



# TOWNSHIPS EMERGE

By Sarto Balliet

Although Outagamie County begins officially with the date, February 17, 1851, its township history goes back to 1842, six years before Wisconsin became a state. The Town of Kaukauna was established April 7, 1842, under the territory of Wisconsin as a part of Brown County. For seven years all of the present Outagamie County, except the Indian lands near the Wolf River, was known as Kaukauna Township and was governed by its township officers.

As settlers came and communities other than Kaukauna began to grow into thriving settlements, pioneers journeyed to Green Bay to file application for the organization of a new town. By the time Outagamie separated from Brown six townships had been established and these became the original towns of the new Outagamie County: Kaukauna, 1842; Grand Chute and Lansing, 1849; Greenville, Hortononia and Ellington, 1850. The Town of Lansing, no longer known by that name, included the present Towns of Center, Freedom and land to the north.

A description of the county and its boundaries is found in Hunt's *Wisconsin Gazetteer* in 1853, shortly after the complete organization of the county.

"Outagamie County is bounded on the north by Oconto and a portion of Waupaca, east by Brown, south by Calumet and Winnebago, and west by Waupaca, and is 24 miles north and south by 27 miles east and west. It was established Feb. 17, 1851, from Brown, to which it remained attached for judicial purposes until March 15, 1852, when it was completely organized. The boundaries were defined March 4, 1852. The seat of justice is about half way between the villages of Appleton and Grand Chute and about a mile from each.

"The general surface of the county is level and covered with a heavy growth of timber, such as maple, elm, ash and hickory, with but little or no wastelands. The soil is good, but the agricultural existence of the county is so recent little can be said of its capabilities. All the crops that have been tested here have succeeded beyond the expectations of the farmer.

"The population now numbering 4,000 is composed of good, rural and industrious settlers, mostly from New England and New York. It is watered by the lower Fox on the southeast and by the Wolf



River on the west and Duck Creek on the northeast. This county belongs to the Fourth Judicial Circuit, to the second senate, and to the third congressional districts, and with Oconto constitutes an assembly district. County officers for 1853 and 1854: Judge, Perry H. Smith; Sheriff, A. B. Everts; Clerk of Court, H. S. Eggleston; Attorney A. S. Sanborn; Register of Deeds, J. S. Buck; Clerk of Board of Supervisors, G. W. Gregory; Treasurer, Robert Morrow; Surveyor, Charles Turner; Coroner, Patrick Hunt."

### FEDERAL SURVEYORS

Most of this area had been surveyed long before the county was organized since the federal government always sent surveyors out following the purchase of land from the Indians. Practically all the land south and east of the old Fox and Wisconsin river route was surveyed while Wisconsin was a part of Michigan Territory.

The survey of the Grignon private claims in 1828, at Kaukauna, was the first actual field work within the present county. Another set of private claims at about the same location was surveyed in 1832, although several lawsuits resulted at various times over these claims.

These long, narrow strips of land at Kaukauna, running off at right angles to the river, follow the French land pattern and form an exception to the usual checkerboard pattern of federal surveys. The reason for this is that certain treaties and federal laws guaranteed to the ancient French-speaking families the ownership of the lands they occupied before the English-speaking people arrived. Thus it is that along the lower Fox between Green Bay and De Pere and at Kaukauna there exist these narrow land strips at right angles to the river.

What is now Outagamie County southeast of the Fox River was surveyed in 1834 and 1835. All of the land from the Fox to the Wolf, except a tiny bit apparently overlooked, was surveyed in

1843. The boundaries of the Oneida Reservation were also marked in that year. The part of the county north and west of the Wolf River was not surveyed until 1853 since the Menominee did not sell this land until 1848.

Following the land survey the federal government opened a land office at Green Bay in the fall of 1834. Within the next three years most of the present county lying south of the river was sold. Land along the river sold first, usually to speculators. The wealthy Walter L. Newberry of Chicago, for instance, bought more than 1,100 acres in what is now Appleton south of the river. It became possible to buy land north of the river at the Green Bay land office beginning in 1845, and all the lots on the river again were bought at once, mostly by non-residents. Purchase by actual farmers went more slowly; some land only two miles away from the river was not sold until 1849. The land was supposed to go to the highest bidder but most of these early purchases—all within the present city of Appleton—went at the minimum price set by law of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre.

### TOWN OF KAUKAUNA

When Kaukaulan or Cacalin organized as a township in Brown County it included all of the inhabited area of the present Outagamie County and that part of the present Brown County around Wrightstown. This meeting, held in 1842 in the home of Paul H. Beaulieu, marks the real beginning of townships in the county. Town records give a report of this first meeting of the first town in the county. It is interesting to note that several of the pioneers had to take more than one job.

"Grand Cacalin, April 7, 1842. The electors of the town of Kaukaulan met at the House of Paul H. Beaulieux (Beaulieu) on Tuesday the fifth day of April, A.D. 1842, in accordance with a notice of the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, Wis-



konsin Territory, and the law authorizing the same therein cited. Then they organized by appointing Hoel S. Wright, moderator; and Bazile H. Beaulieux, clerk; who were duly sworn to the faithful discharge of their duty. When on motion it was, Resolved, That the different town officers to be elected to serve for the ensuing year in the town, be chosen by taking the ayes and noes, whereupon the undermentioned persons were elected to the several offices designated, viz.; Charles A. Grignon, chairman; Paul H. Beaulieux



Front Row: left to right—Walter Riemer, Justice of Peace; Mrs. Arnold Deering, Clerk; Edward Kieffer, Constable. Back Row: Alvin Lemke, Assessor; Joseph Van De Loo, Supervisor; Peter Farrell, Chairman; Frank Meulemans, Supervisor. Absent: Theodore Van Vreede, Treasurer.

and Hoel S. Wright, supervisors; Alexander Grignon, town clerk; George W. Lawe, treasurer; Bazile H. Beaulieux, collector; Joseph Lamieux (Lamure?), George W. Lawe and Lewis Crofoot, commissioners of highway; Hoel S. Wright and Alexander Grignon, assessors; Henry B. Kelso, Charles A. Grignon and G. W. Lawe, commissioners of schools; Lewis Crofoot, sealer of weights and measures; Lewis Gravelle and Lewis Crofoot, constables; Joseph Lemieux, Charles Maïtes, Alonzo D. Dick and Alex. Grignon, overseers of highways; Paul H. Beaulieux, Joseph Lemieux and Charles Maïtes, town viewers; Roland Gardner (Garner), pound master.

"On motion Resolved, That there be a tax of one-fourth of one percentum raised

for a school fund; on motion, Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors be, and they are hereby authorized to establish the compensation of the several town officers for the ensuing year, where compensation is not established by law; on motion, Resolved, That for the ensuing year the town be governed by the Acts of the revised statutes of Wisconsin, which relate to fences, their height, etc., and on motion; Resolved, That the next annual meeting be held at the house of George W. Lawe, and then the meeting adjourned *sine die*."

Support for the poor was voted at a special meeting in July, 1842, and in 1845 there was a unanimous vote of 22 for a road tax. In 1846, 13 of the 19 votes cast were against state government. By this time the township name had been changed officially to Kaukauna. In the year that the county was created 99 votes were polled at the town meeting which considered the question of locating the county seat. Little Chute received 90 votes, Grand Chute only six, the other three votes going to two other locations. Grand Chute and Lansing at this date already had organized into townships. By 1857 three villages had grown in the town, Springville, Kaukauna and Little Chute; in 1858 the County Board gave a strip of Kaukauna Township to Grand Chute and formed the new Town of Buchanan. The year 1868 saw such a growth in population that two polling places were provided, one in Kaukauna and the second in Little Chute. In 1902 Kaukauna Township was divided for the last time to create the new Town of Vanden Broek.

The very earliest settlers of the town were the first county settlers described in former chapters. By 1842 the township's and county's first settler, Ducharme, had long since returned to Canada, Augustin Grignon had been living at Butte des Morts for more than 10 years and the Ducharme-Grignon property was owned by Charles Grignon. Some of the early landowners not mentioned before include



the families of Augustus L. McCree, William Smith, Joseph Farling, Ben Olm, William Phillips, Julius Greeley, Seth Childs, John McGee, Herman Ebben, Augustus Phillips, Michael Walsh, Theodore Bodde, O. G. Lord and A. C. Black.

The officers during the centennial year were: Peter Farrell, Chairman; Joseph VandeLoo and Frank Meulemans, Supervisors; Theodore Van Vreede, Treasurer; Alvin Lemke, Assessor; Mrs. Arnold Deering, Clerk; Edward Kiefer, Constable; Walter Riemer, Justice of Peace.

### TOWN OF GRAND CHUTE

The contrast of budgets shows clearly the development of the Town of Grand Chute in the past 100 years; in 1948 the budget totaled \$175,000 while in 1849 the citizens in the first town meeting voted \$200 for town expenses.

When the town organized the French settlements were in the northeastern part of the town, Appleton was on its way to



*Front Row: left to right—John Wilbur, Supervisor; Arthur Lecker, Supervisor; the late George Frazer, Justice of Peace; Cornelius Crowe, Assessor. Back Row: Wayne E. Rowan, Clerk; Walter Klitzke, Treasurer; Russell C. Neubert, Constable; John Timmers, Chairman.*

becoming a thriving village centered around the new Lawrence Institute, farmers were clearing lands in the remote parts of the town as well as near the river and "White Heron" had been the home of the town's earliest settler, Hippolyte Grignon, since 1835. Grand Chute Township was named for the great rapid in the

river on which the town was located and like Kaukauna or Cacalin, le grand chute had been known by this name since the time of the French period in the seventeenth century.

