

1764: RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF MACKINAC

[Summary of documents on the return of an English garrison to Mackinac.]

[One of the results of the treaty and conference at Niagara, in the summer of 1764, was the consent of the Indians to the re-establishment of an English garrison at Michilimackinac. Thereupon Col. John Bradstreet,⁷⁵ in command of an army of over two thousand men, destined for the relief of Detroit, and the punishment of the hostile Indians, was ordered to send a party of regulars to retake Fort Mackinac. After being deceived by the astute tribesmen into signing with them a fallacious peace, Bradstreet reached Detroit August 27, and at once set his engineers to work to prepare boats and provisions for the garrison at Mackinac.⁷⁶ He also had enlisted two companies of French habitants to accompany the regulars thither and aid in pacifying the Indians and establishing the new garrison.⁷⁷ September 1, the expedition left Detroit under command of Capt. William Howard of the 17th infantry,⁷⁸ with a detachment composed of two companies of regulars and an artillery force. With them was the trader Alexander

⁷⁵Col. John Bradstreet, who was of English birth but had become a colonist by adoption, distinguished himself at the siege of Louisburg in 1745. In the French and Indian War he was given command of a force of voyageurs, and with their aid defended Oswego and captured Fort Frontenac (1758). Promoted to a colonelcy in 1762, he was sent to punish the Western Indians, which duty he performed somewhat inefficiently. In 1772 he became major-general, but died at Detroit two years later.—Ed.

⁷⁶See the journal of Capt. John Montresor (1764) in New York Historical Society *Collections*, 1881, pp. 285, 287.—Ed.

⁷⁷For the result of this, see *Revolution on the Upper Ohio*, pp. 133, 134.—Ed.

⁷⁸Capt. William Howard was commissioned to that rank in 1756, and three years later was serving under Amherst on the Lake George frontier. He remained in command at Mackinac until 1766, when he was superseded by Robert Rogers, of ranger fame. Howard had left the army by 1768.—Ed.