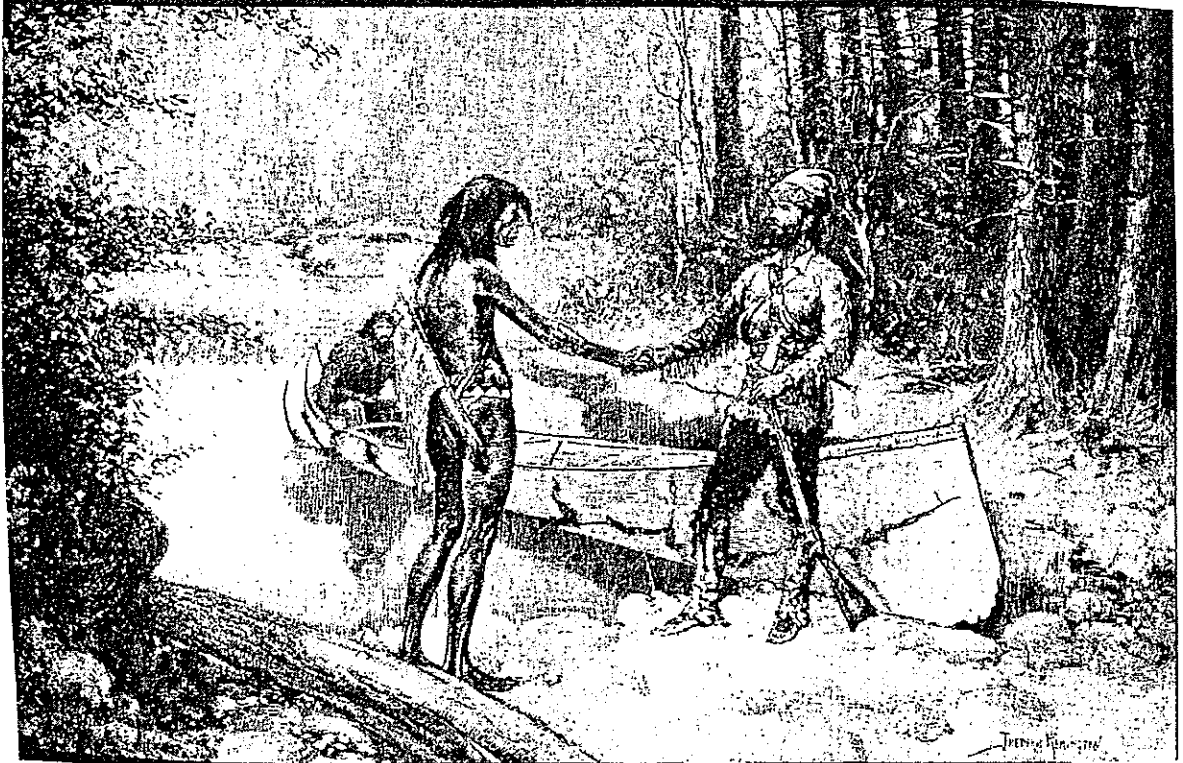


Illinois History



Illinois History

Volume 12
Number 3
DECEMBER 19

A Magazine for Young People

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Illinois History is published monthly during the school year, October through May, by the Illinois State Historical Library for the Illinois State Historical Society, Centennial Building, Springfield, Illinois. Copies are sent free on request to all schools and public libraries in the state of Illinois. Rates for other subscribers: single subscription, \$1.25; group subscriptions (ten or more copies mailed to the same address), 75 cents each; single copies, 20 cents each. Second-class postage paid at Springfield, Illinois.

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COVER: The famed *coureurs de bois* are here portrayed by the well-known western painter Frederic Remington. The map on page 66 is courtesy Illinois Natural History Survey. The drawings on pages 53, 56, 57, 63, 64, 65, 68, 69, and 71 are by Jerry Connolly of the Illinois State Museum. All other illustrations courtesy Illinois State Historical Library.



Dear Student Historians,

Isn't this issue full of some exciting tales about heroic men? It's difficult to imagine what life was like for the fur traders more than a century ago, when Illinois was mostly wilderness—but they blazed the trail which led to the development of Illinois as we know it today.

Last month we told you about some new awards for our student writers which will be presented in May. But let's not forget that it is the guidance and encouragement from our teachers which make our student writing program possible. For the past three years the Rock Island Rotary Club has presented the JOHN H. HAUBERG MEMORIAL AWARD of \$25 and a certificate to the teacher who was judged to have made the most significant contribution to *Illinois History* magazine each year. The choice of the winner is always difficult, for each year there are many teachers who deserve recognition. We are especially happy, therefore, to announce that Mr. Philip D. Sang of Rock Forest, Illinois, has decided to establish a prize of \$25 to be presented each year to a teacher who has, over the years, given outstanding service to *Illinois History*. In addition, Mr. Sang will donate a year's membership in the Illinois State Historical Society to all teachers whose students receive Governor Stratton's achievement award certificates.

Our circulation has more than doubled since our new policy was announced in September. As you know, *Illinois History* is now sent free to all Illinois schools and public libraries that request it. We hope that students who are now reading *Illinois History* for the first time will write articles for us, and, of course, each month we look forward to receiving the work of students whose schools have long been supporters of our magazine. *Illinois History* is for you, so send us your articles. Issues for the remainder of the year are as follows. The articles due in Springfield are in parentheses:

January	BASKETBALL IN ILLINOIS	(November 1)
February	ABRAHAM LINCOLN	(December 1)
March	IMMIGRANTS IN ILLINOIS	(January 1)
April	FORTS AND CAMPS IN ILLINOIS	(February 1)
May	THE COUNTIES OF ILLINOIS	(March 1)

Here are the answers to our quiz. How high did you score? *Part A.* 1. false; 2. true; 3. false; 4. false; 5. true. *Part B.* a-g; b-j; c-i; d-f; e-h.

We have a guest editor for our "Basketball in Illinois" issue next month and he has sent in lots of fascinating material you'll want to read. And a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

Phyllis E. Connolly

Wealth in the Wilderness

ALMOST AS SOON as Europeans arrived in North America, early in the seventeenth century, they began to trade in furs with the Indians. Furs were in great demand in the Old World; men sported beaver hats, and ladies then, as today, loved to trim their gowns and wraps with muskrat and mink. The virgin forests of the New World abounded in fur-bearing animals, and the vast inland waterway system of North America provided easy and relatively cheap transportation from the interior of the continent to eastern ports from which the valuable furs were shipped to Europe.

The French founded the city of Quebec in 1608, and almost immediately afterward, they turned their attention to developing the fur trade with the Indians of the Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River region. Trading posts gradually were established, among them ones at Niagara, Detroit, and Mackinac. The French government encouraged the trade by granting monopolies at a single post to one individual. This meant that one man would have complete control over all trade in furs that was carried on at his post. The great French explorer La Salle, for example, was given exclusive control over the fur trade in the Illinois country in 1674, and after his death, his partner Tonty was awarded the same monopoly. Many individual traders, however, defied the French government and penetrated the western wilderness to seek fortunes from the fur trade; the hazards were great but so were the rewards, and the experiences of these traders, the famed *coureurs de bois*, provide some of our most colorful history. The traders licensed by the government were known as *voyageurs* or *engagées*.

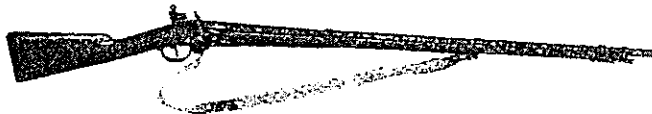
In the meantime, the British had settled along the Atlantic Coast, and they were engaged in the fur trade with the Indians who were located in the eastern part of North America. As the French traders penetrated the Mississippi Valley from the north, the British traders gradually moved west, following the courses of the Ohio and Tennessee rivers. Eventually, the two nations became rivals for control of the fur trade in North America and, in fact, for control of a world-wide empire. The result was a series of wars, the final one (the French and Indian War, 1754-63) ending in victory for Great Britain. France then turned over all her North American territory east of the Mississippi River to England, who thus became master of the continent's fur trade. But in a few decades, the fortunes of war forced England out of the Mississippi Valley, and the new American nation began to dominate trade in the West.

