

Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. xviii

man does not make equally alike, they in general call the last a bad winter. the Savages upon the whole dont appear satisfied. they are much inclined to war with each other & while I endeavour to reconcile them I am sensible from various Reports however Idle, given in to me, that I must trust as little as possible in them.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient
most Humble Servant

JOHN VATTAS

1740-75: JOURNAL OF PETER POND

[Reprinted from *Connecticut Magazine*, x, pp. 239-259.]³⁸

I was born in Milford in the countey of New Haven in Conn the 18 day of Jany 1740 and lived thare under the Government and protection of my parans til the year 56.³⁹ A Part of the British troops which Ascaped at Bradixis [Brad-

³⁸ This journal of an early visit to Wisconsin (1773-75) was first printed in the *Connecticut Magazine* as a curious example of orthography, as well as being the adventures of a Connecticut native in the far West. Impressed with its value as one of the earliest English descriptions of Wisconsin, we obtained permission from the publishers to reprint it in the present volume. The original was found in 1868 by Mrs. Nathan Gillett Pond in the kitchen of Hon. Charles Hobby Pond, governor of Connecticut (1853) and a nephew of Peter. The manuscript was there being used for waste paper. It is still the property of Mrs. Pond.—Ed.

³⁹ The later life of Peter Pond has long been known; the discovery of the present manuscript gives a sketch of his early career. After his years in Wisconsin (1773-75), Pond entered the Northwest fur-trade, his first voyage to Lake Winnipeg occurring in 1775. Thence he visited the Saskatchewan, but retraced his steps to winter (1775-76) on Dauphin Lake. In the spring of 1776 he returned to the Saskatchewan, wintering two successive years at its forks. In 1778 all the traders of the district, including the Frobisher brothers, Alexander Henry, and Peter Pond, met at Sturgeon Lake, and determined to pool interests. This was the beginning of the afterwards famous