Reeder Smith, Seth Fitch, Henry L. Blood, R. R. Bateman and W. S. Warner were the pioneers in charge of the first town meeting held April 3, 1849, at the home of W. P. Tuttle in Appleton village. Twenty-seven votes were cast and the group voted for the \$200 budget to be raised by a "tax of two and fifty hundredths dollars (\$2.50) levied on each quarter section of deeded land, giving each owner the privilege of working out the same at the rate of one and twenty-five hundredths dollars (\$1.25) per day for work."

The town officers elected at this first meeting were Henry L. Blood, Chairman and Assessor; Julius S. Buck and William H. McGregor, Supervisors; Ezra L. Thurber, Town Clerk; John Stevens, Inspector of Schools; Hiram Polly, Treasurer and Collector; Obed T. Boynton, John P. Parrish and William Carter, Constables; Julius S. Buck, Robert Bateman, Bela B. Murch and Samuel P. Blake, Justices of the Peace.

The industrious settlers who came to Grand Chute, coupled with the fertility of the land and accessibility to market made this township one of the leading agricultural areas in the county. By 1857 the forests had been cleared and many fine farms and orchards dotted the countryside. Among the leading farmers in 1860 were the names of Barnes, Clarke, Putney, Darling, Rork, Woodland, Bogan, Morrell, Johnston, Ballard, Pearson, Fish, Murphy, Otto, Crane, Hodgins, McGuire, Bogart, Jackson, Wolcott and Heff.

Grand Chute originally included the present Townships of Greenville, Hortonia, Dale and Ellington. By 1850 so many settlers had arrived in these areas that the three new townships (Hortonia including Dale) were separated from Grand Chute.



Centennial officers of the town were: John Timmers, Chairman; Arthur Lecker and John Wilbur, Supervisors; Wayne E. Rowan, Clerk; Walter Klitzke, Treasurer; Cornelius Crowe, Assessor; John Imbery, Health Officer; Russell Neubert, Constable.

### TOWNSHIP OF LANSING

The old Town of Lansing, no longer in existence, included the present Towns of Freedom and Center together with the "territory lying to the north that was sparsely settled" according to Ryan's *History of Outagamie County*. The history of Lansing is really the beginning of the township history of both Freedom and Center, and also could be claimed by those present townships in the northern part of the county that organized later.

Officers elected at the first town meeting held September 12, 1849, at the Lewis Hine home included Lewis Hine, Chairman; Elon B. Abbott and Frederick Sanders, Supervisors; Hine, Clerk; Alvin S. Hartman, Treasurer; Abbott, Superintendent of Schools; James Saunders, Abbott, Hine and Prentice Beebe, Justices of the Peace; Hine, Assessor; Alexander Bales and Chauncey Beebe, Constables.

The town functioned under its name until 1852 and 1853. When Freedom separated from the town in 1852, the present Town of Center was left, but since the township seat and most of its officers were in the new Freedom territory, the township was left only its name. Consequently, a petition of June 18, 1852, called for a special town meeting to be held at the home of N. M. Hephner. After notices were posted this meeting was held July 5, 1852, supposedly to fill the town vacancies but in effect a new town organized under the same name of Lansing. The new officers included: Nicholas M. Hephner, Chairman; John Batley and Matthew Nugent, Supervisors; John Lieth, Clerk; Joseph A. Jones, Treasurer.

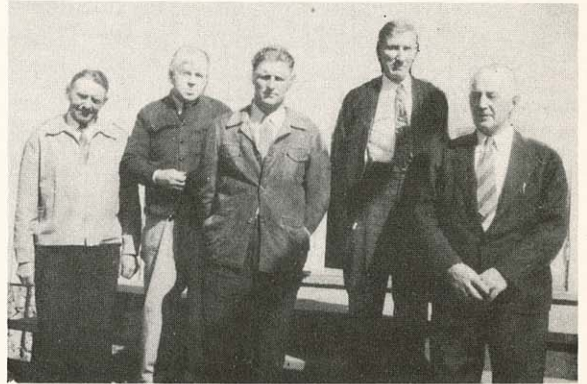
By 1853 the Town of Lansing no longer existed, and the Town of Center emerged

from what was left of the original township.

### TOWN OF GREENVILLE

This township marks its official beginning from March 12, 1850, after Seymour Howe and Isaac Wickware went to Green Bay to file for its organization. However, its settlement began over 100 years ago when John and Matthew Culbertson arrived April 7, 1848, to build Greenville's pioneer log house.

There has been mild controversy over the first settlement of the town but records show that Francis Perry made the first land entry, April 17, 1847, but there is no record of his ever settling in the



Left to right—Erwin Tellock, Supervisor; L. A. Collar, Treasurer; N. E. Wiesler, Clerk; Carl Buchholtz, Supervisor; William Becker, Chairman. Absent: Arthur Schefe, Assessor; Urvan Julius, Constable; William Relien, Constable; Victor Tennie, Justice of Peace.

town. Seth J. Perry, one of Greenville's earliest pioneers, also made a land entry for settlement in December, 1847, but Perry's own biography in pioneer records show that he located in Walworth County, Wisconsin, in 1839 and that he settled in Greenville 10 years later in 1849 on the land he had bought two years earlier. His brother, Miles, brought his family to their homestead in 1849, too.

Another early settler (June 1848) whose home was a shelter for many new settlers coming into town was Edmund Hafner. Alva McCrary, Seymour Howe, James and Isaac Wickware with two sisters and the



James Hardacker family all settled in 1848, shortly after the Culbertsons.

The year 1849 brought James Webley, Julius Perrot, John Jacquot, Simeon and Lorenzo E. Darling, James Thompkins and Charles Breitrick, the first German to settle in the township. Avery Grant and A. Calkins came in 1849 or 1850 with "a yoke of three-year-old steers, an old wagon and six cents in cash." During the year the township was organized the new settlers included Wilder Patch, Julius Mory, John Culbertson, James Wilson, Joseph Randall, William Bucholz, Patrick Liepke, William Pinderelles, Solomon and Henry Glass, J. Nye, Hume Lathrop, Francis and Luther B. Mills.

By 1854 approximately 3,900 acres had been sold to farmer-settlers. The county's richly wooded lands account for its name, Greenville. This rolling countryside drew settlers in the belief that they could establish successful farms. Today this locality is among the most prosperous and enterprising in rural development.

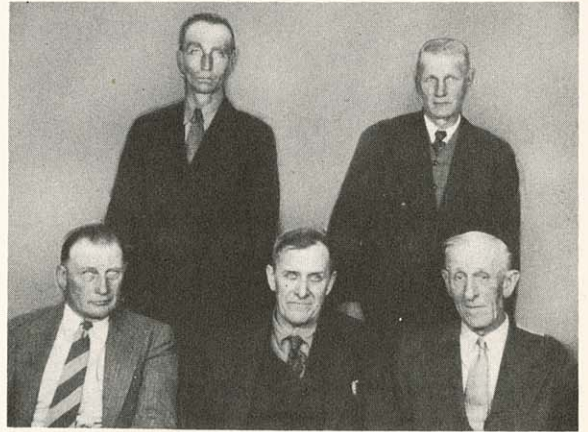
Other pioneers of the town include John Dey, who originally settled in Grand Chute, and the family names of Bleick, Boon, Dunkle, Jordan, Smith, Powers, Roberts, Jones, Seger, Quinn, McGraw, Redmond, Pooler, Lewis, Colby, Schebler, Keeler, Thomas, Schinners, Wait, Marsden, Sweetser, McLeod, Jack, Schefe, Becker, Angelroth, Scott, Barclay, McGregor, Palmer, Tharnagel, Mullaine, Long, Stone, Wakefield, Jewett, Root, Woods and Schulze.

Nineteen votes were polled at the first meeting of the town when pioneer citizens met at the home of Seymour Howe on April 2, 1850. The following officers were elected: Isaac Wickware, Chairman; Hume Lathrop and James M. Wickware, Supervisors; Lorenzo E. Darling, Clerk; Matthew Culbertson, Treasurer; Simeon Darling, Assessor; L. Darling, Superintendent of Schools; S. Darling, Culbertson, Howe, I. Wickware, Justices of the Peace; L. Darling, J. M. Wickware and James Wilson, Constables; James Webley, Sealer of Weights and Measures.

Centennial officers included: William Becker, Chairman; Carl Bucholtz and Irving Tellock, Supervisors; Nick Weisler, Clerk; L. A. Collar, Treasurer; Arthur Schefe, Assessor; Urvan Julius and William Relein, Constables; Victor Tennie, Justice of Peace.

## TOWN OF HORTONIA

Established a month after Greenville, Hortonia Township was named for its first settler in 1848, Alonzo E. Horton, who built a sawmill on Black Otter Creek and thus founded the city of Hortonville. Much of the early settlement of the town centered around Horton's mill. Therefore many of the first town settlers were also founding fathers of the city.



*Seated: left to right—Gerhard Ruhsam, Chairman; Louis A. Baehman, Treasurer; F. C. Gitter, Clerk. Standing: Lorenz Morack, Supervisor; William Rolfs, Supervisor. Absent: Donald Dorsey, Assessor; Milton Olson, Constable; Edgar Helms, Justice of Peace.*

The town was only two years old when it was divided to form the Town of Embarrass and a year later the Town of Dale. After boundary settlements over a period of a few years the present Town of Hortonia emerged and except for the formation of the third ward in New London, it has remained essentially the same in area.

