

ing grounds as they heard that L^t Gov^r Hamilton had got so much the start of them. Since which I received a letter from Mr. Louis Chevalier of St. Joseph's informing [me] that the Pottawatamie were returned home to pass the winter, that they brought him a Letter from the Lieut Governor informing him that he intended not to leave Post Vincent till the spring. I should have been glad to have had a line at the same time. However in compliance with your Excellency's orders to give every assistance in my power, I again ordered the Ottawas & Chippewas to march & send off express to Mr. Gautier requiring him to move down with a body of Sabres Toyes [Sakis, Foxes] & Wernippigoes & he by this time should be on the March joined by some active Canadians.

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(Signed)

A. S. DE PEYSTER.

route is minutely described, pp. 86-150, with a list of portages and *décharges*,—the latter term being applied to partial obstructions, necessitating only the lightening of the canoe.

Edward D. Neill, of St. Paul, writes me as follows: "The Sieur de la Verendrye, in a communication to the Minister of the Marine, at Paris, mentions that on the 26th of August, 1731, he arrived from Montreal with his exploring party 'at the Grand Portage of Lake Superior, which is fifteen leagues to the north-west of Kamanistigonia.' Verendrye and his nephew La Jemeraye were the first to reach Pigeon river, from Grand Portage, on their way to establish a trading post at Rainy lake. After the French established communication between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg, it was the great halting place of voyageurs. Count Andriani, of Milan, in 1791, visited this point, and his account of the voyageurs at this place is in Duke de la Rochefoucault Liancourt's *Travels*. David Thompson, the astronomer of the North-West company, in 1797 made observations here. In 1803 the united Hudson Bay and North-West companies erected a post at the mouth of Pigeon river called in compliment to one of their partners,—William McGillivray,—Fort William, and after this Grand Portage lost its importance as a stopping place."

Grand Portage is now a small lakeside hamlet in Cook county, Minn., on the site of the old post. It is thirty-four miles northeast of Grand Marais, and 240 from Duluth. The inhabitants are chiefly Indians.

The government engineers have lately made some preliminary surveys in the harbor, looking to possible improvements there in the future.— ED.