

by a North Course under Sail at Chicago under reefed Sail the Wind very strong & in Blasts missed the Entrance of the River & were obliged to go about a mile past to land.

Monday May 10th 1790 Stopt at Point Sables²⁸ anchored with the Cannots & begun to hull Corn & bake Bread & arranged everything for next Morning left the Cannots at point Sables & took his Purogue bought of him 41 lb Flour & baked in Bread for 25^{lb} & 29 lb pork at 2/8 the whole amounting to £5.10 8 & paid him with 13 yd^s 4/4 Cotton.

Tuesday May 11th 1790 Engaged five Indians to help us over the Carrying place²⁹ with the pereogue & paid them two handfulls of powder each. Duarrier this Morning very saucey & abuseful about getting Salt I promised to requite him for it. a Showery Day & Wind at West the Carrying

²⁸ This was Jean Baptiste Point Sable (du Sablé, de Sablé), who has acquired posthumous fame as the first permanent settler on the site of Chicago. Quite probably other traders had preceded him here, but if so, we have no positive record concerning them. Sable is variously described by contemporaries (including himself) as a "naigre Libre" and "a free mulatto man"; hence has arisen the ancient pun that the first white man in Chicago was a negro. Concerning Sable's origin there is much uncertainty. At the time of the Revolution he was operating in the Northwest as a trader, with stations around the Lake Michigan shore. He subsequently proved to the satisfaction of a United States land commission that he had lived at Peoria prior to 1783, and that he was a citizen of the United States. His American sympathies are further evidenced by the fact that in 1780 he was arrested by the British authorities at Michigan City, where he was then trading, and his goods confiscated because of alleged hostility to that government. In the spring of 1800 Sable sold his property at Chicago to Jean Lalime of St. Joseph for 6000 livres (about \$1200). The original bill of sale, with inventory of the property transferred, is still preserved in the Wayne County building at Detroit, and it discloses that Sable was a man of substance, with an extensive civilized establishment. The realty included a house 22 by 40 feet (the house, subsequently, of John Kinzie), a horsemill 24 by 36 feet, bakehouse, dairyhouse, poultryhouse, smokehouse, a stable 24 by 30 feet, and a barn 28 by 40. The live stock comprised 30 head of cattle "full-grown," 2 mules, 44 hens, 38 hogs, and 2 calves. Among the household goods were such items as a French walnut cabinet with four glass doors, a bureau, four tables, a couch, two mirrors, eleven copper kettles, etc. Sable's later years were passed at St. Charles, Mo., where he was living as late as September, 1814. He had an Indian wife and at least two children. He was evidently a man of powerful character, and practically all the contemporary estimates of him that have been preserved are of a favorable nature. Information condensed from M. M. Quaife, *Chicago and the Old Northwest, 1673-1835* (Chicago, 1913), 138-42; John C. Luttig, *Journal of a Fur-Trading Expedition on the Upper Missouri, 1812-1813* (St. Louis, 1920), 153-55; and mss. in the Burton Hist. Coll.

²⁹ Heward was about to ascend the South Branch of Chicago River and to pass by the customary portage route to the Des Plaines. For an account of the Chicago portage see Quaife, *Chicago and the Old Northwest, 1673-1835*, chap. i.