

# The French Canadians in the Development of the United States

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*By*  
Alexander Belisle

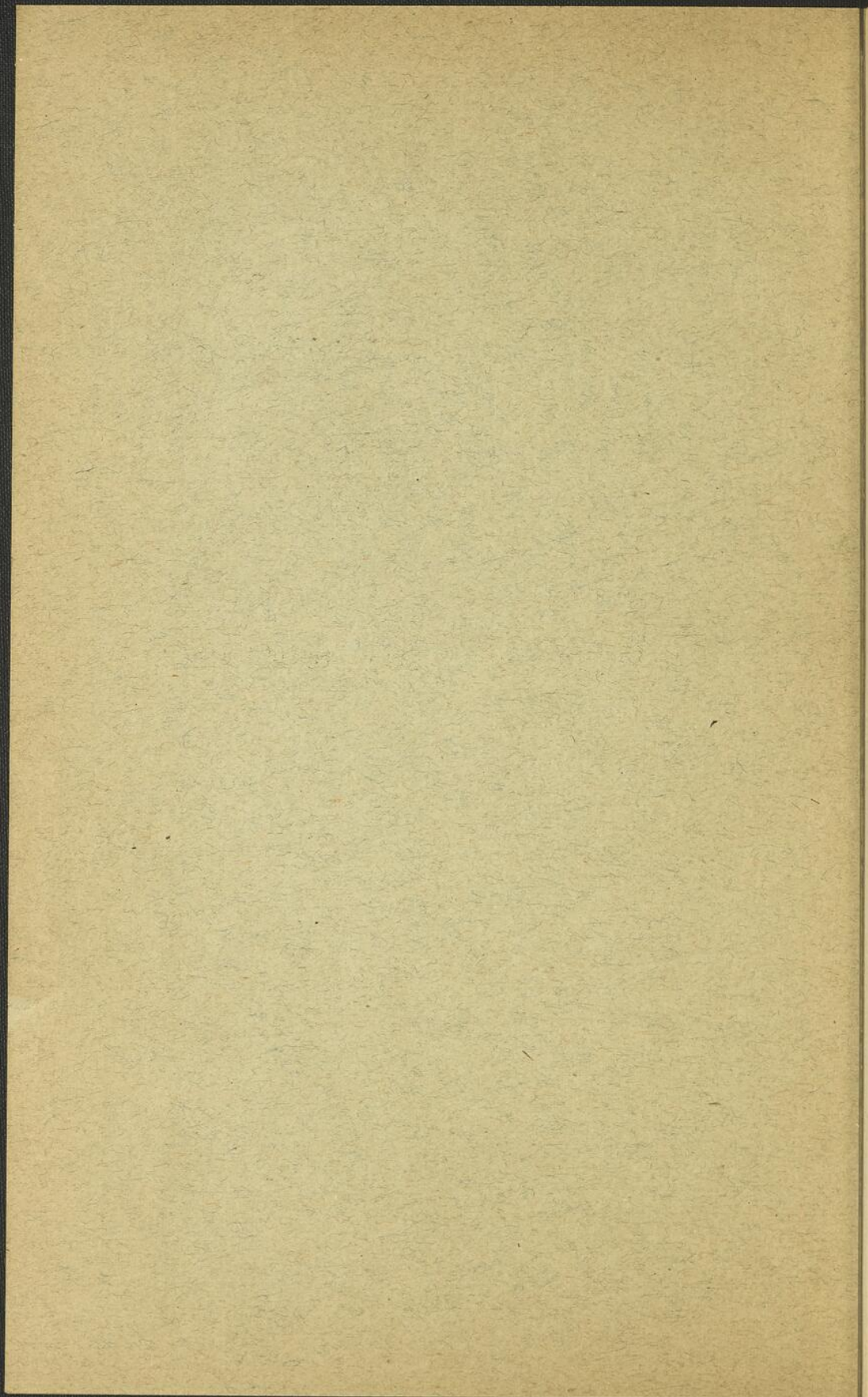
Extract from the Proceedings of the  
Worcester Society of Antiquity

VOLUME XXIII

March 5, 1907.

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Worcester, Mass., U. S. A.



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## PROCEEDINGS.

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FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING,  
TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 5, 1907.

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MET at the rooms of the Society, President Maynard presiding. Others present were: Messrs. Arnold, Belisle, Crane, Davidson, Ely, Eaton, A. V. Hill, George Maynard, Newton, George M. Rice, Miss Smith, Mrs. Williamson, Charles R. Daoust, Mr. and Mrs. Gravel and others.

The Librarian reported that since the last meeting there had been received twenty-two bound volumes, fifty-two pamphlets, and several articles for the Museum, including a set of cards illustrating the coinage of the several nations of the world, and given in the proper colors of the various metals, gold, silver and copper.

