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FORT BEAUHARNOIS

Paragraph

Fort Beauharnois, although not very well known, historically, was the site of the first christian chapel established in the present boundaries of the State of Minnesota. (M H Q; 8:442)

After the year 1703, owing to the hostility of the Fox Indians, the French abandoned all their existing posts, by order of the king, in the upper Mississippi valley. (

In 1713, France yeilded to Great Britian all the area around Hudson's Bay, and turned its attention to the region west of Lake Superior in order to find a discovery of a route to the Western Sea. (The last French Post in the Upper Mississippi Valley near Frontenac, Minn. by E. D. Neill) p. 4.

During the years 1720-1721, under the auspices of the French Government, Father Pierre Francios Xavier de Charleviox, S.J., visited the missions along the Great Lakes, Canada, and Louisiana. On his return to France, he recommended to the government that a mission be built to serve as a trading post among the Sioux Indians along the Minnesota, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers. Knowledge of a possible westward route to the pacific could be obtained ~~the~~ through a missionary's contact with the Indians familiar with the far west. (Catholic Missionary Activities in the North West by Sister M.A. Norton) (Last French Post in the Upper Mississippi Valley by E. D. Neill.)

Beacause of England encroaching on their territory

orders were given to establish the post among the Sioux at once. (Aborigines of Minnesota, p.530)

In order to carry this project out, which had been authorized in 1723, peace had to be made with the Indians. However, this was finally accomplished in 1726, and preparations were finally underway to begin organizing the expedition. (History of the Last French Fort - ~~newspaper article~~ in the Red Wing Republican, July 5, 1927, by C. A. Rasmussen) (M H Q 6:362)

On April 30, 1727, Charles de Beauharnois, Governor General of New France, wrote a letter to the French Government, requesting a case of mathematical instruments, a dial plate of universal astronomy, a chain of stakes, and a telescope six or seven feet long. This to be given to the missionaries who are to go out with the expedition for the founding of a post among the Sioux. (The First Sioux Mission by Nancy Ring - an article written in "Mid-America" July 1932 states that the governor wrote to the Minister of the Marine while Catholic Missionary Activities in the Northwest states he wrote to First Lord of the Admiralty) Finally orders were sent from Paris to Canada for establishment of the Sioux mission, and on May 14, 1726, a memoir of the king was drawn up and sent to the Marquis Charles de Beauharnois, telling him to select a commandant and two missionaries for the founding of this new establishment. The Governor applied at once to the Superior of the Jesuits for two capable subjects. (Act et Dicta vol 2) (M. H. Q 8:235)

Due to the fact that the Colonial treasury was always impoverishable, and in order to finance the

proposed Siouxan foundation, the merchants of New France formed a commercial company. (The First Sioux Mission by Nancy Ring) The articles of the company were signed on June 6, 1727. They bear the signatures of Charles de Beauharnois, Governor General of New France, Longueuil, Governor of Montreal, and several residents of Montreal who were interested in the enterprise. (For complete articles of company in 1727 see Appendix A) (Hist of the Last French Fort by C. A. Rasmussen-~~published~~ in Red Wing Daily Republican July 5, 1927.)

This agreement made between the governor and the associates is quite interesting from both the administrative and economic points of view. This contract carries two articles of special note concerning the mission and trading post. (MHQ 8:235) (Catholic Missionary ^{Activities} in the North West by Sister M.A. Norton)

Article one granted to the members of the company, a complete monopoly of the fur trade in the Sioux country for three full years. Section one of Article Ten, called for the construction of a stockade fort, chapel, one house for the commanding officer, and one for the missionaries. The place of construction was to be determined by the officer in charge. (Catholic Missionary Activities in the North West)

They were to carry free of cost for three years any provisions and supplies for the commandant, the officer second in command, and the missionaries. The amounts of the weights are stipulated in the agreement. (for the complete articles see Appendix A)

They also agreed to obey every order given to them by the commanding officer, "for the kings service, the discipline of the Post, and the welfare of the colony." (Hist of the last French Post by C. A. Rassmussen) This original contract is preserved in the Archives of the Chicago Historical Society. (M H Q 8:235) (The first Sioux Mission by Nancy Ring)

Wrong citation

Among the many who took part in the expedition to found the trading post and first mission, were, Rene Boucher, Sieur de la Perriere, born at Three River, Canada, in 1668, (M H C 17:67) who was chosen as commander of the expedition. He had distinguished himself as a colonial officer who had led the French and Indian Raid of 1708, which resulted in the sacking and pillaging of Haverhill Massachusetts. He has also visited the Sioux country in 1715. Francios Campeau, Blacksmith, Jean Baptiste, and Francios de Montbrun, brothers, the elder Sieur de Boucher, (M H Q 8:235) and Paul Marin, born in Canada, 1690, who in later years commanded Fort Beauharnois, and later distinguished himself as a colonial officer and died in Northwestern Pennsylvania at Fort St. Peter, in 1753. (MHSC Vol 17 p487) ? The missionaries chosen were Father Nicholas DE Gonner, 36 years of age, born in France, 1691, died in Quebec, (MHSC Vol 17) 1759, and Father Michael Guignas, 46 years of age, born in France, 1681, died in Quebec, 1752, who became the journalist or historian of this first memorable journey. (M H S C Vol 17)

On June 16, 1727, a small but valient party left Montreal on the proposed mission. On July 22, 1727, the

party arrived at Michilmackinac. They remained there until August 1, then joined by Father Chardon and Sieur Reaume, who acted as interpreters for the party, traveled westward through the country of the Foxes. (Catholic Missionary Activities in the N.W.)

After a general council with the Fox Indians on August 15 and 16th, with Sieur Reaume, and Father Chardon acting as the interpreters, they found the Foxes adverse to the opening of a trading post among the Sioux. Father Chardon and Sieur Reaume, feeling that their part was successful returned to Green Bay and the rest of the party continued westward. (Catholic Missionary Activities in the N.W.)

Finding the journey slow and uncertain Father Guignas writes concerning this, " No one knew it, and we got astray every moment on water and land, for want of a guide and pilots." (Catholic Missionary Activities in the N W by Sister M.A. Norton)

In describing the founding of the fort and chapel, which was named, "St. Michael the Archangel", no better description can be found than in the letter dated May 17, 1728, written to Charles de Beauharnois by the Reverend Father Michael Guignes. This letter was written from Fort Beauharnois and narrates as follows:

"On the 17th of September, 1727, at noon, we reached this lake, (Pepin) which had been chosen as the end of our voyage. We established ourselves toward evening, about the center of the north shore upon a low point whose soil is excellent. The woods were dense there, but they are already thinned on account

of the rigor and length of the winter, which has been severe for the climate for we are here in latitude 43 degrees 51 minutes. The day after landing, axes were applied to the trees and four days later the fort was entirely finished. It is a plat of ground 100 square feet, surrounded by stakes twelve feet high with two good bastions. For such a small place there are three large buildings detached and not crowded, each 30, 38, and 25 feet long by 16 feet wide.

"Before the end of October, (1727) all the houses were finished and furnished; and everyone found himself lodged peacefully in his own home. Nothing was thought of then ^{but} to go and reconoitre the neighboring districts and rivers to see those herds of fallow-deer of all species, of which they tell such tall tales of in Canada. They must have disappeared or greatly diminished since the time of these former traders, or left the country. They are no longer in such great numbers, and it is hard to kill any.

"After having wandered about the country for sometime, everyone returned to the fort, and only thought of enjoying the fruits of their labors. On November 4th, (1727) it was not forgotten that this was the fete day of Monsieur the General. Holy Mass was said for him in the morning, and we were much inclined to celebrate the holiday in the evening; but the slowness of the Pyrotechnist, and the changeableness of the weather, caused the celebration to be postponed until the 14th of the month, when some rockets were fired off, and the air was made to resound with, "Long

live the King," and , " Long live Charles de Beauharnois."

It was on this occasion that the wine of the Sioux was made to flow, and it was most excellent, although there are no finer wines here than in Canada. What contributed to the amusement, was the terror of some cabins of Indians who were then around the fort. When these poor people saw the fire-works in the air and the stars falling from heaven, women and children took to flight, and the most courageous men cried for mercy, and urgently asked that this astonishing play of this terrible medicine be made to cease.

"As soon as we arrived among them they assembled in a very few days around the French fort to the number of 95 cabins, which would amount to 150 men, for there are at the most two men in their portable cabins of dressed skins, and in many there is only one. These were all that we have seen, except a band of about 60 men who came on Feb 26, (1728) and were of those nations called the Sioux of the Prairies. At the end of November, (1727) the savages departed for their winter quarters. It is true that they did not go very far away, and there were always some to be seen during the winter. But since April 2, (1728) when several cabins repassed here to go to their Spring hunting, none of them has been seen. One canoe of ten men were detailed to go and find them, they looked for a week, even for more than 60 leagues up the Mississippi; it arrived yesterday without bearing tidings of them.

"Although I have said the Sioux were alarmed at

the rockets, it must not be supposed that they are less intelligent than the other Indians we know. They seem to be more so, at least they are much gayer, and more open, and far more dexterous thieves, great dancers, and great medicine men. The men are almost all large and well-made; but the women are very ugly and disgusting.

"All would go well if the place were not subject to inundations, but this year on April 15, (1728) we were obliged to go and camp outside as the water rose in the houses to the height of 2 feet, 8 inches, and it is useless to say that it was the quantity of snow that fell this year. The snow about the fort was melted a long time before; and there was certainly not more than a foot and a half from Feb 8, to Mar. 15, (1728) All the rest of the winter, one could not have used snow-shoes. I have good reasons to believe that the place is inundated every year. I always had the same opinion of it; but they were not obliged to believe me, because old people who said they had lived here 15 or 20 years asserted that it was never inundated. We could not re-enter the rather dilapidated houses until April 30, (1728) and even the damages are hardly repaired." (History of the Last French Fort by C.A. Rasmussen, ~~in the Red Wing Republican~~ in the Red Wing Republican, July 5, 1927)

Due to the ill health of the commander, because of the hardships of the winter and the spring floods, La Perriere, was obliged to return to Quebec. He left taking Father De Gonne r with him in the summer of 1728. This left his nephew, Pierre Boucher, Sieur de Boucherville,

age 39, in command of the fort at Lake Pepin. (The First Sioux Mission by Nancy Ring) (History of the Last French Fort by C. A. Rasmussen)

Despite the truce, the Foxes again started to molest the traders in their journeys through their country in order to reach Fort Beauharnois, and as a great number of shareholders withdrew their holdings, Governor Beauharnois became aroused and he sent a large force under Sieur Lignery to punish them for their sins. (Acta et Dicta, Vol 2) (The First Sioux Mission by Nancy Ring)

The Foxes eluded the surprise attack by a force of 1200 Indians and 450 French. As Sieur Lignery realized that the foregoing campaign was a failure, and that Fort Beauharnois was in much danger by this action, he dispatched two Menomonic Indians to warn Sieur de Boucherville of his danger, and to take proper measures for the safety of the post. The messengers arrived at the fort on Sept 7, 1728. Immediately de Boucherville dispatched a party to St. Anthony Falls to induce the Sioux to take sides against the Foxes. These negotiations failed, so on Sept 18, 1728, just one year after the founding of the fort, a general council was called to decide what to do, and because they were faced with a shortage of supplies, and no longer believed the fort tenable because of the danger of Indians, decided to abandon ^{the} post. The following day some of the traders believing that they could not sell their goods elsewhere decided to stay on. (History of the Last French Fort by C. A. Rasmussen)

Those that stayed on at the fort were left under the leadership of Christopher Dufrost, Sieur de la Jemerais, 20 years of age. He was born in Canada in 1707, and died in 1736 at the age of 29. (MHSC Vol 17) On October 3, 1728, Pierre Boucher, Father Guignas, Campeau the blacksmith, the two Montbrun brothers, Dumais, Captain of Malitia, Bisselle, a voyageur, Menard, and Reaume, interpreters, 11 in all, started down the Mississippi River to the Illinois River on their way back to Montreal. They never reached their destination until early in 1729, as they were captured by the Kickapoo Indians. Before being released, they were held captives for five months. During their captivity they disposed or rather gave away their goods to the Indians as a sort of a peace offering. (See Appendix D for a complete list of goods furnished to the Indians during captivity of Pierre Boucher and Father Guignas) (History of the last French Fort by C A. Rasmussen)

Those that remained during the winter of 1729-30, appear to have written to Charles de Beauharnois asking for additional supplies, but it is not known whether it was sent or not. The fort appears to have been burned and destroyed by hostile Indians. (History of the last French Fort by C A Rasmussen) (Catholic Missionary Activities in the North West by Sister M A Norton)

On June 6, 1731, a new Sioux Company was formed with the idea of reoccupying the post. This company was very similar to the first one (for complete articles see Appendix B) in that they were given the full trading

prive leges of the country for three years, and allowed eight canoes, with the priveleges of increasing that number as the profits gre w larger. They were required to rebuild the fort on a higher sp ot and make it 120 square feet with four good bastions, a chapel, a house for the commanding officer, and one for the missionaries.

Rene Godefroy, Sieur de Linctot, 66 years old, was chosen as the commander to lead the group in the re-establishment of the fort. Father Guignas, again, was chosen as the missionary.

The party left Montreal in the fall of 1731, but were unable to reach Lake Pepin that year, and wintered on the present s ite of Trempeleau, Wisconsin. When they arrived at the fort, they found 62 cabins of Sioux located there. This year the new fort was located on higher ground, on the present site of Villa Marie Convent.

The company was granted a fourth year of trade, because the evacuation had caused such a great loss to them. Beauharnois emphasized the necessity and importance of fostering friendly relations with the Indians, and in hopes of starting to trade with the more northern tribes, for whose trade the Hudson Bay Company was a rival. (Last French Fort by C.A . Rasmussen)

In 1733, no report from the Sioux country reached Montreal as the messenger was robbed of his reports near Detroit. (History of the Last French Fort by C. A. Rasmussen)

In 1734, Linctot was replaced as commander of the fort b y Jacques le Gardeur, Sieur de St.Pierre, born in Canada , in 1701, died in the battle of Lake George, 1755, (M H S C Vol 17) who remained in charge

until its evacuation in 1737. (Hist of the Last French Fort by C. A. Rasmussen)

In 1735, the beaver trade was very good. Nearly one million good skins had been received from this discovery of the Sea of the West. Total receipts aggregated to 178,000 Livres--- --a Livre being about 19 cents. (Hist of the Last French Post by C. A. Rasmussen)

In 1736, St. Pierre and Father Guignas were so confident that they wrote Charles de Beauharnois saying that they had no fear of abandonment as the Sioux were well intentioned toward the French. However, trouble again started between the Foxes and the Sioux and on Dec 18, 1736, the Indians pulled up the posts of Father Guignas' garden and burned them. In January, 1737, while the gates of the fort were left open to cart in wood, Forty Sioux managed to get in side. As this was contrary to the orders of the commander, it nearly led to serious trouble, but it was averted. (Hist of the Last French Post by C. A. Rasmussen)

Between the Indian uprisings and the curtailment of their trade, they felt their position of remaining at the post would only result in the loss of life, so after a general council was called by Father Guignas, Linctot, and St. Pierre, it was decided to burn the post and sail for home. This was done on May 30, 1737. (History of the Last French Post by C. A. Rasmussen)

Commenting on St. Pierre's action in evacuating the fort, Charles de Beauharnois wrote, in a letter, to the French Minister saying, "That the garrison had been exposed to perishing daily." "You will see," he said, "that there is no likelihood of it ever being possible to trade with the Sioux. It would be a great boon if we could destroy them, because they occupy the finest hunting grounds." (History of the Last French Post by C. A. Rasmussen)

From here in the history of the fort grows very vague, but whether it was due to the Indian wars, or the lack of interest after twice having failed, nothing ever was done about re-establishing the fort for quite a number of years.

In the summer of 1743, a group of Sioux Indians came to Quebec and begged the French to re-establish the post, but nothing was ever done about it. Again, in 1746, Four Sioux Cheftians went to Quebec and asked them to resume the trade, but all they received from the Government were just promises. (Magazine of Western History Vol 7 P 25-article by Reverend Neill)

IN 1749, when the new governor general, LaJonquire, found out about the earnest pleadings of the Indians, he appointed Paul Marin, Sieur de Pierre, formerly a member of the first expedition to Fort Beauharnois, and now a distinguished Colonial officer, to take charge of the reoccupation of the fort among the Sioux. He He was told to try to find the source of the Mississippi.

River, to look for the Western Sea, to trade with the Indians, and establish friendly relations with them. He stayed on until 1752, when the Government requested his services in the east. In his place the new governor-general, LaJonquiere, appointed his son, Joseph LaMalgue, Sieur Marin to take his father's place as commander of the post among the Sioux. He remained in charge until its final abandonment in 1756. In the four years of his service, he carried out the plans of his father. He established peace between the Foxes, Sioux of the Lakes, Sioux of the Prairies, Sakies, and the Pauns. He also tried to discover copper mines in his travels about the country. (Wisconsin Historical Collection, Vol 17 and 18)

After the French Surrender of Canada to the British, Fort Beauharnois was never again occupied. (Magazine of Western History Vol 7--article by Reverend Neill)

In 1766, Captain Johnathon Carver, first British traveler in this region, in connection with his travels on Lake Pepin Waters, writes, "Here I observed the ruins of a French factory, where Captain St. Pierre resided and carried on a great trade with the Naudowessies, (Sioux) before the reduction of Canada." (Hist of the Last French Fort by C. A. Rassmussen)

In 1806, Lieutenant Z. M. Pike, U.S. Army, passed through Lake Pepin and described the ruined post as it would appear to him going up the lake, and in view before reaching Point Au Sauble, as being on the west

shore below the Point. (History of the Last French Fort by C. A. Rasmussen)

In 1917, Major Stephen H. Long, U.S. Army, who sailed up the river mentions an Indian village on that point, but no ruins of a fort. No doubt all evidence had disappeared by this time. (History of the Last French Fort by C. A. Rasmussen)

There seems to be quite a difference of opinion as to the locations of the three different forts, but as no evidence remains we can only take the opinions of the different historians, and people interested in the history of the fort.

In the rear of the lowlands of Point Au Saub, is an eminence, of some 60 feet, which is the bluff edge of a wide plateau, from which is an extensive view below and above the sandy peninsula. It is the most suitable spot in the vicinity for a stockade, and there is evidence, in the absence of aged trees that there had once been a clearing there. The old Indian trail of the Sandy Point Creek, now Well's Creek, afforded easy routes for the Sioux of the Prairies to the post.

Here ~~is~~ located on this site today is the Villa St. Marie Academy, a girls school conducted by the Ursuline Sisters, whose faculty having been so closely related to the past, has made both excavations and a study of the old fort. (For Sister Kosta's opinions see Appendix C) Below the elevation on which gleams Well's Creek, through the overhanging ^{hanging} tangle of branches, jutting out just beyond into the lake is Point Au

Saub, the point on which the fort was first built.

