JOSEPH DESSERT

A Biographical Sketch

Front Cover: Portrait of Joseph Dessert circa 1880's.

This biography was written for
Joseph Dessert in 1906.

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other materials were added in 2010.

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INTRODUCTION

HE accompanying story of the life of Joseph Dessert is his own and is the result of a number of personal interviews with him, notes of which were carefully taken and later transcribed and arranged in chronological order.

It would be more interesting as well as more graphic if it could be given in the actor's own words. His clear and concise relations and the charm of his quiet manner give zest and suggestion that cannot be counterfeited, or transmitted to print, without danger of perverting the facts of his recital.

Mr. Dessert is in his eighty-eighth

year, and though his mind is remarkably clear and alert and his memory excellent, he has doubtless omitted much of interesting detail. These omissions were not the result of lapses of memory so much as disinclination to tell of his own achievememts. That he did not relate his experiences earlier was due to this reserve as to his own doings and these reminiscences might never have been gathered together but for his little granddaughter. For her sake he consented to tell his story. Many times when things of especial interest were touched, he said, "Don't put that in," because he hesitated at every appearance of self-glorification.

The history of a state is in large measure the history of its individual men. Joseph Dessert's history is not merely an important part of the early history of Northern Wisconsin and of the Wisconsin River Valley, it is a connecting link between the great

commonwealth of to-day and the French, who were the only white men that knew the pathless wilds of Wisconsin two hundred years ago.

The genealogical record shows that Antoine Deserre, Joseph Dessert's progenitor in Canada, was married, near Quebec, in 1674. This was only fifty-four years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth.

The year of Joseph Dessert's birth, 1819, was a notable one. It was but five years after the British evacuated their posts at Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, and was the year of Queen Victoria's birth. Wisconsin was then a part of Michigan Territory.

When he went out to La Pointe, in 1840, the entire Territory of Wisconsin had but thirty thousand nine hundred and forty-five inhabitants.

In 1844, the year he landed at Milwaukee, the first message was sent by electric telegraph, and not until five

years later was there a railroad grade in Wisconsin.

Such data serves to illustrate the long and remarkable period of development encompassed by this man's life.

Mr. Dessert shrank from public place and public honors. He was commissioner of the county, once, in its early history, was the first president of the village of Mosinee, and never held any other public office. His life in Mosinee was full with his business affairs, and the kindly association with neighbors who still hold him in most affectionate regard. He was always a generous neighbor and a kind, sympathetic and devoted friend.

In October, 1894, the villagers of Mosinee and the country people for miles around, were the guests of the Joseph Dessert Lumber Company, in celebration of the semi-centennial anniversary of Mr. Dessert's settlement at "Little Bull Falls". The guests

numbered nearly eight hundred people, men, women and children, and a gold headed cane was presented to Mr. Dessert as an affectionate testimonial from his neighbors.

In February, 1899, he presented a library building and library to Mosinee, and he has for many years, been a contributor to the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, in inaugurating and extending the work of its traveling libraries.

A gentleman by nature, Mr. Dessert's manners were always quiet, self-respecting and unaffected. He was neither forward nor abashed in any presence.

Beloved by his neighbors, respected by all who know him as an upright and honorable man, his character and achievements are treasures which his kindred and descendants may justly and highly prize.

Ellis L. Morton

Mosinee in the late 1890's.

JOSEPH DESSERT'S STORY

 OSEPH DESSERT was born January 8, 1819, at St. Joseph, Township of Maskenonge, near the mouth of a small stream of that name, emptying into what is known as Lake St. Peter, an enlargement of the St. Lawrence river, about sixty miles below Montreal. The village consisted of a store, tavern, post office and a few shops. Joseph was the eighth child in a family of twelve, with seven brothers and four sisters. His father, Pierre Dessert, was the fifth of that name to reside on the farm where Joseph was born. His mother was Josephte Beaulieu. The farm was laid out, as was the rule

among early French settlers in Canada, having a narrow front about six and one-half arpents (acres) in width on Maskenonge river and extending back about three miles. The farm lay so near Lake St. Peter that in springtime it was often flooded.

When Pierre Dessert died, in 1830, he divided his property according to the customs of the country, the farm being partitioned lengthwise, between the two eldest sons, and the other six children being otherwise provided for. It was understood that Joseph should be educated by the elder brothers. He was, therefore continued for a time at the Catholic parish school, about two miles distant, to which he walked, carrying his dinner. Later, to learn English, he was sent to a school at New Brandon, about sixty miles south of Maskenonge. Here he had as instructor a Mr. P. M. Benson, and for schoolmates

the English, Scotch and Irish children of the village, an English settlement. Beside acting as schoolmaster, Mr. Benson read the Episcopal service on Sundays, for the members of that church, as there was no established rector in the place. Joseph finished at this school in the fall of 1838 and has always preserved a recommendation given him by Mr. Benson, dated on August 15th, of that year. This was the completion of his school education, to which he had devoted the winter months, chiefly, until about his twentieth year, so he had a good understanding of the rudiments of both French and English.

Pierre Dessert, who was a well-to-do farmer, usually kept about thirty head of cattle and seven or eight horses, also sheep and hogs, and as soon as one of the boys was large enough to help at the chores he was keep busy morning and evening.

In the Dessert house was a large fire-place with an old-fashioned crane where a good deal of the cooking was done in summer. They had what was then common in Canada, a separate building with a brick oven, where they did their baking. In some instances these ovens were in the house. Stoves, in the house, served the double purpose of heating and cooking. They were often located between two rooms, in an opening in the partition, and heated both. They were two-story, cast-iron box stoves, with the oven in the top story.

Plowing, in Canada, was done in those days with wooden plows with sheet iron nailed over the share. The elder Dessert, better off than most of his neighbors, used two horses for plowing, but many people plowed with only one. Grain was cut with a hand sickle, for this was before the days of

cradling by hand and long before the reaping machine was invented. The principal crops were wheat, buckwheat, barley and oats. A little corn of the flint variety was planted but corn was not a large crop. Peas and barley, ground together, were used with milk to fatten hogs, and made fine pork. This method of fattening hogs has come into use in Wisconsin with the past few years. Buckwheat was sometimes fed to hogs but it made oily meat and was not popular. Owing to spring freshets, however, the land was sometimes inundated so long that no crop but buckwheat could be safely sown, and that was occasionally sown as late as July.

Having finished school, in the fall of 1852, his first work was in the woods of upper Canada for his brother, who was engaged in getting out ship timbers for the English market. These timbers

were hewn square and rafted, top loaded with staves, and run down the river for some distance, to a place where the top load had to be taken off and the rafts broken up in order to pass a series of rapids. When they reached the St. Lawrence they were re-assembled into rafts and towed to Quebec.

For fare in camp that winter they had salt pork, beef, soup, and bread baked in an iron kettle buried in coals.