Wilderness Department Stores

BY DONALD JACKSON

University of Illinois Press

WE THINK OF the Indian as a lover of baubles and beads, but we must also remember that he loved blankets and hardware even more—for these objects helped to keep him alive in a hard world. Once he learned that he could come to the white man's camp with a roll of animal skins and exchange it for fabrics, traps, guns, and powder, the Indian was done forever with the Stone Age (in



A gun used by western trappers about 1818.

which he had lived before the white men came). Never again would he feel secure unless his lodge was full of the goods and gadgets that the French, British, and American traders could give him. Stone Age, indeed! The Indian quickly entered the "pewter age," the "japaned tin age," the age of ivory combs, iron kettles, wool hats, and bright calico.

And so began the great period of fur trading. Lives were lost, and many a fortune was made, and the shadow of the fur trader slants across all the early decades of Illinois history. No part of the fur-trading story is more fascinating than that of the "factories," those wilderness department stores operated from 1795 to 1822 by the United States government for the benefit of the Indians.

In the first sunlight of a bright April morning, when the fogs on the river have lifted to the willow-tops, a Sauk brave and his family ease their canoes to the shore. They have come up from the winter hunting grounds with their season's catch, and their two hollow-log craft

are stacked with loosely rolled bundles of furs. Before them, as they step ashore, rise the great oaken walls of a military stockade. From the corner blockhouses and the tall front gate, the sentries eye the newcomers carefully. But the Indians have no business to transact inside the fort; they are looking for the man who operates the trading house—the man who calls himself the "factor."

The builders of the trading factory have wisely placed the structure outside the stockade walls so that no band of surly Indians, intent on mischief, need come inside the fort to trade. For its time and place, the log factory building is a pretentious one—two stories plus a stone-floored cellar—containing a trading room, storerooms, and living quarters for the factor, his family, and his hired help.

While the Sauk brave strides ahead, the woman and her children begin to carry the furs up the path from river to factory, laying each bundle across the counter of the trading room and staring curiously at the wares on the shelves. Then the factor calls in his interpreter (perhaps an old Frenchman who has spent his life among the Indians), and the trading begins.

What has the Indian family brought to trade? Shining black bear skins; deerskins dressed to delicate softness by the women; beaver skins so numerous that the factor buys them by weight, not by number; raccoon, muskrat, and otter skins; a leather bag crammed with duck feathers; a cask of beeswax and another of deer tallow.

The head of the family chooses his goods first. He orders two shaggy wool blankets, sold by weight; a flintlock musket, a keg of black powder, and a box of musket balls; a butcher knife with a white horn handle; a saddle and bridle; one dozen beaver traps; some twists of

tobacco; a box of fishhooks; a brass pipe tomahawk.

Then his wife steps forward and tells the interpreter what she needs: an assortment of yard goods—calico, muslin, baize, and a coarse fabric called strouding—a wool hat and a packet of silk handkerchiefs; a pewter tankard; a nest of iron kettles; an iron hoe; an oval mirror with a gilt frame. From the drug shelf she chooses a bottle of patent medicine called Turlington's Balsam and boxes of vermilion and Prussian blue with which to paint her face. She cannot resist a few trinkets—strings of wampum, brass finger rings, ear wheels, headbands, arm bands, and a packet of beads. Finally the children each receive a tiny, tinkling bell and a leather cockade, and the shopping spree is over.

When the Sauk family has gone, the factor's hired hands inspect the furs, press them into tight bales, and ship them to the Office of Indian Trade in Georgetown, D.C. During the long period of shipment, while the bales are aboard a keelboat on the riverways or a big sailing vessel on the Great Lakes, the furs will be spread out occasionally and beaten with paddles to keep them free of moths.

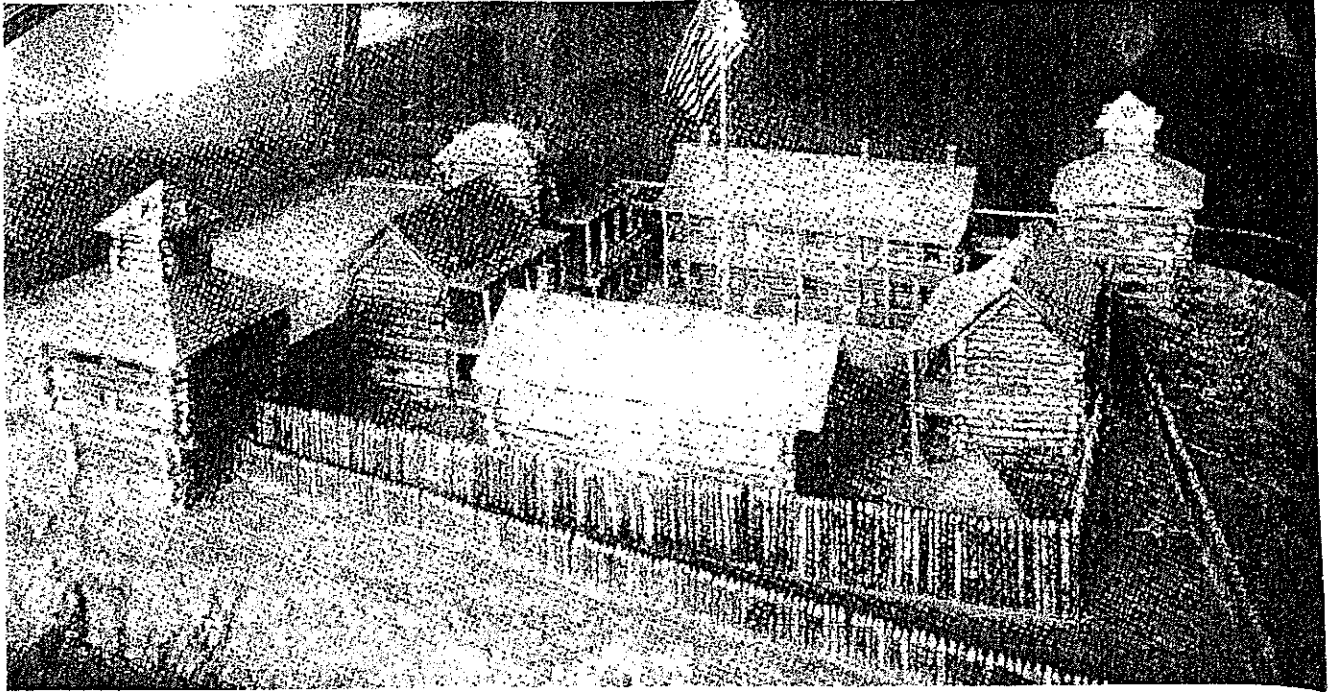
The above kind of country-store operation had been going on in the United States since 1795, but the idea had been on the minds of the nation's leaders even earlier. In 1775, the Second Continental Congress named a committee to plan for Indian trade, but nothing definite was done. The men who wanted to establish government trading houses gave two reasons: (1) the Indian badly needed protection from the high prices and dishonest practices of certain private traders; (2) the government could better control the Indian if it could control his trade. This latter attitude resulted primarily from British attempts to arouse the Indians against the United States through the influence of traders who came down from Canada. Finally Congress approved the necessary funds, and two factories were built in 1795—one at Tellico in what is now eastern Tennessee, and another on the St. Marys River in Georgia. Others followed soon.