(History of the Last French Fort By C. A. Rasmussen)

In order to link the present with the past, the archbishop blessed the beautiful chapel of the Convent with the invocation of St. Michael the Archangel, under whose patronage was erected the old chapel of the ancient French fort on Lake Pepin. (Acta Et Dicta Vol 2)

The Goodhue County Historical Society arranged and successfully carried into effect an appropriate celebration at Frontenac, Minnesota, on September 17, 1927, the two hundredth anniversary of the building of Fort Beauharnois on the shore of Lake Pepin. The principle feature of the program was the unveiling of a bronze tablet bearing this inscription, "Near this spot, Fort Beauharnois was erected by the French in September 17, 1727. Here also stood the mission of St. Michael the Archangel, the first christian chapel in the present boundaries of Minnesota." (The First Sioux Mission by Nancy Ring--~~in~~ in "Mid-America," July, 1932)

It is very hard for us to realize that this land once belonged to the King of France, but not until we get our tongues twisted around names like Frontenac, Beauharnois, Guignas, Pepin and St. Pierre do we realize that the very ground we hallow is rich in historical background.

"ARTICLES OF THE TRADING COMPANY FORMED IN 1727 IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT BEAUHARNOIS!"

W. H. C.

P. 16-11-12-B
14-15

In virtue of the orders addressed to us by the King's Memorandum of May 14, 1726, respecting the establishment of a commandment and two missionairies amongst the Sioux in compliance with his Majesty's instructions, we in the presence of Monsieur DE LONGVIEL, Governor of this town of MONTREAL, of Monsieur D'AIGREMONT, commissary-general; Monsieur DE LA CORNE, lieutenant of the King at MONTREAL--have settled and determined the articles of engagement demanded of the undersigned.

FIRST ARTICLE---That the trade of the whole Sioux country shall be granted and permitted to the undersigned purely and simply for three entire and consecutive years to the exclusion of all others whomsoever, so that nobody shall be permitted to go or to send one or more canoes thither without the consent of said company. And if any person, of whatsoever quality or condition he may be, should go there to trade, the commanding officer shall be at liberty and is even ordered to have his goods confiscated and distributed in accordance with the orders we may deem advisable to give and that one half of the goods confiscated shall belong to said company.

That the said interested parties shall not trade, hunt, in the direction of POINT CHAQUOMIGON, elsewhere than in the hunting grounds of the SIOUX, and not permitted to trade on the OUISCONSIN nor on the portage by which they must pass to reach the SIOUX, which shall serve as a boundary for both parties.

SECOND ARTICLE---That they shall not build forts nor houses equivalent to the same in the hunting grounds, but only in the place where the commanding officer shall establish his post.

THIRD ARTICLE---That the said interested parties shall have permission to send up to the SIOUX country during the next two

"ARTICLES OF THE TRADING COMPANY FORMED IN 1727 IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT BEAUHARNOIS."

years such number of canoes as they may deem advisable. Should the prospects of the profit to be gained in the trade become greater, in order to induce them to increase the quantity of goods and number of canoes to be sent thither, the share at present owned by each of the associates shall be increased in the same proportion as the general increase of the whole trade. Thus, if the trade which at present employs nine canoes should afterward employ 12, each one may increase what he had at the beginning by one fourth.

FOURTH ARTICLE---That at the expiration of 3 years they shall be given the preference over the highest and last bidder. If the trade be given to the highest bidder, or if we should deem advisable to fix the price ourselves, they shall have the preference over all others if they wish to accept.

FIFTH ARTICLE---Should they be stopped on the way in the country of the RENARDS or beyond, or should they, when they reach the SIOUX country, be compelled by superior force to return this year, they shall be permitted to trade their goods wherever they may think proper, under the rules of the commanding officer who shall have power to decide the destination of each one in such manner as he may deem most expedient for the welfare of the Kings service and that of the COLONY.

SIXTH ARTICLE---That all of the said interested parties who may be compelled thereto through illness or domestic reasons, shall be at liberty to abandon the trade and return to it before the expiration of the 3 years, in such mannner nevertheless that no one shall ^{leave} ~~leave~~ the SIOUX country without the express permission in writing of the commanding officer.

SEVENTH ARTICLE---That no associate shall transfer ~~his~~ his share

"ARTICLES OF THE TRADING COMPANY FORMED IN 1727 IN
CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT BEAUHARNOIS."

either wholly or partially except to persons of good character, free from scandal of every kind, and who will not interpose any obstacle to the establishment of RELIGION amongst that great number of barbarous peoples so that GOD'S BLESSING may rest on their persons and trade.

EIGHTH ARTICLE---That all the associates without exception and all persons in their employ shall be forbidden to absent themselves from the fort that is to be built, for the purpose of hunting, without the express permission of MONSIEUR the commandant.

NINETH ARTICLE---That the said interested parties bind themselves to leave in the fort next spring two men per canoe, making eighteen men not including the servants of Messieurs the officers; and those of the missionaries, and, they may employ the other voyageurs in conveying their furs to Montreal and in bringing back goods therefrom; this shall likewise apply too the last two years.

TENTH ARTICLE---That when they shall build the said post they shall be at liberty to sell the houses they may have built for themselves and on their private account.

In return for the above concessions the said interested parties the said interested parties undertake:

- (1) To build a fort of stakes, a chapel, a house for the commanding officer, and one for the missionaries in such place and in such manner as may be ordered by the commanding officer, whom they promise to obey and listen to in everything he may command them for the King's service, the discipline of the post, and the welfare of the colony,
- (2) They further undertake to have conveyed free from cost from here to the Sioux country whatever may be given them for the commanding officer or for the missionaries to extend to of 600 pounds weight per

"ARTICLES OF THE TRADING COMPANY FORMED IN 1727 IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT BEAUHARNOIS.

canoe, namely; 300 pounds weight for the commandment, and as much for the missionairies; this shall be so construed that the canoe carrying the officer shall not be included, for this year only, in the ~~number~~^{number} of those that will have to carry 600 pounds weight, neither shall the canoe in charge of the officer second in command, and the two missionairys with their provisions, chapel, and beds shall weigh each 300 pounds.

(3) During the following years, they shall be absolutely bound to cause to be conveyed into the said Sioux country, and to the fort to be built there, and to the house of the commanding officer, provisions and other useful articles to the extent of 1,350 lbs., for each of the last two years. But should the trade not be successful and should it be possible to send down only a small number of canoes, then and such case they shall be bound to carry only a 1000 lbs weight for the commanding officer.

(4) They likewise undertake to cause to be conveyed from Montreal to the Sioux country, to the missionairies house, whatever may be given them for the latter in each of the said years to the extent of a 1000 lbs weight, whether many canoes come here or not.

(5) They further undertake to purchase 3 or 4 extra canoes when they reach MICHILIMAKINAK in order the more easily to traverse the river of the Renards and that of the OUISCONSING, and to carry in such canoes 600 lbs weight for the missionaires, and also to convey the said goods from Missilimakinak to the Sioux country not including the sacks of Indian Corn which they undertake to carry for the subsistence of the said missionairies, not only in this first year, but in those following.

Finally it is agreed with one of the associates named FRANCOIS CAMPEAU, that he shall work at his trade of blacksmith for all who may wish to employ him and pay him therefor; in consideration whereof the

"ARTICLES OF THE TRADING COMPANY FORMED IN 1727 IN CONNECTION
WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT BEAUHARNOIS."

said CAMPEAU undertakes to give the said company for each of the said 3 years the sum of 400 livres in furs or in coin at his option and in addition to provide free of charge 30 screws or the equivalent thereof in primers.

All the associates have agreed above set forth and have consented that if any of them shall infringe any of the above articles he shall be severely punished and deprived of all his rights.

And after reading the articles of demands and undertakings above set forth the said associates of the Sioux Company have consented to carry out and agreed to all the charges and conditions therein stipulated, for the fulfillment whereof they have all signed with us, and also the above the named.

Done at Montreal, this sixth day of June, 1727.

SIGNED: BEAUHARNOIS: LONGUEVIL: LA CORNE: D'AIGREMONT: SAINT GEORGE
DUPRE: YOVILLE: PIERRE DIALLEY: MARIN: ETIENNE PETIT:
GARPAU: FRANCIS CAMPEAU: FRANCIS DU MAY: PIERRE RICHARD:
JEAN BAPTISTE BOUCHER DE MONTERUN: FRANCIS BOUCHER DE MONTERUN:
AND JEAN GARPAU:

"ARTICLES OF THE SECOND COMPANY SENT TO FORT BEAUHARNOIS
IN 1731"

W. H. C.
Vol 17
P. 135
to
139

In virtue of the orders addressed to us by the King's Memorial of May 14, 1726, respecting the establishment of a commandant and two missionaries in the Sioux country to comply with his Majesty's intentions we, in the presence of Monsieur LaChassigne, governor of the town of Montreal, of Monsieur Michel de LaRouvillere, Commissary-general of Marine in the said town, and of Monsieur de LaCorne, King's Lieutenant, in the said government, have settled and determined the articles of engagement and demand of the undersigned interested in the Sioux Company as follows:

FIRST ARTICLE---That the entire trade of the Sioux country shall be granted and permitted to the persons hereinafter named to wit: one canoe to Sieur Portneuf, the officer second in command at said post; another to Campeau working for the reverend Jesuit Father, the missionary at said post; another to the Sieurs Mouet, Linctot the younger, and Coulonge; another to Giguieres and Toussaint; another to Richard and Dubau; another to Pierre and Charles LeDuc: another to Guyon Despresz, and Saint Michel du Chesne; and the last to Antoine Lanouette, and Joseph Jolliette; for three full and consecutive years, to the exclusion of all others so that nobody shall be permitted to go there or to send one or more canoes, without the consent of said Company: And if anybody of whatsoever quality and condition he may be should go there to trade, that the officer commanding shall be at liberty and he is even ordered to have goods confiscated, one-half thereof shall belong to the king and the other half to said company.

That the said interested partys shall not trade nor hunt in the directions of POINT CHAGOUAMIGON nor anywhere else except in the hunting grounds where the Sioux hunt, and that on side of LA BAYE they shall likewise go only in too the Sioux hunting grounds without being permitted

"ARTICLES OF THE SECOND COMPANY SENT TO FORT
BEAUHARNOIS IN 1731."

to trade on the OUISCONSIN side or at the portage by which they must pass to reach the Sioux country, which shall serve as a boundary for both partys.

SECOND ARTICLE---That they shall not build forts or houses equivalent to the same in the hunting grounds, but only in the place where the commanding officer shall establish his post.

THIRD ARTICLE--- That the said interested parties shall have permission to send up to the Sioux country during the next two years such number of canoes they may deem advisable. Should the prospects of profit to be gained by trade become greater, in order to induce them to increase the quantity of goods and the number of canoes, the share at present owned by the associates shall be increased in the same proportion as the whole trade generally; and the preference as regards such post shall be granted them at the expiration of the three years at such price we may deem proper to fix.

FOURTH ARTICLE---Should they be stoped on the way in the country of the RENARDS or beyond, or should they, when they reach the Sioux country, be compelled by superior force to return this year, they shall be permitted to trade their goods wherever they think proper, under the orders of the commanding officer, who shall have power to decide the destination of each one in such a manner as he may deem most expedient for the welfare of the King's service and that of the Colony.

FIFTH ARTICLE---That all of the said interested parties who may be compelled therto through illness or domestic reasons, shall be at liberty to abandon the trade and return to it before the expiration of the three years, in such manner nevertheless that no one shall leave the Sioux country without the express permission in writing of the commanding officer.

SIXTH ARTICLE---That no associate shall transfer his share either wholly

"ARTICLES OF THE SECOND COMPANY SENT TO FORT
BEAUHARNOIS IN 1731."

or partially except to persons of good character, free from scandal of any kind and who will not interpose any obstacle to the establishment of RELIGION amongst that great number of barbarous tribes so that GOD'S BLESSING may rest on their persons and trade. The associates must obtain the written permission of the Commandant to transfer their shares.

SEVENTH ARTICLE---That all associates and all persons in their employ are forbidden to absent themselves from the fort to be built there, for the purpose of returning to Montreal or of going anywhere else, or even for the purpose of hunting, when it is necessary to sleep away from the fort, without having the express permission of Monsieur the Commandant.

EIGHTH ARTICLE---That the said associates bind themselves to leave as a guard for the fort two men per canoe, not including the servants of messieurs the officers and missionaries, and that they may employ the others in conveying their furs to Montreal and in bringing back goods therefrom, and that at all times 12 men shall remain in the fort and shall not go out of it under any pretext whatsoever.

NINTH ARTICLE---That when they shall leave the said post they shall be at liberty to sell the houses they may have built for themselves and on their private account, as well as the grain growing on the lands they may have cultivated.

And in return for the above concessions the said interested parties undertake:

FIRST ARTICLE---To build a fort of stakes 120 feet square with four bastions, and they shall supply 1032 stakes and more if needed; a chapel, a house for the commanding officer, one for the missionaries,--the whole in such place as may be decided upon by the commanding officer, whom they promise to obey in everything he may command them for the King's service, the discipline of the post, and the welfare of the colony.

"ARTICLES OF THE SECOND COMPANY SENT TO FORT
BEAUHARNOIS IN 1731."

SECOND ARTICLE---They undertake to convey free of charge from this town what ever may be given them as provisions for the commanding officer, and the presents for the Savages which His Majesty shall send to the said place, and in addition the said Sieurs Mouet, Linctot, the younger, Coulonge, Giguieres, Toussaint, Richard, Dubeau, Pierre, Charles LeDuc, Guyon Depresz, Saint Michel du Chesne, Antoine Lanouette, and Joseph Jolliette promise and bind them selves to pay the sum of 2400 livres in each of the said three years when the canoes reach the Sieur Linctot, the commander of the fort in the Sioux Country, on condition that Sieur Linctot shall not carry any trade at the said post, directly or indirectly. Done with the agreement and consent of Monsieur the Governor-General, and in the presence of the said Messieurs de LaChassaigne, Michel De LaRouvilliere, and de LaCorne.

THIRD ARTICLE---And in addition, the said interested parties bind themselves to leave in the said post when they shall start from it in the spring at least 4 good canoes, to avoid accidents that might arise in case of necessity, and for such purpose they shall be bound to buy a sufficient number of the same in passing by MISSILIMAKINAE.

The said associates have agreed to everything above and have consented if any infringe any of the above articles, he shall be severely punished and shall forfeit all his rights.

And after reading the articles of demands and undertakings above set forth, the said interested parties have consented to carry out everything therein contained, and have accepted all charges, clauses, and conditions above stipulated; and for the fulfillment thereof they have signed with us, with the exception of GIGUIERES* TOUSSAINT* PIERRE AND CHARLES DUCHESNE* AND DABUA*---who declared they were unable to write and sign their names--and the Sieur LINCTOT, Commander, has with our consent signed on behalf of the Sieur Coulonge who is absent.

Done at Montreal, the 6th day of June, 1731.

APPENDIX C

Notes
taken
from

RESULT OF AN INTERVIEW WITH SISTER KOSTA OF THE URSULINE NUNS
OF VILLA ST. MARIE ACADEMY, FRONTENAC, MINNESOTA, with Mr.
C. A. RASMUSSEN.

Mrs. Socketto

file
on

74

Sister M. Kosta, who joined the order of the Ursulines at Lake City, Minnesota in 1879, and who was a member of the band at Villa St. Marie since its establishment in 1891, until her death in 1937, made a special study of all matters pertaining to the early forts. She was firmly convinced that the first fort was located in what is now a depression on Point Au Saub, shaped much as a baseball diamond, and generally termed the "rice pond."

Beauharnois

Bullets found nearby were made in bullet moulds of the time of the first occupancy. When the company was forced to move on account of High Water, the new site was in front of where the villa now stands. In making minor excavations there, Sister Kosta, unearthed what appears to be the nose and cheek of a Medium Sized Statue, also some rock which bore every indication of having been exposed to fire.

The Second Fort, she believed was located just north of the villa. The trees there are of recent growth, apparently having supplanted others. Among other Relics, the sister dug up was an Iron Ring of Great Antiquity.

The last fort she believed was located a short Distance to the Northwest in what is now a field. While plowing was being done a large flat rock was brought to the Surface which bore every Indication of being the foundation stone of a chimney. It is believed a relic of the fort.

*List of
Sakata
County
and
the City
of Hastings
Rev. Dr.
Neill
P.
54-55.*

"MEMORANDUM OF THE GOODS THAT MONSIEUR DE BOUCHERVILLE WAS OBLIGED TO FURNISH IN THE SERVICE OF THE KING DURING HIS CAPTURE BY THE KICKAPOO INDIAN TRIBE, FROM OCTOBER 12, 1723, UNTIL HIS RELEASE AND RETURN TO DETROIT IN JUNE, 1729."

Two barrels of powder, each 50 lbs, Montreal Price-----	150 Liv.
One hundred pounds of lead and balls-----	50 Liv.
Four pounds of vermillion at 12 francs per lb.-----	48 Fr.
Four Coats, braided, at 20 francs-----	80 Fr.
Six dozen knives at 4 francs the dozen-----	24 Fr.
Four hundred flints, 100 gunworms, 200 ramrods, 150 files-----	90 Liv.

After the Kickapoos refused to deliver them to the Renards (Foxes) they wished some favors and I was obliged to give them the following which would allow them to weep over and cover their dead.

Two braided coats at 20 francs each-----	40 Fr.
Two Woolen blankets at 15 francs each-----	30 Fr.
One hundred pounds of powder at 30 sous-----	75 "
One hundred pounds of lead at 10 sous-----	25 "
Two pounds of vermillion at 12 francs per pound-----	24 "
Moreover given to the Renards to cover their dead and prepare them for peace, fifty pounds of powder making-----	75 "
One hundred pounds of lead at 10 sous-----	50 "
Two pounds of vermillion at 12 francs per pound-----	24 "

During the winter a considerable party was sent to strike hands with the Illinois. Given at that time:

Two blue blankets at 15 francs each-----	30 Fr.
Four men's shirts at 6 francs each-----	24 "
Four pairs of long necked bottles at 6 francs-----	24 "
Four dozen knives at 4 francs-----	16 "
Gun-worms, files, ramrods, and flints estimated-----	40 "

Given to engage the Kickapoos to establish themselves upon a neighboring isle, to protect from the treachery of the Renards:-

Four blankets at 15 francs each-----	60 Fr.
Two pairs of bottles at 6 francs-----	24 "
Two pounds of vermillion at 12 francs-----	24 "
Four dozen butcher knives at 6 francs-----	24 "
Two woolen blankets at 15 francs each-----	30 "
Four pairs of bottles at 6 francs-----	24 "
Four shirts at 6 francs-----	24 "
Four dozen of knives at 4 francs-----	16 "

The Renards having betrayed and killed their brothers their brothers, the Kickapoos, I seized the favorable opportunity, and to encourage the latter to avenge themselves, I gave:-

Twenty five pounds of powder at 30 sous-----	37 Fr., 108.
Twenty five pounds of lead at 10 sous-----	12 Fr., 108.
Two guns at 30 livres each-----	60 "
One half pound of vermillion at 12 francs-----	6 "
Flints, guns, worms and knives estimated at-----	20 "

"MEMORANDUM OF THE GOODS THAT MONSIEUR DE BOUCHERVILLE WAS OBLIGED TO FURNISH IN THE SERVICE OF THE KING DURING HIS CAPTURE BY THE KICKAPOO INDIAN TRIBE, FROM OCTOBER 12, 1728, UNTIL HIS RELEASE AND RETURN TO DETROIT, JUNE, 1729."