Special mention was made of the gift of a Bible printed by Isaiah Thomas in 1793 from Jeanette A. W. Ramsay, who also gave ambrotype pictures of Eanos Dorr and his wife, formerly residents of Worcester, now deceased. The Librarian also referred to a medicine case and balances for weighing medicine, two hundred years old, originally the property of Dr. John E. Owens of Chepachet, R. I., presented to the Society by Mrs. Sophia Roper Harris.

The Committee on Nomination presented names of the following persons and they were elected to membership in this Society:

Charles A. Allen, William Herbert Balcom, Mrs. Nora Abbie Balcom, George Hammond Brown, Miss Rose A. Boyle, Charles H. Burleigh, Edward A. Cowee, Francis William Cavanaugh, Daniel E. Denny, James Francis Healey, Albert F. Hyde, Daniel Joseph Kelley, Frank P. Knowles, Charles F. Mann, Darius A. Putnam, Mrs. Alice Edna Putnam, Fred A. Ricker, Charles M. Smith.

President Maynard announced that Miss Emma S. Barrett had been appointed an assistant to the Secretary and was authorized to collect dues from the members and give receipts for the same.

Alexander Belisle, Esq., then presented the paper announced for the evening.

### THE FRENCH CANADIANS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY.

BY ALEXANDER BELISLE, Esq.

The well-known historian, Francis Parkman, describes the pioneers of the West as follows: "Their character was a mixture of civilization and primitive simplicity. They were exceedingly polite and gay, careless, indolent and improvident as their Indian allies." The French Canadians were the pioneers of the West, discovering and colonizing the neighborhood of the Great Lakes, the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Missouri rivers. They journeyed through the immense solitude of the West in its primitive and uncivilized beauty. They were the first to cross the Rocky Mountains, and trampled alike the sands of the great American desert and the fertile plains that border the gulf of Mexico.

Their spirit of adventure carried them so far that probably there is not a ravine in the West which was not visited by these bold and fearless explorers.

The first among civilized men to name the great lakes, rivers and mountains. Many of the names have been changed for others less appropriate, but enough remain to recall the fact that a very large part of what is now the United States was settled by the French and colonized by their descendants, the French Canadians.

More than two hundred years ago, the Canadians, prompted by the desire to gain new territory for France, their mother country, coupled with the passion for both personal gain and glory, started on their perilous expeditions. The traders

and Coureurs de bois (bushrangers), of which Perrot, Du-Lhut and Nicolet were the most accomplished, marked, or successful types, exercised great influence over the Indian tribes. As far back as 1641 the Jesuits Raimbault and Joques had gone as far as Lake Superior. Père Marquette founded Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, in 1668, and with Louis Joliet discovered the Mississippi in 1673; La Salle completed the work by taking possession of Louisiana, which according to the treaty of Utrecht extended over the whole Valley of the Mississippi and westward nearly to the Rocky Mountains. The site of Detroit, Michigan, was first settled in 1685. Fort St. Joseph, now Chicago; Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburg, Pa.; Peoria, Ill., St. Louis, Vincennes, Ind., Green Bay, Mich., St. Clair, LaCrosse, Wis., St. Cloud, Dubuque, Iowa, and most of our leading western cities were founded by them.

At one time the possessions of France comprised the Great Lakes, the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri and Illinois rivers, in all a territory of more than 900,000 square miles. When Wilkes visited Oregon in 1838, he found hundreds of Canadians who had preceded by many years the coming of Americans. They had gone as far north as Alaska and south as Panama. These explorers and colonizers, the founders of our greatest western cities, have not yet been appreciated at their worth. What privations they endured, fraught with dangers of all sorts, to accomplish their civilizing enterprise, no one can say. The Americans know well the history of their Daniel Boone, who has become a legendary hero, while many of the French Canadians have done more than the pioneer of Kentucky, and their names are unknown or rarely mentioned. True, many historical societies of the West have made laudable efforts to bring out of oblivion many of the names of the first French Canadians of the West. The lack of information or authentic documents has prevented historians from giving all the credit due to those intrepid voyagers who brought honor to the French Canadians in this country.

I shall give short historical sketches of some who are known

to history. These sketches are taken from the Works of Joseph Tassé, "Les Canadiens de L'Ouest."

Charles de Langlade, whose family settled at Michilimacinae, now Mackinac, Wis., in 1727, was born there in 1729. There were very few whites at that time in and about that country. The various tribes of Indians were continually warring against each other. When only seven years of age, after interpreting a dream of the chief of the Ottawas he was selected to act as the Mascot of the tribe, for they believed that the child was especially protected by the great Manitou. That was their name for God. The Ottawas won repeated victories over their enemies, and it gave that boy a very great influence over the red men. When only twenty-five years old, he commanded an expedition against Gen. Braddock near the Monongahela, in which many Chiefs, among whom, it is thought, was the famous Pontiac, were his followers. Bear in mind that this was before the revolution. In all the important engagements against the English from Fort George, situated on Lake George in New York, to Wisconsin, Illinois and Louisiana, he took an important part. He was universally respected and esteemed by the Indians, and according to a declaration by Gen. Burgoyne he was a great soldier.

