

VALUABLE RELICS OF FORT CHARTRES.

Collection of Curios and Warlike Material Purchased by the Historical Society Expected to Arrive Soon.

The Historical Society expects to receive within a day or two, through its President, Edward G. Mason, a collection comprising all the relics which have been picked up in the last twenty-one years on the site of old Fort Chartres, Monroe County, Ill. The society has purchased the collection from the old German farmer, Ferdinand J. Wierschene, who has lived for a score of years within the lines of the old post.

The articles purchased by the society consist of bullet-molds, bullets, cannon-balls, bomb-shells, ornamental glass from the old chapel windows, French and English regimental buttons, immense wrought-iron construction spikes, and other things for which the finder knows no name.

Fort Chartres was built by the French in 1720. It was reconstructed of cut stone in 1737. The French occupied it until 1763. Many of the officers were noblemen and there was a miniature court at the place for more than forty years.

The church was called St. Anne, and the other day, while President Mason of the Historical Society was rumaging in Prairie du Rocher, a French village near Fort Chartres, he found in a house the records of the chapel during the French occupation. The leaves were detached, torn, and dirty. He brought them to Chicago, had them cleaned, bound, deciphered, and translated, and the documents were returned to the church authorities in a rejuvenated condition. All the baptisms, births, and marriages which took place during the French occupation were in the records, and there appeared there many names of historical note.

The small articles obtained from the fort are to be set into a shield by the Historical Society. It will be hung under a picture of De Bienville, royal Governor of Louisiana at the time of the transfer of Chartres to the English.

The Historical Society was to have opened its doors this month. There has been an unexpected delay in the delivery of iron work for the shelves and bookcases and the opening will not take place until autumn.