

Ouisconsin, and 700 miles, by estimation, above St. Louis;¹ the distance is probably over-rated as a well-manned boat

justice of the peace under the government of Illinois Territory; having been appointed as such, for the county of St. Clair, May 3, 1809, and for the county of Madison, June 12, 1814. In *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii, p. 126, there is a humorous story of his manner of administering the law, which is doubtless much exaggerated; very much as Charles Reaume's judicial record at Green Bay has been made the butt of many a careless historical writer's little joke, the better to spice narratives that might otherwise have proved insipid. The truth appears to be, that both Reaume and Boilvin were men of fair ability, faithful to their small trusts and quite on a par with the degree of personal dignity and respectability then in vogue in the two Wisconsin outposts of civilization. Boilvin furnished the war department, at one time, pursuant to instructions, with a Winnebago vocabulary.—(*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, p. 65.) It appears that, under date of April 25, 1811, about twelve weeks after the above letter was written, Secretary Eustis vested Boilvin with "discretionary power to expend on account of the government as much as should be thought necessary and for which he was to be allowed."—(*Edwards Papers*, p. 138.) This same discretionary power, the result of a high degree of official confidence in his trustworthiness, was confirmed by another letter from the secretary of war, bearing date July 28, 1815. In *American State Papers*, vi., p. 32, Boilvin's account of expenditures in his agency during the first five months of 1812, "for articles purchased, express hire, pay of interpreters, &c.," foots up \$3,255.31. In Canada, Boilvin was "well known to Mr. Brisbois, Sr.," they afterwards being fellow-residents at Prairie du Chien. Boilvin died in the summer of 1827, on a keel-boat, on the Mississippi river, while on his way to St. Louis, and was buried at the latter place. "He was of common height, rather stocky, stooped and bow-legged," and left a son who afterward died in California. In regard to this statement of the year of Boilvin's death, it is proper to say that in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ix, p. 286, it is given, on B. W. Brisbois's oral relation, as 1824; but in *The Edwards Papers*, p. 292, I find a letter from Gen. Joseph M. Street to Gov. Ninian Edwards, dated July 7, 1827, in which he says that Henry Clay had written him, under date of June 10th, to the effect "that Boilvin was dead," and he (Clay) had recommended to the secretary of war the appointment of Street as successor. It is clear that Clay had then but recently heard of the fatal accident to Boilvin, which must, therefore, have occurred in the early summer of 1827. Boilvin's sub-agent was John

¹ I have received a letter from the chief of engineers, U. S. A., dated Washington, D. C., April 23, 1888, making the following official statement: "In a table of distances on maps of the Mississippi river, by Major F. N. Farquhar, Corps of Engineers, the distance between Prairie du Chien, Wis., and St. Louis, Mo., is five hundred and one-half miles."—Ed.