grand Rapids. Two of his sons, Jean and Ignace, also lived recently at that place.— Ed.

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All the inhabitants here, except one, are British subjects, Consisting of about fifty families. They were actively opposed to the United States, during the late War.

It may be proper to remark that whilst these and other British subjects are suffered to enter and continue in this Country as traders, It will be useless in the Government to continue this factory here; principally from the ascendancy which an interrupted intercourse of many years has enabled them to acquire over the minds of the Indians, supported by extensive families connections with them, and the advantage they might, and, in some places have made of it to the prejudice of the Factories. It would be unnecessary to detail to you the

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evils which have arisen and may yet arise, in case of another War with Great Britain, should those traders be suffered to reside at and enter this Country.

It may be sufficient to state, what I think you will readily admit, that this Factory, from the easy access to it can supply the wants of the Indians, from the Mouth of this Bay to the portage of the Ouisconsin. I am very respectfully, Sir, Your Ob. Serv.

M. Irwin U.S. Factor

Col. John Bowyer, Indian Agent

1817: WISCONSIN INDIAN CENSUS

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 163.]

Green Bay Agency August 12, 1817

Sir —I have the honor to transmit to you the following estimate of the probable number and residence (as far as I have been able to obtain information) of the Indian Tribes of this Agency.

The Minominees or Fullsavoines estimated at Five hundred Warriors, They reside during the summer on the Fullsavoine river, Kantong, Green Bay, Little Kackalin, Big Kackalin, Winabagoe. Lake, River de Loup, But des Morts, Vermillion Island, an[d] Scattering villages, on the Islands and River of the Bay.

The Winabagoes, Estimated at, from Seven to Eight hundred, Their villages are on the Winabagoe Lake, Fox River, Green Lake, the portage Ouisconsin and the River au pins.

The Chippewas are intermixed with the Minominies and Ottawas, it is at present impossible to make a probable estimate of their numbers. They occupy the whole Country

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from Michillimackinac to the head Waters of the Mississippi River. Numbers visit this Agency in the Spring and fall.

The Indians in the vicinity, of Millwakee are composed of Renigadoes from all the tribes around them (viz) The Sacques, foxes, Chippewas, Minominies, Ottawas, Winabagoes and Potawatamies, Estimated at Three hundred Warriors.

The tribes from the Lower and upper Mississippi pass this place on th[eir] Way to Michillimackinac.

It is believed that in the Summer Months fifteen hundred Warriors can be assembled at this place in fifteen days. I have not been able to get such information as can be depended upon, of the number of Woman and Children of the different tribes, but hope by middle of the next month, I shall accomplish it.

From every information I can get of the situation of the Indians in this, quarter, The whole of the Indians on Green Bay and its islands and River and from thence to the Head Waters of the Mississippi, and from the mouth of Fox River, to the Portage Ouisconsin, and the Indians residing on the West side Millwackee (except the villages at the mouth of the Millwakee) should be attached to this agency. I am induced to believe 472 this to be the natural Boundary, as all the indians residing within these limits can with ease bring all their Peltry by water to the factory at Green Bay.

I hav the honor to enclose to you a letter addressed to me by Mr. Irwin the United States Factor at this place, it will give you a correct idea of the Characters of the Inhabitants on the Bay. I have the honor to be Sir, Very respectfully Your Ob. Serv.

Jno. Bowyer Indian Agent

His Excellency Lewis Cass Govr. of M. Territory

1817: WISCONSIN INDIANS VISIT BRITISH POST

[Source, same as preceding document, but p. 167.]

