

mines. The post on the site of Prairie du Chien, and those elsewhere, were all abandoned when, in 1700, Le Sueur explored the Minnesota River.

In June, 1727, an expedition left Montreal under René Boucher, the *Sieur de la Perriere*, to establish a post on Lake Pepin. His party arriving there on the 17th of September following, built a post, according to Father Guignas, upon the western shore of Lake Pepin, "about the middle of the north side, on a low point, where the soil is excellent. * * * We are here on the parallel of 43 deg., and 41 min." Frontenac, in Goodhue County, occupied the site of this old fort, and recently, a four and a six pound cannon-ball were found at the railway station, five feet below the surface. It is noteworthy that *Sieur La Perriere Boucher*, the officer in command of the Indians who surprised Haverhill, Mass., killed the minister of the town, scalped his wife and broke the skull of his child against a rock, and shot one Samuel Sibley, said to be a relative of Hon. H. H. Sibley, of St. Paul, was the person who established this post at Point du Sable on Lake Pepin.

A connection of the leader of the expedition, was the wife of a person named Pepin,¹ and this may account for the name of the lake. The post, in compliment to the governor of Canada, was called Beauharnois. Bellin, the geographer, mentions the early post above the Chippewa River, and then another post on the opposite side of the lake.

Though not within the borders of Wisconsin, yet ranking prominently as one of the line of early upper posts, a further notice of Fort Beauharnois will find a proper place in this connection. It was located at the sandy point which extends into Lake Pepin opposite the celebrated Maiden's Rock. Boucher built a stockade of pickets twelve feet high, forming a square of 100 feet, with two bastions, and called the post Fort Beauharnois, in compliment to the governor of Canada. On the 15th of April, 1728, the water in the lake was unusually high, and overflowed the point, so that the log buildings within the enclosure were full of water, and

¹Jean Pepin, on November 23, 1685, married Madeline Loiseau, at Boucherville.