

Illinois, and materials for a new vessel with which to descend the Mississippi. La Salle pushed on with fourteen men in canoes along the western shore of Lake Michigan, which he called Lake Dauphin. Battling with storms by day, threatened by hostile Indians in their night encampments, one of which perhaps was not far from the spot where we meet to-day, and almost at the point of starvation, they reached the mouth of the St. Joseph, and built Fort Miami. Thence they went by the Kankakee and the Illinois to Peoria Lake, where the Illinois Indians had winter quarters. With them La Salle formed cordial relations, and overcame their objections to his Mississippi voyage. But by this time he had become satisfied of the loss of the Griffin, of which nothing was ever heard beyond a rumor that the crew had sunk her, and fled to the woods with her cargo. In sadness of spirit he built just below the site of Peoria, Fort Crevecœur, or Broken Heart, in January 1686, and this was the beginning of the first permanent settlement of white men in what is now Illinois. Then sending two of his men with Hennepin to explore the upper Mississippi and discover the Falls of St. Anthony, and leaving Tonty to hold the fort and continue work on a vessel, which he saw half built, for his Mississippi voyage, he resolved to return to Fort Frontenac for fresh supplies, and especially an equipment for his Mississippi vessel.