

## NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

### A DESCRIPTION OF NORTHERN MINNESOTA BY A FUR-TRADER IN 1807

Contemporary descriptions of northern Minnesota before 1810 — even published accounts — are so rare that they may be counted on one's fingers. Therefore, when the document printed below was found among the Masson Papers in the library of McGill University, its value was immediately apparent. Though portions of it have been quoted in two well-known studies of the Northwest, the manuscript as a whole has remained in obscurity.<sup>1</sup> From its century of oblivion it is now recalled and given the publicity it deserves as an unusually detailed picture of northern Minnesota under the régime of the Northwest Company.

The account was written at the request of Roderic McKenzie, a prominent bourgeois, or partner, of the Northwest Company, who contemplated writing a history of the company. To secure the requisite data, in 1806 he sent printed circulars to many of the wintering partners and clerks, requesting them to collect and send him, in the form of letters or journals, such information as they could obtain on the regions and natives with which they were most intimately connected.<sup>2</sup> To George Henry Monk, Jr., McKenzie sent one of these circulars. The letter printed below is the reply. Whether the description of the region was sent with the letter or a little later does not appear, though the two could not have been widely separated in point of time. Our information concerning Monk is scanty enough. At the time of the writing of this

<sup>1</sup> Gordon C. Davidson, *The North West Company*, 240, n. 156 (University of California, *Publications in History*, vol. 7 — Berkeley, 1918); Louis R. Masson, *Les bourgeois de la compagnie du nord-ouest*, 2:170, n. (Quebec, 1890).

<sup>2</sup> Roderic McKenzie, "Reminiscences," in Masson, *Bourgeois*, 1:52, n.

letter he was a clerk at the company's post on Leech Lake. Possibly he can be identified with the G. H. Monk who was at Mackinac during the War of 1812 in the capacity of district commissary general. If so, his later history is tragic, for this man became mentally unbalanced as a result of the strain of those exciting days at Mackinac.<sup>3</sup>

Davidson uses the manuscript to demonstrate that the fur-trading posts were the earliest centers of agriculture in the Northwest and to show to what a surprising extent certain farm products were raised. Aside from rendering this service, it gives a very exact description of the much-traveled portage route from Fond du Lac to Sandy Lake; of the topography, fauna, and flora of the region; of the trading posts and methods of conducting business; and of the Indians and their customs.

As originally sent by Monk, the manuscript seems to have consisted of three parts: a letter to McKenzie, the account of the Fond du Lac department, and a collection of Indian legends. The third part was not found with the letter and the account. Possibly it still exists, though separated from the other two sections.

The courtesy of Dr. Gerhard R. Lomer, librarian of McGill University, in presenting a photostatic copy of this document to the Minnesota Historical Society has facilitated its publication.

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ST. PAUL

<sup>3</sup> For many references to the G. H. Monk at Mackinac, see the indexes to the *Wisconsin Historical Collections* and to the *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*. In the latter, the name is given in certain places as G. W. Monk, but this is obviously a misreading of the middle initial, which, in script, is easily mistaken for a W.

LEACH LAKE 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1807.

SIR—

I received your letter dated at Kamanitiqua the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1806. <sup>4</sup> I approve much of the design, and will leave nothing untried on my part, to comply with your wish: poor as my abilities are, they shall be freely exerted, to assist in executing what may be conceived as interesting to Mankind. <sup>5</sup>

Your extensive knowledge must inform you, how incapable I am, at present, to comply with your request. The researches of the Historian, or Natural Philosopher, are unconnected with, and must ever be impeded, by our business in the Indian Trade. It would require much leisure and active scrutiny, to satisfy the inquisitive mind on the various subjects you have been pleased to submit to my attention. Many acquisitions would be necessary, and much assistance required, of which I am not master. What in a civilized Country would be an amusement, in these wilds becomes a laborious task. Until I shall be able to give some exact account on the most important heads, stated in your memorandum, I shall postpone communications on the subject. Previous to my