The Illinois coming to the Kickapoo village, I supported them at my expense, and gave them:-

Powder, balls, and shirts estimated at-----50 Fr.

In departing from the Kickapoo village, I gave them the rest of the goods for their good treatment:-----80 Fr.

FORT BEAUHARNOIS

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HISTORY OF DAKOTA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF HASTINGS
By Reverend E.D. Neill

Red Wing Daily Republican (July 5 1927)
Article by C.A. Rasmussen

Notes:—

May be a lead to further
research.

3
Fort Beauharnois

M.H.2.

6.363

1727

The Establishment of Fort Beauharnois
at LAKE PEPIN WAS IN 1727

Officers, traders, Voyageurs, a Blacksmith
and other Artisans Came to the Post.

1756 After the Abandonment in 1756 of Fort MARIN
which stood near the Site of Fort Beauharnois
the Upper Country was left to the traders who
kept up relations with the Indians until the Coming
of the BRITISH.

M.H.2.

6.363

The Villa MARIA Home of the Catholic Girls School
located on Site of Old Fort Beauharnois.
(According to historians)

M.H.2.

6.362

Sept 17, 1727

Wise Hist
Collection B

W.M.W. Hist

Palace Hist

9 min

1.45

5th Parl

1728

1728

1728

1728

1728

An expedition led by La PERRIERE reached Lake
Pepin Sept 17, 1727 and the Fort was erected.

Two Jesuit fathers Michel GUIGNAS and Nicholas
de GONNOR accompanied the expedition and established
the first Christian Mission on Minnesota Soil and
named it the Mission of St Michael the Archangel.
La PERRIERE and De GONNOR returned to Montreal
in 1728

M H 2
6.363

and the post was left to a nephew of the former PIERRE BOUCHER, SIEUR DE BOUCHERVILLE.

Oct 1928 - Owing to hostility of the Fox Indians and the difficulty of securing provisions the post was abandoned Oct 1928

1931
M H 2
6.363

The Fort was re-established by RENE GODEFROY, SIEUR DE LINDTOR in 1931 on the higher ground of a bluff near the old site. It is believed that this is the present site of the Ursuline Convent & Academy of the Maria of Frontenac.

The original fort appears to have been situated on Sandy Point directly below the elevation upon which the convent now stands. The post was maintained in disanting fashion for a number of years but generally believed not used after 1755

M H 2
6.363
1727

In 1927 Minnesota celebrated its two hundredth anniversary of its first occupation of its soil by white men. The event of interest is the establishment of a Military Post on the Neversota shore of LAKE PE PIN by a French force under the leadership of Rene Boucher, Sieur de la Perriere. The object of the French was to set up in Sioux County a post to serve as a point of departure

3
MH2
6.362
1723

3

FORT BEAULHARNOIS

for a expedition to the Pacific.

The French Authorities had authorized an expedition with this object in view as early as 1722. They also had requested that two priests be sent out to act as missionaries among Sioux Indians. with headquarters at proposed Fort. The second object was to separate the Sioux Indians from the Lakes as they were very hostile and had caused the French much delay in carrying Sept 17 out their plans. Finally the Expedition got on its 1727 way and reached Lake PEPIN Sept 17. 1727.

MH2
363
1728

MH2
364

The most interesting account of the first expedition was a letter by FATHER GUIGNES dated at the Mission of ST MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL FORT BEAULHARNOIS ON May 29. 1728 to the French Government asking for a Case of mathematical instruments. The instruments specified were a dial plate of universal astronomy, a graduated semi-circle with the degrees indicated, a spirit level, a chain with slakes, and a telescope six or seven feet long.

MH2
367
1727

On the 17th of Sept 1727 at Noon LAKE PEPIN was reached. We established ourselves towards evening about the middle of the Northern Shore upon a low point where soil was excellent. The day after landing trees were hewn down and in four days the entire fort was completed. It covered a plot of ground

3 Fort BEAUHARNOIS.

M.H. 2
6:367

a hundred feet square surrounded by
stakes twelve feet high with two good bastions
For such a small place there are large buildings
detached and not crowded, each 30, 38 & 25 ft.
long by 16 ft wide. High Water Conditions made it
impossible to live in the houses the Water rising 2 ft
5 inches and camping outside was necessary until the
30th of April due to continuous rains.

M.H. 2
8:705.
1727 Notations of Celebrations in regard to 200 hundredth
Anniversary of building of Fort BEAUHARNOIS. on
Sept. 17. 1727

M.H. 2
8:44v
1727 The Goodhue Co Historical Society arranged a celebration
at FRONTENAC on ^{the} 200 hundredth anniversary of the building
of Fort BEAUHARNOIS by the French in Sept 1727.

The central feature of the program was the unveiling of a
bronze tablet bearing the following inscription. "Near this
spot Fort BEAUHARNOIS was erected by the French 1727
Here also stood the mission of St Michael the Arch
angel - the first Christian Chapel in the present bound-
aries of Minnesota."

(Cont Article of program of celebration)
M.H. 2 8:443 speakers etc

5 / (3) Fort BEAUFORTNOIS.

M. H. 2 { Ref to Flood.
8.278 See ante 6.367

M. H. 2 { Fort located on Southern shore of Lake Pepin
8.231 in the middle section where a low point juts
8.246 into the water.

1679- { Lengthy article on Fort BEAUFORTNOIS. (Type
1686- direct)
PPB 32 thru
246
Exploring - Missonaries, etc

M. H. 2 { Ref. Journal of the Voyage, made by Chevalier de la Verendrye.
8.89 with one of his brethren in search of the Western Sea.
New translated by Miss. Anna H. Blegen; Minn. Hist. Society.

M. H. 2 { BEAUFORTNOIS was by far the ablest Governor France
8.235 had sent to the New World since the time Frontenac.
He was reputed to be a natural son of Louis XIV. and had all the dignity and love of Ceremony that characterized that monarch. Moreover, he had ~~good~~ remarkable good judgement and a grasp of administrative duties rare to officials of New France. Under the Marquis de BEAUFORTNOIS Canada had for a score of years a governorship unsurpassed in its Colonial history.

The first step towards founding the proposed Post among the SIOUX was the formation of a Commercial company to finance the undertaking. Contd

M. H. L.
8. 235
contd

The Colonial treasury was always impoverished but the Merchants of New France were eager to participate in opening the vast territory of Siouxan people which had a great reputation for rich furs.

The Contract made by the Governor with this Company is an interesting document from the administrative and economic points of view.

The Promoters were to have a complete monopoly of the trade of the Sioux Country for three years, with a preference for future years. In return they agreed to build a dock of stakes, a chapel, a house for the Commanding Officer, and one for the Missionaries. They were to convey free of cost the following three years, provisions and supplies for the Commandant and his Record in Command, as well as the Missionaries, the amount and weight stipulated; and they were to purchase three or four extra Canoes in order to transport these goods over the the rapids and shallows of the St. Lawrence waterway. This Contract signed at Montreal on June 6. 1727 is preserved in the Archives of the Chicago Historical Society.

With regard to the Members of the Trading Post we have some interesting information. Jean Baptiste Bouché de Montbrun told his brother Francois is son grandson of Pierre Bouché, first historian of the Colony of New France.

(3)

FORT BEAU HARN OIS

m. H. 2

8.235

cont'd

Cont'd

enabled by the King for his service.
 He had a immense estate at Boucherville, where
 he lived in patriarchal fashion, his nine sons
 and their children around him. The elder Bouchon
 died ten years before the date of this contract, at the
 ripe age of 97. His seventh son Jean, Sieur de
 Montbrun, was the father of the two young adventures
 who planned to undertake the fur trade on the farthest
 frontier. Of the other partners, the Garreaux and
 Campeaux seem to have come from Detroit; the rest
 are unknown, save Paul Marin, who became one of the
 most distinguished officers of the Northwest, but whose
 personality is somewhat shrouded in mystery. He
 had been for some years at Chequamegon Bay,
 where doubtless he had some knowledge of the Sioux.
 He was later on to end the Fox Wars, and to make
 a fortune from his contact with the western tribesmen.
 Now in mid-career, he visited the upper Mississippi
 probably for the first time.

The Sioux chiefs whom CHARLEVOIX met at
 La Baye had intimated that they would welcome
 "black robe" missionaries in their villages; therefore
 it was determined to send two Jesuits to the
 New Post as messengers for the Gospel. Father
 de FONNEX and GILGNOTS were chosen, the
 latter of whom became the historian of the expedition.

8 (3) Fort BEALL NARNOIS

M.L.2
8.236

giving the details with a lively pen.
GILBERTS joined the party at MACKINAC,
while the other Missionary came over from
Montreal. The Governor asked from the King, in
their behalf, a Case of Mathematical Instruments
including a six or seven foot telescope, thus
indicating that they were to take scientific observations
and determine the latitude, longitude and perhaps the
the altitude of the new post.

1708

For Commandant the Governor chose Rene Brucher,
Sieur de PERRIERE, an uncle of the Montbuns. of
the Montbuns, who not only belonged to this well
known family but was a distinguished officer in the
Colonial troops. LA PERRIERE had seen service during
the Intercolonial War and had the unenviable distinction
of having led the French and Indian raid of 1708 which
resulted in the Sacking of Haverhill Mass. He had
visited the Sioux Country in 1715 as a preliminary to
LOUVIGNY'S expedition against the FOXES; and he
had been destined for the Command at LA BAYE, but
another officer had been preferred in his stead.
Having been promoted to a Captaincy the previous
year. LA PERRIERE was eager to serve once more
in the far West; although the Command was desired
by him, he knew the loss of the hardships of the
journey and of the winter so great that, now nearly sixty
years of age and worn by previous service, he was
unable to remain at his new Post throughout the first
year. (In regard to expedition. See King.

M.L.2
8.237

A.O.M

1753

(Article 1727)

As the French fur-traders withdrew from Wisconsin and MINNESOTA, the English advanced and through friendly alliance with the Fox began to have such influence in the Northwest as to threaten the exclusive French Control of the Indian Trade. As a means to circumvent the interest of the English, orders were given to establish a fort in the River Country. For this purpose PENE BOUCHER, SIEUR DE LA PERRIERE, accompanied by two Jesuit priests, was despatched, with a considerable military contingent, to erect the fort which became known as FORT BEAU HARN OIS. The "Company of the SIOUX," specially organized for this expedition, was granted the exclusive right of trading in the Country of the SIOUX and wherever the SIOUX went in their hunting expeditions. The fort was built on the low bank of Point au Sable, on the west side of Lake Pepin, near what is now Frontenac, in Goodhue County. The expedition had successfully passed through the hostile Wisconsin Indians, probably by the aid of liberal presents, but the fort was hardly established before the same Indians began to show their hostile disposition in intercepting the traders that passed through Wisconsin to the fort.

1728

Ref.

Acta et

Dicta

Vol II p 100

F. J. Schaefer

1729 →

In October 1728, the place was weakened by the departure of eleven men and father GUINPES who started for Canada by way of ILLINOIS, but were captured by the MASCOUTIN and the WICKAPOU, remaining prisoners during the winter, reaching Canada in 1729.

10 / 3 FORT BEAUFORT NO 15.

A. O. M
P 530

The company of the SIOUX had but little activity and seems to have been dissolved, but in 1731 a new Company was organized, with almost identical terms. The new Commandant was LINCOLN, and a new location was chosen, on higher ground, where they were welcomed by a large number of the SIOUX, who established themselves in a village in the immediate vicinity. In 1873, on the defeat of the FOX and SACK INDIANS by the French Army under VILLIERS, the SIOUX would not give them welcome on the west side of the MISSISSIPPI.

A. O. M
P 531

Article 1736

Ref.
Act 3 of Dict 13
Vol 2 p 114, 173

In the Spring an expedition was sent out consisting of 54 Warriors and one that embraced 130 Warriors sent north. The former captured and scalped two French travelers near the Illinois River, and on the return insultingly danced the scalp dance about FORT BEAUFORT NO 15. For four days, giving no information to the Garrison. The Winnebago informed the French, and put them on their guard. The latter expedition resulted in celebrated massacre of the VERENDRIE party, the details and location of which are vividly portrayed by Rev. J. J. SCHAEFER. There can hardly be any question that this sudden change was due to the equivocal relations which the French maintained toward the two Indian stocks. They were friendly to the SIOUX or claimed to be, at FORT BEAUFORT NO 15, but furnished firearms to their enemies, the CREE, the OJIBWA and the ILLINOIS.

FORT BEAU HARNOTS

3

A.O.M.

§ 531

article 1736

The tribes were not ranged, in this or that party, strictly according to blood relationships, for the ASSINIBOIN, a Dakota tribe, fought the other Dakota, while the Ojibwa, an ALGONQUIAN tribe, fought against the ALGONQUIAN.

year
1736

1728

La Ronde was in charge of the Post ("CHAGOUA-MIGON") in 1736. He was a Valiant Soldier who had been with IBERVILLE in HUDSON BAY, and had participated in the defeat of the English and the DUTCH for his fortitude and fidelity he was awarded for his Concession of their trading posts in 1728. From his reports to Governor Beauharnois important facts are derived relating to the massacre of the VERENDRYE party at Lake of the Woods.

year
1736

He wrote, under the date of June²⁸, 1736 to Beauharnois as follows: "The war has been very extensive and the Sioux have killed more than 30 Persons. They have nevertheless sent 2 women SAUTEUX whom they have taken prisoners to ask for peace. Immediately I sent 10 SAUTEUX with 3 slaves, and loaded them 2000 crowns worth of presents in order that I might succeed in concluding peace. 4 ifty Day after they

12

(3)

FORT BEALL HARNOLD

A.O.M. left I embarked for the purpose of visiting
 P. 531 places on the Lake. I believe will be made
 Art. 1736 only between them. Pressure of business
 (year 1736) prevents giving more details."

But on July 22, 1736, he gives some particulars of the massacre of the VERENDRYE party:

"I had the honor to inform you of the ^{attack} the SAUTEX made on the SIOUX last year. I have your noting that when I arrived at CHAGONAMIGON I strongly censured the SAUTEX for having fought the SIOUX of the lakes, because it was the SIOUX of the prairie who killed their chief. They replied that it was true, but that it was these who had killed 32 French men in the north and they wished to avenge their deaths. What these Indians say is true for we have seen disks and several of their things belonging to the JESUIT father, but not the CHALICE, which was thrown into the river by a woman because her child had died."

"I told the SAUTEX it was necessary to make peace, otherwise they ran the risk of starving this winter. Eight days later, the SIOUX sent a SAUTEX prisoner to his people that not with standing they had been killed they wished to make peace, and they had only to send five SAUTEX and they would meet them half way. Only one decided to go, at one solicitation, but did not proceed to the meeting place, but wintered 30 leagues from CHAGONAMIGON. In MARCH on information given me by 2 young men that their father had killed an elk 15 leagues from the fort, and that I should send and look

A.O.M.
P. 531
Art 1736
(copy
1736)

for it, I detailed my son and 7 men to bring it in. Four hours later the SIOUX party of one hundred attacked the wigwams of the SAUTEX - killed 4 men lost 5 men, the chief among the numbers. The 15 of April - the SIOUX sent back 2 men captured in the fight to ask the SAUTEX why they had not come to the meeting place as invited, and that it was because they had not they had attacked them. They again demanded a meeting and named the same chiefs. I sent off as soon as possible 2 SAUTEX and 2 slaves. They marched 60 days on the prairie without meeting the SIOUX and finding only their hiding place for beaver skins, and should have left their sign that they had been there."

It can be gathered from this that:

1. The SIOUX massacre of the VERENDXRE party on the LAKE OF THE WOODS, JUNE 1736, were from LAKE MILLE LACS bands.
 2. The SIOUX were at war OJIBWA as well as the CRE.
 3. The SIOUX EXCHANGED SUN DIAL and other articles captured from the French, with the French (or with the OJIBWA) at CHAGOUADMIGON.
 4. Probably from this date the French at CHAGOUADMIGON sympathized with the OJIBWA, and supplied them with more firearms against the SIOUX. They sent a party of OJIBWA to FORT BEAUHARNOIS with news of the Massacre at LAKE of the Woods.
- (1739) The SIOUX remained at MILLE LACS until 1739.

FORT BEAUXHARNOIS

A.O.M.

P. 532 to 535

art. 1737

MHSC-5

P3-4

(1750)

Type Direct from "Aborigines of Minnesota" P.P.
532 to 535 covering from Oct 1737 to the
"Battle of Pt Prescott."

In 1750, LeHARDEUR-DE-ST PIERRE—who
had commanded Fort BEAUXHARNOIS was deputed
to visit the region to the north west & opened
by the VERANDIERES, and concluded Treaties
of peace and commerce. The fort built by
VERANDIERES was abandoned because of its
nearness to those on the chain of lakes
between Winnipeg and Lake Superior. Following
the suggestion of the Frenchman, CARVER proposed
to open a northern route to the PACIFIC thru
MINNESOTA, the valley of Upper MISSOURI, over
the slope of the ROCKY MOUNTAINS, and then
thru the valley of a river called the OREGON

MHSC

6-P. 253

254-255

A Historical Tour at the Minn Historical Society
held at Red Wing: They were the guests of
the Red Wing Historical Society:

After the luncheon by the local
society, the cavalcade of some 25 automobiles
proceeded to FRONTENAC^{school} and then to VILLA MARIA
ACADEMY, a Catholic girls' ^{school} built, according to some
historians, on the site of Fort BEAUXHARNOIS. Yes,
in the sense, that a spectacular event which
occurred at that place as recorded in contemporary
manuscripts and is today remembered. It is
possible, however, that the development of agriculture
in the modern period of GOODHUE COUNTY.

MHSC

6-PP253-255

on the settlement and social life of the region are of greater historical importance than the events associated with the exception of LA PIERRE, the building of FORT-BEAUHARNOIS and the establishment of the Mission of ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL. In any event all GOODHUE county and all MINNESOTA must be considered "HISTORIC" if the broad view of history be accepted. Still, there is a certain pleasure in studying historical associations.

In imagination the visitors to VILLA MARIE ACADEMY saw the soldiers of LA PIERRE arriving at this spot in the early 18th century, saw them hewing logs for the fort, and participated in their celebration (1727) of Nov. 14, 1727, in honor of GOVERNOR-BEAUHARNOIS which according to FATHER GUIGNAS frightened the Indians.

The 18th century background of the place was impressed upon tourists when they assembled in the quaint Chapel to hear a program of brief talks. Judge A. W. Johnson of Red Wing presided and 1st introduced SISTER STANISLAUS KOSTA, a teacher at the Academy who spoke interestingly on the problem of the site of FORT BEAUHARNOIS. She was followed by (Dr. SWEENER) of Red Wing who called attention to some points of historical interest in GOODHUE county, and Mrs. F. WILSON of Red Wing, who discussed more details of the story FORT BEAUHARNOIS.

FORT BEAUHORNIS.

MH
8-P 205-206

Plans are being made at Red Wing for the celebration next fall of the two-hundredth anniversary of the building of FORT-BEAUHORNIS on the shores of LAKE PEPIN by LA PERRIERE and a group of Frenchmen who arrived there Sept 27, 1727.