One day, after a victory, when his enemies, Commander Etherington and Lieutenant Leslie were bound and surrounded by Indians, prepared to be burned at the stake, Langlade arrived and cut the ropes, declaring that these men would be set free, that enough lives had been lost in battle without sacrificing any more. "If you want more lives," he said, "take mine, if you dare." His brave act saved the two lives from the blood-thirsty red men.

There wasn't much law in those far off days, but Charles Rhéaume, living at Green Bay, Wisconsin, was made the first Judge for the territory of Wisconsin and Indiana. His knowledge of law was very limited, consequently at times his judgments were somewhat biased; especially was this the case against the party in the suit having the most money

with which to pay the fees. On one occasion he sentenced the plaintiff to bring the Judge a load of hay, and the defendant was sentenced to bring him a load of wood. It was all profit for the Judge.

Jacques Porlier, a man of superior attainments, became a lieutenant in the militia and went to Green Bay about 1790. He was the first teacher in Wisconsin; and later, Chief Justice for Brown County. His education, public spirit, and affable manners won him the respect and esteem of all. Many volumes of his manuscripts are preserved by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Joseph Rolette, a trader and a scholar, became agent of the Astor Co. He employed large numbers of Indians and his orders to them were as quickly obeyed as those of Napoleon to his soldiers. He established many industrial enterprises, and developed navigation on the Great Lakes and rivers. Governor Cass, recognizing his incontestable superiority, appointed him Chief Justice of Crawford County. Among his intimate friends were Zachary Taylor, later President of the U. S., and Rev. Gabriel Richard, who was twice elected to Congress. Henry Clay became very intimate with Richard and helped him in Congress in getting improvements for the West.

Solomon Juneau, the founder of Milwaukee, for a long time called Juneau City, left home in 1815, being then only 18 years old, and for more than two years never slept under a roof. At 21, alone with his wife and child, he settled in 1818 on the shore of the Milwaukee River. For many years his only permanent neighbors were the red men and the wild beasts of the forests. His log house and trading stores were about two miles from the shore of Lake Michigan. In 1835, a few others had settled near him, and his property and stores were worth \$100,000. In 1836 he built one of the first steamboats on Lake Michigan. Ten years later Milwaukee got its city charter. It had a population of about 10,000. He had given lavishly of his fortune to the church

and to the city. The Court House and the first public park were among his gifts. He was the city's first Mayor. He died in 1856 at the age of 59 years. S. W. Beal, later Lieut.-Governor of Missouri, says—"There has never been a trader on this continent for whom the Indians had greater respect." His funeral took place with all possible military and civil pomp. The *Daily Wisconsin* said, "Milwaukee did its duty well in the sorrowful event of to-day. Gratitude is not yet dead in the hearts of its people. We know how to honor dignity, integrity and virtue." Juneau had a remarkable physique, more than six feet tall, well built, with an air of grandeur and nobility that commanded respect.

Dubuque, Iowa, was founded by Julien Dubuque. He had settled in 1785 when only 23 years old, at Prairie du Chien. He at once became familiar with all the superstitions of the Indians. He impressed them so much by his ability to mystify them that he became their idol, and he was called upon to settle all their troubles and differences. The Indians were always obstinate in allowing the white men to know anything of the discovery of mines or other secrets of value, but Dubuque had so won their confidence that they made free and told him of the rich deposits of lead along the Mississippi. They did much better by giving him a tract of land 21 miles long and 3 miles broad. The U. S. having acquired the territory, Wm. Henry Harrison in 1806, then Governor of Louisiana, of which this was a part, ratified the treaty whereby the five tribes had given Dubuque this land. He died in 1810, aged only 45. The Indians so loved him that he taught them they must work and they obeyed him, for they recognized in him a wise counsellor and a protector who more than any other white man had won their affection. His funeral was of the kind described by Fenimore Cooper in "The Last of the Mohicans." For many years the Indians maintained a burning lamp at his grave.

Antoine Leclaire was an interpreter, speaking French, English and fourteen Indian dialects. He lived in Peoria,

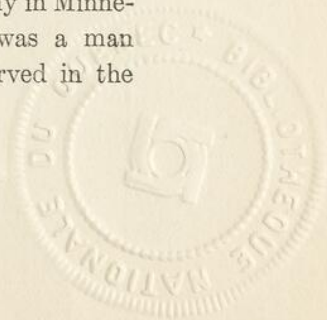
then known as Mallet City, the name of its founder being Jean Baptiste Mallet. Leclair became Indian Commissioner in 1825, having a territory extending 500 miles to St. Louis. He founded the city of Davenport, Iowa.