The first Illinois factory was located at Fort Dearborn, on the site of Chicago, and was



Bear skins were much prized in pioneer days.

opened in 1805 under the direction of J. B. Varnum, Jr. Its principal customers were the Potawatomi and the Winnebago tribes. In the same year, a factory was built at Fort Belle Fontaine near St. Louis; in 1808, another was established at Fort Madison, in what is now Iowa; and a few years later, another was located at Prairie du Chien (Wisconsin). Although these last three factories were not in Illinois, much of their trade was with Indians who lived there. A large part of the trading at Fort Madison and Prairie du Chien was not in furs but in partially smelted lead ore, a product of the Galena lead mines. A factory was built in Illinois Territory soon after the War of 1812 at Fort Edwards, near present-day Warsaw. Within a few years, this factory was abandoned and another was established in its place



A model of Fort Dearborn, 1803-12.

at Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island. The Indians who traded there were mainly Sauk and Fox, with lesser numbers of Winnebago, Ioway, and others.

Powerful enemies worked hard to undermine the factory system from its beginning. Some were sincere men in public life who honestly thought the factories were inefficient and useless. But the most powerful opponents were the big private fur traders who saw the factory system cutting into their profits. The American Fur Company in particular was strongly anti-factory. One man who seemed to fight the factories harder than all the rest was Senator Thomas H. Benton of Missouri. Many of his constituents in St. Louis had their careers and their fortunes invested in the fur trade. By

1822, Senator Benton and his supporters had succeeded in overthrowing the factory system completely.

It had lasted only twenty-seven years, this strange chain of frontier supermarkets, but it looms large in American history. It helped to win some of the Indians away from British influence, and it was an important force in the settlement of the frontier. The factor brought his wife and children into the wilds, where, perhaps, no white woman had ever come before. Often the sole reason for the establishment of a military post was to protect the factory. Discharged soldiers frequently stayed on the frontier to settle the land, adventuring friends joined them from back home, and the West began to grow.



The fur trade "is laborious and dangerous, full of exposure and privations, and leading to premature exhaustion and disability. Few of those engaged in it reach an advanced stage of life, and still fewer preserve an unbroken constitution. The labor is excessive, subsistence scanty and precarious, and the Indians are ever liable to sudden and violent paroxysms of passion, in which they spare neither friend nor foe."

—Lewis Cass, Secretary of War, 1831

"The Song of Three Friends"

The lives of the fur traders were filled with danger and drama, but the traders themselves were hearty men, full of zest for life, courageously ready to face the unknown. Some of the traders became almost legendary figures. Such was Mike Fink, whose career was as symbolic of the early West as that of Daniel Boone. An Illinois poet, John G. Neihardt, understood the spirit of Mike Fink and his friends and told their story in his poem "The Song of Three Friends." And here two students from University High School, Normal, tell us their impressions of those men whose faces were "leathered by the wind . . . their eyes ageless with the calm far stare of men who know the prairies or the seas."

"BRAVE MEN NOT AFRAID TO FEAR"

By Stephen Ivens

JOHN G. NEIHARDT, an Illinois writer, in his long narrative poem *The Song of Three Friends*, tells of the adventures of some early fur traders. About 1822, fur trading in the area around the northern part of the Missouri River was at its peak. Old St. Louis, which is on the Mississippi River, had some of the largest markets for furs and became the headquarters for the fur business in this area.

Neihardt follows the fur traders through their experiences with boats, nature, Indians, and each other. The fur traders were master boatmen, and there were few tricks that they did not know. The "snub-built keelboats" went up the rivers, many times with the crew pulling long cordelles (towropes) because the wind was not blowing. While on the river, men needed

entertainment; so shooting became of great interest. It has been said that Mike Fink could shoot the tails off pigs at twenty yards, and that Bill Carpenter could bore a squirrel's eye at thirty paces or more.

The traders carried on a great business, buying furs from the Indians and using scarlet cloth and beads, traps, knives, and "little casks of alcohol to lubricate the rusty wheels of trade!"

Many nights grew old with stories and tales "fit to strain the supper-tightened girth." Lack of entertainment never bothered the fur traders; for when they camped a few days because of rain, the men "made merry in their ways." The traders knew every kind of card game and sang songs on all occasions. On rainy days,



Skunks are numerous throughout Illinois today.

The marksmen matched their cleverness; the Strong wrestled the strong; and brawling Pugilists displayed the boasted power of their Fists - - - and whiskey went hell-roaring through the nights.

The trappers were great woodsmen and knew how to stay alive in the wilderness. After a raging prairie fire, the trappers, famished and near death from exhaustion, found a stream in which were many dead animals. After they drank some water, the men "had a feast of liver, bolted dripping from a cow dead at the water's lip." Trappers rarely got lost, for they

had stars to guide them by night and the sun by day.

When they stopped at an Indian village for any length of time, many a trader would take an Indian maiden for a wife. This was a common practice, although the trader would soon leave the village and probably never return. It was said that Mike Fink, a well-known fur trader in Illinois, had a sweetheart in every town; listen to his words: "It is me rule to love 'em all alike."

The trappers, while they displayed many seemingly superhuman feats, really were very human people. Like all men, they longed for home and the nice, warm fire in the fireplace. They could picture home when,

[The] night was calm and clear:

*Just such a night as when the waning year
Has set aflame the old Missouri wood;*

*When Greenings are beginning to be good;
And when, . . .*

*One hears the ripe persimmons falling
—plush!—*

Upon the littered leaves.

The fur traders were interesting people with big hearts and strong backs. Afraid of nothing, they worked like demons and laughed and joked to the full. These men represent an era in the history of America. "They went as torch bearers in the van of our western civilization. Your Present is, in a great measure, a heritage from their Past."—[From John G. Neihardt, *The Song of Three Friends.*]

NEIHARDT RECALLS

By Blake Leach

JOHN G. NEIHARDT, a famous Illinois poet, has written many poems about the fur traders in and around Illinois. He writes so vividly that it almost seems he has recalled them to life. The sun is gaining, and Neihardt recalls.

Sweep the river with your eyes. Watch for logs and stones; they are our enemies. The river is our friend. Follow the river. It will save you—it knows where to go. Do not fear the wind

—you have beaten it before. The wind is a foe. The river is a guide. Watch the wilderness along the shore. The wilderness is adventure—the fur trade is life.

What are you thinking of, Mike?

*Of all the "blowsy Ariadnes" I've left
behind me.*

*Ah ha. But don't you cherish one
woman, Mike?*

"It is me rule to love 'em all alike,"

Mr. Neihardt.

See the animals along the water—you have known them all your life. They have saved you before—they will save you again, but now they run. Look in the forest. See how it writes. If you are patient, you can read. Nature is a playmate in games of life and death. If you will play fairly, so will she.

Are you bored now, Mike?

Mebbe a little.

Why don't you shoot the cup with Will?

Mebbe I might, Mr. Neihardt, mebbe I might.

Will Carpenter is your friend, isn't he, Mike?

'Ceptin' Frank Talbeau, he's the best friend

I got. And in the middle of a river, good

friends are a lot.

You'd never miss the cup on purpose, would you, Mike?

Aw, Mr. Neihardt, Will's me friend. I'd never do that.

Watch the sky. It is beginning to darken.

Nature is warning us.

It'll blow soon.

Smell the rain as it sharply drops. A fur trader can smell the rain before it comes. How many puddles will this rain make? How many rivers will it raise for the traders? Notice the rabbit that hides from the rain. If a trader could use him, the trader would have him. Cover the fur pelts. Do not let them get wet. Fur pelts are life to a trader—a string of beads to an Indian. See the rain lessen. Now see it stop. Watch the animals come from their shel-

ters—a deer and a fawn, and now a wild boar. Oh, don't shoot his tail off, Mike! He looks so young. You can see so many things from the river. The men say we will have an early winter this year. They know. They have seen signs.

