

Knowlton's company, raised in the Mexican War, to occupy Fort Crawford, at Prairie du Chien, while the regulars had gone to the front for service during that war; he was afterwards engaged in the removal of Indians to the West, and died of fever in the old garrison at Prairie du Chien, in 1848.

Michael Brisbois, Sr., was arrested after the war, charged with treasonable practices during the British occupation, in 1814-15, and sent to St. Louis for trial. Col. Thomas H. Benton defended him, and he was acquitted. He really took no active part in behalf of the British, simply furnishing supplies, as he had to the Americans, as a mode of livelihood. He was not a judge under John W. Johnson, in 1818, as Judge Lockwood supposed;<sup>1</sup> it was Nicholas Boilvin who filled that position. He died at Prairie du Chien, April 1, 1837, at the age of seventy-seven years and six months, greatly respected. He was six feet high, and quite stout in form. His widow survived him several years.

His oldest son, Michael Brisbois, Jr., was born doubtless at Prairie du Chien, about 1790. He was a lieutenant in the British Indian service, and served under Col. McKay in the affairs at Prairie du Chien in 1814, accompanying the American prisoners as far as Rock Island, whence they proceeded by themselves to St. Louis; and he also served under Lieut. Graham, in repelling the Americans at Rock River Rapids. He was as unusually fine in his appearance as a man, as his Winnebago mother was as a woman; and acquired a very extensive knowledge of Indian languages, which induced Gov. William Clark, of St. Louis, superintendent of Western Indian affairs, to obtain his services as Indian interpreter. About 1820, he was out deer hunting near St. Louis, and was shot by some unknown person, thus ending his days in the prime of life. He had married a daughter of Pierre Antaya, one of the early Prairie du Chien pioneers, and had a daughter. Both have passed away. He was a man of remarkable agility; could easily jump over an ordinary tent, six feet in height. He spoke with ease and fluency all the Algonquin languages, and was very active with the Indians during the British *regime* at Prairie du Chien in 1814.

<sup>1</sup> Wis. Hist. Colls., II, p. 116.