

The French Regime in Wisconsin—II

1727: CONCERNING THE FOXES¹

[Resumé of French relations with the Foxes, from 1715 to 1726. MS. dated April 27, 1727, in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; press-mark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 49, c. 11, fol. 564."]

The nation of the Renards has from all times been the Enemy of the other savage Nations of the upper country. Those Savages have killed Frenchmen on various occasions. In accordance with representations made in 1715 on this subject by Monsieur the Marquis de Vaudreuil² that it was absolutely necessary to take steps to destroy them, Orders were issued by the Court to act in such a manner as to maintain peace with them—without, however, compromising the honor of the nation—and at the same time to act as if preparations were being made for war; and, to that end, to gather the *coureurs des Bois* at Missilimakinac by granting them an Amnesty.

Those savages having been guilty of disorders again the following year, the *Sieur de Louvigny* was sent from Montreal on the first of May 1716 with 425 Frenchmen to proceed against them. He drove them into their fort and forced them to sue for peace on onerous conditions which he believed they would not accept, the chief articles whereof were: That they should

¹A translation of this same document is printed under date of 1726 in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vol. xvi, pp. 463–468, taken from a copy in the Quebec provincial archives. We have since that publication secured a transcript direct from the Paris archives, which is here given as more exact and complete than the former version.—Ed.

²For sketch of Vaudreuil, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 220.—Ed.