Returning from Quebec Joseph clerked in a store in Maskenonge until the spring of 1840.

Like many another young man of his time and neighborhood, Joseph's ambition to become an adventurer and seek fortune in the western wilderness, then the El Dorado of Canadian dreams, was whetted by the constant efforts of the Hudson Bay Company and the American Fur Company to hire young men for service at their factories

in the far northwest. It got further incentive from the fact that three maternal uncles were engaged in the fur trade, one Henry Beaulieu, with the Hudson Bay Company in Canada, the other two Paul and Basil Beaulieu, with the American Fur Company, in Wisconsin. A childish recollection is that of seeing his uncle Paul Beaulieu leave Pierre Dessert's door one spring when the water was high, in a birch bark canoe which bore twenty-two men. They were bound for Mackinaw, then the main supply depot of the American Fur Company, and the chief port at the foot of the upper lakes. John Jacob Astor was at the head of the American Fur Company and its principal western office, at Detroit. was in charge of a man named Brewster.

Inspired by these western voyageurs in his own family, and by the tales of the young coureurs des bois of his

acquaintance, in the spring of 1840, Joseph Dessert engaged with the American Fur Company and went to La Pointe, on Madeline Island, just across the Chequamagon Bay from the present city of Ashland, reaching there in June. Here he remained until the fall of 1841, working as a common laborer, about the company's trading post. It was their chief depot in the then far Northwest, furnishing supplies and handling furs for a large number of smaller trading posts, that scattered as far as Leech Lake, now in Minnesota.

The company hired young Frenchmen and half breeds in Canada, under three year contracts, at about one hundred and twenty dollars a year and subsistence, "which usually meant to live on the country and eat wild rice and fish".

The company owned a sailing vessel called the Astor, which ran regularly between Sault Ste. Marie and La

Paul Beaulieu

Maternal Uncle of Joseph Dessert

A fur trader on the Wisconsin River, he was located at one time at the mouth of the Eau Pleine River at Whitehouse's Mill, south of Mosinee. He is listed on the Wisconsin territorial census of 1838 in Brown County on the upper Wisconsin River. Mosinee was in Brown County at that time.

Pointe. In the spring it took up a cargo of provisions, and several trips were required to take out the winter's accumulation of furs. Later in the season its freight upon the down trips was salted fish,—whitefish, trout and ciscoes.

The furs which were gathered at the smaller trading posts were brought in by the half breeds and Indians in canoes. The finer furs were folded inside of bear and deer skins, then rolled up in a "pack", and a packer was expected to carry about two hundred pounds.

Game was not plentiful anywhere in the region, at this time. Deer were not plentiful and in northern Minnesota elk and buffalo were very rarely seen. There were more elk to be seen about his old home in Canada than in the Lake Superior country. The fur skins were mink, marten, muskrat, black bear, red fox, lynx and beaver. Occasionally, but rarely, a black fox was taken. Mink

and marten were the most numerous.

It was necessary, in order to cut routes as short as possible, to make long portages across the headwaters of streams. This necessitated "packing" furs. There were three portages between Fond du Lac, near Lake Superior, and the Mississippi, one of which was nineteen miles long.

In the fall of 1841 Joseph started with two other men for the lake country at the head of the Mississippi river, visiting several of the company's posts. He spent the greater part of the winter in charge of a trading post at Pokegama, and visited Mille Lacs and Sand Lake, where small posts were also located, spending some time at the latter. He did not know Chippewa but managed to pick up enough of the language to get on with the Indians.

In 1843 the entire tribe of Chippewa Indians were assembled at La Pointe, to

make their first treaty with the United States. The Indians came in canoes, squaws, children and all. The Fur Company made preparations to feed them, laying in a big supply of corn and flour and some pork. Every morning the Indians, who were encamped with their families about the post, to the number of several thousands, were assembled by firing a cannon, and given their day's rations. An ennumeration of the tribe was made and the half breed interpreter knew the number of each family. Mr. Dessert assisted in making the first payment by the United States government to the Indians. The head of the family was given the money allotment, and then each member of the family, male and female, was given cloth for shirts, breechcloths and leggins, and the bucks were given heavy mackintosh blankets, and the squaws lighter ones. Each Indian's bundle was made up and tied

by itself, and as the names of families were called, the bundles were handed out to the several members. Some of the Indians were given guns, amunition and saddles, but saddles were useless as they had no horses. Calico was reckoned at twenty-five cents a yard. A few silk handkerchiefs were distributed to squaws of importance.

He remained in the employ of the company, chiefly in the upper Mississippi country, until the spring of 1844, when he returned to La Pointe. Getting a letter telling him that one of his aunts was ill and desired to see him, he returned to Canada, reaching there on July 4th. He remained until September and missing the last boat for Lake Superior, at Detroit, took one for Milwaukee, where he landed in October.

He had intended to return to the employ of the American Fur Company, but being unable to reach La Pointe by

boat, concluded to try the Indian trail which followed the Wisconsin river to its headwaters and thence to Chequamagon Bay.

His uncles had been employed by the American Fur Company at Green Bay, before his day, and one of them had at one time been located at the mouth of the Eau Pleine river, just below what has since become Mosinee, at a place later known as "Whitehouse's Mill". Possibly because of some knowledge gained from his uncle, or from hearing him tell of the country, and further because he had two Canadian friends located there, Girard and McKay, he decided upon the Wisconsin river route. With a young man who had become his companion on the boat, he found a soldier from the military post of Fort Winnebago, now the city of Portage, in Milwaukee with a team to meet his wife, who had also

been a passenger on the boat. They arranged to have their trunks taken in his wagon while they tramped on foot most of the way to the Fort.

At Fort Winnebago they put up at a hotel kept by Captain Law. Here they met Daniel M. Whitney of Green Bay, who built the first saw mill on the Wisconsin river at a point about ten miles below Grand Rapids, "Point Bois", later known as Port Edwards. Mr. Whitney, who had a team, took Mr. Dessert and his trunk along as far as his mill, where the trunk was left, and Mr. Dessert pushed on afoot, with two companions, for Little Bull Falls, afterward Mosinee. A trader named William Dupre, lived about ten miles below the falls. Here Mr. Dessert stopped for about two weeks. He had heard of Dupre, who was an employe of the American Fur Company, when at La Pointe, and had met his brother-in-

law, a man named Johnson, at Sand Lake.

He got to Mosinee October 20, 1844, and went to work for John L. Moore, in his saw mill, built two years before. This was the beginning as a Wisconsin lumberman. Later he got his trunk brought up as far as Grand Rapids, where it remained until snow fell, as there were no roads in the country and teams could only get through the woods in winter.

There was no money in the country so he got his wages in the spring, in lumber. The lumber was rafted into cribs and run down the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers to Galena where it had been sold to a jobber, partly on credit, for six dollars a thousand. Mr. Dessert was paid a dollar a day for helping to run it down. When he returned to Little Bull Falls his employer borrowed a part of his money to pay

the woman cook. It was necessary to run the lumber down the Wisconsin in cribs because of the various swift rapids and the dangerous Dells. When the Mississippi river was reached the cribs were made into a raft.

