

NARRATIVE BY LOUIS B. PORLIER.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE EDITOR.¹

I was born at Green Bay, in 1815, my father being Jacques Porlier of the old trading company of Jacques Porlier and Augustin Grignon.² Three years after that, the firm built their principal trading post on Overton's Creek, flowing into the upper end of Lake Butte des Morts, two miles below the present village of that name; they had branch posts at Grand Kackalin, on the Lower Fox, and Point Boss, on the Wisconsin. None of the Company lived either at the Butte des Morts or Point Boss agency — Grignon residing at Grand Kackalin, and my father at Green Bay; the business being transacted by clerks, who were chiefly members of the two families; some of the firm visited the establishments each spring or fall. About 1826, Robert Grignon,³ a nephew of old Augustin, became permanent agent at the Grand Butte; but in 1830, he desired to set up business for himself, and I — then only 15 years of age — was sent down to succeed him. Robert opened a trading post on what is now the Benanger farm, a few miles above the Oshkosh city cemetery, and united with his mercantile operations the practice of the agricultural arts, in the crude style of the times; his venture did not prove profitable, and he never forgave himself for leaving his salaried position.

¹ At Porlier's residence, at Butte des Morts, in 1887. The narrator died at that place in 1899.— Ed.

² The narrator was a son-in-law of Augustin Grignon, and assisted Dr. L. C. Draper in interviewing the latter, for *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii.— Ed.

³ Robert Grignon served as a lieutenant on the Stambaugh expedition, in the Black Hawk War, 1832.— Ed.