

the beginning of the fur-trade at this place, that is in 1681, which grew to the magnitude in which Carver found it in 1766, eighty-five years afterwards. But who this trader was is unknown. This is to be regretted, as his name might be honored by being attached to some building or public work, if it were known. As it is, Hennepin should not be forgotten, as he probably was the first white man, except the trader in question, who ever saw the place.

The first regular settlement at Prairie du Chien, other than traders, as well as I can ascertain, was commenced by a man of the name of Cardinell, who came to the country as a hunter and trapper, which must have been between 1720 and 1730. He came from Canada, with his wife, who, so far as I can learn, was the first white woman upon this Prairie. He probably came with the troops, who came to Green Bay in 1726, and hearing from the traders of the rich hunting grounds on the Mississippi, tried his fortune in this direction. On his first visit he ascended the river as far as Cannon River, just above where Red Wing now stands. But preferring this point to any other he saw, took up his residence here, and is said to have made the first farm upon Prairie du Chien.

His wife, who out-lived him, and it is said a dozen other men to whom she was married, one after the other, died here in 1827, computed, from the best data that could be obtained, to be one hundred and thirty years of age. B. W. Brisbois, Esq., who was born and raised on this Prairie, heard her say that when she came to the place first, the waters were so high that they came up from the Wisconsin, next to the Bluffs where the ground is some feet lower than the rest of the plain, in their bark canoe. He also heard her say that when she first came to this country, the buffalo were so thick and in such droves as to impede their progress some times, when they had to wait for them to cross the river before the canoe could pass in safety.