

correct—better than mere traditions, handed down from one to another for a century.

What Capt. Long represents as a "log-house," in which the furs were deposited, B. W. Brisbois thinks was at least a part of the old French fort; but he has no idea as to its size. His tradition from his father is, that this Mackinaw party burned up, with the building in which they were, about three hundred packs of the least valuable deer peltries and furs, which they could not carry away; but an eye witness like Long, has doubtless given the correct number. There was certainly something of a French, as well as Indian, settlement there at that time. Mr. Brisbois insists that it was the Spanish, not the Americans, whom the British traders feared. A former American invasion from below, did not get so high up the Mississippi as Prairie du Chien; but they heard of a large accumulation of furs there—and hence the danger, and the removal of the traders' deposits to Mackinaw.¹

Mr. Brisbois mentions an interesting tradition about the very first settlers who located at Prairie du Chien, after the French soldiery who had fortified there, had retired. He had his traditions mostly from his venerable father, and from Mrs. Cardinal. At an early period, Jean Marie Cardinal, with his wife, and a Mandan Indian slave, named Nicholas Colas, arrived, and settled about a mile and a half above the present court-house, at what is known as the Middle Village. Cardinal had ascended the Mississippi as far as Cannon River, just above where Red Wing now stands; but preferring the Prairie du Chien locality to any point he had visited, he returned and made a permanent settlement there. Mrs. Cardinal used to relate, that when they first arrived, the buffalo were so numerous as sometimes to impede the progress of the three adventurers in their frail bark vessel, and that they had to wait

¹ From *Pike's Travels*, and other sources, it would appear that Col. Montgomery's expedition, soon after the British and Indian attack on St. Louis, and on Col. Clark's force at Cahokia, in the latter part of May, 1780, did not proceed higher than the Sauk villages at the mouth of Rock River; but as there was a party of Spanish allies along, they may have proceeded up to Prairie du Chien, arriving there, as Long relates, about five days after his departure—and, it is possible, a detachment of Montgomery's men may have performed this service.