

married by contract, died without issue, leaving a widow, some personal property and a good farm, but was indebted to Joseph Rolette about \$300 which his widow refused to pay, alleging that the contract of marriage gave her all the property; nor could she be convinced to the contrary, until I had brought a suit against her and obtained a judgment.

When I arrived at Prairie du Chien, there were four companies of riflemen under command of Brevet Major 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 at the others, so as entirely to enclose the fort. John W. Johnson, a gentleman from Maryland, was U. S. Factor, with a certain Mr. Belt as assistant and bookkeeper, and John P. Gates as interpreter. Col. Alexander McNair, late Governor of Missouri, had the suttling of the fort, and his nephew, Thomas McNair, and John L. Findley, were the clerks in his employ, and had charge of the business.

There were then of the old traders residing at Prairie du Chien Joseph Rolette, Michael Brisbois, Francis Bouthillier and Jean Baptiste Farribault, all Canadians of French extraction, except Francis Bouthillier who was from France, and Nicholas Bqilvin, who was Indian agent, and held the commission of Justice of the Peace under the government of Illinois Territory, whence he came.

At this time at Prairie du Chien the events of the war of 1812 in that quarter, were fresh in the minds of every one. I learned that in the spring or summer of 1814, the U. S. Government sent boats, made bullet proof, under a Captain Yeiser, who was in command of the boats, and a company of U. S. troops, under Lieut. Perkins, to take and retain possession of Prairie du Chien. Perkins built a stockade on a large mound, on which Col. Dousman's house now stands, and Capt. Yeiser remained on board the