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H. & M.

By T. H. KIRK

Pp 70 + 72

YR 1821

pg 7

Minn year book

for 1851

By Gen. W^m G. Le Duc

Andreas atlas } Rec'd 9/30

71 Kg 557 D 1 } Ret 9/30

McClellan's Tour } Rec'd 1874

Tour of the Lakes } Ret. 1914

AMERICAN FUR COMPANY POST
(FOND DU LAC)

E. R. HOOD

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look up
Grand Portage

"AMERICAN FUR COMPANY PAPERS" N.Y. HIST. SOC

"PAPERS ON EXPLORATIONS IN MINNESOTA" JOSEPH N. NICOLETT

= 1841

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N54

SPECIAL

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American Fur Trade of the Far West (3 vol)

By H. M. Chittenden

Vol I - Pg 309

" II

" III

381 / 381
C 44 / C 44A

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" MINNESOTA HIST. SOCIETY "

" Lake Superior

976.8

M 66 C

V. 3

RESERVE
1ST FLOOR

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See Page 334

(9 CHAPTERS)

~~Fur Trading Companies in the~~

The Northwest (1760 - 1816)
Fur Trade -

By Wayne E Stevens

306

116

V 1413

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ST 7

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~~16:498~~

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~~16:391~~

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French

{ Travel + Adventures in Canada & Ind. Terr. -

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History of the Ojibways (Minn Hist Soc
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William Warren

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MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETINS

VOL 1 AND 3

= QUARTERLY MAGAZINES

976.8
M66 B-7

976.8
M66 B-2

976.8
M66 e
Vol 1

976.8
M66 SP
Vol 1

Room 320

"THE LIFE AND VENTURES OF THE ORIGINAL JOHN JACOB ASTOR"
BY ELIZABETH L. GERHARD

MINN ALUMNI WEEKLY
1931-1932

art Grace Lee Note

april 9-1932- Amer Fur TRADE

~~april 9-1932- Amer Fur TRADE~~

378.7
M66
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VOL
31

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LETTERS OF BISHOP BARAGA

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59

"The Eve of Conflict"

By George Fort Milton

(Railroads)

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Diary of John Askin at Mackinac 1774-1775
(Grand Portage)

AMERICAN FUR CO

FOND DU LAC

FORT ST LOUIS

ST LOUIS COUNTY

ST LOUIS RIVER

GRAND PORTAGE

ELMER R. HOOD.

VOL 5
M.H.52

1812

12

24

The American Fur Company arose after the War of 1812, when JOHN JACOB ASTOR became prominent in the field. At the close of the War of 1812, Congress passed an act excluding foreigners from the fur trade in American territory, and Astor's American Fur Company purchased the posts of the Northwest Company south of the line.

1831

25

In 1831 a single trader was licensed for Grand Portage, but the principal activities at the place during the thirties centered around the fishing industry conducted by the American Fur Company.

33 N - The present village of Fond du Lac, Minnesota, grew up on the site of the American Fur Company's post, constructed some years later, farther up the St. Louis River.

413

1840

Previous to 1829 the American Fur Company had established a fur trading post at PEMBINA, only some seventy miles from Fort Gary. In 1840 JOSEPH ROLETTE, the son of the famous upper Mississippi British Indian trader of the early nineteenth century, was put in charge of the company's affairs in that region. So successful was he in competing with the Hudson's Bay Company and in sustaining the illegal fur traffic across the frontier that in 1843 he started a line of carts from Pembina to St. Paul. In the same year, however, the "Yankee trader", NORMAN W. KITTSON, was made general manager of the American Fur Company's operations in Northern Minnesota, and ROLETTE became KITTSON'S chief representative. At the age of sixteen NORMAN KITTSON

became apprenticed to the American Fur Company for three years and started with a band of voyageurs for the West. At Mackinac, began an acquaintance with another clerk of the company, HENRY H. SIBLEY, which was destined to ripen into firm friendship and close business association. For several years, however, the two saw little of each other. Meanwhile Sibley became agent at Mendota for the American Fur Company, with supervision over a large area. In 1843 the two formed a partnership, under the company, for trading on the upper Mississippi and the Red River of the North, and KITTSOON took charge of the outfit. For eleven years, from 1843 to 1854, KITTSOON spent most of his time on the frontier. KITTSOON severed active connection with frontier life in 1856 and removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, and in 1858 he was mayor of the city.

As early as 1816 the American Fur Company established a trading post at Red Lake, it already had fur houses at Sandy Lake and on the St. Peter's River, now called the Minnesota; and in 1822 three more important posts were occupied between Rainy Lake and the "Lake of the Woods."

In 1849 the American Fur Company removed its headquarters from Mendota to St. Paul. The credit for the operation of this first forerunner of American big business is usually attributed to John Jacob Astor. It is not generally realized that Astor himself lacked the practical knowledge of the western country and the Indian trade necessary to make the venture a success, or that the American Fur Company continued successfully for almost a decade after Astor left the management.

432
433

1843

434

1856

1858

408

1816

1849

MHSC
Vol 7
Pg 9
" 19

MHSC
Vol 7
221

A large proportion of the trading supplies, even after 1820 - reached the Northwest posts by way of Lake Superior. But after Sibley settled at Mendota in 1834 as the representative of the American Fur Company, the Mississippi River became the chief avenue of communication.

269N - WILLIAM A. AITKEN, a famous Scotch trader, was born in Edinburgh about 1785. As a young man he emigrated with his family to Canada. He subsequently entered the employ of a prominent fur trader, John Drew.

Letters in the Sibley Papers show that Aitken was trading in the region around Sandy Lake, his headquarters for many years, before the close of the War of 1812. Later he became the chief factor for the American Fur Company in the Fond du Lac department. In 1838 he was discharged for incompetance and thereafter continued to trade on his own account. He died in 1851.

208 At Fond du Lac in St Louis County, where one of the American Fur Company's establishments was located, an interesting contribution to early Minnesota agriculture was made.

1826 THOMAS L. MCKENNEY, who visited the post in 1826 to assist in negotiating an Indian treaty, makes the following observations under date of July 28 - 1826. "Between the buildings and the hills on the north, is a piece of cleared ground, picketted in, for the growing of potatoes, and in the enclosure is a small patch of wheat, some of which is just beginning to head."

1823 The establishment of Fort Snelling in 1823 was followed within a short time by the settlement near at hand of a number of fur traders. This little settlement, known as Mendota, became the outpost of the American Fur Company, which at that time controlled much of the fur trade of the vast district to the north and south.

In 1820, when the Cass expedition passed through 4
Sandy Lake on its way to the headwaters of the Mississippi,
the agents of the American Fur Company were found
established in the old fort, which Schoolcraft describes in
1820 almost the exact words used by Pike.
Between 1820 and 1832, when Schoolcraft for the second
time visited Sandy Lake, the American Fur Company's
post was moved to a point just north of the mouth of
Sandy River where it flows into the Mississippi, later
the location of the Libby post office.

"TERMINATION"

The factors that led to the downfall of the American Fur
Company were in the main external. The panic of 1837 and
the ensuing business depression were the greatest cause of
the failure. Moreover, emigration of settlers to the fur
country was responsible for a great falling off in the
annual collection of furs, and the decline of the foreign
markets together with the competition there of South
American nutria caused a considerable shrinkage in
the company's receipts. The one great mistake on the
part of the company was its unwise policy of monopoly.
In order to maintain this monopoly it spent enormous
sums of money buying out competitors who could not
have substantially damaged the company under any
circumstances. In its last years the company realized
the weakness of this policy, but the danger was already
done. By the end of 1844 the company had paid a
fifty per cent dividend to its creditors, and with the
gradual payment of its debts it passed slowly out of
existence.
In 1842 the American Fur Company failed and the fishing
enterprise came to an unsuccessful close.

Vol 6
240 The American Fur Company seems on the whole to have ⁽⁵⁾ respected the act of 1834 forbidding the introduction of liquor into the Indian Territory, but unscrupulous individual traders of the company who felt secure in their isolation did not. The Hudson's Bay Company frequently used spirits to attract Indians from south of the line and to compete more strongly with American rivals.

166 - John Jacob Astor, president of the American Fur Company, the
167 principal fur company in Minnesota, once remarked that he would rather have one Canadian voyageur than three American boatmen. After the Americans took charge of the trade the voyageurs; usually entered the region of the Upper Mississippi by way of Fond du Lac, near the site of the present city of Duluth. After the failure of the American Fur Company in 1842, the fur trade began to dwindle. Gradually the voyageurs ceased to come. Those who were already here became occupied in other pursuits and many of their descendants are among us today.

352 - The unfriendliness of the agent of the American Fur Company, Dr. Chas. W. Borup also made Elly's situation embarrassing. In the spring of 1839, therefore the mission at Fond du Lac was abandoned.

234 - The American Fur Company, be it remembered, was not so closely articulated and highly centralized as the "Gentlemen Adventurers". It frequently admitted trading partners who had great latitude in making arrangements with their supporters. As early as 1833 and perhaps earlier the heads of the firms, Sir George Simpson and Crooks, arranged a modus operandi. In return for an annual subsidy of three hundred pounds the American Fur Company ceased competition with the English company along the international boundary from Grand Portage on Lake Superior to the Red River settlement.

In 1841 two of the employees of the Northern Outfit of the American Fur Company at La Pointe found themselves
Vol 9 restrained by the action of a rival from carrying on their
287 business in their usual way. One of these men, James P. Scott,
BEAVER MONEY in reporting the case on March 4 to his superior, Dr Charles
1841 W. Borup, explained how the rival had made a complaint
to the Indian subagent which had resulted temporarily in
enforced idleness for the two men. He then continued his
report, stating that the rival "told him (the other employee)
that if he would redeem all of the Beaver money in their
(the rival's company) possession for Silver (amounting to
about \$7000) and would agree to other stipulations, the
complaint would be withdrawn. The use of the expression
"Beaver Money" in this letter is noteworthy. Apparently
reference was made to a current form of money. Now
the scarcity of "hard" money in frontier localities is
axiomatic and the region about La Pointe was apparently
288 no exception to the rule. Other articles often served in
lieu of gold and silver in such places and many of
these substitutes are well known. The use of beaver money,
however, seems to have escaped notice, and so this reference
becomes of especial significance. It will be noted that
this money was issued at La Pointe; that it was redeemable
to the bearer in American Fur Company's supplies instead of
specie; and that it had to be signed and dated by an
American Fur Company factor in order to be valid. In other
words, it was a sort of bank note issued by the American
Fur Company for the convenience of its creditors. The roles
played by the American Fur Company on the frontier were
numerous. It acted as postman, transportation agent, bureau
of information, census marshal and banker. In this last
capacity its activities in discounting, lending, and effecting
exchange have been well known for some time; now it is
seen also to have enacted the part of a bank of issue.

Vol 11 356 Prior to 1816, most of the posts in what is now Minnesota belonged to the Northwest Company; after 1821 nearly all the posts of that area were American Fur Company stations.

360 1816 The American Fur Company's post at Fond du Lac was erected in 1816. It continued throughout the period of the corporations existence, or until the middle forties. (1842) It was an important station, though it was not, like the Northwest Company post at the same place, the chief post of a department.

Vol 2 116 117 BANKING A second line of departure was brought about by the occasional demands of the people for certain banking services. These demands were too irregular and too small in volume to justify the establishment of banks; and the people naturally turned to the American Fur Company, the strongest moneyed institution in the territory, for the satisfaction of these needs. The company, therefore, began to extend to explorers, missionaries, and others the privilege, previously accorded only to its own employees, of using it as a fiscal agent. Its activity in this field requires examination, for it is in these transactions that banking really finds its beginnings in Minnesota. The company made loans, cashed drafts on eastern cities and St Louis, and sold exchange on its offices in New York and other cities. It carried some of these loans on its books to credits (checking accounts) and honored drafts drawn against them whenever presented. While the company realized a profit on these banking operations, nevertheless it suffered some losses, which were inevitable at the time because of the lack of rapid communication and the uncertainties of the monetary situation.

24ms
Sheet 102
101
ms
Sheet 102

MHSC
VOL 11
672
1809

In 1809 the American Fur Company was organized by John Jacob Astor, but it did not begin business until the close of the war of 1812. (8)

MHSC
VOL 9-
P 13
1842

In 1842, the American Fur Company closed its business and sold its interests to Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, of St. Louis who were represented by Henry M. Rice.

JOURNAL
OF
JOHN WORK
FOL 43
RUM

The United States Government from time to time issued stringent prohibitions against the sale of rum to the Indians. It was to check the evil of alcohol among the Indians that it maintained the system of licenses, and those who were caught debauching the natives were generally deprived of their right to trade. In spite of all the efforts of the Government, however, great quantities of liquor were smuggled into the Indian country. These free traders and even the American Fur Company justified its use on the ground that it was used by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Fol 33
1808

John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company was chartered April 6 1808 and carried on a fur trade in all parts of America. In the summer of 18345

247
1834
MHSC
IX

The school was removed from Sandy Lake to Ford du Lac a village on the St. Louis river at the head of navigation, where a school house had been built by Mr. Ely.

1855
248
249
POLITICS

Before Duluth was platted or had occasion for a name, on the first Tuesday in October 1855 there was held the first election in St. Louis county. The election was for a delegate to represent the territory in Congress. 105 votes were polled, 96 for Henry M. Rice, the Democratic candidate and 9 for William Marshall, the opposition or Republican candidate. From that election may be dated the birth of the Republican party in the state.

381
MHSC
VOL 4

The soil is not favorable for agricultural purposes in this district.

VOL 9
244

St. Louis county was established by acts of the territorial legislature which were approved March 3-1855 and March 1-1856. It takes its name from the St. Louis river.

⑨

American Fur Company Post (Fond du Lac)
(St Louis County)

⑨

1826

MHSC #2
178

On the 5th day of August 1826, LEWIS CASS and THOMAS L. MCKENNEY, commissioners on the part of the United States, made and concluded a treaty with the Chippewa Indians at Fond du Lac, Lake Superior, by which the Chippewas granted to the United States the right to search for, and carry away, any metals or minerals from any part of their country.

No efforts under this grant were ever made; but from that period (and even before) explorations, from time to time, were made by individuals; and many indications of rich mines (now within the limits of Minnesota) were discovered.

Licenses to trade with the Indians were obtained - buildings for the ostensible purpose of trade were erected, and possession maintained for many years, in hopes the government would extinguish the Indian title to the land, so that individual titles might be acquired.

Time and expense caused the abandonment of most of these points, and a consequent dissipation of the bright visions raised by the knowledge of the wealth which was beyond the reach of the discoverers.

Under the old permit system, many locations, three miles square, were made on Lake Superior; several on and near the Montreal river; some on Bad River, south of La Pointe; three on the mainland, opposite

THE VOYAGEUR

BY GRACE LEE NUTE

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134 GRACE LEE NUTE

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La Pointe; two or three were made near Superior City, on the NEMADJI or Left Hand river, and one settler's claim about twenty miles north of Superior.

1854-179 On the 30th of September 1854, the Chippewa Indians, by a treaty made at La Pointe, ceded all their lands on the north shore of Lake Superior to the United States; thus removing all obstructions to the development of the rich mines within the limits of Minnesota.

1870
MHSC
VIII 296 The red sandstone at Fond du Lac, a favorite stone for building churches and residences was first quarried in 1870. This red sandstone belongs to the great Cambrian and Lower Silurian periods.

300
IX
MHSC
243
1854
1855 In 1854- and 1855 when the great rush came for the control or a share in the site of the future great city at the head of the lake, Fond du Lac was the only place having a name as a town or village. Fond du Lac is a very old settlement on the St. Louis river, twenty two miles from its entrance into Lake Superior. Fond du Lac is the lake port of Minnesota. Steamboats and vessels find no difficulty in ascending the St. Louis to Fond du Lac.

244 — Fond du Lac is now a part of the city of Duluth.

MHSC
243
VOL IX 1792 John Baptiste Cadotte, a man of influence and possessed of a liberal education, in the year 1792 was employed by the Northwest Fur Company and was in charge of the Fond du Lac post.

The country tributary to this post composed the sources of the Mississippi, St. Croix and Chippewa rivers. The depot or post was then located about 3 miles above the entry of the St. Louis river, on the Wisconsin

shore of Superior bay, where that part of the present city of Superior known as Rays addition is situated. This post or fort was a collecting point.

