

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 BRADLE 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 CLEVE, 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.