

corn, a few acres of potatoes or other vegetables, scattered here and there through the settlement, comprised the *farming* interest of the country; and it was not until the arrival of more enterprising and grasping settlers, the keen and speculating Americans (a class feared and hated by the former class), that these claims were considered of any value, or worth the trouble and expense of obtaining titles to them.

As before stated, the "settlement" at this place extended on both sides of the river from Fort Howard to Depere, a distance of about six miles, here and there interspersed with patches of timber, the cultivated land extending back from the river but a few acres. Beyond Depere, south or west, there was no white settlement for many years, except two or three families at the Grand Kaukauna, until we reached Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi River, and distant about 250 miles; where were a garrison of United States troops, and a few hundred inhabitants. All north, east or west of Green Bay was a dense forest, an unbroken wilderness, peopled only by the red man, and roamed by wild beasts. Depere, or rather "Rapide des Peres," is supposed to be the spot first located by the Jesuits or early missionaries, in or about the year 1671.* An old building formerly occupied by these *Reverend Fathers*, was situated very near the spot on which now stands the new grist mill of Messrs. Wilcox & Wagner. I frequently visited the spot, and the old foundation of the venerable edifice was visible for some time after I came here, and until, in cultivating the ground, the stones were removed or covered over.

The trade and business of the settlement was principally carried on at what was then called by the unpretending and not very pleasing name of "Shanty Town." It was originally so named by the soldiers, who were then stationed at the cantonment immediately adjacent, and which was called "Camp Smith." It is supposed that the town was so nick-named

*The Mission of St. Francis Xavier, at DePere, was established in 1669: See *Jesuit Relations*, 1669-70; *Shea's Hist. Catholic Missions*; *Smith's Hist Wisconsin*.—L. C. D.