In 1844 everyone regarded the Wisconsin river region as an uninhabitable wilderness. No one expected to see it permanently settled. In common with everyone else Mr. Dessert thought of it only as a place to remain a few years, endeavor to make and save some money and return to Canada. As he puts it, he would not have promised to become a permanent settler at that time if he "had been offered the whole country as a gift." Yet Mosinee became his permanent home, and he saw the wilderness transformed into thrifty and beautiful farms all about him.

Mr. Dessert began work for Moore

as a common laborer. He was a green hand at lumbering and wages were sixteen dollars a month and board, with the pay in lumber, generally reckoned at five dollars a thousand. One winter he and some other men took a contract for logging, receiving fifty cents a thousand, but two men had to cut five thousand a day or Moore charged them for board. Moore furnished them saws, axes and files.

Little Bull Falls at this time consisted of one log shanty which was a combination of kitchen, dining room and sleeping room, after the manner of the usual lumber camp, except that, as there were two women employed as cooks, they had a separate sleeping room back of the men's quarters. The cooking was done on a stove, and the men's room was heated by a large fire-place. Ten men were employed at this time about the mill, and others in

the woods. The total number of inhabitants of the place being fifteen or twenty persons.

When Mr. Dessert got back from his first trip to St. Louis, in 1845, he went to work again for Moore and continued in his employ until 1849.

In the fall of '46, Mr. Dessert went into the woods in November with a crew of men to prepare a camp and get ready for logging, taking no provisions but flour. They killed an ox which they drove in with them. and from November until the first week in February lived upon boiled beef and bread. The young Frenchman who did the cooking would boil a two days' supply of beef at a time, and then warm it up for their meals. The first week in February snow fell and provisions, which had been contracted for in the summer, arrived on runners from Belvidere, Illinois. The provisions

consisted of fresh pork, molasses, tea and coffee, and after so long a diet of boiled beef, they "feasted" for a few days.

In 1849, Mr. Dessert with three other men, William Pentecost, Henry Cate and James Etheridge, under the firm style of Pentecost, Dessert & Co., rented the mill of Moore. Mr. Dessert, who was familiar with the St. Louis market, was to sell the lumber and the other three were to operate the mill and look after the logs. In those days they sawed logs on shares, dividing equally with the owner. That spring he went to Alton, Illinois, to market with lumber gotten together during the winter, and returned to get another fleet intending to run it that fall, but the cold weather came on and the lumber was laid up in an eddy at Stevens Point for the winter. Some of it was lost by ice and high water the following spring.

On the way back from St. Louis Mr. Dessert stopped at Plover and found Mr. Pentecost at George W. Cate's office. Pentecost said he had been having trouble at home and wanted Mr. Dessert to let him have some money, but fearing something might be wrong, Mr. Dessert took a horse that night and went on to Mosinee. He found everything all right in a business way, so returned to Plover, settled with his partner in full, paying him in lumber, and Pentecost left the country.

The firm was then continued with the remaining partners, Cate and Etheridge, under the style of Dessert Cate & Co., until March 22, 1850, when they bought the mill. This firm did business until 1854, when Etheridge sold to Dessert and Cate who did not separate until January, 7, 1859.

Mr. Dessert has the papers which made him a citizen of the United

States, which were issued to him at Stevens Point, March 9, 1855, by the clerk of circuit court.

In 1856 times were good, paper money was plenty, and lumber sold as high as eighteen dollars a thousand. Everybody felt rich, but the panic of 1857 was impending, and when Mr. Dessert went down that spring with a fleet of lumber to St. Louis, he stopped to see a man in Burlington, Iowa, from whom he had purchased a horse and borrowed money the previous year, expecting to pay with lumber. The creditor declined to take lumber and insisted upon payment in gold. In St. Louis he sold his lumber for paper currency which in those "wildcat" days was most uncertain money. He was compelled to pay a premium of twelve per cent. to turn it into gold.

The panic of 1857 was followed by hard times in 1858 and by the spring

of 1859 the outlook was very dark. Everybody was in debt and nobody could pay. In the spring of 1859, after a trip to the lower river markets, which was discouraging, everything looked blue and he set the bookkeeper to work to see how the concern stood. He found that the firm owed eighty-two thousand dollars and had a large amount outstanding. Of this, thirteen thousand dollars was owing their store from laboring men and others in the neighborhood. They owed a large amount in Galena. Henry Corwith of that place was their principal creditor, the amount due him being about twenty-five thousand dollars.

After getting a full understanding of the conditions, Mr. Dessert suggested that Mr. Cate should send for his brother, George W. Cate of Plover, a lawyer and afterwards a member of congress and judge in that circuit. When he

arrived the conditions of affairs were explained and the Cates were told that they could have the business if they would agree to pay its debts, and allow Mr. Dessert to retire, with nothing, but free from obligations. He had worked hard, for six years, with Henry Cate, and had besides put in about one thousand five hundred dollars in money. George W. Cate advised his brother against accepting the offer, because he did not think he could ever get out of debt.

Then Mr. Dessert took the opposite tack and said he would take the business on those terms and the proposition was accepted. Henry Cate made one condition. He was partner in a small stagecoach line that ran between Little Bull and the Point, and a team of horses used in that line belonged to Dessert and Cate. If he was to relinguish all rights to the mill, he wanted that team of horses. Dessert agreed and the deal was made. The business was now the Joseph Dessert Lumber Company.

In addition to his business trials which began in 1857, Mr. Dessert was attacked in 1861 with cataracts in both eyes and became nearly blind. Times were very hard, lumber slow of sale and collections uncertain, until after the close of the war, in 1865. During all this time Mr. Dessert struggled under a large load of indebtedness. When he assumed the responsibility of the business in 1857, he visited Galena and saw Mr. Corwith, to whom he stated the condition of affairs. Mr. Corwith did not think he could weather the storm, but Mr. Dessert insisted upon trying. Mr. Corwith could make nothing by forcing him so he consented and Mr. Dessert struggled along, paying his men in lumber and notes, and giving notes to other creditors. After the war was over prices began to rise and by 1870 he was well upon his feet and ultimately paid off every obligation. Twenty years

and more, afterward, a Canadian came into his office with one of the notes he had received for labor. Mr. Dessert told him he would pay it and allow interest up to 1870. He would pay no interest beyond that date, for, if the note had been presented then, he would have been able to settle. The man was delighted to get his money and entirely satisfied with the interest allowance.

