

If any thing tourn up in the Illenois of Consequance I shall Immediaty give you Intellegance by Express.

I am Sir your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. & Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JOHN EDGAR<sup>54</sup>

N. B. This Country is totally lost if we have not Government established here soon &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>c</sup> I was oblig<sup>d</sup>. to give St Ange a horse as the one he brought give out.

KASKASKIES 23<sup>d</sup>. Oct. 1786.

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chase, Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike was sent up the Mississippi to warn British traders from the west side of the Mississippi; not being included in the treaty of 1794, the Americans claimed that the British had no right to enter here. He found several trading-houses, flying British flags, which were ordered to be taken down. With the growing irritation between the United States and Great Britain, the situation of British traders on American territory became more and more difficult. In 1807 a convoy of the Mackinac Company was fired upon on Lake Ontario; see *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xxv, pp. 250-258. The following year, John Jacob Astor, an American citizen, organized the American Fur Company, and three years later bought out the interests of the Mackinac Company, consolidating it with his own, and forming the South West Company. He is said to have accorded one-third of the stock of the new company to four Prairie du Chien traders, Robert Dickson, Joseph Rolette, Murdoch Cameron, and James Fraser, formerly of the Mackinac Company. The War of 1812-15 suspended the operations of the South West Company, which in 1816 was reorganized as the American Fur Company, and began its later and better known career. Many of its chief traders and clerks were, however, former British subjects who had learned the business with the North West and Mackinac companies. The store at Cahokia was probably abandoned when St. Clair organized the Illinois country as part of Northwest Territory (1790).—Ed.

<sup>54</sup> John Edgar was a Scotch-Irishman, who having had some seafaring experience was chosen to command a British vessel on the Great Lakes (1772-75). In the latter year, he established himself in business at Detroit. Secretly sympathizing with the Americans, he aided many prisoners to escape, and obtained valuable data for the American authorities. He was arrested therefor (Aug. 24, 1779), and sent as prisoner to Montreal, whence he managed to escape (1781), and brought useful information to Washington and Congress. Joining the