

traditions of their successors, extending back over a century; while the remains of the old fort itself, are still pointed out to attest the tradition of its ancient existence.

It is proper, in this connection, to advert to the trustworthiness of the Hon. George Robertson, who made the report to Congress, in 1818, stating that, "in the year 1755, the government of France, established a military post near the mouth of the Wisconsin; that many French families settled themselves in the neighborhood, and established the village of Prairie du Chien." He was a representative in Congress from Kentucky, from 1817 to 1821; four years speaker of the legislature of that State, secretary of state, judge of the court of appeals, fifteen years chief justice of Kentucky, and twenty-three years professor of law in the Kentucky Transylvania University, declining many offices of high public trust, including that of governor and attorney-general of his State, four times refusing a proffered seat in the federal cabinet, twice a seat in the supreme court of the United States, and two diplomatic appointments. These honored positions, covering a period of nearly half a century, together with his many legal opinions, and his volume on *Law, Politics, Men, and Times of Kentucky*, sufficiently attest his prominence and ability, and in the language of the historian of Kentucky, "evinced at once depth of thought, laborious research, accurate discrimination, and sound philosophy." Judge Robertson died, full of honors and years, in 1874. We may well judge, that so able and scholarly a man, was careful in writing his report, to state nothing but what seemed to him well attested facts. The petition of the inhabitants of Prairie du Chien, upon which Judge Robertson's report was based, appears unfortunately to have been lost.

Col. Lee, of Michigan, who served with distinction on the Mississinewa campaign, and on other occasions during the War of 1812, as well as in public positions in civil life, states in his report in October, 1820, that "among the most aged of the inhabitants of the Prairie, none could be found who could recollect, or who had any knowledge of the first establishment of the French there, nor could any satisfactory