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THE EARLY OUTPOSTS OF WISCONSIN.

A Paper read before the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, December 26, 1872.

Annals of Prairie du Chien.

BY DANIEL S. DURRIE, LIBRARIAN.

The early history of this place and surrounding country, as compared with some others in this State is shrouded with uncertainty; while the section around Green Bay is known to have been inhabited by various Indian tribes as early as 1639, as ascertained by JEAN NICOLLET, who has the reputation of being the first white person who visited that region, the section of territory lying to the west and south west, was an unknown wilderness.

Father MARQUETTE is supposed to be the first white person who penetrated the territory of Wisconsin west of Green Bay. Passing up the Fox river with JOLIET, he crosses the portage of the Wisconsin, and passing down the latter stream entered the Mississippi June 17, 1673,—two hundred years ago the present year. He says "the river is narrow at the mouth of the Wisconsin, and the current slow and gentle; on the right is a considerable chain of very high mountains, (?), (Maj. PIKE says 550 feet above the water,) and on the left, very fine lands. It is, in many places, studded with islands; he found ten fathoms of water—its breadth very unequal, sometimes three-quarters of a league and sometimes narrows to three arpents or two hundred and twenty yards." He did not stop but proceeded on his journey South, and as the prairie lying above the junction of the two rivers was very probably hid by the timber on the bottoms, it is doubtful if he ascended to it. He saw no Indians in the vicinity and there was no appearance of villages or settlements. This is the first account we have of the

region known as the "Prairie du Chien country."

1680. The next explorer of Wisconsin and the upper Mississippi was Father LOUIS HENNEPIN, who accompanied LA SALLE and his party in his expedition to explore the Mississippi. He was sent up the river by LASALLE to the country of the Sioux and discovered the Falls of St. Anthony; he was taken prisoner but was afterward released by Frenchmen arrived from Canada. On his return, he stopped near the mouth of the Wisconsin to smoke some meat, probably not far from the present city. He found no Indians living there, nor any traders. He then passed up the Wisconsin for Green Bay.

1681-89. The exact time at which a military post was established at Prairie du Chien, has been the subject of much speculation, some putting it as late as 1775, while it is stated in a report of a committee of Congress, to have occurred in 1755, which was the year following the reconciliation of the French and Sacs and Foxes. The latter date may be the correct one, as the French surrendered Canada to the English in 1760; but it is very evident that there must have been a post at a much earlier date, at or near the Prairie. The evidence of this early occupation is found in the official document of the taking possession of the Mississippi Valley in the name of the French King, by "NICHOLAS PERROT, commanding at the post of the Naudouesioux" at the post of St. Anthony, May 8, 1689, "to which documents

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among the names of witnesses was Mons. DE BORN-GUILLOT, commanding the French in the neighborhood of Oniskonche, on the Mississippi. No more suitable place could have been selected for a military post than Prairie du Chien, and from all the information thus far obtained, its location must be conceded as an established fact. Judge GEO. GALE in his work on the Upper Mississippi, says, "We may safely infer that the country about Prairie du Chien was occupied as a French post at least as early as April 20, 1689, and possibly the previous fall."

In the year 1683, PERROT visited the Iowa and Dakota Indians, to establish friendly alliances. The discovery of the lead mines on Des Moines and Fevre rivers is attributed to him.

Baron LA MONTAN is the next person who visited Wisconsin and published an account of his travels. He followed the route of MARQUETTE, and on the 23d October, 1689, arrived, as he says, "where the Wisconsin enters the Mississippi, which is about half a league wide at that place." He observed two islands, on one of which he landed—saw no signs of Indians—passed up the Mississippi and made some discoveries. His statements about the upper country and HENNEPINS' account of his journey south, are not regarded with favor by historians, and cannot be regarded trustworthy.

1693-1700. In the spring of 1693 LE SEUER came for the first time to the Mississippi by way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, to go to the country of the Sioux, where he lived at different times for seven years, and on Sept. 1, 1700, he passed up the Mississippi to St. Peters river, and returned with 2,000 quintals of blue and green earth.

1700-1730. There are no records of travelers or of any settlement at the Prairie until the year 1726, when, says Rev. Dr. A. BRUNSON, a man of the name of CARDINELL came to the country as a hunter and trapper, and located here. He came from Canada with his wife, who is supposed to be the first white woman in this section. He probably came to Green Bay with the French troops to punish the refractory Foxes, for their insolence and cruelty, and hearing from the traders of the rich hunting grounds on the Mississippi, tried his fortune in that direction, and is said to have made the first farm on the Prairie. His wife, who outlived him, and it is said a dozen other men to whom she was married, one after another, died in 1827, computed from the best data to be one hundred and thirty years of age. When she first came to the country buffaloes were very abundant. She said that in time of high water the Indians passed

with canoes along the bluffs on the east side of the Prairie.

The next settler was a man of the name of GARNIER, whose descendants still are found in the vicinity.

Father GURNAS passed down the Wisconsin in 1728, and up the Mississippi to Lake Pepin.

1730-1736. About five miles from the mouth of the Wisconsin the Outagamies had a large town on the right bank of the river. They were induced from a superstitious belief that the GREAT SPIRIT had ordered them to remove their location, to build a town on the banks of the Mississippi. This place was called by the French "La Prairie du Chien," the Dog Plain, or more properly "Les Prairie des Chien," the Dogs' Prairie. This name was derived from a large family called "Des Chiens" who formerly resided there, and in 1781 the descendants of the same family then resided at that place. Col. B. W. BRISBOIS says the name was derived from the Fox Chief ALIM, or dog, whose band occupied the Prairie when first visited by the French, that chief's name was "Dog," hence Dog's prairie or dog's meadow. CHIEN being the French of dog, turned it into Prairie du Chien.

1736-1755. In the year 1755 the government of France established a permanent military post near the mouth of the Wisconsin, in consequence of which a number of French families settled in that vicinity, and established the village of Prairie du Chien. The fort near the Wisconsin, established 1689, had evidently been abandoned sometime previous. By the Treaty of Versailles in 1763, the village and fort followed the condition of the Canadas, and the Illinois country, as it was called, passed to the Crown of England. In 1783 the events of the American Revolution again changed their condition, and June 1st, 1796, the village and fort formally surrendered to the United States.

1766. This year Capt. JONATHAN CARVER, on his way to the Upper Mississippi, followed the route of MARQUETTE and others, and entered the Mississippi on the 15th of October. About five miles from the junction of the rivers he observed the ruins of a large settlement in a very pleasing situation, evidently the town of the Outagamies. At the Prairie or the Dog Plains, he found a large town containing about 300 families. The houses are well built after the Indian manner (log cabins, covered with bark), and pleasantly situated on a very rich soil, from which they raise every necessary of life in great abundance. He saw many horses of good size and shape. The town, he says, "is the great mart where all the adjacent tribes, and even those who inhabit the

most remote branches of the Mississippi, annually assemble about the latter end of May, bringing with them their furs to dispose of to the traders. It is not always that they do so at this place. A general council of the chiefs determine whether it would be more conducive to their interest to sell their goods to the traders here, or carry them to Louisiana or Michillimackinac." He says that at the mouth of the Wisconsin stands a high mountain, (550 feet, according to PIKE), that the Mississippi is there a half a mile wide, but opposite to the prairie is more than a mile and full of islands, the soil of which is extraordinarily rich and but thinly wooded. It is singular, that when CARVER was here, he found no white inhabitants, at least he does not speak of meeting with any, although he describes the large Indian town and its commercial importance. He further remarks "that the traders who accompanied him took up their winter residence on the opposite side of the river; this they would not have done if there had been at that time a settlement of whites near the mouth of the Wisconsin. This may be accounted for by the fact that inasmuch as Canada been surrendered to England, the French had of course evacuated their fort, which tradition said was burned the second year of the American revolution.