<sup>4</sup> It was at the annual rendezvous of the factors of the Northwest Company at Kaministiquia in 1806, apparently, that the plan for writing a history of the company was devised. Roderic McKenzie appears to have been the moving spirit. See Sir Alexander MacKenzie to Roderic McKenzie, November 7, 1806, in McKenzie, "Reminiscences," in Masson, *Bourgeois*, 1: 51. Until the year 1801, or thereabouts,—for the exact date is uncertain,—Grand Portage had been the annual meeting place of partners and men of the Northwest Company. When the jurisdiction of the United States was extended to cover the region including this post, the Canadians were obliged to seek new quarters on British soil. Accordingly, a spot at the end of the Kaministiquia River trail was chosen and Fort William was erected. See *ante*, p. 23. It was not given the name Fort William, however, until 1807, and then in honor of William McGillivray, at that time the most imposing figure in the Northwest Company. From the new post, only a few miles northeast of Grand Portage, the canoe route to Rainy Lake lay through Dog Lake and Mille Lacs and struck the old trail from Grand Portage at Cross Lake. This Kaministiquia trail was not a new route, having been used in the French period, but it had been almost forgotten when Roderic McKenzie rediscovered it in 1798. See Davidson, *North West Company*, 104–106 and map facing p. 144; William W. Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, 1: 23, n. 60 (St. Paul, 1921).

<sup>5</sup> The design to which Monk here refers is described *ante*, p. 28.

knowledge of your plan, I had conceived a somewhat similar one, in a narrower scale. Your ideas have enlarged it, and determined me to proceed with confidence in my endeavours to discover what may be instructive, or entertaining to those, who wish to obtain a particular history of the several trails in this immense wilderness.

From what I say, I do not pretend to intimate, that any thing new or curious may be the fruit of my endeavors to give information — so far from this, it is my idea that all, that can be said on the chief points you state, will prove to be unworthy the attention of the present age; as I doubt much, whether a compilation of events and descriptions can, in the present state of this Country, be obtained with that degree of veracity that should attend, and form the basis, of an historical account. If a novice might be allowed to hazard an opinion, mine would be — that all I have been acquainted with since my introduction into the N. West, is more appropriated to furnish matter for a poetical piece, than a descriptive History. The poetical mind, on fancy's airy wings, may range this wild world, and where doubts arise, supply certainty by conjecture. The Historian has a far more difficult task — laborious in every Country — what then in this?

But, Sir, should your endeavors be crowned with the success I could wish to realize, how great must be the reward of praise offered by those, who are acquainted with the obstacles you must have to surmount. Whether these obstacles may appear great only to those, who have not the resolution to combat with them? or whether they be so great as not to be comprehended in one view? is what must be determined by those, whose superior knowledge on the subject, may constitute them as competent Judges. I beg now to remain with the respect that merit ever attracts —

Sir,

Your truly devoted, & ob<sup>t</sup> h<sup>ble</sup> Servant.

GEORGE H. MONK JR.

Roderic Mackenzie Esq<sup>r</sup>

## SOME ACCOUNT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOND DU LAC OR MISSISSIPPI BY GEORGE HENRY MONK ESQ.

M<sup>r</sup> Thomson having visited the major part of this Department, it may be presumptive in me to attempt describing a subject in which I am, in so great a degree, his inferior.<sup>6</sup> However I will venture to trouble you with a few remarks some of which may probably have escaped his notice.

From Fort William to the River St<sup>t</sup> Louis boats are more Commodious, safer, and Cheaper Conveyance than large birch canoes.<sup>7</sup> River St<sup>t</sup> Louis disembogues itself into Lake Superior in 47° N. Latitude 92° 40' west Longitude — proceeding four miles against the Current, the Channel 1½ miles wide, the river shallow and the bank sandy, we come to a shallow muddy lake, 3 miles wide and five long. Now the channel Contracts gradually to the foot of the Grand Portage, in low water about 200 paces wide.<sup>8</sup> The banks are here high and craggy, and in the spring as well as in wet seasons, sometimes the water rises in the space of 24 hours to 10 and 15 feet perpendicular. From this place we send back our boats to winter at Fond du Lac post.<sup>9</sup> Baggages are promiscuously thrown

<sup>6</sup> David Thompson, the well-known geographer and astronomer, had visited northern Minnesota nine years before Monk wrote. Presumably he submitted a report of his journey to the company, for Monk later mentions his description of Red Lake. See *post*, p. 37. It would be interesting to know more about this report, which seems to have vanished. Thompson's journals and a narrative compiled from them are in existence and furnish one of the earliest sources for accurate descriptions of northern Minnesota. The journals have never been published, but abstracts of them are included in Thompson's *Narrative of His Explorations in Western America, 1784-1812*, which has been edited by Joseph B. Tyrrell and printed in a substantial volume (Champlain Society, *Publications*, no. 12 — Toronto, 1916). The abstract of the journal for 1798, p. lxxv-lxxviii, gives incidents in Thompson's trip from the Red River to Sandy Lake and thence by the portage route to the mouth of the St. Louis River.

