

Years later, apparently in 1692 or 1693, the French explorer Le Seuer built some sort of a structure on Madelaine island, probably at the south end of it, a place which was long held by his countrymen. It is the site known now as that of the "old fort."¹ Thus this trading station was one of the oldest in the Wisconsin region. There is no record of continuous occupancy by the French, though doubtless their traders, at least, kept coming and going. But their missionaries came no more to Chequamegon. The last French officer there was Hertel de Beaubassin, who left in 1756, with Ojibways as allies, to join his countrymen in the war then raging between them and the English colonists. Nine years later, when the whole country had passed under the sway of King George, Alexander Henry — the English trader and author who so narrowly escaped with his life at the time of the massacre at (old) Fort Mackinaw,² June 4, 1763 — re-established the Madelaine island trading-post. To this place the name of La Pointe was applied some time during the present century, a name afterward transferred to the "new fort" built by the American Fur Company two miles farther north, when, on account of the use of larger vessels in the Lake Superior trade, and the partial filling of

¹ According to Neill, it was at this time that "the Ojibways began to concentrate in a village upon the shores of Chequamegon bay." From E. P. Wheeler, of Ashland, we have the following: "The Ojibways, I think, can not be shown to have known anything about Chequamegon bay before 1660 when, from a point toward Green bay, they were going up there to trade." Neill seems to me to be safer by far to follow than Warren. The second-growth trees, which Mr. Warren instances as showing the early occupation of La Pointe, can easily be accounted for by the fact that in 1762 a French trader was known to have summered there,— not because there were Indians there, but because they were on the opposite side. Following down from 1762 to 1791, when John Johnson summered there, and the Cadottes also came to the island, there were occasional traders who found it safer to trade from over across the channel on La Pointe island, than at Bayfield and vicinity, where the Indians were congregated. These transient traders at La Pointe would account for the second-growth timber which existed at the time of Warren's early recollections as a boy (born 1824).

This old fort was on the south side of the strait.