

body, for your acceptance, to be disposed of in such manner as your wisdom may suggest.

The slab is about two and a half feet in length, and a little over one and a half in breadth, and two inches in thickness.

According to a report made in 1855, Minnesota was one of two territories which had "contributed a block of marble or stone, inscribed with its arms or some suitable inscription or device" to be built into the Washington Monument. In addition, every state and many foreign nations had sent stones.

The Indians looked upon the pipestone quarry as sacred ground and they objected to having the whites visit it. Until 1836 only a few traders had seen it. In that year George Catlin, the famous artist, made his way to the quarry despite the protests of the Indians, and he wrote the first account of it. This is published in Catlin's *Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs, and Condition of the North American Indians*, 2: 166-176 (London and New York, 1841). A brief account of Catlin's Minnesota visit appears in Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota*, 1: 119-121. Dr. Folwell records that "A specimen of the red pipestone was sent by Catlin to a Boston chemist, who after analysis pronounced it to be a new mineral compound and gave it the name 'catlinite.'" By this name it still is known.

B. L. H.

ALEXANDER FARIBAULT

Can you give me some information about the career of Alexander Faribault, in whose honor the city of Faribault was named?¹

According to the manuscript census schedules of Minnesota for the year 1850 Alexander Faribault was at the time forty-four years of age and a native of Minnesota. According to a manuscript sketch of the founders of the city of Faribault

¹ This inquiry was received shortly before the celebration at Faribault in July, 1926, of the centennial of the founding of the city. See *ante*, 7: 373.

by Stephen Jewett, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society, Faribault was born at Prairie du Chien and the exact date was June 22, 1806. He was the son of a famous French-Canadian fur-trader, Jean Baptiste Faribault, who was born in Berthier, Canada, in 1774. Jean Baptiste Faribault was an employee, in the regions now known as Iowa and Minnesota, of the Northwest Company, a large Canadian fur company. Sometime after 1816, probably in 1818, he entered the employ of the American Fur Company and settled at Mendota. For many years he traded on the Minnesota River, then known as the St. Peter's, and when his son, Alexander, was ready to earn his own livelihood, he too became a clerk of the American Fur Company.

Just when Alexander Faribault began his trading operations is uncertain, but on October 4, 1822, he was granted a license to trade on the St. Peter's River. This may have been his first license, as no reference to an earlier one has been found. In the papers of Alexis Bailly, the chief agent of the American Fur Company at the mouth of the St. Peter's, is a bond for one thousand dollars, dated November 14, 1825, which was given by Alexander "Farribault" and Alexis Bailly for a license to Faribault to trade with the Sioux at the forks of the Des Moines River. On October 6 of the following year another document in the same collection shows him as engaging himself to Alexis Bailly as clerk for a year at Traverse des Sioux. Faribault seems to have visited the site of the future city of Faribault during that winter's operations. By 1828, however, he was already located on the Cannon River, his home for many years. In the Bailly Papers is an invoice of merchandise "delivered Alex^r Farribault for the Cannon River Adventure on the Bois Plumé for ac[coun]t & Risk of Bailly Outfit 1828." This list shows the stock of what was probably the first store in the vicinity of the present city of Faribault. It consisted of strouds (a kind of cloth), blankets, cartouche knives, scalpers, guns, black silk handkerchiefs, earbobs, arm bands, tomahawks, garters, combs, vermilion paint, needles,

wampum, mock garnets, flour, pork, corn, powder, lead, candles, whiskey, and other articles, amounting in all to \$138.08. In the following year his name appears in a list of licenses, where he is recorded as securing permission to trade at the Bois Plumé, on Cannon River, having given bonds for ten thousand dollars and with a capital of four thousand dollars. Evidently he had found his venture of the previous year quite remunerative.

That Faribault spoke English with a marked French flavor is apparent from the Gallicisms in the following letter to Henry H. Sibley, now in the Sibley Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. The letter also reveals some of the problems of Faribault as a trader.

CANON RIVER 30 De^b 1836

DEAR SIR

I am vary sorrow to write you that my Inden have been to war on the *Foxes*. thay were thirty seven of them, three of them have been kild, one wanded.

they have made now hunt a tall I am fride that I will make noting this year.

the *Black Eagle*, has been here and now he is gone to see you I hope you will treet him well Let him have 4 bushel of Corn 1 kag of flower he has give me som fur.

you may keep one of my Men for I Cannot afford to keep three man here. keep *Gamel* for the others I can feed with Corn.

I am your Ob^t Servnt

ALEX FARIBAULT

Jewett states that Faribault had fur posts on Lake Sakata, on the present site of Morristown, and at a point between Wells and Cannon lakes. He then adds:

In 1851, Mr. Faribault was one of the official interpreters at the St. Peter (Traverse-des-Sioux) treaty, when the Indians relinquished to the government 45,000 square miles, lying on the western side of the Mississippi. . . . He also reported Little Crow's speech at the second treaty of 1851 at Pilot Knob, near Mendota. He was also a member of the legislature from the Seventh district in 1851 and a witness with Sibley and others, before the United States court, in charges of fraud in Indian affairs. He was among the first to offer inducements to Dr. Breck and to Bishop Whipple to whom he gave ten acres of land for their

schools, contributing liberally in money and lands afterwards. . . .

Straight River Mills were commenced by Mr. Faribault in 1858, and the LeCroix [s] came from Montreal to superintend the construction, also the mill on Cannon river, known as the "Polar Star Mills," together with the mill on Straight river near Fourteenth street.

As early as 1837, Mr. Faribault visited Washington with Major Taliaferro, General Sibley and a delegation of Indians to conduct treaty negotiations with the government. He was one of the memorialists to congress in connection with the organization of Minnesota territory, and a charter member of the Minnesota Historical society. With General Sibley he was a principal stockholder in the Borup and Oakes bank, and was associated with General Sibley and William R. Marshall in organizing a bank in St. Paul in 1855. He was with General Sibley in the Sioux war of 1862 until the release of the white captives at Camp Release, near the town of Montevideo, Minn., and was among the few fortunate ones who escaped alive at the Battle of Birch Coulee. . . .

After a long and eventful life, Alexander Faribault passed away, November 28, 1882, at Faribault, and was laid to rest in Calvary cemetery with his kindred.

G. L. N.



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