In 1861, as before mentioned, Mr. Dessert's eyes began to trouble him and by March, 1862, he could scarcely get about he was so nearly blind. He was married January 29, 1862, to Mary Elizabeth Sanford of Waukesha, a native of New York. Not long after his marriage he visited Chicago where Dr. Holmes examined his eyes and told him he could do nothing with them as there were cataracts forming upon both, and they would have to complete

THE JOSEPH DESSERT MILL

About 1866

their growth before an operation could be performed. A friend of Mrs. Dessert advised him to go to Philadelphia to see Dr. Joseph Pancoast, then a celebrated oculist. Accepting this advice, with Dr. Gordon, a local physician, as companion, he went to Philadelphia by way of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, via Pittsburg. He waited there two weeks, receiving preliminary treatment. Dr. Pancoast told him that the case was serious, and promised to do his best but was not very encouraging. Finally operations were performed upon both eyes, they were bandaged and Mr. Dessert was put to bed for eight days, where his only food was taken through a quill. During the first operation Dr. Pancoast's son held Mr. Dessert's head. The patient took hold of the chair and was plucky, but it was so painful that he became faint and had to lie down before

the second operation. Dr. Pancoast said to his son, while the work was going on, "By George, doesn't he stand it well"? He had to remain in Philadelphia six weeks before he could use his eyes, and Dr. Pancoast found it necessary to fit him with two pairs of glasses, one for reading and another for seeing at a distance. The operations were so successful that Mr. Dessert's eyes, at eighty-eight, are doing good daily service, with the aid of powerful glasses.

Mr. Dessert continued to operate the mill alone until 1880, when he took a nephew, Louis Dessert, into partnership. This partnership continued until 1890 when the Joseph Dessert Lumber Company was organized and incorporated, the stockholders being Joseph Dessert, Louis Dessert, Joseph Dessert's daughter, Mrs. Henry M. Thompson, and her husband. This

company continued to operate the mill until its supply of timber was exhausted. In 1902 Mr. and Mr. Thompson removed to Milwaukee, Mr. Dessert accompanying them, and the mill was dismantled.

In the course of their lumbering experience, Mr. Dessert and his associates cleared forty-three thousand acres of land of pine, hemlock and hardwood.

Mr. Dessert speaks feelingly of the waste of timber that was common during the earlier days of Wisconsin lumbering. In the days when shingles were shaved, if a tree was cut, the grain of which was a little crooked, it was abandoned to rot. When trees were felled for lumber if the heart was a little hollow, they would sometimes butt them twelve or fourteen feet from the ground, and if the heart was a little rotten they were left in

the woods. Only the largeſt, ſoundeſt and ſtraighteſt trees were ſought.

When Mr. Deſſert began lumbering there were no booms or piers on the Wisconsin river, and he hired a Maine Yankee, named Towle, who underſtood ſuch work, having learned lumbering in his native ſtate, to lay out a ſcheme of piers and booms for the use of his mill. The "ſtate of Maine men were all good lumbermen," and one of them, Samuel Hinkley, who went to work at Mosinee in 1849, a very capable and faithful man, was in the employ of the various Deſſert firms for more than forty years, until his death a few years ſince. This inſtance is one of many. Mr. Deſſert's employes ſtaid with him. A few years back there were fifteen or eighteen men who had been employed there for more than twenty years. In several cases the ſons of employes grew to manhood and followed

their fathers in the service of the company.

Early in the seventies the Wisconsin Valley railroad was extended to Mosinee and Mr. Dessert could "stay at home and attend to his business" without looking for outside markets.

When the Wisconsin Valley railroad, now the Wisconsin Valley division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road had reached Grand Rapids, the people of Wausau, Mosinee and other places farther up the Wisconsin river, were very anxious to have it extended. They met the promoters of the enterprise, who were Dubuque people, at Stevens Point, and endeavored to persuade them to build further. The railroad men contended that it would "break their backs" to push into what was then a comparative wilderness, and no one believed the railroad would pay, but they needed it, so Mr. Dessert, with

other lumbermen and pine land owners subscribed for stock and urged their respective towns to subscribe, in order to get a railroad. No one foresaw the future of the Wisconsin River Valley or dreamed of the substantial agricultural development Marathon County has since realized. No one had thought of the possibilities of logging by railroad, which has since played so large a part in clearing northern Wisconsin of timber.

In the early days of logging by railroad the Desserts constructed about twelve miles of road and used it, in conjunction with about two miles of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul track, to reach a thirteen thousand acre tract of timber east of Mosinee. The land lying east of the railroad still has upon it considerable hardwood and hemlock and they have also kept a few small tracts of standing pine.

Judson M. Smith, the contractor for

building the Wisconsin Valley road, who afterwards settled in Wausau, was in great measure responsible for the settlement of Marathon county by enterprising German farmers. August Kickbusch of Wausau also aided most substantially in this work, visiting Germany and personally inducing some of the first settlers to come to the county. Mr. Dessert has the highest opinion of the character of the German settlers. He never had to worry about his money when he let a German have lumber on credit.

REMINISCENCES AND INCIDENTS OF EARLY DAYS

HE paper money of the Western state banks was about the only currency in circulation, in 1855, and the bills of one state would be refused, across the line, in the adjoining state. The only gold seen in the West was the English sovereign, worth only about four dollars and eighty cents, but a sovereign passed for five dollars. The ten dollar gold piece was very rarely seen.

In the paper money days of 1855 and 1856 men thought themselves rich, but the "wildcat" money was worthless when the panic of 1857 came upon them. No one could tell over night what his money

was worth. Even the leading bank, at St. Louis, considered so strong that the United States land officers accepted its bills for land entries when they declined every other kind of paper and everything but gold, failed with the rest in 1857.

In early days when the Wisconsin lumbermen went down the river with rafts of lumber they returned by steamboat to Galena. One line of packets brought them up as far as Keokuk, which was at the foot of the lower rapids of the Mississippi, and another brought them from the rapids to Galena. Reaching Galena a number of lumbermen would join and hire a team to take them back to the upper Wisconsin, or, as often happened, they walked, for this was before the days of stages. Mr. Dessert in all those pioneer times never carried a pistol and was never molested. "Men were better in

those early days. No one was ever robbed". Even when returning from the lower river, after paying off his men, when he carried large sums of money in his belt, and it was, of course, known that he had been to market with lumber, he frequently travelled on foot with two or three strangers, but no robbery was ever attempted. It was customary for him to travel from Mosinee to Stevens Point and back with money on his person but he was never disturbed. Robberies seldom occurred anywhere in the new country.

Mr. Dessert's experience covers all of the developments of lumbering from the day of the old hand-worked rip saw, to the latest, most highly improved steam fed, band saws, the entire progress of the last half of the wonderful nineteenth century.

When he first landed at La Pointe

such lumber as they used about the trading post was sawed by hand. A log was first hewn on two sides, leaving it about twelve inches thick. It was then chalk marked on one side for inch boards. This marking was done with a chalked cord, stretched taut, and snapped against the timber. A platform was built overhanging a bank, and the end of the log laid upon it so the saw would have a clear field, and it was split into boards, one man working the upper end of the saw from the platform and another standing below, his eyes protected from the sawdust, working at the lower handle.