1766-80. We find no further accounts of visits of travellers until 1780. At that date Captain J. LONG while at Mackinaw was sent by the commanding officer to accompany a party of Indians and Canadians to the Mississippi. Information had been received at Mackinaw that the Indian traders had deposited their furs at Prairie du Chien, where there was a town of considerable note, built under the command of Mons. LANGLADE, the King's interpreter, and the object of the expedition was to secure these furs and keep them from the Americans. Capt. LONG left Mackinaw with thirty-six Indians of the Outagamies and Sioux, twenty Canadians in nine large birch canoes, laden with Indian presents. The party arrived at Green Bay in four days and proceeded through the Fox and Wisconsin rivers to the forks of the Mississippi where he met two hundred of the Fox Indians, and had a feast of five Indian dogs, bear, beaver, deer, mountain cat and racoon boiled in bears' grease and mixed with huckleberries! He proceeded to Prairie du Chien where he found the merchants peltries in packs in a log-house, guarded by Capt. LANGLADE and some Indians. He took 300 packs of the best skins and filled the canoes. Sixty more were burnt to prevent the enemy (the Americans) from taking them. He then

returned to Green Bay (in seventeen days) and thence to Mackinaw.

1781. This year Lieut. Gov. PATRICK SINCLAIR, of Upper Canada, held a treaty with the Indians at Mackinaw, for the purchase of that island, Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. PIERRE LAPOINTE testified before Judge LEE, in 1820, that he was interpreter at the treaty.

1781-2. MICHAEL BRISBOIS gave evidence at the same time that he had then (1820) been 39 years in this country, consequently was a resident at this time. He also testified that from his own knowledge and the best information he could obtain, Prairie du Chien, from the mouth of the Wisconsin to the upper part of the prairie, had been occupied and cultivated in small improvements, both before and since his arrival.

1783. The present settlement was begun this year by Mr. GIARD, Mr. ANTAYA and Mr. DEBUQUE. There had formerly been an old settlement about a mile below the present village, which existed during the time the French held possession of the Canadas, but it was abandoned chiefly on account of the unhealthy situation, being near the borders of an extensive tract of overflowed land. At this time, or soon after, says Dr. BRUNSON, twenty or thirty settlers, and previous to 1793, the whole prairie had been claimed and occupied, amounting to forty-three farms and thirty or forty village lots, most or all of which had previously been built upon. This fact was established in 1823, by testimony taken before Judge LEE, who was appointed to take testimony for the Government on the private land claims of parties at the village. The greater part of the settlers came as hunters, traders or employes, and taking wives of the natives commenced farming on a small and primitive scale, cultivating the land with wooden plows, ironed at the point, while they also hunted, trapped, and voyaged as occasion required.

1784-1800. From a report made to Congress, Feb. 25, 1818, we learn that the village and fort were formally surrendered by the British to the United States, on the first day of June, 1786. Gen. W. R. SMITH thinks there is a doubt of the *formal* surrender being made at that time. The *general* surrender of all the western posts did not take place till July of that year.

In April, 1785, there was a great flood in the Mississippi; the waters rose fifteen to twenty feet above the highest mark they had ever been known to reach. The whole region of country drained by the river, presented the aspect of an im-

mense sheet of water studded with islands.

1800-1805. MICHAEL BRISBOIS became a resident in 1802, and at his death (1837) was buried on a bluff in the rear of the village. JOSEPH ROLETTE, a Canadian Frenchman, settled in 1804 and was engaged many years in the fur trade with a Mr. CANNON.

In the year 1805, Maj. Z. M. PRIKE, having been appointed to the charge of an expedition to explore the upper Mississippi, left St. Louis August 5, with a party of twenty officers and privates, in a keel boat 70 feet long.

He arrived at Prairie du Chien Sept. 4. He found Capt. FISHER in command at the Fort. He proceeded up the river and returned to this place April 18, 1806. On the 20th he made a speech to the Puants and demanded the murderers of two Americans. These the Indians promised to deliver at St. Louis, and to return all British flags and medals in their possession. The following is his description of the village: "Situated about a league from the mouth of the Wisconsin. On the east bank is a small pond or marsh which runs parallel to the river in the rear of the town, which in front of the marsh consists of 18 dwelling houses, in two streets, (near the present "Dousman House") 16 in Front street and 2 in second street. In the rear of the marsh, (east of the *Marraix de St. Ferriole*, and near Kane's Hotel.) are 8 dwelling houses; part of the houses are framed, and in place of weather boarding there are small logs let into mortices made in the up-rights joined close, daubed on the outside with clay and handsomely whitewashed within. There were 8 houses scattered around the country at a distance of 1, 2, 3 and 5 miles; making in the village and vicinity, 37 houses which at ten persons to each house would make a population of 370 souls. In the Spring and Fall owing to the concourse of traders and their engagees, there are between 500 and 600. A Fair is usually held in the Spring when 300 or 400 Indians are here to exchange peltries for goods.

He speaks of the old village which was a mile below the present one, which had existed during the French occupancy of the country. The present village was settled under the English government, and the ground purchased of the Indians. The prairie on which the village is situated is bounded on the rear by high, bald hills. While here he selected a location for a Fort.

HENRY M. FISHER, (father of Mrs. H. L. DOUSMAN) was a trader from 1805-15. He was a Captain of Militia, and Justice of the Peace. BAZIL GAGNIER, a descendant of one of the early settlers, was

born here 1801, and is still living at Mill Coulee. Mrs. GALARNEAU was born here 1798 and is still living near the city. Mrs. H. L. DOUSMAN was born in 1804 and has resided nearly all that time at this place.

1806-1815.—A trader named CAMPBELL was appointed by the government sub-Indian Agent, and by the Governor of Illinois as Justice of the Peace. His price for marrying was 100 pounds of flour, and for dissolving the same, 200 pounds.

On the 18th of June, 1812, the declaration of war against Great Britain was made by Congress. The protection of this part of our frontiers was considered of great importance to ourselves, as its possession was to the British. Early in 1814 the government authorities at St. Louis fitted out a large boat, having on board all the men that could be mustered, and dispatched it up the Mississippi to protect the upper country. This boat reached Prairie du Chien; and on its arrival the men commenced putting the old fort in a state of defense by repairing the outworks and fortifying it. Not long after taking possession, Col. McKAY, of the British army, descended the Wisconsin with a large force of British and Indians, piloted by Jos. ROLETTE, of the village. The fort was captured after a determined resistance against an overwhelming force, and the utmost exertions of Col. McKAY were required to prevent an indiscriminate massacre of the Americans by the infuriated Indians. The prisoners were finally put into a boat and sent down the river. The fort was left in command of Capt. POILMAN, with two Mackinaw companies, under Capt. ANDERSON and Lieut. D. GRAHAM. He continued in command till after the peace, which ensued the following year, when the Fort was evacuated by the British.

A more particular account of the taking of Prairie du Chien may be found in the published collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

In the year 1814 FARIBAUT, an early trader of the Upper Mississippi, was robbed of a large stock of goods at the village by the Winnebagoes. A slight earthquake was noticed this year.