<sup>7</sup> See *ante*, n. 4, for further mention of Fort William.

<sup>8</sup> This portage, which was used to avoid the falls and rapids in the St. Louis River just above the present village of Fond du Lac, is not to be confused with the Grand Portage in the Pigeon River route.

<sup>9</sup> This fort of the Northwest Company was located within the limits of the present city of Superior, Wisconsin. Monk describes its situation on page 34, *post*; and Thompson gives the exact location as 46° 44' 2" north

together and formed into a general one: thus making them a common task for all the men in this as also in every portage in this quarter, which prevents many delays and disputes, such as are Customary to north west men, when any of them hurt themselves or fall sick. The portage is 27 miles from the entrance and 13 miles long. At the rate of 14 pieces per man we generally take from 7 to 8 days to cross it. At the westerly end of the portage to every two men we give a Canoe 20 pieces and their provisions. The canoes are 24 feet long and built wide and flat, the shallow and narrow rivers which we have to navigate make this construction, so much disapproved of by N. Westers, Necessary.<sup>10</sup>

The water is very dark, the river shallow, stony, and rapid: the banks generally sterile and Gloomy; and the Channel from 150 to 200 paces wide. This portage terminates that continued chain of rocks and mountains which form the North and west boundary of Lake Superior. Thence three miles to portage des Couteaux<sup>11</sup> which is 1½ miles long; thence nine miles to the grand rapid;<sup>12</sup> thence nine miles to Askibocan;<sup>13</sup> and thence 24 miles to River La

latitude. See his *Narrative*, lxxvii. For the building of the fort by Jean Baptiste Perrault in 1793 see his "Narrative of the Travels and Adventures of a Merchant Voyageur in the Savage Territories of Northern America," in *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, 37:569. 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.

<sup>10</sup> Men in the service of the Northwest Company spoke of one another colloquially as Northwesters.

<sup>11</sup> Monk here refers to Knife Portage, so named from the curious rock formation which cut the feet of the *voyageurs*. See *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, 37:170, n. 48; 521, n. 28.

<sup>12</sup> The Grand Rapids are given on few maps, but they may be found on a map of Minnesota compiled by William R. Wood, Charles A. Morris, and Henning V. Mindin in 1861.

<sup>13</sup> This stream is now known by its English equivalent, Artichoke River, which is a translation of the Ojibway name, *Ushkabwahka*. It is not to be confused, however, with the present Ushkabwahka River, which, like the Artichoke River, is in St. Louis County. See under "Artichoke river" and "T.53, R.16" in Warren Upham, *Minnesota Geographic Names; Their Origin and Historic Significance*, 499 (*Minnesota Historical Collections*, vol. 17).

Savanne; <sup>14</sup> here River St Louis takes a northerly Course and we continue a Southerly Course to Sandy Lake.

Three miles up the River St Louis on the South side, the N. West Company has an Establishment, <sup>15</sup> of which the situation is low, but Commands a beautiful and romantic view of Lake Superior, of the River and the small Lake.

In the proximity the face of the Country is either lakes and rivers, or low fenny, or sandy, or high and Craggy; few or no spots fit for cultivation. Some of the Lakes grow a scanty harvest of wild rice. The most Common wood is Fir, Oak, maple, Birch, Cedar &c.

Here are two horses, a Cow, a Bull, and a few pigs; with the manure of these animals a garden of 3 acres of pure sand is Cultivated, which produces about 220 Bushels Potatoes.

