

the advent of Cardinal cannot be correct, is, that the evidence is wanting that there were any white settlers at Prairie du Chien at so early a period. When Capt. Carver visited that locality in 1766, he mentioned a large Indian town there containing about three hundred families. He alludes to traders, about the latter end of May, meeting Indians there from remote parts, and engaging in bartering goods for their furs, and adds: "A little farther to the West, on the contrary side of the great Father of Waters, a small river falls into the Mississippi, which the French call La Jaune Riviere, or the Yellow River. Here the traders, who had accompanied me hitherto, took up their residence for the winter"—which, it would seem reasonable, they would hardly have done, had there been a settlement of whites at Prairie du Chien. Taking all these facts together, the advent and settlement of Cardinal could not well have taken place earlier than 1767, and may have been even some years later.<sup>1</sup>

Joseph Crélie, who died in Caledonia, Wisconsin, Jan. 27th, 1866, was about ninety-four years old when he passed away, and not of that fabulous age as reported—so several old people at Prairie du Chien, who had long known him, agreed. Mr. Brisbois has no knowledge of Crélie's father having resided at Prairie du Chien. Crélie was accustomed to fibbing, and exaggerating his age. Once M. Brisbois, Sr., accused him of it, when he confessed his frailty in that direction, with tears. He appears to have settled at Prairie du Chien, in 1791,<sup>2</sup> when he must have been quite a young man.

Among the early residents of Prairie du Chien, who became noted throughout the Northwest, was Joseph Rolette. He was a native of Canada, where he was born about 1787. He was, while young, an auctioneer's clerk, perhaps in Montreal, and was remarkably expert in catching and announcing the rapid bids made for goods offered at public sale. He appears to have located

<sup>1</sup> Cardinal was yet living in 1791, and for "some years after;" so he probably lived to see the commencement of the present century; and that Colas married his widow, as Mr. Brisbois relates, is corroborated in the *U. S. Public Lands*, iv, p. 868.

<sup>2</sup> *U. S. Public Lands*, iv, pp. 867, 868. For Rolette, see pp. 465-467, *post*.