Joseph Thibault founded Beloit, Iowa. His son, Frank Thibault, founded Galena.

Jacques Duperon Baby, a man of superior education, was intrusted with very perilous expeditions in Virginia. Pontiac, the celebrated Huron Chief, was his intimate friend.

Joseph Rainville, a college bred man, served as interpreter to Lieut. Zebulon Montgomery Pike, in his expedition to explore the sources of the Mississippi. Rainville commanded a company of Sioux in the War of 1812, and had such perfect control over them as to prevent atrocities being perpetrated on the prisoners of war. In 1820 he was appointed by the U. S. Government as guide and interpreter for the expedition for the exploration of the Minnesota River. In 1837 Jean Nicolet and John C. Fremont went to explore Minnesota, and reported to Congress that the protection given by Rainville to travellers, and his influence over the Indian tribes were worthy of special recognition. He translated large parts of the Bible into Sioux, also religious books, all of which were printed. In the thirties *The Missionary Herald* of Boston recognized in him a man of remarkable intellect, observant, capable of using the best language and translating verbally long verses of the Bible. As an interpreter he had no equals. In 1846 he died, aged 67, having lived nearly 50 years among the Indians and being known as one of the leading men in his State.

J. Baptiste Faribault was born in 1774. In the War of 1812 he refused to fight under the English flag, and was made a prisoner at Prairie du Chien. After peace was restored, he organized the first independent military company in Minnesota. Gen. H. H. Sibley says that Faribault was a man whose name deserves to be respected and preserved in the *Annals of Minnesota*.



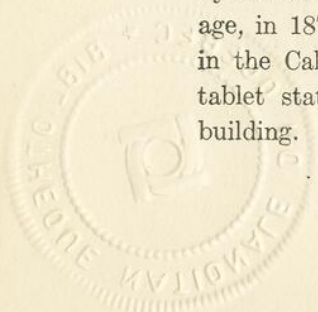
His son Alexander Faribault founded the city of that name in Minnesota.

Henry Schuyler Thibodeau founded Thibodeau, La., at what was known as the Acadian Hills. That is the place where the English deported from their country the poor, inoffensive and peaceable Acadians,—an outrage that will survive to be the shame of England, because it has been recited in such sublime, soul-stirring verse in *Evangeline* by our great national poet, Longfellow.

Jean B. Lefevre accompanied Henry Schoolcraft during his visit among the Indian tribes disseminated throughout the Northwest. He founded Superior City in 1853.

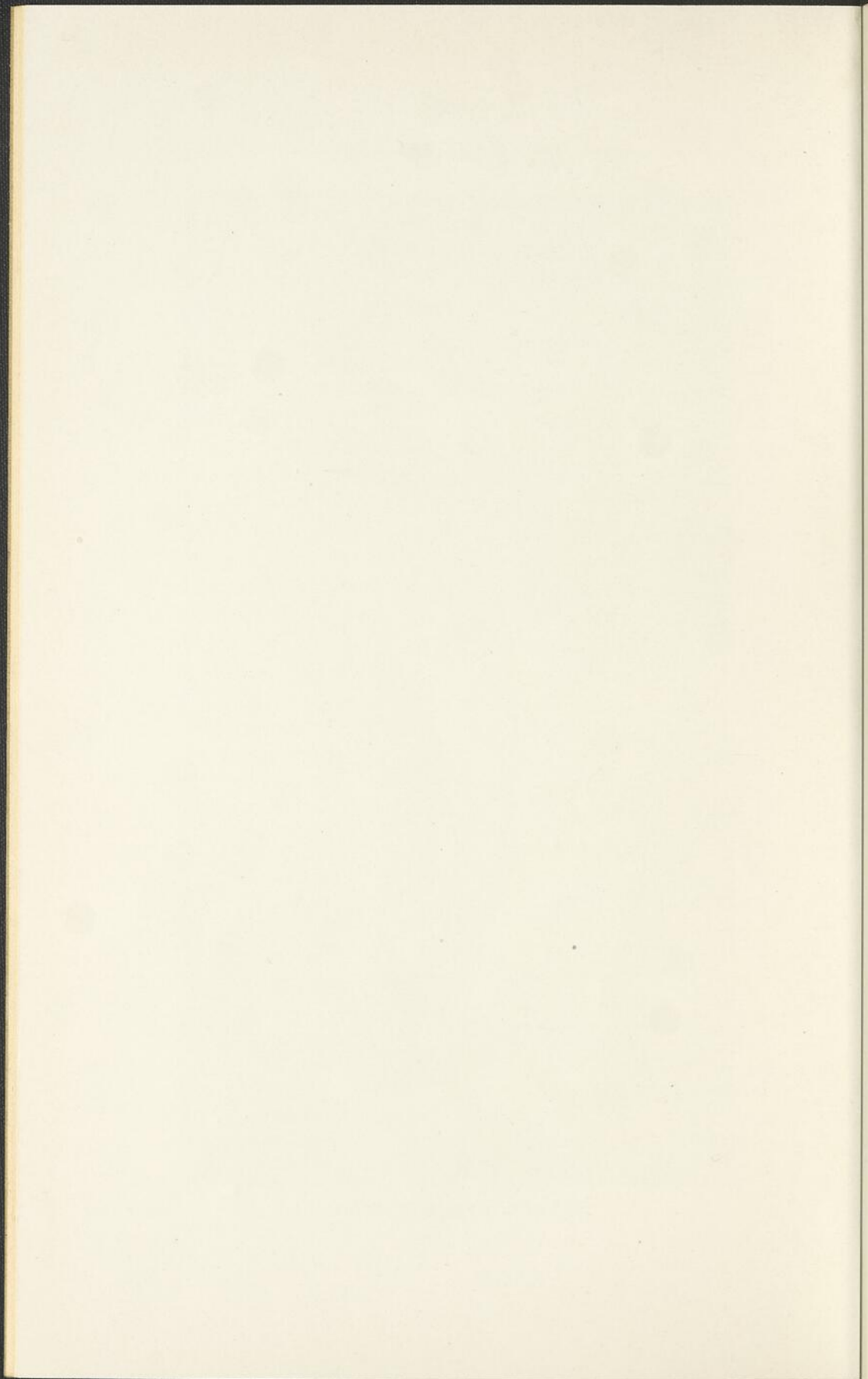
J. B. Perreault, a man of high education, went to St. Louis in 1783. He taught Schoolcraft the French language and furnished him most of the material with which to publish his work on *Indian Life in the Northwest*.