Michillimackinac August 20, 1817

Dear Sir —I should have written you sometime since but because of the very considerable number of Indians who have been passing and repassing this post for several Weeks. Considerable Bands of Sawks and foxes from the Lower Mississippi, Winabagoes from the Ouisconsin and near Prairie du Chien, Potawatamies and other tribes from the Illinois and Chippewas from Lake Superior and intervening Country bordering on the head Waters of the Mississippi, Ottawas from Lake Michigan, Menominees from Green Bay and Fox River, with many other scattering Bands of different tribes of Indians have visited this Post and Drummonds Island during the present Season. At Drummonds Island very extensive presents have been given them, and to the Sawks, Foxes, Winabagoes and Potawatamies particularly, large supplies of ammunition and Arms have been furnished.⁹³ It has been reported to me that the Sawks and Foxes, who left this Post a few days since on their return to the Mississippi, declared at Drummond's

⁹³ See account of the passing of the Indians in 1817 to Drummond's Island, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, pp. 54–57.

⁴⁷³ Island, their determination to prevent American Traders from going among them the ensuing Winter, stating that they had followed the surveyors who had been engaged as they said, in taking their Lands and had destroyed their marked trees, and they would not suffer them to return, or any settlers to remove to the Country, and would cut off or destroy all those who might have already settled within that district. How far these reports may deserve Credit is in my Opinion doubtful, or if true, how far they may have been intend[ed] merely to Illicit more presents deserves some consideration. The profession of all the Indians in Council, as they passed and repassed this Post, has been uniformly and decidedly friendly toward the United States. They [though] I am well aware that implecit

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confidence may not be given to Indian professions. Yet the issuing of such extraordinary quantity of arms and ammunition coupled with these reports, renders it as I conceive a duty on my part to apprise your Excellency of the facts so far as I have been able to develop them. The Prophet has lately sent an emissary among the Ottawas and Chippewas of this Agency, who in a national Council with them, held out the idea of a Rupture's soon taking place between the Indians of the South Western part of the United States and the Americans, observing that all would be quiet for this year but sometime early in the next they would strike, that the Tomahawk was not entirely buried, a small part of the handle having been purposely left out, That all the Indians of that District of Country had promised their Cooperation and requested the Indians of the Lakes to join in a quarrel which equally Interested the whole. The Ottawas immediately gave me notice of the designs of the Prophet, and in Council tendered their assistance to the American Government in opposing his views, declaring their wish to remain at Peace with their American father, and determination to resist the Prophet or any other Indians who should dare with hostile, Tread upon their Lands to disturb their quiet.

This circumstance is probably only of importance to us in that, that it goes to evidence the attachment of the Indians of 474 this Agency to the American Government and their sincere wish to remain in a state of peace at least for the present.⁹⁴

⁹⁴ The omitted portion deals only with accounts.— Ed.

I am dear sir Yo Mo. Ob. H. Serv Wm. Hen. Puthuff Ind. Agent

His Excellency Lewis Cass Gov of M. Territory

P. S. Enclosed I forward you a communication on the subject of Trade made by Mr. Morrison who was last and is this year engaged in Indian trade for the S. West Company on Lake Superior⁹⁵

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95 William Morrison came of fur-trading ancestors, being a grandson of Wadin, a Swiss killed in the Northwest in 1782; see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xviii, p. 315, note 39. He was probably a son of Charles Morison, noted *ante*, p. 249, note 62. Born in Montreal in 1783, William was an employee of the X Y Company in 1802, and the following winter visited the sources of the Mississippi. Later, he went into the North West Company, and was stationed at Fond du Lac, Lake Superior, and at inland posts. Pike heard of him, but did not meet him in 1805–06. In 1816, Morrison entered the South West Company, and was promoted rapidly; in time, he became one of the principal traders of the American Fur Company on Lake Superior. His station was for many years at L'Anse, on Keweenaw Bay; see *ante*, p. 208, note 98. After retirement he lived at Montreal, where he died Aug. 7, 1866.— Ed.

W. H. P.

1817: LOCKWOOD AT PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 4B25.]