In april and May the rivers and Lakes abound with fish. viz. Sturgeon, trout, white fish, pike, Carp, &c. The rest of the year, excepting late in Autumn when a scanty supply for the winter is laid in, fish is scarce. Formerly this quarter was very productive in furs, but is now dwindling away to a mere trifle and the wretched Inhabitants, say 30 families, procure but a very scanty share of the necessaries of life; yet when these poor people are requested to migrate to a more propitious clime, they remark that this is their home and as such it is dear to them. <sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> The East Savanna River, the strip of marsh between it and the West Savanna River, and the latter stream constituted the route for canoes between the St. Louis River and Sandy Lake. This was one of the most widely known canoe routes in the Northwest.

<sup>15</sup> Fond du Lac. See *ante*, n. 9.

<sup>16</sup> Thompson, in his *Narrative*, 286, makes very similar comments on this region. Another trader, writing in 1809, but describing his voyage of 1792, says of the Fond du Lac region, "The furs of this country are the best assorted of any of this continent, and the quantity would much increase were it possible to repress the mutual incursions of the Sioux and Chippewas who carry on perpetual war. The tract of country lying between the two nations for near one hundred and fifty leagues in length and from thirty to forty in breadth, is now visited by stealth, and if peaceably hunted would be more productive than the richest mine of Peru." See John Johnston, "An Account of Lake Superior, 1792-1807," in Masson, *Bourgeois*, 2: 170. The return of furs for Fond du Lac in 1804-05 is given in Zebulon M. Pike, *Expeditions to Headwaters of the Mississippi River*, 1: 284 (Coues edition, New York, 1895).

The entrance of River *La Savanne* is 24 miles from *Portage La Savanne*.<sup>17</sup> Here the river is not navigable even for the smallest canoes. In this River as well as River St. Louis we make three or four trips in some places. This portage is seven miles long; the first two *poses*<sup>18</sup> are so low and muddy, that in the spring & wet seasons, the men wade up to the middle in mud and water, and often wet pieces, indeed, there are instances of bags of lead being entirely lost. Five days is the usual time taken to cross the portage with 12 pieces per man, when there are few sick or lame men. At the west end of the portage is a small river also called *La Savanne*, and five leagues to the entrance where it disembogues into sandy lake; in dry Seasons a loaded canoe takes from 5 to 6 days to come down sandy lake, situated 46° 9' 20" north; is 5 miles long and as many broad. It empties itself into the Mississippi by a river four miles long, in the vicinity of which lakes and small rivers are numerous. When the land is not low and swampy, it is in general sandy & shaded with fir; that and oak, maple, Cedar, Ash, Birch, &c. are the principal wood which grows in this quarter.

Beaver formerly abounded here, but is now very scarce, and dangerous to hunt; being in the neighbourhood of the Sioux, the implacable enemy of the Sauteux.<sup>19</sup> Deer abound on the frontiers,

<sup>17</sup> Monk here means to convey the idea that canoes, after leaving the St. Louis River, passed up the East Savanna River for twenty-four miles before coming to the Savanna portage. Making this portage between the East and West Savanna rivers was one of the most unpleasant incidents which the fur-trader of the Northwest experienced. Few travelers who passed over it failed to describe either the swamp or the mosquitoes. The missionary, William T. Boutwell, sums up in his diary the feelings of many a traveler, when he writes under date of June 30, 1832: "To describe the difficulties of this portage, would puzzle a Scott, or a Knickerbocker, even. Neither language nor pencil can paint them." A copy of this manuscript diary is in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. The Northwest Company's traders facilitated the passage of their men by constructing a platform over the entire bog. See William Johnston, "Letters on the Fur Trade 1833," in *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, 37: 172.

<sup>18</sup> *Pose* was a French term applied to the placing or depositing of a load on the portage. From the act, the term came to be applied to the spots where such depositing occurred. *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, 37: 172, n.

<sup>19</sup> The Chippewa, or Ojibway, were called Sauteurs, or Saulteux, by the French, not because they were better jumpers than any other tribe, as



say about white fish lake in 46° 32' 32" North Latitude — thence downward the deer is a constant inhabitant of the banks of the Mississippi. Wild rice grows spontaneously in all the shallow muddy parts of the lakes and rivers, of which the natives gather a small part. In april and May, Pike, Carp white Fish, Rock Fish &c., abound in the lakes and rivers, but the rest of the year fish is very scarce. On the south side of the lake the N. W. Company has a fort and garden; the latter produces about 1000 bushels potatoes, some beans and peas. The Company has introduced horses and pigs into that quarter.<sup>20</sup> Stationary warriors are not numerous; from their continual war with the Sioux, population is on the decline. While the men hunt beaver in the Spring, the women make maple sugar on which they and their children subsist.

