

North America.¹ Why should we reject its testimony—especially after observing it to be in keeping with the history of La Potherie, which was indubitably based on conversations with Perrot himself? What name would Perrot have been more likely to bestow on his fort than that of his patron saint, which was Nicholas?

No map-maker was ever more eminent than the Frenchman D'Anville (1697–1782). He is credited by the *Encyclopædia Britannica* “with a complete geographical reform—banishing the custom of copying blindly from preceding maps, and never fixing a single position without a careful examination of all authorities. By this process he detected many serious errors in the works of his most celebrated predecessors, while his own accuracy was soon attested by travelers and mariners who had taken his works as their guide. His principles also led him to another innovation, which was that of omitting every name for which there existed no sufficient authority. Vast spaces which had before been covered with cities, were thus suddenly reduced to a perfect blank—but it was speedily perceived that this was the only accurate course.”

Reading these words, and a still higher eulogy of D'Anville in Gibbon, I was eager to inspect his large map of our Northwest, published in November, 1755. On looking at the mouth of the Wisconsin, as there delineated, I read words which I cannot but translate *Old French Fort of St. Nicholas*—“Ancien Fort Français de S. Nicholas.”

In 1755, M. Bellin published at Paris *Remarks on a map of North America, between the 28th and the 72nd degrees of latitude, and a Geographical Description of those Regions*.² One of his remarks is in these words: “Nicholas Perrot built a fort named St. Nicholas at the mouth of the Wisconsin.”

¹ The title of the map is: *Carte de l'Amerique Septentrionale dressée par J. B. Franquelin dans 1688 pour être présentée a Louis XIV.*

² *Remarques sur la carte de l'Amerique Septentrionale comprise entre le 28e et le 72e degré de Latitude, avec une Description Geographique de ces parties.* 4to Paris, 1755, pp. 131, Didot. This map is in the library of Harvard University.