1835—White Heron built at Head of Grand Chute on Fox River. Present site between Lutz Park and Alicia Park.
1847—Lawrence College received its Charter.
1848—J. F. Johnston and his family were the first settlers in Appleton proper.
1848—Elder Sampson, Reeder Smith, Hoil S. Wright and Henry Blood laid out the Appleton Village plot.
1849—W. S. Warner set up the first dry-goods store.
1850—Census taken—619 people.
1850—Daniel Huntly had the first free public school.
1852—Elku Spencer settled on land fronting Spencer Street.
1852—Old Brown Church was built.
1853—First paper mill in Appleton, owned by C. P. Richmond.
1853—Appleton's first newspaper (Crescent) founded by Samuel Ryan, Jr.
1853—Village of Appleton incorporated, with John F. Johnston as President.
1856—The steamboat "Aquila" passed Appleton on its first complete trip from Milwaukee to Green Bay.
1857—City of Appleton embraced Lawisburg on the east; the village of Appleton in the center; and Grand Chute on the west.

1858—The Genesse Flour Mill began operation.
1861—The first railroad to serve Appleton; the Chicago and Northwestern Railway.
1874—Rabbi Weiss started the first Jewish congregation in Appleton.
1877—First telephone in Appleton, at home of banker, Alfred Galpin, extending from his home to his place of business.
1877—First gas for illumination and cooking use was brought into Appleton by George MacMillan.
1878—Atlas Mill began operation, producing ground wood pulp for a new paper process.
1882—On September 20, the world's first water-driven electric central station was placed in operation successfully. Two paper mills and one home were lighted electrically.
1883—Fox River Paper Corporation founded.
1886—Judge J. E. Harriman, president of the Street Railway Company, began operating the first electric street-car on August 16.
1898—Appleton's participation in the Spanish-American War; Company G of the 125th Wisconsin Infantry Company.
The Early Days—1857-1900

In a lush and green river valley, where once Indians lived and hunted and went to war with each other; where fur traders and explorers had blazed a trail for two centuries, a city came into being 100 years ago: Appleton, Wis.

Home of the distinguished and the simple, site of a college since before its own incorporation and location of what has become one of the most thriving industrial and business center of its parent state, Appleton's pioneer beginnings are storybook-romantic.

Fur traders brought the first permanence to the sweep of river from Green Bay upstream to what is now Appleton. Earliest among them in the present Outagamie county area was Dominique Du Charme, who built a home and trading post in Kaukauna in 1790 on land acquired from the Indians. Augustin Grignon bought the site in 1813. Grignon and his brother Hippolyte built close to the river under the sheltering shoulder of tree-shaded bluffs, the one at Grand Kakalin, or Kaukauna, and the other at Grand Chute, or Appleton. Both those homes became stopping-off places for worn and weary travelers and traders.

Hippolyte Grignon, the latter of the brothers to arrive in this area, married to Lisette Chaurette, daughter of traders in Lac Du Flambeau, first lived in Green Bay and then, in 1835, built White Heron, inn and home, at the head of the rapids in Grand Chute.
The little family, numbering father and mother and tiny children, Simon and Elinore, walked from Green Bay to Appleton to make their new home, the children struggling through grasses taller than they. Home, trading post and inn the White Heron was. Today, the five acres at the site of the old inn is the home of Hippolyte’s great granddaugh- ter, Mrs. Abraham Lewenstein, her husband and son, Simon, named for the two and a half year old little boy who, 122 years ago, carried his own pack on his back with his mother and daddy to a new home in the wilderness. The White Heron, a log house with two wings, the one for sleeping and the other to serve as store, became the hub of a tract of 107.66 acres which Grignon subsequently acquired from the government.

That was the beginning.

And then the settlers began to straggle in, on foot, by wagon and ox cart, warmed by the feeling of neighborliness and welcome which Appleton likes to feel is one of its most prominent characteristics.

