

Joseph Rolette, in connection with the Indian trade, carried on farming, after the fashion of the country, pretty extensively. Michael Brisbois, besides being a trader, carried on the business of baking, and farming to some extent, receiving of the inhabitants 100 pounds of flour and giving in return tickets for fifty loaves of bread, and these tickets made a convenient change to buy trifles of the Indians with. None of the inhabitants pretended to make their own bread, but depended entirely upon the bake-house. Jean Baptiste Farribault did something in the line of Indian trade, and carried on a small farm, but soon after left the Prairie to reside on the St. Peters River.*

Among the other inhabitants of notoriety at that time, was a Mrs. Menard, of mixed African and white blood. She came from some one of the French villages below, and was then married to Charles Menard, a Canadian of French extraction. She had been married twice previously, first to a man by the name of Du Chouquette, by whom she had two sons, one of whom was in the employ of Mr. Astor in that unfortunate expedition of his sent in 1810 by sea and across the continent to the mouth of the Columbia River, now Oregon Territory. Her next husband was named Gagnier, by whom she had three sons and three daughters. After Gagnier's death she married Charles Menard, by whom she had three sons and two daughters. She was generally called by the inhabitants Aunt Mary Ann, and was a person of consequence among them, being midwife, and the only person pretending to a knowledge of the healing art. Until a fort was erected at Prairie du Chien, and a surgeon arrived there with the troops, she was sent for by the sick, and attended them as regularly as a physician, and charged fees therefor, giving them, as she expressed it, "device and yarb drink." She was an excellent nurse, and even after there were regular surgeons of the army stationed at Fort Crawford, Mary Ann continued to practice among the in-

*We learn from the Annals of the Minnesota Historical Society, that as early as 1805, Farribault encamped opposite Mendota, Minnesota, trading with the Indians; and, in 1822, he formed one of the constituent members of the Columbia Fur Company, of Minnesota. From the American State Papers, he appears to have removed to the St. Peters, in 1819.—L. C. D.