

ANTOINE LE CLAIR'S STATEMENT.

FRAGMENTARY NOTES TAKEN BY LYMAN C. DRAPER.¹

Francis le Clair, son of Antoine le Clair, was born at St. Josephs, Michigan, in 1795;— his brother, Antoine le Clair, late of Davenport, Iowa, was two years younger.²

Antoine le Clair, Sr., was a native of Montreal; he first located as a trader, at a crossing place just above the old fort, called Para Vache,³ or Cattle Yard (Cowpens), about thirty miles above the mouth of the St. Josephs river— and near there, a little above, was the Pottawattomie village, La Terre Coupee. He there married into a prominent Indian family, about 1792. The elder Antoine le Clair was a blacksmith by trade; but did not work at the business, except for a few years before his death, at Portage des Sioux, Missouri— where he died about 1821, some fifty-five years of age. He was somewhat less than six feet in height— well-built, and a successful trader.

In 1800, Antoine le Clair, Sr., removed to Milwaukee. No traders were then located there. There probably had been such, however, who would remain during the winter and then return to Mackinaw. Le Clair took his family and

¹ In my trip to Missouri, Kansas, Illinois and Indiana in May, June and July, 1868, I was not able to transcribe all the notes I took in rough pencil form— hurrying, as I had to do, from place to place, and had time to copy only a part as I took them. These fragmentary statements by Le Clair, whom I met at Portage des Sioux, Mo., May 27, 1868, I now transcribe in the order in which I took them. There is no attempt at a connected narrative form.— L. C. D.

² Antoine le Clair, Jr., was United States interpreter at the Sac and Fox Indian agency at Rock Island, in 1832. In August of that year, he served as interpreter between Black Hawk and J. B. Patterson, when the latter secured Black Hawk's *Autobiography*.— Ed.

³ At Para Vache, the roads from Chicago forked— one leading to Fort Wayne, the other to Detroit.— L. C. D.