The names of Hortonia's pioneers include two men who helped build the sawmill, Captain Joel Tillison, who later operated the first lime kiln in the town,



and Obadiah A. Blackwood, an experienced lumberman. Others were New Englander Norman Nash, the town's first postmaster; Scotsmen James and John McMurdo; Cyrus Weir and Mason Hulbert, early storekeepers in Hortonville; Matthew McComb, who came from Ireland; Ira Hersey and Daniel Briggs, builders of the first grist mill; Andrew Cornish, the town's first preacher; Oliver Poole, Mathias Klein, Casper Tillson, David and Augustin Briggs, Jacob and Leonard Steffen, H. B. Sandborn, George L. Merrill, Platt Rudd, Byron Pelton, Luther Morton, Thomas and John Easton, Thomas Ogden, Hugh Leslie, Simeon Shepherd, Joseph Clark, Moses Allen and Isaac Leach.

In the early days there were but three cabins on the road between Hortonville and Mukwa, those of McComb, Ogden and Julius Nordman who lived just across the line in Waupaca County. These landmarks were known throughout the county as the "Irishman's, the Englishman's and the Dutchman's."

An unusual coincidence in the town's history occurred in the year 1850 with the record of the first birth, death and marriage. The daughter of Norman and Mathilda Nash died in April, the daughter of Thomas and Lucinda Easton was born in March and John A. Hewitt and Susan A. Sheldon were married the same year. According to McComb in whose cabin the marriage ceremony was performed, the young couple had to cross the swollen river on a raft of driftwood and wade the last 40 rods through icy waters to reach the bank. After the simple ceremony the couple returned the same way they had come.

The first town meeting was held in a store building on the first Tuesday of April, 1850. Josephus Wakefield was elected Chairman; Norman Nash and Byron Pelton, Supervisors; Benjamin Williams, Treasurer; Pelton, Clerk; William Benedict, Assessor; Wakefield, Town Superintendent; John Easton, Wakefield and Benedict, Justices of Peace; Lewis Hyde

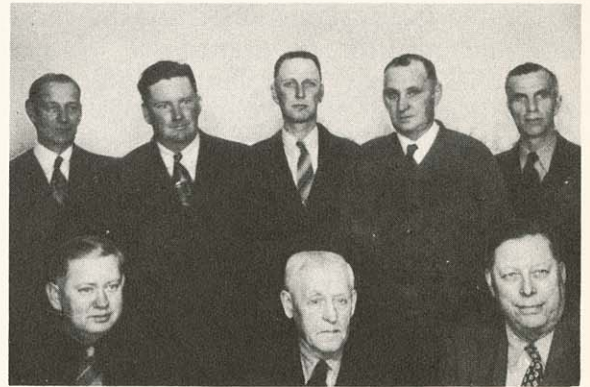
and Thomas Easton, Constables. Norman Nash became Town Chairman when Wakefield resigned from office.

Centennial officers of the town were: Gerhard Ruhsam, Chairman; Lorenz Morack and William Rolfs, Supervisors; Louis A. Baehman, Treasurer; F. C. Gitter, Clerk; Donald Dorsey, Assessor; Edgar Helms, Justice of Peace; Milton Olson, Constable.

### TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Like Hortonville, the Town of Ellington formed in April 1850 and became settled around a sawmill. Exactly who built the mill and when is not certain but it was marked on an early map as Thompson's Mill and was known later by pioneers as Bruce's Mill, which later became the settlement of Stephenville. It was operated for William Bruce until 1849 by G. D. Aldrich and from this ownership received its pioneer name.

Lewis Thompson and his family were the first white settlers in the town and they probably lived at the mill as early as 1846. Thomas and John Callan were the first farmers in the area in 1847. George Huse, a Mexican war veteran, came in



*Front Row: left to right—D. M. Breitrick, Clerk; Paul W. Beyer, Supervisor; H. J. Schuldes, Justice of Peace. Back Row: Ben Parthie, Assessor; Arthur Schultz, Constable; Emmet Root, Chairman; Robert Schroth, Supervisor; Clarence Hoier, Treasurer.*

1849 on a land warrant and soon married Elizabeth Farnham to record the earliest marriage in the town. Settlers before 1850 include H. J. Diener, John Schmitt, Henry Kethroe, Patrick Pew, Owen Hardy, John



R. Rynders, Thomas Hillson, William McGee, Charles Grouenert, Frederick Lamm, Eliab Farnham and J. D. Van Vlack. The Hardackers, who lived earlier in the Greenville area with the Wickwares, located in Ellington.

After 1850 settlement progressed rapidly and some of the settlers of 1850 were Abel and Julius Greeley, Amos Johnson, O. D. Pebles, J. B. Lamm, Peter, Matthias and Nick Schmitt, J. Pew, Rodney Mason and John Welch.

When the township was created March 12, 1850, it was named Ellington at the request of John R. Rynders after the eastern town in which he was born. The first meeting was held at the home of Chauncey Aldrich on April 2, 1850, with seven electors being present. Rynders became the first Chairman, as well as Assessor, Treasurer and Justice of Peace. The other officers were: James Hardacker, Supervisor and Justice of Peace; George Huse, Supervisor, School Superintendent, Sealer of Weights and Measures, Justice of Peace and Assessor; Thomas Hillson, Justice of Peace, Frederick Lamm, Constable; Henry D. Smith, Clerk. However, there is some doubt as to the qualifications of the clerk and constable, for the minutes and records are signed by "James Hardacker, Clerk" and shortly afterward Henry Kethroe and Owen Hardy were elected constables "in place of Frederick Lamm, removed."

By 1850 there were only two houses on the present site of Stephenville. There were no public roads but before long a track cut through the woods by the first settlers became a road from constant use. This road led from Hortonville to the junction of the Shioc and Wolf rivers. A road also was laid early from Appleton to Bruce's Mill and an old Indian trail led toward Green Bay.

Ellington Center was the first name of the settlement that grew around Bruce's Mill. As the lumber industry developed in the upper regions of the Wolf and Shioc, this route through Ellington became well

travelled and the little settlement became a favorite stopping place.

John Stephens bought the mill property and its surrounding land and in 1856 he platted the village. Forty-nine citizens asked by petition to change its name to Stephenville after its founder. By 1867 the village had grown rapidly and boasted two sawmills in operation, a grist mill, several stores, a hotel and a schoolhouse.

Centennial officers of Ellington were: Emmet Root, Chairman; Robert Schroth and Paul W. Bayer, Supervisors; D. M. Breiterick, Clerk; Clarence Hoier, Treasurer; Ben Parthie, Assessor; Arthur Schultz, Constable; Hugo Schuldes, Justice of Peace.

### TOWN OF FREEDOM

Freedom Township goes back further in settlement than any other township except Kaukauna if its first settlers, the Negro James Jackson and his Stockbridge



*Front Row: left to right—Reinard Huss, Treasurer; Joseph E. Rickert, Clerk; Cyril Weyenberg, Supervisor. Back Row: Harold Vandenberg, Constable; Clarence Sievert, Assessor; Anthony Van Hoof, Supervisor. Absent: Joseph J. Weyers, Chairman.*

wife, came to their nine-acre clearing in May 1830 as Jackson claimed.

E. B. Abbot and Prentiss Beebe, who came about the same time, found Jackson living there in the early forties. Abbot bought the Jackson claim in 1842. Jacob Juley and Arthur B. McCallon arrived in 1846. Other settlers who came between 1847 and 1850 were John Stafford, Peter



Pauley, Joseph Sloan, John Hine, Reuben Norton, China Adams, Patrick Roche, Alexander and William Bales, James Trotter, Frederick Souders, A. S. Hartman, Samuel Preston, Stedman Hager, John Siddons Christian Hartman, Edward Smith, Henry Armstrong, Patrick O'Brien, Albert Cook, Patrick Monahan, Jonathan Nye, Jeremiah Foley, William Monahan, John Shortell, Nicholas Juley, John Sanders, John Hermes, L. A. Hine, Newells, A. Casper, James Sanders, Ezra Kent, James McCarty, Martin Van Dyke. John Garvey and his sons came early, according to one record, probably in the fifties.

In those days with little land cleared, lumbering was the chief industry. There were two large sawmills built early, operated by water power from the creeks. The first postoffice was established in the part of town known as the "Hoosier Settlement," and later at Sagola. Marketing was done at Green Bay and settlers travelled the Indian trail to get there.

Freedom village was called Sagola, an Indian word meaning "good morning," but the Indian name fell into disuse particularly after the township took Freedom for its name. Freedom is supposedly named for its first settler in recognition of his release from slavery in the South where he was born.

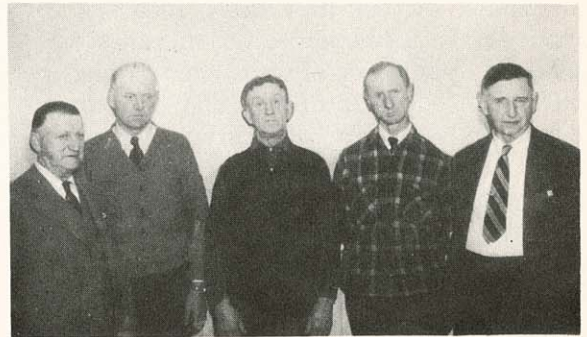
The town's early history goes back to the Town of Lansing and many of the later Freedom citizens were active in the township affairs of building roads and schools. On June 5, 1852, the Town of Freedom became a reality and although the exact date and place of the first town meeting is not recorded, we do have the names of some of the first officers, namely: S. M. or Ethan Powers, Chairman; Albert Cook and James Taylor, Supervisors; H. P. Beebe, Clerk.

Officers for 1948 were: Joseph J. Weyers, Chairman; Cy Weyenberg and Anthony Van Hoof, Supervisors; Joseph E. Rickert, Clerk; Reinard Huss, Treasurer; Harold Vandenberg, Constable; Clarence Sievert, Assessor.