The Fond du Lac of those early times was known, in translation in English, as the Head of the Lake. Several of the buildings of the Fond du Lac trading post as it was later occupied by the American Fur Company on the northern side of the St. Louis river, in Minnesota, were yet in existence and in a good state of preservation in 1855 and for many years thereafter.

On Oct 20-1849, the territorial legislature memorialized Congress for the construction of a road from Point Douglas, at the mouth of the St. Croix, by way of Cottage Grove, Stillwater, and Marine Mills, passing near the falls of the St. Croix, and crossing Snake River near Pokegama lake, and thence continuing on the most practicable route to the falls of the St. Louis river.

On November 1st 1849, the territorial legislature memorialized Congress "That the convenience and interest of the people of the Territory would justify the establishment of a mail route from the Falls of St. Croix by way of Pokegama to Fond du Lac, the head of Lake Superior." The memorial further represented that the distance from the falls of the St. Croix to Fond du Lac was but a little more than a hundred miles, that the country was being rapidly settled along the first half of the route, and that a large settlement already existed at Fond du Lac, where the inhabitants were destitute of mail facilities.

243

245

1849

MHSC

VOL IX

1-8 sections

"Trade Methods"

AMERICAN FUR
COMPANY IN THE
UPPER MISSISSIPPI

Page
FOL 53 -

By
ROLLO
C.
KEITHANN

The trade was directed from New York. Here the policies of the American Fur Company were outlined and orders were forwarded to the agents in England, Canada, and the West. Astor remained, as a rule, in New York although he also spent a share of his time in Europe. During his absence his son William B. Astor acted as president of the Company. Crooks divided his time between New York and the West; often he came west in the early summer with the supplies to insure no delay in their transportation. He remained at Mackinac or inspected some of the posts during the summer and returned to New York before winter set in. This trip gave him a chance to personally supervise the trade and to encourage and inspire the traders by his presence. After Crooks became president of the Company he still made these trips although less often because the business needed him in New York. The conduct of the business in New York was a very essential part of the trade. Supplies had to be purchased; furs had to be disposed of; the traders in the interior had to be instructed in their activities and kept informed concerning the fur market; additional employees had to be engaged at Montreal; and transportation had to be provided for shipping the supplies to the interior and bringing back the furs. Many articles necessary for the trade were imported; in some cases the article in question could not be procured in the United States and often if it could the company found it cheaper to import. The Indian blanket was one of the most important goods used in the trade.

198-41

C. Keithann

Credit System

(14)

AMER. FUR CO
IN UPPER
MISSISSIPPI
BY
ROLLO C. KEITHAN

Fot 67
page

Upon arriving at the post the first thing to be done was the distribution of credits among the Indians; this was simply advancing the goods to the Indians with the understanding that they would hunt and bring in their furs in payment. In the eyes of the trader the credit system was a necessity. When he went to the hunting grounds in the fall with his goods, he found the Indians from their improvidence in need of the articles necessary for the hunt. To refuse credits would mean not only destruction of the trade but starvation to many of the Indians. In some cases when credits were refused, certain Indians the goods were taken by force. Credits not paid the first year were generally regarded as lost and were put on the books to be presented to the government officials at the time when the land should be bought from the Indians. Because of adverse business conditions Sibley decided in 1838 to stop the practice of giving credits.

PAPERS ON
EXPLORATIONS
IN
MINNESOTA
BY

JOSEPH N. NICOLETT
Fot 65

1839-1840

SAULT ST. MARIE
AND ITS GREAT
WATERWAY
BY OTTO FOWLE

Fot - 260-261

1808

copied 10-8-11
by WMS

Accordingly since 1839, the American Fur Company, represented by Pierre Chateau and Co of St Louis has almost entirely suspended operations in the Rocky Mountains. In 1840, the principal trading post was withdrawn, the company limiting itself to the purchase of buffalo robes and other peltries of less value.

JOHN JACOB ASTOR discovered the country of the Northern Great Lakes to be the best fur bearing region in the United States yet explored. He entered the field in earnest when the American Fur Company was incorporated by act of the legislature of the state of New York, April 6 - 1808. Mr Astor was the Company and subscribed for the entire stock to the amount of one million dollars. The incorporation and the somewhat pretentious name were but a fiction to make the business appear of consequence and to facilitate his operations.

CONT'D
FROM
PAGE 14

FOL -
261

ASTOR
1808

The great promoter soon discovered that the Mackinaw Company, intrenched as it was, furnished a formidable obstacle to the development of his business on the scale contemplated. He therefore promptly arranged to buy it out, giving a one-third interest to certain partners of the Mackinaw Company, and, under his New York charter, organized a new association under the name of the "Southwest Company". Mr Astor retained a two thirds interest in the new company and had an agreement by which the balance of the stock was to fall into his hands at the end of five years. =

Do
1834
Ed 363

In 1834, upon the retirement of John Jacob Astor, Ramsey Crooks became its president and visited the northern ports every year for many years. =

THE VOYAGEUR
GRACE LEE MOTE

PAGE 183

1834

FISH

after 1834 a new industry was opened to the voyageurs of Sault Ste Marie. This was the fishing industry inaugurated by the recently reorganized American Fur Company. From the first records penned by explorers down to the present day the rapids of Sault Ste Marie have been famous for their white fish. The new president of the American Fur Company, RAMSAY CROOKS, believed that he could make the fish of the upper lakes redound to the profit of his firm. Crooks fisheries were eminently successful, and hundreds of barrels of fish were salted and sent to the Ohio Valley, down the Mississippi, and even to New York. But the crisis of 1837 and the bad times which followed for half a decade prevented them from reaching a satisfactory market and so the plan was abandoned in the forties.

MINN HIST

VOL 20

15

1809

1810

1811

1812

1816

1817

In 1809 the control of the Northwest Company at Fond du Lac was challenged by a new American owned enterprise, the American Fur Company of John Jacob Astor. During and following the season of 1809-10 he employed several traders in this region. In January 1811, a combination representing both Astor and the Northwest Company was organized to take over the trade south of the boundary. This Southwest Company, as it was called, fell heir to Fort St Louis and the other posts in the Fond du Lac department shortly before the beginning of the War of 1812. In April 1816, Congress passed a law which forbade foreigners to engage in the Indian trade in United States territory. Early in 1817 the interests of the Southwest Company were bought out by John Jacob Astor and for the next thirty years the American Fur Company maintained posts in the Fond du Lac country. It did not see fit to use old Fort St Louis at Superior, but instead it built a new post near the head of navigation on the St Louis River, at Fond du Lac, Minnesota.

MARKER

County :- ST Louis

City :- Fond du Lac

Type of marker :- tablet on a newly constructed typical fur trading post.

Commemorates :- American Fur Company's Post at Fond du Lac

Dedicated :- Aug 14 - 1935

Inscription :- "Dedicated Aug 4 - 1935 to John Jacob Astor, Founder Astor Trading Post - Fond du Lac, 1816"

MHSC
VOL 7
24

For a considerable period the American Fur Company (20) maintained a monopoly on Steamboat transportation on the river, a fact which contributed to place them far in advance of their competitors, who still relied upon the keel boat and Mackinaw.

MHSC
VOL 15
386

= SURVEY -

Going up the river (St. Louis) we come to the trading post marked "American Factory," showing four buildings on the site of the present village of Fond du Lac. The island in the river at that place is well shown. Passing a little above Fond du Lac, we reach the Grand Portage, 11915 yards in length, a distance of nearly seven miles over which the travelers were obliged to carry their boats and their goods. At the western end of the long portage the survey of the river is resumed. A short distance from where the Grand Portage reaches the river, another portage is found of 2029 yards, more than a mile.

"Extracts from Minneapolis Journal Jan 17-1926"

BY GRACE
LEE
NOTE

"RISE AND FALL of MINNESOTA'S FIRST GREAT INDUSTRY"

"FISH"

1834
To
1841

Fishing as a business by the American Fur Company was from 1834 to 1841. Superior white fish and Superior lake trout being the principal fish caught. Mr Charles M. Borup was given control of the fishing stations in 1838 and later became a St Paul banker.

* F597

N64

Explorations

by Nicollet

P. 65

[237]

Since 1839, the American Fur Co., represented by Pierre Chouteau & Co.; of St. Louis, has almost entirely suspended operations in the Rocky mountains, where they formerly employed from 400 to 500 trappers and hunters, nearly 1000 horses, from 2000 to 3000 traps and baited off annually from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars worth of merchandise. In 1840, the principal trading-posts were withdrawn, the Company limiting itself to the purchase of buffalo robes, and other peltries of less value. This Company could no longer compete with that of the Hudson Bay, as the American Congress had refused to grant it certain privileges.

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Vol. 1

P. 2

"Am. Fur Trade
of the far
West"

by H. McIntender

It is true that the headquarters of the American Fur Co. and of some other fur-trading concerns were in New York, but even in these cases the actual base from which all operations in the Western country were carried on was the city at the mouth of the Missouri, St. Louis. All parties were organized and all outfits were made up there. The returns of the trade enroute to market all passed that way. Most of the traders resided there, and all non-resident firms maintained houses there. Great establishments arose for the convenience of the trade, while the port of St. Louis became a center of commerce almost as widespread as that of New York itself.

Oct Dec 1934

Miss May. Edgar.

Finnish Folk Songs in M.

O " Chorus from M.

H 59944

U 4505

Vol. 1

P. 29.

The government adhered strictly to its policy of excluding liquor from the Indian country, and as a consequence the fur trade was characterized during all these years by the crime of smuggling with every incident of fraud and trickery known to that business. The American Fur Company was pushed to the severest straits of all, for its great prominence made it more open to detection. There were two occasions in particular when the pressure upon the Am. Fur. Co. was very great, and when the use of liquor was deemed by its agents absolutely essential to its continuance in the country. The first of these was in 1833 and 1834, just after the prohibitory law was passed, and when the company was threatened with the powerful opposition of Sublette & Leavenworth. The other was ten years later, when it was again threatened by a formidable opposition - the firm of Fox, Livingston and Company of New York.

H 29944

U 4505

Vol. 1

Page

344 &

345

In regard to the standard of business morality observed in the affairs of the American Fur Co., it was simply that of the business world today - no better, no worse. The only difference between the American Fur Co. and the great concerns of modern times is in the fact that the fur business was mostly conducted where the arm of the law did not reach. The American Fur Co. was thoroughly hated even by its own servants. Throughout its career it was an object of popular execration, as all grasping monopolies are. Many are the stories that have come down to us of its hard & cruel ways. Small traders stood no show whatever and the most desperate measures were resorted to without scruple to get them out of the way.

HD 9944
U 4565
Vol I
P 345

The American Fur Co.

111

13

Many an employe, it is said, who had finished his term of service and had started for St Louis with a letter of credit for his pay fell by the way and was reported as killed by the Indians.

In one way or another the American Fur Co. succeeded in maintaining itself against all comers, although it was sometimes badly frightened, and occasionally came near calling down upon itself the strong arm of the government.

F 574

S 3 F 7

Page 260

Saint Ste Marie
and its great
waterway. by
Otto Forster.

John Jacob Astor discovered the country of the Northern Great Lakes to be the best fur producing region in the United States yet exploited. He entered the field in earnest when the American Fur Company was incorporated by act of the legislature of the State of New York, April 6th 1808. Mr. Astor was the company and subscribed for the entire stock to the amount of one million dollars.

3)

MINN HIST at Oneota, now a part of Duluth, there was a 14
 Vol 21 Sawmill; small settlements existed also at Portland
 Fol-150 and Fond du Lac in the same vicinity. Superior was
1854 surveyed and platted in 1854 and two years later these
 operations were repeated at Duluth. Lumber, salt fish
 and furs were being exported in small quantities; the
 vast iron resources that were to be poured into
 the East from the ports at the mouth of the St Louis
 River had not yet been discovered.

MINN HIST at the close of the American Revolution the Chippewa
 Vol 20 were in control of the entire region from Lake Superior
 Fol-8-9 to the Crow Wing River. More settled conditions led
1776 to a revival of the trade with the Indians. Previous
 to 1783 the comparatively few traders in now what
 is now north-central Minnesota entered by way of
 the Mississippi River; after that time they came
 in larger numbers by way of the St Louis River
 and Sandy Lake. Far removed from the eastern
 seaboard, the Fond du Lac region played no direct
 part in the controversy and war between George III
 and his American subjects. The royal proclamation
 of 1763, one bone of contention, created the government
 of the Province of Quebec, but Fond du Lac was not
 placed under its jurisdiction.

1782 In the year 1782 an epidemic of smallpox broke out among the
 western Chippewa, which was estimated by one
 writer to have resulted in the deaths of fifteen
 hundred persons.
 The Fond du Lac area was recognized by the treaty
1783 of 1783 as a part of the United States. It came very
 near remaining British, for John Adams, one of our

Dup by WMS
 pg 88
 pg 89
 pg 90

Cont'd
Vol 20
Fol 9

negotiators, was authorized to consent to the forty-fifth (25) parallel as the boundary, if the English would not accept the middle of The Great Lakes waterway. Fortunately, the English ministers agreed to the latter, and Fond du Lac became American. Not until March 1784, did Congress accept this cession, and the land about the Head of the Lakes then became a part of the public domain, the disposal of which was to be left to the legislature of the national government. Seventy years were to elapse before this particular section was opened to permanent white settlement.

Folio
13

The post built by Perrault was given the name Fort St. Louis and was occupied by the Northwest Company until it withdrew from American territory shortly after the War of 1812. The exact location of the old fort has been rather definitely determined. The site was on Connors Point about three miles from the Superior entry and, measuring along the point, was about half way between the mouth of the Nemadji River and the end of the point. Fort St. Louis played an important part in the history of the Fond du Lac region for over twenty years. For more than half of that period it served not only as the central distributing point, but also as the Northwest Company headquarters for the whole Fond du Lac department.

McKENNEY'S
TOUR TO THE LAKES

LETTER → MY DEAR ***

JULY 8-1826

FOL-199-

" 200

1826

(- CANOE -) DESCRIPTION IN LETTER -

Sault St Marie July 8-1826

Our engages are busy in the work of preparation in breaking up and assorting packages, and so arranging everything, that every thing may be stowed to the best advantage. We are destined, I find to be close packed.

(CONT'D)

CANOE
CONT'D

(26)

The Governor has just inquired how I will proceed, in a barge or in a bark canoe — adding, that he had selected the barge. I chose the canoe, when it was arranged that Mr. Schoolcraft, and I, and Ben, would be the passengers for it. The canoe is upwards of a year old, but is newly gummed, and has some five or six new ribs put in to strengthen her. The voyageurs are engaged, and on the spot, each with a red feather in his hat, and two others, in possession of the steersman, one for the bow, and the other for the stern of the canoe. These plumes in the canoe are intended to indicate that she has been tried, and found worthy. We shall be guarded from the action of the sun's ray by an awning. This, however, must come down when the wind blows, but then it will not be needed. I have been examining this canoe, with the view of describing it — but the thing is so new to me in all respects, that I am doubtful where to begin with it. Its length is thirty feet, and its breadth across the widest part, about four feet. It is about two and a half deep in the centre, but only about two feet near the bow and stern. Its bottom is rounded, and has no keel. The materials of which this canoe is built, are birch bark, and red cedar, the whole fastened together with wappap, and gum, without a nail, or bit of iron of any sort to confine the parts. The entire outside is bark — the bark of the birch tree — and where the edges join at the bottom, or along the sides, they are sown with this wappap, and then along the line of the seam, it is gummed. Next to the bark are pieces of cedar, shaven thin, not thicker than the blade of a knife — these run horizontally, and are pressed against the bark by means of these ribs of cedar, which fit the shape of the canoe, bottom and sides,

57-42-10-100
57-42-10-100
57-42-10-100

"Canoes"
Contd.

and coming up to the edges, are pointed, and let into (27) a rim of cedar of about an inch and a half wide, and an inch thick, that forms the gunwale of the canoe, and to which, by means of the wattap, the bark and the ribs are all sewed; the wattap being wrapped over the gunwale, and passed through the bark and ribs. Across the canoe are bars, some five or six, that keep the canoe in shape. These are fastened by bringing their ends against the gunwale, or edge, and fastening them to it with wattap. The seats of the voyageurs are alongside of, but below the bars, and are of plank, some four inches wide, which are swung by means of two pieces of rope passed through each end, from the gunwale. The paddles are of red cedar, and are very light. The blade is not over three inches wide, except the steersman's - that is perhaps, five.