One of the most picturesque sites along the Mississippi River is occupied by the city of St. Paul, Minn. The State's motto is in French, "L'Etoile du Nord," "The Northern Star." Sixty years ago there were only a few small houses occupied by Canadian traders, surrounded by Indian villages. To-day it is a city of nearly 200,000 people. Vital Guerin, its founder, was born at St. Remi, near Montreal, in 1812. In October, 1839, he settled on the high plateau overlooking the beautiful panorama offered by the winding waters of the great river. The town of Mendota, a few miles south on the opposite shore, was occupied by French Canadians. Gen. Henry Hastings Sibley was then County Judge, living at Mendota, near Fort Snelling. Guerin married in 1841 and brought his bride to his log residence, 16 x 20 feet. He was of sturdy character and was always respected and esteemed by the Indians among whom he lived. He died at 58 years of age, in 1870. The city erected a monument to his memory in the Calvary Cemetery. The County Court House has a tablet stating that he gave the site for that magnificent building.





TRAPPEUR CANADIEN-FRANCAIS.



Pierre Boutineau could talk nearly all the Indian dialects. As interpreter and guide he accompanied the expedition of Colonel Noble to Fraser River in 1859; that of Captain Fisk in '62 to Idaho; and the one led by General Sibley to the Missouri River in '63. One of the Counties in Dakota was given his name.

J. B. Mallet founded Mallet City, Ill., now Peoria. In 1778 he organized an expedition and travelled several hundred miles with 300 Indians, went to Fort St. Joseph, now Chicago, on Lake Michigan and dislodged the English who held it. He allowed them to return to Canada, but confiscated \$50,000 worth of provisions and merchandise.

In 1812 the French Canadians living in western New York and Illinois sided with the Americans. They were assailed by Captain Craig and their property destroyed, and the Government ungenerously refused to indemnify them of their loss.

Pierre Ménard was born in Quebec in 1767. His father had taken an active part in the battle of the Monongahela, where Braddock was defeated. At 19 years of age, young Ménard left home for Illinois, 1100 miles away. He arranged with George Washington at Carlisle, Pa., for the defence of the American colonies against the English and their Indian allies. He became in 1808 a member of a large firm, doing business as far west as the Rocky Mountains. The Government in the early twenties recognized his ability and influence and selected him as Indian Agent. With Lewis Cass, then Secretary of War, he signed treaties with many tribes. He served several years in the Indiana Legislature, and became the President of the Legislative Council. (Illinois was detached from Indiana and made a state in 1818.) He was a man of good education but spoke English incorrectly. He was presiding officer of the Senate. He was the first Lieutenant-Governor of Illinois, and contributed materially in enacting wise laws for the state. In 1821 the Legislature decided to organize a State Bank and ask the U. S. Treasury

to accept its notes in payment for public lands. Ménard put the motion in the following language: "Gentlemen of *de* Senate, it is moved and second *dat de* notes of *dis* bank *me* made land office money. All in favor of *dat* motion, say aye; all against it, say no. It is decided in *de* affirmative. And now, gentlemen, I bet you one hundred dollars he never be made land office money." That his opposition was wise soon became apparent, for in a short time the bank nearly bankrupted the state. Ménard died in 1844, aged 77 years, in the village of Kaskaskia.

