

ahead of me, but I overtook him just as he left Gros Point for the south. Our pay was usually from \$60 to \$65 for a round trip such as I have described, although in the fall it sometimes reached \$70. I made my last overland trip to Chicago in the summer of 1836.

Then I was placed on the route to Portage, going sometimes on horseback and sometimes on foot. At first this was on a contract held by a Galena man, who came up to Green Bay to get some one to serve this end of the route; later a Green Bay man got the job. I served on this route, as the only carrier, for several years, off and on. It took a week to make the round trip. From Green Bay to Oshkosh, I would sometimes go on the east side of Fox River, and sometimes on the west. From Oshkosh I went along an Indian trail to Green Lake, thence to Portage. On the south side of Lake Puckaway was an Indian village, where now is the white village of Marquette; a man named Gleason had a trading post there. It was not on my trail.

I remember that in March, 1839, I started out on my return from Portage, my way leading through Bellefontaine, twelve miles northeast of Portage. The ground was covered with snow, and I soon became snow-blind. Francis le Roy kept a tavern and trading house at Portage, and because of my condition hired one of his sons to carry the mail for me as far as Bellefontaine.<sup>1</sup> There, while I was waiting to recover, Col. William Chapman, of Fort Crawford, came along on horseback, on his way to Fort Howard. By his invitation, I joined him, and kept up with him — he riding, and I on foot — as far as Riviere du Roche, where we had for breakfast a potato apiece. But Chapman now went ahead, and I was left to trudge along alone, with the mail bag on my back.

I had had hard work crossing the Fond du Lac River, but came at last to the house of J. Bannister, which was, I believe, the first house built in Fond du Lac. I was very hungry, but could make no one hear my poundings at the

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<sup>1</sup> A farm conducted by Pierre Paquette. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, pp. 402, 403.— Ed.