(NOTE:- Wattap are the roots of the spruce, or cedar and gum is the resinous substance extracted from the pine, and boiled - when it becomes hard.)

TOUR TO
THE LAKES
CONTD
PAGE 266

1820

about ten miles from what may be called the capes of the bay of Fond du Lac, the lake is bounded on its south shore with a wall of red sand-stone, cut out by the action of the waters after the manner of the Pictured rocks, and into all variety of figures which distinguish those wonderful formations. These rocks are not more than thirty feet high, but here too are vases, and urns, and castles and arches, and pillars; and some so perfect, especially some of the vases, as to have the appearance of all the contrivances of art, not only in their formation, but in the ornamenting of them with shrubbery.

on Wm 5 sheets
97-98-99-100

MINN
HIST
VOL 16
FOL 298
1857
1858
ROADS

The legislature of 1857 incorporated a company to build a plank road between the lighthouse Reserve on Minnesota Point at Duluth and the mouth of the Knife River on the north shore of Lake Superior. The next year several residents of the head-of-the-lakes area received commissions to lay out a road through Fond du Lac, Oneota, Portland, Clifton, Montezuma, Buchanan, Burlington, to Beaver Bay in Lake County. The expenses were to be met by the counties along the route and supervisors of roads of the several precincts were empowered immediately to open the route as a cartway. St Louis County built the first county road out of Duluth when it began construction of the road along the north shore of Lake Superior. Although the road was authorized in 1858, boats were still the usual means used in reaching Buchanan and other places along the north shore in 1861. Presumably the north shore road did not yet extend into Lake County in 1873, when the state appropriated fifteen hundred dollars to aid Lake and St Louis counties in building a wagon road from Duluth to the Pigeon River. On the south shore a stage line operated at an early date between the lake head and Ashland, with a midway station on the Brule River.

Travelers long relied upon canoe routes and portages or upon overland trails through the woods to make the passage between the upper Mississippi and the waters of the St Lawrence system about the head of Lake Superior.

MINN
HIST.
VOL 16
Fol
282

Such navigable waterways, separated by a low divide, early looked inviting as terminals for a road over the watershed. As the desire to travel and transport goods between lake and river increased, portage routes and trails came to be considered too slow and antiquated for Minnesotans. The first plans for a road to western Lake Superior included an interior terminus on the Mississippi River.

The Minnesota territorial legislature of 1849 sent two memorials to Congress asking for such a roadway. First it requested a road between the junction of the St Croix and the Mississippi and the falls of the St Louis, the head of the navigable St Lawrence system. After a ten day interval the legislature made a second request, asking for a mail route between the falls of the St Croix and Fond du Lac, where lived a group of settlers entirely destitute of mail service. Mineral exploitation at Fond du Lac was expected by many people to follow the opening of the Sault canal. Consequently, they advocated a road over which supplies might reach the copper towns that they anticipated would develop at the head of Lake Superior. In 1851 Captain J. H. Simpson of the United States corps of topographical engineers surveyed the route between Point Douglas at the junction of the St Croix and the Mississippi and the head of navigation on the St. Louis. Work apparently ceased with the survey and no road had reached the head of the lake in 1854, for in that year an English traveler who wished to journey from Superior to St Paul was informed that all trails were nearly

hidden by vegetation and therefore followed a canoe (30) route. Construction work probably was started from the Point Douglas end of the route, since Congress appropriated twenty thousand dollars for the purpose in January, 1853, and a like sum in July 1854. Following the completion of the first twenty-four miles, contractors built a second division of nineteen miles, thus opening more of the lands along the right of way to lumberman and settler. One writer predicted that, upon the opening of the road, St Paul would receive all its goods by way of Lake Superior and land lying north of St Paul would be valued in proportion to its nearness to the lake. Pursuant to earlier Congressional legislation, about two fifths of the route was opened, following the survey stakes leading to the falls of the St Louis; but an act of July, 1854, made the mouth of the St Louis River, in Wisconsin, the terminus. With parties working at either end of the route, Captain Simpson reported that the completion of the road by December 15, 1855, was likely. A volunteer company of seventeen men opened a winter road between Superior and Taylor's Falls in 1854, a fact that probably helped to fix the terminus of the federal road at Superior, rather than at the falls of the St Louis, near Fond du Lac. Financial support was derived from Congress under guise of military necessity. Proponents of the road suggested that it would prove useful in case of an Indian uprising. Superior seemed more deserving of protection than Duluth because it had a decidedly more numerous population. In 1854-55 residents of Superior established a line of stages between their settlement and St Paul.

Cont⁵Vol 284
Vol 16

Boats and sleighs took travelers across the bay to (31) and from Duluth. The Minnesota Stage Company, a St Paul firm, soon absorbed the stage line.

"MAIL SERVICE"

285

Mail service to Duluth and Superior, especially in the fifties, proved unreliable and unsatisfactory. Even under favorable weather conditions, Superior received mail from St Paul but once a week. In the spring and fall, contractors carried the mail bags on their backs. In seasons when the roadway froze or thawed they carried only letters, and sometimes travel was so difficult that they missed a mail date. When newspapers arrived at the head of the lake they were sometimes a month or more old. Mail service was extended by contract across the bay from Superior to Onesta in 1856 and to Duluth the next year, the contractor using a boat in summer and a dog team in winter. In the fall of 1856 the service became disorganized and after the close of navigation no mail arrived by overland routes for about six weeks.

EVE OF
CONFLICT

"MILTON"

Vol

104

105

1853

as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories he "MILTON" (Stephen A. Douglas) had perfected the organization of the Territory of Minnesota. His work gave him an intimate understanding of the geography and economic possibilities of the Northwest area and in 1853 he embarked on a large real estate speculation in the Lake Superior region, and undertook to organize a syndicate to handle it. The particular land on which he had his eye was at Fond du Lac, at the head of Lake Superior, in whose immediate neighborhood he believed the northern transcontinental railroad,

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Cont.

(32)

would have its eastern terminus. He employed one D. A. ROBERTSON, who was to secure the land. Robertson wrote - "Know nothing - say nothing about our affairs to any one" Finally a tract of six thousand acres was rounded up and a little town established, under the name of Superior City. In less than a year it had five hundred inhabitants; soon thereafter the Sault Ste. Marie Canal was finished and land values grew amazingly.

FUR TRADE
IN
CANADA
BY
INNIS
FOL 242
CANOES

In each of these canoes are a foreman and steersman; the one to be always on the look-out, and direct the passage of the vessel, and the other to attend the helm. They also carry her, whenever that office is necessary. The foreman has the command, and the middle men obey both; the latter earn only two thirds of the wages which are paid the two former. Independent of these, a conductor or pilot is appointed to every four or six of these canoes, whom they are all obliged to obey; and is, or at least is intended to be, a person of superior experience, for which he is proportionably paid.

3rd
191

1811

Arrangements were planned in 1811 between the Michilimackinac Company and the American Fur Company (Astor's Company) for a working agreement as to territory, the purchase of supplies, and the disposal of furs. With the Non-Intercourse Act forbidding the ingress and egress of supplies and returns from the United States, arrangements were made for the sale of the Northwest Company interests in the Michilimackinac Company. The withdrawal of the Northwest Company from American territory had been followed by the development of American organization chiefly under

Conto-

the direction of John Jacob Astor.

(33)

270

271

1790

RUM

The decline in the supply of beaver which intensified competition had serious effects on the Indians and in turn on the expenses of the trade. The effects of competition on methods of trading and on the sale of rum to the Indians have been the object of attention on the part of many writers attracted by these lurid aspects of the trade. During conditions of monopoly rum was not an important item and the following description of the trade in 1790 is probably accurate; It can not be ascertained that much evil has hitherto resulted from the spirits distributed to Indians by the voyagers of this country; and yet it is notorious notwithstanding the restrictive laws, the passports, and the Bonds, with which the Indian commerce has been fettered, that quantities of liquors have, and must annually be carried among the nations to the remotest corners of their wintering grounds among the extensive countries they inhabit. The trader's personal interest and safety have been the best security against abuses. It does not appear that they have given the Indians more rum than was necessary to prevent them from carrying their furs to a distant or foreign market, nor has it been customary to make rum an article of Barter in the trade. Rum might procure the hunt of a year, yet if obtained only by its means future industry would cease. Murder might result and all its concomitant evils.

M H B
Vol II

179 - 539 n. 81

M H B
Vol V

32. n. 8 - 53 n. 9 50 - 243

Am Four Post: 33 n. 9 117, 224 376

451 - copies of census schedules acquired.

62 - NW Co Post 17, 29, 32 578;

Described, 34

114-198-201-207-210-211-218-221-226-239-247-262-263-282-299-

417-419

123-141

Vol #

57-62-63-98-109-110-344

VOL #1

45-88-90-122

Vol #2

Hand D Pac

113-148

Q F C

113-122-129-153

R P 185- ST P C 18 Dal 180-212

345-350 ST P R 338

Prot Mission of the N.W. 117-188

F H D A L 112-124

289 132-143-239

F. D. L

W J M H S C 296-299

Vol #

M H A C VOL F ST #2 14, 50-81-84-190

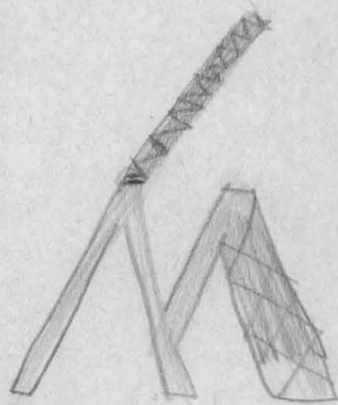
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History of Duluth & St Louis Co.

Edited by Dwight E Woodbridge
and John S Pardee

2 Vol. 899 pages, 1910



Minnesota
alumni
Vol 31

By 473
1931-1932

By Grace
see note

THE EARLY FUR TRADE
YRS 1763-1842
BY GRACE LEE NUTE

Product

0-1 EARLY HISTORY MINN FUR TRADE

The roots of Minnesota history go back in one direction to the old French regime in Montreal and Quebec. In these two cities ~~in Montreal and Quebec~~ during the 17th century it became customary to hold fairs to which the Indians of the interior brought their furs and skins to barter for blankets, firearms, trinkets, and many other articles. Gradually, however, traders commenced to go part way to meet the Indians on their trip down the St. Lawrence and eventually the entire fur trade was managed by men who visited the different tribes and usually spent the winter among them. These traders became acquainted not only with Indian language and methods of living, but they came to know more of the geography than other whites.

CON'T

M. A. WK

VOL 31

P 373

yrs { 1763
1842

Consequently the trade became concentrated in the hands of a few influential men, the actual traders were employed to take out canoes full of goods, to spend the winter bartering furs in the interior, and to return in the spring with canoes of peltries. These men came to be known as voyageurs and they played an important part in the early history of the region now known as Minnesota. The persons who supplied the furs and guided the fur trading operations were called bourgeois at the posts, the men ~~not~~ who kept the books and determined the activities of the voyageurs were called clerks; and the voyageurs were either simple canoe men who ~~put~~ peddled the ~~on~~ canoes between

0-3
W.D.3
MONTREAL and Grand Portage, or
CONT winterers who added trade with
the Indians to their paddling
M.A.W.K. duties.

P 473
The voyageurs were an interesting
picturesque group of men. They
hailed originally from the little white
hamlets that still adorn the St
Lawrence in the vicinity of Montreal
and Lachine. The great trading
companies that developed after
the British took control of Canada
operated chiefly from Montreal
and there every spring as soon as the
St Lawrence and its tributaries
were free from ice, the Bourgeois,
clerks and voyageurs met above
the La Chine rapids to pack the
birch ~~canoes~~ canoes that were to
travel far up the Great Lakes.
They usually followed the Ottawa river
up its course for many miles; then
entered a small river flowing into

yr 1763
1842

5-4
CONT
M. A. WK.
Vol 3
P 373

Lake Huron; and after portaging around
the rapids at Sault St. Marie coasted
along the north shore of Lake Superior
to Grand Portage, the great inland
rendezvous of all the traders to the
northwest portions of United States and
Canada.

gross 1763
1842

From this fort the traders for the
lakes and streams of what is now
Minnesota departed either by way
of Rainy Lake or Fond du Lac, near
the site of modern Duluth. Smaller
canoes were used on these inland waters
and Portages were very numerous.
Certain routes were followed, portages
were planned for certain parts of the
day in order that good camp sites
could be reached by nightfall, and
every man knew exactly what he
was supposed to do. As soon as a portage
was reached the voyageur sprang out
of the canoe before it could touch the
sand and portions of the gums along the
seams be forced off

10-5
CONIT
M. A. W. K.
VOL 31
P 373
Apr 1763
xx
1842

Unloading began at once among the middle men, i.e., by the men in the middle of the canoe, while the steersman and the man in the prow would hold it off shore. As soon as the canoe was empty, the men who were holding it lifted it upon their shoulder and carried it over the portage while the middlemen carried the sacks of flour, rolls of blankets, pieces of cloth, Trinkets, firearms and kegs of spirits.

As soon as the end of the journey was reached a fort must be constructed, unless the men are returning to an old post. A log house was built for the clerk, another for the men, a third for the stores and a fourth for the furs and sometimes other houses for roots and supplies of one sort or another a Palisade was erected about these buildings to ward off attacks from the Indians. Here the Indians came to

0-6
0-6
CONIT.
M. A. Wk.
Vol 31
P 373-374
year 1763
to
1842

trade with the clerk; and from their
log house the men were sent out to
trade with distant Indians or
to find food. ~~In the winter~~
Fish, game, and wild rice
were the staple food at the ports.
The fish were obtained late in the
fall and as soon as they were
pulled out of the nets were hung
up by the tail in the open air on
frameworks of branches where
they froze and were taken down
as needed. The wildrice was
secured from the natives who
harvested in the fall and sold it to
the traders for trinkets and blankets.
The canoes were made ready ^{to return} in late May
or June, Packs of furs were carefully wrapped
into 90 pound packages, and the same canoe
route was followed to the rendezvous at Grand
Portage or later at Fort William. Here the men
from Montreal loaded for the return trip with
furs in place of the merchandise that they had
brought up and another years activity
had begun

0-9
MINN.
ALUMINI
WEEKLY
VOL-31
4-9-32
FOL 371

P 373-374

Apr 16/9
1821

Three great ⁰⁻¹ companies and several smaller ones ^{P 7} 34 operated in the Minnesota area between the years 1763 and 1842. These were the Hudson's Bay Company, ² the Northwest Company, and the American Fur Company. They represented respectively London, Montreal and New York capitalists. The oldest was the Hudson's Bay Company, founded in 1670, largely as the result of Radisson's and Groseilliers' trips into the Lake Superior country in the period of the fifties and sixties of the seventeenth century. This company operated in the region mostly along the international boundary waters and in the Red River valley. It was of importance for the Minnesota Fur Trade chiefly because it was the great rival of the Northwest Company. This Montreal organization was founded just at the close of the American Revolution. Though a hundred years younger than its London rival, it soon was causing that organization to look to its laurels and coffers. The struggle came to a head in the years from 1815 to 1821, and genuine battles were fought near Winnipeg and even in northeastern Minnesota between the partisans of the two companies. Finally in 1821, the two merged; the resulting organization is known as the Hudson Bay Co though in many respects it was the Northwest Co that emerged victorious. Meanwhile a third rival appeared. This was John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company. By 1817 Astor was deeply involved

in the Minnesota trade, and from that time until he retired in 1834 his company was supreme in this region. In 1834 a new company was formed, retaining however the name of Astor's company. It lasted till 1842. Ramsay Crooks was its president, the father of William Crooks, later to play an important part in Minnesota's history during the civil and Indian wars. The Minnesota area was divided into two main departments. Generally speaking, the portion reached from upper Lake Superior and the Mississippi above Little Falls formed the Fond du Lac Department or later the Northern Outfit. The rest of Minnesota Region, reached by way of the Mississippi from below formed the Western, latter the Sioux Outfit. In 1835 a Tabulation in the American Fur Company's papers gives the value of the preceding seasons furs as \$68,339.11 for Western Outfit and \$59,064.29 for Northern Outfit. It is interesting to note, too, that the muskrats ordinarily were sold at auction in New York City, whereas

M. A. W.
Vol 31
p 373-374

Apr 17 63
to
1842

8-9
most of the fine skins, ^{0 9} i.e. beaver, ^{pg 9}
otter, marten, mink, lynx, fox, and
others were sold in London. Here the
furs and skins were sold usually at auction,
for the European trade, especially
for the great Leipzig fair, the fur
emporium of the world. Prior ~~to~~ to
1825 many of the fine furs were
sent direct from New York to
Canton, China. Most of these ~~were~~
were sent by John Jacob Astor.
It is interesting to know that
the foundations to the immense
Astor fortune were laid in the
fur trade of the middle west,
largely in Wisconsin and
Minnesota.

