

(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-POUIS, 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 KIPISAGEE, by the Chipewas 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 *sharrieers*."

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