

large measure Whirlpool Rapids, thirty-six miles north of Merrill, answer to Perrot's description, but the Frenchman, after searching for Ménard and after getting lost himself, could not very well from Whirlpool Rapids have reached the Huron village at the headwaters of the Black River the second day after Ménard had gone astray.

Below Whirlpool Rapids, which are above any possible crossing place to the headwaters of the Black River, and above Mosinee, too far below any possible crossing place to the headwaters of the Black River, there is only one rapid, as distinguished from a fall, and that one rapid is in close proximity to the natural crossing place to the headwaters of the Black River; it is only a short distance above the old Indian trail leading to the west, and it minutely corresponds to the rapid described by Perrot. Its name is Bill Cross Rapids and it is situated five or six miles above the mouth of the Copper River, where the trail to the headwaters of the Black River left the Wisconsin River. [27]

The portage trail around Bill Cross Rapids is about twenty-five rods long. The trail runs now, as it probably did during the seventeenth century, along the west bank of the river, this bank being somewhat low. The east bank is high. Old residents of that region state that when they first saw Bill Cross Rapids, the surrounding country was heavily timbered with pine and hemlock. [28] In such a place a few steps in the wrong direction, steps which it is always easy to take, and one is literally swallowed up in the forest. Such undoubtedly was the fate of Ménard. He probably heard the shots fired by his companion, but being without a gun himself, he could not

[27] Bill Cross, whose name these rapids bear, was the son of a Chipewewa woman by a French father, and he lived for many years on an old Indian camping ground at the mouth of the New Wood River, less than a mile below the rapids. It is said that he was educated by the Jesuits at Green Bay. At last accounts he was an inmate of an insane asylum in Northern Wisconsin.

[28] The timber has since been cut, the banks burned over and second-growth timber has appeared.