M. A. W. K.

Vol 31

P 373-374

Apr 1763
to
1842

AMER FUR Co.
in upper Miss R.

AMERICAN FUR Co

10

TRADE METHODS

My
Brother
Heitzhahn
Page 53

year
1816
to
1848

The trade was directed from New York. Here the policies of the company were outlined and orders were forwarded to agents in England, Canada and the West. Astor remained as a rule, in New York. altho he spent a share of his time in Europe. During his absence his son William B. Astor acted as president of the Company. Crooks divided his time between New York and the West; often he came west in the early summer with supplies to insure no delay in their transportation. He remained at ~~Michigan~~ Mackinac or inspected some of the posts during the summer and returned to New York before winter set in. His trip gave him a chance to personally supervise the trade and to encourage and inspire the traders by his presence. After Crooks became president he still made his trips but less often as the business needed him in New York.

A. Fur Co
TRADE
MET HOPS
Page
53

years
1816
to
1848

The conduct of the business in New York was very essential part of the trade. Supplies had to be purchased, furs disposed of; the traders in the interior had to be instructed in their activities and kept informed concerning the fur market; additional employees had to be engaged at Montreal; and transportation had to be ~~supplied~~ provided for shipping the supplies to the interior and bringing back the furs. Many of the articles necessary for the trade were imported; in some cases the article in question could not be procured in the United States and often if it could the company found it cheaper to import. The Indian blanket was one of the most important goods used in the trade.

Am. Fur Co in
in
upper Miss.
Buy
Rolls C Keithahn
Page 67

Credit System

CREDIT SYSTEM

12

~~Upon arriving at a~~ ar

Upon arriving at a post first

thing to be done was the distribution of credits among the Indians. This was simply advancing the goods to the Indians with the understanding they would hunt and bring in their furs as payment. In the eyes of the trader the credit system was a necessity. ~~when~~

When he went to the hunting ground in the fall with his goods, he found the Indians from their improvidence in need of articles necessary for the hunt. To refuse credits would not only mean destruction of the trade ~~but~~ but starvation for many of the Indians. In some instances when credits were refused certain Indians the goods were taken by force

year 1816
to 1838

Credit
System
Am. Fur Co
in upper
Miss R.
Pollo e
Keithahn

1816 to 1836
Page 67

Papers on
Explorations
in Minn.
By

Jos. N. Nicollet

Page 65
1839-1840

copied from Hood's material - Wm

13
Credits not paid the first year were
generally regarded as lost and were
presented to the government officials
at the time when the land should
be bought from the Indians
Because of adverse business conditions
Sibley decided in 1838 to stop the
practice of giving credits.

Accordingly ^{since 1839} the American Fur Co
represented by Pierre Chateau and Co of
St Louis had almost entirely suspended
operations in the Rocky Mountains
In 1840 the principal trading post was
withdrawn the company limiting
itself to the purchase of buffalo robes
and other peltries of less value

Spent on Page 1

NORTHWEST FUR CO

AMERICAN FUR CO.

Northwest Co.
+
American Co.

William M Simpson

P I

H d M
By 18th
54
{ 977-6
1259
1783

1783
to
1798

The Northwest Co
The Northwest company of fur traders
came into existence in the year
of 1783 and established headquarters
at Montreal. Large quantity of goods
were purchased by it in England and
shipped to that city, from which
it was taken to its western station
for distribution. Its business
was greatly multiplied after its
reorganization in 1798. It had
over 40 clerks 50 interpreters, and
600 canoe-men in Minnesota
and the regions beyond, to say
nothing of those just to the
eastward, surely a century had
wrought great changes; at the
beginning, a solitary boatman's
canoe ruffled the surface of the
stream; at the close whole fleets
were seen, and in every thicket
on every plain were heard the foot-

12
full of a restless civilization
that was some day destined to
accomplish marvelous things

13
By the treaty of Paris, that
portion of Minnesota lying east of
the Mississippi came under the
United States supremacy, but the
English for some years maintained
their frontier forts. Even as
late as 1794 the Northwest Co.
under British protection, built
a strongly fortified post at
Sandy Lake and during the
year of immunity from United
States interference, stipulated
by Jays ^{which gave England almost everything they asked for,} treaty of 1794, it did
not fail to erect numerous
posts throughout Minnesota and
to float the English colors
above their walls, while its
agents endeavored to hold the
Indians loyal to British rule

1783
to
1798

p 3

Pike Expedition

16

H & M

by J K Kirk

P 57

{ 977-6
K 59 }

1805

The provisions of Jay's treaty did not put an end to unlawful intrigues of the British traders in Minnesota, and the United States authorities at last resolved to take more active measures for the suppression of the autocratic powers. Lieut Zebulon M Pike, acting under the orders of General Wilkinson left St Louis on the 7th of Aug 1805, for the triple purpose of exploring the upper Mississippi region, curbing the insolent spirit of the traders, and making treaties of friendship with the Indian tribes, who under the influence of such men as Dickson had learned to despise and ignore the authority of the new republic.

Pike accompanied by a detachment of only seventeen ^{privates} and three non-commissioned officers, turned his

It
Can't from #3
H & M
by Kirk
p 57

977-6

K 59

1805

pu

17

face resolutely toward the unknown
dangers and hardships of hostile
wilderness. Every day's journey was
one of interest, and its events faithfully
recorded. On due time La Crosse,
Pointe au Sable, and Kaposia were
successively passed, and on the 21st
of the month he encamped at the
mouth of ^{the} St. Pierre on the large
island which still bears his name.

Here Little Crow and his band
from Kaposia assembled on the bluff
now occupied by Ft. Snelling, and
Pike entered into council with them
on the 23d. As a result the Indians
ceded two tracts of land for military
purposes: one nine miles square
at the mouth of the St. Croix; the
other extending nine miles along
the course of the Mississippi
from below the mouth of the
St. Pierre to above St. Anthony's

5
con'd from 314
H of M
by Kirk
8 5 6
(977-62
K 59)
1865

falls¹⁸ and battery nine miles back
from either bank.

September 26th, Pike resumed
his upward course, and from that
time on for many days he and his
little band endured toils and
hardships sufficient to try the
sturdiest soldier. On Oct 16th
snow began to fall, and ice was
forming in the streams impeding
progress. Pike pushed on but now
they were forced to attach themselves
to sleds like beasts of burden, and
draw their canoe over bleak
prairies in some cases bare of
snow. They occasionally met small
parties of Indians, who informed
them of the movements of the traders
and the temper of the different tribes.

Le
can't from P 5 P 6 feeling that he must now be 19
H of M
by much
P 59
{ 977.62
759 }

1865

near Sandy Lake, Pike on the 8th of
January left all his men in camp save
Corporal Bradley, and struggled
forward on foot thru the long hours
of that cold winter day. At dusk,
they were still several miles from
the lake, but did not waver until
their eyes were rewarded by
its broad expanse stretching out
before them. Thinking they could
catch the dim outlines of the farther
shore, with renewed courage they
plodded thru the deep snow that
had completely obliterated the trail
~~across~~ across the ice. The
glimmering lights of the Northwest
Company's stockade soon appeared
and cheered them on. When they
reached it they were received with
rare hospitality by Mr Grant the
English trader in charge.

Pike and his detachment marched
from this place to Leech Lake, where

7
con'd from p 6
H of M
by J. J. Kirk
p 59

{977-4
K 59}

1805

20

he hoisted the American flag. In the month of February he called together the Sauteurs of that place and Red Lake. The fruits of this council were ~~the~~ threefold, the Sauteurs gave up their British flag and medals, promised to make peace with the Sioux, and allowed two of their most noted ~~the~~ warriors to accompany Pike to St. Louis.

The Fur Companies united in 1821

H of M
by J. J. Kirk
p 70
977-4
K 59

Having learned by long experience how ruinous their policy of contending with each other had been, the Northwest and Hudson Bay Company united in 1821. This left a number of old traders free to form new associations; and Renville, Mc Kenzie and a few others united with some American traders in forming the Columbia Company with headquarters at Lake Traverse. At this time also the American Fur Company, first organized by Astor

8
could from #7
H & M
by JH Kirk
Pg

P 70*72

1821

in 1809 had become a powerful and
wealthy ~~organ~~ corporation whose
influence in Minnesota was
exceedingly great.

Today standing in one of
the ancient fortifications of
the mound-builders which surmount
and eastern bluff of that lake, one
looks forward ~~th~~ to the blue hills
of Dakota beyond the farther shore,
to the right and downward over
"liquid miles" to waken wooded
points jut out by Mordada toward
the west; to the left, a mile away,
close by the water's edge, upon
Columbia Company's building site
now distinguishable only by pits
and mounds of earth and rocks.

The company's have vanished
and left scarcely a trace behind.

AN

AMERICAN FUR CO. - Post²¹ FOND DU LAC²⁻¹

MHSC

Bulletin

VOL 12

Page

24

year
1812

The American Fur Co arose after the war of 1812 when John Jacob Astor became prominent in the field. After the War of 1812, Congress passed an act excluding foreigners from the fur trade in American Territory, and Astor's American Fur Company purchased posts of the Southwest Co south of the line

Page

413

1840

Previous to 1829 the American Fur Company had established a fur trading post at Pembina, only seventy some miles from Fort Gary. In 1840 Joseph Rolette, the son of the famous upper Mississippi British Indian trader of the early nineteenth century, was put in charge of the company's affairs in that region. So successfully was he in competing with the Hudson Bay Co and in sustaining the illegal fur traffic across the frontier that in 1843 he started a line of carts from Pembina to St Paul

This material copied from E. A. Rolette's sheets

In the same year, however, the Yankee trader, Norman W Kittson, was made a general manager of the American Fur Company's operations in northern Minnesota, and Polette became Kittson's chief representative. At the age of sixteen Norman Kittleson became apprentice to the American Fur Co for three years and started with a band of Voyageurs for the West. At Mackinac, began an acquaintance with another clerk of the company, Henry H Sibley which was destined to ripen into firm friendship and close business associations. For several years however, the two saw little of each other. Meanwhile Sibley became agent at Mendota for the American Fur Co., with supervision over a large area. In 1843 the two formed a partnership, under to company, for trading on the upper Mississippi and the Red river to the north.

This material extracted from L & R Books about

413

1840

page
434

1843

year
1843
page 434

1856
and
1858

Page 408
year 1816

and Kittson took charge of the outfit
for eleven years from 1843 to 1854,
Kittson spent most of his time on the
frontier. Kittson severed active connection
with the frontier life in 1856 and
removed to St Paul, Minn., and in 1858
was ~~mayor~~ mayor of the city.

As early as 1816 the American Fur
Company established a trading post
at Red Lake, it already had fur houses
at Sandy Lake and on St Peters river
now called the Minnesota; and in
three more important posts were
established between Rainy Lake and
"Lake of the Woods".

Historical sketch of the fur trade in Minnesota

THE PAPERS OF THE AMERICAN FUR CO. ^{P10}
A BRIEF ESTIMATE OF THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

BY GRACE LEE NUTE ~~#~~ 25

The American Fur Co's papers are now in the possession of the New York Historical Society ~~#40~~ 170 Central Park, West, New York City. Regarding their history, Mr Alexander F. Wall, the librarian of the library, wrote on Oct. 21st, 1924 to the Minnesota Historical Society: "The history of these papers is very brief. Mr John D Blute of New York City, as a member of this society 1854-1879, who died Nov. 9, 1879, in his eighty-sixth year, was for many years a trustee of the American Fur Company. On February 16th 1863 the Society purchased from him the collection of American Fur Company Papers, consisting of eight chests. The amount paid was eighty dollars. These papers remained in the chest these chests in the Society's

This brief transcribed from Hood's material
No information as to account of it

old building on Second Ave and eleventh¹⁵
 St. for many years without a single v⁶
 inquiry being made for their use
 When we moved into this building
 they still remained unpacked until
 we built the steel and glass cases on
 the library floor, which now house
 our manuscript collections. They were
 then placed in these ~~collections~~ cases,
 and your Institution is making the
 second examination these papers have ever
 had."

In the economic and political
 life of the United States during the
 years 1835 - 1845 the American Fur Co
 was a factor that has not yet been
 accorded its due prominence. Its agents
 were stationed from Canton to Chipping.
 and included some of the foremost
 business men of the day; its chief
 interest was furs, skins, and buffalo
 robes, which it secured from Indians
 and by means of factors thruout the
 length and breadth of the present

This ~~material~~ copies from
 Hodge material -
 no information as to source

territory

#12
16
27

territory of the United States; its secondary interests ~~and~~ were the manufactures that it purchased in Europe and America to barter for these peltries; and its minor activities included the fisheries of Lake Superior, the maple sugar industry, the lead trade, the sale of flour, and steamboating on the Western waters and along the American seaboard. Practically every phase of American life during the decade these papers held items of interest; commerce, banking, domestic markets, politics, domestic manufacture, transportation, religious conditions, education, settlement of the West, land speculation, Indian policy, travel and travelers, the panic of 1837 foreign relations and many others.

The period covered by the papers may be said to cover from 1834 to 1847, tho certain records antedate that period and some follow that period.

The American Fur Co was organized.

This copied from goods received
no information as to source

by John Jacob Astor in 1808 and was ^{PC} ~~17~~ closely affiliated with one of the Montreal fur companies. In 1816 Astor secured control of the fur trade in the United States by engineering the passage by Congress of an act restricting to Americans the issuance of fur traders licenses. From that time until 1834 his was the great fur company in the United States.

John Jacob Astor and his son withdrew from the American fur Co. in 1834. It was immediately reorganized under its old name as a corporation under the laws of New York. Ramsey Brooks, a survivor of the Astorians, and Long Astors right hand man in the fur trade, was Elected President.

In the story of the fur trade as told in these papers, there is no more interesting portion than the influence of fashions on the wayward whims and vagaries of commerce, both domestic and foreign. Reading the letters of Crooks and his correspondents day by day, one is impressed with the vast amount of difference which the change from beaver to silk hats, for example made to thousands of persons.

This copied from Woods' materials
No information as to source

1-1 Sec 1

1-1 Section 1

29

HISTORY OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, DULUTH

MHSC AND FOND DU LAC AREA TO YEAR 1870

BY JOHN R. CAREY VOL IX PLATE IV Page 240

VOL IX

Page

241

{ Libket
977-6
M 64
V 9 }

1654
to
1854

When we take into account, in this rapidly advancing age, the many years, and I may say centuries, since the vast wealth and resources afforded to man by the great lake Superior and the country surrounding it became known, their settlement and development seem surprisingly slow.

While Trading posts, missionary stations, and other small settlements, had been made within the boundaries of northeastern Minnesota at different dates, from the 1st advent of white man in 1659, yet the first effort as to settlement of that region, by the building of towns and cities, was not made until about the year of 1854; after the lapse of nearly two hundred years, since the visit of the intrepid explorers, Grosvenors and Radisson, who are said to be the first white men to visit Minnesota.

DANIEL GREYSELON DU LUTH

Next in line of those early worthies,
we have that noble and intrepid soldier
and leader, Daniel Greysolon Du Luth,
a native of France and a prominent and
influential man. That name (Du Luth,
as it is better spelled in English) is
destined to exist as long as the city
which bears it as its name shall continue
as a great commercial gateway of
Minnesota and the Northwest.

Some prominent merchants of
Quebec and Montreal, with the support
of the governor of Canada, formed a company
in 1678, and organized an expedition
for the purpose of continuing the trade
among the Indians in New France
which had already been opened by
Grozeilliers and others in the preceding
twenty years, but which for a time
had been interrupted. Du Luth being
a prominent man and an officer
of the Governor's guard was chosen.

