

be carried on without their aid, as most of the clerks, interpreters and boatmen were foreigners; and, in the summer of 1816, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States issued orders to the Indian Agents on this frontier to license foreigners as interpreters and boatmen, on their giving bond with large penalties for their good conduct in the Indian country. Thus the British traders who wanted to get into the Indian country had only to employ an American to whom the goods were invoiced, and the license taken in his name, and the trader went as interpreter until they were beyond the Indian agencies, when the trader assumed the control of his property, and carried on his business as usual.

During the summer of 1816, it was projected to establish a United States fort at Green Bay; and, in July of that year, Col. John Miller, then Colonel of the 3rd regiment U. S. Infantry, was ordered on that service, and soon chartering three vessels, embarked three or four companies of rifle-men and infantry with some artillery. Among the vessels was the *Washington*, the largest of the fleet, commanded by Capt. Dobbins, on board of which vessel was the Commandant. I had that year engaged myself as a clerk to some traders, to take charge of an outfit or trading establishment near the head of the St. Peters River, and the Colonel apprehending difficulty from the Indians in landing at Green Bay, proposed to take the goods of several boats in the vessel, and tow the boats, and use them, if necessary, in landing, and then return them to their owners.

Accordingly Augustin Grignon, myself and a French clerk by the name of Chappin embarked on board the *Washington*, Mr. Grignon and Chappin acting in some measure as pilots. During the night of the second or third day out from Mackinaw, the other two vessels became separated from the *Washington*, and arriving in the vicinity of what is now called Washington Island and Harbor, and learning from Mr. Grignon that there was a good harbor, Col. Miller ordered the *Washington* to put in there to