Among the travelers was a committee appointed to seek a location for an educa-
tional institution—it had an offer from one Amos Lawrence of Boston for $10,000 if the Wisconsin Methodist conference could raise a similar sum.

The Rev. Reeder Smith, George Day and Henry Blood selected a point on the “grand chute” of the Fox river, and that is how the college became father to the city which surrounds it.

The college, Lawrence university, was chartered in 1847 by the territorial legislature; building operations began in late summer of 1848, and the Rev. William H. Sampson, Henry Blood and Joel S. Wright appeared to survey the college and its environs. At their request, Appleton’s very first permanent white citizen, John F. Johnston, appeared from Menasha to open a lodging house for college workmen. It was more than that. It was hotel and hospital, church, Sunday school, post office and social center.

By 1849, many families had settled; churches were organizing their congregations. Among the citizens hacking a community out of their wilderness settlement were Robert H. Bateman, the Rev. A. B.

On either side of Appleton were growing two other villages, Lawesburg to the east and Grand Chute to the west, eventually to be part of the city. The first map of the old Appleton plat was recorded in the register of deeds office in 1849. In March that year came the first post office with the tireless and versatile John F. Johnston as postmaster. The name Appleton came from Samuel Appleton, father-in-law of Amos Lawrence.

Johnston served also as first village president in 1853. In the few years between village and city incorporation, the beginnings of tremendous Fox river industrialization sparked the area’s growth.

A sawmill and wing dam built in 1849 by Tracy P. Bingham were among those early developments; by May of 1854, Appleton had two flour mills, a paper mill—largely regarded as a rash and daredevil type enterprise—four sawmills, two lath mills, one planing mill two sash and door factories, an edge tool factory and a chair factory. In 1853 came the first newspaper, the Crescent; at that point, the first bridge already had spanned the broad Fox for two years.

There was a bustling prosperity; emigrating Europeans drifting to the area added their colorful heritages and boundless frontier enthusiasm to the community; by the day of city incorporation, May 2, 1857, Appleton’s population was 2,000.

Amos Storey was elected first mayor, ably backed up by cohorts whose names are immor-
1860—Lawrence College.

1851—Appleton's early industries.
In 1866 the company was sold to a new corporation, the Green Bay and Mississippi Canal company, which today deals largely in water power. The United States government purchased the locks and canals for $145,000 in 1872 and assumed control and maintenance of the locks and navigation aids.

With the coming of the railroad—the first to reach Outagamie county was the Chicago and North Western which built from Neenah-Menasha in 1861—Fox and Wisconsin river traffic declined after a brief but colorful steamship era. In the early 70’s came more rail lines—the Green Bay and Lake Pepin, the Wisconsin Central and the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western. Then there was the Menasha and Appleton railroad in 1880, subsequently taken over by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul in 1893.

Appleton was distinguished in the field of communications, too; in 1877, an Appleton banker, Alfred Galpin, a student of chemistry and electricity, intrigued by tales of Alexander Graham Bell and his instrument that talked, put together his own telephone, connecting his bank and residence. He interested L. N. Benoit, a druggist, in his project. Benoit immediately saw the possibilities and promptly installed several phones in his store. Enthusiastically he strung wires to connect his phones with the offices of several Appleton physicians, thus helping Appleton become the only Wisconsin city other than Milwaukee to report telephone development by that early date. In 1878 Benoit had a switchboard serving 25 phones; upon his death, in 1881, a company which a bit later became the Wisconsin Telephone company purchased the exchange.
The '70s was the decade of the coming of the utilities, for construction of the first plant for manufacture of artificial gas was begun in June of 1877 under the direction of S. D. Carpenter. By late that year came the glow of the first gas street lighting system, and the twinkle of gas lights illuminating gay dancers at old Turner hall.

But the gaslight era was only the beginning of the bright lights. It was on a balmy Saturday night, Sept. 30, 1882, that the world's first water-driven electric central station began operation, lighting two paper mills and a residence.