## TOWN OF MAPLE CREEK

Maple Creek Township, together with Liberty Township, was known until 1853 as the "Indian land beyond the Wolf." Settlement did not begin until about 1849 or 1850 when George Washington Law came with Joseph Turney and young Thomas Nickel to gather tanbark from the hemlock trees that grew in great profusion in certain areas.

After six months in the woods, inhabited then only by Indians, the three returned to civilization. The following year Law brought his wife to Maple Creek



Left to right—Theodore Ruckdashel, Clerk; Albert Raeder, Supervisor; John Flanagan, Supervisor; Alfred Matz, Assessor; Leo Bleck, Chairman. Absent: Henry Breiting, Treasurer; Earl Knuth, Constable; Noah Bennetts, Justice of Peace.

and they became the first settlers there. Within a year they were followed by Jeremiah Merricle or Merickle, George Lutsey, Alvin and Lewis Holcomb. Others known to have settled before 1853 in the present Maple Creek area were Augustus Busch, Andrew Dakin, Fordyce Worth, Thomas Nickel, John Wheeler, William McDonald, James, Sam and John Payton, Norman Gerard, Joseph Owen, Gordon House and Peter Bowen.

From 1853 to 1860 the present town was known to its settlers as the Town of Embarrass, named for the river. This old town included also the Town of Liberty, which separated from Embarrass in 1858. Embarrass was changed in name to Maple Creek, also the name of the creek which runs through the town.



The first changes in the Town of Embarrass occurred in 1854 when a portion of land west of the Wolf River was given to Bovina Township and in 1855 when a part was attached to Ellington. With the creation of Liberty the original town again was made smaller and in 1868 the Town of Deer Creek was organized from the remaining town, which by this time was called by its present name of Maple Creek.

On December 31, 1852, the County Board authorized the organization of Embarrass as a township including "so much of the Territory of Outagamie County as lies north and west of the Wolf River." The board set the first town meeting for April 1853; however, this meeting was not held "for want of an officer to qualify the board." In October, 1853, six qualified voters signed a declaration of organization including the notice of a meeting and election.

According to the records these men were Jeremiah Merricle, George Lutsey, Augustus Busch, George Law, Alvin Holcomb and Lewis Holcomb. The first meeting of the Town of Embarrass and accordingly the Town of Maple Creek, was held at the Law home on November 5, 1853. The officers elected at this meeting of 13 voters did not include a named Chairman. They were: Merricle, Lutsey and Burnell, Supervisors; Alvin Holcomb, Clerk and Superintendent of Schools; Law, Treasurer; Lewis Holcomb, Assessor; Burnell, Alvin Holcomb, Lutsey and Joseph Turney, Justices of Peace; Lewis Holcomb and Fordyce Worth, Constables; Lutsey, Sealer of Weights and Measures; Andrew Dakin, Overseer of Highways.

Although tanbark drew the first comers, it was the logging of the great pines, the maple and oak that gave the early settlers their livelihood until their farms could be developed. Logging in the town lasted as an important industry until the middle seventies.

After the first railroad came into the town a station was established at the place called Sugar Bush, where the first

postoffice was established. The first saw-mill was located there and was operated by its first residents, the Ruckdashel family, who came in 1854.

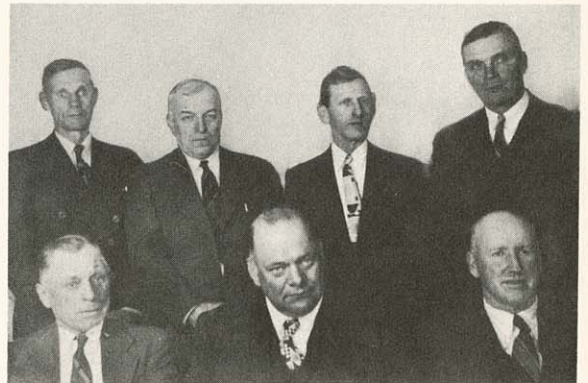
The 1948 officers of the Town of Maple Creek were: Leo Bleck, Chairman; Albert Raeder and John Flanagan, Supervisors; Theodore Ruckdashel, Clerk; Alfred Matz, Assessor; Henry Breiting, Treasurer; Earl Knuth, Constable; Noah Bennetts, Justice of Peace.

## TOWN OF CENTER

Center goes back to 1849 both in settlement and its political attachment to the old Town of Lansing. However, its first real township organization as the Town of Center dates to April 1, 1853, when the first town meeting was held officially under its new name.

Officers elected at this meeting were: H. M. Hephner, Chairman; Thomas A. Rees and John Kieff, Supervisors; John Lieth, Clerk.

Center was named for the place in Columbiana County, Ohio, where so many of the early Irish settlers of the town had found a temporary home before coming to



Front Row: left to right—Ernest Knutzen, Supervisor; Joseph Stadler, Constable; Alvin Rehmer, Treasurer. Back Row: Fred Wagner, Chairman; Walter Techlin, Clerk; Fred A. Krueger, Assessor; Alvin Kahler, Supervisor. Absent: Joseph Blair, Justice of Peace.

Outagamie County. This group, known as the "Ohio Settlement" of the "Irish Buckeyes," dominated the affairs of the town for many years. This was partly



because they were the earliest settlers in the Town of Center and also because they had an active interest in the welfare and growth of the town.

The first white settlers of the Town of Center area were two brothers, Patrick and David Barry, who came in the spring of 1849. That same summer Peter Hephner brought his family. Francis McGillan came in 1851 with his family and "McGillan's Corners" became known far and wide for its welcome and hospitality. The present Mackville is named for the McGillan family.

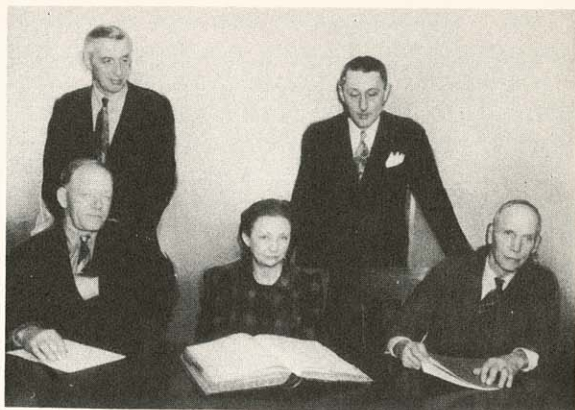
Other settlers were Matthew and Owen Nugent, James Cotter, John Batley, John Lieth from Scotland, Edward Rogers, John Hennesey, John McIlhone, J. Donovan, Edward Powers, Patrick Cannon, William Byrnes, John Keefe, Edward McGillan, James Campion and the Welshman, Thomas Rees. The first German settlers came in October 1855, Conrad Boahler, Caspar Griesbach and Jacob Kober.

By 1857 the east half of the town was settled by the Irish while the middle and northern part was rapidly filling with Germans. These people worked hard for good roads, schools and churches. Well kept farms, large barns and secure fences were seen everywhere as soon as the land was cleared for farming.

Centennial officers were: Fred Wagner, Chairman; Ernest Knutzen and Alvin Kahler, Supervisors; Walter Techlin, Clerk; Alvin Rehmer, Treasurer; Fred A. Krueger, Assessor; Joseph Stadler, Constable; Joseph Blair, Justice of Peace.

### TOWN OF DALE

The Town of Dale almost had another name and two more years of official history. On December 16, 1851, the County Board authorized the formation of a new township from the parent Town of Hometownia to be called the Town of Medina. The boundaries, date of election and the meeting place were all designated but dissension arose over boundary lines.



*Seated: left to right—Arthur G. Leiby, Supervisor; Neva Running, Treasurer; John D. Bottensek, Chairman. Standing: Frank Griswold, Supervisor; Albert G. Oelke, Clerk. Absent: Louis Huebner, Assessor; Bertschy Hauk, Constable.*

Although the resolution passed by one vote in a special night meeting the same resolution was unanimously repealed on February 23, 1852.

No further action was recorded on the proposed new town until November 17, 1853, when a petition of landowners headed by W. W. Benedict was referred to a county committee. The Town of Dale was created by county action the following day, November 18, 1853, with the date of town elections scheduled for the first Tuesday in April, 1854. No record exists of the first town officers except that Benedict was elected Chairman.

It is believed that no white man had lived in the town area before December, 1847, when three railmakers, Arthur C. Minto, John Stanfield and Thomas Swan, built a shanty of cedar logs there to shelter them during the winter while they cut rails for fencing.

The following March, Zebediah Hyde, Lewis Hyde and Alva McCrary came on a land seeking tour, chopping out a track as they traveled to allow their oxen and wagon to pass through the forest. These men, the first permanent settlers of the town, settled on the present site of the village of Medina. William Young came on April 12, 1848, his father, Samuel, and his three brothers coming a year later.



Young's shanty soon became a stopping place for travelers going north and so he built a larger frame house to accommodate them all. In 1855 he really went into the "hotel" business when he bought Zebediah Hyde's original property and built a still larger dwelling. This property and early hostelry became a pioneer landmark known as Young's Corners, which eventually grew into the present village of Medina. Another later settler, Andrew Rhodes or Rhoades in 1855, was an early hotelkeeper known to settlers as "Uncle Andrew, the Fiddler." The first of this family to come to the town was Hiram.

Settlers between 1848 and 1853 were Josephus Wakefield, who represented the Town of Hortonia in 1851 on the County Board; John Rinehart, the pioneer preacher; W. M. Emmonds, William Hall, Solomon Fielding, Eberhard Buck and his son, Andrew, Conrad Meiner, Joseph Boyer, Enos Otis, James Wilson, Richard Bottrell, H. Greenfield and Harvey Blue.

