

lore of this historic old treasure trove, and can tell all about it.

**Hon. O. B. Thomas' statement:**—Ever since I can remember, the old military remains you inquired about, have been called "the old French fort," though some insist that it was a Spanish structure. If we take tradition as our guide, there is no more question as to its having been a fort, than there is about Fort Crawford having been erected for military purposes. I have never heard a doubt expressed by the old settlers, that what is known as the old French fort was designed by the whites as a fort for defensive purposes. The late Col. H. L. Dousman Sr., John H. Fonda, B. W. Brisbois, and all the old French inhabitants, spoke of it as a fort, and the most of them, as a fort erected by the French. Col. Isaac Lee's statement, and the affidavits of the old settlers, taken by him in 1820, found in the fourth volume of the *American State Papers*, represent the tradition as I have heard it all my life. This old fort was located near the bank of the Mississippi, on the west of the present highway, and on the west end of farm lot No. 39, in what is now called Lower Town.

Mr. S. A. Clark showed me where, in an early day, he dug up rock on this ground to use in building, which were limestone, such as are found in the bluffs. These rocks were burned, or had the appearance of having been used in a fire-place and chimney; he found three such places. He thought the rampart was where the stockade was, and there appears to have been an *outer ditch* or *fosse*. Messrs. Brunson and Clark are correct as to the location of the old fort.

I went over the ground with Mr. Clark, who showed me the old lines, or so much of them as can now be seen. The east line is quite distinct; the west line, near the river, has been obliterated by cultivation and the construction of the railroad; the line on the north has, in many places, been destroyed by the plow, and the line on the south is entirely gone, being now in a cultivated field. The highway from the Upper to the Lower Town, used for many years, and which I can trace back fifty years or more by the old people, was where it now is, immediately east of the old fort.