

about eighteen years ago the French people became somewhat apprehensive as to their title, which fact being made known to the Indians, one of the first chiefs of the Fox nation, named Nanpouis, ratified at Cahokia, near St. Louis, an ancient sale of said prairie to the French; that in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-one Governor Sinclair bought the island of Michilimackinac, Green Bay, and Prairie du Chien; that this deponent saw the papers relating to said purchase executed and folded up, to be sent to Montreal or Quebec; deponent was informed on his first arrival at this place that it derived its name from a large family called Des Chiens, who formerly resided here; that the same family or their descendants were here at the time of deponent's arrival, and were called "Des Chiens."

M. BRISBOIS.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 21st day of October, A. D. 1820.

ISAAC LEE, *J. P. C. C., and Agent.*

TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN, *County of Crawford, ss:*

Be it remembered that on this day personally appeared before me, Isaac Lee, a justice of the peace in and for said county, and agent duly appointed to ascertain the title to lands at Green Bay and Prairie des Chiens, Pierre Lapointe, of said county, who, after being sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that he is seventy years of age; that he has been forty-four years in this country, of which period he has resided thirty-eight years at Prairie des Chiens; that in the year 1781 this deponent was at Michilimackinac, and acted in the capacity of interpreter at the treaty held by Governor Sinclair with the Indians for the purchase of the island of Michilimackinac, Green Bay, and Prairie des Chiens; that during the time deponent has resided at the prairie he has never known the Indians to make claim to said tract of land as their property; that deponent was present at Prairie des Chiens, and saw the goods delivered to the Indians in payment for the said prairie by Bazil Guird, Pierre Antya, and Augustin Angé, according to the stipulations of the treaty with Governor Sinclair above mentioned.

PIERRE ^{his} + LAPOINTE.
mark.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 23d day of October, 1820.

ISAAC LEE, *J. P. C. C., and Agent.*

Claim for village common.

TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN, *to wit:*

I, Isaac Lee, agent appointed to receive claims to land at the settlements of Green Bay and Prairie des Chiens, and to take down and receive testimony concerning them, do certify that the whole extent of the prairie on which is situated the village of Prairie des Chiens, excepting so much of it as is fenced and in the exclusive possession of individuals, is claimed by the villagers and inhabitants of that settlement as a common appurtenant to the village, and that many objections were urged against some of the claims preferred, lest they should ultimately be found to encroach upon that common. I further certify that no testimony was tendered to me to establish the said claim, as all the inhabitants residing there felt equal interest in establishing the claim, and might not, therefore, be considered competent witnesses; but that, as an individual, and in my official capacity, I made diligent inquiry in relation to this matter, especially among the oldest and most intelligent of the inhabitants, the result of which was the most entire conviction in my own mind that, in truth, from the earliest periods in the history of this settlement, all that part of the said prairie not enclosed and in the exclusive occupancy of individuals was, and continually has been, and is used as a common appurtenant to said village and settlement, in which all the inhabitants are acknowledged to have an equal interest. I further certify, that among the most aged of the inhabitants of the prairie none could be found who could recollect, or who had any knowledge of the first establishment of the French there, nor could any satisfactory account be obtained by any traditions among them touching this point. The remains of what is commonly called the old French fort are yet very distinguishable. Though capacious and apparently strong, it was probably calculated for defence against musketry and small arms only. None can recollect the time of the erection of this fort; it was far beyond the memory of the oldest; nor can the time of its erection be determined by any evidence to be obtained. Some difference of opinion seems to exist there as to the question whether it was originally built by the French or by the Spanish government. It is evidently very ancient.

ISAAC LEE, *Agent.*

List of land claims at Prairie des Chiens, Territory of Michigan, confirmed by the commissioners, together with abstracts of the testimony in support of them, taken by Isaac Lee, esq., agent of the United States for ascertaining the titles and claims to land at the settlements of Green Bay and Prairie des Chiens, and justice of the peace, duly commissioned, for the counties of Crawford and Brown, Territory of Michigan; taken between the first and twentieth days of October, one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

Farm lot No. 1.—The heirs of James Aird.

Entry of land made this tenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and twenty, by the heirs of James Aird, which is described as follows, viz: situated in the Prairie des Chiens, in the county of Crawford and Territory of Michigan, it being farm lot number one, bounded on the east by Madame Leafantesa's garden fence, on the south side by a creek, following all its meanderings to a stone set on the bank of the creek, being the boundary between this tract and Charles Menard; thence in range of the big rock under the hill, and the point of the peak, to a stone set by the side of the road, as it now runs; thence to the Mississippi, and following it until it reaches a line in range of a tree, marked C. D., near the second hollow or run from Fisher's creek.

TESTIMONY.

Dennis Courtois, of said county of Crawford, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that the above-described tract of land was occupied in one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one by Joseph Creely,