Some 20 families located in Dale between the fall of 1853 and June, 1854 including those of John Bottensek and Hubbard Hill. Also among these settlers was the family group that came from Ohio together, David Zehner and the families of six of his children, Abraham, David and John Zehner, Cornelius Koontz, Martin Degal and Stephen Balliet. Other important family names in the settlement of the town were those of Leiby, Bloomer, Jewell, Doty, Hugunin, Nutter, Bills, Stein, Metlau, Graef, Prentice, Besse, Bunce, Austin and Bishop.

The village of Dale was farm land until the Wisconsin Central Railway was built through the township in 1872. Shortly thereafter the village was platted. John Leppla was the first postmaster at Dale village and Cornelius Koontz at Medina. Dunbar Wroe had a store at Medina before 1854 and Koontz built a sawmill in 1855.

Centennial officers were: John D. Bottensek, Chairman; Arthur G. Leiby and Frank Griswold, Supervisors; Albert G. Oelke, Clerk; Neva A. Running, Treas-

urer; Louis Huebner, Assessor; Bertschy Hauk, Constable.

## TOWN OF BOVINA

The Town of Bovina, also created on November 18, 1853, was originally a part of Ellington. Within a year the original ordinance creating Bovina was amended to include also the present Town of Maine.

At the time of its organization there were two settlements in the Bovina area, one called Shioc in the vicinity of the Shioc Mill and the other Jordanville, or Jordan's Landing, which later became Shiocton.

Although settlement is credited to Woodford D. Jordan and Randall Johnson in 1850 there is evidence that there were earlier white settlers in Bovina. Daniel



*Front Row: left to right—Walter Olsen, Clerk; Len Van Straten, Treasurer; Frank M. Beyer, Supervisor. Back Row: Fred Schroeder, Constable; Ralph Gehring, Chairman; W. H. Spoehr, Assessor. Absent: William V. Spoehr, Supervisor; Maurice Powers, Justice of Peace.*

Morris, who lived in Section 20, is said to have been a squatter on Indian land before the government survey was made and the date of his coming is about 1846. The Shioc Mill was known as Clark's Mill in 1848, according to H. J. Diener, early settler of Ellington, and was later owned by the firm of Winch and Brush. Martin Rich is definitely established as the third owner of the mill with Harry G. Curtis as his lumberman operator and bookkeeper in 1854. In that year the mill



operation included two sash saws and a gang mill which employed 60 men.

Soon after Jordan and Johnson and before 1853, came Milo and Harvey Cole, Alexander Brush, Solomon Quadlin, J. I. C. Meade, John Knight, J. B. Shoemaker, C. E. Washburn, Samuel Girard, D. A. Greely, Nelson Foster, J. W. Wait and David Barney. In 1854 Jacob B. Rexford, Jeremy Smith, Curtis, Stephen and Ben Main came to Bovina as did the first German families of Fred and Ernest Spoehr and Nicholas Herman. Other well known families who settled a little later than these earliest pioneers include the names of Torrey, Park, Mitchell, Kitchen, Ovitt, Thorn and Strope. Probably one of the first settlers in the northeastern part of town was Archibald Caldwell, who, famous as a hunter and trapper, preferred Indian life to farming thereby giving rise to many romantic legends about him.

The only occupation for several years in the area was logging and many of the early comers worked at the sawmills a few years before buying homesteads for actual settlement. Logs of pine were cut and floated down the Wolf River to nearby Bay Boom where they were sold. Farming started on a modest scale about 10 years after the first settlers came. Today the town ranks as one of the leading cabbage growing sections of the United States. The growing of cabbage was started by F. H. Lonkey around 1900; in 1903 the large scale growing of cucumbers was begun.

When Bovina Township held its first town meeting in 1853, C. E. Washburn was elected Chairman. The other officers were: D. A. Greely and H. G. Curtis, Supervisors; W. D. Jordan, Clerk; Nelson Foster, Assessor; J. W. Wait, Justice of Peace. The 1948 officers include: Ralph Gehring, Chairman; William V. Spoehr and Frank M. Beyer, Supervisors; Len Van Straten, Treasurer; William H. Spoehr, Assessor; Walter H. Olsen, Clerk; Fred Schroeder, Constable; Maurice Powers, Justice of Peace.

## TOWN OF BUCHANAN

Seven years after the organization of Outagamie County the County Board on March 1, 1858, established the Town of Buchanan from its parent Township of Kaukauna. It is believed that the township was named for President James Buchanan.

The first annual meeting was held in Schoolhouse Number Two with 35 electors



*Front Row: left to right—Henry Welhouse, Assessor; Mrs. Elizabeth Haen, Treasurer; Jacob J. Henk, Chairman. Back Row: Sylvester Weiss, Supervisor; William H. Kilsdonk, Supervisor; Peter Verbockel, Constable; Henry Nackers, Clerk.*

present. The group elected B. H. Beaulieu its first Chairman. Other officers were William Lamure and John H. Dietzler, Supervisors; Morris Ringrow or Maurice Ringrose, Clerk; Peter Rademacher, Treasurer; Beaulieu, Michael Klein and John Cabenson, Assessors; John Hunt, Lamure, Daniel Cline, Cabenson, Justices of Peace; Peter Klein, Constable.

Many of these men had long been active in the affairs of Kaukauna Township and several were members of the families who settled not only Buchanan but the county first. Settlements were made by the French in the Buchanan area as early as 1835, the first Germans came in 1842 and the Hollanders in 1848. The Irish settlement began a little later when workers on the government canals chose Buchanan for their permanent homes. The families of Lamure and Beaulieu were among the



first to settle in 1835. Other early French to settle after these two were the families of Porlier, Derocher, Desmarteau, Le Court, Poquette and Crevier.

Dietzler and Klein were among the earliest Germans in the town, coming in 1842 in a group of 10 families and three unmarried men that settled in the Combined Locks area where Roland Garner had established his farm many years before. Other Germans in the early forties were Peter Renn, Anton Loth and Henry Shearer. Rademacher came in 1851.

Gerhard Koenen, Martin Van Groll and Fred Speel were among the Hollanders who arrived in 1848. Henry Hammen settled in 1854. The early Irish settlers include John Glasheen, Michael Finnegan, Morris Rose, Daniel Ryan and the names of Collingham, Rohan, O'Connell, Condon, Clune, Davy, Henchy, Leddy and Slattery.

Through the years many more Dutch, German and Irish settled in the town until today cultivated farmlands have taken the place of the once thickly wooded area of maple, basswood, oak, elm, beech and ironwood trees.

Centennial officers were: Jacob J. Henk, Chairman; Sylvester Weiss and William H. Kilsdonk, Supervisors; Henry Nackers, Clerk; Mrs. Elizabeth Haen, Treasurer; Henry Welhouse, Assessor and Peter Verbockel, Constable.

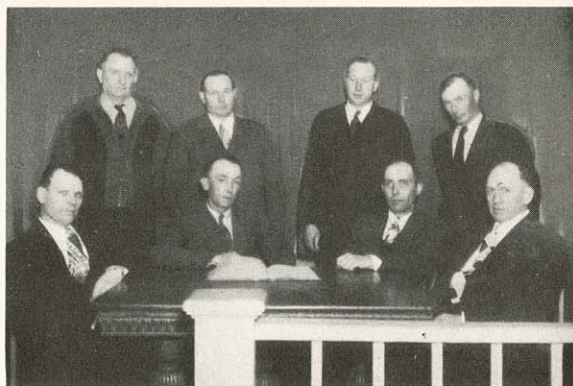
## TOWN OF LIBERTY

Alvin Burnell and Joseph Turney were the first white settlers in this township. One source states that Burnell was living in the area when Turney brought his family about 1851. Turney had come earlier to the Maple Creek region with George W. Law in 1849 or 1850 to gather tanbark from the hemlocks. Both Burnell and Turney were among the first elected officers in 1853 of the old Town of Embarrass.

Although the Liberty and Maple Creek area was a part of Outagamie County, before 1849 it was used primarily for

hunting and trapping by the Indians. When white settlers began to arrive the land sold for as low as 50 cents an acre as an inducement for pioneers to settle there. When they came they found lumbering a profitable business until their lands were cleared for farming.

The ordinance of March 1, 1858, created the Town of Liberty, separating it from the Town of Embarrass. The poll list of 27 voters at the first town meeting held on April 6, 1858, indicates most of the names of the early settlers: John, Joseph, Samuel and James Turney, John Nickel, Godfrey Dix, William Race or Rase, Michael Emerick or Emerich, Henry Olin, John, Hobart and Randsome Dickinson



*Seated: left to right—Alfred G. Krause, Treasurer; August Drath, Assessor; John F. Sawell, Jr., Supervisor; Irvin W. House, Clerk. Standing: Curt F. Rogers, Chairman; Alfred Kalbuss, Supervisor; Clair Muskevitch, Constable; Nic Dreier, Justice of Peace.*

or Dickenson, James Franklin, Samuel Reynolds, Daniel Ireland, John Everitt or Evritt, Alonzo Quackenbush, Alexander Reeky, Augustus Wellman, Ripley Richards, S. H. Cottrell, Sylvanus or Sylvenis Mitchell, LeRoy Turner or LaRoy Thurner, Henry Caldwell, Sargent Jewell or Sargent Newell and John F. Siegel. Two sources for this list of names account for the difference in spelling.

The first officers of the Town of Liberty were: Richards, Chairman; Joseph Turney and Reynolds, Supervisors; Samuel Turney, Clerk; Reeke, Treasurer; Nickel, Superintendent of Schools; Wellman, Assessor;



Race, Turner, Hobart Dickinson and Nathaniel Wright, Justices of Peace; Quackebush, Franklin and Jewell, Constables.

