

Canadian, was living close by where Le Clair settled. He had come from Mackinaw, apparently about two years before — say 1798. He had an Ottawa wife and three or four children, and Le Clair found him there at Milwaukee; he was a good blacksmith, would make hoes, axes, knives, gigs and spears for fishing, and shoe horses for the French traders. He would send by the traders for a small supply of iron, and make his own charcoal. In repairing guns, he was very ingenious. The Le Clairs left him there in 1809. The traders who lived there had one-horse carts,—made there — rough and unironed.

Each trader kept four or five French Canadian engagés, who would cut and haul wood and assist in trading, as well as work in the truck patches. The trader would send some of the more competent and trusty of these men in canoes, with a selection of goods, to different points, more or less distant, to stay all winter and trade with Indians: — or on pack horses over to Rock river, and on Winnebago lake to the Winnebagoes, and return in the spring with furs and pelts.

The Indians at Milwaukee had no fruit trees, except wild plums, which were plenty; there were blackberries, grapes and strawberries, but no raspberries. There were no nuts, — no pecans, no persimmons. The Indians manufactured large quantities of maple sugar for their own use, and for sale; they would live on it fast, and sell to the traders, — the rule in this, as in other things, being first a feast, then a famine. They were improvident, and what they had was soon gone. The Indians had bark lodges for summer; some of these were quite long, with divisions, and several families lived in one lodge. Narrator thinks there were about thirty lodges, of all sizes, housing perhaps some seventy-five families, with probably two or three gun-men to a family — fathers, sons and sons-in-law.

There was no priest located at Milwaukee in those early times, and the traders there had no chance to school their children. There was no Indian town between Milwaukee and Chicago — and no Indian town at Chicago, though there was around there.