

There were, perhaps, about one hundred civilians at the Bay settlement when I arrived.¹ They were French and mixed-blood voyageurs, in the main,— in the winters attending on the Indian traders, who also lived in the community, and in summers cultivating an acre or so apiece, mainly planted to vegetables. In the fall, a trader, in setting out for the Indian country, would engage four or five, or more, of these voyageurs for the season, according to the extent of business anticipated. Their duty was to help load and propel the boats; collect furs from the savages throughout the winter, and indeed perform any service the trader might ask of them, however menial. The voyageurs were bound to the trader by an iron-clad contract, among its many curious provisions being one that the former should submit to living on corn and grease, or in fact any sort of edible which the exigencies of this rough life might demand.

The traders themselves exercised a marked influence, for good or evil, over the Indians with whom they traded, and could generally sway them as they saw fit. This was especially the case with the free and easy Frenchmen, who always seemed to be hand-in-glove with their dusky brethren of the forest, with whom they were often united by ties of blood. John Lawe, Jacques Porlier, Louis Grignon and Lewis Rouse are the only French traders whom I can remember as being here in 1827. They all of them operated in the interest of the American Fur Company. Daniel Whitney, William Dickinson and Robert and A. J. Irwin were trading on their own account. These traders all lived here and had families, so far as I can remember.

At Milwaukee were located the posts of Jacques Vieau and Solomon Juneau.² Vieau was, at that time, I think,

Shanty Town; then with Mr. Carpenter at the same place, and in 1828 moved down to Judge Arndt's, where he continued to board through seven years. Then he went to the old Washington house, of pleasant memory, meanwhile having rooms with Dr. Geo. S. Armstrong, now of Buffalo."
— Ed.

¹ Cf. Judge Martin's brief description of early Green Bay, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, viii., p. 209; x., pp. 139, 140.— Ed.

² Cf. Andrew J. Vieau's narrative, *ante*.— Ed.