

that we have ever heard of, doubted for a moment the general correctness of this ancient tradition.

A little distance east of the old fort is an old well, marked on Lyon's map of 1828, "military well," which must have been used by the early dwellers in this old fortress. Hon. Horace Beach states, that it is now about a dozen feet deep, and thinks it could not have been the work of the mound-builders, as they located along the streams for their water supply. Mr. S. A. Clark says, when he first saw this well, nearly fifty years ago, there was a tree growing out of it from sixteen to twenty inches in diameter; that the well appeared to have been originally curbed up with pieces of timber to keep out the sand, and as these decayed, the well must have partially filled up.

Col. B. W. Brisbois' statement:—In December, 1882, I visited Col. Brisbois with a single view of obtaining his recollections and traditions with reference to the early settlement and pioneer settlers of Prairie du Chien. I had no purpose, and made no effort whatever, to warp or misrepresent his opinions; and when I had hurriedly noted them down, I carefully read them over to him for any corrections or further suggestions. He gave them his approval as correct. After their appearance in the 9th volume of our *Collections*, he wrote, stating that I had misunderstood him with reference to one of his Winnebago connections, and in no other particular whatever—not a word with reference to his views of the old French fort as being misrepresented. What he said to me, and approved when put to paper and read over to him, was this:

"The old French fort was at what is now the Lower Town, a mile and a half from the court-house, and where the old Indian town was located about where the College now is. My father, M. Brisbois Sr., used to say, that the fort was built by the Canadian traders; it was about where the round-house and yard are in the Lower Town. Occasionally the Spanish would send up a gun-boat to seize all furs and peltries, as British property secured on Spanish territory, without Spanish license or permission. Learning that the Spanish were coming, the traders at Prairie du Chien