

scientific man and could do almost anything, and especially was well acquainted with distilling. Mr. Rolette engaged him, and brought him to the Prairie, in 1824; but as the distillery was not yet built, Mr. Rolette employed him as a teacher in his family, for which he was very well qualified. During this time Mr. Rolette ordered and received the coppers and other apparatus for his distillery. For some reason, the building of the distillery was delayed until the spring of 1828, when a man by the name of Giasson, a Canadian by birth, clerk of our circuit court, and fond of a joke, told Mr. Rolette one day, that I had said that I would make him build a distillery; that I had only to say that I was going to build one, and he would be certain to immediately do so. It was not true that I had ever said so to Giasson, but Mr. Rolette soon after sent his coppers and other apparatus to St. Louis, and nothing more was heard of the distillery.

It was so well understood that Mr. Rolette would oppose any measure that he did not introduce, that when I wished to carry out any object without opposition, that I considered for the public good, I would get some person to go to Mr. Rolette and tell him that I was going to introduce such a measure, and I would soon after hear that Mr. Rolette was going to do the same thing. I would of course second him and we would get along without any difficulty. Mr. Rolette was evidently the first man of this little village when he came to the country, and some may say that in representing his foibles, I have maliciously taken advantage of him, as he cannot now answer for himself. As we were for several years opposing candidates for the rank and consideration of the first man of our little village, and were rival Indian traders, I have introduced our respective names only when necessary to elucidate the events in the history of the region of Prairie du Chien.

Col. Hercules L. Dousman came to the Prairie in the autumn of 1827, in the employ of the American Fur Company, and has ever since steadily pursued what he appeared to have most taste