

132 St. Joseph Avenue,
Long Beach, Calif.

NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

My dear Mr. Sheldon,

I have a letter which you wrote to my sister Mrs. John Murray Jenkins, jr., on July 2, 1930, in which you tell her that our great-grandfather Jean Pierre Cabanne' who was in the Fur Trade and established the Post near where Omaha now is, had Indian children.

In fairness to his good name, a very good name, I want to tell you ^{it} that it was not he but his son Francois who had the Indian children.

I remember quite well the older members of the family talking about it.

Someone spoke of his being a "Squaw man" and of there being his Indian children "somewhere" on the plains". You see half a hundred years ago when I was a young girl the Indian Country of Jean Pierre Cabanne' 's day was very vague.

It seemed very romantic, like the play of The Squaw Man to my imagination.

It was said he married a Squaw - what kind of marriage, I don't know but he died unmarried, according to the family history.

I am sure Jeanne Pierre Cabanne' would have acknowledged any Indian children he might have had. He was that kind of man.

Bernard Pratte who for many years was Mr. Cabanne' 's partner in the American Fur Co. said "I leave my estate and the execution of this my last will and testament to my friend, Jeanne Pierre Cabanne', the most invariably honorable and honest man I have ever known".

Signed

Bernard Pratte.

Jean Pierre Cabanne' 's country home near St. Louis was the first brick "farm" house west of the Mississippi. The bricks were made on the place and I think the bricks of the trading post were of the same origin.

An old cousin of ours Madam Armand Peugnet, who was Virginia Sarpy and whose mother was Adelle Cabanne' was reared by Joseph Charles Cabanne' and spent much of her childhood at the old farm. The house, known as "~~the~~ The Pioneer Brick" was at the edge of the place which included what now is Forest Park. She used to tell us how the Indians came every autumn to visit ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Cabanne', how they would hear the tinkling of bells on the poles

on which the tepees were fastened and dragged by ponies.

How they stayed for two weeks ,camped in the sugar maple grove, which in now the Police corral in Forest Park. They traded their bead work and embroideries done in Porcupine quills.

They were Mr. Cabanne' 's guests and he gave them ~~meat~~ ^{corn} which they ground in his ~~mill~~ mill and at the end of the two weeks they folded their tepees and went back to the " Indian Country," - Nebraska.

Mr. Robert F. Gilder, ~~the~~ 's copy of the very interesting article published in the Sunday World-Herold, Omaha, August 13, 1905 states that " Definate information secured by Mr. Paine concerning the early history of the Cabanne' buildings shows that de Lisa had charge of the post for Cabanne' in ~~1817xxx19~~ 1819 and was "discharged for coming down the river before the time specified in his contract". Cabanne' took charge of the post in person about 1822 and he is known to have been there as late as 1828. A son was born to his in the latter year, who is still living in Nebrasla. Cabanne' remained in charge of the post until 1833, when he was obliged to abandon the country. "

~~xRe~~ Jean Pierre Cabanne' had two sons who were in the American Fur Trade;: John Charles , born November 4, 1806 and Francis, born January 22, 1816. From the time John Charles was grown, he spent much time at the trading posts. x It was he the Indians visited at the old Cabanne' home and ~~when he died~~ he was brought home to die by six Indians from the " Indian Country".

My father, Sarpy Carr Cabanne' use to tell of how one day when he was about six years old, he was playing in front of his uncle Jean Sarpy's house ,at sixth and Olive street where the Carleton Building now stands, when he saw a crowd of people coming up from the river. ~~He~~

He squirmed through the people, and saw a shutter (from the Steamboat) ~~on~~ carried by six Indians, on which a man was lying. To his surprise the man caught him to him and kissed him.

It was his father . Mr. Cabanne' was taken to his sister's house. She was the wife of Jean Berald Sarpy.

The Indians remained until Mr. Cabanne' ~~was~~ died, July 17, ~~184~~ 1854, when they filed down to the river and took a boat back to their Lodges.

There was always one on watch in the sick-room, standing silently.

My father said the reason he remembered it all so well was because he was afraid of the Indians who would point to his very light ~~hax~~ hair (which became black by the time he was grown) and grunt and he was terrified.

The Indians were said to have been Chiefs, but who knows?

