

Tradition of the Fox Indians, 1730

The following tradition is copied from the Niles (Mich.) *Register and Advertiser* of Dec. 12, 1835, and has the appearance of having been selected matter, with no reference as to its origin. It has some resemblance to the same tradition given by the late Augustin Grignon, when visited by the writer of this note in 1857, and given in the third volume of the Society's *Collections*.

This paper, brief as it is, is something of an addition to our traditional history; and as the details are somewhat different from Grignon's version, it would seem not to have come through him.

The name of the French captain slain at Green Bay is not given in this narrative; Capt. Grignon gave it as derived from the lips of his grandfather, DeVelle—so he pronounced it; and which the Canadian historian, Joseph Tassé, concludes was DeVilliers.

The date of the event here commemorated is somewhat doubtful; though the occurrence would seem to have taken place not very long anterior to Marin's expedition of March, 1730—some vague account of which is given in the fifth volume of our *Collections*, coupled with Grignon's tradition as recorded in our third volume. Though this terrible defeat of the Foxes, described by tradition as inflicted by Morand's, or more properly Marin's, expedition, may have been the capital stroke of the Sieur DeVilliers in September of the same year.

The period assigned for the almost total destruction of the Foxes at the Grand Butte des Morts, in the following tradition—that it occurred during Frontenac's Canadian administration, which extended from 1672 till his death in 1698—cannot be correct. There is no record of any military expedition within the borders of Wisconsin, prior to Louvigny's in 1716.

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During the time of Frontenac's government of the Canadas, the French occupied a post at Green Bay, nearly opposite the point on which Fort Howard now stands. Two young Menomonees of those days killed two Winnebagoes. The officer in command of the post demanded a surrender of the murderers. The surrender was promised. But Indians are proverbially slow, except in the chase or in battle. In all matters concerning life and death, they counsel, and delay to act. Pending the interval between the promise to surrender, and the time of its fulfillment, the French officer, becoming impatient, armed himself with a rifle, and taking a servant with him, went to the lodge to demand the instant surrender of the two young Menomonees. He found the Indians in council; a negotiation was pending. There had