Moore's Mill at Little Bull Falls, had two old fashioned "sash saws," an improvement upon the muley saw, the saw being hung in a frame to give stiffness, the frame moving up and down with the saw. This mill cut about eight thousand feet of lumber a day. Later

Moore added another pair of "sash saws," doubling the capacity.

Mr. Dessert, who had meanwhile become sole owner of the mill, put in the first rotary saw in 1867, and the first double rotary saw in 1873, increasing the mill's capacity to twenty thousand per day. In 1888 when the mill was rebuilt and band saws introduced, the capacity was increased to one hundred thousand feet of lumber in ten hours, and two hundred thousand in twenty-four hours. The new mill was at first supplied with a patent cog feed for the carriages. Later this was replaced with a steel cable, which was an improvement, and at last, steam feed was introduced.

Notwithstanding the excellent water power which had been the earlier motive power, it was finally found profitable to run a considerable portion of the mill by steam, using the mill refuse for fuel.

Mr. Dessert's experience in milling also comprehends the history of the lumber markets of the middle west for fifty years. When he began work for Moore, he was obliged to take lumber for his wages. He also purchased some, in 1847, and uniting his with that of another workman, they ran this fleet to St. Louis, selling at fourteen dollars per thousand. This good price "gave great encouragement," but the lumber business of the pioneer was "not all sweetness." In 1858 he ran another raft to St. Louis, and after selling a small portion of it by "begging around" and peddling it out in small lots, at eight dollars and fifty cents per thousand, he was left with most of it on his hands. After staying in St. Louis all winter, he finally rented a lot, pulled the lumber out of the water and piled it, and leaving it in charge of a local representative, returned to Mosinee. He finally sold what was

left, four years later, in 1862 at ten dollars per thousand, to be paid in three, six and nine months, without interest.

In Moore's days considerable lumber was sold at the "tail of the mill," to farmers, who came long distances to exchange supplies for building material. A number of Germans from German settlements near Freeport and Belvidere, Illinois, used to come up, regularly, in winter, on runners, with supplies of pork, flour and groceries, and contract for lumber in exchange at the rate of five dollars a thousand. Moore sometimes sold at as low a price as four dollars, for cash, for money was scarce, and sacrifices had to be made to get it. The winter roads on the snow and ice, were about the only ones practicable for getting in and out of the country. The roads were so bad that teaming was often possible, even in summer, only with sleds drawn by oxen.

Henry Merrill, an early settler at Fort Winnebago, had advanced money to Moore to assist him in the erection of his mill and was paid about six hundred thousand feet of lumber for his interest. When Dessert bought into the mill, he assumed a portion of this and made the final settlements with Merrill.

An interesting incident of early lumbering, recalled by Mr. Dessert, occurred in 1852. The agent of the United States land office came from Green Bay to Fort Winnebago to meet the lumbermen of the Wisconsin river and arrange for recompense to the government for the timber then being cut. The country had not then been surveyed, except in a few places, close to the main streams, so government land could not be purchased. It was finally agreed with the government representative that the lumbermen running the river should pay a certain price per

thousand, (Mr. Dessert does not remember the amount) to be assessed as they passed the Kilbourn rapids—the Dalles. A note was given to the government as a guarantee for the fulfillment of this agreement. The note was for thirty-five hundred dollars and was signed, jointly, by all the lumbermen present, and the tolls to be paid were to apply in its extinguishment. Henry Cate, then Mr. Dessert's partner, attended this meeting and signed this note for the firm. Later it developed that the agent of the government had been dishonest and had never applied the tolls he collected upon the note. Many years afterward, when most of the signers had dissappeared or died, Mr. Dessert was sued for the whole amount, principal and interest, nearly ten thousand dollars in all. Effort had been made to induce him to settle, which he stoutly declined, and the United

States court finally relieved him from the obligation.

A part of the agreement with the government agent was that as fast as the lands were surveyed and opened for sale, the lumbermen should be permitted to purchase those upon which they had been cutting timber.

In June, 1881, there was a freshet on the Wisconsin river which took out an early building that had been used as a tannery, a little grist mill of early date, which had been operated in connection with the saw mill, and the office. It also broke the booms and swept away the logs. The total damage aggregated about fifty thousand dollars and was a severe blow. Sand was washed into the mill and machinery and much time was required to clean up and rebuild. It took until late in September to get ready for sawing again. Among other things the water

which had furnished power for the mill was cut off by a deposit of sand, so a channel had to be dug for a new mill race.

When Mr. Dessert saw the office in danger he took the principal books and some of the more valuable papers from the safe, and none too soon, for the safe was carried some distance down the river before the office collapsed. It was finally found by feeling around on the river bottom with pike poles, and recovered by hauling it up with ropes onto a flat boat. Everything in it was soaked and had to be carefully spread out in an upper room in his house to dry, but nothing was lost.

Mrs. Thompson says that throughout all the excitement of this experience, which for a time threatened complete destruction to the entire plant, her father was the coolest and calmest individual in the village. This was characteristic.

He never got excited in an emergency and never worried about things that were beyond his control.

In 1849 cholera was prevalent along the Mississippi. Mr. Dessert tied up a raft at Alton, Illinois, because of the cholera scare at St. Louis, but failing to find a purchaser, went on to St. Louis and sold it. Conditions were very bad there. People were greatly alarmed and were getting away on the steamboats whenever they could do so.

Mr. Dessert and Benjamin Single of Wausau took a crowded boat for home. When they reached Alton, twenty-five miles above St. Louis, a corpse was put on the bank, and at Burlington another, and at Galena a third. He and Single talked the matter over and agreed to stick together and take care of one another if either should be sick. Single got frightened after the second man died and

wanted to go ashore and travel on foot. Mr. Dessert insisted that they remain on the boat, arguing that no one would admit them to a house and that they were better off where they were. They, therefore, remained on the boat and went through to Galena. There they took a room, with two beds, at the hotel. In the night Mr. Single aroused his companion, saying he was attacked with the cholera and must find a doctor. They went out in search of a physician of whom they knew, and finding his house awakened him. The doctor stuck his head out of the window and enquired what was wanted. When Single told him he was ill with cholera the doctor replied he was very imprudent to be out, if that were so. He gave him some medicine and Mr. Single soon recovered. Fortunately the attack was not severe, not being accompanied by cramps. Most of those who died

had violent cramps and death came suddenly. The condition of alarm throughout the country was very serious and exciting.

In the early days there were very few fish in the Wisconsin river besides suckers and the few small streams of the neighborhood contained no trout. Game, too, was scarce and the Chippewa Indians who came every spring, down through the Manitowish lakes into the headwaters of the Wisconsin, thence down the river, passed Mosinee on their way to the Black river country, where hunting was better and blueberries were plenty. They returned in the fall in time to gather the wild rice of the northern lakes for their winter food. They used to stop along the Wisconsin to make maple sugar when coming down on these annual pilgrimages.

