

Spanish territory, and without Spanish license or permission. When the traders below would learn of the approach of a Spanish gun-boat, they would apprise their friends at Prairie du Chien, who would hurry off their property to Mackinaw for its preservation.

Capt. J. Long, a British Indian trader, in his *Voyages and Travels*, relates, that in June, 1780, news was brought from the Mississippi to Mackinaw that "the Indian traders had deposited their furs at *La Prairie des Chiens*, or Dogs' Field, where there is a town of considerable note, built after the Indian manner, under the care of Mons. Langlade, the king's interpreter; and that the Americans were in great force at the Illinois," and on the opposite shore, at St. Louis, was a Spanish fort, "commanded by an officer and about twelve men to prevent illicit trade."

The commanding officer at Mackinaw, engaged Long to accompany a party of twenty Canadians and thirty-six Fox and Sioux Indians—the Indians under the leadership of Waupasha—with nine large birch canoes; all destined for Prairie du Chien, to bring off the deposits of the traders, fearing the Americans would plunder them. Proceeding to Green Bay, thence up Fox River, and down the Wisconsin, they at length arrived at Prairie du Chien where they found Capt. Langlade, with some Indians, guarding the peltry, which were in packs in a log-house. Taking out about three hundred packs of the best skins, they filled the canoes—an average of thirty-three packs to a canoe. Sixty more packs they burned, says Long, to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Americans.¹ "About five days after our departure," Long adds, "we were informed that the Americans came to attack us; but to their extreme mortification, we were out of their reach." So far as Long relates matters coming under his own observation, they must be regarded as approximately

¹ Long does not tell us that these packs were burned by firing the building in which they were deposited; but this seems to have been the fact. Such is the Brisbois tradition; and Dennis Curtois, who settled at Prairie du Chien in 1791, stated in 1820, that "the old French fort was burned the second year of the Revolutionary War"—doubtless correct as to the fact of the burning, but slightly erroneous as to date. See *U. S. Public Lands*, iv, p. 866. L. C. D.