

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN.

Latitude 46° 30' 10" North.

Longitude 84° 22' West of Greenwich.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Father Dablon named the mission established by him at the foot of the rapids in 1668, *Sainte Marie du Sault*, "Saint Mary's of the Rapids." *Saut*, is the modern spelling; "*Soo*," the popular pronunciation.

From the word *Saut*, "falls," or "rapids," the Ojibwa tribe obtained its French name, *Sauteux*. At first, those only whose home was at the "*Soo*" were called by that name; but by degrees it passed to all Indians of the same speech. The spelling "*Sauteur*," though very common, is wrong; this word is pronounced differently and denotes "a springer," or "a jumper."

The Indian name of the town or rapids is *Bawiting*, from *bawitig*, "rapids." This is an abbreviation of *bawitigoweya*, "the river is beaten into spray." (Some Indians pronounce it *bagwiting*, "where the river is shallow.")

The Ojibwa band residing at the *Saut* were called *Bawitigowininiwag*, or *Bawiting-dázhi-ininiwag*, "Men of the Rapids."

The Indians have no general name for St. Mary's River; but have for the lakes into which it expands. The mouth of the river is called *Giwidsoomaning*, "where they sail around a point."

Pawtucket, *Powatan*, *Parocatuck*, *Pawtuxet* (Ojibwa *Bawitigosing*, "at the little falls"), and many other similar names in different dialects, are of the same root as *bawitig*, and denote a fall or rapids. The root is *baw*, "to scatter by striking."