Descriptions of Indian sugar are not altogether appetizing. They often cooked

meat in maple sap, and it was not surprising to find a squirrel's head or a piece of meat imbedded in the sugar.

When it was determined to incorporate the town in 1856, the subject of a name caused much discussion. Henry Cate wanted to name it after some eastern town of his acquaintance, but Mr. Dessert suggested that it would be better to name it for the Chippewa chief who held sway in that part of the new state. His suggestion prevailed and Mosinee became the name of the township and village.

In 1855 Mr. Dessert went to Boston from St. Louis to buy supplies. He traveled by way of the Ohio river to Pittsburg. The following year he went to Boston again but after that his supplies were bought in Chicago. The supplies he bought in Boston came out by way of the lakes and were taken up Wolf river to Gill's Landing, and

were hauled to Mosinee by team.

He tells of making a trip with Mrs. Dessert from Waukesha to Mosinee, by way of Oshkosh. From there they went by water to Gill's Landing, then by stage to Waupaca where they hired a team to drive them to Plover. Just before reaching Plover the team gave out and they had to walk several miles.

THE
JOSEPH DESSERT LUMBER COMPANY
MILL 1900

JOSEPH DESSERT AND HIS NEIGHBORS

N October 27, 1894, was celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of Joseph Dessert's settlement at "Little Bull Falls". An event which has become a part of the history of Mosinee.

Mr. Dessert's anniversary fell on Saturday, October 20, but the day found him ill in bed and the celebration had to be postponed until October 27. Then, although still sick, he insisted that there should be no more postponements and arose and took part in the day's festivities, not without some anxiety on the part of his family, but no ill effects resulted.

The Joseph Dessert Lumber Company were the hosts of the occasion. All the residents of Mosinee, men, women and children, and old employes of the firm and other country people of the neighborhood, were feasted and entertained until they had a surfeit. It was estimated that nearly eight hundred people were served with dinner, including the children for whom a seperate table was especially provided.

The Central Wisconsin of Wausau had an account of the affair, from which the following is condensed:

The day was bright and beautiful. The public buildings and private residences were all gaily decorated with flags and bunting and the streets as well as the people wore a festal air. At 11:30 oclock a. m., the common council, and school children formed in procession and headed by Dana's third regiment band, marched to Mr. Dessert's

residence where he was taken in charge and escorted to the dining room of the mill boarding house. Here a feast was spread for one hundred and fifty of the principal guests and here the exercises took place.

A song written for the occasion was sung by the children. Mr. Dessert, who carried a gold headed cane which had been presented to him by his neighbors the night before, inscribed, "Presented to Joseph Dessert by his friends; fifty years residence in Mosinee", then arose and in a very affecting little speech thanked the people for the good will manifested in the presentation of the gift. Judge George W. Cate of Stevens Point, whose brother was an early partner of Mr. Dessert, at Mosinee, made a speech filled with kindly and appreciative expressions which were enthusiastically applauded by the friends assembled.

The dinner, in which Mrs. George Bellis of Wausau assisted, was bountiful and the tables were spread several times before the multitude was served. A special table was set for the children in the band room, over which Mrs. Louis Dessert presided.

Dancing was begun in the afternoon and lasted well into the night. Kennedy's string band and Dana's orchestra furnished the music, and Temple Hall as well as the boarding house, was utilized.

The day was given up to feasting and merry-making and as the Central Wisconsin puts it, "if all did not have an enjoyable time it was not the fault of the Dessert Lumber Company who certainly left no stone unturned to make the day a success."

It was a memorable day for all the participants and was a demonstration of the unaffected good will and neighborly

kindness which always distinguished Mr. Dessert's intercourse with his employes and towns people.

The following account of the opening of the library at Mosinee, was contributed at the request of the compiler of this volume, by Mr. Frank A. Hutchins, at the time secretary of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. Mr. Hutchins was greatly impressed by the occassion he describes, and is able to speak of Mr. Dessert with the knowledge and sincerity of an appreciative friend. Mr. Dessert sent to Mr. Hutchins, unsolicited, the first contribution received for the free traveling libraries and Mr. Hutchins says, "You will never know how it cheered me".

"One of my most pleasant memories is that of a few days spent in Mosinee in February, 1899, when the Dessert Library was opened to the public. The days included the most bitter weather

of a winter memorial for its severity.

The mill was closed for two or three days because of the intense cold and I met many of the mill hands and their neighbors. I was interested in learning their attitude towards the library as it was the first institution of its kind in Wisconsin in so small a village. The mass of the villagers had only a vague idea of the purpose of the library and few of them expected to be aided in any way by it but they knew that Mr. Dessert meant to do them a kindness and out of respect for him they determined to show their appreciation of his generosity. Those whom I met vied with each other in recounting simple stories of his kindly, democratic ways and telling incidents of his helpfulness and sympathy but I could still get glimpses of the feeling that he was spending a large sum of money for something beyond their needs.

"The revelation came on the day of the opening and it was a delight to watch its effect.

"The first to come to the attractive room were the smaller children and as they saw a low table covered with copies of St. Nicholas and Babyland and the Youth's Companion, they hurried to it with eager cries of delight and crowded into the low chairs with croons of pleasure.

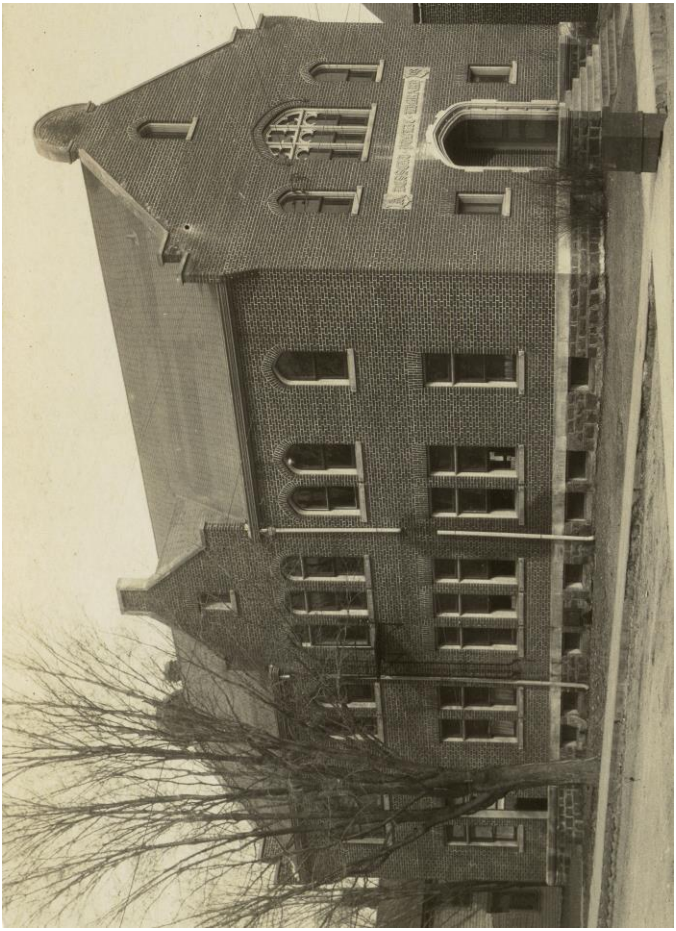
"The library had won the children and the children won the parents.