Prarie de Chien Sept 2 nd 1817

D r . Sir —I arrived at this Place on the 30 th of August. I had a verry disagreeable Passage being taken with the fever and ague at the But d. Mort I arrived at the Portage Wisconsin a day before any others but being Sick I was two & half days in the portage. I have had considerable difficulty to get Permission

James H. Lockwood From oil portrait by Samuel M. Brookes, in possession of Wisconsin Historical Society

475 to Pass as M r Ofallon is not here but have finally obtained Permission All the Equipments of Rolette are detained until the arrival of Mr Ofallan what the result will be I cannot say yesterday Col. Chambers was at my tent and in conversation asked if you was coming this way I told him that you had some idea of coming but was not sure that you

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could Pass he said that he thought you could Pass that were you to come that he would assist you in any thing that he could but for my Part I think that you may Pass with some difficulty I can give you no further information. I shall be off from this today I am gaining my health verry fast and none of my men have yet got the fever I have engaged an interpreter to whom I give two hundred dollars with his Equipment & gun. I am Sir Respectfully yours

J. H. Lockwood 96

96 This is the well-known pioneer whose recollections of the Prairie du Chien neighborhood form so important a part of early volumes of these *Collections*. See vol. ii, pp. 98–196, wherein he has related almost all of his early history. Judge Lockwood died Aug. 24, 1857, at his Prairie du Chien home.— Ed.

John Lawe

1817: LICENSES AT GREEN BAY

[Source, same as preceding document, but 4B28. Translated from the French.]

Baye verte 14 September 1817

Dear Sir —I transmit to you the Information that I have reached here After a Passage of Twelve Days. I received from Captain Duncaïn the Goods according to the order I had given they are in as good condition as I could expect after the shipwreck he had the misfortune to endure in the Bay of Washington. As your property I desire you to give me Instructions as to how you wish them Disposed of *on Your Account* .

In regard to the Licence After all the Trouble possible Col Boyer has decided to give them to every person who asks for them. He has said Openly that if the matter was at his option 476 no one should obtain a Licence but Mr Rouse⁹⁷ Mr. Lawe & M r . James.⁹⁸ I have not been able to open my store here for eight days. The appearances are bad. I believe that

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there will be as many Traders as Houses. Nothing more to mention to you. I am dear Sir
very Respectfully Your obedient Servant

97 Although born an American, Louis Rouse was of the same race as the majority of the Green Bay habitants. His father, Jacques Rouse, a refugee soldier (probably from Acadia), settled in 1783 in Clinton County, N.Y., on the site later known as Rouse's Point, on Lake Champlain, close to the Canadian boundary. There, Louis was born about 1792. He served in the American forces during the War of 1812–15, and at its close secured the suttlng for the rifle regiment, which business brought him to Green Bay. There, the attraction of the fur-trade seized upon him, and for a few years he embarked extensively in that commerce, later becoming much embarrassed and a debtor to the American Fur Company. He owned and operated a farm at Green Bay, and was district judge during our pre-territorial regime. About 1836, Judge Rouse became interested in a mill in Manitowoc County, and finally removed to the city of that name, where he died April 19, 1855. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii, p. 100.— Ed.

98 Thomas P. James, an American trader, who about 1819 was selling goods for the factor at Menominee River.— Ed.

L. Grignon .

Endorsed: Copy of a Letter to Mr. M. Dousman Michillimakinac.

[Source, same as preceding document, but 1D38.]

Green Bay the 16 th . Sept r . 1817

To Coll Boyer Indian Agent of the U. States

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Sir —Having been informed by Major Puttuff the Indian Agent for the Port of M c Kinac to applie to you for Licence, I therefore request of you if you Would Grant me a Licence for the Port of Green Bay and Another for the Fox River.

I Will be oblige to Col I . Boyer to have the Goodness as to Give me an answer as the Season is Getting much advanced I Remain With the highest regards Sir your very ob t .
Serv t

F. O[liva .]

I Will Give Col I . Boyer that Satisfaction that the Goods I 477 have imported from Michil a Were purchased from the House of David Stone & C o Who have obtained the Same privilege as the American Fur Comp y

Endorsed: 1 for the Green bay 1 for fox River

1817: TRADERS ARRESTED ON THE MISSISSIPPI

[Transcript in Wisconsin Historical Library. Street Papers.]

