

sumed all the authority of governors of a conquered country, arraigning and trying the citizens by courts-martial, and sentencing them to ignominious punishments. This was more particularly the case under the reign of Col. Chambers, who was a brave soldier in the field, but a weak man and not qualified for a commandant, as he was generally governed by some favorite officer or officers, who not being responsible for the outrage committed by their superior, would induce him to do acts to gratify their whims or prejudices.

Charles Menard, the husband of the notable Mary Ann, was arrested, having been charged with selling whiskey to the soldiers. He was brought about five miles from his residence under a guard, tried by a court-martial, whipped, and with a bottle hung to his neck, marched through the streets, with music playing the *Rogue's March* after him. Menard protested that he had not sold liquor to the soldiers, but that they had asked him for it, and that he refused to let them have any, as he did not keep liquor for sale.

And during Col. Chambers' reign, for some alleged immoral conduct he banished Joseph Rolette to an island, about seven miles above Prairie du Chien, where he obliged him to pass the winter, but in the spring permitted him to return to the village to attend to his business, as his outfits were coming in from the Indian country.

Mr. Brisbois informed me that he had resided in Prairie du Chien about thirty years;* and there was an old Scotchman by the name of James Aird,† connected with the company by which I was first employed in the Indian trade, who generally wintered

*Mr. Brisbois, in 1820, gave evidence before Mr. Lee, the government commissioner, that he had been thirty-nine years in the country, and was then sixty years of age; and this would give the year 1781 as the year of his coming to Prairie du Chien.

L. C. D.

†Mr. Aird was from Mackinaw, and was a worthy man and enterprising trader. His field of operations was mainly with the Sioux or Dakotas, in what is now Iowa and Minnesota. On the return of Lewis and Clark's expedition in 1806, they met Mr. Aird with two trading boats above the Big Sioux River, on the Missouri; and in their Journal they speak of him as "a very friendly and liberal gentleman." In 1812, he had a trading post at Mendota.

L. C. D.