

the most fitting place for trading purposes of any point in the Wisconsin country, we may well judge, that La Salle, with his long experience and observation, was not slow to fix his trading establishment at that favorite locality, and he deserves the credit of having, in all probability, been the primitive trader at that point, so far as we have any recorded evidence. Whatever he did, however, was not so much in the interest of effecting the settlement of the country, as in securing trade and profit in furs and peltries, which was equally true of all the early traders, with their forts and trading establishments scattered along the lakes and streams of the Northwest.

Perrot's Fort St. Nicholas

Mr. Butterfield states that any old French fort at Prairie du Chien is a myth. If this be so, then nearly all the early map-makers on the Northwest, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and the early settlers of Prairie du Chien, dating back over a century, have alike labored under a grave mistake.

The "great map of Franquelin," as Parkman worthily denominates it, of 1684, improved in 1688, together with both D'Anville's and Bellin's, of 1755, Coven's and Mortier's *Amsterdam Atlas*, of 1757, and the *Atlas Moderne* (Paris, 1762), all locate Fort St. Nicholas north of the mouth of the Wisconsin—unquestionably referring to the locality of Prairie du Chien. Bellin's *Atlas* of 1764 again repeats the locality as north of the Wisconsin. In Bellin's published *Remarks*, of 1775, explaining and describing his map, he states: "Nicholas Perrot built a fort at the mouth of the Wisconsin," and his map shows that it was on the northern side. This is certainly a formidable array of authorities, who rank among the ablest cartographers of the past two centuries.

Jefferys, a noted English map publisher and geographer in the time of George Third, has alone been cited as placing Fort St. Nicholas below the mouth of the Wisconsin; but this is doubtful, as Dr. Neill has indicated in the present volume. By a careful examination of Jefferys' Map of North