Francis was left in charge of the post during his father's absence and later remained there many years. He married an Indian woman and had children. My sister, Mrs Jenkins sought ~~my~~ one of Francis' grandsons and talked to him. I have forgotten his name. He boasted of being ^{great} the grandson of Jean Pierre and the ~~xxxxxxfxx~~ grandson of Francis. So I think there must be some mistake as to the ~~parentage~~ statement that Jean Pierre had Indian ~~children~~ children. John Charles Cabanne' might have had an Indian wife- not that it matters, but it does n't seem in keeping with the traditions about old Jean Pierre, who was, evidently rather a remarkable man. But, in other times, other manners.

H

Jean Pierre Cabanne' was born ~~in~~ October 18, 1783, in Pau, in the Province of Bearne, in the Bas- Pyrenees, France.

He was the son of Count Jean Cabanne' and his wife Jeanne Dutilh, daughter of Baron Lucien Dutilh and sister of ~~Lucien~~ Dutilh, a Marshal of France.

He came to America on a Mission,. He stopped for a while in New Orleans and came to St. Louis in 1796. He did not intend staying but he fell in love with Julie Gratiot, daughter of Charles Gratiot and Victoire Chouteau and married her ~~in~~ April 8, 1797.

He became a partner in the Fur Trade with Bernard Pratt, Pierre Chouteau, jr., Bartholomew Berthold, Antoine Chenie, Jean Berald Sarpy, and Manuel Lisa.

~~The~~ The men named were all associated with the Fur Trade at various time, some through- partners' the life of the American Fur Trade, the ~~firms~~ names changing but little.

Frederick L. Billon in his "Annals of St. Louis in its Territorial Days", on page 32, ¹⁸⁰⁷ ~~quote~~ an article in the "Gazette" which says, "In the spring, Manuel Lisa, a trader, and George Drouillard, who had crossed the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, with Lewis and Clark, embarked in the Upper Missouri River fur trade with the ~~ix~~ Indians, with an outfit of \$16,000. Then in 1809, from the "Gazette" he again quotes, "Early in this year, William Clark, Manuel Lisa and ~~Sylvester L'Abadie~~ Sylvestre L'Abadie formed a copartnership under the title of the

American Fur Company, with a capital of \$27,000-\$9,000 each, to trade with the Indian tribes, in the upper Missouri to the Mountains. "

The " Gazette " was the Louisiana Gazette and afterwards became the St. Louis Republican. It was owned and edited by Joseph Charless, for whom Joseph ~~ex~~ Charless Cabanne', John Charles' son was named.

St. Marc

The Pierre ~~axaxix~~ Sarpy who was at the Trading Post with Jean Pierre Cabanne' was the son of Gregoire ~~xxxx~~ Berald Sarpy and married ~~Rx~~ Pelagie L'Abbadie the daughter of Vitoire Gratiot.~~xxx~~

It was very much a family affair- the Fur Company -as almost all the men except Manuel Lisa were related to each other.

I don't know whether or not this will interest you, and I hope you can make it all out as I am an amateur typest, as you can see, but bad as the typing is, it is better than my writing which is half a hundred years old and ~~ixy~~ dying of old age.

I have been studying histories, family papers, and genealogies fro two years, in order to bring the various lines of our family down or ~~x~~ up to the present generation. It has been most interesting and most exacting. That is why I I have gathered so much about the Cabanne branch.

Will you be kind enough to let me know if and where the Nebraska Histories can be bought?

Very truly,

Frances Cabanne' Saportas.

January 16 - 1934

Mrs. William F. Saportas.

P.S. My husband, Captain Saportas, U.S.A., and I were stationed at Fort Des Moines for four years, from 1925 to 1929, during the time when the Tablet was dedicated to my great-grandfather and I knew nothing about it? I am so sorry. It was wonderful of the D.A.R. to erect the marker.

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NOTICE.

The company existing under the name and firm of Cabanne & Co. was dissolved the first day of June inst. by mutual consent. All persons indebted to said company are requested to make immediate payment to J. P. Cabanne, Bd. Pratte, and P. Chouteau, Jr. who are duly authorised to settle all the business of the late company.

Cabanne,	Pr. Chouteau, Jr.
B. Berthold,	Manuel Lisa,
T. Hunt,	Bern Pratte.
St. Louis, 29th June, 1819--3t--61	

N. B. On Saturday next, the 3d July, at 6 o'clock P. M. will be sold at Public Auction, on the wharf, opposite Mr. P. Chouteau's lot, several boats, lately descended from the Missouri river, (the property of Cabanne & Co.)

(Missouri Gazette & Public Advertiser, Wednesday, June 30,
1819)