

sons. He is also represented as an intelligent and worthy citizen, though of mixed French and Indian blood. In his narrative, obtained by the corresponding Secretary of our State Historical Society, a large amount of valuable history of the early times in Wisconsin has been preserved from oblivion. Augustin Grignon died in the year 1860, at the age of about eighty years.

One early event in the history of Wisconsin deserves particular mention. In the year 1761, Lieutenant James Gorrell, attended by a body of soldiers in the British service, visited the country in and around Green Bay. This was near the close of the French and Indian wars against the British American colonies. His mission was to establish friendly relations between the Indians and traders, and the British government, which had come into the possession of the country. He made presents of powder and belts of wampum to the Indians; and assured them that he had not come to their homes as their enemy, but to preserve peace and order. The Indians, wherever he went, received him with kindness, and expressed their gratitude that their Great Father, the English king, was willing to pardon them for having lately taken up arms against him, in behalf of the French. They promised to treat the English traders well, who might come to their settlement; and expressed the hope that they would get goods much cheaper of them than they had of the French.

The English government continued thereafter to hold possession of the country now known as Wisconsin, until after the war of the American Revolution, when it fell into the possession of the government of the United States, though the transfer was not formally made until after Jay's treaty in the year 1795. During all those early times, Green Bay was a great emporium of trade between the Indians and the whites.

The United States government built Fort Howard, just across the river from Green Bay in the year 1816. It was shortly after, that Green Bay was visited by James Biddle, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who was a contractor to supply this and other military posts in the Northwest with