Du Luth started on his mission
with a party of seventeen Frenchmen

1-1-57

Hist of St
Louis Co
+ Fond du Lac
Area to 1870

M H S e

Page

241

~~Early years~~
year 1678

1-3 S-1

Hist of St. L.
 Co. & Fond
 du Lac Area
 1890
 M.H. Sec #
 Vol II
 page 242

and three Indians, on the 1st of September,
 1678. In the spring of 1679, after wintering
 with his party in the woods about nine
 miles from Sault Ste Marie, he wrote
 to Frontenac that he would remain in
 the Sioux country until further orders,
 and that, when peace was concluded, he
 would set up the Kings arms

Duluth was a leader of men, a
 man of unblemished moral character
 and undaunted courage, a resolute
 true soldier, and a fearless supporter
 and vindicator of law and order.

It is believed by many that
 Du Luth established the first trading
 post at the head of Lake Superior, ~~but~~
 but there is no definite record of
~~this~~ the fact. There can be no doubt
 that he visited and traded with
 Indians at Fond du Lac and that he
 also traveled over the canoe route
 and portages between Fond du Lac and
 Sandy Lake

L.I.B.R.
 977-6
 M 64
 V 9
 1678
 1679
 years

years 1679
 1679
 page 243

1-4 - Sec 1

FOND DU LAC

Jean Baptiste Cadotte, a man of influence and possessed of a liberal education, in the year of 1792 was employed by the Northwest Fur Company, and ~~was~~ was in charge of the Fond du Lac post. The country tributary to this post comprised the sources of the Mississippi, St. Croix and Chippewa rivers. The depot or post was then located about three miles above the entry of the St. Louis river, on the Wisconsin shore of Superior Bay where the present city of Superior now stands. This post of fort was a collecting point. It ~~was~~ was surrounded with strong cedar pickets driven into the ground, the ~~beet~~ ~~end~~ ~~of~~ ~~many~~ ~~remained~~ The Fond du Lac of those early times was known, in translation ~~to~~ English, as the Head of the Lake.

Several building of the Fond du Lac trading post, as it was later occupied by the American Fur Co, on the northern side of the St. Louis river,

His of St. Paul
Louis Co. and
and Fond
du Lac area
up to year

1870
Page
243

MHS C
Vol IX

17 32

1-5 Sec #1

M H S C in Minnesota, were yet in existence
 Vol IX and in a good state of preservation
 Page 243 in 1855 and many years thereafter

Hist of St Louis
 Co. Dubuque
 Fond du Lac

1854
 and
 1852

In 1854 and 1855 when the great
 rush came for the Control or share in
 the site of the future great city at the
 head of the lake, Fond du Lac was the
 only place having a name as a
 town or village. Fond du Lac is a
 very old settlement on the St Louis
 river, twenty-two miles from its
 entrance into Lake Superior.

Steamboats and other vessels find no
 difficulty ascending the St Louis river
 to Fond du Lac. Fond du Lac is
 now a part of the city of Duluth.

Having been absorbed by Duluth in
 the year 1895.

TREATIES WITH THE OJIBWAYS - ^{year} 1826

On the 5th of August, 1826 Gov.

Lewis Cass and T. L. McKimney, commissioners
 appointed by the United States government,
 met with the Ojibway Indians at
 Fond du Lac, ^{Minn.} and concluded the first.

1-6 Sec 1

M H B C

Page 244

VOL IX

Hist of St L
Co. Des
to Fond
du Lac
area

formal treaty with these Indians. It related that a few days earlier, on the 28th of July, 1826, the commissioners approached this trading post in barges, with flying colors and music, and then, for the first time, the Ojibways of that region heard the tune "Hail Columbia".

The principal effect of that treaty was to give the United States the right to explore for and carry away any metal or minerals that might be found along the country bordering the lake.

In August, 1847, by a treaty concluded at Fond du Lac, by J. Q. Verplanck and Henry M. Rice, as commissioners on the part of the United States, all the land on the West and southwest of the head of the lake was ceded to the United States. In September, 1854, by a treaty made at La Pointe, Wisconsin, the remainder of the country along the north shore of the lake and the northern boundary of the state was ceded.

1-7 Sec 1

His. of
St. Louis
Bond du Parc
MHSE

VOL IX
page 244

years 1855

1856

Page 244

1-7 Sec 1

25

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY

St Louis County was established by acts of the ~~territorial~~ territorial legislature which were approved Mar 3, 1855, and March 1, 1856. It takes its name from the St Louis river, the largest entering Lake Superior, which flows ^{thru} this county. It had a population of only 406 in the year 1860, and 4,561 in 1870; but in 1895, according to the state census, its population was 48,575. This county comprises an area of 6,611.75 square miles, being the largest one of the eighty-two counties of this state.

An earlier county that had included this area, named Superior county, established by territorial legislature on February 20th, 1895, was imperfectly defined. Its name was changed to St Louis by the acts of 1855 and 1856.

at year

ROAD FROM ST. CROIX VALLEY TO LAKE SUPERIOR

On Oct 20, 1849, the territorial legislature memorialized Congress for the construction of a road from Point

M.H.S.C. Douglas at the mouth of the St Croix
by way of Cottage Grove, Stillwater
and Marine Mills, passing near the
fall of St Croix, and crossing Snake
River near Pokegama lake, and thence
continuing on the most practicable
route to the falls of ^{the} St Louis river.

On November 1, 1849, the territorial legislature memorialized Congress "That the convenience and interest of the people of the Territory would clearly justify the establishment of a mail route from the fall of the St. Croix by way of Pokegama to Fond du Lac, the head of Lake Superior". The memorial further represented that the distance from the fall of St Croix by way of Pokegama and Fond du Lac was but a little more than one hundred miles, that the country was being

1-8 sec 1
his of Paul
St & County
Fond du Lac
area to
year 1870

M.H.S.C.

VOL IX

Libr. kept for

977-6

M 64

V 9

Page 245

1-9 24

M H S C

VOL IX

Page 245

rapidly settled along the first half of the route, and that a large settlement had already existed at Fond du Lac, where the inhabitants were destitute of mail ~~facilities~~ facilities.

In 1854, through the efforts of Hon. Henry M. Rice, an appropriation of money was obtained from Congress for constructing the proposed road, and the mail route was also established. Unfortunately, however point designated in the memorials as the northern end of both road and mail route was cheated out of any direct benefit, because when opened and ~~was~~ used they ended ~~so~~ eight or ten miles from Fond du Lac, the intended terminus for both. The people interested in Superior City, Wis. (then to be the great city of destiny at the head of Lake Superior) concluded that it was the Fond du Lac ~~mentioned~~ mentioned in the memorials. I may be that they ~~were~~ were then debating upon the propriety of naming embryo city

Page 245
(Liberal)
977-6
44
19

Year 1854

His of
St Louis to
Duluth
and Lac
area

1-10 8-1

M H S E
VOL IX

Page 245

His of St Louis
Co. and
Front du Lac
area

Pg 246

year
1854

~~Front du Lac mentioned in the numerous~~
 Front du Lac, as a compliment to the
 old trading post which ~~50~~ fifty years
 before had been removed from Wisconsin
 to the head of navigation on the St
 Louis river where it became Front du Lac,
 Minnesota. However this was the Superior
 people decided that they would not lose
 the terminus of this road and mail route,
 so in January, 1854, they organized
 a force of choppers and set out in cutting
 a winter road on the proposed line from
 Superior to what was known as Chase's
~~con~~ camp, on the St Croix river a
 distance of fifty or sixty miles.
 This road was then blazoned on the
 maps as the "Military Road" from
 Point Douglas to Superior. Superior
 maintained its supremacy as the coming
 great city for about twelve years or until
 1866. Minnesota then woke up to her great
 interest at the head of Lake Superior and active
 steps were taken for the construction of
 the Lake Superior and Mississippi
 railroad to Duluth.

EARLY MISSIONARIES

1-10-8-1

MAHSC

VOL II

Page 246

History of
Duluth-St Louis
Co. and Fond
du Lac Area

A biographic sketch of Edmund F Ely,
the pioneer teacher and missionary
at Fond du Lac, written by his son
Henry S Ely of Duluth

Edmund Franklin Ely was
born at Wilbraham, Mass Aug 3rd, 1809,
and died in Santa Rosa, Cal. Aug 29
1882. He made a profession of religion
in Rome, N. Y. in 1827. In 1828
he commenced study with a view of
the gospel ministry. Depending on
his own efforts for the means of
~~the~~ defraying necessary expenses,
he devoted part of his time to teaching.
In 1832 the American Board of
Foreign Missions established mission
stations on Lake Superior. He
subsequently was appointed teacher
and catechist, expecting to return
in two years to resume his studies,

1832

1-12-21

MHSE

WOL #9

Page

247

Hist of St Louis

Co. Beluth

Hond du Lac

yesterday

1834

1834

Early
Missionaries

but the way never ~~off~~ opened for
 his return. He left Albany July
 5, 1833. On reaching Mackinac
 he found the missionaries who
 had preceded him had departed with
 a company of Indian traders. He
 was forwarded by Henry B Schoolcraft,
 then Indian agent, and in three days
 overtook the boats on Lake Superior.
 At that time there were no vessels
 on the lake. Mr Elg was assigned
 to a branch of the mission among
 the Ojibways of the upper Mississippi,
 under the direction of Rev. William T
 Brewster, and proceeded to Sandy
 Lake, where, after a short time,
 he was left by Mr Brewster, ~~not~~
 with the joint duties of Missionary
 and teacher resting upon him.
 In the summer of 1834 the school
 was removed from Sandy Lake to Fond du Lac,

1-13-81

41

1-13-81

M H S C

Vol IX

Page 209

Miss of St Louis
Co. Duluth &
Hond du Lac area

Early Minnesota

a village on the St Louis river at the head of ~~the~~ navigation, where a school house had been built by Mr Ely. In 1835 an reinforcement of teachers was sent by the mission board. One of them Miss Catherine Gonlaiz, soon became the wife of Mr Ely. ^{Here} they labored until May, 1839, when they removed to Pokegama. . . . In a letter written by Mr Ely, he says: 'When I first entered the mission work at Lake Superior, that portion of the country was included in the Territory of Michigan. After Michigan was admitted as a state, the territory of Wisconsin was organized, Minnesota at that time being Indian territory.'

1-17

M, H S C

VOL IX

Page 247

Early
missionaries

1834

1855

Miss of St Louis
Co. Pond du Lac
St Paul

The first party of white men I saw were lumbermen engaged in their business on the waters of St Croix, in the year 1838. The Indian titles to land about the head of Lake Superior were not extinguished till 1854. At that time we had left the mission and removed to St Paul, but, being thoroughly conversant with the country, I went to Lake Superior, took up lands down where the town of Superior was located, and assisted in surveying and laying out the town. In 1855 the Indian title was extinguished on the Minnesota side of the harbor, and I went over there and laid out the town of Oneota as a commercial site, built a steam mill and docks, and held the position of postmaster for six years, also that of notary public under the governor of the Territory.

1-15

MHSC

Vol TX

Page

247 and

248

early
missionaries

years

1862

to

1869

Hist of St Louis

Co. Bull &

Fond du Lac

The financial reverses of 1857 rendered our property valueless, and in 1862 we returned to St Paul."

Fond du Lac, now a part of the city Duluth, was the only mission station established in that part of Minnesota bordering Lake Superior. Besides Mr and Mrs Ely, other missionaries and teachers were located there. In the year 1840 the Methodist denomination sent missionaries and teachers among the Ojibways of the lake region and northern Minnesota. In 1841 George Copway, an Ojibway, his wife who was a white woman, her sister, and James Simpson, were engaged in mission work at Fond du Lac. It would seem that soon after this, for some cause many of the Indians must have left Fond du Lac, as we learn in 1849, Rev J W Hold and his wife, the last missionaries we see ~~see~~ any mention of at Fond du Lac, had only twenty-eight ~~sch~~ scholars enrolled in their school, with an average attendance of only fifteen.

William Wm

Simpson

1-16

MHSC

VOL II

Page

248

Early
Missionaries

1834

His of St Louis Co
Pub. & Fond du Lac
Lac Area

The first marriage we learn of as having been performed in accordance with Christian and civilized form, and as taking place at Fond du Lac, within what is at present the city of ~~Fond~~ Duluth, was that of Rev. W J Bontwell (one of those early missionaries) to Hester Brooks, on the 11th day of September, 1834. Hester Brooks was the daughter of Ramsey Brooks, a prominent fur trader, and an Indian mother. Miss Brooks had been a teacher at the mission at Yellow Lake, Wisconsin, and probably a graduate of the mission boarding school at Mackinaw.

HISTORY
HISTOY OF DULUTH - ST. LOUIS COUNTY,
FOND DU LAC AREA TO YEAR 1870.

POLITICS + MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE

1-1
POLITICS

M H S C

Vol. IX

Page 250

This of St. Louis Co.
Fond du Lac

years 1849
1850
1867

Nathan B. Carlton, after whom Carlton Co. was named, was the first farmer and blacksmith sent among the Indians of Minnesota. He came to Fond du Lac about the year 1849. After the adoption of the State constitution in Aug 1857, at the election for members of the State Legislature in October following, Mr. Carlton was elected to the first senate and John S. Watrus to the first house of representatives. Mr. Carlton was part owner of the townsite of Fond du Lac, and was one of the 1st trustees of the town under the act of its incorporation in 1857. The other trustees were Alexander Paul, Fond du Lac, D. George Morrison, then living at Superior, J. B. Buliver then living at Duluth, and Francis Moussair then living at Fond du Lac. Mr. Carlton owned eighty acres of land on the St. Louis river, adjoining Fond du Lac, on which he resided until his death, December 6th 1863.

Mr. Watrus came to the head of the lake to Ashtabula ~~from~~ county with Geo E and William Kettleton. He was a young man with more than ordinary attainments and force of character. Although a new member he was elected as speaker of the first house of representatives.

1-2

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CON'T FROM 1-1
His of Dub. to year 1870

MHSC Vol. 9 POLITICS

Duplicate met page 202

Vol. 9

He was then a young man with more than ordinary attainments and force of character. Altho a new member, he was elected as speaker of the first house of representatives.

In the next ~~session~~ session of the Legislature, in 1860, St Louis, Lake, and Carlton counties, constituting the Twenty-sixth legislative district, were represented by Thomas Clark as senator and William Nettleton as representative. He was appointed register of the United States land office at Buchanan, St Louis county, in March, 1859, and held that office until January 1862. He then returned to Ohio. He died in California in 1897.

At the next session of the legislature, in 1860, St Louis, Lake and Carlton counties, constituting the Twenty-sixth ~~district~~ district, was represented by Thomas Clark as senator and Wm ~~Nett~~ Nettleton as representative. Mr Clark was a civil engineer. He came from Toledo

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FROM P 1-2

Hist of Pul
and Fond du
Lac area to
year 1870

MHSC

VOL 9

P 1-3

47

To Superior, Wis., in 1854, and was employed by the Superior Townsite Co to survey and plat that city.

It was customary in those days with the residents of Superior to live in Minnesota on a claim or townsite. Like other inhabitants of that city in those days, Mr Clark became interested in the location of Citrus and ~~Town~~ towns in Minnesota, and therefore concluded that he ought to have all the benefits of an actual resident. In 1857 he became interested in the location of Beaver Bay, in Lake County, which was, in May of that year, incorporated by special act of the territorial legislature, by designating the location only as "the territory" surveyed by Thomas Clark in Lake County. When elected Beaver Bay as his residence. Mr Clark died at Superior ~~some years ago~~. He was a good and upright citizen.