Can you see an Indian through the brush? He has followed us for half an hour, the men say. They know what he will do. He will tell the chief that the "Long Knives" are coming. Indians know that "Long Knives" bring guns, balls and powder, strings of shiny beads, but most of all whisky. And how many Indian maidens watch the horizons for a Long Knife's returning?

The sun is losing now. It is becoming dusky. Soon it will be dark. The men will eat and then sleep on the river.

On the other side of this forest there's a prairie.

Oh, Mike?

Prairies are dangerous, Mr. Neihardt.

They're dangerous.

Why, Mike?

They won't save 'ya like a forest will.

Study the faces as men think of home. Remember the stories they tell. Grow sleepy as someone sings a song. And then—Say good night, Mike Fink. Good night, Will Carpenter. Good night, Frank Talbeau. And thank you, Mr. Neihardt, thank you for recalling from the depths of the river and the depths of the years the fur traders.—[From John G. Neihardt, *The Song of Three Friends* and *The Song of Hugh Glass*.]



The beaver was king of the fur bearers in the early days of the fur trade.

"Lords of the Lakes and Forests"

BY PHYLLIS E. CONNOLLY

BY 1828, VIRTUALLY the entire fur trade in the United States was controlled by one company—the American Fur Company, founded in 1808 by John Jacob Astor, a German immigrant. While en route to America, Astor met a fur trader on board ship, and before setting foot on American soil, he had determined to make his fortune in fur. Although he was highly successful in the real estate business and in the China trade, Astor concentrated his chief efforts on his fur-trading venture. By 1817, he had bought out two of his chief competitors, thereby gaining complete control of the fur trade in the Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi Valley region. Astor then placed the traders in that area under the direction of the Northern Department of the American Fur Company with headquarters at Mackinac. Next he determined to gain control of the fur trade in the Missouri River territory; by 1822 he had succeeded, organizing in that year the Western Department of the American Fur Company with offices in St. Louis.

One of the chief obstacles that still prevented Astor from monopolizing the fur trade was the competition of the "factories," the government-operated trading posts whose story is told on pages 52-54. By 1822, however, Astor and his friends in Congress had succeeded in abolishing the factory system. Two years later, Congress also passed a law which specified that fur trading could be carried on only at certain posts, the location of which favored the Fur Company and harmed its competitors, almost all of whom eventually, by fair means or foul, were absorbed into the Fur Company or forced out of business.

Astor withdrew from the company in 1834, and it then broke up. The Western Department in St. Louis was taken over by Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company while the Northern Department, which kept the title of American Fur Company, was headed by Ramsay Crooks. The

new American Fur Company failed in 1842 but was reorganized in 1846 as a commission house which supplied fur traders with goods and then marketed their furs. But by that time, the golden days of the fur trade, as well as of the company, were over.

The original American Fur Company sent many traders to the Illinois country; some of them became important figures in Illinois history; many were hardy, colorful, individuals whose biographies read like hair-raising ad-



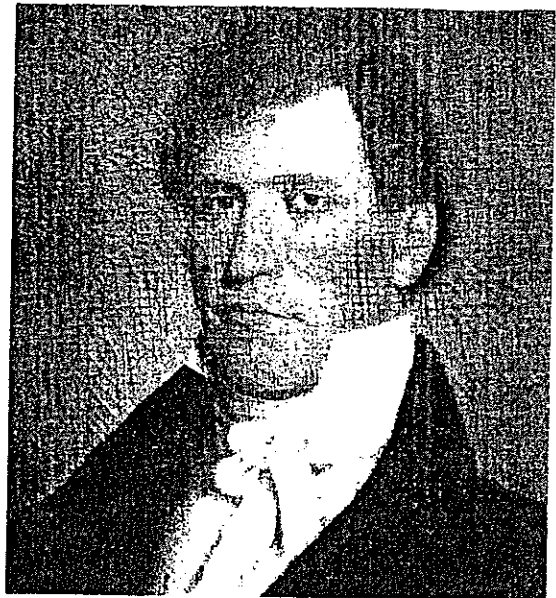
Gurdon S. Hubbard

venture tales. Here are glimpses into the lives of a few of them.

Of all the traders, Russel Farnham's adventures took him farthest from home. Born in 1784 in New England, he became an early employee of the American Fur Company. In 1810, he joined an expedition which took him by sea to Astoria, the Fur Company's post in the Oregon country, where he remained until 1813. After Astoria was sold, Farnham was picked to carry the company's records and \$40,000 in cash back to Astor. He sailed in a company ship from Astoria to Kamchatka, Siberia. From there he set out, alone and on foot, for Europe. While in Russia, he suffered greatly from cold and



Stephen Sumner Phelps



Russel Farnham

hunger, and at one point, to prevent starvation, was forced to cut off the tops of his boots and eat them. After almost three years he reached Copenhagen, from where he departed for America, eventually delivering the papers and money to his employer.

When the Fur Company was reorganized in 1817, Farnham became supervisor of the Mississippi trade and later was the first Fur Company employee to engage in trading in the Missouri River region. In 1824, Farnham joined forces with an independent trader, George Davenport, and the two traded with the Sauk and Fox Indians for a number of years. Farnham died at St Louis in 1832, a victim of the terrible cholera epidemic which swept the frontier in that year.

George Davenport was born in England in 1783. A sailor, he came with his ship to the United States in 1804. While trying to rescue a drowning shipmate, he broke his leg, and his ship sailed without him. After his recovery, he enlisted in the American Army. Discharged in 1815, he went the following year to the newly built Fort Armstrong on Rock Island. He then began trading with the Indians there and at Fever River (Galena) and built up a successful business. In 1824, he became a partner of Russel Farnham and joined the American Fur Company. A year later Davenport was appointed postmaster at Rock Island. Ten years

later he helped found the city of Davenport, Iowa, which was named in his honor. On July 4, 1845, Davenport was murdered by robbers in his home, which is still standing on Rock Island.

Stephen Sumner Phelps belonged to a large family of Indian traders. Born in Palmyra, New York, in 1805, Phelps came to Illinois at the age of fifteen, settling in Sangamon County, then moving to Fulton County in 1824 or 1825. He mined lead in the Galena region and, in 1828, established a trading post at Oquawka. He and his two brothers became members of the American Fur Company in 1833 and continued trading with the Indians until 1849. Among other accomplishments in his varied career, Phelps served as Henderson County's first sheriff and, along with his brothers, laid out the town of Oquawka. He died in 1880.

John Harris Kinzie became acquainted early in life with the fur-trading business. The son of John Kinzie, Chicago pioneer and fur trader, young John was apprenticed as a clerk at the age of fifteen to the American Fur Company at Mackinac. Five years later he went to Prairie du Chien (Wisconsin) in order to learn the Winnebago language. In 1826 he became private secretary to Lewis Cass, then governor of Michigan Territory, and in December, 1828, Kinzie was appointed Indian subagent at Fort Winnebago. In 1833 he left this post to move

to Chicago, where lands owned by his family were becoming valuable. He was the first president of the village of Chicago and later held several offices for the federal government.

Another of the many New Englanders who made their way to Illinois was Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard, who was born in Vermont in 1802. He first went to work for the American Fur Company at the age of sixteen, accompanying the *voyageurs* on their journeys to the backwoods in search of fur. In 1823 the company appointed him to a trading post along the Iroquois River. Eventually he became superintendent of all Fur Company posts in Illinois. In 1827, he moved to Danville and set up a line of trading posts that reached from the Chicago area almost to the mouth of the Wabash River. In 1828, Hubbard bought out all of the Fur Company's interests in Illinois. Hubbard was elected to the Illinois legislature in 1832, and two years later, he gave up the

fur trade entirely. He then moved to Chicago where he became a prominent businessman, heading a successful meat-packing business and a Great Lakes transportation company, and speculating in land. He was highly influential in locating the terminus of the Illinois and Michigan Canal at Chicago, thereby insuring the city's development as a commercial and transportation center.