His brother, Col. Francois Ménard, became known as the King Navigator of the Mississippi. He was an exceedingly pious man. Usually after a perilous voyage he would at once, on reaching his destination at St. Louis or New Orleans, march to the church with his crew to offer thanksgiving to God for His protection. He was brave, fearing nothing except his Creator.

Col. J. B. Beaubien's grandfather emigrated to Detroit in 1740. Colonel Beaubien was born there in 1785. In 1812 he fought under Gen. Lewis Cass. Later he located where is now the city of Chicago. There was nothing at that period to indicate that the little settlement he made would become the principal city of the West. In 1821 Colonel Beaubien was joined by A. M. Kinzie. In that year the Indians asked the Governor for a priest, but he offered them a Presbyterian minister. They wanted to know if he wore a black robe or had he a wife and children; if so, they did not want him. So the Rev. Gabriel Richard of Michigan came to them. *He was the only priest who ever sat in the U. S. Congress.* In the winter of 1831-2, Colonel Beaubien organized a literary club, having regular meetings to discuss subjects of interest. They usually had a little dancing after every meeting. Some of the Canadians of those days, like people of to-day, needed refreshments. Marc Beaubien, a brother of the Colonel, got the first license issued in Chicago, at a cost of \$6.00. This was in 1832 when the total taxes of the settle-

ment amounted to \$150.00. Another brother of the Colonel, Medard Beaubien, was the President of the first town Council in 1833. There were then 28 voters in the town. The U. S. Government, through Colonel Beaubien, Gabriel Godefroy, Joseph Chaumier, P. B. Kercheval and Pierre Ménard, Jr., signed a treaty with the three Indian tribes, then owners of all the land, ceding to the federal government 5,000,000 acres. Colonel Beaubien organized the militia necessary to protect the surrounding country.

Beaubien and his brothers were, like many others of the French traders, careless and improvident. They all died poor. One of his sons is now a captain on the police force of Chicago, being about 80 years old.\*

Noel Levasseur was born in Canada, Dec. 25, 1799. At seventeen years of age he started for the West, and became the agent of Jacob Astor at Iroquois, Ill. In 1837, with Francois Bourbonnais, he founded the town of Bourbonnais, seventy miles from Chicago. He became very wealthy and was appointed Indian Agent. In the war of the Rebellion, though more than sixty years old, he organized a full company of brave young men, all of Canadian parentage, known as Co. D, 71st Ill. Reg. It showed so much bravery at Vicksburg that after that battle it was usually placed in the most perilous positions. Levasseur was recognized as one of the most fearless pioneers of the West. He died at eighty years of age.

The few whites who at the beginning of the last century travelled in Northern Missouri, near what is known as Black Snake River, at its junction with the Missouri, could see on a small hill a humble habitation, a veritable sentinel of civilization in the desert near the Black Snake Hills. It was occupied by Joseph Robidoux, agent of the St. Louis Fur Co. All alone among the ferocious savages of that neighborhood, he had the courage to live there, and through many kindnesses to them, won their confidence and affection. He

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\*Alexander Beaubien died April, 1907.

was then only twenty years old. He was born in St. Louis in 1783, where his father was an intimate friend of Pierre Laclède and Pierre Chouteau, the founders of St. Louis. Robidoux signed treaties with several tribes for land now comprising the Counties of Atchison, Andrew, Holt, Buchanan, Nodaway and Platte, all in Missouri. The first Legislature of Missouri met in his residence at St. Louis, corner Main and Myrtle Streets. The settlement he had made was known as Black Snake, but Robidoux gave it the name of his patron saint, and it is now the city of St. Joseph, Mo. Robidoux died at eighty-four.

His brother Antoine, at twenty-two, accompanied Gen. Atchison to what was called the region of the *Roche Jaune*, (yellow stone) that had been previously explored by French Canadians. In 1845 he made another exploration to the Rocky Mountains, and the following year guided General Kearney in his campaign against Mexico. He died at St. Joseph at seventy years of age.

