

the southwest angle, there was quite a large pile of stone, composed of three qualities—some from the lake shore, some from the surface in and around the place, and some sandstone, such as were found at the foot of the bluff, a quarter of a mile to the north of the fort site.

"I inquired of the oldest settlers, who had lived in that vicinity since 1846, how any one knew that these remains were those of an old French fort? They answered, that the Indians and half-breeds, who were born at Wabasha, and were then gray-headed men, had always been told, that the French people, many years ago, came and built a great tepee (house), and dug a well in it there. This was the tradition. There was a slight depression in the ground near the southeast angle, on the inside of the lines, about eight or ten feet in diameter, nearly circular, and about a foot in depth in the center. This may have been the site of the traditional well. The nearest spring along the lake is just below the famous cliff of the Lover's Leap, some three miles above.

"In August, 1857, I removed to Pepin village. On several occasions I took visitors to the site of the old French fort, nearly four miles distant, to excavate for old nails. We always found the old-fashioned wrought-iron nail among the coal and ashes, from two to three feet below the surface. The charcoal and ashes were indications of the destruction of the fort by fire. The nails found were in all stages of oxidation, while some of them remained quite perfect. A plowed field now occupies the old fort locality, and the G. B. & N. R. R. must approach close to the front of the ancient structure.

"I never took the pains to measure the lines of the foundation; but according to my best recollection, it occupied a space of about sixty by forty-five feet, and stood about seventy feet back from the point of highest water-mark on the lake shore; and, I should think, it was from ten to fourteen feet above high-water. I never doubted the former existence of an old fort at that place; in fact, the evidence was conclusive. It was the most suitable locality for such a structure that could be found anywhere between Bogus and