1854

1857

His of Dul
+ moved the
Sac area to
year 1870
con

M H S C
con't from
sheet 1-3

Page

251

Vol 9

and a faithful representative in the legislature

William Nettleton, who his brother George E. Nettleton, came to ~~Superior~~ Superior, Wis; in the winter of 1853-54, with the St Paul ~~sett~~ colony, which composed in part of Hon. R. R. Nelson, D. A. J. Baker, Col. D. A. Robertson, B. W. Brunson, A. F. Slaughter, and others. The Nettletons took part in the settlement ~~to~~ of Superior, and in 1855, with J. B. ~~to~~ Bulver, were carrying on a large grocery, provision and general supply store there. In 1855 William Nettleton became an actual resident of Duluth, or at least ^{of} that part of it then known as his preemption claim. He was the first person to file a preemption statement in the United States land office at Buchanan. He proved up his

1853

1854

To

1855

His of
Duluth.
Hon du Lac
area up to
year 1870
MHSC
Page 251
Vol 9

1-5

44

claim and obtained title on
Aug 10, 1858, to the southwest quarter
of the southeast quarter of section
22, and the northeast quarter of
the northwest quarter of the
northeast quarter of section 27,
all in Township 50, range 14, now
part of the First division of
Duluth. In the winter of
1853-1854 Geo E Nettleton of
obtained from the Indian department
of the government a traders
license, under which he
acquired title to lots 2 and 3
and the southeast quarter
and the southeast quarter
of the southwest quarter
of the section 27, Township 50,
range 14, being the remainder
of that part of Duluth known
as the first division

his of
Duluth
and
Grand du Lac
area

P. 251
2 of 9

Politics

yr 1 85 4
18 6 7

In the winter of 1853-54
George E Nettleton obtained from
the Indian Department of the
Government a traders license,
~~under~~ under which he
acquired title to lots 2 and 3 and
the ~~south~~ southeast quarter
of the northwest quarter, and
the southeast quarter of the
southwest quarter of section 27,
township 50, range 14, being the
remainder of that part of Duluth
known as First Division

When the crash came,
and the bottom fell out of the
first "boom", in 1857, George E
Nettleton left and returned to
Ohio, where he resided until
his death

William Nettleton, with his
family, continued an honored

His of Duluth
and Golden Lac
area up to year

1870

M H S E

P 251

Vol 9

Politics

Page 252

year of 1860

resident of Duluth, aiding
materially in its growth
and development, until about
the year 1878, when they removed
to St Paul.

at the session of the Legislature
in 1860, at which Clark and
Kettleton were members, a new
apportionment was made was
made, ~~and~~ reducing the number
of members in the senate from
twenty-one and in the House
sixty-nine to forty-two. In
this change, St Louis, Carlton,
and Lake counties were put in
the third district, with sixteen
other counties of northern
Minnesota. These counties
comprised, in area, almost half
the state, and were entitled to
only one senator and three
representatives. This was a severe
blow to the future prospects,

His of Duluth
and 7 out du
Sac Area
up to year
of 1870

M45C

Vol 9

Page 252

Politics

as far legislative aid and assistance
was concerned, of northeastern
Minnesota. The lake counties, being
comparably without votes,
remained without a member of the
the legislature about ten years,
and they had to pay for a
substitute member if they desired
any legislation. During these
ten years the counties of Stearns,
Crow Wing, and Morrison,
having the most votes controlled
and monopolized the election
of all members of the legislature
from the district. In 1871 they
permitted the lake counties
to have one representative in
the house. In November 1870,
Luke Marvin of Duluth was
elected a member of the house
and took his seat on January 3rd,
1871. at this session of the Legislature

His. of Minn

1-9

67

His. of Minn
and 7 and 8
Area up to
year 1870

MH SC

VOL 9

Pg 252

Politics

Yrs
1860
to
1870

northeastern Minn. was more fittingly recognized. A new apportionment was adopted, enlarging the memberships of both houses, to forty-one in the senate and one hundred and six in the house. St Louis, Lake Carlton, Itasca, and Cass counties constituting the twenty-ninth ~~dis~~ district, entitling them to one senator and one representative.

Luke Marim, with whose name I will ~~it~~ conclude my reference to members of the Legislature, as ~~such~~ such, was born in England in 1820. He came to the United States in 1842. He removed from Cincinnati to St Paul in 1850, where he engaged about eleven years in the shoe and boot business, both wholesale and retail. In 1861 he was appointed by President Lincoln as register of the

United States Land Office at 64
Portland (Duluth), and

1-10
His of Duluth
and found du
Sac Area
up to year
of 1870
MHSE
Vol 9
Page 252
and 253
moved with his family to
Duluth in 1861. He served as
register for eight years. He also,
during most of the time, held the
office of county auditor for the
county of St Louis.

Having a large acquaintance
with leading men in St Paul
and other parts of the state,
he soon became quite efficient
and influential in promoting
the location and active construction
of Lake Superior and Mississippi
railroad from St Paul to Duluth.
In the year of 1855, when a resident
of St Paul, he, in connection with
E F Ely, and H W Wheeler, also
one of the early pioneers of
Minnesota, and at that time a
resident of the present city of
Duluth, became interested in
the location, settlement and
development of the Townsite of Onesta,

History of
Duluth
and Fond du
Lac Area

M H S C #9

Page 253

Politics
and members of
Legislature

which in those early days vied
with Duluth as the "city of destiny"
at the head of the lake in Minnesota
Mr Marvin died an honored
resident of Duluth April 10 1880
leaving Mrs Marvin and seven
children, five sons and two daughters
Mr Wheeler was the first
who, as engineer and superintendent,
erected and operated a saw mill
at the head of the lake.

1-12

DULUTH AND OTHER TOWNS PLATTED AND INCORPORATED

Early his. of
Duluth and
Hond du Lac
area up to
year 1870
M H S C
Vol 9

Page

253

8

254

Early in the winter of 1855-56, steps were taken for the platting of Duluth by Geo E and William Nettleton, J. B. Culver, and Orrin W Rice, all of whom then lived in Superior, and Robert E Jefferson, who resided as a squatter on the land covered by the plat of Upper and Lower Duluth, on Minn point. This point, a beach formed by the lake, is quite narrow, and over six miles long, forming a natural breakwater which protects the harbor of Duluth and ~~St~~ Superior from the waters of the great lake. I brought this ~~near~~ beach, near its ~~to~~ junction with the north shore, in 1870; the canal, as ~~and~~ an entrance to the harbor, was cut.

1-13

MH 5C

Vol. 9

His of 19 built
and found the
Sac area up
to year 1870Page
254

In February, 1856, these citizens were conversing anxiously among the learned ~~gals~~ citizens of Superior for a suitable name for their embryo city of destiny.

Rev. Joseph B. Wilson of Logansport, Ind., then sojourning at Superior as a home missionary, under the home mission board of the New School Presbyterian Church, was appealed to, to suggest a name for the future city. Mr. Wilson, ~~who that winter lived with~~ was promised two lots by the proprietors of the new town, in case he would suggest an appropriate name which they would accept. Mr. Wilson set about his task to earn the reward of the deed to two lots in the great city. He visited the homes of

1-14

MH 56

Vol 9

Paris of Du
and Fond du Lac
area up to
year of 1870

Page

254

citizens that he expected might
be ~~be~~ possessed of a library, and
in his search found among some
of old books belonging to
Geo E Nettleton, an old English
translation of the writings of
the French Jesuits, relating
to themselves and the early
explorers and fur traders of
the Northwest. In this he ran
~~across~~ across the name of Du Luth,
along with others of those early traders
and missionaries who visited the
head of the lake in the remote past.
With other names, that of Du Luth
was presented to the proprietors one
night at their meeting at the home
of George E Nettleton and after
discussion of the several names
submitted, the name Du Luth
was selected.

Mr Wilson wrote an article

giving a brief account of Du. Smith, and his history. noting the fact he was one of the earliest explorers who visited Minnesota and the head of Lake Superior. That article was published in the Superior Chronicle, the first newspaper published at Superior, Wis. There was little or no thought at that time that Duluth would ever attain to world wide fame and rank which it now has. Superior was then generally regarded as the future great city to be at the head of the lakes. Even Oronota then outranked Duluth and claimed to be the Minnesota city of destiny on the lake.

~~In~~ November, 1857,

In December 1845 all the houses in Duluth were unoccupied, and had been so for 3 years. The name Duluth was all that

1-15
MHS C

Vol 9

Hist of Duluth
and road to the lake
area up to year
1870

Page

255

1-16
was left to the town on the point, and even that, with the Post Office, had been appropriated by Portland

In May, 1857, Duluth as then platted was incorporated as a town, by an act of the territorial Legislature. William Nettleton, Joshua Culver, Robert E. Jefferson, Orrin W. Rice, and William Ord, were constituted as a board of Trustees and designated as the Town Council of Duluth. On March 1st, 1858, the townsite as platted, was entered at the United States Land Office at Buchanan, by these trustees, under the act of Congress relating to the entry of townsites on government land.

On 1855 three other townsites were platted within the area of the present city of Duluth and in 1857 they were incorporated and board of trustees appointed.

M H 56

Vol 9 Pg 255

Page 255

Map of Duluth and Fond du Lac area up to year 1870

Page 255

years

1857

to

1859

1-17

M H S C

Vol 9

Page 255

His of Dul

and Fond du

Lac area

up to year 1870

These towns were Portland, Omeota, and
 Fond du Lac. James S. Kay, Clinton
 Markell, Daniel Shaw, M. B. Robbins,
 John S. Post, Joseph Gregory, and
 Albert McAdams, composed the
 town council of Portland
 Duluth, though narrow
 and pointed in its infancy, was
 possessed ~~of~~ in a large ~~and~~ degree
 with the power of absorption.
 It has swallowed up six ~~of~~ separate
 towns that had at one time
 municipal organization. first
 Portland in 1870, then Lakeside in
 1893, West Duluth and Omeota in
 1894, and New Duluth and
 Fond du Lac in 1895.

Pg 255

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF PIONEERS

1-18
 MHSC { 977-6
 Vol. 9 { M 64
 Page 257 { V 9
 Hist. of Duluth and
 Grand du Lac
 Area up to year
 1870
 Page 257

1857
 to
 1861

Col. Joshua B. Culver an early resident of Duluth, deserves more than passing notice. He was born in Delaware county, New York, Sept 12, 1829. He came to Minnesota in 1848, and was engaged in the Indian trade on the upper Mississippi until 1855, when he moved to Superior, Wis. He was there until 1857, when he moved to Duluth as one of its proprietors. He was that year appointed the first postmaster of Duluth, and held this office in his residence on the point. He also was appointed by the Governor the first clerk of the district court. In December, 1859, after the United States land office, in May of that year was removed from Buchanan to Portland, he was appointed register to that office, which position he held until the appointment of Luke Marvin in May 1861.

MH5C

VOL 9

Page 257

His of Dul
and Fond
du Lac Area
up to year
1870

Reg

Page 257

-1-19

63

Sheet # 1-19

On the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, Mr. Culver moved to Michigan, where he helped to organize the thirteenth Regiment of volunteer infantry, with which he went as adjutant, and soon succeeded to its command as colonel. He served with the regiment through the war with the highest honors, being in the latter part of the war brigade commander under Generals Buell, Rosecrans, and Thomas. After the close of the war, in 1868, he returned to Duluth. On March 1869, he was appointed by the Board of county commissioners the first county superintendent of schools. At Duluth's first city ~~set~~ election, on April 4th, 1870, he was elected its first mayor, and continued as one of the most honored and

M H S C

VOL 9 leading citizens until his death
 Page 257 on July 17, 1883

Wid. of Dul
 and Fond
 du Lac area
 up to year
 1870

Robert Emmet Jefferson, whose
 squatters claim on Minnesota Point
 received the talismanic name "Duluth"
 also ~~also~~ deserves mention. JHR

Page 257
 1855
 Year

Jefferson, in 1855, then a young man
 not yet twenty one years old,
 left his parental home near St.
 Anthony Falls, Minn. for the head
 of Lake Superior, "hoping" doubtless
 that he might "set in on the ground

It was who built the
 first frame house in Duluth,
 known for years as the
 Jefferson house

floor. It was ~~was~~ intended for
 a hotel or boarding house. ^(see page IV) In it
 was held the first session of
 district court of St. Louis county.
 In 1869 the house was purchased
 by Dr. Thomas Foster, who had
 the year before removed from

1-21

MHSC

VOL IX

Page 258

His of Duluth
and Fond du Lac
area up to year
1870

Page 258
1870

{976.6}
{N64}
{V9}

Page 258
Year 1861

St. Paul to Duluth. The house was known for some years after as the "Foster house". It was built on the lake side of Lake Avenue south, about 500 feet north of the canal. Mr Jefferson in the sale of his claim to the parties who platted it as "Upper and Lower Duluth" received some money besides an interest in the town site. He was married in 1859. In August 1861, after the breaking out of the civil war he left Duluth, with his wife and baby girl, for his old home in St Anthony Falls, going back by way of the Grand Portage of the Fond du Lac, up the St Louis and East Savanna rivers, down the West Savanna and Prairie rivers into Sandy Lake and down the Mississippi to St Anthony.

1874 Andrews.

X

1-22

66

1-22

MHSC

VOL IX

Page 258

His of Duluth
and the Lac
area up to
year 1870

pg 258

year 1861

Before starting on their trip, Mr and Mrs Jefferson stopped at Onesta while preparing for the journey. It was considered by all that it would be an ~~extremely~~ extremely tedious and dangerous one for Mrs Jefferson and the baby; yet there did not seem any other way for them to get out of the country. In that year, although there were not many people at the head of the lake, those who remained, had very little left after the panic and the bursting of the boom in 1857. There was no money in the country, nor any employment that would afford a living. It was one of those "fish and potatoe" years, when people had to resort, in part at least, to the Indian style of living. Mr Jefferson was without money,

1-23

M H S C

VOL IX

Page 258

His of Duluth
 Mondak area
 up to year 1870
 Page 258

year
 1861

year
 1861
 to
 1869

and therefore could not go around
 by the lake route, nor could he pay
 \$35 fare by stage by way of the
 military road to St Paul. He was
 not as well prepared for the trip
 as Du Luth was two hundred
 years before. Yet ~~it~~ he concluded
 to undertake it. After a long and
 perilous journey, he safely reached
 his old home. On his arrival he
 found his two younger brothers
 Rufus and Ernest & Jefferson,
 had left home and enlisted in
 the First Minnesota regiment to
 fight for the Union.

Many of the citizens of Minnesota
 and of Duluth are doubtless familiar
 with the history of Ernest &
 Jefferson. He was ~~18 years old~~
 eighteen years of age when he
 entered the army, and he went

1-24

MHSC

VOL 9

Page 259

His of Poland
found in Parana
up to year 1870
Page 23

Page 259

year 1861
to 1869

with his regiment until the greatest battle of the civil war, at Gettysburg, where he lost a leg. He came to reside in Duluth in 1869 where he, in latter years he became a member of the city council, and ~~had~~ had held other city and county offices at different times.

Soon after returning to his old home, Robert E Jefferson also enlisted in the Union army, was taken sick, and died in the service during the early part of the war. Not long after the death of her husband Mrs Jefferson also died, leaving the little girl Harriet A., who was born ~~in~~ in June, 1860, in the Jefferson house in Duluth, being doubtless the first white child born in the old town of Duluth.

1-25
 M H S C
 vol 9
 page 259
 { 977-6 }
 { m 64 }
 { v 9 }

Pa
 page 259

years 1861
 to
 1869

Most probably also were she and her mother, the first and only white females, who made the 372 mile trip over Le Duc route, from St Anthony to Lake Superior. She later married L A Pinkham and resided at Lake View, near Tacoma, Wash.

James D Kay, one of the proprietors and incorporators of the town of Portland, came to Superior, Wisc., in 1856 where he resided for three years. He then returned to Ohio, where he remained until 1866, at which time he came back to Portland to live.

On taking up his residence in Duluth, Mr Kay became one of its most prominent and zealous citizens. He died at his home in Duluth, at the age of seventy-three years, on the 27th day of April, 1894 mourned by all who knew him.

1-26

MHC

VOL 9

Page 200

Page 259

977-6

M 64

V 9

page 260

year
1854

1857

1-26

THE FIRST BOOM, FOLLOWED BY
DEPRESSION OF 1857

History and experience would seem to indicate that, whenever a new or unexplored region of country, at a point of natural commercial advantages where exists any hope of wealth or gain is brought to the knowledge of the American people, nothing can prevent in such a country or location a boom, — a boom in population, a boom in wealth and values and in fact a boom in everything but in food, ~~and~~ raiment, and good morals. It was so at the head of the lakes in 1854 to 1857.