Francois Bogy left Canada in 1683, having been assigned to the commandship of St. Louis, in place of the celebrated LaSalle. Jos. Bogy, one of his kinsmen, established Bogy's Depot, situated in the country of the Choctaws and later became one of the Secretaries of Morales, Governor-General of Louisiana, which in 1763 comprised all the territory west of the Mississippi. Shortly after the acquisition of Louisiana by the United States, Pres. Jefferson selected nine French and Canadian boys to be sent to West Point Military Academy. One of Jos. Bogy's sons was among this number. Later he served several years in the Legislature of Missouri. Another one of his sons, Louis Vital Bogy, was born in 1813 in St. Genevieve, Mo. Schools and colleges were scarce in that part of the country. In 1826 he went with one of his brothers to a private school, but later met with a serious accident that crippled him for two years. During that period he read every book that he could reach, thereby acquiring a great deal of precious knowledge. In 1830, although still walking

with crutches, he spent 10 months at the Catholic College in Perry County. He clerked in a general store two years; then at the age of nineteen years, wrote his mother as follows:

“Jan. 16, 1832.

“I leave to-day under the care of my father’s old friend, Wm. Shannon, to go and study law in the office of Judge Pope of Kaskaskia. My education is very limited, but I will make up by hard work. I have decided this undertaking with the intention of returning to my native state to practice law, if I am admitted to the bar. I shall attempt, at the same time, to prepare myself to become a U. S. Senator for my state; should I accomplish that end only at sixty years of age, I pray God to give me the necessary perseverance.”

This document is extraordinary. It explains fully the later conduct of this ambitious young man of nineteen years. Of him, as of the celebrated Pitt, it could be said, “He never was a boy.” For forty years he worked incessantly, with that end in mind. Difficulties and obstacles were plenty, but he never hesitated. With the force of character that he was possessed of, by dint of energy, perseverance and the conscientious fulfilment of duty, he realized the prophetic note he had written his mother, as he was made Senator before he was 60 years old. He taught school to earn money for college. He fought Black Hawk in 1832 side by side with Abe Lincoln, then serving as a private. He was aristocratic, dignified; his integrity brought him a large practice as a young lawyer in St. Louis. At the age of twenty-seven he went to the Legislature. After practicing law fourteen years, he had accumulated a fortune. In 1866 he was appointed Indian Commissioner, and caused the Indian tribes in many sections to “bury the ax.” In Missouri politics he was a contemporary with Benton. In 1873 he was elected to the U. S. Senate three months before he attained his 60th year. He died in 1877.

In 1871 there died in Kansas City, Kansas, a man named Jacques Fournier, who was living on a farm near Quebec when Wolfe and Montcalm each found a hero’s grave at the

battle of the Plains of Abraham, Sept. 14, 1759. He fought under the Stars and Stripes in the War of 1812. He had previously served as guide to Lewis and Clarke in the exploration of Oregon. Lewis declared in his report to Congress that without Fournier and his Canadian companions he could never have returned. He was about 120 years old at his death.

Michel Brindamour Menard was a member of the convention that declared the independence of Texas, after its war with Mexico, in 1846. He bought for \$30,000 a large tract of land from the first Congress of that Republic and founded the city of Galveston, Texas. He became a member of that Congress and to his business capacity was greatly due the financial credit of that country. He died in 1856.

In December, 1824 in Maskinonge, Canada, Francois Xavier Aubrey was born. At the age of nineteen he emigrated to St. Louis to earn money to help his aged parents, and shortly after went to Mexico. Having become acquainted with the country and the advantages it offered for trading, he organized a caravan and started for Santa Fe, New Mexico, with \$6,000 worth of merchandise. This he sold, realizing more than \$6,000 profit. He went again with \$40,000 worth of merchandise. In 1848 during the war with Mexico, Major L. C. Easton, Quarter-Master of Fort Union, New Mexico, having a very important message to communicate to the American authorities, offered Aubrey \$1,000 if he would deliver it to the nearest post 800 miles away, at Independence, Mo., in seven days. He started alone on horseback through that Indian infested country, and travelled day and night to his destination in 5 days 16 hours. He became well acquainted with Gen. Wm. T. Sherman, then a Captain in the Army. Gen. John C. Fremont often speaks of him in his memoirs. He became wealthy and organized the most important caravans that ever travelled from St. Louis to Mexico. He was a man of great moral courage, one who would not suffer delay when action was imperative. On

one occasion his caravan consisting of 1,200 mules and 400 men was stranded by a terrible snowstorm, 150 miles from Santa Fe. Food was lacking for men and beasts. He rode to the city, arriving in the dead of night. He called on the Governor, whom the porter refused to call from his bed. Aubrey threatened him, revolver in hand. The Governor came, heard his story and said he could not act. Aubrey told him he must, saying, "Governor, 400 men will die, if you do not act. Your soldiers are ready; you have wagons; you must give orders at *once*, so they can start before sunrise"; then with a threatening voice, said "give your orders sir, at *once*." The Governor knew it would not be safe to refuse; the orders were given, and the caravan saved. In the geographical history of the West his name is linked with those of Marquette, LaSalle, Lewis, Clarke and Fremont. He died in Santa Fe, aged only 32 years, the victim of an assassin.