Fort Armstrong [Crawford], 18 Septr, 1817

To Major Morgan

Sir —I have ordered two trading Boats from Mackinac, Messrs Farnham⁹⁹ and Darling traders to proceed to Bell fountain to report to Govr. Smith. They have on board in the capacity of clerks, the two celebrated characters E. Lagotherie and St. John.¹ Their object is to trade on the Demoin river this season. but to warrant such an act they must obtain Licence from Gen'l Clark² you will be pleased to examine their passport

⁹⁹ Russell Farnham was a New Englander who joined the Astorian expedition, and went out as clerk on the "Tonquin." In Oregon, he had numerous adventures, being in the Indian

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fight at the Dalles; assisting in building a post near Spokane; and wintering (1812–13) among the Flatheads. After the sale of Astoria, Farnham left with Wilson Hunt on the “Pedlar,” landed on the coast of Kamschatka, and made his way overland to Hamburg, whence he sailed for New York. Re-entering Astor's employ, this was one of his first trips to the West in the interest of the American Fur Company. He afterwards carried their trade into the Missouri Valley, and among the Sauk and Foxes, by whom he was awarded a payment in the treaty of 1832. He died of cholera at St. Louis, In October of that year.— Ed.

1 For Lagoterie, see *ante*, p. 446, note 75. Joseph la Perche *dit* St. Jean was a Canadian who had come to the Northwest before 1801. In that year he was trading below Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi. During the War of 1812—15 he was one of Dickson's agents, being both lieutenant and interpreter in the Indian department. In 1816 he was at Mackinac, and as here shown Joined the American Fur Company. As late as 1821 he was still trading among the Sauk and Foxes.— Ed.

2 According to H. H. Chittenden, *History of the American Fur Trade* (N. Y., 1902), p. 313, the inciting cause for this arrest was the jealousy which St. Louis traders felt for those from Mackinac. They were carrying licenses from the American agent at Mackinac, but Chambers arrested them because they had none from the governor either of Illinois or Missouri. Later, the American Fur Company sued Colonel Chambers for this action, and after a long legal contest obtained damages to the amount of \$5,000.— Ed.

478 support and compell them to act conform ably to their directions as far as may be practicable. I am respectfully

T. Chambers , Lieut [Colonel] Commanding

Fort Crawford 18 Septr 1817

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The Bearers Messrs. Farnham and Darling are permitted to visit St. Louis with their respective boats and crew for the purpose of procuring a license from Gov'r Clark to trade on the river Lemoine. They are positively ordered to make report at all the military posts situated between this and St. Louis and to Gen'l Smith commanding at military department previous to arriving at St. Louis during this passage they are positively prohibited from holding any intercourse or even converse with any Indians, save what may be absolutely indispensable to procure immediate wants or to land, deposit or dispose of any species of goods or merchandize or make any unnecessary halts or delays.

T. Chambers Lieut. [Colonel] Commanding

Fort Crawford 19 Sepr 1817

Major Morgan

Sir —I have this moment being informed that the masters of two Boats who I have ordered to St. Louis to obtain the permission of Gov. Clark, previous to opening a trade on the Lemoine viz Farland [Farnham] and Darling have declared prior to leaving this place that they were determined to open the cargoes below fort Armstrong on their way down the river 479 they appeared to be hardened Raschels, particularly Lagoterie who declared that he would not visit St. Louis. I have thought it necessary to apprise you of this circumstance in order that the military might not be made the subject of derision by such named Raschels, the fellow St. John one of the clerks acknowledged here in the presence of Mr. Ofallon that those three american Sculps hoisted on his boat during the last war at this place.