In the winter of 1855-56 food was short. It was too soon for a crop of potatoes, and the people lacked knowledge and experience in the art of catching fish and living on them. Toward spring of 1856 flour brought as ~~high~~ high as ~~50~~ fifty cents per pound at retail, but that figure was paid for only a few sacks ~~brought~~ that were packed on men's back and brought from "Chase's lumber camp"

M H S C
VOL IX
page 261

{ 977-6
M 64
V 9 }

pg 261

Heard
1-85
1857

on the St Croix river, a distance of about ~~50~~ fifty miles. Other food supplies were scarce and high in price, in proportion to flour. In the fall of 1857 the bottom, and the top also, fell out of all the booms at Superior and at all other points at the head of the lake. Three-fourths of the people left the country, by every means of exit that were then available. Some, with gun and pack, "shot their way out" some who had families, and who were without means to pay their passage on boats, were taken out free by charitable and generous captains of the few steamboats, that in those days visited the head of the lake. Sound money, or any money, was then very valuable; a corner lot in Duluth was not worth a pair of boots, the merchant considering a pair of boots more of an asset, in view of the approaching winter, than a corner lot in the now famous

1-28
City of Duluth

72

1-28
M H S C
Vol IX
Page 261
year
1857
28
1866

For about eight or ten years after this, the people who were left had to live by barter, and by adopting more of the Indian mode of living. They did not despise capturing the beaver, the mink, and the muskrat, and they traded their furs for flour, pork and other necessities, which they were able to get in exchange from the few merchants and traders that were left in Superior. There were no stores then in Duluth or anywhere else on the north shore. The settlers on the north shore were compelled to go to Superior by boat in summer and on the ice in winter for everything in the line of clothing and provisions, with the exception of what they could produce or capture at home.

FIRST SAW AND GRIST MILLS

On the winter of 1856-'57 a small sawmill was erected at Duluth by the townsite proprietors. It was situated where the canal is now cut thru the point. The mill was not a paying enterprise, and after running it a year or two it was abandoned.

Oneco, with its immediate neighborhood, was from the start, in 1855 to 1869, the largest settlement on the north shore in Minnesota. In 1855, Wheeler, Ely, and their associates, built a good and fair-sized steam sawmill, adding to it in 1856-'57 a planer, and lath and shingle attachments. A mile above Oneco, in 1857, at what was then known as Milford, another good steam sawmill was built by Henry C. Ford of Philadelphia, Pa., who held a presumption claim at that point.

1-29

M H S C.

VOL IX

Page 262

{ 977-6
N 64
V 9 }

page 262

1856-1857

1-30

MHSC

VOL 18

Page 262

Hist of St Paul
and Fond du
Lac area
up to year
1870

Page 262

Years 1855
to
1870

This tract was subsequently platted as fourth division of West Duluth. In a year or two, to this mill was added a grist mill attachment, where the settlers who were industrious enough to raise any wheat or other grain had it ground.

These two mills were kept in operation intermittently in ~~the~~ sawing the pine on land in the ~~immediate~~ immediate vicinity until the year 1866, when they ceased running due to the lack of any demand or market for lumber. The Milford mill soon became a wreck, and it was finally destroyed by fire in 1868. The mill at Oneco remained silent until about the year 1860, when it came into the hands of R. S. Munger, then of St Paul, who removed to Duluth in 1869, and in 1870, the mill was entirely destroyed by fire.

1-31

MHOC

Vol 9

277.6

264

V9

Est of M & Co.
 Dubuque
 du Lac area
 to year 1870

From the year 1857 up to year 1870 the surplus products of these two mills, and also salted fish, a few droves of cattle driven thru in the summer from the region of the Mississippi to Superior, and what was left of the products of the fur trade, composed the articles of export from the head of Lake Superior. The two sawmills were of moderate capacity. Each would cut no more than 20,000 to 30,000 feet of mixed lumber during a ten hour day. When running steadily each employed from six to ten men.

1-32

76

Vol 9 located at Buchanan, St Louis County

272

273

{ 977.6
M 67
V 9 }

but unfortunately no suitable building could be obtained in Portland for office room so a small story and a half frame building was erected by William Nettleton and J B Bulver on the Nettleton claim, nearly on the site of the old election log shanty. When the land office was removed into the general office room of in Mr. Luce's residence in Portland, where it was kept for eight years, until the appointment of Ansel Smith and William H Feller as officers. The old building, after the land office was removed, was occupied as a residence for a short time in 1861 by Judge John Durnphy, who was register of deeds of St Louis county in 1859. He also held the office of judge of Probate for some years thereafter. ~~It was in that old land office~~

It was in that old land

building that the first public school
 for the Duluth School District #5 was
 kept in 1862. The same building was also
 used, in the years 1866 to 1868, as the
 headquarters of Mr Mayhew, Prof H H
 Eames, and others, upon their explorations
 of the north shore of Lake Superior and the
 Vermillion Lake country. That old building is
 also entitled to greater fame. It was in it that
 Masonry in Duluth had its birth, when on
 the evening of April 9th 1869, the Palestine
 lodge No. 79 A.F. and A.M. held its first meeting.
 The years since that time has witnessed the
 healthy and steady growth of Masonry in
 Duluth, springing up as it were, "from the
 little acorn of the mighty Oak."
 In 1870 the old building was
 moved down from its historic site
 to Superior street ~~about~~ about 75 feet east
 of the corner of First Ave east. It was
 enlarged and for a time it was occupied
 by Frank McWhorter as a fruit stand,
 and was afterward destroyed by
 fire.

H. of St Louis Co.
 Duluth and Fond du
 Lac area up to 1870

Year 1869-1870

MHSC
 Vol
 9

page

273

1-33

FIRST SERMONS AND CHURCHES

MHSC
Vol 9
Page
273

Years
1832
1855
1861
Hist of St Louis Co. S. & W. of Lacareo up to 1870

After W I Boutwell's sermon at the Fond du Lac trading post in 1832, the next preaching that we have any account of was a sermon delivered at Onyota by Rev. J. G. Wilson, then of Superior in the month of October, 1855, in the log boarding house. In 1856, a frame building was erected between First and Second streets and a little east of Fond du Lac avenue. according to the plat of Onyota, by the proprietors of that townsite for public use as a school house and a place for ministers of all denominations to preach the gospel to inhabitants of Onyota and neighboring settlers. A bell for this building was donated by B. W. Raymond, a wealthy merchant of Chicago. Rev James Peet a Methodist minister, came to Onyota in 1857, and remained until 1861, preaching there and at other points, including Superior. After Mr Peet left, Rev. James Pugh, of the same denomination came and preached there for a year or

1-35

1-35

79

MHSE

Vol 9

Page 273
274His of St Louis
Co. Duluth and
the Lac area
to year 18701856
to
1869

two. After Mr. Pugh left, ministerial preaching was quite limited at all points on the north shore until 1869.

The first sermon in Duluth was preached by Rev John M. Barnett, of Superior a presbyterian minister of Superior, on a Sunday afternoon in July, 1856. His congregation was not very large. His pulpit was at ~~the~~ a table in the dining room of the sawmill boarding house, kept then by Mr Newell Rydu and his family. This house was later destroyed by fire.

There were no church organizations established in Duluth or in St. Louis county prior ~~to~~ to 1869. The early settlers of St. Louis, Carlton, and Lake counties were law abiding and christian people. They lived for fifteen years without churches, but not without preaching, without doctors and lawyers, but not without medicine and law.

1-36 sec 2

MHSC

VOL 9

Page 274

Hist of Duluth
 St Louis Co. &
 Fond du Lac
 are to year
 1870

The churches established in Duluth in 1870, with their seating capacity, are reported as follows: The Methodist church, seating 400; the Presbyterian, 400; the Baptist, 300; the Congregational, 300; the Episcopal, 300; and the Roman Catholic, 200.

On the first day of June 1869, the first Presbyterian church of Duluth was organized by the Rev. W R Higgins, who was the Presbyterian minister at Superior. Mr Higgins had ~~at~~ then for about three years preached and ministered to the people of Duluth. ~~Mr Higgins diary makes mention of many~~

Mr Higgins made many trips on Sunday afternoon, both summer and winter, across the bay to Duluth to preach and minister to its people.

years 1869-1870

RELIGION
FIRST SERMON CHURCH

1-37

M.H. & E.

Vol 9

Page

274

Hist of Dul.

St Louis Co.

Grand du Lac

area up to

year 1870

SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS

The first meeting of the board of county commissioners of St. Louis county was held on Jan 4th, 1858, at the office of H.K. Barrett, then acting as register of deeds, at Stuntz ~~and~~ warehouse at the lower end of Minnesota point. There is no record that the board had a clerk. Without transacting any business, the board adjourned to meet at Duluth on the 19th. At this meeting at Duluth (no meeting place names) a petition was presented for the formation of a school district for Oneota and vicinity. Six school districts were created at that meeting. No. 1 ~~for~~ was for Grand du Lac and vicinity; No 2 was for that part of the county where Duluth now is; No 3 was in the neighborhood of Spirit Lake; No 4 was Oneota and vicinity; No 5 was for Duluth and Portland and vicinity;

1-38

M H S E

Vol 9

Page 225

West of Dul
St Louis Co
and Fond du
Lac area

Universities
ref
1976-8
M 66 C

and No. 6 the lower half of Minnesota Point

The early pioneers did not neglect the future of the rising generation.

Schoolhouses and teachers came before churches, and as soon as the preacher. After the missionary schools taught at Fond du Lac by Mr Elg in 1835, and by Rev. J. W. Holt and wife in 1849, before referred to, the next school to be taught was by Miss M C Barnett, a sister of Rev. J. M. Barnett of Superior, Wis. in the summer of 1856 at Onnetta, where every year since that date, school has been taught. The next school was one taught for a short time in the summer of 1861 by a Miss Clark, a daughter of David Clark, who then lived in the Cedar house in Duluth on Minnesota point. During 1862 and 1863, a public school in the Fifth district was taught in the vacant U. S. United States land office on "Mettleton's Claim" Next was a school in a small building in Portland,

1-39

MHSC

VOL 9

Page 275

Hist of Dul

St Louis Co

Found du Jar

area to

year 1870

situated about where the Ray block later stood, east of Fourth Ave east and Superior street, Duluth. Then in 1866 a larger building was erected in the block between Third and Fourth avenues east on the lower side of East First street, also in Portland, where a school was regularly kept until after the new birth of the city of Duluth in 1870.

This building was also used until 1870 for religious services and public meetings.

The first ~~was~~ enrollment of children between the ages of four and twenty-one years, reported to the county commissioner was from the Onesta school district Jan. 3rd, 1859. The number reported was thirty-eight children. In 1860 a similar report was made for forty-nine children.

The first report from the Duluth school district was made Jan 28, 1861, but the commissioner record does not give the number

WHEN FOND DU LAC WAS BRITISH

~~Events and scenes for re~~

pages
87
to
93

Events and scenes for removed

from Fond du Lac determined the course of its history in the latter half of the eighteenth century

The final defeat of the French at Montreal in Sept, 1760, resulted in the acquisition by England of Canada and eastern Louisiana. Even before the definite treaties were concluded, British forces had occupied the frontier posts at Detroit, Mackinac, and Green Bay.

Distant Fond du Lac thus became under British sphere of influence

at the close of the American revolution the Chippewa Indians were in control of the entire region from Lake Superior to Crow Wing River. More settled conditions led to a revival of trade with the Indians. Previous to 1783 ~~most of the~~ the comparably few traders in what is now north central Minnesota entered by way of the Mississippi River. After that time they came in large numbers by way of the St Louis River and Sandy Lake.

Minn. Hist
Vol 20
Page 8

Days between
pages 15-16
1760

This page
Succeeding pages
should go between
pages 15-16

1783

Min. His
Vol 20

Sup. between papers 15
pg 8
1774
1763

From removed from the eastern seaboard.
 The Fond du Lac region played no direct
 part in the controversy and war between
 George III and his ~~subjects~~ American
 subjects. The royal proclamation of 1763, one
 bone of contention, created the government
 of the Province of Quebec, but Fond du Lac
 was not placed under its jurisdiction.
 The first written constitution, ~~now~~
 nominally in effect at the head of the
 lake was extended by the Quebec Act of 1774.
 It is doubtful however, that this constitution
 ever operated west of Lake Michigan.
 When the Revolutionary War broke out
 some of the eastern Chippewa Indians
 fought for the British under Captain
 Charles de Langlade of Green Bay,
 but the Indians at the head of the
 lake seemed to have remained
 neutral. I thought the Indians
 of Fond du Lac remained neutral,
 and did not participate in the war,
 they could not escape from an
 enemy more dangerous and fatal than
 war itself. The dreaded disease of smallpox

1774

On Wood's Lake #84

1780
to
1782

Min. Ho
Vol 20

yr 1782
page 889

space between pages 1677

on Kord's sheets #24

page 89
year 1783

In the year of 1782 an epidemic of ~~small~~ broke out among the Western Chippewas, which was estimated by one writer to have resulted in the deaths of fifteen hundred persons.

The Grand du Lac area was ~~recogniz~~ recognized by the Treaty of 1783 as part of the United States. It came very near remaining British, for John Adams, one of our negotiators was authorized to consent to the forty-fifth parallel as a boundary if the British would not accept the middle of the Great Lakes waterway. Fortunately, the English ministers ~~aff~~ agreed to the latter and Grand du Lac became American.

1767

The recorded visitors to the Western Lake Superior country in the early part of British regime were comparably few. In 1767 Captain Jonathan Carver, the famous traveler entered Lake Superior.

Min. His.
Vol 20
Page 10

by way of the Kule River, & in his famous book he assigns the name West Bay to the end of the lake, and remarks that the Indians have most fittingly given the term "Moschetto (mosquito) country" to the land between Lake Superior and the Mississippi.

Space between pages
16-17
15-16

Min. His.
Vol 20
Page 10

July 12
1867

Jonathan Carver, Three years I travel thru Interior Parts of North America 53, 54
"In his journal, under date of July 12th, 1767, Carver wrote "arrived at a small Chippewa village on the entrance to the River St Louis at the western extremity of Lake Superior. This village is the most dirty, beggarly village I ever saw. Capt. Lute held a council with their chief, made him some presents, the next day tarried to supply our selves with fish as our provisions was near gone"

~~Carver~~ Carver's manuscript Journal is in the British Museum; the Minnesota Historical Society has a photostatic copy.

Min Hist.

Vol 20

Page 12

year
1793

Index between
pages 15-16

on Koda photo # 25

The trading expeditions to Fond du Lac became so profitable that the Northwest Company decided to establish permanent posts in ~~this~~ sections. In the summer of 1793 John Sayer, a Northwest partner, engaged Perrault to go to Fond du Lac and build them a post which serve as a depot for the whole region. Perrault and ^{work} ten men arrived at Connois Point, in what is now Superior, on Aug. 16th, 1793.

The post built by Perrault was given the name Fort St. Louis and was occupied by the Northwest Company until it withdrew from American territory shortly after the war of 1812.

Fort St Louis played an important part in the history of the Fond du Lac region for over twenty years. For more than half of that period, it served not only as the central distributing point, but also as the Northwest-

Union Hist
Vol 2
Page 13

Superior pages
15-16

Page 14

Year
1794

1796

1800

Compony's headquarters for the whole
Hond du Lac department
What a lively place it must have been
for four or five weeks in the middle summer
when the traders came in from all directions
— from the upper St Louis, the Nemadji,
the Crow wing, Pine river, Sandy Lake,
Leech Lake, Red Lake and points as far away
as the Red River. Here was the economic
center of the then far Northwest.

By the Jay Treaty of 1794 the British
agreed to evacuate all posts that were
held on American soil contrary to
terms of the Treaty of 1783. The forts
at Detroit, Oswego, Mackinac, and
Green Bay were taken over by American
forces in July, 1796, and the traders
and Indians felt the authority of the
American government for the first
~~time~~ about 1800 the Northwest Fur
Co, realizing that its depot at Grand
Portage was in American territory,
moved its headquarters to a new point,

Fort William on the Kaministiquia
 river. No immediate change, however,
 occurred at Fond du Lac. A British
 Page 14 military force had never been stationed
 there, but the traders, being British
 in sympathy, passed out foreign
 medals to the Indians and displayed
 the English flag at all the posts.
 The uncertainty as to the exact boundary
 between British and American Territory
 in this region may in part account
 for the situation. Even as late as 18-
 12 there were proposals that the
 St Louis River ~~to~~ be made part of
 the international boundary.

Scope between pages
 155/6

In early winter of 1806 the
 authority of the United States government
 was first carried to the Fond du Lac
~~government~~ Country by the
 expedition of Lieut Zebulon, M. Pike

In 1809 the control of the Northwest Company at Fond du Lac was challenged by the American owned enterprise, the American Fur Co of John Jacob Astor. During the following season of 1809-10 he employed several ~~to~~ traders in this region. In January, 1811, a combination representing both Astor and the Northwest Company was organized to take over the trade south of the boundary.

This Southwest Company, as it was called fell heir to Fort St Louis and other posts in the Fond du Lac department shortly before the war of 1812.

The line left out here is at bottom of page 95 in Red pencil.

