

where the college now stands. In after times, this old fort was said to have been occupied by Canadian traders as a depot for furs and pelts. Occasionally the Spaniards at St. Louis would send up a gun-boat to seize everything of the kind, as so much confiscated property, having been gathered by British traders on

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this is clearly an error. It is true, that Judge Lee's map of 1820, rather conveys this idea, but his map was not made from any survey, and was merely constructed at random, and is very imperfect in other particulars.

Judge Ira B. Brunson, a resident of Prairie du Chien nearly half a century, has furnished the data for fixing the locality of the old fort, and enabled J. R. Stuart to prepare the accompanying plat. Judge Brunson says: "It is located on the front or west end of farm lot number thirty-nine, and about two hundred feet from a bayou of the Mississippi, which is navigable only by canoes in low water. I have just visited the ground where the old fort stood, accompanied by S. A. Clark, who built his dwelling house within its ancient ramparts, about forty years ago; and in building, he used the stones with which the old fort fireplaces and chimneys were constructed. The stockade ditches on the east and north sides are still very distinct, not having been disturbed by cultivation. The fort proper was small, but was surrounded by a sort of palisade, enclosing nearly two acres, as I traced the trench on the east side 370 feet, in a very distinct and straight line. The stone chimneys or fireplaces were laid up with clay, no appearance of lime having been used. Mr. Clark noticed the clay when he removed the stone.

"There are no old fort or military remains in the region of the Railroad round-house and shops.

"I lately visited the old fort locality in company with Col. Brisbois and S. A. Clark; and after a thorough examination of the surroundings and the map and notes of Lyons, Col. Brisbois very reluctantly conceded that he has entertained an erroneous notion as to the locality of this old land-mark, of which Mr. Clark and I had no doubt."

This visit of Col. Brisbois to the old fort was since I visited him, and took down his recollections. It should be added, that Lucius Lyons, U. S. Surveyor, made a survey of Prairie du Chien in 1828, and constructed a map, of which Judge Brunson has presented our Historical Society a copy, which gives the location of the old French fort on farm lot No. thirty-nine, and the old fort well some little distance away; and in Lyons' field notes of his survey of this farm lot, he distinctly notes the "Old French Fort" as within that survey.

The old fort locality as designated by Judge Brunson and Mr. Clark occupies about one-quarter and nearly in the center of the block bounded by Front and Water streets, and Lessard and Paquette streets, as shown on the map, while the trenches extend into Front and Lessard streets. On the plat here given, the trench outline is alone represented, which would seem to cover five or six times the space of the fort proper.