Joseph Ogee, whose place and date of birth are unknown, was a Canadian half-breed. In the 1820's and early 1830's he served as an agent of the American Fur Company in central Illinois. He was also interpreter at the Indian subagency at Peoria until 1828, when he moved to Rock River and operated a ferry near the present site of Dixon, Illinois. In 1830 Ogee leased the ferry to John Dixon, who bought it two years later. Since at this point Ogee disappears from recorded history, it is believed that he died shortly afterward.

The Decline of the French Fur Trade

BY DAVID MEYER

Abbott Junior High School, Elgin

THE FRENCH in Illinois early built up a profitable fur trade with the Indians. The furs of small animals, especially beaver, were much in demand in Europe. After the French and Indian War, the English gained control of Illinois and continued to trade for furs with the Indians.

Then, in 1784, a year after the close of the Revolutionary War, the United States took possession of the Illinois country. Soon a law was passed providing that individuals had to obtain a license from the government before they were allowed to trade in the area. But the French-Canadian traders continued to trade with the Indians and made such good profits that the United States government passed another law stating that no foreigner could trade with the Indians on American soil. This angered the French traders, so they joined forces with an American fur trader, John Jacob Astor, who

was then trading with the Iroquois tribes of upper New York.

The United States government later built trading posts, among them ones at the Straits of Mackinac, Fort Dearborn, and Green Bay. These posts did not have as much business as the government hoped they would, because the Indians continued to trade with small private companies and did not go to the government posts.

Gradually, the French traders sold out to John Jacob Astor, who then organized the American Fur Company, which eventually controlled the fur trade in Illinois. With the beginning of farming in Illinois, fur-bearing animals either left or were killed off to such an extent that large-scale fur trading could no longer be carried on profitably.—[From Edward F. Dunne, *Illinois: The Heart of the Nation*, Vol. 1, pp. 209-11.]

AN ILLINOIS FUR TRADER



A French Trader

When two people visit an historic site, they very often come away with different impressions. After two Illinois students visited the site of an old trading post, they were inspired to write these two very different articles.

A FRENCH TRADING POST

BY DAVID POOLE

Polo Community High School

THIS SPRING I visited the site of Pierre La Sallier's trading post. It is located about six or seven miles northeast of Dixon, Illinois, and about one-half mile west of Rock River on a high knoll overlooking Franklin Creek.

I could see the indentations in the ground where La Sallier's cabin and storage houses stood. They were built at a point where two Indian trails crossed. Looking down the creek, I could imagine how the Indians had paddled their canoes from Rock River up Franklin Creek to the foot of the hill and had climbed the path to La Sallier's cabin to trade furs for supplies.

La Sallier was a Frenchman. He built his cabin and operated a trading post on Rock River from about 1800 to 1830. After arriving in this vicinity, he married an Indian maiden.

Their daughter married a half-breed, Joe Ogee. From 1828 to 1830, Ogee operated the first ferry across Rock River. This ferry was located where the city of Dixon now stands. In 1830, he leased this ferry to John Dixon, who bought it in 1832.

Before the white man came, the Indians made their weapons and tools out of wood, stone, and bone. The advent of the white fur trader changed the Indians' way of life. They then traded their accumulation of furs for rifles and ammunition, tools, cloth, and trinkets. Most traders also kept whisky to trade. Usually, when the Indians got a taste of whisky, they wanted more and more. Some dishonest traders would give small amounts of whisky for many furs. It was not uncommon for the traders to make as much as 400 per cent profit. As a gen-

eral rule, the Frenchmen were fair traders. We know that the Indians must have liked Pierre La Sallier, because he lived among them for thirty years.

When La Sallier needed supplies and had a quantity of furs to trade, it was necessary for him to go to a supply depot. Probably he took his furs on a boat down Rock River to the Mississippi, and up the Mississippi to Prairie du Chien (Wisconsin), where there was a large trading station. From there, the furs were taken up the Wisconsin River, portaged across to the Fox River, and then transported down the Fox to Green Bay. From there, they were sent to Mackinac Island and from there to Europe.

Edward L. Burchard states that the furs arriving at Mackinac Island in one season from the stations along the Illinois River were as follows: 300 bear skins, 10,000 deer, 3,500 muskrats, 100 mink, 10,000 raccoon, 400 otter,

500 cat and fox, and 300 pounds of beaver skins. The total value of these furs was \$24,000, and the amount of goods traded to the Indians in return was \$18,000. I like to think that some of La Sallier's furs were included in this list and that previous to shipping, they were stored near where I stood.

If Pierre La Sallier could come back to the site of his trading post, I wonder what he would think. Instead of canoes loaded with furs on Rock River, he would hear the hum of motorboats; and replacing the Indian travois, he would hear the roar of the interstate transport trucks on the nearby highway.—[From C. W. Alvord, *The Illinois Country, 1673-1818; Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, January, 1925, p. 576 and October, 1937, pp. 345-52, 394-96; Nehemiah Matson, *French and Indians of Illinois River*; Frank E. Stevens, *History of Lee County, Illinois.*]

PIERRE LA SALLIER

BY PERRY DUIS

Sterling High School

ON A LONELY BLUFF overlooking Franklin Creek in northern Lee County are a few traces of an early fur-trading post that stood there about 140 years ago. There is a stone along the road a short distance away—



It cannot be determined exactly when La Sallier came to the Rock River Valley. It is believed, however, that he traded in the area from Prairie du Chien to Milwaukee and Chicago in his younger days. About the first actual written mention of him is found in several letters, dating from 1813 to 1815, exchanged by Robert Dickson and John Lawe. In these letters he is mentioned as being "an excellent hand at the great guns." The records of the American Fur Company list him on the employment rolls during part of 1817-18, but they do not state where his cabin was located, although his trading territory was from Mackinac to Muskegon in Michigan.

The next and most important mention of our subject finds him on Rock River in 1822. In that year he housed the small expedition led by James Watson Webb, who was sent from Fort

Dearborn to Fort Armstrong (on Rock Island) to get aid for Fort Snelling in Minnesota, which was threatened with an impending Indian attack. Toward the end of the fifth day of travel, Webb and his party come upon La Sallier's cabin. Once inside, they were directed to the loft in great silence. The horrifying sound of an Indian war dance was heard a few minutes later, after which silence followed. Then La Sallier, whose head was "whitened by the snows of eighty winters," explained the reason for the dance. Two Winnebago who had escaped from prison, where they were being held for execution for the death of a soldier, had come to join their tribe. When Webb asked for a guide to take his party across the "Great Prairie" to the Mississippi, La Sallier pointed out that with the below-zero temperatures and the lack of firewood, they would freeze to death. The old man left again but returned soon with an old Winnebago, who tried to pry into the real reason of Webb's expedition but also pointed out that he was a friend of the whites. Early in the morning Webb left with his men and crossed the prairie. The exciting account of Webb's journey can be found in his book *Altowan*, published in 1846.

The renown of La Sallier as a guide must have been widespread, because very soon afterward (1823) he served as guide for a party of men, led by Major Stephen H. Long, from Chicago to Galena and then to Prairie du Chien. La Sallier was chosen because "he had lived over thirty years with the Indians, had taken an . . . [Indian] wife, and settled on the head-waters of the Rock River."

