

# The British Regime in Wisconsin

---

1760-61: THE BRITISH TAKE POSSESSION

[Upon the capitulation of Montreal,<sup>88</sup> General Amherst ordered Major Robert Rogers<sup>89</sup> to proceed with two companies of rangers to Niagara and Presqu'isle. There securing rein-

---

<sup>88</sup> Original documents from which the following is abridged, are: *Journals of Rogers*, pp. 175-202; Croghan's "Journal of 1760-61," in *Early Western Travels*, i, pp. 100-125; "Bouquet Papers," in *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xix, pp. 23-50.—Ed.

<sup>89</sup> Maj. Robert Rogers was born in New Hampshire, of Irish parentage, in 1727. In 1755 he joined the colonial forces and raised a body of troops known as "Rogers's Rangers," who were of great service to the British by their scouting and ranging operations, chiefly upon the Lake Champlain frontier. Jan. 21, 1757, Rogers was defeated near Lake George by a detachment of French and Indians under command of Charles Langlade, and the English commander was badly wounded. Rogers recovered in time, however, to take part in the Fort William Henry campaign of the same year. By the terms of surrender, the rangers were disbanded for a year. A new body was enlisted, however, and served with Howe and Abercrombie in 1758. In the following year Rogers was with Amherst, and early in 1760 performed a daring exploit, by passing the French lines, destroying the mission village of Abenaki Indians at St. Francis, and returning amid great difficulties and hardships through the wilderness to the Connecticut River settlements. After this expedition to Detroit in the winter of 1760-61, Rogers remained in the service, and was sent to the Cherokee War in 1761. During Pontiac's conspiracy he was of the relief party, and shortly afterwards retired on half-pay and visited England. There he published his *Journals*, and *A Concise Account of North America*. In 1766, he was appointed commandant at Mackinac (see *post*), and while there was accused of a treasonable plot to betray that