

Every argument and fact militating against Franquelin also militates equally against the one or two map-makers who followed him, and doubtless copied from him, in locating Fort St. Nicholas above the mouth of the Wisconsin. There was not, then, at any time in the seventeenth century, a fort at what is now Prairie du Chien, or within the present limits of Crawford County, Wisconsin.

Supposed French Fort of 1755

I now come to the consideration of the supposed French fort erected upon the site (or adjacent thereto) of the present city of Prairie du Chien, in 1755. And here, for the first time, Prof. Butler discusses the real issue; for the first time seeks to prove that there was once a French fort in Prairie du Chien, or, if the reader please, within the present boundaries of Crawford County.

The words of Dr. Draper (*ante*, page 63, note 2) are these: "Another fort was established in 1755, at what is called Lower Town of Prairie du Chien;" that is, another French fort was established. Then he adds: "the particular locality of which is designated in volume nine of the Wisconsin Historical Society's *Collections*, pages 286-291." By referring to this volume, it will be discovered that his authority is exactly the same for his declaration as that given below by Dr. Butler; but he speaks of the fort as the "old French fort said to have been established in 1755."

In regard to the supposed French fort of 1755, Prof. Butler says: "In the *American State Papers* regarding Public Lands, we read that on February 25, 1818, Hon. George Robertson, from the committee on public lands, reported to the house of representatives, that in the year 1755, the government of France established a military post near the mouth of the Wisconsin." Then Dr. Butler adds: "The report to Congress was based on information given by a government agent who had visited Prairie du Chien, and gathered up testimony on the spot." That statement by Dr. Butler is wholly erroneous. No government agent had, previous to the making of that report by Robertson, ever visited Prairie du Chien for any such purpose as indicated