

Fish Creek, at the mouth of which is a large meadow, or swamp.¹

After spending six weeks in the Sioux country, our explorers retraced their steps to Chequamegon Bay, arriving there towards the end of winter. They built a fort on Houghton Point. The Ottawas had built another fort somewhere on Chequamegon Point. In travelling towards this Ottawa fort, on the half-rotten ice, Radisson gave out and was very sick for eight days; but by rubbing his legs with hot bear's oil, and keeping them well bandaged, he finally recovered. After his convalescence, our explorers traveled northward, finally reaching James Bay.

¹ Ex-Lieut. Gov. Sam. S. Fifield, of Ashland, writes me as follows:

"After re-reading Radisson's voyage to Bay Chewamegon, I am satisfied that it would by his description be impossible to locate the exact spot of his camp. The stream in which he found the "pools," and where he shot fowl, is no doubt Fish Creek, emptying into the bay at its western extremity. Radisson's fort must have been near the head of the bay, on the west shore, probably at or near Boyd's Creek, as there is an outcropping of rock in that vicinity, and the banks are somewhat higher than at the head of the bay, where the bottom lands are low and swampy, forming excellent "duck ground" even to this day. Fish Creek has three outlets into the bay, — one on the east shore or near the east side, one central, and one near the western shore; for full two miles up the stream, it is a vast swamp, through which the stream flows in deep, sluggish lagoons. Here, in the early days of American settlement, large brook trout were plenty; and even in my day many fine specimens have been taken from these "pools." Originally, there was along these bottoms a heavy elm forest, mixed with cedar and black ash, but it has now mostly disappeared. An old "second growth," along the east side, near Prentice Park, was evidently once the site of an Indian settlement, probably of the 18th century.

"I am of the opinion that the location of Allouez's mission was at the mouth of Vanderverter's Creek, on the west shore of the bay, near the present village of Washburn. It was undoubtedly once the site of a large Indian village, as was the western part of the present city of Ashland. When I came to this locality, nearly a quarter of a century ago, "second growth" spots could be seen in several places, where it was evident that the Indians had once had clearings for their homes. The march of civilization has obliterated these landmarks of the fur-trading days, when the old French voyageurs made the forest-clad shores of our