MH
8-P 442-443

County Historical Society:

The GOODHUE County Historical Society arranged and carried through an appropriate celebration at FRONTENAC on Sept 17 of the 200 anniversary of the building of FORT BEAUHORNIS on the shores of LAKE PEPIN. The central feature of the program was the unveiling of a Bronze tablet bearing the following inscription: "Near this spot FORT BEAUHORNIS was erected by the French, Sept. 1727. Here also stood the mission of ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL - the 1st Christian Chapel within the present boundaries of MINNE SOTA." The Very Reverend Humphrey Mayrison of ST PAUL SEMINARY and DR. J. T. FULTON of the State Training School for Boys at Red Wing were the principal speakers, and both talked of the little group of Frenchmen who founded the LAKE PEPIN post in 1727. The printed program contained an "artist's conception" of FORT BEAUHORNIS by FLETCHER SULTZER of ST. LOUIS, and a "list of points of interests" in FRONTENAC, with notes explaining their historical associations. 700 people attended the occasion, and general publicity by the papers seemed to enliven the interests of the general public. Special mention was made of an article by CH. Rasmussen, in the REDWING DAILY REPUBLICAN on July 5.

17

(3)

FORT BEAUHARNOIS

(Jesse Norton)

Catholic Missionary
Activities in the
North West
1818-1864

R.R. 10-11-12

13-14

(1720)

(1721)

NO ORGANIZED ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT MISSION AND ERECT MISSION BUILDINGS AMONG THE INDIAN TRIBES OF MINNESOTA WAS MADE UNTIL THE 2ND QUARTER OF THE 18th CENTURY. PIERRE FRANCOIS XAVIER DE CHARLEVOIX, S.J., VISITED THE MISSIONS ALONG THE GREAT LAKES DURING A TOUR OF NEW FRANCE IN 1720-21. ON HIS RETURN TO FRANCE, HE RECOMMENDED THAT A MISSION BE ERECTED AMONG THE SIOUX INDIANS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI, MINNESOTA AND MISSOURI RIVER. KNOWLEDGE OF A POSSIBLE WESTWARD ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC, HE BELIEVED, COULD BE OBTAINED THROUGH A MISSIONARY'S CONTACT WITH THE INDIANS FAMILIAR WITH THE FAR WEST. A MISSION ^{which} COULD ALSO SERVE AS A TRADING POST.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY ACTED ON THIS REPORT BY DECIDING TO SEND TWO MISSIONARIES TO DO JUST THAT. ON APRIL 30, 1727, CHARLES BEAUHARNOIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF NEW FRANCE, WROTE TO THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY ASKING FOR A CASE OF MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE JESUITS WHO WERE TO ERECT THE MISSIONS AMONG THE SIOUX. HE ALSO ASKED FOR A DIAL PLATE OF UNIVERSAL ASTRONOMY, A CHAIN OF STAKES AND A TELESCOPE 6 OR 7 FEET LONG. A COMMERCIAL COMPANY WAS FORMED AND AN AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO.

Catholic Missions
Activities in the
North West
1818-1864

PP. 10-11-12-13-14

(1727)

IN MONTREAL, JUNE 6, 1727. AMONG
THIS AGREEMENT TWO ARTICLES WERE
OF SPECIAL NOTE CONCERNING THE MISSION.
"ARTICLE ONE" GRANTED TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE COMPANY A COMPLETE MONOPOLY
OF THE FUR TRADE IN THE SIOUX COUNTRY
FOR 3 YEARS. "SECTION ONE OF ARTICLE 10"
CALLED FOR BUILDING OF A FORT, CHAPEL
AND TWO HOUSES, ONE FOR THE COMMANDING
OFFICER - THE OTHER FOR THE MISSIONARIES. THE
MANNER AND PLACE OF CONSTRUCTION TO BE
DETERMINED BY THE OFFICER IN CHARGE.
"SECTION TWO OF ARTICLE 10" SECURED THE
GRATUITOUS TRANSPORTATION OF THE EFFECTS OF
THE LEADER AND THE MISSIONARIES.

ON JUNE 16, 1727, COMMANDED BY RENE BOUCHER,
SIEUR LA PIERRE, HIS BROTHER, FATHER NICHOLAS DE GONNER,
FATHER MICHAEL GUIGNAS S.J., THE PARTY LEFT
MONTREAL AND ARRIVED AT MICHLIMACKINAC
JULY 22. THEY REMAINED THERE UNTIL AUGUST 1,
THEN JOINED BY FATHER CHARDON S.J., and SIEUR
REAUME, ON AUG 11, TRAVELED WESTWARD THROUGH THE
COUNTRY OF THE FOXES. AUGUST 15 & 16 WERE SPENT
WITH THE FOXES. FATHER CHARDON AIDED IN FOUNDING
A COUNCIL - SIEUR REAUME, ACTED AS INTERPRETER,
AND FOUND THAT WERE NOT IRRECONCILABLE ADVERSE TO
THE OPENING OF A TRADING POST AMONG THE SIOUX.
FATHER CHARDON AND SIEUR REAUME RETURNED TO
GREEN BAY AND THE REST CONTINUED WESTWARD.

Catholic Missionary
Activities in the
North West
P.P. 10-11-12-13-14

(1727)

FINDING THE JOURNEY SLOW AND UNCERTAIN. FATHER GUIGNAS WRITES CONCERNING THIS "NO ONE KNEW IT, AND WE GOT ASTRAY EVERY MOMENT ON WATER AND LAND. FOR WANT OF A GUIDE AND PIBTS."

AT NOON SEPT. 17, 1727, THEY REACHED LAKE PEPIN, WHERE THEY SELECTED A SITE FOR THE POST "ON THE SHORE ON THE MIDDLE OF THE NORTH SIDE ON A LOW POINT WHERE THE SOIL IS EXCELLENT NEAR THE PRESENT SITE OF FRONTENAC, MINN. IMMEDIATELY ON LANDING THE FORT WAS BEGUN AND NAMED AFTER BEAUHARNOIS IN HIS HONOR. IT WAS COMPLETED IN 4 DAYS. IT WAS 100 FEET SQUARE AND SURROUNDED BY 12 FOOT PICKETS (NEW SIDES OF LOGS) 3 BUILDINGS, ONE 25', ANOTHER 30', ANOTHER 35' LONG, AND EACH WERE 16' WIDE. ALL BUILDINGS WERE COMPLETED BY THE END OF OCTOBER. INDIANS BEGAN TO SETTLE AROUND THE FORT AND MISSION OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL. AT THE END OF FEB., 60 SIOUX VISITED THE FORT. FATHER GUIGNAS DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE AS A "LOW POINT" PROVED TRUE, FOR DURING THE HIGH WATER PERIOD OF APRIL 1728, TO MAY 1728, THE PARTY WAS FORCED TO CAMP OUT ON ACCOUNT OF THE INUNDATION OF THE FORT.

(1728)

IN THE SUMMER OF 1728 - FATHER DE GONNER, SIEUR LA PIERRE, RETURNED TO MONTREAL.

20
Catholic Missionary
Activities in the
North West
P. 10-11-12-13-14.

③ FORT BEAURNOIS

BECAUSE OF THE INDIAN TROUBLE BETWEEN THE FOXES AND THE SIOUX, PIERRE DE BOUCHER, IN COMMAND OF THE FORT, DECIDED, AFTER CONFERRING WITH HIS FELLOW FRENCHMEN, TO EVACUATE THE FORT. ALL LEFT TOGETHER ON OCT. 3, 1728, BUT FATHER GUIGNAS FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE INDIANS, HELD CAPTIVE FOR 5 MONTHS, MISTREATED, AND ABOUT TO BE BURIED ALIVE, ^{when} AN OLD INDIAN ADOPTED HIM AND BROUGHT ABOUT HIS LIBERTY.

SIEUR DE LINCTOT WAS CHARGED TO REOCCUPY THE FORT IN 1731. HE ARRIVED AT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN THE SPRING OF 1732, AND WINTERED 30 LEAGUES BELOW BEAURNOIS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE RIVER AT THE PRESENT SITE OF TREMPEREA, WIS. WHILE FATHER GUIGNAS WAS WITH LINCTOT AT THE

FORT, FATHER NAU, S.J., WROTE TO FATHER BONIN, S.J., OCT 2, 1735: "FATHER GUIGNAS IS IN THE SIOUX COUNTRY AT A LITTLE FRENCH FORT WITH BUT 6 MEN WITH HIM. A MONTH AGO MARQUIS ^{DE} BEAURNOIS, SENT 22 MEN IN 4 CANOES WITH SUPPLIES WHICH HE VERY BADLY NEEDS. IT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN WHETHER THE RELIEF PARTY WILL REACH HIM WITHOUT MOLESTATION, THEIR ROUTE LYING CLOSE TO THE COUNTRY OF THE FOXES!"

FORT BEAURNOIS ON LAKE PEPIN WAS RE-ESTABLISHED SOMETIME BETWEEN 1732 and 1736. ON SEPT 16, 1736, THE SIOUX VISITED THE FORT BUT DID NOT REMAIN AS RAIDERS THEY CAME AGAIN ON DEC 18, AND PULLED UP THE STAKES IN FATHER GUIGNAS GARDEN, BURNED THEM AND DEPARTED. ON JANUARY 1737, 40 SIOUX MANAGED TO GET INTO THE FORT WHEN THE GATE

(1728)

(1731)

(1732)

(1735)

(1732-1736)

(1737)

21

(3)

FORT BEAUMHARNOIS

Catholic Missions
Activities in the
North West
P. 10-11-12-73-14)

(1737)

WAS LEFT OPEN. THIS WAS CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENT OF SEUR DE ST. PIERRE IN CHARGE OF THE FORT. ONLY TEN SIOUX WERE TO ENTER AT A TIME. ON MARCH 18, SERIOUS HOSTILITIES BROKE OUT BETWEEN THE CHIPPEWA AND THE SIOUX. SEUR DE ST. PIERRE, SEUR DE LINCTOT AND FATHER GUIGNAS TOOK COUNCIL AND DECIDED TO ABANDON POST, BURN THE FORT AND MAKE THEIR ESCAPE. THE POST WAS EVACUATED ON MAY 30, 1737. THIS CLOSED THE HISTORY OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL. FATHER GUIGNAS HAD FOUND THE WARLIKE SIOUX DIFFICULT TO CONVERT. EVEN CHILDREN, BAPTIZED AT THE POINT OF DEATH, DID NOT ADHERE TO THE FAITH ON RECOVERY FROM THEIR ILLNESS.

Result of an Interview
with Sister Kosta of the
Ursuline Nuns of Villa
St. Marie Academy
by C. A. Rasmussen (?)

SISTER M. KOSTA, WHO JOINED THE ORDER OF THE URSULINES AT LAKE CITY IN 1879, AND WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE BAND AT VILLA ST. MARIE SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1891, UNTIL HER DEATH IN 1937, MADE A SPECIAL STUDY OF ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE EARLY FORTS. SHE WAS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE FIRST FORT WAS LOCATED IN WHAT IS NOW A DEPRESSION ON POINT AU SAUB, SHAPED MUCH AS A BASEBALL DIAMOND, AND GENERALLY TERMED THE "RICE POND." BULLETS FOUND NEARBY WERE MADE IN BULLET MOULDS OF THE TIME OF THE 1ST OCCUPANCY. WHEN THE COMPANY WAS FORCED TO MOVE ON, ON ACCOUNT OF HIGH WATER, THE NEW SITE WAS IN FRONT OF WHERE THE VILLA NOW STANDS. IN MAKING MINOR EXCAVATIONS THERE, SISTER KOSTA UNEARTHED WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE NOSE AND CHEEK OF A MEDIUM SIZED STATUE, ALSO SOME ROCK WHICH BORE EVERY INDICATION OF HAVING BEEN EXPOSED TO FIRE.

THE 2ND FORT, SHE BELIEVED WAS LOCATED JUST NORTH OF THE VILLA. THE

32

(3)

FORT-BAUHARVOIS

Result of an
Interview with
Sister Kosta of the
Ursuline Nuns of
Villa St. Marie
by C.A. Rasmussen(?)

TREES THERE ARE OF RECENT GROWTH,
APPARENTLY HAVING SUPPLANTED OTHERS. AMONG
OTHER RELICS, THE SISTER DUG UP AN IRON
RING OF GREAT ANTIQUITY.

THE LAST FORT, SHE BELIEVED, WAS
LOCATED A SHORT DISTANCE TO THE NORTHWEST
IN WHAT IS NOW A FIELD. WHILE PLOWING
WAS BEING DONE, A LARGE FLAT ROCK WAS
BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE, WHICH BORE
EVERY INDICATION OF BEING THE FOUNDATION
STONE OF A CHIMNEY.

Notes by C.A. Rasmussen
taken from H. Beauchemin's
file of Mr. R. R. Sackett.
P. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,

The Commandant of the expedition was
RENE BOUCHER, SIEUR-DE-LA-PERRIERE (also
known as LA PERRIERE) Included in the company
were Jesuit Father MICHAEL GIGNAS and
NICHOLAS DE GONNER. The party containing
30, left Montreal, June 16, 1727, and by way
of Green Bay, the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers,
reached POINT AU SAU on Sept 17, 1727. From
here on let Father GIGNAS tell the story
in his own words in a letter to MARQUIS
DE BEAUHARVOIS written in May, 1728:

"On the 17th of Sept., 1727, at noon we
reached this lake, which had been chosen
as the end of our voyage. We established
ourselves towards evening about the center
of the North shore upon a low point whose
soil is excellent. The woods were dense
there, but they are all ready thinned on account
of the rigor and length of the winter, which
had been severe for the climate, for we
are here in latitude 43 degrees 51'. The
day after landing axes were applied to the
trees and four days later the fort was
entirely finished. It is a plot of ground
100 feet square surrounded by stakes

(1727)
(1728)

(1727)

(Beginning of
Letter)

Notes by C. A. Rasmussen
taken from Ft. Beauharnois
file of Mr. R. R. Sackett

P. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,

(1728)
(1727)

(Letter Cont)

twelve feet high with two good bastions.
For such a small place there are three
large buildings, detached and not crowded,
each 30-38 and 25 feet long by 16 feet wide.

"Before the end of October all the houses
were finished, and furnished, and everyone
found himself lodged peacefully in his own
home. Nothing was thought of then but to go
and reconnoitre the neighboring districts and
rivers, to see those herds of fallow-deer of all
species of which they tell such tales in
Canada. They must have disappeared or
greatly diminished since the time of these
former travelers left the country." They
are no longer in such great numbers, and
it is hard to kill any.

"After having wandered about the
country for sometime everybody returned
to the fort, and only thought of enjoying the
fruits of their labors. On November 4th, it
was not forgotten that this was the fete
day of Monsieur the General. Holy Mass
was said for him in the morning, and
we were much inclined to celebrate the
holiday in the evening; but the slowness of
the pyrotechnist, and the changeableness of the
weather, caused the celebration to be postponed
until the 14th of the same month, when some
very fine rockets were fired off and the air
was made to resound with "Long live the
King," and "Long live CHARLES DE BEAUHARNOIS."
It was on this occasion that the wine of
the Soviet was made to flow, and it was
most excellent, although there are no finer
wines here than in Canada. What

Notes by C. A. Rasmussen
taken from Ft. Beaucharnois
file of Mr. R. R. Sackett

P. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,

(1728)
(1727)

(Letter Cont)

contributed to the amusement, was the
terror of some cabins of Indians
who were then around the fort.
When these poor people saw the fire-
works in the air and the stars falling
from heaven, women and children
took to flight, and the most courageous
men cried for mercy, and urgently asked
that this astonishing play of this terrible
medicine be made to cease.

"As soon as we arrived among
them they assembled in a very few days
around the FRENCH FORT to the number of
95 cabins, which would amount in all
to 150 men, for there are at the most
2 men in their portable cabins of dressed
skins, and in many there is only one.
These were all that we have seen, except
a band of about 60 men who came on
Feb. 26, and were of those NATIONS
that are called the SIOUX OF THE PRAIRIES.
At the end of November the savages departed
for their winter quarters. It is true they
did not go far away, and there were
always some to be seen during the winter.
But since April 3, when several cabins
repassed here to go to their spring hunting,
none of them have been seen. One canoe of
10 men, detailed to go and find them,
looked for them in vain for a week, even
for more than 60 leagues up the
Mississippi; it arrived yesterday without
hearing tidings of them."

"Although I have said that the
Sioux were alarmed at the rockets, it must

FORT BEAUVARVOIS

Notes by C.A. Rasmussen
taken from Ft. Beauharnois
file of Mr. R.R. Sackett.

P. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,

(1727)
(1728)

(Letter cont.)

not be supposed from this that they are less intelligent than other INDIANS we know. "They seem to be more so, at least they are much gayer and more open and far more dexterous thieves, great dancers and great medicine men. The men are almost all large and well made, but the women are very ugly and disgusting. All would go well if the place were not subject to inundations but this year on April 15, we were obliged to go and camp outside as the water rose in the houses to the height of 2 ft., 8 in. and it is useless that it was the quantity of snow that fell this year. The snow about the fort was melted long time before; and there was certainly not more than a foot and a half from Feb. 8, to March 15; all the rest of the winter one could not have used snow shoes. I have good reasons to believe that the place is inundated every year. I always had the same opinion of it; but they were not obliged to believe me, because old people who said they had lived here 15 or 20 years asserted that it was never inundated. We could not re-enter the rather dilapidated houses until April 30, and even the damages are hardly repaired."

Notes by C.A. Rasmussen
taken from Ft. Beauharnois
file of Mr. R.R. Sackett.
P. 10

(1766)

In 1766, Capt. Johnathon Carver, the 1st British traveler in this region, in connection with the Lake Pepin region writes: "Here I observed the ruins of a FRENCH FACTORY, where it is said, Capt ST PIERRE resided and carried on a very great trade with the NAUDOWESSIES before the reduction of CANADA."

Notes by C. A. Rasmussen,
taken from Ft. Beauhornois
file by R. R. Sackett.
P. 9, 18,

In October, 1728, owing to the
hostilities of the Indians, the fort was
abandoned, and early in 1729, it appears
to have been wholly abandoned, and
probably looted and burned by hostile Indians.

(1728) →

(1729) →

(1730-31)

The Indians soon found that the
post had been a decided convenience to
them in so many ways, so they petitioned
for its re-establishment. According to their
wishes in the early 30's, SIEUR LINCTOT
was ordered to build another fort which he
did selecting as the site, a better place, on higher
land beyond the reach of high water, a few
hundred feet from the shore, and affording an
extensive view of the lake, both the front and
rear views. This location is supposed to be
the present site of Villa Marie Academy.
Father Guigas was missionary for this post
also. In 1735 LE GARDEUR ST. PIERRE was
placed in command.

(1735)

(1737)

In 1737, the Indians again became so
troublesome that on May 13, 1737, the occupants
burned the fort and sailed down the river.

(1806)

In 1806, Lieut Pike, U. S. Army, passed through Lake
Pepin, and described the position of the ruined post
as it would appear to him going up the lake, and
in view before reaching POINT AU SAUBIE, as being
on the west shore, below the POINT.

