

Richard, Jean Baptiste Boucher de Montbrun, François Boucher de Montbrun and Jean Garrau.<sup>1</sup>

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1727: COMMANDANTS FOR THE SIOUX POST AND GREEN BAY

[Extract of a letter from the Marquis de Beauharnois and Monsieur Dupuy<sup>2</sup> to the French Minister, translated from a document published by Margry, *Découv. et établ.*, vi, pp. 545, 546.]

QUEBEC, September 25th, 1727.

You recommend me also, Monseigneur, to give great care to sending one or two missionaries among the Sioux. The Reverend Jesuit Fathers, of whom I have requested two for this purpose, have assigned them, and they departed last spring.<sup>3</sup> It was necessary, on account of the condition of affairs with regard to the Renards (which we have had the honor to report to you,

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<sup>1</sup>Most of these men were natives of Canada, and inhabitants of Montreal. The two Bouchers de Montbrun seem to have been the leaders in the enterprise. They were sons of René Jean Boucher, seigneur de Montbrun, and in 1729 commandant of the militia for all the "southern coast" of New France. It is probable that Marin was the man of that name who played so conspicuous a part in the Fox War. See p. —, *post.*—Ed.

<sup>2</sup>So in Margry, but internal evidence proves it to be from Beauharnois only.—Ed.

<sup>3</sup>These were Guignas and De Gonnor. Michel (or Louis Ignace) Guignas was born in 1681, and entered the Jesuit order in 1702. Fourteen years later he came to Canada, and was sent to the Ottawa mission at Mackinac. Chosen by his superiors to undertake the new mission to the Sioux in 1727, several accounts of his adventures are extant (see *post.*). The fort being abandoned in 1728, on account of the Fox war, Guignas was captured by Wisconsin Indians, and narrowly escaped death at the stake. He was again at the Sioux post (1732-37), and returning to Quebec in 1740, died there in 1752.

Nicolas (or Flavin) de Gonnor accompanied Guignas to the Sioux fort. He returned to Quebec with La Perrière in 1728, and was afterwards stationed at the missions of Sault St. Louis and Lorette, dying at Quebec in 1759, aged 68 years.—Ed.