

is able to ascend from the latter to the former place in twenty days, but it generally takes double the time for a loaded boat to perform the same route. The plat of ground on which the village stands may be said to be an island of about three miles long and a mile broad, but in the season of low water the back channel is dry except where it forms a small pond or lake, which may be easily drained. In fine, the back channel is nothing more than a small creek or bayou.

Prairie des Chiens is an old Indian town which was sold by the Indians to the Canadian traders about thirty years ago,¹ where they have ever since rendezvoused, and dis-

Marsh. The death of the agent must have been previous to the middle of June, for it appears, by Brig. Gen. Henry Atkinson's report of the Red Bird disturbance, made to Maj. General Gaines, Sept. 28, 1827, that at that time Marsh was in charge of the Indian agency at Prairie du Chien: "About the middle of that month [June] Mr. Marsh, sub-agent, was informed, though the Sioux, that Prairie du Chien would be attacked." At the convention held between Atkinson and the Winnebagoes, at Prairie du Chien, Sept. 9, Marsh witnessed the articles in the capacity of agent. Street was appointed to succeed Boilvin, and arrived at the agency on the first of November, as will be seen by his letter of Dec. 28, 1827, *post.*—Ed.

¹ In 1781, exactly thirty years before Boilvin's letter, three French Canadians, named Basil Giard, Pierre Antaya and Augustin Ange, arrived on the "Prairie des Chiens," and the *Hist. Crawford Co.* (p. 280) claims that they were the first settlers in Crawford county. This assertion was also made by Major Z. M. Pike, U. S. A., who, in the course of his expedition to the sources of the Mississippi, visited Prairie du Chien, in 1805, six years previous to Boilvin's account, with the exception that Pike omits the name of Ange, who had left the prairie several years before the arrival of the expedition, and cites Dubuque as one of the original trio, which is clearly an error. Giard had a Spanish claim, three miles square, across the river, the site of what is now McGregor, Iowa; he was a trader, had a Sac woman for a wife, and died at Prairie du Chien, in 1819, aged about seventy years. Antaya was a farmer, and had a Fox half-breed for a consort; he died about 1815 or 1816. Ange was at first a voyageur, but afterwards became a trader, and wandered off to the headwaters of the Missouri, where he traded among the Sioux and died; he was, however, at Prairie du Chien during the treaty of 1825. An extended and learned controversy as to whether a French fort and trading post was established