

built by Gov. Hull before the war of 1812. I remained in Detroit but a short time, when I took passage in a small schooner for Mackinaw; thence I went to Sault Ste. Marie, where there were no Americans, and but a few British traders. I returned to Mackinaw, which was the headquarters of the American Fur Company. Here all the furs taken in the whole North-west were brought, and re-packed for New York; and here the traders connected with this company obtained their goods in August or September, conveyed them to their respective trading stations, remained during the fall and winter, and repaired with their furs to Mackinaw in June or July.

About this time, Congress passed an act prohibiting foreigners from obtaining licenses to trade in the Indian country.* So the Fur Company had to employ American clerks, who had to get the necessary license. It was about this period also, through the influence of John Jacob Astor, that the Secretary of War designated certain points throughout the Indian country as most suitable for trading establishments, and licenses to trade were confined to some one of these localities. This was done to favor the American Fur Company, for if a license was granted to some adventurous trader not connected with that Company, he was only permitted to trade at some designated point already occupied by that opulent and formidable Company would again put up their goods to the old prices, and sell goods at half their real value, and thus drive away the new opposition trader who could not compete with them, and then the Company would again put up their goods to the old prices, and soon make up for the little loss sustained while performing the necessary process of breaking down all show of opposition.

Among the traders was William Farnsworth, who now resides at Sheboygan. He had been a clerk in the employ of the American Fur Company; but having had some diffi-

* This act was passed at the session of 1815-16: see Lockwood's *Narrative*, Wis. Hist. Colls., ii. pp. 102, 103.