It is not known when La Sallier died or where he was buried, but perhaps he died at the cabin and was buried in one of the numerous graves located nearby. The site he chose for his cabin was an ideal one for that of a fur trader for several reasons. It is thought that two trails crossed there, which would make that a good location for a post. Also, nearby Franklin Creek leads to the Rock River. This would mean direct access to a good water route into Wisconsin. The area was rich with many kinds of fur-bearing animals. It is believed that La Sallier's post was the first between Chicago



The raccoon is highly prized as game.

(Fort Dearborn) and the Mississippi (Fort Armstrong).

In 1835, Joseph Crawford, an early citizen of Lee County, came upon the rotted ruin of the cabin, but nothing much was thought about it until Rufus Blanchard located it on his *Historical Map of Illinois* some years later. When the site was platted and excavated in 1936, it was found to have been a double cabin, and in one of the twenty graves, a piece of human bone was found. It was thought that one of the larger depressions in the ground was made by the fur press, which forced the furs tightly together for shipping.

Pierre La Sallier did not play a spectacular part in American history, but he was one of the many early Frenchmen who helped make Illinois what it is today.—[From William D. Barge, *Early Lee County*, pp. 1-10; Rufus Blanchard, *Historical Map of Illinois*; Frank E. Stevens, "Pierre La Sallier" in *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, Vol. 30, pp. 345-52; James Watson Webb, *Journey Across Illinois in 1822.*]



J. Connolly—

The mink is the most prized individual Illinois fur bearer.

The Illinois

BY CARL O. MOHR

Illinois Natural History Survey

THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT reasons for trapping and hunting fur-bearing animals in Illinois are sport and income from sale of the furs taken. The sporting aspects particularly have increased in later years as the cash value of the pelts has declined. As Illinois has become more heavily populated and increasingly urbanized, three factors—the opportunity to be active out of doors, the excitement of the chase, and the pleasure in the companionship of dogs—have kept men in pursuit of fur bearers during recent years.

The last inventory and survey of our fur resources, made in 1939, indicated that about 27,000 persons annually took fur bearers either by trapping or hunting; of this number, 9,400 are estimated to have been hunters only. This amounts to an average of about 260 hunters and trappers to each county, although, of course, there were actually very few in some counties and many more than 260 in others.

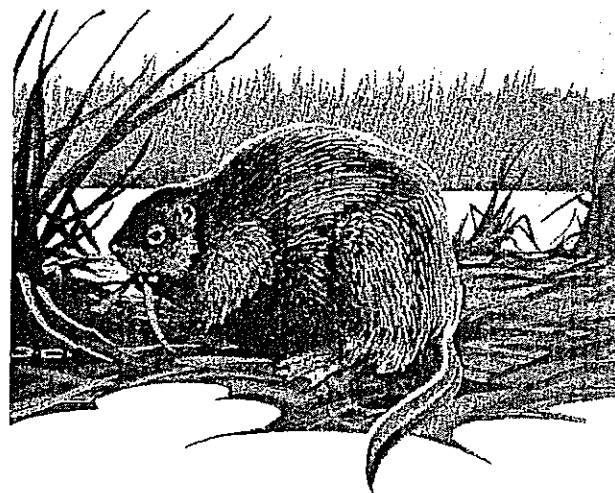
The annual income to Illinois trappers and hunters from the sale of fur pelts amounted to an average of \$1,202,000 during the trapping seasons of 1938–39 and 1939–40. Muskrats led all other fur bearers as income-producers, giving about 47 per cent of the total income to fur trappers and hunters. Minks held second place, yielding about 29 per cent of the total income, while raccoons were third in importance, producing about 10 per cent. The sale of skunk, opossum, weasel, gray fox, and red fox pelts accounted for the remainder. Badgers and coyotes were trapped only rarely.

The kinds of animals caught during the period 1935–41 varied greatly in the different parts of Illinois. The most common catch in a majority of Illinois counties was muskrats, but opossums were the leading catch in some. Most of the muskrats were caught in Lake and McHenry counties in northeastern Illinois and in Bureau, Stark, and Putnam counties along the Illinois River, whereas most of the

Fur Trade Today

AND GLEN C. SANDERSON

*Illinois Natural History Survey and
Illinois Department of Conservation*



The muskrat is the most frequently caught Illinois fur bearer.

raccoons and opossums were caught in the wooded counties of southern and western Illinois. Minks frequently held second place in northeastern counties, but opossums, and sometimes skunks, were second in most other areas. Raccoons frequently held fourth place.

Since World War II, the price of skunk, fox, and opossum furs has fallen so low that few pelts of these animals are sold, even though skunks and opossums are sometimes accidentally caught by trappers who are trying to catch other fur bearers. Raccoons are reported in greater numbers than formerly. Because they are more numerous today than in the 1930's, raccoons are easier to catch, but probably they are not so numerous as opossums even now.

A recent study in central Illinois shows that "live trapping" produces about three times as many opossums as raccoons. Because opossums are easier to catch than raccoons, this figure does not reflect the exact proportion of each species present in the state.

About 7,300 persons bought licenses to trap fur bearers during the 1956-57 season, and probably as many more trapped on their own land without licenses, making a total of about 14,000. Many more took raccoons and foxes under hunting licenses. Thus the total number of individuals who hunted or trapped fur bearers was probably above 21,000, or about 200 per county.

The last tally of the Natural History Survey, that for the 1956-57 fur-hunting and trapping season, indicates that an increasing percentage of trappers are reporting muskrats nowadays. More than 90 per cent of the trappers reported taking them in 1956-57, whereas during the 1929-30 season, only 54 per cent took muskrats. The average catch also went up from only five per effective trapper¹ in the earlier year to forty-eight in 1956-57. Acceptable muskrat furs sold for about ninety cents apiece during the 1956-57 season.

About 60 per cent of the trappers reported catching raccoons during the 1956-57 season, and the average catch of this 60 per cent was more than seven each. The average acceptable pelt sold for about one dollar. Perhaps 80,000 raccoons per year have been caught and sold in Illinois during the last half-dozen years.

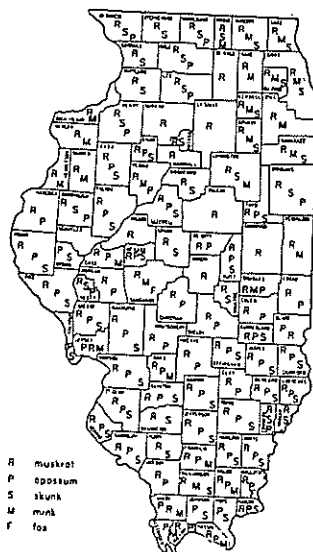
Mink pelts bring the highest price of Illinois furs; they sold for about twelve dollars each during the 1956-57 season. Because of this high market value, the animals are much sought after, and, from 1929 onward, about half of the state's trappers have reported catching them. The average effective mink trapper took three or four animals per year. The mink population seems to be holding its own.

In the past few seasons, about 12 per cent of the trappers reported catching foxes. Each trapper averaged a catch of six pelts. Since fox pelts are practically worthless on the market, hunters took the animals largely for the pleasure of outwitting them and to prevent the damage they do to chicken flocks.

It is difficult to determine the exact number of animals taken each year for the fur trade in Illinois, but it is apparent that the trapping of muskrats and minks is still profitable, and that raccoon and fox hunting is highly popular. The muskrat is king of the Illinois fur bearers as an income-producer, while the mink is the most prized individual fur bearer, and the raccoon and red fox are the most prized as game.

During recent years fur pelts have been marketed through approximately 110 retail and thirty wholesale fur buyers, some of whom bought and sold more than 30,000 muskrat and several hundred mink pelts annually. Moreover, raccoon, opossum, and, to a lesser extent, muskrat carcasses are commonly sold for food in big-city markets, with raccoons being especially prized.

