

greatly serviceable to the pioneer settlement, as well as to the Indians.

Nicholas Boilvin, another of the pioneer settlers of Prairie du Chien, was a native of Canada, where he was well known to M. Brisbois, Sr. He started by the river for St. Louis, in the summer of 1824, and dying near there, was buried at that place. He was fully sixty years of age. He was of common height, rather stocky, stooped, and bow-legged. He left a son of the same name, who went to California, and died there.

Mr. Brisbois, Sr., used to relate the following tradition about Capt. Marin, and the Sauks and Foxes whom he whipped on Fox River, and afterwards drove from Sauk Prairie on the Wisconsin: That when driven from the latter position, the Sauks and Foxes retired to, and settled at or near the mouth of Rock River; and Marin built a fort, probably to keep them in check, at the head of McGill's Slough, on the Iowa bank of the Mississippi, about a mile and a half below Wyalusing, and known and spoken of by M. Brisbois, Sr., Julien Du Buque, and other early French settlers, as Marin's Fort. There were no vestiges of it remaining within the recollection of B. W. Brisbois, who early visited the locality. Capt. Marin had another fort, also known as Fort Marin in the bend, on the east side of Lake Pepin, above the mouth of Chippewa River, perhaps six or seven miles, and there planted asparagus—the first probably in Wisconsin; and there Mr. Brisbois, many years ago, got asparagus roots, which he transplanted in his Prairie du Chien garden. Mr. Brisbois has no traditions as to the size of these forts, their history, nor of any attacks made on them, nor what finally became of the adventurous Capt. Marin. These traditions are worthy of preservation.

Of the old French fort, said to have been established in 1755,¹ M. Brisbois, Sr., used to relate, that it was located in what is now the Lower Town of Prairie du Chien, a mile and a half from the present court-house, and where the round-house and yard are situated.² The ancient Indian settlement was situated about

¹ *U. S. Public Lands*, iii, p. 341. But see also p. 468, *post*.

² It is stated in Snyder, Van Vechten & Co.'s *Historical Atlas of Wisconsin*, 1878, that the old French fort was located "near where the railroad machine shops now stand, and upon the front of farm-lot number thirty-eight." But