From Sandy Lake to the Mississippi 4 miles, thence to the small Falls 150 miles,<sup>21</sup> smooth current, the channel 100 paces

some have inferred from the French word *sauter*, meaning to jump, but because the band to which the name originally was applied lived about the Sault de Ste. Marie. Coues, in Pike, *Expeditions*, 1: 30, n. 36.

<sup>20</sup> Pike, in his *Expeditions*, 1: 139-281, gives detailed descriptions of the Northwest Company's post at Sandy Lake in 1806, stating that it was established twelve years prior to his visit. The horses, he says, were obtained from the Red River region from the Indians. In 1805 "they raised 400 bushels of Irish potatoes, cultivating no other vegetables." Monk's care in recording so exactly the extent to which farming had progressed at all the company's posts merits the gratitude of students of economic history, for such descriptions are all too rare. It is interesting in this connection to compare the year 1807 with 1832 at the Sandy Lake post. In the latter year Boutwell, in his diary under date of July 3, records: "30 head of cattle, 3 or 4 horses, and 15 swine. He [*the trader in charge*] raised 600 or 700 bushels of potatoes last year. He has from 12 to 15 acres under improvement, cultivates barley, peas, and potatoes to a considerable extent, but no corn. Still, I am persuaded it could grow here. His potatoes look exceedingly well." A Mr. Grant was in charge of the post in 1806. Coues suggests that it was Cuthbert Grant, but this is impossible, for Pike states explicitly that Grant was an Englishman, and it is well known that Cuthbert Grant was a half-breed. See Pike, *Expeditions*, 1: 133. It seems more likely that it was the James Grant mentioned in "Liste des 'bourgeois,' commis, engagés, et 'voyageurs' de la Compagnie du Nord-Ouest, après la fusion de 1804," in Masson, *Bourgeois*, 1: 409.

<sup>21</sup> For descriptions of these falls, now known as Pokegama Falls, see Coues, in Pike, *Expeditions*, 1: 144, n. 52, and Joseph N. Nicollet, *Report Intended to Illustrate a Map of the Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River*, 63 (26 Congress, 2 session, *Senate Documents*, no. 237 —

wide, the banks are generally low and thickly shaded with large trees, and are once or twice a year overflowed, otherwise would be very fit for cultivation. This is the second and last portage in the Mississippi and only 450 paces long<sup>22</sup> — thence 75 miles to the little Ouinipic branch<sup>23</sup> thence to muddy lake 3 miles, thence two miles to cross the lake, which becomes an arduous task in autumn on account of the wild rice which grows in it very abundantly; thence 70 miles to leech lake, the banks of the river from the falls to leech lake are low and are either meadow or swamp.

Leech lake is 15 miles long and 12 broad, situated in 47° 16' 13" north latitude; Upper Red Cedar lake Situated in 47° 42' 40" north latitude. The little Ouinipic is 6 miles east of Red Cedar lake. These three lakes form the great source of the Mississippi, and are considered as such by General Pike.<sup>24</sup> *Otter tail* lake is situated 200 miles South west by South from Leech lake. Red lake is described by M<sup>r</sup> Thompson. Lakes, Rivers, and swamps are numerous in this quarter, and where the face of the Country is dry, it is almost always sandy or craggy, very few spots are indeed to be found fit for cultivation. Maple, Oak, Cedar, Poplar, Fir, Birch, &c. are the principle kinds of wood which grow in this Country. Many of the lakes, Bays & Rivers are muddy and spontaneously produce vast quantities of wild rice, of which the natives gather but a small part. Beaver was formerly very abundant, but is now very scarce, and dangerous to hunt, being in the neighbourhood of the Sioux Tribes.

At Leech lake in April, May, the latter end of July, in August and September, fish is very abundant. In the latter end of October and beginning of November a fall fishing is made. Some of serial 380). On the map which accompanies his report, Nicollet designates the falls as "Kabikons or Little Falls."

