

# Early Wisconsin Exploration, Forts, and Trading Posts

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Benjamin Sulte, in "Notes on Jean Nicolet," published in 1879, in vol. viii, of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, shows that this interpreter of a trading company, Nicolet, visited as early as 1634, the region around Green Bay, and the next year returned to Canada. This paved the way for other enterprising explorers and traders. It is only of recent occurrence that we have had a full account of the early explorations of Radisson and Groseilliers in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Mr. Gideon D. Scull, of London, discovered not long since, in the Library of the British Museum, manuscript journals of Pierre Radisson, the Frenchman, who with his brother-in-law, Médard Chouart, the sieur des Groseilliers, had penetrated central Wisconsin, and was the first to visit the region now known as Minnesota. Mr. Scull transcribed the journals for the Prince Society, Boston, which published them in 1885.

Radisson was not a scholar, was careless about dates, and the transcriber of the manuscripts, or the type-setter, has mangled many Indian words; and yet there are facts in the volume which may modify some of the statements of modern historians as to the exploration of the Northwest. These manuscript journals have a curious history. They once belonged to Samuel Pepys, of the court of Charles the Second, whose charming *Diary* is found in every well filled gentleman's library. In time they became attached to the Bodleian collection of manuscripts, and at length found their way to the British Museum.