Centennial officers were: Curt F. Rogers, Chairman; Alfred Kalbuss and John F. Sawell, Supervisors; Irwin W. House, Clerk; Alfred G. Krause, Treasurer; August Drath, Assessor; Clair Muskevitsch, Constable; Nic Dreier, Justice of Peace.

## TOWN OF OSBORN

Two Scotsmen are important in the beginning history of the Town of Osborn; Duncan McNab was its first white settler in 1848 and James Simpson, who came with his bride to the Osborn area to live in 1853, is known as the "Father of Osborn Township." Simpson's homestead, today in possession of members of the family, dates back to a deed of 1840 when Simpson bought his 160 acres while living in New York State.

Only two families actually lived in the heavily wooded territory before 1850, the

Some of the pioneers who had a part in shaping a town out of this forest area were the families of Ausbourne, Shepherd, Benedict, Anderson, Corning, Conklin, Buttle, Young, Sharp, Knight, Loucks, Munger, Knox, Kelly, Hartman, Daniels and Manly.

Before Osborn became a township it was a part of the Town of Freedom and when Osborn organized it included both the present Towns of Osborn and Seymour. Consequently, many of the active pioneers in Osborn were also early residents of the later Town of Seymour which formed in 1867. One of these early settlers was William A. Ausbourne, for whom the Town of Osborn was named.

The first income of many of the early settlers came from the sale of hardwood ashes. Maple trees were cut down, burned to ashes and then after the ashes were scooped up with a wooden scraper they were hauled to the ashery. The ashes brought three and four cents a bushel. The process of making perlash and potash in those days is interesting. The ashes were placed in large troughs made from logs and saturated with water which dripped through the ashes into a large cast iron kettle. This mixture was then boiled until it formed a powdery mass called perlash, which was hauled to Green Bay to be used in the manufacture of soda. The wet residue obtained from the ashes was called potash.

The making of charcoal was another of the early industries of the town. The logs from elm trees were used for this industry and after going through the firing process in the charcoal kilns the charcoal was marketed at De Pere.

James Simpson worked toward the initial organizing of the new town in 1858. In April of the following year the voters met at the home of Duncan McNab to elect the first officers of the new township. These officers were: Albert Simpson, Chairman; James Daniels and John Loucks, Supervisors; Watson Manley, Clerk; James Simpson, Treasurer; James Kelly, Superintendent of Schools; James Simpson,



*Seated: left to right—John Appleton, Assessor; Edmund Krull, Supervisor; P. W. Eick, Treasurer. Standing: Clarence Freund, Supervisor; Edward Peotter, Chairman; Edwin Jarchow, Constable; William Klitzke, Clerk. Absent: Reuben Mielke, Justice of Peace.*

McNabs and the Irish Thaddeus McCormicks, who came in 1849. Robert McNab settled in 1850, Albert Simpson in 1852. Early Osborn developed very slowly since there was little or no industry there to provide a livelihood and farms could not be started until clearings were made.



Sealer of Weights and Measures; William Ausbourne, James Simpson, John Hartman, Constables; James Kelly and John McCormick, Overseers of Highways.

Town officers for 1948 were: Edward Peotter, Chairman; Edmund Krull and Clarence Freund, Supervisors; William Klitzke, Clerk; P. W. Eick, Treasurer; John Appleton, Assessor; Edwin Jarchow, Constable; Reuben Mielke, Justice of Peace.

### TOWN OF BLACK CREEK

This area, forbidding because of its wide belt of swamp land, did not settle as early as its neighboring townships.

George Welch was its first settler in 1857, followed in 1859 by John M. Baer,



*Left to right*—Harry Heiden, Supervisor; Elmer Heiden, Supervisor; Henry Krueger, Treasurer; Edward Kluge, Chairman.  
*Absent:* Anthony P. Weyers, Clerk; William Beyer, Assessor; Steve Mullen, Constable; Carl Mielke, Justice of Peace.

C. W. Hopkins, the Huse and Felio families, Nelson Rice, C. M. Brainard, M. R. Thompson, Moses Scott, Olen, Amos and Thomas Burdick. Later on 10 Mormon families from Nauvoo, Illinois, settled at Binghamton, named for T. P. Bingham who originally owned portions of the land in the town. The first saw mill in the town was a water power mill built by Bingham on Bull Dog Creek and operated by C. W. Hopkins. In 1870 a steam mill was built by Randall Johnson north of Binghamton. After burning down, this mill was rebuilt and enlarged to include a shingle, lathe and feed mill.

C. W. Hopkins was the earliest storekeeper in 1865, William Hartsworm the first wagonmaker. Hugo Wickesberg owned the first cheese factory when cheese sold for less than eight cents a pound. A Mr. Borman bought this factory and later sold it to one of the county's oldest cheesemakers, Bernard Griese, who owns it today.

In November, 1861, landowners petitioned for a new township from the Town of Center. The following March the County Board created the Town of Black Creek, named for the meandering stream which runs through it. The election of town officers was held at the Charles Hopkins' home in April, 1862, with 12 voters electing these first township officials: C. W. Hopkins, Chairman; George Huse and Michael Herb, Supervisors; T. P. Bingham, Clerk; David Herb and Hiram Jones, Constables; Joseph Steffen, Assessor; George Welch, Sealer of Weights and Measures; Frank Herb, Huse, G. M. Davis and John Felio, Justices of Peace.

The first problem these men considered was an adequate road system in the town, and the second, educational facilities. School districts were not formed, however, until 1863.

Centennial officers in 1948 were: Edward Kluge, Chairman; Harry Heiden and Elmer Heiden, Supervisors; Anthony P. Weyers, Clerk; Henry Krueger, Treasurer; William Beyer, Assessor; Steve Mullen, Constable; Carl Mielke, Justice of Peace.

### TOWN OF SEYMOUR

This town got its name from an early extensive landowner of the area, Horatio Seymour, one of New York State's governors. Although the town was not organized until 1867, its early settlers were active in township affairs during the time that the present Seymour was part of the larger Town of Freedom and later the Town of Osborn.

The early history of both Seymour and Osborn is more closely related than other towns of the county in many ways. One



instance is that Osborn Township was named for William Ausbourne (later spelled Osborn), who with his brother, John, were the first white settlers in 1857 of the present Seymour Town area. These two were among the first officers of Osborn Township. "Uncle" Willis Munger, who came to Seymour in 1860 with his brother, Daniel, was the first postmaster in 1865 at Lime Rock.



*Front Row: left to right—Hugo Baehler, Chairman; Roy R. Row, Treasurer. Back Row: Herbert Tubbs, Clerk; Louis Ullmer, Jr., Supervisor; Joseph Wirth, Supervisor. Absent: Alois Leisgang, Assessor; Albert Sigl, Constable; Mel Ziesemer, Constable; Edward J. Klarner, Justice of Peace.*

The first postoffice in Seymour was established in 1870 at the home of Peter Tubbs, who also built the first frame house in the town, today occupied by his youngest son, Frank.

In 1859 Henry Becker came to settle, representing the first of many German people to locate in Seymour Township. His marriage in 1860 to Tina Sumnicht was the first marriage in the town. Although Becker began the German settlement, the greatest number of Germans arrived in the late sixties and early seventies. Up to 1870 English-speaking settlers dominated the population, including the families of Conklin, Rice, Harris, Anderson, Brooks, Larkin, Brown, Stevenson, Carter, Armitage, Bull, Willis and Winters. In 1860 several Munger families arrived and settled land that today is known as the city of Seymour.

Charles Eichler and Frederick Muehl came in the middle sixties. Later German families include the names of Kroner, Hackel, Ebert, Nickel, Liebhaber, Zeisemer, Krause, Wirth, Sturm, Trauver, Schmitt, Henas, Brugger, Karrow, Mueller and Trauffer.

March 1, 1867, is the date on which Seymour became a township. The first town meeting was held April 2, 1867, in the second district schoolhouse. Twenty-one voters elected the following officers: James Rice, Chairman; Henry Becker and D. H. Munger, Supervisors; C. E. McIntosh, Clerk; W. M. Ausbourne, Treasurer; Louis Conklin, Assessor; Erastus Buttles and Conklin, Justices of Peace; L. B. Carter, Constable.

Officers in 1948 were: Hugo Baehler, Chairman; Louis Ullmer, Jr., and Joseph Wirth, Supervisors; Herbert Tubbs, Clerk; Alois Leisgang, Assessor; Roy Row, Treasurer; Edward J. Klarner, Justice of Peace; Albert Sigl and Melvin Zeisemer, Constables.

## TOWN OF DEER CREEK

Welcome Hyde, pioneer lumberman and land locator described in an earlier chapter, was probably the first white man in the Deer Creek area when he began exploring the wild, unsurveyed timberlands along the Embarrass River in 1850.

The old Shawano trail attracted the first settlers and mention is made of a "widow Johnson" who kept a tavern hotel on the trail for the "accommodation of lumbermen, landseekers and other travelers on the Trail." From the records we find that according to land entries the widow's arrival with her son and a man named Daley, was about 1857 and that her life was not too exemplary since she ended it in a state prison.

The actual settlement of the town began with the arrival of the families of Warren Jepson and James Jewell in 1860 and later families of the early sixties whose names include those of Dempsey, McGlyn, Thorn, Granger, McGinty,



Murphy, McDonough and Moriarity. Jepson had settled earlier in the present Maple Creek area. The colony of French who located in the late sixties include the family names of Bricco, Babino, Besaw, Dery, Balthazor, Joubert and Faneuf. The Danish colony settled about 1876 in the northwestern part of the town. Among the Danes were Hans Olsen, George Albertson, Hans Swanson and a Christiansen. Anton Peters, John von Chindle and Peter Hazen were among the several Dutch families settled in the northeastern sections.