"In spite of the cold the public hall in the building was crowded at the evening exercises and afterward when the people filled the library room the children, with a sudden impulse began to crowd about Mr. Dessert and each, as he shook hands with his benefactor, had the same simple phrase, 'I thank you, Mr. Dessert.'

"I felt then, as I feel now, that it

was worth years of privation and toil to have worthily won such sincere respect and love as these little ones gave to this friend. Such trust is not the growth of a day and cannot be purchased with a library. It comes only when, year by year, unvarying kindness and justice and the personality of the man have made him loved and venerated in the homes. From childhood each boy and girl had known him for their friend and this new, undreamed of pleasure, with its prophecies of amusement, knowledge, inspiration, was only another evidence of the broad sympathy and kindness of the man.

"The parents and the older children were inspired by what they saw and felt, and the library for the people and of the people came to its own. But we all knew that it was not the intrinsic merit of the gift but the giver which made the gift so dear.



Joseph Dessert Public Library
circa 1912

"Such impulses and such moments as these villagers then had are rare and in the work-a-day world they will not keep us permanently on the heights but all are better for them. They broaden the outlook and quicken the sympathies. For some of the younger, the few who become leaders, these rare occasions give new and determining inspirations.

"I recall, too, in this connection, a striking instance of the survival of the old neighborly feeling which obtained among the pioneers.

"Some months before the dedication Mr. Dessert had installed a plant to light his mill and shops by electricity. He had also wired the library building.

"Such plants were then comparatively new in the Wisconsin Valley and were very rare in the villages. Mr. Dessert had expected to give his neighbors a treat by showing them the hall and library

attractively lighted. Unfortunatety the dynamo was injured the day before that set for the opening and the manufacturers could not replace the broken part in time for the exercises. The Stewarts in Wausau heard of the accident and the night before the meeting they loaded the dynamo used in their mills upon a sled and volunteers from their mills, for the chance to do Mr. Dessert a kindness, drove with it thirteen miles, when the thermometer stood at thirty-eight degrees below zero. The dynamo came safely, and was put in place promptly, and the halls were brilliantly lighted, the dynamo promptly returned and the incident was taken as a matter of course. The Stewarts and their men had simply done an old, good neighbor a kindness in the same hearty manner and with the same pleasure that each had shown as giver and receiver many times before.

"I frequently recall, with a pleasure that does not cease, the hours spent with Mr. Dessert by the fire-place when he told me of the early days in Wisconsin. He told the story so simply, dwelling on the kindnesses of others and not his own, with such warm, catholic sympathy for his fellows, and such a broad outlook that I have wished many times that his life story could be told in the spirit that he would use if he were caught unawares.

"While his modesty must be an unceasing pleasure to his friends, its charm can only be known to them. A biography of so kindly and simple a nature, like a good photograph, will only reveal the spirit of the man to those who have had the pleasure of intimate companionship. But even so, we are all the better for such lives and it is most fortunate that

we may have in enduring form the life story of a man who won success by the homely virtues and kept a broad, warm sympathy for his fellows through a long life".

Madison,
October 29, 1906

MARY ELIZABETH SANFORD

From a Daguerreotype taken at Waukesha Wisconsin
in 1854

JOSEPH DESSERT

From a Daguerreotype taken at St. Louis, Missouri in 1846

FAMILY HISTORY

Joseph Dessert married, January 29, 1862, at Waukesha, Mary Elizabeth Sanford, who was born in Butternuts, Otsego county, New York, September 25, 1836. She died at Mosinee July 1, 1881. At the time of their marriage Mrs. Dessert's father, Mr. Sanford, was a farmer, near Waukesha, and two families of the neighborhood, the Wintons and the Tillsons were related to them. They were all of New England origin. Mrs. Dessert's parents later moved to Mosinee, where both spent their last days.

Joseph Dessert and Mary Elizabeth Sanford had children:

Marion Levinna, born August 22, 1863, died Sept. 16, 1863.

Stella Luella, born November 11, 1865, married at Mosinee, March 1, 1888, Henry M. Thompson, and had:

Marion Elizabeth, born February 24, 1893, died April 5, 1893.

Edith Dessert, born May 12, 1894.

GENEALOGICAL

GENEALOGICAL

HE genealogy of the Dessert, Deserre or de Cert family, which follows, was furnished by a relative in Canada, and is printed as it was written, in the Canadian style. The various changes in spelling the name are not unusual. The following explanation of family names, which will help to a clearer understanding of some of their peculiarities, is quoted from the Abbé Tanguay, author of the genealogy of the French Canadian families.

"The liberal translation of the word 'dit' so often met with in the names of French-Canadian families is 'said', and it means 'also called', or 'also known

by the name of', or, surnamed, or alias. In early years, through an old habit prevalent in Canadian families, the children were designated by the father's given name, and very often that name remained and formed a part of the family name.

"Example: Tugal Cottin's children were commonly called the young Tugals; later on they were called Joseph or Peter Cottin-dit-Dugal; and still later, their children were only called Dugal. In the same manner Silvain Vox was ancestor of the Syvain families.

"The name of the place, or a title, also often became, with the word 'dit', added, a part of a family name.

"Example: Our ancestor Antoine's wife, Marie Catherine Crevier-dit-Bellerive, was the daughter of Nicolas Crevier, Sieur de Bellerive. (Sieur was then a certain title and Bellerive is the name of a place.) He was called

Crevier de Bellerive and his children were called Crevier-dit-Bellerive.

"There are many instances of family names which have been so altered and are now-a-days corrected, or, I may say returned to. An instance is the Vanasse family of Maskinonge. One of the boys, Joseph, worked for the Joseph Dessert Lumber Company, at Mosinee. At Maskinonge this Joseph Vanasse was always called Joseph Vital; his father was Ovide Vital-dit-Vanasse, his grandfather was Pierre Vital-dit-Vanasse, and this Pierre's father was Vital Vanasse. The members of that family have now dropped the surname Vital, and are called simply Vanasse".