Then in April 1816 Congress passed a law which forbade foreigners to engage in the Indian trade in United States territory. Early in 1817 the interests of the Northwest Co were bot out by John Jacob Astor, and for the next thirty years the American Fur Co. maintained posts in the Fond du Lac country. It did not see fit to

Miner
Hist.
Vol 20
page 16

1811
yr. 1811

after the war

Type preceding
H of M by Kirk
page 20
1816
1817

9

use old Fort St Louis at Superior, but instead it built a new post at the head of navigation on the St Louis River, at Fond du Lac, Minn.

=

M A R K E R

County :- St Louis

City :- Fond du Lac

Type of Marker :- Tablet on a newly constructed typical fur trading post.

Commemorates :- American Fur Co's Post at Fond du Lac.

Dedicated :- Aug. 14, 1935

Inscription :- "Dedicated Aug 4 - 1935 to John Jacob Astor, Founder Astor Trading Post - Fond du Lac 1816"

=

During the war the Northwest Company again assumed direct control, since it regarded the previous agreement as to division of territory suspended by the hostilities

Can't find
Type on page
20 preceding
2 m. west

This to be inserted
on page 94 when
rewriting

AMERICAN FUR CO. FISH INDUSTRY

4 to 9 1/2

TRY

The Voyageurs
By Grace & Nute
Page 183
Copied from
Hoods material

from 1834 to 1837

after 1834 a new industry was opened to the voyageurs of Sault St Marie. This was the fishing industry inaugurated by the recently reorganized American Fur Company. From the first records penned by explorers down to the present day the rapids of Sault St Marie have been famous for their white fish. The new president of the American Fur Company Ramsey Crooks, believed he could make the fish of the upper lakes rebound to the profit of his firm. Crooks fisheries were eminently ~~successful~~ successful, and hundreds of barrels of fish were salted and sent to the Ohio Valley, down the Mississippi and even to New York. But the crisis of 1837 and the bad times which followed for half a decade, prevented them from reaching a satisfactory market so the plan was abandoned in the forties

amer fur
co in the
upper miss
sippis
by John
Kneithahn

The Amer Fur Company organized
by John Jacob Astor, was chartered in the
State of New York April 6th, 1808.

Page 1

Astor was born July 17th, 1763 in the
Duchy of Baden, Germany. In 1784
he came to America bringing with
him some goods which he disposed
of in New York; with the returns he
bought furs which he took to London
the same year and sold. He became
acquainted with the fur markets
of Europe and upon his return to America
in the latter part of 1784 decided to
make the fur trade his business.
He soon became one of the leading
fur merchants in the United States,
altho at this early period he restricted
his activities to buying the furs after
they had been brought in from the
interior and selling them abroad.
His early operations were carried on
principally from Montreal on account
of the ~~spacious~~

This & Be typed out
after page 9 - also sheet 85, 86
1784

1808

85, 86

Amer Fur Co
in the upper
Mississippi
By Kollo
Weithahn
page #1

Organization

Type after
page #9

of the existing tariff. As the commercial relations between Great Britain and the United States became less hostile, ~~relations~~ resulting in a lower tariff on furs in the latter country, Astor was able to conduct the trade more from New York. By 1808 Astor saw that added profits could be made by ~~buy~~ buying the furs in the interior direct from the hunter — hence the organization of the American Fur Co.

American
Fur Co.
Sault St Marie
its great
waterways
By Otto Hovde
Univ Lib
976.75a 56
n 829-2
page 260-61
1808

John Jacob Astor discovered the country of the northern Great Lakes to be the best fur producing region in the United States yet exploited. He entered the field in earnest when the American Fur Company was incorporated by act of the legislature of the state of New York April 6th, 1808.

American Fur Co
Sault Ste Marie
+ its Great
Waterway
By Otto Forole
p 260-261
year 1808
{ Minn Libr
976.7 sa 86
n 829-2 }

Mr Astor was the Company and
subscribed for the entire stock to the
amount of one Million dollars.
The incorporation and the somewhat
pretentious name were but a fiction
to make the business appear of
consequence, and to facilitate his
operations.

The great promoter soon discovered
that the Machinaw Company, entrenched
as it was, furnished a formidable
obstacle in the development of
his business on the scale contemplated.
He therefore promptly arranged to
buy it out, giving one third interest to
certain ~~part~~ partners of the Machinaw
Company, and, under his New York
Charter, organized a new association
under the name of Southwest Company.
Mr Astor retained two-thirds interest in
the new company and had an agreement by
which the balance of ~~his~~ the stock would
fall into his hands at the end of five years.

Type after
page 49

TOMMAS L MCKENNEY ~~AND THE FOND DU LAC TREATY~~ TREATY

= CANOES - DESCRIPTION IN LETTER 97

BY TOMMAS L MCKENNEY

Sault St Marie, July 8, 1826

McKenney's
Journal of the Lakes
Letter
July 8 - 1826

FOL-199
" 200

MY DEAR

Apr 1826

{Sub 917.17
M15}

Our engages are busy in the work of preparations in breaking up and assorting packages, and so arranging everything, that everything may be stowed to the best advantage. We are destined, I find to be close packed.

rewrite of the 1st
para. page # 5

The Governor has just inquired how I will proceed, in a barge or a bark canoe - adding that he selected a ~~bad~~ barge. I chose the canoe, when it was arranged that Mr Schoolcraft, and I, and ~~Ben~~ Ben would be the passengers for it. The canoe is upwards of a year old, but is newly gummed, and has five or six new ribs put in to ~~strengthen~~ her strengthen her. The ~~yet~~ voyageurs are engaged and on the spot each with a red feather in his hat, and two others, in possession of the steersman,

Mc Kenney's
 tour of the
 lakes con.¹

Letter
 July 8, 1826

P 199-200

Apr 1826

one for the bow, and the other for
 the stern of the canoe. These plums
 in the canoe, are intended to indicate
 she has been tried, and found
 worthy. We shall be guarded against
 the action of the Sun's ray by an
 awning. This, however must come
 down when the wind blows, but
 then it will not be needed. I have
 been examining this canoe with
 a view of describing it, but the
 thing is so new to me in all respects,
 that I am doubtful where to begin
 with it. Its length is ~~30~~ thirty feet,
 and its breadth about the widest part,
 about four feet. It is about two and
 a half feet deep in the center, but
 only about two feet deep near the
 bow and stern. Its bottom is
 roundish and has no keel. The
 material with which the canoe is
 built, are birch bark and red
 cedar, the whole fastened together

after 1st para page 5
~~after 2nd~~

McKenney's
Journ of the
Fishes

3

CANOES

99

Letter
July 9, 1826

p 199-200

with wattap and gum, without a nail
or bit of iron of any sort to confine
the parts. The entire outside is bark -
bark of the Birch tree - and where the
edges join at the bottom, or along
the sides, they are sewn with this
wattap, and then along the line of
the seam, it is gummed. Next to the
bark are pieces of cedar, shaven thin,
not thicker than the blade of a knife.
- these run horizontally, and are
pressed against the bark by means of
these ribs of cedar, which fit the shape
of the canoe bottom and sides, and
coming up to the edges, are pointed, and
set into the rim of the cedar of about
an inch and a half wide, and a half
inch thick. That forms the gunwale
of the canoe, and to which, by means
of wattap, the bark and the ribs are all
sewed; the wattap being wrapped over
the gunwale, and passed thru the
bark and ribs.

rewrite of the 1st page
Page 199

Across the canoe are bars, some five or six feet that keep the canoe in shape. These are fastened, by bringing their ends against the gunwale, or edge, and flattening them to it with wallaps. The seats for the voyageurs are alongside of, but below the bars, and are of plank, some four inches wide, which are swung by means of two pieces of rope passed thru each end, from the gunwale. The paddles are of red cedar, and are very light. The blade is not over three inches wide, except the steersman - that is perhaps five.

NOTE Good bye - ever yours
 { Wattap are the ~~roots~~ roots of the spruce or cedar and gum is the resinous substance extracted from the pine, and boiled - when it becomes hard

NOTE From this model which has been presented to the Sec of War, Lieut Farley, of the Topographical Bureau drew the sketch from which the accompanying engraving has been prepared for this work

revised after, H. para 1945

MIM Hia

Vol 16

Page 285

MAIL SERVICE TO ST LOUIS COUNTY

Mail service to Duluth and Superior especially in the fifties, proved unreliable and unsatisfactory. Even under favorable weather conditions, Superior received mail from St Paul but once a week. In the Spring and Fall contractors carried the mail on their backs. In the season when roadways froze or thawed they carried only letters, and sometime travel was so difficult that they missed a mail date. When newspapers arrived at the head of the lakes they were sometimes a month or more old. Mail service was extended by contract across the bay from Superior to Ojibwa, in 1856 and 1857 to Duluth the next year, the contractors using a boat in summer and a dog team in winter. In the fall of 1856 the service became so disorganized and after the close of navigation no mail arrived by overland routes for about six weeks.

rewrite after sheet #38

1855

1856

1857

Vol II

page 356

Prior to
year 1816
to
1821Type deliver
page 15 + 16

Prior to 1816, most of the
posts in what is now
Minnesota ~~before~~ belonged
to the Northwest Company;
after 1821 nearly all the posts
of that area ~~were~~ were
American Fur Company
stations

1846

VOL 11

Page 360

year 1846

The American Fur Company's post at Grand du Lac was erected in 1816. It continued thruout the period of the corporations existence, or until the middle forties.

It was an important station, tho it was not, like the Northwest Companies, post at the same place, the chief post of the Dept. a second line of departure was brot about

by the occasional demands of the people for a certain banking service. These demands were too irregular and too small in volume to justify the establishment of banks; and the people naturally turned to the Am. Fur Co.,

the strongest moneyed institution in the territory for the satisfaction of these needs. The company, therefore, began to extend to explorers, missionaries and others, the privilege, previously extended to only its own employes, of using it as a fiscal agent. Its activity in this field requires examination, for it is in these transactions that banking really finds its beginning in Minnesota.

The Company made loans, cashed drafts on eastern cities and St Louis, and sold exchange on its office in New York and other cities. It carried some of these loans on its books as credits (checking accounts) and honored drafts drawn against them when presented. While the Company realized a profit on these banking operations, nevertheless it suffered some losses which were inevitable at the time because of lack of rapid communication and the uncertainty of the monetary situation.

Vol 2
116
117

1546
Banking

Banking
1546

Get Beaver
money in
here

ST. LOUIS RIVER AND VALLEY 104
TOPOGRAPHY 1

M H S.

Col

Vol 1

Page

109

Revised after history of St Louis
Co. Desc & Fond du Lac

The head of Lake Superior is about five miles wide, the shore forming nearly a regular semi-circle. The St Louis River enters the lake near this bend. On the south side of the river there is a tract of several hundred acres of low land. The American Fur Company previous to 1840, had a trading post here, about a half a mile from the lake, but it was subsequently removed to Fond du Lac, at the foot of the falls.

The river at its mouth, is less than a quarter mile wide, and obstructed by a sand bar, holding countless snags; but on passing this a few rods brings the boat beyond the bend into calm, deep water in any weather. At the head of the bay, where the river widens out in some places two miles for a distance of about six miles, the traveler is in need of a pilot

MK 8 C

VOL #1

Page

109

110

From that point on to the falls the river is full of islands and fields of wild rice, around and thru which there are numerous channels. From the lake to the falls, called twenty miles, the northern shore is bold and rugged, except in a few places where it falls back, forming a small plot of table land between it and the river or gives vent to a small mountain stream. The bluffs, on the ~~side~~ south side, are similar to those on the north for several miles below the falls; then they disappear. The Fond du Lac river, from the southwest, ~~ent~~ enters the lake about two miles south of the outlet of the St Louis, and the valleys of the two rivers are merged in one some six or seven miles from the lake
e.

A few rods below the falls a creek of pure, never failing water from the north, forms a junction with the river. The west side of the valley formed by this creek, is occupied by the American Fur Co, and the east by the missionary establishment of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The whole valley does not afford above eighty acres of arable land.

The general face of the country around Fond du Lac is mountainous. On the river and small streams there are a few acres of good soil in places, but most of the low lands are impenetrable white cedar swamps. Back of these there is usually a flat of table land, covered with hard maple, birch, basswood and other timbers indigenous to river bottoms in southwestern states. Together with here and there large white pines.

M H S e

VOL II,

Page 110

Still further back mountains tower up toward heaven. The soil of some of these is good, but most of them are marshy. White pine and birch are the predominating timbers on the mountains. Large boulders are numerous as well on these mountains as on the table lands and river bottoms.

About three miles north of Fond du Lac a peak of one of the mountains towers far above all others. The only ascent is on the north side, and is tolerably easy for a footman. The south side is a perpendicular rock of several hundred feet in height. The summit is a bare level rock. The stone, forming this peak, is unlike anything else seen in the country. It is of dark grey color, and so close in texture that the United strength of

MHSe both myself and interpreter could not
Vol #1 break a piece of it by hurling it against
Page III the mesa on which we stood. Lake
Superior, though twenty miles distance,
appears, from the top, as if lying at
your feet, and stretching away to the
east, until sight loses it ^{self} in the
distance, and the river, with its
islands, channels and rice fields,
is all in full view, from the falls
to its mouth. The writer has never
seen another spot where such a
comprehensive view of the vastness
of creation could be obtained.

The falls of St Louis are nothing
more than a succession of rapids for the
distance of about 15 miles, except at the
head of "Knife Portage" at that point
the water falls about ten feet perpendicularly
above that point to the mouth of the
Savannah river, eighty miles from the lake, there
~~are~~ are few banks to be seen in high water.

But from Iron du Lac to the above named falls the water rushes through a narrow gorge; the banks in several places being from ~~one hundred to~~ fifty feet to one hundred feet high, and always crumbling in.

The first portage on these falls is about eight miles long, on the north side of the river. It is over very rough country, thru several swampy places, and is generally impracticable for horses, or anything that cannot walk a pole. At the head of this portage canoes are used again for two miles, and there the "knife portage" is made on the south side of the river, three miles, to the Grand falls, above alluded to.

1
85 not number
LAND TREATY - FOND DU LAC 85-1826

VOL #2 CONCLUDED BY TH KENNEY AND LEWIS CASS
p 178

On the fifth day of August, 1826, Lewis Cass and Thomas D Kenney, ~~commissioners~~ commissioners on the part of the United States, made and concluded a Treaty with the Indians at Fond Du Lac, Lake Superior, by which the Chippewas granted to the United States the right to search for and carry away, any metal or minerals from any part of their country. No efforts under that grant were ever made; but from that period (and even before) explorations from time to time, were made by individuals; and indications of rich mines (no within the limits of Minnesota) were discovered.

Licenses to Trade with the Indians were obtained - buildings for the ostensible purpose of Trade were erected, and possession maintained for many years in the hope that the government would

This written under Hist of
Paul & M F Co: 7 du 4 pages 33 & 34

Land Treaty ² Fond du Lac ^{Do not number} 1826 & La Pointe 1854

~~extinguish the Indian title to the land,~~
so that individual titles might be acquired.
Time and expense caused the abandonment
of most of these points, and a consequence
dissipation of bright visions raised by
the knowledge of wealth which was
beyond the reach of the discoverers

On the thirtieth of Sept. 1854,
the S. Sippewa Indians, by a treaty
made at La Pointe, ceded all their
lands on the north shore of Lake
Superior to the United States, thus
removing all obstructions to the
developments of the rich mines
within the limits of Minnesota.

16. A Treaty of 1847 with the Ojibways Indians
at Fond du Lac was made by Gen. Isaac
Verbank and Henry M. Rice with William Warren
acting as interpreter

Copy of page 33 & 34

Fond du Lac

MHSC

Vol 8

Pg

296

The red sandstone of Fond du Lac
~~was first~~ ~~quarried~~ a favorite for residences
and churches, was first quarried in
1870

AMHB Vol 5

N 9 Pg 32

This fort of The N W Fur Co. was
built located within the limits
of the present city of Superior
Wisc. Monk describes its situation
~~on~~ as "Three miles up the ~~river~~ River
St Louis on the south side the W West
Co. has an establishment, of which
the situation is low, but commands
a beautiful and romantic view
of Lake Superior, of the river and the
small lake. The ~~present site of the~~
present village of Fond du Lac, Minn., grew
up on the site of the American Fur Co's
post, constructed some years ~~latter~~ later,
farther up the St Louis River.