Pioneers in the hydro-electric enterprise were a handful of businessmen whose vision probably was unparalleled in their time—H. E. Rogers, A. L. Smith, H. D. Smith and Charles Beveridge. They put their money and their faith into the project, and they won their gamble: on that night the Rogers mill, the Vulcan Paper company and the Rogers home glowed with a new light, each directly connected to the generator.

Scarcely had Appletonians become used to their distinction of being electrically lighted, crude though the original system was, than the swiftly turning wheel of progress caught up with them again. In 1886, after ground work had been laid by George Kreiss, the Appleton Electric Street Railway company began operation, the little trolleys churning across town from State and Prospect streets east to the cemetery at the east end of Pacific street. Interurban service connected Appleton and Neenah-Menasha by 1898, and the Kaukauna line followed in 1900. For thirty more years, Appletonians and their visitors "rode the cars," which finally were withdrawn from service when motorcars and busses came into their own.

Life may have been more leisurely in those days: ladies' taffeta skirts swept dusty sidewalks as they paid their calls upon one another; boat excursions on the big lake and the river; picnics at Telulah springs; entertainments in Bertschy's hall—all these made the social columns of the Crescent and accounts

*Corner of Oneida and College—Site of Zuelke Bldg.*
of them speckled the diaries of young ladies and letters to absent relatives. Industrial development was steady, thanks to Appleton's natural good fortune. For in the 39 miles from Lake Winnebago to Green Bay, the Fox river drops 170 feet, of which 88 per cent is within Outagamie county.

That means water power in abundance. Lumbering and lumber processing, as barrel factories and construction of plank roads gobbled up wood; flour mills flourishing until the westward movement of wheat processing concentration on the Mississippi; and the paper mills—backbone of a century of industrial progress—these were the broad outlines of early manufacturing. The Appleton mills of C. P. Richmond commenced operation in 1854 making wrapping paper, and by 1857 were making newsprint for the Appleton Crescent. The old mill stood at the site of the Interlake mill on E. John street. Fox River Paper corporation started in 1883; then came the Atlas mill. The first woolen mill was built in 1861—and so it goes. Industrial progress has been diversified and stable.

Appleton's military record in its first half-century was a memorable one, from the day when Professor Henry Pomeroy of Lawrence University mathematics department departed for the war between the states with a goodly representation of collegians, to the spring more than 30 years later when his son, Captain Hugh Pomeroy, commanded Company G of the Second Wisconsin Vol. Inf. division through its Spanish war active duty in Puerto Rico. A Civil war cavalry company, the "dragoons," captained by Theodore Conkey, became part of the Third Wisconsin cavalry; Captain Welcome Hyde's Doran guards with 83 county men became part of the 7th Wisconsin regiment.

While their parents built their homes and tinkered with new-fangled notions like the telephone and the electric street car, youngsters growing up in early Appleton played in an early developing system of parks—City park was purchased in 1881 for $13,000; went to school in a solidly established system beginning with the first free public school taught by Daniel Huntley in 1850; and worshipped with their elders in heartily supported churches of every denomination, beginning long before even village incorporation. The first Catholic mass was celebrated in 1848 at the home of Hippolyte Grignon in 1848; the first sermon preached in Appleton was delivered by Elder William H. Sampson in the Johnston home on Oct. 8, 1848—another first for the Johnston family, which is represented in Appleton today by Alden Johnston, great-grand-nephew of the indefatigable pioneer.

In their tiny library of 1887; at Lawrence university; in hundreds of homes and businesses and mills and clubs and military organizations, Appletonians lived out their first 50 years. Conscious or not of the tremendous progress stretching through the century ahead, they loved their community and led their full lives there. The trail of progress along the green shored Fox river, from pioneer trail to turn of century, was a steady one, but only a glimmer of what was to come.
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