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DOES THIS SETTLE IT?

HAS THE SOURCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI BEEN POSITIVELY FIXED?

The Story of the Search for It During Two Centuries—Lake Itasca and the Little Stream That Nicollet Christened the "Cradled Achilles."

"I had stepped across the Mississippi river," said Dr. Cones. "It was easy, for the stream was only about 8 inches wide and 2 inches deep. I have seen the Father of Waters where he rises literally out of the ground and starts as an infant rivulet, destined to out the United States in twain with the mighty volume of his adult life."

"The story of the search for the source of the Mississippi reads like a romance. After the discovery of the upper river in 1673 by Joliet and Marquette, and the discovery of the falls of St. Anthony in 1820, by Hennepin, little more was known of the Father of Waters for nearly a century. In 1826 Captain Jonathan Carver ascended the stream as far as the mouth of Ram river. In 1798 the famous English astronomer and surveyor, David Thompson, in the service of the Northwest Company, reached Turtle Lake. This lake, which sends a tributary to the Mississippi, was for some time supposed to be the source.

"The first white man known to have visited the neighborhood of the actual source of the Mississippi was William Morrison, a fur trader, who was certainly at Lake Itasca in 1833 or 1834. He never published anything on the subject, and it is only very recently that his priority of discovery has been known.

"The next explorer of the sources of the river was Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike. He was the first American citizen to carry the flag of the United States into northern Minnesota. He was sent by the government to treat with the Indians and stop the sale of liquor in that region. Incidentally he purchased for \$250 and some whiskey a tract of land nine miles square, which included the present site of Minneapolis. Congress subsequently voted an additional payment to the Indians for this tract of \$2,000.

"Lieutenant Pike proceeded by boat to the vicinity of the present Little Falls in Morrison county, Minn. He got no farther with boats, and so continued his journey through the winter of 1805-6 on snowshoes and with sledges northward. He finally reached Leech lake. This lake he mistook for the source of the Mississippi, and his report on this subject was held to be correct for some years afterward.

"In 1820 the Hon. Lewis Cass, accompanied by Henry R. Schoolcraft, the historian, went on an exploring expedition up the Mississippi as far as Cass lake, so named at the time by Schoolcraft. In 1823 an Italian traveler, J. C. Beltrami, went over David Thompson's route to Turtle Lake and reported that lake to be the true source. Evidently, however, he heard from the Indians about Lake Itasca, for he mapped it with approximate accuracy, though he was never there and did not imagine that the Father of Waters sprang thence.

"Lake Itasca was rediscovered in 1832, when Schoolcraft, accompanied by Lieutenant Allen, United States army; Gen. Mr. Beardsley, and an American guide to the lake by a Chippewa Indian, known as Yellow Head. On this occasion Lake Itasca received its present name, which was made up of parts of the words Veritas Caput, signifying the 'true head' of the river. The Latin was used, for it ought to have been Veritas Caput. The lake had previously been known by the French name of Lac a la Biche, meaning Elk Lake. This was a translation of the Chippewa Omsishkos Sagagan.

"Schoolcraft's party made an examination of Lake Itasca, being satisfied that they had found the true source of the Mississippi. Not again until 1835 did any scientific man visit the spot. This was a Frenchman, J. N. Nicollet, who tried to ascertain the source of the sources of Lake Itasca. Exploring southward, he branched the springs from which the infant river takes its rise. It should be understood that the Mississippi runs from a distance directly northward for its course of 50 miles before turning about in a sort of S-shape and then striking southward. To the baby stream, before it enters Lake Itasca, Nicollet gave the poetic name of "Cradled Achilles." He established its course in connection with three small lakes, since named Upper, Middle and Lower Nicollet lakes—that is to say, he found that the little river ran through two of these small lakes and connected with the third. This explorer mapped the whole of the Itasca basin and determined the latitude, longitude and altitude with such accuracy that subsequent surveys have only confirmed and amplified his observations.

"The whole subject of which I have been speaking was befogged and thrown into dispute recently by a certain Captain Glazier, who, apparently for no other purpose than to advertise himself, published his alleged discovery of a new and true source of the Mississippi. By reducing the size of Lake Itasca, ignoring Nicollet's Cradled Achilles, magnifying a small side lake which he called Lake Glazier, and by stretching out the course of the latter, he produced a distorted map which actually imposed on the Royal Geographical society of Great Britain. Many of the errors thus originated have crept into the standard maps of the United States.

"It may be said that there is nothing further to be learned about the true source of the Father of Waters. As a matter of essential fact, the true Upper Mississippi is the river called the Missouri. The stream that flows from Lake Itasca is merely a tributary. I ought not to forget to mention that I walked along the bed of the stream termed by Captain Glazier the infant Mississippi for a considerable distance dry shod. The little brook was dried up. Late measurements have reduced the length of the Mississippi from 2,184 miles to 2,555 miles."

Notice is hereby given to the public by the undersigned that I do not allow animals to be buried on my premises at Roseburg, Oregon, or garbage dumped thereon or sand or gravel taken therefrom, unless the party taking sand or gravel first contract with me for the right to do so.

Trespassers will be prosecuted according to law. AARON ROSE, Roseburg, Oregon, March 17th, 1895.

Advertisement for 'The Monarch' bicycles, featuring an illustration of a bicycle and text describing its features like 'Light Weight and Rigidity' and 'Superior Material and Scientific Workmanship'.

Advertisement for 'Bald Heads!' featuring an illustration of a man's head and text for 'Skookum Root Hair Grower'.

Advertisement for 'AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST WEEKLY' with text about its content and subscription rates.

Advertisement for 'Job Printing' with text 'We get out a Poor class of Job Printing'.

Advertisement for 'The Family Features' with text about short stories and puzzles.

Advertisement for 'An Ideal Farm and Family Weekly' with text about farm features and subscription offers.

Large advertisement for 'P.P.P.' medicine, listing various ailments like 'PIMPLES, BLOTCHES AND OLD SORES' and 'CATARRH, MALARIA, KIDNEY TROUBLES'.

Advertisement for 'The Globe-Democrat' newspaper, featuring text about its size and subscription price of 'ONE DOLLAR A YEAR'.

Advertisement for 'Job Printing' with text 'We get out a Poor class of Job Printing'.

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Advertisement for 'Portland University' with text about its location, courses, and faculty.

Advertisement for 'Mining Application No. 54' with text about land claims and mining rights.

Advertisement for 'Job Printing' with text 'We get out a Poor class of Job Printing'.

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Advertisement for 'M. JOSEPHSON'S' New York Cash Store, Roseburg, Oregon.

Advertisement for 'Real Estate Bought and Sold' with text about farms and properties.

Advertisement for 'ROSE & CO.' with text about roller mills and flour.

Advertisement for 'The Northern Pacific Railroad' with text about train routes and services.

Advertisement for 'Job Printing' with text 'We get out a Poor class of Job Printing'.

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