Page 11

(1917)

No mention of the ruins of the fort appear in
the diary of Major Stephen H. Long, U. S. Army, who
went up the river in 1917. No doubt all traces of
it had disappeared at that time. (He mentions a Indian
village on that point.)

FORT BEAUHORNIS

Notes by C. A. Rasmussen
taken from Ft Beauhornois
file of Mr. R. P. Sackett.

P. 11,

In the rear of the lowlands of Point
AU SAUB is an eminence, of some 60 feet,
which is the bluff edge of a wide plateau,
from which is an extensive view
below and above the sandy peninsula.
It is the most suitable spot in the vicinity
for a stockade, and there is evidence, in
the absence of very aged trees, that there had
been a clearing there. The old Indian Trail
of the SANDY POINT CREEK, now WELL'S
CREEK, afforded easy routes for the SIOUX
of the prairie to the post.

P. 11, 12

Here is located VILLA MARIE academy
for girls conducted by the URSULINE SISTERS which
has been pronounced by tourists as the most picture-
esque site for an educational institution in the
County.

Below the elevation on which lies the
school building gleams WELL'S CREEK through
the overhanging tangle of branches. Beyond, jutting
out into the lake, is Point AU SAUB, the point
of sand on which FORT BEAUHORNIS was
first built. It seems like a misty dream to
think of this land having once belonged to the
KING OF FRANCE. But, having been so, it is
fitting that the URSULINE are on the site, for
was not their order the first of the devoted re-
ligion who came to the NEW FRANCE to
teach and train the little maidens the faith and
language to which we pay involuntary
tribute when we twist our awkward
tongues around such names as PERROT,
FRONTENAC, BEAUHORNIS, PEPIN, GUIGNAS,
and so on. But, whatever, may have been
in the long ago, even the famous URSULINE

Notes by C.A. Rasmussen
taken from H. Beaumont's
file of Mr. R.R. Sackett
P. 11, 12

monastery of QUEBEC, the root and
mother of the URSULINES in the new
world - is not more delightful in
sight and scene and charm than
this modern VILLA MARIE.

History of Last French
Fort by C.A. Rasmussen
P. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

(1727)

Articles of the Company were signed
at MONTREAL on June 6, 1727. They bear the
signatures of BEAUHARNOIS, governor of
NEW FRANCE; LONGUEVILLE, governor of
MONTREAL, and several residents of
MONTREAL, who were interested in the
enterprise. JEAN BAPTISTE and FRANCIS
BOUCHER DE MONTBRUN appear to have been
leaders in the enterprise.

The company was granted the ex-
clusive privilege of trading with the SIOUX for
3 years. The members agreed not to build
houses or forts on the hunting grounds except
where the commanding officer established
the post. They would be permitted to send to
the SIOUX country during the ensuing two years
as many canoes as they deemed advisable
and the share of each member would be
increased in proportion to the increase
in number of canoes. At the end of 3 years
they would be given preference over the highest
bidder for a renewal of the concession.

In return for the concession the
company members were to build a fort of
stakes, a chapel, a house for the commanding
officer, and one for the missionaries as ordered
by the commander, whom they promised to
obey in everything commanded of them.

Hist of the Fort French
Fort (Cont)

P2 to 8

(1727)

③

FORT BEAUHARMOIS

"for the king's service, the discipline of the Post, and the welfare of the colony." They agreed to carry in each canoe 600 pounds of baggage for the commanding officer and the missionaries for the first year and double that amount for the following years.

The commander of the post was RENE BOUCHER, SIEUR DE LA PIERRE.

The missionaries assigned to the expedition were MICHAEL GUIGIVAS, 46 years old, who came from France in 1716, and NICHOLAS DE GONNER, 36 years old.

The convoy departed June 16, 1727, and on Sept 17, 1727, reached the point which had been chosen as the end of their voyage. The day after axes were applied to the trees and four days later the fort was finished. It was a plot of ground, a 100 feet square surrounded by stakes 12 feet high with two good bastions, with 3 buildings detached and not crowded each 30, 38 and 25 feet long by 16 feet wide.

(1728)

On April 15, 1728, they were obliged to go and camp outside and the water rose in the houses to a height of 2 feet 8 inches. They could not re-enter the rather dilapidated house until April 30, 1728.

It was at this fort that was erected the 1st Christian temple in what is now Minnesota, the Mission of ST. MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL.

A surprise attack on the FOXES by the FRENCH in the summer of 1728 failed. The FOXES eluded a force of 1500 INDIANS and 450 FRENCH under LIENRY and the latter dispatched 2 MENOMONIE INDIANS to the Sioux post to inform DE BOUCHERVILLE what had happened so he could take proper measures.

FORT BEAUFORT

Hist of the last
French Fort By
CA. Rasmussen
(cont)
(P. 2 through 7)

(1728)

for the safety of the post and induce the Sioux to refuse protection to the fleeing FOXES. These messengers arrived at the fort Sept 7, 1728. Immediately DE BOUCHERVILLE dispatched a party to induce the Sioux to take sides against the FOXES. The results were not satisfactory and on Sept 18, DE BOUCHERVILLE called together all the FRENCH at the fort to decide what course to follow. It was decided to evacuate the fort, believing it was no longer tenable, and facing a shortage of supplies as well as danger from hostile Indians. The following day some of the traders decided to stay, feeling that they could not sell their goods elsewhere. These were left in charge of SIEUR DE LA JEMERAIIS, 21 years old, while DE BOUCHERVILLE with 12 men took 3 canoes and started down the river on Oct 3, 1728. With him were FATHER GUIGNAS, the two MONTBRUN brothers; CAMPEAU the blacksmith; MENARD and REAUME, interpreters, DUMAIS, Captain of militia and Biselle a voyageur. They planned to go down the MISSISSIPPI to the ILLINOIS river and in that way return to MONTREAL by the FOX river route being now not safe. Captured by Indians, by whom they were finally released, they did not arrive at their destination until the summer of next year. Later FATHER GUIGNAS returned to the fort.

During the summer, before this abandonment of the fort, FATHER DE GONNER and Commander DE LA PERRIERE returned to MONTREAL leaving the fort commanded by PIERRE BOUCHER SIEUR DE BOUCHERVILLE, an ensign, nephew of PIERRE, age was 39 years.

31

③ FORT BEAUHARNOIS

Hist. of the Last
French Fort by
C.A. Rasmussen
(cont)

(P 2 thru 7)

(1728)

(1729)

In the meantime the FRENCH who remained at the fort were treated very well by the SIOUX, who camped near the fort in the winter, guarding them from the attack by the FOXES. Those who went to MONTREAL in the spring of 1729 followed the Lake Superior route.

During the latter part of the summer of 1729, DE LA TEMERAIS, the commandment in charge, returned to MONTREAL having been delayed by the FOXES enroute.

The French who remained at the fort wrote that they would not leave unless ordered to do so. Supplies were sent to them from MONTREAL that summer.

Apparently some opposition had arisen to the fort, for in October, 1729, BEAUHARNOIS wrote to the French minister urging its continuance to keep the SIOUX satisfied and the FOXES in check. He suggested the removal of the fort to higher ground and recommended the forming of another and less numerous company.

For 1730 no report appears for the SIOUX Fort but June 6, 1731, a new SIOUX company was formed, similar to the 1st one. It was granted the exclusive trading privileges in the SIOUX country for 3 years, allowed 8 canoes, with the privilege of increasing the number. They were required to build a fort of stakes, 120 square feet, 4 bastions, a chapel, a house for the commanding officer and one for the missionaries. REVE GODEFROY SEUR DE LIVETOT, 66 years old was in command. The party left MONTREAL in the fall of 1731.

(1730)

(1731)

③ FORT BEAUHARNOIS

Hist of the last
French Fort by
C.A. Rasmussen
(cont)

P 2 thru 7)

(1731)

(1732)

but were unable to reach ^{Take} Repin that year and
wintered at Trempealeau. ^{Wise} They arrived in the
spring of 1732 and found 62 cabins of SIOUX
located there. This year the new fort was
constructed on higher ground, on the site
of the present VILLA MARIE Convent.

The company was granted a 4th year
privilege of trade, as the compulsory evacuation
had caused the traders great loss. BEAUHARNOIS
at this time emphasized the importance of the
post not only to foster friendly relations with
the SIOUX but with a view of starting trade
with the more northern tribes, for whose trade
the HUDSON BAY COMPANY was a rival.

(1733)

No report from the SIOUX country
reached the governor at MONTREAL in 1733, as the
messenger who carried the letter was robbed by
the Indians near DETROIT.

(1734)

In 1734, JACQUES LE GARDUR SIEUR DE
ST. PIERRE son of JEAN NICOLET daughter of the famous
explorer, took charge of the fort.

(1735)

In 1735, the beaver trade was very good.
In spite of trouble and war expeditions in the upper
country nearly one million very good skins had
been received from this post and new posts established
further on for the discovery of the SEA OF THE WEST.
Total receipts aggregated 178,000 livres -- a livre
was about 19 cents.

(1736)

In 1736, ST. PIERRE, and FATHER
GUIGNAS, had reported to BEAUHARNOIS that the
SIOUX were well intentioned toward the FRENCH
and they had no fear of abandonment. Trouble
was brewing again with the FOXES, however.

FORT BEAUHARNOIS

History of the Last
French Fort by
C.A. Rasmussen
(cont)

(p 2 thru 8)

(1736)

(1737)

and a little later, differences arose among the Sioux. On Jan. 24, 1737, 40 Sioux entered the fort while the gates were left open for carrying in wood. Serious trouble was narrowly averted. More difficulties arose and at a council called by ST. PIERRE-SIEUR DE LINCTOT and FATHER Buignas, it was decided to abandon the post, burn the fort, and escape as they ran the risk of being massacred. On May 30, 1737, the post was torchted and burned.

Commenting on ST. PIERRE'S action in abandoning the fort BEAUHARNOIS wrote to the FRENCH MINISTER that he acted properly as the garrison had been exposed daily to perishing. "You will see," he said "that there is no likelihood of it ever being possible to have any trade with the Sioux. It would be a great boon if we could destroy them, because they occupy the finest hunting grounds."

(1749)

From this time on the history of the fort in the record is very fragmentary. In 1749, Paul Marin, one of the leading Cammouers in the west, was sent to occupy the post.

(1752)

(1756)

He remained there until 1752, when he was sent to Ohio. He was succeeded by his son Joseph Marin who remained in charge until 1756. When the post appears to have been permanently abandoned.

There seems to be some difference of opinion as to whether this latter occupation was at this point or some place further up the lake, but no evidence is obtainable as to this.

Today there is no visible evidence of this fort, but the events have left their impression on our times - an impress which will remain for a long time to come.

FORT BEAUHARVOIS

History of Goodhue
County by C. A. Rasmussen
P. 102

1727

To the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
must be accorded the distinction of holding
the first religious service in GOODHUE
COUNTY, when they built the CHAPEL OF
ST. MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL, at FORT
BEAUHARVOIS, near FRONTENAC in 1727.

Journals & letters of
La Verendrye and his sons
by Burpee, Vol. 16, p. 5
1727

The post of the SIOUX (FT. BEAUHARVOIS)
was established in 1727, by BOUCHER DE
MONTBRUN and FATHER GUIGNAS.

Vol 16 - P 71
1729

CHRISTOPHE DUFRONT, SIEUR DE LA JEMERAYE,
his mother was a sister of LA VERENDRYE, was
stationed at the fort (BEAUHARVOIS) in 1729.

Vol 16 - P 99

1731

RENE GODEFROY DE LINCTOT was in
charge of FORT BEAUHARVOIS from 1731 to 1733.

Acta et dicta
Vol 3-4 - P. 243

"The Catholic Church in Goodhue County by Rev.
J. H. Gaughan.

(1727)

More directly connected with our
immediate vicinity is the arrival of the JESUIT
MISSIONARIES, FATHERS GUIGNAS and DE GONNER,
with a French exploring and trading expedition
in 1727. The FRENCH authorities were seeking a
location for a fort to protect their interests,
suitable for carrying on trade with the Indians.
The site of the VILLA MARIE near FRONTENAC seemed
ideal, and thereon was erected FORT BEAUHARVOIS.
A log chapel for the missionaries was built and
dedicated to ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, being
the first christian temple in this vast north-
western region. For a time expectations were
realized, an extensive trade in furs and INDIAN
products were carried on. Priests ministered to
the soldiers and traders, and reached, as best they
could, the INDIANS who came to the
post.

(13) 35

article by Rev Neill
in "Magazine of Western
History": Vol VII - P25

(1743)
(1746)

FORT BEAUHARNOIS

In the summer of 1743 a group of SIOUX came down to Quebec and asked that trade be reestablished at FORT BEAUHARNOIS. This was not granted them. Again in 1746 4 SIOUX chieftains again approached QUEBEC with that hope in mind, and again all they got was promises.

FORT BEAUHARNOIS was never again occupied after the FRENCH Surrender of CANADA to the BRITISH.

Vol 7 P2829

(1805)

LT. Z. M. PIKE in 1805 writes:

"The FRENCH under the government of M. FRONTENAC drove the REYNARDS or OTTAQUAMIES (FOXES) from the WISCONSIN and pursued them up the MISSISSIPPI and as a barrier built a stockade on LAKE PEPIN, on the West shore just below POINT DU SABLE, and, as generally the case with that nation, blended the military and mercantile professions by making their fort a factory for the SIOUX."

(36)

(3)

FORT BEAUHARNOIS

Wisconsin
Historical
Collections
Vol 17. P 1-89
1727

It was recommended to MESSIEURS DE BEAUHARNOIS and DUPUIS by the Kings MEMORIAL that they should do all in their power to establish a post among the SIOUX, who have asked for missionaries, and to send them a Commandant who would suit them. However such an establishment seemed difficult to found because news was received from there last year that a band of RENARDS had killed two FRENCHMEN who were on their way thither and that those Savages had declared that they would not let a single FRENCHMAN pass to the SIOUX since it would diminish their TRADE. They wrote that it is now easier to establish such a post. SIEUR DE LIGONERY, who commands at MICHILAMACIVIC has reported that the Chief of the SAKIS of the PUAUNTS and of the RENARDS have promised him not only to put an end to the war that they were waging against the ILLINOIS, but also to induce their allies to do the same. So that by sending an officer in the spring to LA POINT on LAKE SUPERIOR we may prepare to establish a post where we have already occupied one. And he by means of a few presents and by opening a TRADE with the SAVAGES in that quarter will form connections and gradually dispose these SAVAGES (the RENARDS) to abandon the war against the ILLINOIS, and divert them from going to Detroit as they had intended to do to seek an asylum among the FROQUIOS.

Articles of the Trading Co. for the Post among
the SIOUX

In virtue of the orders addressed to us by the Kings Memorandum of May 14, 1726 respecting the establishment of a commandant and two missionaries amongst the SIOUX in compliance with his Majesty's instructions we in the presence of MONSIEUR DE LONGVIEL, GOVERNOR of this town of MONTREAL of MONSIEUR D'AIQUEMONT, commissary-general

(1727)
Vol 17. P 10-11-12
13-14-15

(37)

③ FORT BEAUHARNOIS

W. H. C.

Vol. 17-P. 10-11

12-13-14-15

(Articles of Cont)

and of MONSIEUR DE LA CORNE, lieutenant of the King at MONTREAL - have settled and determined the articles of engagement demanded of the undersigned interested in the SIOUX COMPANY as follows to wit:

FIRST ARTICLE - That the Trade of the whole SIOUX Country shall be granted and permitted to the undersigned purely & simply for three entire and consecutive years to the exclusion of all others whomsoever, so that nobody shall be permitted to go or to send one or more canoes thither without the consent of said Company. And if any person, of whatsoever quality or condition he may be, should go there to trade, the Commanding officer shall beat liberty and is even ordered to have his goods confiscated and distributed in accordance with the order we may deem advisable to give, and that one half of the goods confiscated shall belong to said Company.

That the said interested parties shall not trade, hunt, in the direction of POINT CHAGOUAIGON, elsewhere than in the hunting grounds of the SIOUX - and not permitted to trade on the Wisconsin nor on the portage by which they must pass to reach the SIOUX, which shall serve as a boundary for both parties.

SECOND ARTICLE - That they shall not build forts nor houses equivalent to the same in the hunting grounds, but only in the place where the commanding officer shall establish his post.

THIRD ARTICLE - That the said interested parties shall have permission to send up to the SIOUX country during the next two years such number of canoes as they may deem advisable. Should the prospects of the profit to be gained in the trade become greater, in order to induce them to increase the quantity of goods and number of canoes to be sent thither, the share at present owned by each of the associates shall be increased in the same proportion as the general increase of the whole trade.

(38)

(3)

FORT BEAUHARNOIS

(Articles of Cont)

W. H. C. Vol 17
 R 10-11-12-13
 14-15

(1721)

Thus, if the trade which at present employs nine canoes should afterwards employ $1\frac{1}{2}$ each one may increase what he had at the beginning by one fourth.

FOURTH ARTICLE— That at the expiration of 3 years they shall be given the preference over the highest and last bidder of the trade to the highest bidder, or if we should deem advisable to fix the price ourselves, they shall have the preference over all others if they wish to accept.

FIFTH ARTICLE— Should they be stopped on the way in the country of the RENARDS or beyond, or should they, when they reach the Sioux country, be compelled by superior force to return this year, they shall be permitted to trade their goods wherever they may think proper under the orders of the commanding officer who shall have power to decide the destination of each one in such manner as he may deem most expedient for the welfare of the King's service and that of the COLONY.

SIXTH ARTICLE— That all of the said interested parties who may be compelled thereto through illness or domestic reasons, shall be at liberty to abandon the trade and return to it before the expiration of the 3 years in such manner nevertheless that no one shall leave the, Sioux country without the express permission in writing of the commanding officer.

SEVENTH ARTICLE— That no associate shall transfer his share either wholly or partially except to persons of good character, free from scandal of every kind, and who will not interpose any obstacle to the establishment of Religion amongst that great number of barbarous peoples so that God's blessing may rest on their persons and trade.

EIGHTH ARTICLE— That all the associates without exception and all persons

(39)

W. H. C. Vol 17
P. 10-11-12-13
14-15

(3) FORT BEAUHARVOIS

(Articles of Cont)

in their employ shall be forbidden to absent themselves from the fort that is to be built, for the purpose of hunting, without the express permission of MONSIEUR the commandant.

(1727)

NINTH ARTICLE— That the said interested parties bind themselves to leave in the fort next spring two men per canoe, making eighteen men not including the servants of MESSIEURS the officers; and those of the missionaries, and they may employ the other voyageurs in conveying their furs to MONTREAL and in bringing back goods therefrom; this shall likewise apply to the last two years.

TENTH ARTICLE— That when they shall the said post they shall be at liberty to sell the houses they may have built for themselves and on their private account.