Col. B. W. BRISBOIS, a son of MICHAEL BRISBOIS, was born here 1808, and is still living. He was Sheriff of Crawford county 1829-31 and 1833-35, Register of Deeds 1834-38, Supervisor 1836-38, Treasurer 1841-53 and Government Assessor 1864. He has lived to see the village grow up from a small trading post to its present importance. He has lately been appointed by President GRANT, Consul at Verriers, Belgium.

1816. After the peace of 1815, a lucrative business was carried on between the merchants of St. Louis and the traders and

Indians of the Upper Mississippi. Goods were periodically sent up to the traders, who in return transmitted by the same boats peltries and lead. In the same period between 1815 and 1820 Col. J. No. SRAW made eight trips in a trading boat between St. Louis and Prairie du Chien, and visited the lead mines, where the city of Galena now stands. At one time he carried away seventy tons of lead.

On the 21st June, 1816, U.S. troops took possession of the Fort at Prairie du Chien. Brevet Gen. SMYTHE, Colonel of the Rifle Regiment, came here in the month of June, and selected the mound where the stockade had been built and the ground in front, to include the most thickly inhabited part of the village, for a site to erect Fort Crawford. During the ensuing winter or spring of 1817, Col. TALBOT CHAMBERS arrived and assumed the command, and the houses in the village being an obstruction to the garrison, he ordered those houses in front, and about the fort (near Col. DOUSMAN'S residence) to be taken down by their owners and moved to the lower end of the village, where he pretended to give them lots.

Judge LOCKWOOD arrived here Sept. 16, 1816. He says the village at that time was a traders' village of between 25 and 30 houses, situated on the banks of the Mississippi, on what is in high water an island, now called the old village, as it was so at the time. Mr. LYONS surveyed the private land claims.

There were on the prairie at that time about forty farms cultivated along under the bluffs, and enclosed in the common field, each farm divided by a road or highway.

This year there were four companies of riflemen, under command of Brevet Maj. MORGAN, building the old fort, which was constructed by placing the walls of the quarters and store-houses on the lines, the highest outside, and the slope of the roof descending within the fort, with block houses at two corners, and large pickets on the others, so as to enclose the fort. This fort was erected on the island formed by the river and the Slough of St. Ferriole. JOHN W. JOHNSON was U. S. Factor. Col. ALEX. McNAIR, Sutler, and J. P. GATES Interpreter.

1817. Maj. S. H. LONG having made a tour to the portage of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, returned to Prairie du Chien and made a voyage to the Falls of St. Anthony, in a six-oared skiff, accompanied by a Mr. HEMPSTEAD as interpreter, and by two young men named KING and GUNN, grandsons of Capt. JONATHAN CARVER, who were going up to the Santeurs to establish their claim to lands granted by those tribes to their grandfather. The day after

his arrival, (July 23,) he examined the country to find a location better adapted for a post than the present one, but did not succeed. While here he made excursions in the surrounding country, and refers to the remains of ancient earth-works above the mouth of the Wisconsin, more numerous and of greater extent than had heretofore been noticed. On the 25th he measured and planned Fort Crawford. He says it is a square of 340 feet each side, of wood, with a magazine 12x24 of stone—that it will accommodate five companies—block houses, two stories high, with cupolas or turrets. The building of the works was commenced July 3, 1816, by troops under command of Col. HAMILTON, previous to which time no timber had been cut, or stone quarried for the purpose. He says: "Exclusive of stores, workshops and stables, the village contains only 16 dwelling houses, occupied by families. In the rear of the village about three quarters of a mile are four others, two and a half miles above are five, and at the upper end of the prairie are four, and seven or eight scattered over the prairie. So that the whole number of family dwellings now occupied does not exceed 38. The buildings are generally of logs, plastered with mud or clay, and he thinks the village and inhabitants have degenerated since PKE was here in 1805. The inhabitants are principally of French and Indian extraction. One mile back of the village is the "Grand Farm," an extensive enclosure cultivated by the settlers in common. It is about six miles in length and one quarter to one half a mile in width, surrounded by a fence on one side, and the river bluffs on the other, thus secured from the depredations of cattle. He speaks highly of Captain DUFFILEY, the commanding officer. He says of the name of the village, it derives its name from a family of Indians, formerly known by the name of "THE DOG," that the chiefs name was "The Dog." This family or band has become extinct. The following tradition concerning them came to his knowledge: "That a large party of Indians came down the Wisconsin from Green Bay; that they attacked the family or tribe of the "Dogs" and massacred almost the whole of them and returned to Green Bay; that the few who had succeeded in making their escape to the woods, returned after their enemies had evacuated the prairie, and re-established themselves in their former place of residence, and that they were the Indians inhabiting the prairie at the time it was settled by the French.

In the spring of this year, says Judge Lockwood, a Roman Catholic priest from St. Louis called PERE PRIERE visited the place. He was the first that had been here

for many years, and perhaps since the settlement, and organized the Roman Catholic Church, and disturbed some of the domestic arrangements of the inhabitants. He found several women who had left their husbands and were living with other men; these he made by the terror of his church to return and ask pardon of their husbands and to be taken back by them, which they of course, could not refuse.

The following description of the ancient mounds and fortifications found here is taken from Major LONG's journal of 1817:

"The remains of ancient works, constructed probably for military purposes, were found more numerous and of greater extent on the highlands, just above the mouth of the Wisconsin, than any of which a description has been made public, or that have as yet been discovered in the western country. There the parapets and mounds were found connected in one series of works. Whenever there was an angle in the principal lines, a mound of the largest size was erected at the angle; the parapets were terminated by mounds at each extremity, and also at the gateways. No ditch was observed on either side of the parapet. In many places the lines were composed of parapets and mounds in conjunction, the mounds being arranged along the parapets at their usual distance from each other, and operating as flank defences to the lines.

"The Indians in the vicinity of Prairie du Chien can give no account of these ancient works, and their only mode of explaining their existence is by supposing that the country was inhabited, at a period anterior to the most remote traditions, by a race of white men similar to those of European origin, and that they were cut off by their fore-fathers. It is said that tomahawks of brass and other metals, differing from those in use among the present Indians, have been found under the surface of the ground, [Keating.] And stories are told of gigantic skeletons being often disinterred in the neighborhood. Mr. BRISBOIS, who has been for a long time a resident of Prairie du Chien, informs me that he saw the skeletons of eight persons that were found in digging a cellar near his house, lying side by side. They were of gigantic size, measuring about eight feet from head to foot. He added, that he took a leg bone of one of them, and placed it by the side of his own leg, in order to compare the length of the two; the bone of the skeleton extended six inches above his knee. None of these bones could be preserved, as they crumbled to dust soon after they were exposed to the atmosphere."

1818.—In the summer of this year

WILLIAM FARNSWORTH, in company with RAMSAY CROOKES, with seventeen voyagers and three passengers, embarked from Mackinaw in a bark canoe, and passed up the lake to Green Bay, and by the Fox, Wisconsin and the Mississippi rivers to St. Louis.

Col. HICKMAN arrived with his lady at the fort, and Col. CHAMBERS returned to St. Louis.

Col. JOHN SHAW built a grist mill at Fisher's Coulee, four miles above the prairie, where the Dousman mill now stands.