Other township names of the late sixties and early seventies include those of Gilmore, Holt, Beals; Crouner, Bowen, Buck, McGlone, Turney, Mallison, Renck, Wonder, Williams, Smith, Coffee, Roden, Hagen, Knapp, Bever, Larson, Wilbuhr Hansen, Conrad and Horkman.



*Left to right—George Knudsen, Chairman; C. W. Schoenike, Clerk; Herbert Poppe, Supervisor; Herman Koehler, Supervisor. Absent: Carl Due, Assessor; Martin Dempsey, Treasurer; Irvin Paul, Constable; Hilda Norder, Justice of Peace.*

This township is identified with real lumbering in its early days which began on a large scale in the winter of 1862 and 1863 and continued for 25 years. Within that first year five lumber camps were established. Most of the camps employed the settlers from neighboring towns at first and from Deer Creek as its settlement grew. With the passing of this industry the township turned to the soil and became a prosperous farming community.

The Town of Deer Creek was organized from the Town of Maple Creek on March 1, 1868. The first town meeting was held in the home of Chauncey Granger. Officers elected included Timothy Toomy or Looney, Chairman; Martin Dempsey and Daniel Thorn, Supervisors; Hugh McDonough, Clerk; Munroe Richardson, Treasurer; Toomy, John Weid, Isaac Thorn, John Dempsey, Justices of Peace; James Jewell, Martin Dempsey and David McGlyn (also spelled McGlynn), Constables; Daniel Thorn, McDonough and Richardson, Assessors.

The 1948 officers were: George E. Knudsen, Chairman; Herman Koehler and Herbert Poppe, Supervisors; C. W. Schoenike, Clerk; Martin Dempsey, Treasurer; Carl Due, Assessor; Irvin Paul, Constable; Hilda Norder, Justice of the Peace.

## TOWN OF MAINE

Four men from Chilton, Maine, in search of a new home in the west were the first settlers of both the Town of Maine and its village, Leeman. They were David Stinson, his son-in-law, George Speers or Spoers, Paul Greely and John Whitmore, who came in 1854.

It was eight years before more settlers came, Andrew Allen from Canada in 1862, Thomas Jacobs, Thomas Allen and Sylvester Boodry shortly after; Claud Hurlbert, Ezra Ryder, George and H. S. Leeman were all settled before Matthew D. Leeman arrived in 1867. Most of the early settlers of the town were American born, the exceptions being the Canadians. Other pioneer families include the names of Carpenter, Curtis, Spaulding, Pushor, Fuller, Atwater, Strong, Diemal, Sawyer, Jersey and Ball.

In the late seventies and early eighties a number of Scandinavian families settled, among them Andrew Skogskrom and Andrew Lind as early as 1876, Nels Nelson, Ole Arenson, Christian Olsen, Gust Erickson, Alfred Nelson, William and Charles Dorn, Lars Johnson, Eric Jones and Nels Johnson.



Logging occupied the time of most of these settlers who went into the woods each winter and logged as long as the snow lasted. In the early days a neighborhood flatboat was used to cross the river and each traveler was his own ferryman. The rule was "to holler" if he needed help. In the winter of 1881 and 1882 a wooden bridge was built across the river



Left to right—Owen Greely, Assessor and Justice of Peace; Bernard Nelson, Supervisor; B. F. Gunderson, Chairman; Fred Ames, Supervisor; Mrs. Thelma Strong, Clerk; Tessie Cook, Treasurer. Absent: Ray Larson, Constable; Charles Carter, Justice of Peace.

and a corduroy road was constructed through the swamp.

The Maine area, named for the original home of its first settlers, became a township in November, 1868. The first town meeting was held in April, 1869, in the schoolhouse in the adjacent town. Eighteen votes were polled electing the following to office: P. A. Greely, Chairman; Andrew Allen and M. Spaulding, Supervisors; James E. Spaulding, Clerk; H. S. Leeman, Treasurer; William Hurlbert, J. C. Spaulding, Justices of Peace; Thomas Jacobs, Constable; Greely and Leeman, Assessors.

Centennial town officers were: B. F. Gunderson, Chairman; Fred Ames and Bernard Nelson, Supervisors; Owen L. Greely, Assessor; Miss Tessie Cook, Treasurer; Mrs. Thelma Strong, Clerk; Ray Larson, Constable; Charles Carter and Owen Greely, Justices of Peace.

## TOWN OF CICERO

Cicero Township, for many years the northern half of the Town of Black Creek, was organized by special action of the State Legislature in 1871. When a petition of landowners asked for a separate township in January, 1871, the County Board discovered that under the state's General Laws of 1870 Black Creek Township could not be divided.

The reason for this lay in the fact that Black Creek previously had issued bonds to help build the Green Bay and Lake Pepin Railroad and these bonds were still outstanding. According to the law of 1870 it was "illegal to strike from any town so issuing bonds any part of its territory until all such bonds were paid." However, on petition signed by all the members of the County Board, the state passed an act to divide the Town of Black Creek, at the same time apportioning the bonded debt of \$5,000 to the new Town of Cicero and the remaining \$7,000 to Black Creek. Thus, Cicero started its official life with a debt.

The town was named for Cicero, New York, the former home of Stephen B. Salter, first chairman of the new town. Other officers elected at the town meeting held April 4, 1871, were: John Rice and William Schrader, Supervisors; Harry Shepherd, Clerk; Charles Briggs, Assessor; John Sorrell, Treasurer; Reuben Goddard, Asa Price, Gottlieb Geisberger and Salter, Justices of Peace; Charles Wussow, William Bleek, and G. A. Glaser, Constables.

It seems that Cicero was unable even to settle without handicaps. John Pierce, his son, Silas, and Lloyd Walker built their shanties on the lowlands along the Shioc River in September, 1865. Their intentions were to live on their pre-empted lands but the following spring high flood waters brought four feet of water into their cabins. Fearing worse conditions, the trio gave up their claim as first settlers when they rafted their belongings down the Shioc and out of the township.



So it is that E. C. Stannard and Herman Eberhard, who came later in 1865, can be called the first settlers of Cicero. Others who followed include John Sorrell, Charles Briggs, Harry Shepherd, Wright, Peter and James Sherman, William Le Merl and Karl Bleek. In the seventies new settlers were Stephen Salter, Lorenzo Daniels, C. Herman, Elisha Baxter, Gottlieb Giesberger, James Bradley, John Rice, Anton Zulinger, Franz Klauer, Franz Schnabel, William Schroeder, Charles Wussow, Edward Jaeger, Charles Court, Arthur McKee, Andreas Barth, Ernst Neuf, William Ladds, John Larsen, George Glaser, Christian Roepke, John Machinsky, Fred and Christian Koehn, John, Fred and Henry Burmeister, William Piehl, John Bubolz, Ezra Buttles, Jacob Anderes and Peter Groff. Julius Bubolz, long identified with the progress of the town, arrived in 1884 as a young man of

clearing of this land, the village site was laid out.

Cicero Township officers in 1948 were: Walter A. Blake, Chairman; Henry Wehrman and Chris Roepcke, Supervisors; Jacob Hahn, Clerk; B. J. Brugger, Treasurer; George P. Tubbs, Assessor; Carl and John Krull, Constables; Edmund Bubolz, Justice of Peace.

## TOWN OF VANDEN BROEK

The Town of Vanden Broek is the one town in the county that was well advanced in population, farming and progress at the time it became a township. Although one of the oldest in the county's actual history, this township was next to the last to be organized officially.

The fact that the town grew up with the county as it developed is shown in the records of the first town meeting held May 13, 1902. In place of the customary \$200 or smaller budget of most of the earlier towns, Vanden Broek voted \$1,000 for its first general purpose fund and \$500 for a bridge on the Freedom Road. Two years later the town officials appropriated \$1,000 for another bridge and \$1,000 again for its general fund.

Its history goes back to 1836 when the Rev. Theodore Van den Broek, for whom the town was named, came to the site of the present village of Little Chute to establish his mission among the Indians. Since the town goes back more than a hundred years in the county's history its first settlers were among those early settlers already mentioned, the French family from Canada, Antoine Mosseau or Manseau and the family of his daughter, Des Anges and Ephraim St. Louis and their four eldest children.

The real, large settlement of the town came later, in 1848, with the Hollanders whose names and story also have been related. The tamarack swamps and forest wilderness have given way to the rich farm lands and a bustling village of these industrious and thrifty folk. These settlers took an active interest in their township



*Front Row: left to right—Jacob Hahn, Clerk; Walter A. Blake, Chairman; George P. Tubbs, Assessor. Back Row: Bert J. Brugger, Treasurer; Henry Wehrman, Supervisor; Chris Roepcke, Supervisor. Absent: Carl Krull, Constable; John Krull, Constable; Edmund Bubolz, Justice of Peace.*

20. He served the town as clerk for 19 years and the school board for 28 years.

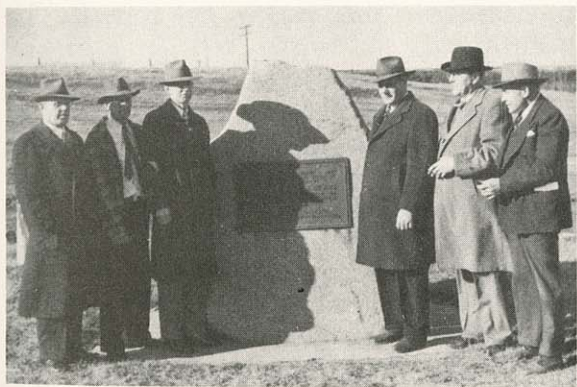
When A. L. Nichols in 1918 organized a corporation and bought a large tract of cut-over land thickly covered with brush and stumps, the present village of Nichols was launched. The first stump was pulled on May 28, 1918, and, following the



affairs, then Kaukauna Township, and further settlement of the Dutch progressed rapidly. By March, 1854, a postoffice was established at the village with Peter Maas the first postmaster. Records from the *Appleton Crescent* show that 25 families came from Holland to join their friends and relatives in May of 1854 and 50 more families settled in the following June. Early in 1863 "large numbers" of Hollanders came to live in the vicinity of Little Chute.