In return for the above concessions the said interested parties undertake:

- (1) To build a fort of stakes, a chapel, a house for the commanding officer, and one for the missionaries in such place and in such manner as may be ordered by the commanding officer, whom they promised to obey and listen to in everything he may command them for the King's service, the discipline of the post and the welfare of the colony.
- (2) They further undertake to have conveyed free from cost from here to the Sioux country whatever may be given them for the commanding officer or for the missionaries to the extent of 600 pounds weight per canoe, namely: 300 pounds weight for the commandant and as much for the missionaries; this shall be so construed that the canoe carrying the officer shall not be included, for this year only, in the number of those that will have

W.H.C. Vol 17

PN-11-12-13

14-15

(1721)

to carry 600 pounds weight, neither shall the canoe in charge of the officer second in command, and the two canoes carrying the two missionaries with their provisions, chapel, and beds shall each 300 pounds weight.

(3) During the following years, they shall be absolutely bound to cause to be conveyed into the said Sioux country, to the fort to be built there, and to the house of the commanding officer provisions and other useful articles to the extent of 1,350 lbs. weight for each of the last two years. But should the trade not be successful and should it be possible to send down only a small number of canoes, then and in such case they shall be bound to carry only a 1000 pounds weight for the commanding officer.

(4) They likewise undertake to cause to be conveyed from MONTREAL to the Sioux country, to the missionaries house, whatever may be given them for the latter in each of the said years to the extent of a 1000 pounds weight, whether many canoes come here or not.

(5) They further undertake to purchase 3 or 4 extra canoes when they reach MICHILIMAKINAK in order the more easily to traverse the river of the RENARDS and that of QUISCONSING, and to carry in such canoes 600 pounds weight for the missionaries, and also to convey the said goods to the weight of 600 pounds from MISSILIMAKINAK to the Sioux country not including the sacks of INDIAN CORN which they undertake to carry for the subsistence of the said missionaries, not only in this first year, but in those following.

Finally it is agreed with one of the associates named FRANÇOIS CAMPEAU, that he shall work at his trade of blacksmith for all who may wish

(41)

W. H. C. Vol 17
P 10-15

(1727)

③ FORT BEAUHARVOIS (Articles of Cont)

to employ him and pay him therefor; in consideration whereof the said CAMPEAU undertakes to give to the said company for each of the said three years the sum of 400 livres in furs or in coin at his option and addition to provide free of charge 30 screws or the equivalent thereof in primers.

All the associates have agreed above set forth and have consented that if any of them shall infringe any of the above articles he shall be severely punished and deprived of all his rights.

And after reading the articles of demands and undertakings above set forth the said associates of the SIOUX COMPANY have consented to carry out everything therein contained, and have accepted and agreed to all the charges and conditions therein stipulated, for the fulfilment whereof they have all signed with us, and also the above named.

Done at MONTREAL, this sixth day of June, 1727.

SIGNED: BEAUHARVOIS, LONGUEUIL, LACORNE, d'ARFEMONT, SAINT GEORGE DUPRE, YOVILLE, PIERRE DIALLE, MARIN, ETIENNE-PETIT, GARRAU, FRANCIS CAMPEAU, FRANCIS DU MAY, PIERRE RICHARD, JEAN BAPTISTE BOUCHER DE MONTBRUN, FRANCIS BOUCHER DE MONTBRUN, and JEAN GARRAU.

W. H. C. Vol 17
P 135-139

(1731)

ARTICLES OF THE 2ND EXPEDITION to FORT BEAUHARVOIS

In virtue of the orders addressed to us by the King's MEMORIAL of MAY 14, 1726, respecting the establishment of a commandement and 2 missionaryes in the SIOUX country to comply with H. M. J. S. intentions, We, in the presence of MONSIEUR LA CHASSIGNE, governor of the town of MONTREAL, of MONSIEUR MICHEL DE LA ROUVILLERE, commissary-general of MARINE in said town, and of MONSIEUR DE LACORNE, King's Lieutenant in the

(42)

(3)

FL. BEAUCHAMONIS

(Articles of the 2nd fort Cont)

said government, have settled and determined the articles of engagement and demand of the undersigned interested in the Sioux Company as follows:

(1731)

FIRST ARTICLE— That the entire trade of the Sioux country shall be granted and permitted to the persons hereinafter named to wit: one canoe to SIEUR PORTNEUF, the officer 2nd in command at said post; another to CAMPEAU, working for the REVERAND JESUIT FATHER, the missionary at said post; another to the SIEURS MOUET, LINTOT the younger, and COULONGE; another to GIGUIERES and TOUSSAINT; another to RICHARD and DUBAU; another to PIERRE and CHARLE LE DUC; another to GUYON DESPRESZ and SAINT MICHEL du CHESNE; and the last to ANTOINE LAVOINETTE and JOSEPH JOLLIETTE; for three full and consecutive years, to the exclusion of all others so that nobody shall be permitted to go there on to send one or more canoes, without the consent of said Company; and if anybody of whatever quality and condition he may be should go there to trade, that the officer commanding shall be at liberty and he is even ordered to have goods confiscated, one half thereof shall belong to the King and the other half to said Company.

That the said interested parties shall not trade nor hunt in the direction of POINT CHAGOUAMIGON nor anywhere else except in the hunting grounds where the Sioux hunt, and that on side of LA BAYE they shall likewise go only into the Sioux hunting grounds without being permitted to trade on the OUISCONSIN side or at the portage by which they must pass to reach the Sioux, which shall serve as a boundary for both parties.

SECOND ARTICLE— That they shall not build Forts or houses equivalent to the same in the hunting grounds, but only in the place where the commanding officer shall establish his post.

(43)

③ FORT BEAUMARVOIS

(ARTICLES of the 2ND Fort cont)

WHE

Vol 17-P135-139

THIRD ARTICLE— That the said interested parties shall have permission to send up to the SIOUX country during the next two years such number of canoes they may deem advisable. Should the prospects of profit to be gained by trade become greater in order to induce them to increase the quantity of goods and the number of canoes, the share at present owned by the associates shall be increased in the same proportion as the whole trade generally; and the preference as regards such post shall be granted them at the expiration of the 3 years at such price we may deem proper to fix.

FOURTH ARTICLE— Should they be stopped on the way in the country of the REDWARS or beyond, or should they, when they reach the SIOUX country, be compelled by superior force to return this year, they shall be permitted to trade their goods wherever they think proper, under the orders of the commanding officer, who shall have power to decide the destination of each one in such a manner as he may deem most expedient for the welfare of the King's service and that of the Colony.

FIFTH ARTICLE— That all of the said interested parties, who may be compelled thereto thru illness or domestic reasons, shall be at liberty to abandon the trade and return to it before the expiration of the 3 years, in such manner nevertheless that no one shall leave the SIOUX country without the express permission in writing of the commanding officer.

SIXTH ARTICLE— That no associate shall transfer his share either wholly or partially except to persons of good character, free from scandal of any kind and who will not interpose any obstacle to the establishment of Religion amongst that great number of barbarous tribes so that God's blessing may rest on their persons and trade. The

(1731)

(3)

(FORT

BLAUHARNOIS)

(ARTICLES of the 2nd fort cont)

associates must obtain the written permission of the Commandant to transfer their shares.

SEVENTH ARTICLE— That all associates and all persons in their employ are forbidden to absent themselves from the fort to be built there, for the purpose of returning to MONTREAL or of going anywhere else, or even for the purpose of hunting, when it is necessary to sleep away from the fort, without having the express permission of MONSIEUR the Commandant.

EIGHTH ARTICLE— That the said associates bind themselves to leave as a guard for the fort two men per canoe, not including the servants of missionaries, the officers and missionaries, and that they may employ the others in conveying their furs to MONTREAL and in bringing back goods therefrom, and that at all times 12 men shall remain in the fort and shall not go out of it under any pretext, whatsoever.

NINTH ARTICLE— That when they shall leave the said post they shall have liberty to sell the houses they may have built for themselves and on their private account, as well as the grain growing on the lands they may have cultivated.

And in return for the above concessions the said interested parties undertake:

FIRST ARTICLE— To build a fort of stakes, 120 feet square with four bastions, and they shall supply 1032 stakes and more if needed; a chapel, a house for the commanding officer, one for the missionaries, — the whole in such place as may be decided upon by the commanding officer, whom they promise to obey in everything he may command them for the King's service, the discipline of the post, and the welfare of the colony.

SECOND ARTICLE— They undertake to convey free of charge from this town whatever may be given them as provisions for the commanding officer, and the presents for the savages which

W.H.C. Vol 17
P 135-139

(1731)

③

FORT BLAUGHARVOIS

(Articles of 2nd Fort conf)

HIS MAJESTY shall send to the said place, and in addition the said SIEURS MOUET, LINCTOT, the apungay, COULONGE, GIBUERES, TOUSSAINT, RICHARD, DUBEAU, PIERRE, CHARLES LE DUC, BUYON DEPRESZ, SAINT MICHEL DU CHESNE, ANTOINE LAMOUETTE, and JOSEPH TOLLIERE promise and bind themselves to pay the sum of 2400 livres in each of the said three years when the canoes reach the SIEUR LINCTOT, the commander of the fort in the SIOUX country, on condition that said SIEUR LINCTOT shall not carry any trade at the said post, directly or indirectly. Done with the agreement and consent of MONSIEUR the governor general and in the presence of the said MESSIEURS DE LA CHASSAIGNE, MICHEL DE LA ROUVILLIERE, and DE LA CORNE.

THIRD ARTICLE — And, in addition, the said interested parties bind themselves to leave in the said post when they shall start from it in the spring at least 4 good canoes, to avoid accidents that might arise in case of necessity, and for such purpose they shall be bound to buy a sufficient number number of the same in passing by MISSIIMAKIVAK.

The said associates have agreed to everything above and have consented if any infringe any of the above articles, he shall be severely punished and shall forfeit all his rights.

And after reading the articles of demands and undertakings above set forth, the said interested parties have consented to carry out everything therein contained, and have accepted all ~~charges~~ clauses, and conditions above stipulated; and for the fulfillment thereof they have signed with us, with the exception of GIBUERES, TOUSSAINT, and PIERRE and CHARLES DU CHESNE, and DABUA — who declared they were unable to write and sign their names — and the SIEUR LINCTOT, COMMANDER, has with our consent signed

(46)

W.H.C Vol. 7
P. 135-139

③ FORT BEAUHARVOIS

(Articles of the 2nd Fort or Company cont.)
on behalf of the SIEUR COULONGE who is
absent.

(1731)

Done at MONTREAL, the 6th of JUNE, 1731.

The French Regime in
Wis and the W. W.
by J. P. Kellogg
P. 380

The last FRENCH post on the upper MISSISSIPPI
was maintained for six successive years
(1750-1756) under Marin and his son. The
fort was located on the west side of LAKE
PEPIN, near the present Frontenac, Minnesota,
not far from FORT BEAUHARVOIS.

1750

Catholic Church
in Western Canada
by A. S. Morice
P. 13-14

Meantime other counsels had prevailed.
The discovery of the WESTERN SEA was upper-
most in the thoughts of the authorities at
Paris & Quebec, was to be attempted by the
way of the territory of the Sioux. With this
end in view Father DE CHARLEVOIX was sent
to reconnoitre, and, as a result of his report,
though against the dictates of his better
judgment, a mission was established among
the Indians on Lake Pepin (1727). Those terrible
lords of the American Plains had just massacred
some French men on their way to LOUISIANA, and
it was deemed expedient to pacify and civilize
them before parties could pass through their
lands with some degree of security. And as the
fur trade was by no means superseded by
the craving for geographical discoveries, or the
interests of religion, a company was at
the same time formed whose operations were
to be carried on side by side with the
efforts of the missionaries.

(1727)

This gave birth to FORT BEAUHARVOIS,
on LAKE PEPIN, an expansion of the MISSISSIPPI in
what is now MINNESOTA and WISCONSIN.

Catholic Church in
Western Canada by
A. G. Morice
P. 13, 14

3 - FORT BEAUHARVOIS

This establishment soon numbered
ninety-five lodges of Indians within the
shadows of its walls

(1727)

P. 46

(1737)

LEGARDEUR DE ST PIERRE was born in
1701 - In 1737, circumstances forced him to
evacuate FORT BEAUHARVOIS among the SIOUX

(Reasons for Reoccupation of Fort)

Wis. Hist Coll. "Trade with
the Indians find
some
misleading
look for
western sea"
Vol. VII P. 315
(1749)

PIERRE PAUL SIEUR MARIN ^{died 1753} born 1692
was one of the traders to occupy FORT BEAUHARVOIS
in 1727, and in 1749 was sent back to
reoccupy the post remained there until 1752
when his son took over the post.

Wis Hist Coll
Vol. VII P. 430
(1757)

New
Haw
Mongins
de la
Longue

JOSEPH LA MALGUE, SIEUR MARIN
son of Paul takes command of the post on
recommendation of his father to the
Governor General of Canada after
his father could not get along and
resigned to go back to France. He
vacated the post in 1756, after the
complete capture of Canada by England.
It was never occupied again.

Wis Hist Coll
Vol. VII 79

1751 - also detailed to look for a copper mine.

P. 158 - ~~Vol. VII~~

Younger son was detailed to relieve his father
at Fort B - also ordered to make discoveries
among the Indians not known - establish peace
among the Foxe-Sioux of the Lakes, Prairies, Sakis
Pawnee

In 1756 Marion was recalled

E.D. Neill to lead a force to fight the English when
 last French he met his death the fort was never
 Post in Upper Miss Valley reoccupied again after the surrendering

Canada to England

The 70s became troublesome in 1740 and
 the fort abandoned for the second time

Baucher, Rene, Sieur de la Perriere born at
Three Rivers Canada 1668 11 HSC Vol 17 P67

Michael Muignus, born in France Jan 22, 1681
d. Quebec, Canada Feb 6 1752
MHSC Vol 17 P283

Nicholas De Honner born in France Nov. 19, 1691
died Dec 16, 1759. MHSC Vol 17 P171

Marin Paul Piere Sieur de Tron 16, 1690 (Canada)
died N.W. Penna at Fort St Peter
Oct 29, 1753
MHSC Vol 17 P487

Jenerais, Christopher Dufrost born in Canada
1707 - died 1736 commanded Ft Beauharnois
in winter of 1728-29 MHSC Vol 17 P370

Jacques Le Gardeur, Sieur de St Pierre born in Canada
1701 - Killed in the battle of Lake George Sept 8, 1755
Commanded Ft Beauharnois 1735-7
MHSC Vol 17 P665

Life of Marquis Beauharnois

page 159

Vol. 3)

"Marquis de Beauharnois was sent up to the Bay, by the Home Government for the colonies, to see if peace could be made between the Foxes and Illinois. Marquis de Beauharnois had endeavored to take all proper measures to affirm the peace, in order to avoid a war which, however successful it might be in the end, could not fail to cost both colonies very much."

page 161

"Sept. 25th 1727, a private letter was sent to the Government at Quebec" stating that the English were jealous of the trade which the French had with the Indians nations of the upper country, and practiced all methods to withdraw that commerce, and to cause the Indians to suspect the French.

"The Sieur de Beauharnois would therefore, in the Spring of 1728, take proper measures for the

page 162

execution of this project of which he had already made arrangements to give an account. But he had thought it necessary to demand funds to meet the expense of this war."

Vol 5.

page 86

"According to the intelligence received by the King, respecting the negotiations of peace between the Illinois and Fox Indians, he had reasons to believe that it was on the eve of being concluded and was much surprised to learn, not only that it had been broken off, but still more that Sieur de Beauharnois had determined to make war on the Foxes."

page 87

"Marquis de Beauharnois had joined to eight or nine hundred Savages, of all manner of nations, But principally Iroquois, Hurons, Nepeissings and Outaouas. These troops commanded by Monsieur Lignerie were commissioned to go and destroy a nation called the Foxes."

"They learned with regret that the Foxs had fled before the army had arrived in their country."

"The Marquis de Beauharnois, by a private letter of the same day sends the instructions which he had given to M. De Ligny for this expedition, and the letter which this officer entreated to enclose in his dispatches, and by which attempts to justify himself." "This letter states, that he made use of his skill to succeed in the expedition; But it was impossible for him, to surprise the enemy, not being able to conceal from them, any further than the Bay, the knowledge of his marches."

"In June 1727, an expedition left Montreal under René Boucher the Sieur de La Perrière, to establish a post on Lake Pepin." "Having arrived the 17th of September, built a post, according to Father Guignas, upon the western shore of Lake Pepin, about the middle of the north side, on a low point,

In Frontenac, in Loohue county, occupied the site of this old fort."

"It is not worthy that Sieur La Perrière Boucher, the officer in command--killed the minister of the town, scalped his wife, and broke the skull of his child against a rock, and shot one Samuel Sibley, said to be a relative of Hon - H H Sibley of St. Paul." "was the person who established this post at Point du Sable of Lake Pepin."

"a connection of the leader of the expedition, was a wife of a person named pepin, and this may account for the name of the lake."

"The post, in compliment to the Governor of Canada, was called Beauharnois."

Vol. 10 -
Page 7

Marquis de Beauharnois, was Governor of New France from August 1726 - Sept 9, 1747, He was said to be a natural son of Louis the XIV.

Vol. 17
Page XIII

after the erection of the post among the Sioux, amid showers of fire works. When the Indians saw the fire works in the air, and the stars falling from heaven, women and children fled. The more courageous stayed, and begged for mercy.

With the Sioux thus awed in submission, an expedition designed to crush the Foxes in their villages was sent out under the command of Marchand de Lignery. We present his official report, made to the French Ministry, wherein he admits that his army of 1200 Indians and 450 French succeeded merely in burning a few deserted cabins and retiring ingloriously to Mackinac. Messengers were sent forth with to Fort Beauharnois, which was hastily abandoned, part of its garrison, while on their way to the French fort in the Illinois, being captured by hostiles.

Life of Pierre Reaume.

Page 317

There is now a like movement among the nations of the upper country; and everything has been quiet there since the expedition made in 1718 against the Renards. — except among the Kickapows and the Maskoutins, who have continued the war against the Illinois.

The Renards, although they are allies of the Kickapows and Maskoutins, far from taking any part in this war, have shown that they are disposed to maintain peace with all the nations who are allied with us.

Five of their principal chiefs, accompanied by some ~~by some~~ others of their people, who arrived at Montreal on July 20th under the conduct of Maurice Mesnard and Pierre Reaume, Interpreters.

vol. 17.
page 24.

Sieur Reaume, Interpreter of the language of the Indians at La Baye, acted with zeal and devotion to the King's service.

a General Council was called together in one of their cabins; to learn their intentions regarding the French establishing themselves among the Sioux.

Early in the morning of the following Sunday, the 17th of the month of August, Father Chardon departed with Sieur Reaume to return to La Baye; and the company of the Sioux greatly rejoicing at having passed with so much ease over this obstacle that had been every where represented as so formidable.

page 51

The best road that can be taken to the Sioux country is to pass by La Baie by the river of the Renards; then the portage of the Ouisconsin is made and then one enters the Mississippi, which one ascends to Lake Pepin, its where the Fort is built. This Voyage made by Borselle, was signed in testimony. By Reaume.

Page 119

The Sieur De Villiers, the commandant at Miss
St Joseph, defeated the Renard savages. The officer had
sent his son with Sieur Réaume, his interpreter, to
bring the news to Marquis de Beauharnois.

Page 120

From the information that the Sieurs De Villiers
Réaume have given respecting the situation of the Renard
Fort and the camp of the French and the allied Indians,
a plan was drawn up by de Beauharnois, and sent to the
French Minister.

