

cut the cables, and left; otherwise the British could have been repulsed; and being thus left without the aid of the gun-boats, Lieut. Perkins was compelled to surrender his fort to the British forces. Most of the citizens, Mr. Brisbois thinks, joined the British; though Joseph Cr  lie asserts that he "and many others" fled to the fort on the first alarm, and shared in the defence until the final surrender. Of the American cannon balls found in recent years, Hon. Horace Beach, of Prairie du Chien, has one, and the late Mrs. Dousman had two—fired from a three-pounder and lodged in a ridge nearly a mile from the fort, up the river, near where Rolette's party were stationed. Yeizer had several cannon on the gun-boats, and was *said* to have had two hundred and fifty men; while the British had only one small cannon. It was said that Col. McKay was fond of brandy; Mr. Brisbois can relate nothing else concerning him.<sup>1</sup>

While the British held Prairie du Chien, Antoine Dubois and one Champignier were sent several miles into the woods, to procure a supply of meat for the garrison, as related by Captain Anderson. They were both shot by a treacherous Sioux, at one discharge, killing Champignier outright, and mortally wounding Dubois. The latter made a trail of gunpowder, some five feet from the dead body of his companion, completely encompassing it, well knowing it would prove a protection against wolves; and then made his way, as best he could, to Prairie du Chien. This murderous attack on the two unsuspecting Frenchmen occurred in Giard's Coulee, some five or six miles west of the Mississippi. When a party repaired to the spot from Prairie du Chien, some

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<sup>1</sup> Although there was much firing on both sides prior to the surrender, yet the actual damage was slight—the British and Indians suffering no loss. Capt. Grignon, in his "Recollections" in the third volume of the *Society's Collections*, states that Capt. Rolette was sent with dispatches to Mackinaw; and when his boat hove in sight of that island garrison, large numbers thronged the shore, anxious to obtain the earliest tidings from Prairie du Chien. "Capt. Rolette, what's the news?" "A great battle—a sanguinary contest," responded the heroic Rolette, with an air of great solemnity and importance. "How many were killed?" "None." "How many wounded?" "None." "What a bloody contest!" vociferously shouted the crowd, as they escorted the hero from the boat to the garrison. L. C. D.