

whole tribes. This, like many Hudson Bay posts to-day, is so small that it could shelter only one or two dwellings. My hope is to procure another stump from the palisade with ax-marks—still bearing witness of French pioneers. At the time of my visit, the digging was all done with a broken ax-helve. The antique remains I have described stand in a section where beaver dams are still common, and beavers themselves are trapped every year. They would form a convenient mid-way station for voyageurs who, like Nicolas Perrot, more than two centuries ago, were often passing from the Great Lake to the Great River, and back from the Great River to the Great Lake.

Early settlers in Barron County—where the first white child was born twenty-five years ago—heard from the oldest Indians that the post of which I have given some account, was long occupied by a fur-trader named Auguste Corot, who was killed there by the Sioux well nigh a century ago. So much credit was given to these stories by many Barron County whites, that they have dugged into the earth in several neighboring places as sanguine of unhoarding the buried cash of the murdered Frenchman, as any Yankee has been of excavating the strong box in which Captain Kidd buried his treasure along Long Island Sound. On Jeffreys' map of 1763, a fort is set down far up the St. Croix and south of it, not far from the Rice Lake post.

In 1831, Schoolcraft, then Indian agent at Mackinaw, was ordered with Lieut. Clary, and some forty men, to explore the region south of the river St. Croix. On the 6th of August, they found the trading-house (no doubt a stockade) at Lake Shetek burned. Now Shetek is only about a dozen miles from the ruin which I explored, and have been speaking of.

Some three years ago I visited La Salle's castle—Starved Rock, or the Rock of St. Louis—on the Illinois River. My passage thither from Ottawa, like La Salle's, was in a row-boat. After climbing the cliff, we discovered on the plateau to the rear of it, clear signs of a stockade, similar to that of which I have spoken in Northern Wisconsin. Here the French, under La Salle and his lieutenant, the Italian Tonty, were established for more than thirty years onward from 1682.

NOVEMBER 16, 1880.