The Last French post in the Valley
of the upper Mississippi near Frontenac
minne.

Author Edw. D. Neill.

page 3.

The recent discovery of two cannon balls, one of
six lb. The other of four lb. calibre. At Frontenac
Station, near Lake Pepin, Minn., renders
desirable a notice of the last French es-
tablishment in the valley of the upper Miss.

The department of Trade called "La Baye"
included all the french posts between Green Bay, and
the falls of St Anthony.

page 4.

After the year 1703 owing to the hostility of the
Remains (Fox Indians) the French abandoned
all their existing posts in the 'La Baye' district
of the upper Mississippi.

In 1713, France yielded to Great
Britain all the country around Hudson's
Bay, and after this the former power
turned its attention to the region west of Lake
Superior, and a discovery of a route to the
Western coast.

Charlevoix, a learned Jesuit in 1721 under
the auspices of the French Government, visited
Canada, and Louisiana, and upon his return
urged the establishment of a trading post and

page 4

sending two missionaries among the Sioux to learn the language, in the belief that through their country a route to the Pacific Ocean could be discovered.

page 5

The way now being opened, a company to trade with the Sioux was formed, and among the associates were Jean Baptiste Boucher, the Sieur de Montbrun, Francois Boucher de Montbrun, and Francois Campeau.

The commandant appointed to conduct the expedition was Rene Boucher, the Sieur de la Pernelle, and a relative of two of the trading company.

The chaplains attached were the Jesuits (Louis Ignatius) Guignas and De Gomer.

~~MICHAEL~~ They left Montreal on the 16th of June 1727 and on the 17th of Sept. reached the enlargement of the Mississippi, the picturesque Lake Pepin.

Immediately Rene Boucher selected a site upon a low point, about the middle of the lake shore, opposite Maiden's Rock and ordered the erection of a stockade of pickets, each twelve feet in length, forming a square of hundred feet with two bastions.

Within the enclosure was a log house for the commandant, a residence for the missionaries, and a store house, all of which by the last of October was completed.

The fort was named "Beau Harmois" in compliment to the Governor of Canada; and the missionaries called their mission "St Michael the Archangel."

On the 15th of April 1728, the water rose so high in the lake that for several weeks it was necessary to abandon the fort. During the spring the commandant ascended the Miss. for 66 leagues, but found no Sioux as they had gone to war against the Mahas toward Missouri.

On account of the hostility of the Indians, the post on Lake Pepin, in October, 1728, was left in charge of a youth 20 years old, Christopher Dufrost. The *Sainte de la Jemeraye*, and twelve persons, among whom were Jean Baptiste Boucher, --- and the Jesuit Guignas.

Embarked for Montreal, by way of the Illinois river as the hostility of the Indians prevented the route by Wis. 22 leagues above the Illinois river, they were captured by Indians.

Governor Beauharnois then wrote to the French Government; what had passed upon the part of the Indians who arrested the French coming from the post of the Sioux.

page 9,

In dispatches sent to France, in oct 1729, by the Canadian Government, the following reference is made to fort Beauharnois:

"They agree that the fort built among the Sioux, on the border of Lake Pepin appears to be badly situated on account of the freshets".

page 10

But the Indians assume that the water rose higher than it ever did before, and this is credible in as much as it did not reach the fort this year (1729). When the fort was located at this place it was on the assurance of the Indians that the waters did not rise so high; however he could not locate it more advantageously in regard both to the quantity of land suitable for cultivation, and to the abundance of game.

But, despite all these advantages, and the importance of preserving that establishment, M. de Beauharnois could not take his steps until he had news of the French who asked his permission, to go up there with a canoe load of goods, and until assured that those who wintered there have not dismantled the fort.

Besides they could not maintain that post, unless there would be solid peace with the Foxes (Indians) on the

page 11

5-
other hand, the greatest portion of the traders who applied in 1727 for the establishment of that post have withdrawn. For fear of the Indians (Foxes) through whose country it is necessary to pass in order to reach the Sioux in Canada, has led them to abandon the idea.

The Canadian authorities determined to send an expedition against Renards and their allies (Indians).

In March 1730 under the command of Sieur Marin, with a number of friendly Indians, moved against the Renards.

After the victory over the Renards steps were taken to rebuild the post on a more elevated spot near the first site on Lake Pepin.

page 12

A new stockade was ordered to be constructed 100 and 20 feet square. With 4 bastions and accommodations within for the commandant. Upon the 6th of May 1736, 140 Sioux arrived at the fort, and said they were taking back to the peaux a slave who had fled to them. Continuing their journey down the Mississippi;

page 13

They met and scalped two Frenchmen. The 16th of Sept. 1736 there came to Lake Pepin post ten Indians, three chiefs

6.

page 14. and two young slaves, bringing a quantity of beaver skins, which they delivered to St Pierre as a pledge of friendship and declared they had no part in the attack at the lake of the woods.

Thirty-sev Men and Their families on the 18th of Dec arrived and passing the fort visited some prans (winnebagoes) encamped in the vicinity. Onakantapo / Wah. Kan-tah-pay was the chief and quite insolent, and some of the party burned the pickets around the garden of Father Gaignas, the chaplain.

The gates of the post were opened about 8 o'clock of the morning of the 24th of January 1737, to admit a wood cart, when some of the Sioux pushed in and defiantly behaved.

In view of the hostility of the Indians Saint Pierre, after conferring with Sieur Linetot the 2nd in command, Father Gaignas, and some others, on the 13th of May 1738 burned the post and descended the Miss.

page 15 In the Summer of 1743, a deputation of the Sioux came down to Quebec, to ask what trade might be resumed. Three years after this four Sioux chiefs came to Quebec and wished that a commandant might be

page 15 sent to Fort Beauharnois^{II}, which was not granted.

page 16 In 1749 the Sioux earnestly entreated Marin to use his influence with the Governor of Canada to re-establish the post at Lake Pepin.

The next year Marin was sent to the Sioux, and La Jonquiere; the Governor of Canada directed him to proceed to the source of the Miss. River to see if some stream could not be discovered, at the height of the lands, which flowed toward the Western ocean.

In 1752 Governor La Jonquiere directed Marin's son known as Chevalier (captain of the military order of St Louis) to relieve his father of his duties at the Lake Pepin post, and to prosecute discoveries.

page 17 On the 29th of Feb. 1753 Chevalier Marin had written, that the Sioux of the rivers and lakes deplored the attack of the Sioux of the Prairies upon the Christians the year before, and they would be pleased to hold a conference at Mackinaw.

The elder Marin and Boucher de Neuville came to Grand Portage, below Pigeon river - Lake Superior.

page 19

a month later he became ill, and died the 29th of Oct. at French Creek, Pennsylvania. In 1755 main son of the commander was again sent by Gov. DuRuesne to command the department "La Baye."

page 20

The post opposite Maidens Rock, Lake Pepin, was never occupied after the surrender of Canada to the British.

page 21

Captain Jonathan Carver, the first British traveler in Minn., in 1766 observed the ruins of a French factory. where it is said, Capt St Pierre, resided, and carried on a very great trade with the ~~Nawdowessies~~ before the reduction of Canada."

page 22

There is evidence that there has been long ago a clearing made there, and as it is the most suitable spot in the vicinity for a stockade, and visible for any one coming in a canoe from the direction of Lake City, it was probably the site of a French post. The Indian trail to the head of the lake ran through the valley of the creek and passed Frontenac Station where the two cannon falls

page 22

were recently found.
They may have been buried by the
Indians as "Wakan" or Supernatural.

The First Sioux Mission

Page 344
3

Father Francis Xavier Charlevoix arrived from France in August, 7, 1720, by order of the court to collect information for the discovery of the Western Sea.

Father Charlevoix spent the winter in Quebec and Montreal where he sought out travellers who might give him useful information. Early in May 1721 he set out from Montreal and made a journey around the lower lakes, reaching Mackinac on June 18.

Page 345

At La Baye he met a delegation of the Sioux who told him that some branches of their tribe traded with western tribesmen who lived on salt water. He visited missions and posts throughout the whole country, not only Canada but Louisiana as well, and on his return to France made a detailed report.

He urged the establishment of a mission post among the Sioux so that the tribe might be bound to the French and the post became a step toward discovery of the Western Sea.

At length in 1722 after a temporary truce with the Fox Indians had been arranged the Marquis de Beauharnois, Governor of Canada, gave orders to prepare the expedition to the Sioux country.

Two Jesuit fathers were requested for the mission, that their work was to be useful to science as well as to religion.

From a letter written by Marquis de Beaucharnois April 30 1727. to the Minister of the marine. Is as follows —

The reverend Jesuit Fathers who are going to the Sioux request some mathematical instruments. The ones which are in their house and which belong to the King.

Namely a Mathematics case, a dial plate of universal astronomy, a graduated semicircle with the degrees indicated, a spirit level, a chain with stakes, and a telescope six or seven feet long.

In order to finance the proposed Siouan foundation a commercial company was formed.

The colonial treasury was always impoverished; but the Merchants of New France were eager to participate in opening the vast territory of the Sioux, which had a high reputation for rich furs. The contract signed on the 6th of June, 1727, stipulated that the promoters were to have complete monopoly of the trade of the Sioux country for three years. With a preference for future years. In return — and this is the part which is of particular interest.

They agreed to build a fort of stakes, a chapel, a house for the commanding officer, and one for the missionaries. The amount and weight of the cargoes being specifically stipulated. And they were to buy at Mackinac three or four extra canoes in order to transport these goods over the Fox Wisconsin

Waterway.

This contract is preserved in the archives of the Chicago Historical Society. It was signed by Beauharnois and several others.

The commandant of the expedition was René Boucher.

The missionaries were Fathers Guignas and Nicholas de Gonnor.

At length all was ready for the departure. A letter from father Guignas to the Marquis de Beauharnois under date of May 29, 1728, gives a graphic account of the journey and the foundation of "Fort Beauharnois" and "The mission of St. Michael the archangel."

On the 17th of September 1727, at noon, we reached this lake (pepin) which had been chosen at the end of our voyage. We established ourselves toward evening about the middle of the Northern shore upon a low point whose soil is excellent. The woods were very dense there, but they are already thinned on account of rigor and length of the winter, which has been severe for the climate, for we are here in latitude $43^{\circ} 51'$. The day after landing axes were applied to the trees and four days later the fort was entirely finished. It is a plat of ground or hundred feet square surrounded by stakes 12 ft. high with two bastions. For such a small space there are large buildings detached and not crowded, each 30, 38, and 45 feet long by 16 ft wide.

All would go well there if the place were not subject to inundations. But this year, on the 15th of

of the month of April, we were obliged to go and camp out side and the water rose in the houses to the height of two feet eight inches; and it is useless to say that it was the quantity of snow that fell this year. The snow about the fort was melted a long time before; and there was certainly not more than a foot and a half from the 8th of Feb. until the 15th of March;

we could not enter the rather dilapidated houses until the 20th of the same month of April,

Before the end of Oct. all the houses were finished, and furnished;

On the 4th of the month of November it was not forgotten that it was the fete day of Monsieu the General. Holy Mass was said for him in the morning, and we were much inclined to celebrate the holiday in the evening; but the changeableness of the weather caused the celebration to be postponed until the 14th of November, when some very fine rockets were fired off and the air was made to resound with a hundred shouts of "Long live the King," and "Long live Charles de Beauharnois."

What contributed much to the amusement was the terror of the Indians who were then around the fort. When these poor people saw the fireworks in the air and the stars falling from heaven, women and children fled, and the most courageous of the men cried for mercy and urgently asked that the astonishing play of this terrible medicine should be made to cease.

as soon as we had arrived among them they assembled in a very few days around the french for the number of 95 cabins, which would amount in all 150 men, for there are at the most two men each in their portable cabins of dressed skins. These were all that we have seen, except a band of about 60 men who came on the 26th of the month of February, and were of those nations that are called the Sioux of the prairies. At the end of Nov. the Savages departed for their Winter quarters.

End of letter.

St. Michael the archangel had been chosen as patron of the mission, for father Guignas.

The health of the commandant. La - perriere, was so badly affected by the hardship of the winter and the flood that he was obliged to return to Quebec, taking father de - Bonhor with him.

Then the Foxes went on the war path again and a large french expedition under Lignery set out to punish them for breaking the truce.

The Savages were warned however, and when the French arrived at their Villages not a foot was to be found.

Knowing then that the little post on Lake Pepin would be at the mercy of the angry Foxes, Lignery managed to get word ~~from~~ ^{from} Pierre Bouchéville (who was now in command of Fort Beauharnois) and after due consideration it was decided on Sept. 18, 1728, that the post

Page 349 could not be held.

On October 3, just a little more than a year after its foundation, Father Guignas, Boucher ville, and ten others took to canoes and were captured by a band of Fox allies, Kickapoo and Mascoutens. At first it seemed certain that they would be killed; but, after being captive for 5 months, all were released.

Page 350

In 1731 the post among the Sioux was reestablished. Things seemed to go better for a time. Godefroy de Linctot was in command; a new commercial company had been formed to finance the post and Father Guignas was again its missionary.

The Sioux chiefs expressed their joy at the return of the French and plans were made for them to pay a visit to the Governor.

Then, too, the post managed to swell the fur trade in 1735.

But bad times were again in store; It is doubtful if times were ever very good for the little mission. In a letter from Father Mau. to Father Bonin, dated Aug. 2, 1735, ^(small 27 Louis) there is mention of the hardships of Father Guignas.

Father Guignas is in the Sioux country, at a little French fort with but six men with him.

Scarcely a month ago the Marquis de Beauharnois Governor General of New-France, sent twenty-two men

page 350 in four canoes with supplies which he stood absolutely in need, for the Sioux refuse to provide for him!

Still another letter, gives us an idea of Father Guignas's life -

We received, just a few days ago, news of Father Guignas: Since 1732 he had not been heard from. He is in a helpless state,

St Pierre replaced Linctot as commandant of the post of the Sioux in 1735. In 1736 the

page 351

Sioux of the prairies terrorized the trader and made a raid in which they seized a large quantity of beaver skins. Finally, in 1737, war broke out between the Sioux and two neighboring tribes. First a band of Sioux killed two Frenchmen. The Sioux were openly on the war path and a band of Pawnee who had brought timely warning to the French fort sought protection from the French and built a camp nearby. Then on Dec. 18 there arrived a thirty-six (Sioux) men with their families. The younger men took lead and set fire to the fort of the Pawnee.

St Pierre demanded of Ouatantapi if he were not content to have given the French two grievous wounds without coming again to insult them in their fort by burning that of the Pawnee, their brothers. He replied that he had done

this with reflection and on purpose.

Then they tore up the stakes in Father Guignas's garden, set them afire and ran away.

The situation steadily became more dangerous. The Puans also deserted the French. After consultation with Lincolt, the second in command, with Father Guignas and the French inhabitants of the post, it was decided to abandon it. On the 30th of May, 1737, the decision was carried into effect. So ended the first mission on the soil of Minnesota.

The Goodhue County Historical Society arranged and successfully carried into effect an appropriate celebration at Frontenac on Sept. 17th, 1927 for the 200th anniversary of the building of Fort Beauharnois on the shore of Lake Pepin.

The central feature of the program was the unveiling of a bronze tablet bearing the inscription: "Near this spot Fort Beauharnois was erected by the French in Sept., 1727. Here also stood the mission of St. Michael the Archangel, the first Christian chapel in the present boundaries of Minnesota."

C.A. 186
Rasmussen

Newspaper

and being

Daily Republican

July 5, 1927

"History of East French Fort."

The founding of Fort Beauharnois at ^{the} Villa Maria grounds in Montevideo is a story most fascinating is that of the early French occupation of the upper Mississippi Valley. The fur trade was the first incentive to the operations, but closely linked with it were the desire of the Jesuit fathers to spread religion among the Indians and the hope of finding a passage to the East Indies.

The earliest attempts at locations in the upper Mississippi valley were made by Nicholas Perrot but they were only temporarily successful. In 1683 he erected a rude log fort at the present city of Wabasha and established friendly relations with the Indians. A few years later he built Fort St. Antoine, just below the site of the present day village of Stockholm on the Wisconsin side of the lake. In 1689 he took possession of the entire country in this section in the name of the King of France. This occupancy continued for about 10 years when all western trading posts were abandoned by order of King Louis XIV.

The great obstacle to ~~operations~~ to operations in this section was the fact that the route to be followed in arriving at the upper Valley lay in the country of the Fox Indians.

For a long time the Foxes had been a thorn in the side of the French in preventing that free operations which the French so much desired. It was the French policy to make the Indian tribes subservient to them, economically dependent on the traders for both food and clothing. To that end in return for the articles furnished by the traders more and more peltries were demanded, the Indians were commanded to abandon their villages and cluster their huts and teepees around the trading posts.

To this policy the Foxes strenuously objected and in 1726 to curb the French had been intriguing with hitherto unsubjected Sioux tribes on the West and the English sympathizing Six Nations on the East, thus linking in one

Confederation Indians throughout the vast territory from Lake Ontario to beyond the Mississippi. This left the French no opening to the West and threatened to overwhelm them in their efforts to extend their sphere of influence.

The French therefore planned to detach the Sioux from the Foxes and by establishing an open road to the Sioux, later crush them. The first step in this program was the erection of the fort among the Sioux.

As it was necessary to pass through the territory of the Foxes to reach the Sioux nothing could be done until peace was made with them. This was finally secured in 1726, and preparations were immediately begun in organizing the expedition. Articles were signed at Montreal on June 6, 1727,

They bear the signatures of Governor Beauharnois of New France; Longueuil, governor of Montreal, and several residents of Montreal, who were interested in the enterprise.

(Jean Baptiste and Francois Boucher de Montbrun) appear to have been the leaders of the enterprise.

The company was granted the exclusive privilege of trading with the Sioux for a period of three years. The members agreed not to build houses or forts on the hunting grounds except where the commanding officer established the post. They would be permitted to send to the Sioux country

during the ensuing two years as many canoes as they deemed advisable and the share each member would be increased in proportion to the increase in number of canoes. At the end of three years they would be given preference over the highest bidder for a renewal of the concession. In case they should be stopped by the Foxes they were given permission to trade goods wherever they wished, subject to the orders of the commanding officer. Members were expected to remain three years but by permission of the commander they could return earlier, providing illness or domestic reasons necessitated their doing so.

It was forbidden to leave the fort for hunting without the commanders permission. They were given privilege of

selling their houses upon leaving the post. In return for these concessions the company members were to build a fort of stakes, a chapel, a house for the commanding officer and one for the missionaries.

The commander of the post was René Boucher Sieur de la Pierre. The missionaries assigned to the expedition were Michel (or Louis Ignace) Guignas who had come from France in 1716. and Nicholas (or Flavien) de Honor.

From here on the story can best be told in a letter which Father Guignas wrote to Marquis de Beauharnois on May 29, 1728:

"The convoy for the Sioux departed from the end of Montreal island, last year, on the 16th of the month of June last toward eleven o'clock in the morning.

at 58 leagues according to my estimate from the Ouisconsin, going up the Mississippi, is Lake Pepin, which is nothing else than this river itself stripped of islands in this place, where it may be a half a league wide. The part of this river that I have travelled over is not very deep, and has shallow water in several places, because its bed is of shifting sand like that of the Ouisconsin.

