

1765-66: TRADER IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN

[Summary of Alexander Henry, *Travels and Adventures*, pp. 183-197.]

[Exclusive trade for the Lake Superior region was in the summer of 1765 accorded by the commandant of Mackinac to Alexander Henry,⁸⁸ who had returned with the former from Detroit. Accordingly this trader equipped himself with four canoes laden with goods, engaged twelve voyageurs, and on July 14 left that post for Sault Ste. Marie. There he took into partnership Jean Baptiste Cadotte, and setting forth upon Lake Superior arrived at Ontonagon River on August 19. He found there an Indian village, and purchased sturgeon for provisions. He likewise noted the masses of copper ore in the vicinity. Thence he passed to Iron River and in due time arrived at Chagouemig (Chequamegon) where he intended to winter. At this locality there was a large Chippewa village, whose people were nearly starving and naked, for the lack of traders to supply their needs. Henry was obliged to grant them the usual credit for goods, and the external appearance of these aborigines was soon transformed. He soon

a court-martial (1768), he retired from the army and settled on a plantation on the Tensas, where he died in 1778.—Ed.

⁸⁸ Alexander Henry Sr. was a native of New Jersey (1739). In 1760 he became attached to Amherst's army, and after the capture of Montreal secured the second fur-trading permit for Mackinac, where he arrived in the autumn of 1761, not long before the installment of the English garrison. In 1763 he narrowly escaped the massacre, and after passing the winter at Sault Ste. Marie accompanied the Indians to the treaty at Niagara (1764), going back to Detroit with Bradstreet's army. Thence he returned with the English troops to Mackinac, and the following summer undertook a fur-trade adventure in Wisconsin. This not proving very profitable, Henry spent the succeeding years on the northern shores of Lake Superior, forming (1770) a company for working the mines of the great lake. From 1775-76 he was in the far Northwest, returning to Montreal (1776) for the first time since his departure in 1761. Thenceforth he resided in that city until his death in May, 1824. For a more extended notice see James Bain (ed.), *Henry's Travels and Adventures*, editor's preface.—Ed.