

EXPEDITION TO FORT SHELBY.

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On coming to the place of our encampment we found a party of the Puans Indians who hoisted a flag and received us with a salute. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in inspecting and taking an account of our stores; and one barrel of beef being found to be spoiling, by the order of our Commanding Officer it was given to the Indians. From all these unavoidable delays the distance we had progressed to-day was only seven leagues. On the 9th, the wind blew so strong from the lake that we could not move before 10 o'clock: but as soon as it abated, we proceeded on our journey; and at one o'clock, we reached the Bute de Mort on the Fox river. Here we were well received by a parcel of the Puans and Follawines Indians, who shouted lustily their war songs, and danced the war dance during our debarkation. We also found a very acceptable reinforcement to our stock of provisions in a pair of oxen which had been sent from Kakalin to meet us here. These were killed, and by order of our Commanding Officer one quarter was reserved for our own use, and the remainder distributed among the Indians. About 300 of these also joined us in the expedition, and were served with a small supply of ammunition. Six of the tribe of the Follawines after having received their share, ran off and returned to their places of residence. From this place we proceeded to the village of Wackham, making a distance of 10 leagues during that day, where we encamped for the night.

On Sunday the 10th of July we set out at the usual early hour, and during our progress were met by several Indians who joined in the expedition. A violent gust of wind and rain which lasted for about 20 minutes; but which threatened to continue the whole day: compelled us to encamp for the night 15 leagues from where we had last stopped. All the Indians except those who had come from Michilmackinac were sent on a head to hunt for their living, with orders to assemble and wait for our arrival at the portage or carrying place between the head of Fox River, and the Wisconsin. This last is a river which empties itself into the Mississippi, about three miles below Fort Shelby and the Village of Prairie du Chêne, the reduction of which was the object of our journey; and the carrying place was fixed upon as the point where we were to collect our forces previous to descending the river Wisconsin to attack the Fort. From a hunter we met here we learned that Mr. Augustin Grignon was only about two leagues in advance of us. He had been dispatched from Green Bay previous to our arrival at that post, with orders to collect the Follawines and wait our arrival at the Portage, the general place of rendezvous.

On the 11th we proceeded on our destined route, and about 10 o'clock A. M. overtook Mr. A. Grignon with about 20 of Follawines and one of the Seuks named Thomasson, who had been at the village of Prairie du Chêne about 20 days before. Orders were issued here for Captain Rolett to push on in advance to the carrying place where he would find the Sercell, and desire him to send off 60 or 80 smart Indians, who should take their position at the mouth of the river