

Fort St. Antoine at Lake Pepin

Perrot established two forts near the foot of Lake Pepin, one on either side—so states Dr. Neill. That on the eastern side must have been built first, probably in the spring of 1686, after leaving his wintering place at Trempealeau, and certainly not later than the spring of 1688. The locality of this establishment, named Fort St. Antoine, has been preserved by Franquelin, Penicaut, Bellin, and others. The other post, on the western bank of the stream, was apparently erected after 1688, else Franquelin would have located it on his map of that year as well as the other. We can justly quote Mr. Butterfield also, both in his *History of Crawford County*, and in his paper in this volume, as recognizing this "upper fort" of Perrot near the foot of Lake Pepin, on its eastern shore. The first impulse was a sense of relief and gratitude, that Mr. Butterfield had kindly spared us one of Perrot's old forts just where the good voyageur had located it. But this would seem a strange admission on the part of one who has shown so little faith in Franquelin. Though he has twice conceded the existence and locality of Perrot's "upper fort," where Franquelin places it; yet, on further thought, Mr. Butterfield ruthlessly proceeds to repudiate, as we shall see, this Fort St. Antoine locality, as given by Franquelin, Penicaut, and Bellin, and adopted by Dr. Neill, and even by Mr. Butterfield also, thus correcting, at one bold effort, "a great mistake," as he terms it, of five notable historical errorists.

Mr. Butterfield discovers, or thinks he discovers, that Fort St. Antoine, after all, was not located near the foot of Lake Pepin, and states the case in this wise: "Fort St. Anthony [Antoine] is put down by him [Franquelin] as on the east bank of the Mississippi, just below Lake Pepin, when it was actually at the head of Green Bay. That was a great mistake;" and then adds, that as compared with this, Franquelin's "making Fort St. Nicholas *above* the mouth of the Wisconsin, when it should have been *below* it, was a slight error."

This "slight error" Mr. Butterfield remedied with mar-