¹ An effective trapper is one who caught one or more of the particular fur-bearer species being discussed. In this case, for example, the 54 per cent of trappers who caught muskrats were effective muskrat trappers, and they averaged a catch of forty-eight muskrats.



Fur bearers listed in the order in which they were most frequently taken by hunters and trappers from 1929 through 1935. This represents the approximate relative abundance of the animals in each county. Where only one or two fur bearers are listed in a county, there were no clear second and third positions.

WHEN THE FIRST Europeans came to the territory which is now known as Illinois in the seventeenth century, they found a country which abounded in all types of natural furs. The most important Indians in the region were the confederacy known as the Illinois or Illiniwek, for which our state was named. The traders soon discovered that these Indians would willingly exchange skins for gunpowder, knives, provisions, and other articles.

The fur traders were particularly interested in the beaver robes owned by the Indians. The robes which had been worn a great deal were called "full greased" robes, because they had been made supple and soft by long wear and had been greased to a beautiful sheen by the oil of the Indians' bodies. "Half greased" robes were those which had been worn only a few times, while the new ones had not been worn at all. They brought the lowest price, while those robes that had been much worn were highly sought by the traders.

Two explorers, Jolliet and Marquette, went down the Mississippi River in 1673 to the Arkansas River and then returned up the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan by different connecting rivers, including the Illinois River. Their tales of the animals and birds to be found in the region inspired French trappers and traders to go to the territory, and consequently France came to enjoy a profitable fur trade in Illinois. However, in the 1700's her fur-trading activities were slowed down.

A trading settlement was established at Starved Rock in 1682 by Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle. Ten years later, this post was moved to Lake Peoria. In 1703, the important French-Indian settlement at Kaskaskia was set up; it became one of the most important posts in the area.

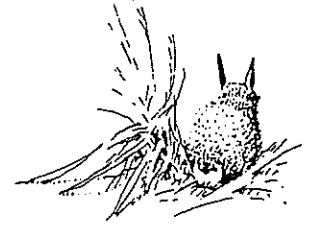
Many of the trails followed by the traders led overland from Quebec and Montreal. Other traders came up the river from New Orleans. At Mackinac in Michigan, John Jacob Astor many years later established a fur office which received pelts from Illinois as well as from other areas.

Because the French were the first to carry on much fur trading with the Indians, they enjoyed a new means of wealth for some time. However, the bitter competition which later grew up between French and British fur traders was one of the great causes of the French and Indian War (1754-63).—[From Stuart Cuthbertson and John C. Ewers, *A Preliminary Bibliography on the American Fur Trade*; Marcus Petersen, *The Fur Trader and Fur Bearing Animals*; Lee E. Yeager, *A Contribution Toward a Bibliography on North American Fur Animals*.]

Wanted: Full Greased Robes

BY JANET MARSHALL

Washington School, Dixon



Frontier Finance

IN 1831, the United States Senate requested the President to submit a report on the fur trade. To gather the necessary information for the report, fur traders and Indian agents throughout the West were asked to report on their operations. Their replies were sent to the Secretary of War, Lewis Cass, who was in charge of Indian affairs, and then forwarded to President Andrew Jackson for submission to the Senate. The entire report subsequently was printed as Senate Document 90 of the Twenty-second Congress, First Session.

Thomas Forsyth (1771–1833) was appointed agent for the Sauk and Fox Indians in 1819 and remained in that post until 1830. The responsibilities of Indian agents were many. As official representatives of the United States government, the agents distributed presents and yearly payments promised by treaties, arranged councils between conflicting tribes, and tried to prevent fighting between Indians and whites. A portion of Forsyth's letter to the Secretary of War, written at St. Louis, October 24, 1831, describes the operation of the fur trade. As you can see, the trade was based on a credit system. The spelling is modernized and explanatory material is in brackets. Where you see several dots, a part of the text has been omitted:

"The American Fur Company bring on their goods annually, in the spring season, to this city from New York, which are then sent up the Missouri River to the different posts in a small steamboat. At these places, the furs are received on board and brought down to St.

Louis, where they are opened, counted, weighed, repacked, and shipped by steamboats to New Orleans; thence, on board . . . vessels to New York, where the furs are unpacked, made up into bales, and sent to the best markets in Europe, except some of the finest (particularly otter skins), which are sent to China.

"By the time that the Indians have gathered their corn, the traders are prepared with their goods to give credit to the Indians. The articles of merchandise which the traders take with them to the Indian country are as follows: blankets, . . . common blue . . . [and] red stroud, blue cloth, scarlet cloth, calicoes, domestic cottons, rifle[s] and shotguns, gunpowder, flints, and lead; knives of different kinds; looking glasses, vermilion, verdigris [red and green pigments which the Indians used]; copper, brass, and tin kettles; beaver and muskrat traps; fine and common bridles and spurs; silver works, needles and thread, wampum, horses, tomahawks, and . . . axes, etc.

"All traders at the present day give credits to the Indians in the same manner as has been the case for the last sixty or eighty years; that is . . . the articles which are passed on credit are given at very high prices.

"The following are the prices charged for some articles given on credit to the Indians (Sauk and Fox), whose present population exceed six thousand souls, and who are compelled to take the goods of the traders at . . . very high prices, because they cannot do without them; for if the traders do not supply their necessary wants and enable them to support

themselves, they would literally starve.

"An Indian takes on credit from a trader in the autumn:

A three-point [standard size] blanket at	\$10
A rifle gun at	30
A pound of powder	4
Total Indian dollars	44
[The trader buys the same goods at:]	
1 blanket at 100 per cent is equal to	\$ 3.52
A rifle gun costs in this place, from	\$12 to 13.00
1 lb. of powder	.20
	\$16.72
Add 25 per cent for expenses	4.18
	\$20.90

. . . . But it must be here observed that the trader takes, for a dollar, a large buckskin, which may weigh six pounds; or two doeskins, [or] four muskrats, [or] four or five raccoons; or, he allows the Indian three dollars for an otter skin, or two dollars per pound for beaver.

"After all the trade is over in the spring, it is found that some of the Indians have paid all for which they were credited; others, one-half, one-third, one-fourth, and some nothing at all; but, taken altogether, the trader has received, on an average, one-half of the whole amount of Indian dollars for which he gave credit the preceding autumn, and calls it a tolerable business; that is, if the furs bear a good price, the trader loses nothing; but, if any fall in the price takes place, he loses money."

George Davenport and Russel Farnham,

whose stories appear on pages 58-59, traded with the Sauk and Fox for many years. In this portion of their report to the Secretary of War, November 22, 1831, the traders describe their dealings with the Indians:

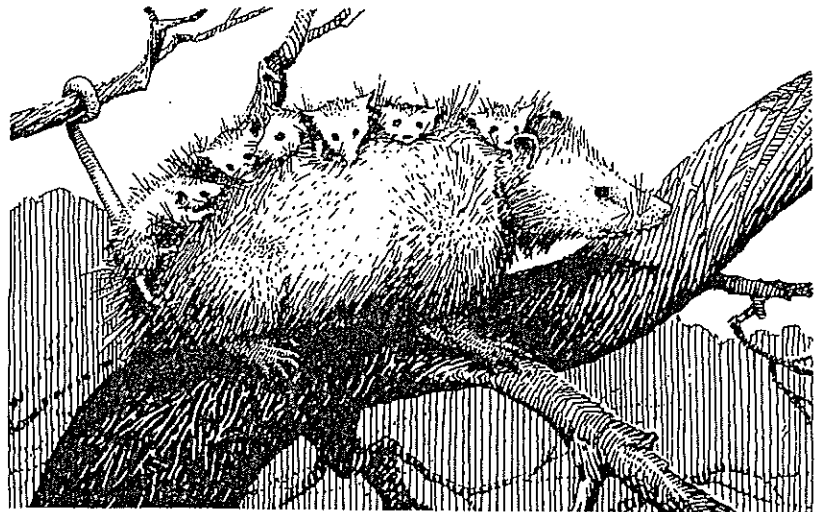
"The trade at these posts has been transacted by ourselves for the last seven years, and we have employed a capital of from thirty-three thousand to sixty thousand dollars per annum, embracing the expense of clerks, traders, and common hands.

