of Paris in 1763. The charter recognized the facts, and therefore provided that the Hudson’s Bay Company was not to interfere with the trading posts already in the country in the actual possession of "the subjects of any other Christian prince or state."

Hence it was that the Verendryes, La France, and other French subjects acting under the French authority, visited Lake Winnipeg and the Red River and made establishments long before the English came. How far they ascended the Red River, if they ever ascended it at all, or what they did, if anything, in the Polk County country, is unknown to the present writer, and it seems now that it is too late to inquire into the subject. There is no known record of the French exploitation of this district beyond what has been noted, and it is not probable that the operations connected therewith were of much importance or there would be such a record.

Moreover, it was many years after the Hudson’s Bay Company began operations when its agents began to operate in the Red River region. We only have disconnected accounts of the presence of these traders in the country, and these accounts refer to only the latter part of the XVIII Century.

**DUNCAN GRAHAM AT GRAND FORKS.**

The first engagee of the Hudson’s Bay Company to ascend the Red River, so far as the present writer is informed, was a young Scotchman named Duncan Graham. He came to Winnipeg and the Red River some time during the last half of the XVIII Century. A fairly reliable biographical sketch of the young trader was published in the Minnesota Pioneer of April 15, 1851, over the signature of "F." The author was probably Dr. Thomas Foster, a prominent pioneer newspaper man and a noted writer on Minnesota early history. In this article it is stated that some time prior to the year 1800 Duncan Graham was "connected with a trading post of the Hudson’s Bay Company at the Grand Forks on Red River. Later he was for a long time in charge of an establishment at the place which is still called Graham’s Point, south of the Grand Forks."

On which side of the river at the Grand Forks stood the trading establishment with which Graham was connected cannot with certainty be stated. Presumably, however, it was on the Polk County side, for the Indians who were its patrons lived chiefly on that side, being the Chippewas of Red Lake and the other lakes and rivers directly east of the post. Graham had associates, of course, and he may have had predecessors, but we do not know who they were. He is the first white man whose identity has been clearly determined that established himself within what is now Polk County. A sketch of him seems proper in this connection.

Captain Duncan Graham was a native of the Highlands of Scotland, and a member of a prominent family of the region. The Clan Graham, or Graeme, is one of the most renowned in the early history of Scotland. He was not born in Edinburgh, as one account says. He was born about 1766, although there is ground for belief that his birth occurred near 1760. He came to the Northwest when a very young man, presumably in the service of the Hudson’s Bay Company. He was in the Minnesota country in the latter part of the XVIII Century.

According to the sworn testimony of Michael Brisbois (as reported in Vol. 2, Wis. Hist. Coll., p. 130), Captain Graham, James Aird, Brisbois himself, and others were traders in the Sioux country on the Minnesota in 1781. If the Captain had been born in 1766, he would have been in 1781 but 15, or too young for an Indian trader. Judge Lockwood, who was a trader at Prairie du Chien and also on the upper Minnesota, in 1816, says Graham was in the country about 1786 or 1787 (as is noted in Vol. 9, Wis. Hist. Coll., p. 467), and it is certain that he was at Mendota, the mouth of the Minnesota River, in December, 1802, for at that date he was one of the witnesses to the will of Archibald Campbell, a prominent trader, who was killed in a duel, and his will recorded at Mackinaw.

Near Mendota Captain Graham married a mixed-blood Sioux woman, a granddaughter of a noted Frenchman of the earliest times named Penichon, who