<sup>22</sup> Pike, in his *Expeditions*, 1: 321, says of the portage around Pokegama Falls: "The portage, which is on the E. (or N.) side, is no more than 200 yards, and by no means difficult. Those falls, in point of consideration as an impediment to the navigation, stand next to the Falls of St. Anthony, from the source of the river to the Gulf of Mexico."

<sup>23</sup> The main stream of the Mississippi, flowing from Little Ouinipic Lake, or Lake Winnibagoshish, is here distinguished from the Leech Lake branch, which Monk considered the main stream.

<sup>24</sup> *Expeditions*, 1: 152 and Coues's note on the same page. Thompson named Turtle Lake as the source of the Mississippi. See his *Narrative*, lxxvi.

the fish taken at this time is white fish, and is most excellent of the kind. A small lake called *Lac la Crosse*<sup>25</sup> is remarkable for a peculiar kind of white fish weighing about 20<sup>lbs</sup> and is nearly as broad as it is long, and of superior quality. It is well known wherever wild rice is plentiful, the Country abounds in wild fowl. A hundred warriors are stationary here, who hunt beaver in the Spring, while their women make sugar, on which they and their children subsist.

The North West Company have an Establishment at the west end of Leech lake,<sup>26</sup> where five acres of ground produce 1000 bushels potatoes, 30 bushels oats or rice, cabbages, carrots, beets, Beans, Pumpkins, and Indian Corn. The Company have introduced, horses, cats, and hens into this quarter. Hunter's meat is scarce in this country, every possible effort is made in the fall to lay in the necessary stock of provisions for the winter; consequently a quantity of wild rice is purchased from the natives.

*Round lake* situated 60 miles north of Leech lake, is the source of the large fork<sup>27</sup> of Rainy River, and is inhabited by 15 or 20 warriors. On the North side of the Upper Red lake two freemen cultivate small spots of ground and some more talk of following their example; the natives would like this.<sup>28</sup>

Probably it may not be unworthy of remark that in this quarter as well as throughout all my travels in the wilderness, where the fire has ravaged the woods that in very few instances the same species grows up anew on the ruins of the old.

Old men point out to us the marks of old Sioux Villages, which Nation was driven away 70 or 80 Years ago by the Sauteux the present possessors. The former surely did not regret the evacuating a country covered with wood to go and inhabit vast plains

<sup>25</sup> This little lake in Itasca County is now known as Ball Club Lake. Both this name and the French one used by Monk refer to the famous game of lacrosse. See Upham, *Minnesota Geographic Names*, 253.

<sup>26</sup> In his *Expeditions*, 1: 282, Pike gives a detailed description of the Northwest Company's fort at Leech Lake. Mention is made of an enclosed garden consisting of five acres of ground.

<sup>27</sup> The name of this stream is Big Fork River.

<sup>28</sup> Free traders or hunters — those not bound to service with any company — were often called freemen. Hiram M. Chittenden, in his *American Fur Trade of the Far West*, 1: 55 (New York, 1902), calls them "the most interesting and enviable class in the mountains."

covered with buffaloe, which animal alone affords them meat & clothes; whereas the condition of *Sauteux* laborious and unproductive to themselves when compared to nations who inhabit the plains and meadows. All inquiry into ancient customs and manners serves only to convince that these children of Nature are as ignorant of the past as they are of the future. I send you a specimen of the most celebrated tales to be met with in this quarter<sup>29</sup> and which seem to be nearly as much credited here as that of Adam and Eve is in a civilized world. Agebois<sup>30</sup> is the language spoken here and is the same in origin with the Algonquin from which it differs but little especially among the *Pilleurs*.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> On the manuscript can be deciphered a faint pencil note stating that these tales were sent in a separate paper.

<sup>30</sup> Monk's spelling of Ojibway is rather misleading. The Ojibway, or Chippewa, were of Algonquin origin. See Frederick W. Hodge, *Handbook of American Indians*, part 1, p. 277 (Bureau of American Ethnology, *Bulletins*, no. 30 — Washington, 1907).

<sup>31</sup> The Leech Lake Indians were called *Pilleurs* or *Pillagers*. They received the name, it is related, from the circumstance that soon after the conquest of Canada they robbed a certain trader, named Berti, of the arms and ammunition which he was planning to sell to their greatest enemies, the Sioux. See Coues, in Pike, *Expeditions*, 1: 170, n.



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