

that spring, several Montreal traders arriving at Mackinaw with Indian goods, probably not aware of the law of Congress prohibiting British subjects from trading within the American territories, now took advantage of the order of the Secretary of the Treasury, and sent their goods into the Indian country, under the nominal direction of a hired American clerk, to whom the goods were invoiced, and who took the license in his name and gave proper bonds with security to the traders who owned them, who went along, ostensibly as interpreters, until the boat passed all the American forts and agencies, when they assumed the ownership, and proceeded as usual in their business—these clerks' bonds were considered as a mere formality to evade the law, and were worth so much brown paper, and no more.

In the spring of 1817, the American Fur Company brought a large number of American clerks from Montreal and the United States, some of whom made good Indian traders and are yet in the country, but nearly one-half of them were found not qualified for the business, and in the following spring many of them were discharged from Mackinaw, which was then the grand depot of the Indian trade.

The American Fur Company, as had been the practice of the Mackinaw and South West companies, made their outfits to Lake Superior, to the Mississippi, the head of St. Peters, and the Missouri. The boats for the Mississippi and Missouri trade passed through the north end of Lake Michigan from Mackinaw, thence through Green Bay to the settlement of that name; thence up the Fox River to the Little Kaukalin, where they made a portage of about three-fourths of a mile. Augustin Grignon had a trading house at this point, and kept teams to transport the goods and furs (the men taking the boats empty up or down the rapids, as the case might be), for which he charged about twenty cents per 100 pounds. The boats then proceeded to Grand Chute, where the men made another portage of the goods or furs, and passed the boat over the Grand Chute empty. Thence they proceeded