T. Chambers Lieut. [Colonel]

Fort Armstrong 27. Sepr., 1817.

Sir —I send to Bell fontain under guard two mackinac Boats with their masters and crew

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You will perceive by the enclosed papers that Lft. Col. Chambers has positively prohibited them from trading or even conversing with the Indians until they shall have obtained licence from Govr. Clark yet they openly declared that it was their intention to commence trading two or three miles below this place. As an officer I have but one course to pursue, to enforce the orders of my superior officer, for any information connected with this command I beg permission to refer the Gen'l to Lt. Blair.³ I have the honor to be

³ Lieut. William Preston Smith Blair was a grand-nephew of Col. William Preston of Virginia, and a brother of Francis P. Blair, editor of the *Washington Globe*. He was born in Kentucky, and enlisted as ensign in 1813, becoming lieutenant in the 2nd rifles the following year. At the close of the war he returned to civil life, re-enlisting in 1817 as lieutenant in the rifles. In 1818 he was stationed in Arkansas, and resigned from the army in June, 1821. He died Aug. 3, 1828. His wife was Hannah Craig; and one son, Patrick M. Blair, became a well-known Illinois lawyer.— Ed.

Willoughby Morgan Major⁴

⁴ Maj. Willoughby Morgan was a Virginian who entered the army as captain in 1812; during the war he was brevetted major, and at its close made an officer in the consolidated rifle regiment. In July, 1815, he was at Detroit, preparatory to taking over Mackinac from the British. He commanded the latter post until relieved in the autumn by Colonel Chambers. In the summer of 1816, Morgan advanced with a detachment to Prairie du Chien, where he planned and began the first Fort Crawford. Early the following year (1817) he was again relieved by Colonel Chambers, being stationed during 1818 at Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island. In 1819 he was on the Missouri, near the present Fort Leavenworth, and two years later at Fort Harrison, in Indiana. The year 1822 found him again at Prairie du Chien, where he commanded during the Winnebago troubles of 1826–27. He appears to have continued in charge of that post until his death there in April, 1832.

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He was at this latter time colonel of the 1st infantry. Morgan was an efficient commander, and especially skilful in managing the Indians.— Ed.

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1817: LICENSES TO FOREIGNERS

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book "D," p. 426.]

Office Indian Trade Geo Town 30 Sep 1817

Geo: Graham Esq acting Secy. of War

Sir —In prosecuting the trade with the several Indian Tribes in my capacity of Superintendent, I have endeavored to ascertain the nature of those causes which I have perceived to interrupt, and injure it. I have also attempted through the agents who managed the concerns of the Factories; and whose opportunities to detect and apprehend evils are more directly at hand, to ascertain whether there are any lurking evils, or latent fires connected with those causes of interruption which it was likely to suspect might break out to the injury of our fronteer citizens in the event of British or Indian Wars. With a view to this I addressed a letter to Mathew Irwin the factor at Green Bay requiring first to inform himself on the subject of the extent to which licences had been issued by the Indian agent to foreigners, and 2dly. whether those foreigners now holding licences, and acting under them had been hostile to the U S. during the late War with England. I further instructed him that if on enquiry he should find these things to exist, to address a letter to Col: John Boyer, enumerating the 481 persons coming within the description specified⁵ —they amount it seems to Eighteen in number and they are all, not only British subjects, but men who helped to kindle the fires of War in our Northern and Western territories, and even led on the savages to the conflict! the extent of mischeif that 18 Men (supposing them to be all) can do in estranging the Indians from our interests; and exciting them, as their avarice may dictate, to hostility, and blood, it is hard to estimate. Nor can it be known how difficult it is to compete with these men in the management of the Indian trade. Our

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agents are governed by certain specific instructions pointing directly to all the branches of their intercourse. These are known, as well to the British agents, no doubt, as to those who act under them. It is no hard matter so to vary the principles which govern this Trade on our part, as to realize a monopoly on theirs; and this too without any *real* advantage to the Indians. The nature of their location with their means of intercourse will preserve to them this power, nor is there any remedy in my opinion but a total restriction. As I have heretofore stated I am aware of the provision of the law; and the granting of licences is entrusted to the discretion of the agent. Indeed that on application, with a profer of surety there seems to be no power of refusal. But it appears to me the agt. might under instructions from the War Dept. at least reserve to himself the right to reject the application of notorious offenders, and enemies.