In April, 1902, the County Board created the present town and the first election was held with 68 registered voters. The officers elected at this meeting were: Martin Weyenberg, Chairman; Wenzel Heindland and Anton J. Vandenberg, Supervisors; Anton A. Hietpas, Clerk; John A. Gloudemans, Assessor; John Hendricks, Treasurer.

Centennial officers were: William P. Hietpas, Chairman; John A. Hietpas and



*Left to right*—Richard Peterson, Assessor; John M. Schumacher, Treasurer; Edward Bankert, Clerk; John A. Hietpas, Supervisor; William P. Hietpas, Chairman; John J. Coenen, Supervisor. *Absent*: George Hermesen, Constable; Ray Diedrich and Matt Weyenberg, Justices of Peace.

John J. Coenen, Supervisors; Edward Bankert, Clerk; Richard Peterson, Assessor; John M. Schumacher, Treasurer; George Hermesen, Constable; Ray Diedrich and Matt Weyenberg, Justices of Peace.

## TOWN OF ONEIDA

The history behind this township is at once colorful, courageous and tragic. In

a sense, Oneida Township, created from the Oneida Indian Reservation, represents the last remaining link in the county between two civilizations—that of the Indian and the white man.

The Oneida Indians did not always live in this part of the country, but migrated to the present county in 1824 from their original home in the state of New York. They were one of the six nations of the Iroquois. They came here as Christians with a creditable record of service to their country in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

The fantastic story of the Episcopal missionary, Eleazer Williams, who later claimed to be the lost dauphin of France, is part of the Oneida story, too, for Williams originated and promoted the idea of moving the New York Indians into the western lands.

The origin of Williams, grandson of the white Eunice Williams and her Iroquois husband, goes back to the Deerfield, Mass., massacre of 1704 when in an Indian raid the family of missionary John Williams was carried off to Canada. All these children, except the youngest daughter, Eunice, were returned to white settlements. Consequently, young Eleazer grew up among the St. Regis Indians but through the family connections of his grandmother he was educated at Dartmouth College where he prepared himself for the Episcopal clergy.

A brilliant orator, master of his Indian tongue and, according to many historians, an opportunist with visions of personal power, Williams became a successful missionary among the New York Indians. In genuine interest for the improvement of his people he invented a method of simplification of the Mohawk language into a native alphabet so that the children were able to read and write in their own language. Along with this work he translated several religious books into his simplified language.

In 1820 Williams brought a delegation of New York Indians to Wisconsin and started negotiations with the Menominee,



but the first actual Oneida settlers did not come until four years later. When Williams appealed to the United States government on behalf of the proposed migration he found support from two strong sources—land-hungry New York land brokers who desired the New York Indian lands and Southern Congressmen who be-



Seated: left to right—John Johnston, Supervisor; Mrs. Evangeline Metoxen, Clerk; Henry Janz, Treasurer. Standing: Ray Steaven, Supervisor; Fred R. Hill, Chairman; Albert Van Den Heuvel, Assessor.

lieved the move would help their cause in the rising slavery issue.

Williams' plan to bring the peoples of all six Indian nations was not successful for many reasons. Some of the New York Indians decided against the move, treaty negotiations with the Menominee became snarled through outside interference and, finally, the intervention by the United States to settle the Indian land differences in Wisconsin led to the establishment of the Oneida Reservation. After his dream of an Indian empire in the west had failed Williams lived for several years in his home near De Pere. It was during this period that he made his claim to being a Bourbon and the rightful heir to the French throne, which caused years of controversy. He died in 1858 in New York State and in 1947 his remains were moved to the Oneida cemetery near Green Bay.

The Oneida Reservation included originally the present Town of Hobart in

Brown County and the present Town of Oneida in Outagamie County. There the Indians settled to hunt and fish, make axe handles and hoops; they brought their beadwork, baskets and wild berries into neighboring settlements to sell. They made clearings and planted corn and many homesteads had extensive orchards. Well known chiefs of the Oneida were Cornelius Hill, Daniel Bread and Jacob Cornelius.

The story of the heroic fight of these people against the ravage of their forest home and their old enemy, intoxicating drink, is told best by their own tribal chiefs.

On April 12, 1855, through the efforts of Samuel Ryan, Jr., editor of the *Appleton Crescent*, an Indian Council was held at which three of the most reliable chiefs of the tribe related the history of the Oneida nation. The chiefs, Jacob Cornelius, John Cornelius and John Cooper, spoke to an interpreter who translated their words to the Methodist missionary, the Rev. C. G. Lathrop.

"The principal reason for leaving the graves of our fathers in the state of New York was the disagreement of the chiefs, originating in the use of intoxicating drinks, and ending in the sale of so much of our land that a division of the public lands became necessary in order that each member of our nation might have his rights. When divided we found we had not enough land for ourselves and our children. This induced us to sell our shares and agree to come west into the far-off hunting ground of the wild Indians.

"A small band of about eighty in number arrived here, with one chief, in July 1824. These were the first, since which time small bands have been arriving at different times.

"The original purchase of the Oneidas in Wisconsin was from the Menominees,—the half-breeds interfered and made us trouble. But the United States government took the matter in hand, and by this means the six nations concluded the treaty with the Menominees.



"The Oneidas and St. Regis Indians paid their share. The U.S. government agreed to give the six nations forty miles square, on condition they settled upon it in six years, if not it reverted again to the government. None but the Oneidas complied with the stipulations of the treaty.

"The six nations made a treaty with the government in 1838. At that time there was a division made between the Oneidas and the rest of the six nations, the Oneidas being on their lands, the others having not come. At that time the Oneidas, here, on their new purchase numbered 650, each of whom were to have one hundred acres.

"Our title being by this last treaty secured to us we commenced the arduous work of felling trees of the dense forest, making through them roads, bridging streams, clearing lands and erecting churches, etc.

"The government of our nation consists as heretofore of the chiefs to whom all matters of difference between the members of the nation (warriors) are referable.

"We have always from our first settlement here, desired and expected that the criminal code of Wisconsin would be extended over us by the legislature as it was over us in the state of New York. For a long time after the commencement of our settlement our young men worked well, there was scarcely any drunkenness among us, but at length they began to drink and waste their property and time, abuse and neglect their families, and often kill one another.

"We then passed stringent laws (the majority were opposed to drinking) against the traffic among us, prohibiting its being brought into the nation or sold or given away among us."

The chiefs then explained how the lumbering business was brought among them by men from Green Bay with intoxicating liquors being given in payment for the lumber and shingles made in the sawmills. As a result, the whiskey trade increased with the lumbering to the point

that many of the warriors of the nation did nothing but make shingles, taking them to Green Bay for whiskey in spite of the law against it.

"Many, very many of our nation's hardest men have died by intoxication—by the traffic that we would have stopped long ago had we had it in our power. Some by knives of intoxicated friends; some drowned crossing ferries, others frozen. In a word this part of our history is a history of wretchedness, poverty, crime and disgrace."

The three chiefs pointed out that they were proud to boast that their national council had never tolerated for even one hour the traffic in their greatest enemy.

They also blamed part of their suffering and crime on the neglect of the state, indicating that a vast amount of their crime might have been prevented with proper legislation

"It is occasion of deep regret to us that many of our young men devote all their time to making shingle and lumbering instead of farming. These are generally the drinking men. Without restraint they cut timber anywhere on the nation's land and appropriate it to their own use. In this way the drunkards of our nation will utterly ruin our valuable pine timber and leave us destitute of building materials, unless we return to our old custom of building houses, and again live in the smoky wigwams. The drinking Indians, with the help of white men like themselves at Green Bay, De Pere and Kaukauna, are hastening the ruin of our nation.

"These of our nation who work in the pinery lay up nothing; many, however, work on farms; these have enough to live on. Our lands are good enough if properly cultivated."

The last survivor of the original group of Oneida who emigrated was Mrs. Rose Schuyler, whose burial rites were celebrated at Oneida in August, 1924. She was said to have reached the age of 109 years. By this time Oneida had become a township in Outagamie County, the Indians



had long since become American citizens and many Indians had sold their lands to white settlers.

Today the Town of Oneida is a farming country, dairying being the most extensive occupation. Its development has been one of constant improvement. The township has 12 miles of state roads, 40 miles of county roads and 72 miles of town roads which are all kept in good condition.

When the town organized in 1910 its first officers were: Nelson Metoxen, Chair-

man; James W. Cornelius and Richard Powlas, Supervisors; Oscar Smith, Clerk; Joseph M. Smith, Treasurer; Cornelius and Lehigh Wheelock, Justices of Peace; Eli B. Cornelius and Josiah Hill, Constables; Josiah Charles and Jannison Metoxen, Assessors.

The centennial officers were: Fred R. Hill, Chairman; Ray Steaven and John Johnston, Supervisors; Mrs. Evangeline Metoxen, Clerk; Henry Janz, Treasurer; Albert Van Den Heuvel, Assessor.