Crawford county organized October 26. This county and Brown county included the whole State. The dividing line was a north and south line, running through the middle of the portage between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. Prairie du Chien made the county seat of Crawford county.

Among the arrivals during the year were Mr. NICHOLAS BOLVIN, Indian Agent and Civil Magistrate, Col. McNAIR and Maj. FOWLER.

1819.—Maj. THOS. FORSYTH, Indian Agent, made a journey from St. Louis to St. Anthony's Falls. He left St. Louis June 7, and arrived at Prairie du Chien July 5. He met here a son of RED WING with a band of followers, and KETTLE, chief of a band of Foxes.

Prairie du Chien, by common consent of the Indians, was neutral ground; so that if hostile tribes, or members of them, met upon it they were obliged to keep the peace while there; but they sometimes fought within three or four miles of it.

The old RED WING, a Sioux chief, arrived a few days after, says Capt. HICKMAN, and left on the 26th for St. Louis. On the 8th of August he set out with Col. LEAVENWORTH, with 98 soldiers, in 14 batteaux and two boats with provisions and ordnance, for St. Peter's river, for the new fort to be erected there. He says at the Prairie, flour was worth \$10 per cwt., corn \$3 per bushel, eggs \$1 per dozen, chickens \$1 per pair, and butter—none made.

J. H. LOCKWOOD took up his permanent residence in the fall of this year.

Maj. NATHAN CLARKE, of the U. S. Army, was here with his wife. Their daughter, Mrs. CHARLOTTE O. VANCELEVE, was born at Fort Crawford. He subsequently removed to Fort Snelling where he was Commissary.

Mrs. Gen. VANCELEVE is living at St. Anthony, Minn.

1820. Judge LEE came here to take testimony on the land claims of parties residing here. Crawford county this year erected a jail of hewn timber, 16x25, near the present residence of F. J. MILLER. MICHAEL BRISBOIS testified before Judge LEE that he had been 39 years in this country, and that about 18 years before

(1802), the French residents became somewhat apprehensive as to their title; which fact having been made known to the Indians, one of the first chiefs of the Fox nation, named NAN-POUTS, ratified at Cahokia, near St. Louis, an ancient sale of said Prairie to the French. Congress had ratified these claims previously. In the fall of the previous year (1819), Gov. LEWIS CASS, with consent of the Secretary of War, projected an expedition for exploring the Northwestern Territory; attached to it was H. R. SCHOOLCRAFT, the well known writer on Indian history. On the 5th of August, 1820, he arrived at Prairie du Chien from below, and where he spent a few days. He says of his visit here, "that the town is pleasantly situated on the Mississippi; has 80 buildings, including the garrison, arranged in two streets parallel with the river, with an aggregate population of 500. This is exclusive of the garrison, consisting of a company of infantry 96 strong, under command of Capt. FOWLE." He says: "The village has the old shabby look of all the antique French towns on the Mississippi; the dwellings being constructed of logs and bark, and the court-yards picketed in as if they were intended for defence. The town is called KIPSAGEE, by the Chippewas and Algonquin tribes generally, meaning the place of the jet or overflow of the (Wisconsin) river. The word appears to be based on the verb *kipa*, to be thick or turbid, and *sauge*, outflow; the river at the floods being little else than a moving mass of sand and water."

Col. SNELLING was detained here several weeks on court martial, of which he was President, and subsequently at Fort St. Anthony, afterwards changed to Fort Snelling.

On the 15th of April, three Mackinaw boats, manned with six hands each, loaded with wheat, oats and peas, under charge of Messrs GRAHAM and LAIDLAW, left Prairie du Chien for Selkirk colony, on Red River.

1821. A steamboat first made its appearance here. It was called the Virginia, and owned in St. Louis.

JAS. ROLETTE ALEXIS BAILY and a few more went on her to St. Peters or Fort Snelling. They stopped and cut wood as they needed it. J. B. TOYER went as pilot. It is said that they were all intoxicated during the trip up and back.

It was a stern wheeler, and a man with a pole was stationed on the bow to aid in steering.

The inhabitants were greatly surprised when they first saw it in the middle of the river without sail, as the keel boats always kept near the shore in ascending the river.

There is some dispute as to the year, but Col. B. W. BRISBOIS, who saw it, says it was in 1821.

The records show that ALEXIS BAILY was here April 11th, 1821. BAILY was the first man to see the boat—he procured a spy-glass of M. BRISBOIS, and thus discovered its character.

Madame BRISBOIS went on board, and remarked how strange it was that they did not have to get down into it, as in other boats she had seen.

1821. This year Lord SELKIRK purchased a number of cattle of JOSEPH ROLETTE, and hired ALEXIS BAILY, J. B. LOYER and others to drive to the Red River of the North.

LOYER was a natural pilot; and, after looking at a map of the country, proceeded west to the highlands, and by taking frequent notice of the North star, succeeded in striking within five miles of the point of destination. He was without education of any kind, but succeeded in becoming an excellent pilot for land and water. The steamboats which passed above this place in early times depended entirely upon him for a guide, and frequently were delayed here for days at a time, awaiting his arrival.

JAMES GARDEPIE, one of our best river pilots at present, is a relative of the old pilot.

1822. Col. ROBERT DICKSON, Messrs. LAIDLAW and MACKENZIE arrived here from Selkirk Settlement, on North Red river, Canada; Dr. BRUNSON thinks it was in 1821. Very high water in the Mississippi entered the parade, which it covered to the depth of three or four feet; also penetrated the officers' quarters, rendering it necessary for the garrison to remove to the higher ground back of the slough.

This year it was enacted by the Governor and Judges of the Territory of Michigan "that all the citizens of this territory, inhabitants of the borough of Prairie du Chien, be and the same are hereby ordained, constituted and declared to be from time to time forever hereafter, one body, corporate and politic, in fact and in name by the name of the "Wardens, Burgesses and Freemen of the borough of Prairie du Chien."

Some of the provisions of the law were very curious; among other things "a fine of \$2.00 was assessed for allowing a chimney to blaze out at the top; \$1 for hitching a horse to a fence; \$2 fine for white persons to be seen skulking or sneaking about after ten o'clock at night, and \$2 to \$5 for *sharriveriers*."

The borough passed and repealed by-laws for about three years, and stopped business in 1825. The first Warden was JOHN W. JOHNSON; M. BRISBOIS and

THOS. MCNAIR, Burgesses—the last were JOS. ROLETTE, Warden, M. BRISBOIS and J. H. LOCKWOOD, Burgesses.

1823. Count BELTRAMI came up the Mississippi on the steamer Virginia (118 feet long and 22 feet wide) in the month of May, and stopped at Prairie du Chien; among the passengers were Maj. BIDDLE, Mr. TALIAFERRO, and Lieut. RUSSEL.

Maj. S. H. LONG, U. S. A., made his journey up the Mississippi by order of the Government to discover the sources of St. Peter's river. His party left Philadelphia for Fort Dearborn, Chicago, and thence by land northwest through Illinois and the southwestern counties of Wisconsin to Prairie du Chien, where they arrived on June 20—found Col. MORGAN in command. The route taken from Fort Dearborn is believed to be the first that ever was taken by the whites, the journey occupied nine days, traversing 228 miles. He says that there were about twenty dwellings with a population of 150. The Fort, he says, is the rudest and most uncomfortable he had ever seen. The site is low and unpleasant. He refers to the ancient mounds in the vicinity which have been heretofore described. The party were here re-inforced, and proceeded up the river. There were but few Indians here at the time.

