

About 1826, the federal government had established a mail route between Forts Winnebago (Portage) and Howard, the trail crossing the Wolf near our trading post, where the company kept a scow for the transportation of the carrier and such other equestrians as passed that way; the charges were 25 cents for ferrying a man and horse, in the summer season, and 50 cents when ice had to be broken; 12½ cents were charged for a gallon of oats for the horse, and 25 cents for a like quantity of corn, while the man was fed for 50 cents per meal. Pierre Paquette was the mail-contractor; but Joseph Crelie¹ and Antoine Courcielle, two relatives of his, were the actual carriers, taking the trips alternately. In those days the marshes opposite Butte des Morts were capable of bearing up a horse and rider, and, coming up the Fox valley from the southwest, travellers along the trail rode to the very edge of the Wolf River, within easy hailing distance of our post.

My father, in 1830 or 1831, thought seriously of moving his family up to our neighborhood; and commenced to erect a log house a mile below the present village of Butte des Morts; but it was burned down, before completed, by one of the grass-fires, set by the Menominees, who had a village at the Grand Butte. Another house was soon after erected, but not then occupied. In 1834-35, the post was moved to this latter location, the house being used to accommodate the families of clerks and agents, and two more block-houses being built in the immediate vicinity — one for a store, the other for boatmen's quarters. I was not stationed here, then, having in 1833 been sent to Point Boss, with Augustin Grignon's youngest brother, Amable.

In this latter year, another trail was chosen for the mail-route, crossing what is now called Coon's Point in Ward Five of Oshkosh. George Johnson, of Shantytown, on the Lower Fox, and father to William Johnson, the Indian interpreter, desiring to take advantage of this fact, erected that season one or two log-houses at Algoma, opposite Coon's Point; bringing his family up, he commenced busi-

¹See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ix, p. 293.—Ed.