

and clay, as the locality of the old fire-places, were about the center of the ground from north to south, and also about centrally located from east to west, if the enclosure by its walls and trenches was about 370 feet each way—in other words a square. This is simply my judgment; if Messrs. Clark, Folsom, and others give you the exact measurement, that will be more reliable.

The river opposite the site of the supposed fort has been called a bayou; but it is really the Mississippi River, and is the first place on the bank, after leaving the mouth of the Wisconsin, where a boat of any kind could land on the prairie; and both the bank and landing-place are as good as could be desired.

There are no mounds that I am able to discover near the supposed wall or embankment. There are many mounds on the prairie, and several places that look as though mounds that once existed within the enclosure, had been leveled so as hardly to be distinguished, and I am unable to see that the supposed ramparts have any connection whatever with these mounds. There was a very large mound on the site of Fort Crawford.

In my opinion, this old fort, conceding that it was a fort, was designed as a defense against Indians; the buildings being probably of logs, and, as a further protection, having a sort of palisade, or row of posts, set firm in the ground, with a ditch on the *outside*, and probably rude bastions on each corner. Thus, I think, you get all there ever was of "the old French fort."

Hon. Horace Beach's statement:—It seems quite certain that there was a stockade fort on S. A. Clark's old homestead, on farm lot No. 39, near the Mississippi. Tradition says it was built by some adventurous Frenchmen for purposes of Indian trade; Col. B. W. Brisbois, among others, made this statement. That the Spanish governor of St. Louis, apprised of this trade, concluded to send a detachment of men to seize the furs and destroy the stockade; learning of this intended movement by some friendly Indians, the traders hastily loaded their best furs into boats, setting fire to the stockade, and burning all that could not be carried