Hon. JAS. DUANE DOTY having been appointed Judge of the United States District Court in the northwest, repaired to Prairie du Chien, where he organized the Judiciary of Crawford county, and opened court. He intended making this place his home, but the leading Indian traders not regarding the establishment of courts within their precincts with favor, and finding a more healthy location for his family desirable, he was induced to remove to Green Bay. While here he acted as postmaster.

The *Detroit Gazette* of Oct. 17, says, "that information from *Prairie du Chien by the way of St. Louis*, states that on the day of the election for Delegate to Congress, 83 votes were polled, of which JOHN BIDDLE received 82 votes." This was before railroads and telegraph lines were established.

On the 10th day of June next, 1873, fifty years will have elapsed since the first steamer came up the Mississippi river and landed at Fort Snelling. It was the steamer *Virginia*. Mrs. General VAN CLEEVE, now residing at Minneapolis, is probably the only woman now living who witnessed the arrival of this steamer.

1824. The second steamboat arrived here (*The Putnam*) and proceeded up the river to Fort Snelling.

The County Board of Crawford county considered the propriety of erecting a

court house, but the highest tax allowed by law would only suffice for current expenses, and it was deferred.

1825. The United States Government sent Gov. CASS of Michigan, as Commissioner to this place to meet the Sioux and Chippewas, Iowas, Winnebagoes, Menomonees and Sauks and Foxes, to settle by treaty the metes and bounds of their respective lands or claims. These were established in part, leaving the Winnebagoes and Menomonees an open question for further action. The meetings were held on Aug. 1st and 19th.

The steamer *Warrior* passed up the river on the way to Fort Snelling, having as passengers, Captains DAY and BEECH, of the army, GEO. CATLIN, the Indian artist, Gen. GEO. W. JONES and others, and arrived at Fort Snelling, June 24. On the 24th, CATLIN returned to Prairie du Chien, in a canoe and spent a number of days. While here, *Wau-be-shaw's* band of Sioux came to the Prairie and remained some weeks. CATLIN painted a number of Indian portraits at this place. See his work on the American Indians.

1826. Col. HERCULES L. DOUSMAN came this year as the confidential agent of the American Fur Company, and where he continued to reside to his death, September 12, 1868.

In the month of May occurred a great flood of the Mississippi, the highest of more modern times. The water at Prairie du Chien reaching twenty-six feet above low water mark. The troops abandoned the fort and took possession of the higher ground east of the slough.

JOSEPH BRISBOIS was clerk of Crawford county from 1826 to 1832.

1827. In the fall of this year, the troops at Fort Crawford were transferred to Fort Snelling, leaving the former unfortified. Shortly after, the Winnebagoes became very insolent, and in the month of March following, attacked a camp of half breeds on the Iowa side of the river opposite Prairie du Chien and killed the whole family. A family by the name of GAGNIER living at the pond, three miles southeast of the village was murdered, a child about two years old was stunned scalped and thrown under the bed, where she was found a day or two after; she is still living near Prairie du Chien, the scalped part was never covered with hair.

Murders were frequent and the settlers were obliged to take refuge at the Fort, which was put in as good order as possible and taken possession of by them. On account of these troubles four companies left Fort Snelling August 17, under Maj. FOWLE, for Fort Crawford. Two chiefs, WEEKAN and RED BIRD surrendered, and the latter died in the fort.

A full account of the "Winnebago outbreak" as it is termed can be found in SMITH'S History of Wisconsin, and the published collections of the State Historical Society.

Judge LOCKWOOD, in the summer of 1826, built the first framed house 26x30 near the fort, which was subsequently sold to the government, and occupied by Col. Z. TAYLOR. It was afterwards removed, and a new building erected at a cost of \$7,000, for the accommodation of General BROOKE.

Col. T. L. KCKENNEY, one of the commissioners to treat with the Indians at Butte des Morts, came up the Fox and down the Wisconsin to Prairie du Chien, arriving here Sept. 3. He says: "the buildings are old and in a state of decay, only two good houses, ROLETTE'S and Judge LOCKWOOD'S, about one hundred decaying tenements, the picket fort standing on the plain a little north of the village, (where the DOUSMAN residence now stands) and quite a ruin.

1828. On the 25th of August of this year, a special term of the United States District Court was held here by Judge J. D. DOTY, for the trial of the Indians for the murders committed in June of the preceding year. On the 1st of September, CHICK-HONG-SIC, or the LITTLE BOEUF, and WA-NI-GA, or the SUN, were indicted, tried and convicted as accomplices of RED-BIRD in the murder of GAGNIER and LIPCAP; they were sentenced to be hung Dec. 26, but before that day the President's pardon, dated Nov. 3, arrived, and the two Indians were discharged. Two other Indians charged with the murder of the family of METHODE, were discharged, under a *nolle prosequi*. There can be no doubt, says Judge DOTY, that this murder was intended by the Winnebagoes as a first act of hostility in the commencement of a war upon the white population.

Gen. JOS. M. STREET, Indian Agent, and Maj. STEPHEN H. KEARNEY were in command at the fort, which was garrisoned by the 1st regiment.

In this year (1828) LUCIUS LYON, U. S. Surveyor, run out and staked the farm lots, known as the "private land claims," embracing the whole prairie and three ravines, or vallies, east of it.

1829.—A daughter of Col. ZACHARY TAYLOR was married at the fort to Dr. A. C. WOOD.

CALEB ATWATER, one of the commissioners appointed by the Government to negotiate with the Indians of the upper Mississippi for the purchase of the mineral country, arrived July 15. There were present the Winnebagoes, Chippewas, Ottawas, Pottowatomies, Sioux, Sauks, Foxes, Menomones, officers of the fort, the Indian Agents, Gen. STREET, Dr. WOL-

COTT and J. H. KINZIE; also the sub-agents, interpreters, and a great concourse of strangers from every important city. The treaties were made July 29 and August 1, and eight millions of acres of land added to the public domain.

In May of this year, Judge DOTY, H. S. BAIRD and M. L. MARTIN traveled on horse-back from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien and back, accompanied by a Menomonce Indian as guide. They were the first white men who performed this land journey. At the term of court at which these gentlemen attended, twenty indictments were found for murder, resulting in the conviction of one person, who subsequently escaped.

1830. After the quelling of the Winnebago disturbances a large number of miners and settlers came to the lead region, and an impulse was quickly given to a great portion of western Wisconsin, which afforded every promise of future prosperity.

The building of the present Fort Crawford was commenced this year, and in 1831 occupied with a part of the troops, and completed in 1832. Hon THOS. P. BURNETT arrived and became a settler, and was sub Indian agent under Gen. STREET. Mr. BAIRD, of Green Bay, wife, two children and help arrived in a bark canoe on an excursion.

The population this year was about 600.

The old fort was vacated in the winter of 1830 and spring of 1831. JAS. D. DOTY shortly after deeded the ground where the new fort was built, to the county for a court house. The county supervisors agreed to change this site for the old fort, which was to be used as a court house, jail, &c. They endeavored to get a law passed by Congress ratifying the exchange, but failed. March 14, 1831, the supervisors addressed a note to Col. MORGAN, commander of the fort, requesting him to permit the people of Crawford county and "their public functioners," to have the use of the blockhouse on the southeast corner of the old fort as a clerk's office, court house, &c.

