

NARRATIVE OF PETER J. VIEAU.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE EDITOR.¹

I was born in Milwaukee, January 10, 1820, at the old fur-trading post of my father, Jacques Vieau, near the present stock yards; my brother Andrew J. was born January 1, 1815; Nicolas, March 4, 1818 — otherwise our family dates of births are as given in Andrew's narrative in vol. xi of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*.

Our father, who was the first permanent white settler at Milwaukee (1795), was about six feet in height, and very corpulent; his average weight was from 210 to 215 pounds. His face was clean-shaven; his hair was light, and inclined to curl; his face was round and broad. He was naturally a temperate man, as to drink; had a happy, sociable disposition; and was popular among both whites and Indians — over the latter he held full sway.

In Andrew's narrative he says that father went to Mackinac from Montreal in 1793.² The large *History of Milwaukee County* says it was in 1776; this is more nearly correct, although I do not know exactly when it was. He and his brother Nicolas went out there as young men, and engaged as voyageurs with John Ulrich, who traded in the La Pointe region, on Lake Superior. Father was certainly at La Pointe in 1782, by which time he had become a clerk

¹ This interview took place at Vieau's house at Muskego Center, Waukesha County, October 20, 1889. In *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, pp. 218-237, is given the narrative of Andrew J. Vieau, Sr., an older brother of Peter — one of the most interesting and valuable documents published in our series. To this the reader is referred, for a full understanding of this narrative, which supplements and occasionally corrects the former.—Ed.

² *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, p. 220.—Ed.