

1721: CHARLEVOIX VISITS WISCONSIN; HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIBES.

[From Charlevoix's¹ *Journal historique* (Paris, 1744), pp. 187-189, 290-296, 299-301.]

Between Lake Huron and Lake Superior, in the Strait itself (by which the latter lake discharges its waters into the former), there is a rapid, which we have called the *Sault Sainte Marie*. The adjoining region was formerly peopled by Savages, who came thither, it is said, from the North Shore of Lake Superior, and who are called *Saulteurs*—which means “Dwellers at the Sault.” This name has apparently been given to them to escape the difficulty of pronouncing the name which they bore; for it is impossible to reach the end of it without taking fresh breath two or three times.² There is no Tribe settled, as far as I know, upon the Shores of Lake Superior; but in the Posts that we occupy there Trade is carried on with the *Cristinaux* [Crees], who come thither from the North-East, and belong to the *Algonquin Tongue*; and with the *Assiniboils*, who are at the North-West.

Lake *Michigan*, which is almost parallel to Lake Huron, into which it flows,—and is separated from it only by a Peninsula a hundred leagues long, which grows continually narrower toward the North,—has few Inhabitants upon its Shores; I do not even know whether any Tribe has ever permanently resided there; and it is without good reason that, on many Maps, it has been named *Lake of the Illinois*. In ascending the *River of Saint Joseph*, the waters of which empty into this Lake, there are encountered two Villages of different Tribes, who came

¹ Pierre François Xavier de Charlevoix, a noted Jesuit writer, was sent to America in 1720, commissioned by the French government to seek a route to the Western Sea; his MS. report of this journey, dated Jan. 20, 1723, is kept in the colonial archives at Paris. He wrote numerous historical works, of which the *Histoire de la Nouvelle France*, and the *Journal historique* (both issued in 1744), are the most interesting to American students.—Ed.

² In a foot-note by Charlevoix, this name is given as *Pauoirigueiouhak*.—Ed.