1831-1832. The old causes of dissension between the Indians and the white settlers were again stirred up, as they had never been effectually allayed, by the restless BLACK HAWK; and in the spring of this year he crossed the Mississippi from the west with his own band of three hundred warriors, together with their families, determined to regain, if possible, the possession of their old homes.

The Black Hawk war was now commenced, but the history of it at length cannot here be given. During the continuance of the war, 200 Indians of the Sioux and Chippewas came here soon after the battle of the Peconica, to fight against

the Sauks. They, however, shortly after returned to their homes.

Capt. J. B. ESTES arrived at the fort at Prairie du Chien on the 23d of July, with the news of the battle of Wisconsin Heights, and of the flight of BLACK HAWK towards the Upper Mississippi. Col. LOOMIS, then in command at Ft. Crawford, sent the steamer *Enterprise*, of Galena, up the river. At Black River they found forty Winnebagoes, with twenty-eight canoes collected, to aid the retreating Sauks to cross the river. These Indians and their canoes were seized and brought down to Ft. Crawford July 30. The *Enterprise* being a slow boat Col. LOOMIS hired the *Warrior* to go up the river a second time. On the 1st of August this boat ascended to the mouth of Bad Axe River, and here they found the Indians on the east side, and the engagement commenced and the Indians were driven to the woods. The boat returned the same night to Prairie du Chien for wood, and started back, arriving at 10 A. M. On the 2d of August, the battle was continued, and the Indians overwhelmingly defeated.

BLACK HAWK was captured by the Winnebago chiefs CHA-ETAR and the one-eyed DECORRA, who brought him and the PROPHEET to Prairie du Chien, and delivered them as prisoners to Gen. STREET, the agent of the Winnebagoes, on the 27th of August, 1832.

The cholera raged here severely this year, and one hundred soldiers died in two weeks.

I. P. PERRET GENTIL came here in 1832; has been County Treasurer seventeen years, and Assessor nearly as long.

Dr. A. BRUNSON says: "It was about this time that JEFF. DAVIS, then a Lieut. in the U. S. Army, at this point, stole and married a daughter of Col. Z. TAYLOR, then and for many years in command at this fort. A reconciliation was afterwards effected, and though DAVIS rose to some distinction, it was said that 'old Zack' was never fond of him."

Another authority places this event in 1829.

CHAS. J. LATROBE, an English traveler, was here in 1833—said he found but few Indians, and those were Menomonies. He further adds:

"The old French settlement of Prairie du Chien, founded the same year as the city of Philadelphia, and occupying as much ground as the penitentiary of that flourishing place, lies on the margin of the river, and consists of a few old, gray trading and dwelling houses with nothing either in architecture or position to merit further notice. It seems doomed to remain under the same spell as others of a like origin." Of the old fort he says: "To the north of the village an ancient

quadrangular block-house, built of squared logs, and as usual so contrived as to present eight faces—the upper part of the square standing across the angles of the lower, marks the position of the old military post, which within these few years has been superceded by a large spacious range of stone barracks, built on the gentle swell on the opposite side of the bayou. An Indian mound, round which the new buildings were constructed, was removed in levelling the square, and forty-eight bodies, some enclosed in wooden or bark coffins, were removed. Fort Crawford, as the new erection is called, is calculated to afford quarters to an entire regiment, though only a few companies were there at the time of our visit."

Previous to and until the capture of Black Hawk, the whole country, might with propriety be considered Indian territory. There were but a few hundred settlers, and these, except the miners, the army and government officials and traders, were mostly Canadian French, and mixed blood. After the war, the Indian title having been fully extinguished to all that portion of the State lying south and east of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers and Green Bay, the country commenced to settle, and from this time forward may be dated the wonderful growth of the State in all its wealth and prosperity.

In July of this year two river gamblers came up the river to this place. They had taken the small-pox somewhere below, which made its appearance on them here, and from which they died. The disease spread from them to the inhabitants and Indians. Some of the former died, but more of the Indians. In WAUBASIA'S band, where Winona now stands, 140 died. The contagion was said to work its way west to the Missouri river, scattering death among the poor natives. The Mandan Villages were said to have lost all but sixteen souls. The Winnebagoes in this vicinity died by scores and hundreds, and their remains were scattered along the river banks and in the woods, unburied, and eaten up by the wolves.

The United States Government, under a treaty with the Winnebagoes, established a school and opened a farm on Yellow river, in Iowa, nearly opposite this place, of which Rev. DAVID LOWRY had charge. While the buildings were being erected he with the stores for the work, had his headquarters at this place. He organized the first Protestant church of some ten or twelve members. Some of whom, including Gen. STREET, the Indian agent, with this family, were Cumberland Presbyterians; some Methodists, as SAMUEL GILBERT and wife; and some New School Presbyterians, as EZEKIEL TAINTER and J. T. MILLS, then a clerk in the quartermaster's

department in the Fort. It was called the Church in the Wilderness, and it was understood it was for temporary purposes, and that so soon as their proper churches should be organized in their reach, each one should be at liberty to go to his own home. It continued but one or two years before Gen. STREET was moved to Rock Island, and the organization of the Methodist church terminated its existence. Mr. LOWRY, however, continued to preach at this place for some time.

1835. This year a stone court house and jail was built, with residence for sheriff or jailor, which was the best in the territory for several years.

After the removal of Gen. STREET to Rock Island and Mr. LOWRY to his school, there were but three American families in the place, outside of the fort, Judge J. H. LOCKWOOD, SAMUEL GILBERT and Ez. TAINTER. There was one German and one Irish family, and three or four discharged soldiers. The remainder were of French and mixed blood, in all about 500, outside of the fort.

CHARLES FENNO HOFFMAN in his "Winter in the West" says "on the 12th of November, 1834, he arrived at the Prairie, and was entertained by Col. Z. TAYLOR, at the fort. He remained two weeks. The garrison consisted of five companies of the 1st infantry. Says the village is a half a mile from the fort with antique looking timber houses, containing an amphibious population of voyagers and hunters, half French and half Indian. Visits the mounds and fortifications on the bluffs."

ALEX. MCGREGOR, the founder of the city bearing his name, came to Prairie du Chien this year, (1835), and in 1847 removed across the river. He died there Dec. 12, 1858. On the 23d of January, 1835, the county authorities resolved that a court house and jail be built for the public convenience. WM. WILSON received this contract for \$3,695. This was the first court house built in what then constituted the territory of Michigan. The late Col. H. L. DOUSMAN was one of the supervisors who superintended the building of the old court house in 1835, and was one of the committee to plan and superintend the building of the new one in 1867, shortly before his death.

Rev. ALFRED BRUNSON came here in the fall of 1835, and again in the spring of 1836 with his family, and continued to reside here. He was superintendent of the Methodist E. Church mission of upper Mississippi and Lake Superior. He purchased a farm and built a house, bringing material from Meadville, Pa., and continued here several years as superintendent, and organized a Methodist

Church, which has continued to this time.

GEO. W. FEATHERSTONHAUGH, the English geologist came up the river to Fort Snelling, spending a few days here.

Rev. R. CADLE, of P. E. Church, came here as a missionary 1836, but was shortly after appointed chaplain at Fort Crawford, where he continued till 1841, when he resigned and entered the missionary service in another part of the territory; while here he organized Trinity Church.