5 See Irwin's letter to Bowyer, *ante*. pp. 462–470.— Ed.

It is not at Green Bay only, where our trade is assailed by the license system, which appears to be so indiscreetly acted on, but at Prarie du Chien also. There, this evil reigns and without any controul.

It is but justice to Col: Boyer to state, that he promises to act in future; to countervail this evil. But there is no such assurance from Major Win. H. Puthuff who, Mr. Irwin writes me he has been informed, and from a direct and respectable source, has received in one year from the British house of Bartlett [Berthelot] and Co. at Mackinac, \$3.200. for issuing 482 licences to their agents; and from other persons various sums supposed to amount to 4000\$ and upwards. His plea is, so I have been informed, that by demanding 50\$ per license, he should lessen the number of applications!

I make these communications with pain. I am always reluctant to present eases which tend to give trouble to the War Department to which this office is attached; and would prefer always to cure the evils that exist, than to complain of them. But where they cannot be destroyed by the power vested in me, it becomes ray duty to represent them, and to

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hope for a speedy intervention of a superior authority. Otherwise the views of the Govt. in relation to Indian trade can be but partially met, the peacefull influence which it is designed to promote, will be always liable to disturbance; and the lives of our Citizens remain in continual jeopardy. I am etc. etc.

T L Mc.K [enney]

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 203. Letter Book 2, p. 186.]

Michillimackinac 5 Oct. 1817.

William Woodbridge Esqr .

Sir —I have taken the liberty to address you as the only person to whom any individual undeserveignly ill treated can look to for redress. I shall now minutely give you my cause of Complaint.

I was last year in the employ of Mr. Bergin at Green Bay, and in May last Colo. Bowyer ordered me to leave that place without assigning any just cause for his so doing, although to the knowledge of Major Taylor, I did by letter request of him to have my Conduct strictly investigated and if there could be any proof then adduced of my having in any ways whatever violated the laws of the Country I was willing to be sent away or abide by any Verdict which a Court of Investigation might give, but this satisfaction was denied me. I nevertheless left Green Bay and shortly after my arrival here, I would have been employed to go into the interior in the Capacity of a Clerk for the New York furr Compy.

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The Indian Agent here Major Puthuff objected to my going as being a British subject, was it a General Order that no British Subject should be allowed to go into the interior I consequently would have no room for Complaint, but when this priviledge is denied to one

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or two individuals only, is in my Humble opinion shewing too much partiality. I have been in the Country now 17 Years and in that space of time no person has ever had cause to Complain of my interfering with any Business which was out of the limits of the Trade, I might have been employed in, this restriction I mention being laid to me alone, altogether puts it out of my power to earn a Livelyhood, being brought up to the Indian Trade I would be unfit for any other occupation. Hoping you will take this into consideration I have the honor to be Sir, Respectfully Your Mo. Ob. Serv.

John Drew .6

6 John Drew was a well-known merchant of Mackinac, who for many years was in the Indian trade. In 1836 he accompanied a number of chiefs to Washington, where he was witness to a treaty.— Ed.

1817: MISSISSIPPI TRADERS ARRESTED

[Transcript in Wisconsin Historical Library. Street Papers. John O'Fallon to Gen. William Clark.]

