

At Green Bay, I met dispatches from Col. McDouall, directing me to institute an inquiry to ascertain if any, and what, public accounts remained unpaid at that place. This detained me for some time; I, however, reached Mackinaw in July. Not many days after my arrival, I received orders to return to the Mississippi with three batteaux, loaded with Indian goods for distribution among the Indians, and to formally announce to them the conclusion of peace.

I did not return from this mission until September, when I found Mackinaw had been given up to the Americans; and Col. McDouall had taken up a position on Drummond Island, within our own limits, and which was an entire bush—never a stick had been cut here. I arrived there on the 15th of September, 1815. In a few days my Volunteers were paid off, and I was ordered by Mr. Askin, of the Indian department, to take charge of the new station, and all its stores. There were no houses, and every mechanic and laborer was engaged in erecting barracks and storehouses for the troops, consisting of detachments of artillery and engineers, two companies of the Thirty-Seventh Regiment, and also for the commissariat, field train, ordnance, store-keepers, medical and Indian departments—the latter numbering three officers, four interpreters, one doctor, and a blacksmith.

Each one had to prepare, as best he could, winter quarters for himself. Not being able to provide a shelter for my use without an effort, I took off my coat and went to work; my interpreter coming to my aid, I soon had a house. A fire had passed through the bush, and the logs at hand were all blackened, so it became necessary to frequently wash our hands and faces. My building was twenty-four feet by eighteen in size, six feet and six inches between the upper and lower stories, spaces between logs filled with chinks and clay, cedar bark roof, with a clay chimney. Though of novel construction, it was comfortable, and received the dignified name of "Pottawotamie Hall" from Col. McDouall.

I divided my house into three apartments, two bed rooms, and a drawing room, the latter serving also for my office and dining room. One of the bed rooms, I invited Mr. Keating to occupy.