S. A. PALMER, of Pottsville, Pa., was here in 1836, relates that there were 300 troops at the fort, four substantial stone buildings, each 200 feet long, forming a square; a few mean houses, tenanted by a miserable set of French and Indians; JAS. FISHER and O. B. THOMAS, came here in 1836; his father JOHN THOMAS, came in 1835, and have been many years in public life.

Judge Ira B. BRUNSON, came here from Pennsylvania in 1836, and has been county surveyor 1837-46; sheriff 1848-9; clerk of court 1850, and Judge of county court since 1853.

1836. In this year the fever of speculation, then running rampant over the country, reached this place, and property ran up to fabulous heights. Two land companies were organized, who bought up all they could get of the private land claims below the garrison, and laid it out into city lots. But failing to succeed as they wished, this part of the city remained only on paper for several years.

A man by the name of VAN DORN, from Michigan, full of the idea of Chicago and Milwaukee, came to this place, and finding no land in market except the private land claims, bought up some claims on Government land not yet surveyed, in the Wisconsin bottoms, which are low and marshy, and subject to annual inundations. This he plotted on paper, and went east and put it into stock, at \$200,000, \$100 per share, and imposed upon many honest men, who supposed they were buying shares in the city of Prairie du Chien, for so he called his marsh. He paid for his claims in Michigan wild cat money, a few days before those banks exploded. He had to leave the country, and the last heard from him he was in Texas.

In this year population began to increase. Many who were bound ultimately for Iowa and Minnesota made this their stopping place, till they could prepare their future homes. Several new houses were put up, and permanent residences made. A ferry was established across the river to a point where McGregor now stands.

In the fall of this year Col. Z. TAYLOR, with his regiment, left this fort for Flori-

da, and Gen. BROOKE assumed command. As "new lords make new laws" so a little incident connected with this change shows how the public money is sometimes disposed of. Gen. BROOKE thought the house in which Col. TAYLOR, with a large family, had lived in for many years, was not good enough for him, and he applied to the Department of War for a new house. The answer was, "No! can't afford it; repair the old one." To do this the old house was entirely removed, or torn down, except the cellar, and over this a new building was erected, costing \$7,000, under the head of repairs. This house, with all the government land, was subsequently sold, being bought and remodeled by Col. JOHN LAWLOR, the grounds improved, all of which now has a palatial appearance, and in which he now resides. [Col. W. B. SLAUGHTER states that Gen. BROOKE was, in 1836, at Green Bay, with his family.]

The population of Prairie du Chien was 850, and the county of Crawford, 1,220.

1837. In this year MICHAEL BRISBOIS, who settled here in 1802, died and was buried on the brow of the bluff, back of the prairie. He chose this place for his final resting place for this reason. He came down the Wisconsin river in a canoe with his family, and as he rounded the point to ascend the Mississippi to this prairie, the point selected was was the first point of the bluff that struck his eye. At his funeral, he being a Catholic, there being no priest of that order here then, a lay diocesan attended to the service. But as some of his children were protestants, they desired a protestant to attend and participate in the funeral service, and accordingly the Rev. ALFRED BRUNSON was invited, and both form of service were used.

This year the Winnebagoes ceded their land in this section to the United States, and white people began to make claims and settle the land before they were surveyed, or in the market.

Capt. F. MARRYAT, the English novelist came from Green Bay to Fort Winnebago in June, 1837, and from the latter place to Prairie du Chien, with a party with provisions for the fort. While here he visited the Mounds. He writes "that he considers Wisconsin the finest portion of North America, not only from its soil, but its climate." He remained a week at the fort, which, he says, is a mere enclosure, intended to repel the attacks of Indians, but is large and commodious, and the quarters of the officers are excellent, built of stone, which is not the case at Fort Winnebago or Fort Howard.

The following settlers came this year: ELIHU WARNER, JARED WARNER, SETH

HILL, S. A. CLARK, THOS. BUGBEE, DR. B. C. MILLER, LEVI R. MARSH, and D. HOPKINS.

The county authorities levied a tax to build a bridge across the "Marris de St. Ferriole." It was built between the Catholic church and the DOUSMAN residence, and floated away soon after.

Losen and Seth Hill, and H. W. Savage and Thos. A. Savage came this year.

A Bank was started this year called the Prairie du Chien Ferry Co. Handsome bills were issued. Geo. W. Pine, Pres., H. W. Savage, Cashier. It did not circulate well here, as it had no charter. It did less damage than most of the wild cat institutions of that day.

A commission was appointed by the President to adjust the claims against the Winnebago Indians under their late treaty, which provided a large amount to be paid to the traders and their relatives. Simon Cameron, Brodhead, and other gentleman from Pennsylvania were in attendance. The commission brought with them several attorneys, who, the claimants soon discovered, it was advisable to employ, to prepare and present their claims. Those who paid most to the attorneys, got the largest allowances; in this way some who had no just claim whatever, received large amounts.

1838-9. On the arrival of the Indian annuities this year, the money was placed in arsenal at the fort and well guarded. During the night three persons succeeded in removing three kegs containing each five thousand Mexican dollars. After considerable difficulty the parties were arrested and the money recovered, except about \$1,200.

The lands east and north of Prairie du Chien were this year surveyed. Maj. WM. WRIGHT settled on a claim where he now lives. New settlers this year were: W. H. C. FOLSOM, CHRIS. and ELIAS BOWEN, DAVID CLARK, WM. CURTISS, ELISHA WARNER, and JOHN FORSTER.

1840-1850. This year (1840) the Board of County Commissioners of Crawford county, memorialized Congress to grant to the county all the scope of country purchased by the early French traders from the Fox Indians, for the purpose of a permanent settlement at this place, for the benefit of said purchasers and their descendants. The memorial alleges that said purchase was made in good faith and had not been disputed by any of the Indian tribes who have occupied this country subsequent to the purchase; that the rights which the citizens acquired under that purchase had never been forfeited or relinquished, but have descended by an uninterrupted succession to the citizens

of Crawford county. This purchase covered all the country lying between the Mississippi and Kickapoo rivers, running north about fifteen or twenty miles from the mouth of the Wisconsin river. The memorialists claimed that the purchase was respected through all the changes and transfers of the country from France to Great Britain and then to the United States. Congress, however, did not see fit to grant the petition, and the lands were put into the market, and the best portions entered in 1841. The population of Prairie du Chien in 1840, was 1,503.

After the survey of the lands lying to the north and east, and their being brought into market for sale, emigration set in rapidly and the county of Crawford which at one time comprised the whole western half of the State, including the country around Minneapolis and the Falls of St. Anthony was divided and subdivided until it reached its present size. In 1830 Iowa county was formed, taking all of Crawford county south of the Wisconsin river. In 1840 the county of St. Croix was taken off, out of which La Pointe was organized in 1845. In 1841, the county of Portage took what was left lying east of range 1, of 4th principal meridian, out of which Sauk, Adams, and parts of Richland and other counties have been formed—Richland county taking all east of range 3, north of the river. Chippewa county was also taken off in 1845, and in 1851 La Crosse and Bad Axe. In 1840 the county board granted a ferry license across the St. Croix river, at the battle ground near the head of Lake St. Croix, near Stillwater. This gives some idea of the extent of the county of Crawford north, thirty-two years since.

In the year 1843, the election precincts as established by the county board, were Prairie du Chien, Black River Falls, Chippewa Falls and Menomonee. In March of this year, R. D. LESTER, sheriff of the county, was killed by an Indian while descending the Mississippi above the Prairie. In 1845, Mount Sterling and Prairie La Crosse were made election precincts. Mr. PELTON erected a steam mill, and the first newspaper, the *Patriot*, was published.