Same as
1 notes taken
from
R. R.
Journals
on
it
Beauharnois

"On the 17th of Sept. 1729 at noon we reached this
lake, which has been chosen as the end of our voyage.
We established our selves towards evening about
the middle of the northern shore upon a low point whose
soil is excellent. The woods were very dense there, but
they are already thinned on account of the sight and length of the
winter, which has been severe for the climate, for we are here in
latitude 43 degrees 55'. The day after landing axes were applied
to the trees and four days later the fort was entirely finished. It is a
plat of ground a hundred feet square surrounded by stakes
12 ft. high with two good bastions. For such a small

space there are large buildings detached and not crowded, each 30, 38, and 25 feet long. all would go well there if the place was not subject to inundations; but this year, on the 15th of the month of april, we were obliged to go and camp outside and the water rose in the houses to the height of two ft. eight inches. - - - - -

We could not enter the houses until the 30th of the same month of april, and even before the end of oct. all the houses were finished, and furnished! - - - - -

On the 4th of the month of november it was not forgotten that this was the fete day of monsieur the General. Holy mass was said for him in the morning, and we were much inclined to celebrate the holiday in the evening; but the slowness of the pyrotechnist and the change of the weather caused the celebration to be postponed until the 14th of the same month, when some very fine rockets were fired off and the air was made to sound with a hundred shouts of "Long live the King!" and "Long live Charles de Beauharnois." What contributed much to the amusement was the terror of the Indians, - - - - -

"As soon as we had arrived among them they assembled in a very few days around the French fort to the number of 95 cabins which would amount in all to 150 men. In these portable cabins of dressed skins,

These were all that we have seen, except a band of about 60 men who came on the 26th of the month of Feb. and were of those nations that are called the Sioux of the prairies. at the end of november the Savages departed for their winter quarters. It is true that they did not go very far away and that there were always some to be seen during the winter.

It was at this fort that was erected Michael the archangel. During the summer of 1728, Commander de la Pèrrière and father de Honor returned to Montreal leaving in charge of the fort Pierre Boucher. Sieur de Boucherville.

The surprise attacks on the Foxes planned by the French in the summer of 1728 failed. The Foxes eluded a force of 1200 Indians and 450 French sent against them under Ligny, and the latter dispatched two Menomonic Indians to the Sioux post to inform de Boucherville what had happened so he could take proper measures for the safety of the post and induce the Sioux to refuse their protection to the fleeing Foxes.

These messengers arrived at the fort Sept. 7. 1728.

Immediately de Boucherville dispatched a party to St. Anthony Falls to induce the Sioux to take side against the Foxes.

The results of these negotiations were not satisfactory, however, and on Sept. 18 de Boucherville called together all the French at the fort to decide what course to follow.

It was decided to evacuate the fort, believing it no longer tenable and facing a shortage of supplies, as well as danger from hostile Indians. The following day some of the traders decided to remain feeling that they would be unable to sell their goods elsewhere. These were left in charge of Sieur de la Jemerais 21 years old, while de Boucherville with twelve men took three canoes, and started down the river on Oct. 3, 1728.

With him were Father Guignas, the two Montbrun brothers;

Campeau the blacksmith; Menard and Beaurne, interpreters; Dumas captain of militia, and Bisell Voyager. They planned to go down the Illinois river and in that way return to Montreal, the Fox river route no longer being safe. Captured by Indians, by whom they were finally released; they did not arrive at their destination until the summer of the following year. Later Father Guignas returned to the fort.

In the meantime the French who had remained at the Fort were very well treated by the Sioux, who camped near the fort in the winter.

During the latter part of the summer of 1729 de la Generais (the commandant in charge), returned to Montreal.

The French who remained at the Fort wrote that they would not abandon it unless ordered to do so. Supplies were sent to them from Montreal that summer.

Apparently some opposition had arisen to the fort, for in October, 1729, Beauharnois wrote to the French Minister urging its continuance to keep the Sioux satisfied and hold the Foxes in check. He suggested the removal of the fort to higher ground, and recommended the forming of another and less numerous company.

June 16, 1731 a new Sioux company was formed similar to the first one. It was granted the exclusive trading privileges in the Sioux country for three years, allowed 8 canoes with the privilege of increasing the number.

They were required to build a fort of stakes 120 ft. sq. with four bastions, a chapel, a house for the commanding officer and one for the missionaries.

René Godefroy Sieur de Linctot was in command.

The party left Montreal in the fall of 1731, but were unable

to reach to port that year, wintering in ~~Hampden~~. They arrived at ^{the} Lake Pepin destination in the spring of 1732 and found 62 cabins of Sioux located there.

This year the new fort was constructed which it is believed was built on the higher ground on the site of the present Villa Maria convent.

The company was granted a fourth year privilege of trade, as the compulsory evacuation had caused the traders great loss. Beauharnois at this time emphasized the importance of the post not only to foster friendly relations with the Sioux but with the view of establishing trade with the more northern tribes, for whose trade the Hudson Bay company was a rival.

The report from the Sioux country reached the governor at Montreal in 1733, as the messenger who carried the letter was robbed by Indians near Detroit. In 1734 Jacques Le Gardien Sieur de St Pierre took charge of the fort. In 1735 the beaver trade was very good, in spite of troubles and war expeditions in the upper country nearly one million very good skins had been received from this post and the new posts established further on for the discovery of the sea of the West.

Total receipts aggregated 178,000 livres - a livre was about 19 cents.

In 1736, St Pierre and father Guignas, who was still at the fort, had reported to Beauharnois that the Sioux were well intentioned toward the French and they had no fear they would be abandoned. Trouble was brewing again with the Foxes, however, and a little difference arose with the Sioux.

On Jan. 24 1737 forty Sioux entered the fort while the gates were open to let in wood. Serious trouble was narrowly averted. More difficulties arose and a council ^{was} called by St. Pierre, including Sieur de Linctot, second in command and father Guignas, it was decided to abandon the Post,

burn the fort and escape, because they ran the risk any day of being massacred. Soon May 30, 1737 the post was evacuated and burned.

commenting on St. Pierre's action in abandoning the fort, Beauharnois wrote the French minister that he acted properly as the garrison would have been exposed daily to the danger of perishing. "You will see," he said "that there is no likelihood of its ever being possible to have any trade with the Sioux. It would be a great boon if we could destroy them because they occupy the finest hunting grounds."

From this time on the history of the fort in the record is very fragmentary. In 1749 Paul Marin, one of the leading commanders in the West, was sent to reoccupy the post.

He remained in charge until 1756, when the post appears to have been permanently abandoned.

There seems to be some difference of opinion as to whether this latter occupation was at this point or some place further up the lake but no evidence is obtainable as to this.

Ten years later, in 1766 Jonathan Carver, in his record of a trip up the Miss. river, refers to a visit to Point au-Sable and states: "Here I observed the ruins of a French factory where it is said Capt. St. Pierre resided and carried on a very great trade with the Sioux before the reduction of Canada."

Lieut Pike was here on Sept. 17th, 1805, and Maj. Stephen Long in 1817. Lieut Pike in his diary recorded:

Just below Point Le Sable the French under Frontenac who had driven the Penards from Wisconsin and chased them up the Mississippi built a blockade on this lake against the same. Maj. Long makes reference to a Sioux village on the point. It is probable that by this time, all surface evidence of the occupation has wholly disappeared.

Big
Lister
Mary Horis
Mellway

Page 56

French Catholic Missionaries in the present U. S.

The several attempts to christianize the Sioux and more distant tribes were unsuccessful.

Father Philippe Pieron, about 1683 to 1688, and Jacques Maréchal, 1688 to 1689, went from Michilmackinac to the Sioux between the St. Croix and Brule Rivers, but their efforts were regarded as of no avail at that time.

On several occasions, the priests accompanied expeditions as chaplains to the troops and to instruct the Indians where possible. It was in such a capacity that Father Guignas accompanied a garrison to Fort Beauharnois in Lake Pepin in 1727. Because hostilities were renewed by the Foxes, and an expedition under Signey failed to subjugate them, the fort on Lake Pepin had to be abandoned. On the return journey Father Guignas was taken captive by the Kikapoo, and Mascoutens who were allies of the Foxes. After threatening him death at the stake, his life was spared. When news of the missionaries' captivity reached Illinois, the fathers sent him various things, until he won the confidence of his captors sufficiently to lead a delegation of them to Illinois, where an arrangement was made that detached them from the Fox alliance.

Several months later, representatives of the tribes came to ask Father Guignas to return with them, which he did, and at the risk of his life stayed until 1737.

Just for

→ The distant missions and forts in the old North West were abandoned before the English and French struggle set in for the control of the continent.

However, even when the garrisons departed from the Sault and Michilmackinac, a few Frenchmen lived on in the North West until they became lost in the successive waves of immigration of the last century.

The French names that dot the whole North West Territory are a continuous reminder of the French Catholic background the country possesses.

J. J.
Schafer.

~~Minnesota History Society Leaflets.~~

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Orders were sent from Paris to Canada for the establishment of the Sioux mission. On the 14th of May, 1726, a memoir of the King was drawn up and sent to the Marquis Charles de Beauharnois, then Governor of New France, enjoining him to send to their destination a commanding officer and two Jesuit missionaries.

The Governor applied at once to the Superior of the Jesuits for two capable subjects;

on the 30th of April, 1727, he requested the minister of the Navy in Paris for a certain number of mathematical and astronomical instruments, which the missionaries were to use in their scientific investigations.

Then in order to avoid all expenses for the government he formed an association of merchants, known as the company of the Sioux, with whom he concluded a very favorable contract on the 6th of June, 1727.

The company of the Sioux was to have for three years and more, if so desired after the lapse of the first period, the exclusive right of trading in the country of the Sioux and wherever the Sioux went in their hunting expeditions.

In return the associates were to build a stockade fort, a chapel, a house for the commanding officer, and one for the missionaries.

The missionaries selected for the new station were Michael Guignas and Nicholas de Gannon at their request. Rene Boucher, Sieur de la Perriere, was chosen as the commanding officer. They departed from Montreal on the 16th of June 1724.

After having crossed the customary portage from the Fox to the Wisconsin River they sailed down this stream to the Miss. and up the current as far as Lake Pepin, where they arrived the 17th of September.

They discovered a low point of land stretching into the river towards the middle of the western shore. The soil was good for cultivation, and there was an abundance of timber and game. The fort was completed in four days. It consisted of four lines of wooden posts, each 12 feet high, with two bastions, encircling an area of 100 ft. square.

The three buildings required were finished before the end of Oct. They were 30, 38, and 25 ft. long by 16 ft. wide.

The fort was called Fort Beauharnois in honor of the Governor; while the mission or the chapel attached to it was dedicated to St. Michael the archangel, that being the

name of Father Guignas,

an interesting incident occurred soon after the building of the fort. on the 4th of November was the day of St Charles, the feast of the Governor.

on the evening of that day some very beautiful rockets were shot off, and the air resounded with a hundred shouts of "Vive le Roy" and "Vive Charles de Beauharnois." The Indians were terror stricken, when they saw the fire works in the air and the stars fall from heaven, the women and children fled, the braver ones cried for mercy and begged that the astonishing display of that terrible medicine be stopped.

Fort Beauharnois was built on rather low ground. During the spring of 1728 the water rose high; on the 15 of April the whole company had to evacuate until damage was repaired.

The Indian tribe of the Foxes, in spite of the friendship shown to the men of the Sioux company in their journey to Lake Pepin, commenced to molest the traders, who had to pass through their country in order to reach Fort Beauharnois and the land of the Sioux.

A great number of share holders in the Sioux company withdrew, and declined to

trade in a district that offered so uncertain prospects. That meant, if not the ruin, at least the partial abandonment of Fort Beauharnois, one of the missionaries, Father de Gonnor, left the fort in the Spring of 1728. Then in Oct. 1728 eleven Indian men and father Guignas also left the fort. But were captured the 15 of Oct. and made prisoners by the Mascouten, and Kickapoo who were allied with the Foxes. They remained in captivity for about five months.

During the winter of 1728-29 Fort Beauharnois was left in charge of a young officer, Christopher Dufrost.

In the year 1729 a party of french Voyageurs went to the post in the Sioux country for trading purposes, and obtained the permission from the Governor Beauharnois;

A strong plea was made for the maintenance or the reestablishment of the fort among the Sioux. If the first company of the Sioux was dissolved, a new one might be formed, the members of which would bear again most, if not all, the expenses connected with the establishment. As to the building of the

~~Building~~ of the fort the Governor was apprehensive, least the Frenchman who wintered there in 1728-29, tore them down, at any rate as they were on low ground and liable to be flooded by high water, he suggested the construction of a new post on the higher ground somewhat removed from the first site.

Without waiting for a reply from the home Government, Governor Beauharnois proceeded to establish the Fort among the Sioux.

A new company of merchants was organized with which he concluded a contract on the 6th of June, 1731 which was about identical to the first with the exception that the new fort to be built was to comprise an area of 120 ft. square.

The new commander of the Fort was the Sieur de Linctot.

Father Guignas was again the resident chaplain; during succeeding years he had much to suffer, being continually exposed to privations and threats on the part of the hostile Sacs, and Foxes.

The Sioux expressed very openly their rejoicing over the return of the French.

In 1735 a change in the staff of Fort Beauharnois. The Sieur de Linctot, the commanding officer, asked to be relieved, and he was replaced by M. Gardin, Sieur de Saint Pierre.

Other wise the reports from the Fort were rather encouraging. The trade was very heavy.

The Sioux seemed to be altogether loyal to the French, and their refusal of receiving the Foxes in 1733 was particularly appreciated.

It was on these grounds that the Gov. de Beauharnois endeavored to justify the establishment of the post to the French Government, which seemed to think that he had acted with undue haste.

Early in the year 1736, a change of heart became noticeable in the conduct of the Sioux towards the French of the post at Lake Pepin. On the 6th of May, 54 of their warriors passed by the Fort without informing the commander of the object of their journey. They descended the Miss. and having met two French travellers near the Illinois River, killed and scalped them, returned to the Fort, and celebrated the Scalp dance for 4 days, without telling what nation they had attacked.

Shortly afterwards, on the 6th of June, occurred the massacre of young de la Verendrye and his party on an island of the Lake of the Woods; the French at Fort Beauharnois received word of this on the 23rd of August through letters carried to them by a band of Ojibway from La Pointe Chaguanegon bay. At first the Sioux tried to persuade

Page 107.

The commander Saint-pierre, that they had no part in the massacre of the lake of the woods.

Page 108

On the 18th of December, 26 of them men arrived with their families. They started with setting fire to the buildings of the Puants or Winnebagoes, the friends of the French.

They tore out the posts around the garden of Father Guignas and burned them.

The situation at Fort Beauharnois was complicated by a strife between a band of Ojibways from Lake Superior and the Sioux, in which the Winnebagoes around the Fort became involved.

The French at Fort Beauharnois lost courage in their turn. The Commander, Saint Pierre, held council with the Sieur de Linctot, second in command.

Page 109

With Father Guignas and all the other French in the Fort. They all were of opinion that the only thing for them to do was to leave the Fort, burn the Fort, and to make their escape, because otherwise they ran the risk of being killed at any time by the Sioux.

The Commander was unwilling to go, because he believed the Sioux would not be so ungrateful after all he had done for them, and it was in the interest of all concerned to remain at the Fort.

But the unanimous sentiment was that it was better for them to sacrifice some of their goods rather than their lives; and thus the officer and all his company evacuated the Fort on the 30th of May, 1737.

The records and the information concerning Fort Beauharnois after this second abandonment are very meager, at least as far as published.

In 1743 and 1746, deputations of the Sioux went to Quebec and petitioned that trade might be resumed with them, and the Fort at Lake Pepin be reestablished.

In 1749, the elder Sieur Marin informed the Marquis de la Jonquiere, then Governor of France, that the Sioux had asked very persistently for the post in their country.

Sieur Marin was sent to Lake Pepin in the summer of the year 1750; and the Fort Beauharnois was reopened.

Marin remained at the post of Lake Pepin until the year 1752, when he was relieved by his son, the younger Marin.

During the two years he stayed, he visited many nations in the west, as yet unknown to the French; and made peace between the Illinois and the nations in Wisconsin and Minnesota that were hostile to them.

While the two Marins were stationed at Fort Beauharnois,

Le Gardien de Saint Pierre was sent for the new discovery of the Western Ocean along the route to the West and North West of Lake Superior.

It is not likely, that Fort Beauharnois was reoccupied after the year 1775; the conflict between France and England made it necessary for the Governors of Canada to concentrate all the available forces in the East.

at any rate the surrender of Canada to England in 1760 it was never used again.

With regard to the exact site of Fort Beauharnois, the contemporary records are not very explicit nor satisfactory. Father Guignas in a letter of his written from the Post the 29th of May, 1728, says that the latitude of $43^{\circ} 51'$. The indication of the latitude is certainly either an error of Father Guignas or a mistake of the editor or printer; for the southern extremity of the lake is above the 44th degree. What was meant by the northern side is not very clear either, because just in its central part the lake stretches practically from North to South, and hence the Western shore must have been mistaken for a Northern one.

as a matter of fact, the American officer Z. M. Pike, who passed through the lake in 1805 (about 50 years after the abandonment of the Post.)

says that the stockade fort was located on the west shore just below "Pointe du Sable." Pointe du Sable or Sandy point is a long and pointed bank of sand which stretches into the lake from west to east, just about the central part. It is altogether likely that the first Fort Beauharnois was situated on the higher space of that very Sandy point, which is very low as mentioned in the description of the time, and exposed to inundation at an exceptional rise of the water.

In fact father Guignas in the above mentioned letter tells us, that the wood on the site of their fort was very dense. But that much of it had been cut down during the winter after their arrival, because the cold season had been very long and intensely severe.

The second fort was built in 1732 on a higher elevation, some four or five arpents away from the edge of the water, so as to avoid the recurrence of floods.

In all probability this new fort was located on the site of the present Villa Maria, the convent and academy, conducted by the Ursuline Sisters.

The Villa or the site of the ancient Fort and Sandy Point directly below are about

one mile East of the Station of Frontenac on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St Paul Railroad, almost directly opposite from Sandy Point, on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Pepin, is the romantic cliff of Maiden Rock.

Some interesting finds were made not long ago in the neighborhood of old Fort Beauharnois, near the Station of Frontenac in 1887 two cannon balls of ancient make, were discovered, which had the size of a smaller chicken egg but were completely round.

Probably these balls were fired from the Fort at some Indian enemy moving through the settlement of the French.

In the Summer 1887, the pupils of the State Training School of Red Wing, were camping on Sandy Point; and one

of the boys found in a bay on the South side, a pile of ancient leaden bullets, about a 100 in all. One Cannon ball, and seven bullets are

Kept in the museum of Villa Maria academy. The School was opened Sept. 8 1891; In order to link the present with the past, in order to perpetuate the interesting history of Fort Beauharnois,

The archbishop blessed the beautiful chapel of the convent with the invocation of St Michael the archangel, under whose patronage was erected the chapel of the old French post on lake Pepin

Francis J. Schaefer
The St Paul Seminary
St Paul, Minn April 1909.

Drew Blahoski