Antoine Desserre. Bapt. in 1637, came to Canada and was captain of militia at Pointe-aux-Trembles near Quebec. Was married at Chateau-Richer, near Quebec, Oct. 2, 1674 to *Mathurine Bellanger, widow of Jean Mathieu, born in 1652. He died Nov. 1, 1687 at Pte.-aux-Trembles, leaving the following children:

Michel, bapt. Aug. 15, 1675; married June 22, 1702, at Sorel, to Marie Catherine Crevier, dit Bellerive; buried Sept. 9, 1712 at Three Rivers. He was our ancestor.

Antoine, bapt. Feb. 7, 1677, at Quebec.

NOTE:—Antoine, Francois, and Jean-Baptiste, must have left the country when young, for Father Tanguay, who has searched all the records, found no trace of them.

*Mathurine Bellanger, married Francois Gregoire, Apr. 16, 1688.

Francois, bapt. Sept. 18, 1678 at Quebec.

Madeleine, bapt. Oct. 1, 1680, at Pte.-aux-Trembles.

Marie-Angelique, bapt. Apr. 2, 1683.

Marie-Francoise, bapt. Sept. 28, 1684.

Jean Baptiste, bapt. Oct. 5, 1686.

Michel Deserre. Son of Antoine Desserre and Mathurine Bellanger, bapt. Aug. 15, 1675, moved to Maskinonge, while there was married, June 22, 1702, to *Marie Catherine Crevier, dit Bellerive, daughter of Nicolas Crevier, dit B. of Cap de la Madeleine (near Three Rivers). He was buried Sept. 9, 1712, leaving the following children:

*Marie Catherine Crevier married a second time to a Mr. Tetard Papineau dit Forville of St. Francois du Lac and had two children. Joseph and Madeleine.

Marguerite, bapt. Nov. 20, 1706, at Three Rivers, there being no church at Maskinonge at that time.

Michel, bapt. May 1, 1710, at Three Rivers; married Aug. 17, 1738, to Marie Anne Truillier Lacombe; buried May 14, 1793.

Ursule, bapt. June 7, 1711, at Three Rivers; buried Nov. 15, 1744, at Cap de la Madeleine.

Marie Catherine, bapt. Jan. 5, 1713, at Three Rivers; married June 16, 1748, to J. Bte. Faucher, at Pte.-aux-Trembles, Quebec. Buried Dec. 29, 1766.

Michel Deserre. Son of Michel Deserre and Marie Catherine Crevier dit Bellerive, bapt. May 1, 1710, at Three Rivers; married Aug. 17, 1738, to Marie Anne Truillier La Combe, daughter of Jean Truillier dit La Combe, baker in the service of "His Majesty" in

the city of Three Rivers. He was buried at Maskinonge, May 14, 1793, leaving the following children:

Marie Madeleine, bapt. June 18, 1741; buried Aug. 14, 1742.

Amable, bapt. married in 1768 to Genevieve Gaucher, twenty years old, daughter of Alexis Lemire dit Gaucher of Maskinonge; buried May 4, 1812, at the age of 72 or 73 years.

Charlotte, bapt. married Alexis Lemire dit Gaucher, brother-in-law of Amabel; buried Oct. 19, 1829, at the age of 86 years.

Angelique, bapt. Nov. 3, 1748, married to Gabriel Lemire Gouneville of Maskinonge, buried Nov. 14, 1831, at 84 years.

Joseph, bapt. June 7, (born May 25, 1750), married in July, 1773, to Marie Anne Marchand; buried

March 31, 1792, at Maskinonge, aged 42 years.

Genevieve, married to Charles Dupuis of Maskinonge, buried June 1, 1793, at Maskinonge, aged about 43 years.

Jean (nothing on record).

Jean Marie, bapt. Aug. 11, 1755, married to Genevieve Marchand.

Joseph de Cert, son of Michel de Cert, farmer residing at Maskinonge and of Marie Anne Truillier, bapt. June 7, (born May 25) 1750, at Maskinonge; married in July, 1773, to Marie Anne Marchand, (18 years old) daughter of Pierre Marchand and Gertrude Frigon of the Chenal du Nord; buried March 31, 1792, at Maskinonge, leaving the following children:

Marianne, bapt. May 30, 1774; was married to Francois Bastien dit Vanasse; buried May 9, 1821.

Marie Josephte, bapt. June 16, 1775; married Jacques Pelland (Martin dit Pelland).

*Pierre, bapt. married Aug. 11, 1805, to Josephte Hudon dit Beaulieu; buried Sept. 6, 1830 at Maskinonge, aged 54 years.

Marie Angelique, bapt. Aug. 5, 1776; married Antoine Bruneau of Maskinonge; buried Jan, 14, 1824.

Marie Josephte, bapt. Dec 21, 1778.

Madeleine, bapt. Apr. 1781; buried March 6, 1782.

Joseph, bapt. May 14, 1783, buried June 14, 1784.

Madeleine, bapt. July 31, 1784, married to Pierre Beaugrand dit Champagne of Berthier.

Elizabeth, bapt. Feb. 21, 1786; buried May 18, 1786.

*Pierre, our ancestor, was the only boy who married. The others all died young.

Marie Elizabeth, bapt. Mar. 7, 1787.

Joseph, bapt. Nov. 17, 1788, buried Feb. 4, 1791.

Rose, bapt. May 5, 1790; buried Dec. 2, 1790.

Marguerite, bapt. Apr. 26, 1791.

Jean Baptiste (posthume) bapt. Apr. 6, 1792; buried June 24, 1792.

Pierre Desert, son of Joseph Desert and Marie Anne Marchand of Maskinonge. Bapt. married Aug. 11, 1805, to Josephte Hudon dit Beaulieu, daughter of Nicolas Bazile Hudon dit Beaulieu and Josephte Mannville, also of Maskinonge, buried Sept. 6, 1830 at the age of 54 years at Maskinonge, leaving the following children:

Pierre, bapt. Apr. 23, 1806;

married in Aug. 1825, to Euphemie Dupuis.

Marie Anne, bapt. Feb. 1, 1808; married Feb. 27, 1832, to Joseph Thibodeau.

Francois, bapt. March 5, 1809; married July 28, 1840 to Marie Anne Vermette.

Antoine, bapt. Feb. 1, 1811; married Jan. 25, 1842, to Edvige Ratelle, daughter of Pierre Ratelle.

Jean, bapt. married to Julie Rinfred.

Melanie, bapt. Nov. 10, 1814; married to Dolphis Martin.

Henrelie, bapt. Jan. 1, 1817.

Joseph, bapt. Jan. 8, 1819, married 1862 to Mary Elizabeth Sanford.

Louis Docithe, bapt. March 18, 1821.

Louis Eucher, bapt. under the name of Ulgere, 1823, married Feb. 3, 1852, to Esther Landry.

Mary Bazilisse, bapt. Dec. 7; 1826; married Nov. 23, 1847, to Louis Landry.

Louis Heliodore, bapt. July 27, 1830; buried April 17, 1831.

JOSEPH DESSERT

1904