

sent their furs and property to Mackinaw, and burned the fort. No idea as to the size of the fort; the traders burned up the remainder of the deer peltries, and the least valuable furs, which they could not carry away. Thinks certainly there was a French and Indian settlement here then. Insists that it was Spanish, not Americans, whom the traders feared. A former American invasion did not get so high up; but had heard of a large accumulation of furs at Prairie du Chien."

I wrote out, more systematically, Mr. Brisbois' "Recollections and Traditions," immediately after taking them down from his lips; and, as the caption of the paper shows, made such "notes and annotations," in connecting and explaining his statements, as seemed necessary, without intending to add to or embellish his views in any particular. I included some few facts which he stated, not noted, from memory; only one of which I may, perhaps, have misunderstood—where the remark is made, on the strength of what he learned from his father, Mrs. Cardinal and Colas, that it was "after the French soldiery, who had fortified there, had retired," that the Cardinals settled in the country. The idea was plainly conveyed, that it was after this old fort had been abandoned by its original occupants, whether soldiers or traders, that the Cardinal party made their advent to Prairie du Chien. Whether Col. Brisbois made use of the words "French soldiery" or not, there was no necessity for using them; it was done hurriedly, and without any design of misstatement; and was simply intended to convey the idea, that it was after the first occupants of the old fort, whoever they were, had retired, the Cardinals came and settled on the Prairie.

However this may be, it has very little to do with the main questions at issue touching the old fort—whether it was of French origin, or was constructed by the mound-builders. Col. Brisbois has stated not only to me, but to several others, that his father as well as himself, fully believed, that the old fort was built by French-Canadian traders. The evidences on this head are too strong to be successfully controverted.