In 1846, St. Croix county was organized from Crawford. There was much sickness this year; some ten or more of the early settlers died, among others, Mrs. D. BRISBOIS, mother of Col. B. W. BRISBOIS, and Mrs. ALFRED BRUNSON. This year and the succeeding one (1847), Fort Crawford was garrisoned by a company of volunteers under Capt. WYRAM KNOWLTON, the regular troops having gone to Mexico.

In June, 1847, there was another freshet in the Mississippi, the river above the village was three to five, and in some places

ten miles wide, extending from bluff to bluff. A large portion of the prairie was overflowed, though no material damage was done. On the 20th of July, a military company known as the "Dodge Guards," was re-organized, and sixty-six men were mustered into the service by Major ALEX. S. HOOE, for and during the Mexican war. Twenty-five of the former company re-enlisted under Capt. MORGAN. On the 14th of September, Major HOOE, commandant at the Fort, received orders to repair to Baton Rouge, and left immediately.

1848. At the election for President, Nov. 15, Gen. LEWIS CASS received 108 votes, and Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR 70.

1849. LOUIS MAYNARD was killed by THEOPHILUS LA CHAPPELLE, and his house burned. The latter was tried in November of that year, and found not guilty, on plea of insanity.

The population in 1850 was 2,399.

1850-55. A large railroad meeting was held Jan. 16, 1850, to take into consideration the proper point for a terminus of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad. Resolutions were passed recommending Prairie du Chien, and setting forth its advantages over other points that had been suggested.

Information was received here that a large number of Winnebago Indians had left their designated home on the Crow Wing, with chiefs DANDY and LITTLE HILL, and that they were at Black river and vicinity, having been starved out, and had returned to Wisconsin in pursuit of game, and that their appearance and conduct were in every way hostile to the white settlers in that region; that they had made serious depredations upon the whites, stealing horses and cattle, entering dwelling houses and carrying off provisions.

On the 18th of March, Gen. DODGE, then in the U. S. Senate, called the attention of the Secretary of the Interior (Hon. THOS. EWING) to the matter, who on the 5th of April informed him that troops would be sent forward to protect the settlers and force the Indians to return to their country. In the month of May Hon. H. M. RICE, of St. Paul, received a contract from the Government for removing the Indians to their homes. On the 13th of February, 1851, two Chippewa Indians named OSNOGA and Baptiste ROBADO, confined in jail at the Prairie on conviction of murder and sentenced to be executed, broke jail and escaped.

During the same month the Legislature of this State set off and organized Bad Ax county from the county of Crawford.

1856. On the 12th of June, 1856, the government officers and troops departed with stores and provisions on the steamer

"War Eagle" for Fort Snelling. The garrison consisted of four companies of United States rifles. The local newspapers expressed the desire that the Fort would not be again used as such, and the grounds should be brought into market. At this time the railroad from Milwaukee to Prairie du Chien was being pushed to completion and considerable interest was felt by all classes of people, on the effect it was to have on the growth and prosperity of the town.

On the 26th of June, two ejectment suits were tried in the circuit court, involving the title to farm lots 33 and 34, heretofore held and supposed to be held by the United States government, and on which Fort Crawford is situated. The suit was brought by IRA B. BRUNSON, B. W. BRISBOIS and CYRUS WOODMAN, against a tenant of the United States, the government taking up the defense. The suits were decided in favor of the plaintiffs.

On the 2d of November, Trinity Church was opened for worship for the first time; Rev. J. E. EGAR, Rector. The building was 26 by 65 feet.

During the same month, ALEX. MCGREGOR built and put in operation a steam ferry boat, to ply between Prairie du Chien and the village of McGregor.

The *Courier*, of January 8, 1857, says, a line of steamers is building, to run in connection with the railroad from Prairie du Chien to Saint Paul; that during the year past two new brick hotels have been completed, and two others remodeled; two steam ferry boats, to cross the river to McGregor, have been purchased; one new church, erected; three splendid brick blocks, nineteen stores, two breweries, one steam flouring mill, and about a hundred dwelling houses put up, besides the extensive works of the railroad company. Five brick yards, two stone quarries, three lumber yards and one saw mill have been inadequate to meet the demands required for improvements.

1857. The great and long expected completion and opening of the Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien Railroad took place this year. On the 16th of April the first train from Milwaukee with the directors and a party of guests arrived. The opening of the road was a great cause of rejoicing and every one felt the inspiration. When it is remembered that difficulty was experienced before this time by the residents in going to and fro from Milwaukee and Chicago, and depending as they were obliged to do, entirely on the Mississippi river for a market, and in the winter season entirely cut off except by land transportation, it will be seen that there was much cause for enthusiasm. Its influence on Prairie du Chien and the states of

Iowa and Minnesota was of a marked character, inducing immigration, and benefiting all classes of business enterprise. One newspaper states that three hundred and twenty-seven houses were erected here this year, and besides many other public improvements.

The location of the depot grounds was for some time a cause of difficulty, as residents of the two portions of the city known as the upper and the lower town, were each anxious that the location should be in their section. The Railroad company chose the lower town, which was used for a time, and subsequently changed the same to the upper town. It is not probable that any further changes will be made.

At the election held April 16th, for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, M. M. COTIREN received 262 votes, and E. V. WHITTON 433 and 33 scattering.

1858. For some time previous, the towns on the Upper Mississippi were known to be the lurking place of a gang of robbers and thieves, and this year the depredations that were committed in the neighborhood of the Prairie, made it evident that they had come up the river to extend their business. About the 1st of May a crowd of villainous looking fellows were observed about the town, and a few days after an elderly man in passing through the place to his home in the country fell into their hands and was plundered of everything. Shortly after a jewelry store in the town was broken into and robbed of property to the value of \$2,000. These vagabonds were seen in the streets with revolvers and bowie knives insulting those who came in their way, and threatening "to clean out the town." The proper authorities were insufficient to discharge their duties, and the rowdies were allowed to do pretty much as they pleased. These events created a great deal of excitement among the inhabitants, and a vigilance committee was appointed, who arrested some twelve of these characters, and put them in the jail. A meeting of the citizens was called, and it was decided that something must be done to rid the town of these rascals. The prisoners were brought to the Court House and examined, and it was decided that six of the principal ones should have their heads shaved and to receive ten to thirty lashes on the back, and sent down the river; one of the number, a negro, was appointed to do the shaving. The sentence was duly enforced. A few of the number were discharged, on due and proper admonition, and some escaped. A report of the proceedings was drawn up and published in the newspapers.

1859. At the election for associate justice of the Supreme Court, April 5, Wm.

PITT LYNDE received 274 votes and BYRON PAINE 118.

On the 12th of May another inundation took place, the water being higher than had been known for ten years. The islands in the river were covered, the main town an island and the bridge over the slough under water.

The discovery of gold at Pike's Peak created considerable excitement here and

a number of persons went to the gold region.

1860. The history of the city from this time forward to the present time is so recent that it is not necessary to extend this paper to further length, leaving that to the future annalist.

The population of the city in 1869 was 2,399, and in 1870, 3,661.

The writer of this paper would express his acknowledgment to Rev. A. BRUNSON, D. D., Hon. IRA B. BRUNSON and Col. B. W. BRISBOIS, for valuable information.

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