Ant. Leroux was at the beginning of the last century a rancher in New Mexico. He was a man of education, who kept a journal of his travels. Sept. 1, 1851, he guided the first expedition to trace the route of the Pacific R. R. He guided John Russell Bartlett, U. S. Com., to trace the geographical lines between this country and Mexico. He explored California with Colonel Cook's expedition in 1846 and 1847, and Utah with Captain Gunnison. He rendered very important services to the U. S. Corps of Surveyors from the Mississippi to the Pacific coast. He died old, leaving as an estate only his gun and the reputation of a good and fearless man.

Prudent Beaudry in 1852 located at Los Angeles, California. He contributed more than any other man in making the beautiful city of Southern California what it is. He established at his own expense the water works. He gave the first public park. He became Mayor of the city. His brother, Victor, settled in Nicaragua, in 1850, and in 1861 was appointed Quarter-Master of the troops coming from the Pacific Coast to take part in the Rebellion, and remained

during the war with the Army of the Potomac. He discovered the process of melting gold and silver ore instead of roasting it.

Gabriel Franchere's exploits have been immortalized by Washington Irving. He was a man of good education. In the dispute between England and the United States relative to the dividing line between British Columbia and Oregon, his journal and surveys were used to advantage in the Senate of the United States. He went to Washington, where he conferred with Thomas H. Benton, Webster and Clay in the settlement of these difficulties. He was born in Montreal in 1786. He died at St. Paul, Minn., in 1863, having explored the country from Missouri to Vancouver.

I have spoken of the West, but on looking at the map of Vermont enough will be found to indicate that French Canadians had something to do in its settlement. Vermont is French, for Green Mountain, Lamoille and Orleans, Counties, Montpelier, the capital, St. Albans, Vergennes, are all French names, while New York State has its Chautauguay, Au Sable, St. Regis, Roquette, Champlain, and scores of others.

Chateaubriand said, "Of all the Europeans, the French are the friendliest to the Indians because of their cheerfulness, their brilliant valor, and their natural inclination for hunting and rigorous living, as though the greatest civilization was nearer to genuine nature." This assertion of the celebrated writer is fully corroborated by the preceding sketches of the lives of many of our travellers.

Parkman, who, more than any other man, knew and wrote the history of the French Canadians, said, "A rightful heir to French bravery and French restlessness, he had an eager love of wandering and adventure. Buoyant and gay like his ancestry of France, he lived happy in the midst of poverty."

For long years the only geographers of the great West were these Canadian traders, trappers, bushrangers, and scouts, whose adventurous existence has been depicted with so much charm by Fenimore Cooper in the following words: ["He exhibited through the mask of his rude and nearly

savage equipments, though sunburnt and long-faded complexion of one who might claim descent from a European parentage. His frame was like that of one who had known hardships and exertion from earliest youth. His person, though muscular, was rather attenuated than full; but every nerve and muscle appeared strung and indurated by unremitting toil and exposure. His eye was small, quick, keen and restless, as though distrusting the sudden approach of some lurking enemy. Notwithstanding these symptoms of habitual suspicion, his countenance was not only without guile, but at the moment he was introduced, it was charged with an expression of sturdy honesty." ] It is a mistaken idea that these men were coarse and uncivilized. Being daily accustomed to danger, they of necessity had to depend on themselves. Their activity had no intermission. Constant communication with nature that has preserved the mysterious grandeur and charm of solitude, has a tendency to ennoble the most vulgarly inclined.

You hear a great deal about the part the French took in the war of the Revolution, Lafayette, Rochambault, and other great names. You never hear that the French Canadians took any part, but they did. Franklin, Carroll and Chase went to Canada, and whole regiments of volunteers were organized. Rev. Father La Valnière was such an ardent supporter of the Revolution that he was compelled to leave Canada and cross over into New York State. Under the direction of Rev. Fr. Gibault and Colonel Vigo, the Canadians in New York, Indiana and Illinois rendered very valuable services to the Colonies in protecting the northern boundary at that critical period, and the Continental Congress recognized those services by land grants in Clinton County, N. Y.

Forty thousand French Canadians fought in the War of the Rebellion. As Washington in the war for independence found patriots, friends and soldiers among them, so did Lincoln in the great war for the perpetuation of free government and equal rights for all, find friends and patriots who had

emigrated from the country north of us. There are no monuments to perpetuate their memory for the noble deeds achieved and heroic duty done. Hundreds—yes, thousands—are mustered in the elysian fields beyond the stars. Their record is made, their fame secure, their life work done.

“On fame’s eternal camping ground  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And glory guards with solemn round  
The bivouac of the dead.”

Remarks were participated in by President Maynard, Crane and Mr. Charles R. Daoust, editor of “*L’Opinion Publique.*”