Bellfontain 6 October 1817

Sir —Enclosed you will receive statement from Lieut Col Chambers to Major Morgan on the Subject of the masters and clerks of two Mackinac boats which were destined to trade on the Lemoin river, your concurrence being deemed necessary preparatory to such a Step these traders were accordingly refused, but having declared notwithstanding intention to trade in the Missouri T'ry below Fort armstrong. without your authority as a certain precaution against the execution of such intention They are sent to you escorted by a military guard commanded by Lieut. Blair. I am instructed by the Gen'l to request you to return the inclosures as soon as they can be conveniently 484 spared. I have the honor to be with the highest respect Yr. Most Obt Servt,

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Jno. O'Fallon . Act. Asst Agt Gen'l.

1817: INSTRUCTIONS FOR GREEN BAY FACTOR

[MS. in Pension Office, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Letter Book "D," p. 429.]

Office Indian Trade Geo: Town 6 Octr. 1817

Mathew Irwin Esq U S. F. Green Bay

Sir —I duly received your communications of august 2d. and 3d.—together with a copy of the letter addressed by you to Col: Boyer. Considering, as I do, that the very spirit of the law authorizing the issues of licences to trade with the Indians, has been violated, and an undue use made of its provisions, equally prejudicial to the designs of the Govt. in its views of civilization, and to the success of the U. S trade, which is itself a branch of the same policy, I have reported the state of things in that country to the acting Secretary of War, at large; and am not without hope that if no good shall result from your investigation *immediately* , and which may be deferred from the looseness of the law, the Congress at its next session will apply a suitable corrective.

* * * * *

I am averse to the risque which is involved in letting out goods to sub-traders. I question very much whether the advantages to the Indians, or to the factory, would not be counterbalanced by the losses which, from experience, I know wait upon the practise. Nor should any sub-agencies be exercised within the limits embraced by the suitable lines for the operations of the *main* factory: they destract the trade, and make it (the factory) uncertain as to its own business. Any adventures you may make must be made, *first* , on goat security, 2d. The goods sent must not injure the assortment of the Factory, 3d. The sub agent must trade beyond the limits which include 485 those Indians that deal with the factory, and 4th. those to whom the supplies are carried must be such as need them; and

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to serve whom it would be to serve the cause of humanity. A proper attention to those few particulars can only justify the practise.

* * * * *

I am etc.

T. L. McK [enney]

1817: LOCAL TRADING INCIDENTS

[MS. in Wisconsin Historical Library. Pressmark: Wisconsin MSS., 4B43 Translated from the French.]

Kacalin 23 november 1817

Mr. Lawe

Sir and Friend —I Received the honor of your letter in which you advise me of the position of M r . Jacobs⁷ and that he had not yet notified my brother. I believe that it will be Best for You to Send some one immediately to Recommend to Him not to Extend our credits for our Creditors have as much as they can pay.

⁷ For a note on this person, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, p. 225.— Ed.

In regard to M r Lusignan⁸ you tell me that you have not been able to get a Reply from Colonel Boyer. I will send therefore some of my Men soon to the fond du Lac to see what is occuring there and on Their Return I will tell you what occurs there for about that time I mean to go to La Baye. It is certain from appearances that he is about to do us Much harm for the Savages draw more to his side than to Ours or to speak more accurately they do not come to us at all, especially those I expected.

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8 This trader was the one mentioned in *Id.*, vii, p. 277. Possibly he was a descendant of the French commandant of Green Bay from 1743–46; *Id.*, xviii, p. 6.— Ed.

I beg you not to be Rebuffed but to try again with Colonel Boyer for it is better to stop Him now than in the spring.

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Nothing else to speak of except to beg you to believe me to be for life Your very humble Obedient Servant and friend

Augt Grignon pr. L. Fily

I beg you to assure M r . Caren of my respects.

Addressed: M r Lawe, Merchant at La Baye

Endorsed by Lawe: Grignon dated Kakalin 23 d Nov. 1817 an answer

[Source, same as preceding document, but 4B46.]

