

at the south end to a point at the north end, was, from its earliest settlement by the traders and their employees, say 1747, given, by common consent of the Indians, to the French and other settlers, and was, previous to 1793, divided off into farm and village lots. The farms fronting on the river or sloughs, and running back to the bluffs, being of different widths, as agreed upon by the claimants. These claims were subsequently confirmed by Jay's treaty and an act of Congress; and in 1823, the evidence of settlement was taken, and in 1828, the claims were surveyed by order of the Government.

St. Louis was then the emporium of trade, and the headquarters of the army and Indian department, and the center of mail facilities for all this upper country. This caused frequent journeys for the Agents, to obtain supplies of money, provisions, annuity goods, and to make returns and reports to the Superintendent, as well as to receive instructions. These journeys were performed in summer by the occasional steamboats which ascended and descended the river; but if no boat came along at the time, the voyage was made in a canoe, or by land through the wilderness five hundred miles. Steamboats ascended this high only when government supplies were sent to the agency or the army, the traders availed themselves of such opportunities to get up their goods and send away their furs and peltries.

The friends of Mr. Burnett in Kentucky felt a strong solicitude for his safety, and a great curiosity to know how a Kentucky lawyer would act in such a place, and especially in an Indian council. His correspondence at that time, shows that their imaginations were in active flights of fancy, and pictured him out in a citizen's dress, but seated on the ground by the side of huge Indian chiefs, with a long Indian pipe in his mouth, smoking peace with the stalwart sons of the forest. Some thought, that in a few weeks he could dispense with interpreters, and talk himself with the four or five different tribes who did business at the agency; some feared he would fall a prey to savage ferocity, while