

hour high. Antoine Brisbois reported the American strength in the garrison at sixty. We then continued down to the mouth of the Wisconsin, and thence up almost to Prairie du Chien through a channel or bayou between a continuous number of islands, and the Mississippi. We reached the town about ten o'clock, unperceived.

As this was Sunday, and a very pleasant day, the officers of the garrison were getting ready to take a pleasure ride into the country, and had McKay been an hour or two later, the garrison would have been caught without an officer.\* Nicholas Boilvin had directed a man, named Sandy, to go out and drive up his cattle, as he wished to kill a heifer that day, and have some fresh meat. Sandy went out, and soon discovered the British approaching, and knew from the red coats worn by the regulars and Capts. Rolette and Anderson, for none of the rest had any, and the dozen British flags displayed by the Indians, that it was a British force. Sandy returned cocolly to Boilvin, and said there were "lots of red cattle" at such a place, and invited him to go with him and see. Boilvin went, and scarcely crediting his own eyes, asked earnestly, "What is that?" "Why, it is the British," replied Sandy; when Boilvin, who was the American Indian Agent at Prairie du Chien,† now hastened to his house, and conveyed his

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\*The venerable Joseph Crelie, of Portage, was then an inhabitant of Prairie du Chien, and though his memory was frail, he yet, in conversation with me, fully corroborated Mr. Grignon in this part of his narrative; stating, without knowing that Mr. Grignon had done the same, that the English made their appearance on Sunday, and that he, Crelie, had loaned his horse and wagon to one of the officers, who were generally preparing to go a riding into the country; and that if Col. McKay had been an hour later, there would not have been an American officer in the garrison. Upon the alarm being given, Crelie, with many others, fled to the fort, and he shared in the defence until the surrender. It may further be added, that the newspapers of that day state, that Col. McKay made his appearance at Prairie du Chien on the 17th of July, 1814—and the 17th of July in that year occurred on Sunday. L. C. D.

†Boilvin's father, during the Revolutionary war, resided at Quebec, and was there very kind and humane to a wounded American surgeon who had been taken prisoner; and when exchanged, the elder Boilvin gave him money to convey him home. After the war, Nicholas Boilvin came west as an Indian trader, and did not succeed; and fortunately meeting the old surgeon, at St. Louis, whom his father had befriended, the surgeon succeeded in getting Boilvin appointed Indian Agent.