

the arrival of the new commandant Maj. Robert Rogers. The latter, who had known Carver in the French and Indian War, let him have some trading goods, and in company with a party of other traders he left the fort on September 3, arriving on the 18th at Fort La Baye. This building was much decayed, not having been garrisoned since Gorrell's departure three years previous. A few families were living in the fort, on the west side of the Fox, while on the east side were some considerable farms.

September 20, the trading cortege advanced up the Fox, arriving at the Winnebago town on Doty's Island five days later. Here a "queen," instead of a sachem, presided over the tribe—an ancient woman, small in stature and undistinguished in dress.<sup>94</sup> Carver thought the Winnebago had migrated from New Mexico. They spoke a harsh, guttural jargon. Thence the travellers proceeded along Winnebago Lake, and twelve miles from the island at the site of the modern Oshkosh, entered the upper Fox and followed its windings

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for a physician, he appears in fact to have been a shoemaker, and to have joined a Massachusetts company of rangers as a private. Even his presence at the siege of Fort William Henry, which has been graphically described under his name, must be doubted. No contemporary evidence has yet been produced to show that he was ever a captain, or held any official rank in the French and Indian War. His visit to the West (1766-68) is quite probable, but the motive therefor does not appear. Unless he was a trader, which he disclaims, he must have been an agent of Rogers, and there is some evidence inclining one to that view. See references cited in note 89 *ante*. He no doubt joined Rogers in London after the latter's acquittal. Possibly encouraged by Rogers's previous success as a publisher, Carver had his own notes of travel worked up into a book, as described in the preceding note. That his services in geographical exploration were recognized to the extent of a gratuity of thirteen hundred pounds (see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vi, p. 251), is extremely improbable; if so, why did he die "absolutely and strictly starved" in January, 1780? Carver was an adventurer of a type frequently found on the frontier; and has long enjoyed unearned literary and historical fame.—ED.

<sup>94</sup> For this chieftess see note in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vi, p. 224.—ED.