

time of Our Evacuating the Post of Michilimackinac, but that is now done away & they appear to be as much attached to us as ever, & I have the pleasure of informing you that the Indians since our coming to this Post have conducted themselves entirely to our satisfaction.

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I have not heard of any Ottawas being killed by the Sioux, but it is certain that forty-five Chippewas were killed by them at Lake Sable and were made Prisoners, five of the Sioux were killed. this spring our Traders in the Mississippi were nearly pillaged by the Saques & Renards headed by some Traders from St. Louis with authority from the Spanish Commandant of that place, fortunately for our Traders a party of Sioux were at La Prairie du Chien which overawed the other Indians and their property was saved.⁷⁷

1797: AMERICANS VISIT NORTHWEST POSTS

[Extract from a letter of Guillaume La Mothe to Joseph Chew, dated St. Joseph, August 30th, 1797. Source, same as preceding document, but p. 530.]

We were visited the 24h of this month by General Wilkinson⁷⁸ who was up at the Rapids of St. Mary's & gave presents

⁷⁷ So far as known, no other account of this Spanish raid on Prairie du Chien has been preserved. It is worthy of note, however, that B. W. Brisbois, one of the early settlers of this Wisconsin town, protested to Dr. Draper that it was the Spanish not the Americans who were feared; see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ix, pp. 289-291. This raid was no doubt sent out under the direction of Howard, who was in St. Louis during the summer of 1797, to guard against a British attack; see *ante*.—Ed.

⁷⁸ James Wilkinson was born in Maryland in 1757, and early in the Revolution entered the army, accompanied Arnold to Quebec, and served on the staff of Gates. Being concerned in the Conway Cabal, he was retired from service, and settled in Kentucky, where he carried on trade with New Orleans and became involved in Spanish in-