"Most of our sales have been on . . . credit to . . . [the] Indians in the fall of the year . . . [to enable] them to make a hunt and support their families. On prominent articles such as blankets, strouds, etc., we have charged an advance of 25 to 50 per cent . . . and when goods have been sold for prompt pay, they have not averaged us more than 12½ to 25 per cent [profit]. These prices relate to the Sauk and Fox. The prices charged the Ioway have been higher, because they have seldom paid more than fifty cents on the dollar of their credits, and frequently nothing at all:

"The articles received from the Indians in exchange for our goods . . . [include] beaver, muskrat, raccoon, deer, and otter with some . . . other kinds of skins, few in quantity and of minor importance. The value of these articles always depends on the demand in our eastern markets, which are regulated by foreign markets.

"The Sauk and Fox nations furnish about six hundred hunters, and there are from three to four hundred families dependent on these hunters for the necessaries of life; and the former are dependent on the trader to supply him the means of sustaining the latter.

The opossum is frequently trapped throughout Illinois.



"The parties destined for the trade in the interior part of the country depart for their posts in the month of September and return in the month of April following, with the proceeds of the trade.

"We have from time to time [received] from the Indians as provisions, venison, bear, and turkeys' meat as they have it to spare.

"In conclusion, we would remark that the Indians we trade with live on the western borders of the Mississippi River, and the eastern border being settled with whites, communication . . . [between them] is easy, and

very often . . . [has been] to the detriment of these Indians. When we first knew them, they were sober and industrious. Now, in consequence of the ease with which they acquire ardent spirits, from their contiguity to the whites, they have, in many instances, become drunken and worthless. We would . . . suggest the propriety of removing them into the interior, by purchase of their lands, to such distance as would prevent such frequent communication with the white inhabitants to whom they part with not only their arms and ammunition, but even their clothing, for strong drink."

Trial of Time

BY LYNN HEY

Washington School, Dixon

THE ROCK RIVER country in Illinois offered many inducements for prospective fur traders a century and a half ago. At Grand Detour, the Rock River, as though reluctant to leave the beautiful surrounding country, returns for one last glimpse of the countryside before continuing its tortuous way to the Mississippi.

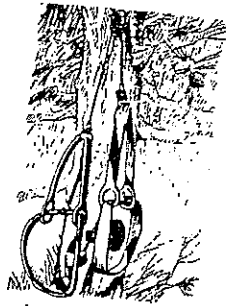
Arrowheads and flints have been found which indicate that there was an Indian village located north of the Rock River a little west of Grand Detour. The Indians took advantage of the wealth to be gained from furs and trapped the animals where they were found in abundance. In exchange for food, blankets, powder, bullets, and shot from the whites, the Indians promised to deliver skins. The Indians were generally honest, and the early fur traders had great trust in them. John Dixon, founder of Dixon, the county seat of Lee County, once stated that "the only money he lost by trusting an Indian" was the result of a hunting accident in which the Indian was killed.

In the *Personal Narrative of Captain Thomas G. Anderson*, the author speaks of having a trading post on the Rock River in 1802 and 1803. After spending the winter there with the Winnebago, he said that they were "the most filthy, most obstinate, and the bravest people of any Indian tribe I have met." But his description of the site led historians to believe that the post was not actually at Grand Detour, but in the vicinity of Grand Detour. Near the post were two houses about a half-mile apart; one was owned by Anderson's rival, a half-breed, and the other by Anderson himself. The homes were located on either side of a hill rising about three hundred feet above the water.

John Kinzie, the founder of Chicago, also established posts on the Rock River, to trade with the Potawatomi and Winnebago, sometime after 1804. But in later years the fur traders were replaced by farmers as the Rock River Valley was quickly populated by immigrants from all nations.—[From William D. Barge, *Early Lee County*.]



DID YOU KNOW THAT in the United States today . . . there are two million trappers—or one out of every 87 Americans . . . these trappers and the fur farmers produce twenty to thirty million pelts annually . . . transactions in the fur business in 1957 totaled about one billion dollars?



FUN WITH THE FUR TRADERS

Daugherty, James. *Trappers and Traders of the Far West*. New York, Random House, 1952. This "Landmark" book tells an exciting tale of the men who were the first to go west.

DeVoto, Bernard. *Across the Wide Missouri*. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1947. Beautifully written, this is the story of the famous mountain men who engaged in the fur trade in the 1830's.

Dorian, Edith and Wilson, W. N. *Trails West and Men Who Made Them*. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1954. For younger readers is this book which tells the story of westward expansion along such famous trails as the Wilderness Road and the Natchez Trace.

Hubbard, Gurdon S. *The Autobiography of Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard*. Chicago, The Lakeside Press, 1911. The fabulous career of Gurdon S. Hubbard, fur trader, legislator, businessman, and philanthropist is told in his own words.

Kelsey, Vera. *Young Men So Daring; Fur Traders Who Carried the Frontier West*. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1956. For junior high school readers is this story of four young men—Peter Pond, Manuel Lisa, John Jacob Astor, and Jim Bridger—who were among the first fur traders in the Far West.

Kinzie, Mrs. John H. *Wau-Bun; The Early Day in the North-West*. Chicago, The Lakeside Press, 1932. The wife of a fur trader and daughter-in-law of Chicago's first permanent white settler, Mrs. Kinzie's adventures in the pioneer days of the Old Northwest make fascinating reading.

MacKay, Douglas. *The Honorable Company; A History of the Hudson's Bay Company*. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1936. This book, written for the general reader, is full of lively, adventurous history from the days of the swash-buckling French *voyageurs* to the present.

Nute, Grace Lee. *The Voyageur*. St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, Reprint Ed., 1955. This book might be termed a collective biography, for it is the story of all *voyageurs*, not just one.

Skinner, Constance L. *Beaver, Kings, and Cabins*. New York, Macmillan Co., 1933. This is the story of the early colonial fur traders, French and British, and of their rivalry over control of the fur trade.

Wise, Winifred E. *Swift Walker; A True Story of the American Fur Trade*. New York, Harcourt, Brace, & Co., 1937. This biography of Gurdon S. Hubbard takes its name from the nickname given the famous trader by the Indians.

FUR TRADE QUIZ

HOW WELL DO YOU READ? Counting ten for each of your correct answers, a score of 90-100 is excellent, 80 is good, and 70 is fair. A score of 60 or below means you had better read more carefully! The answers are on the Director's Page, but don't look until you have completed the quiz.

- A. *True-False*. Tell if the following sentences are true or false.
1. Illinois hunters and trappers now get most of their income from the sale of mink pelts.
 2. The most common fur bearer caught in a majority of Illinois counties is the muskrat.
 3. The government-operated factories manufactured calico to sell to the Indians.
 4. In the 1820's, the fur trade in Illinois was

5. In 1831, Indian affairs were the responsibility of the Secretary of War.
- B. *Matching*. Below are two lists, one of fur traders and one describing them. Can you match the person with the right description?
- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| a. John Jacob Astor | f. Became a prominent Chicago businessman |
| b. George Davenport | g. Founder of the American Fur Company |
| c. Russel Farnham | h. Operated a ferry at Dixon |
| d. Gurdon S. Hubbard | i. Traveled on foot across Siberia |
| e. Joseph Ogee | j. Murdered in his home by robbers |