R du s du Boeuf 6 December 1817

To Mr John Law

Sir —This is to inform you that the last Letter I received from M r P. Grignon mentions that he is sorrey of I being badley plassd on this River and that no Indians Winters on this River.

But for me to take courage and to send on Derouin9 a la Foursh and Lac Vet and not make aney Credits save my Goods & number of Indians will be here this spring as well as to trade on shush prisess whish I keep his letter to be carefull to keep up shush Prisess as he mentions: I will strickley in all thinges act and do faithfully and Honestly according to his

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Orders and I am well pleased to be under his direction— he [h]as been polight to tell me and thank'd me of I drawing his Credits and making no C r . and as been mush pleased he inteands to send Polite her[e] to bring me a few article to assort my goods. if you do not think this to be the fact I mention you Let me know by the first opportunity I shall send you his letter at present I keep it to get acquaintead with shush prisess. M r Rouse winters his Neighbour cells his goods the same Prise as M r . Grignon all on C r . Beauprey will do well, it seems that M r . Dickson is gert to see his son on the River S t . Peter and that Lord S t . Carchel [Selkirk] went down the Mississipie pass'd the Prerie 2 Capt n . one Lieu t . and 13 Solger dont know whare he is going This is all the Newes I got from the Ouiscosien.

9 For significance of this expression see *ante*, p. 200, notes 86.— Ed.

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I wish you and Familey well and Prosperitey and I wish my sealf dead and your Propritey savead

J. B te Jacobs

N. B. M r Grignon did not keep my mean [men] he says I shall want them.

Addressed: M r John Lawe Green Bay

1817: GREEN BAY AGENT'S REPORT

[MS. in Pension Building, Washington. Pressmark: Indian Office Book 203. Letter Book 2, p. 225.]

Green Bay Agency Dec: 15, 1817.

Sir —I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Oct. 12th. In consequence of the Jackson having left the Bay before I could send my letters en board, I

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could not answer you sooner. I received by the Jackson three large and four small medals, these I must hold, until I receive a further supply of these articles, if I deliver them I shall be called on in the Spring for Seven large and Twelve small medals and the same number of Arms and wrist bands.

I permitted Mr. Irwin to read the extract of your letter to Mr. Jouett, he made no remarks on the subject. I suppose a Copy of his letter to me, has been forwarded to the Superintendent of Indian Trade at the City of Washington.

On the subject of Joseph Rolette and the hundred Dollars I received for two Licences, I will forward to you in the Spring Mr. John Lawe's certificate with whom I transacted this business, which certificate I feel confident will satisfy you, I have acted correctly. And when Rolette arrives here in the Spring, I will make him give a certificate that will chew his conduct in this case; has been like every other transaction of his that has come to my knowledge that of a Scoundrel.

I am pleased you approve of my prohibiting the landing of spirituous liquors in this Agency, I think [it] will have a good effect; but could it be so arranged that the Collector at Mackinaw, should be directed not to give clearances for Spirituous 488 Liquors for this place, I then could command the Indians and traders, until this can be done the traders will run Whiskey into the Indian Country by the Indians and particularly Green Bay.

I have directed the traders to ascertain as near as possible the number of Men, Women and Children who reside in the Neighbourhood of their establishments, by this arrangement, I think I shall be able on the return of the traders to give you a tolerable correct estimate of the Indians residing within the limits of this Agency. The whole of the Indians left this about the 1st. of October for their hunting ground except a few families of old Women and Children who lost their husbands and Brothers in the late War, and are really starving in consequence of the frost having destroyed their Corn, and the wild rice failing, not a tenth part of the latter, they formerly gathered has been made this fall and

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I am correct in saying not ten Bushels of Corn has been saved within Sixty Miles of this place. I shall be obliged to furnish those Women and Children with provisions from the public Store. I have the honor to be Sir, Very respectfully Yo. Ob. Serv.

Jno. Bowyer .

His Excellency Lewes Cass Gov. of M. T .