EARLY HISTORY OF THIS REGION

The land of this region was ceded by the Indians to the United States by a treaty that was made with the Winnebago tribe at Prairie du Chien on August 1, 1829.

The Indians stayed on for some time as this was a favorite hunting ground. Finally they had to be driven off.

Some of the land was sold to the settlers for $1.25 an acre. The land office was located in Mineral Point.

As Fred L. Holmes writes in his book, OLD WORLD WISCONSIN, "We see today in Wisconsin the thrift, daring, patience, skills, and endurance of our early foreign settlers."

People of the old world heard of the cheap land and freedom of the middlewest and came to America. Between 1846 and 1847 the population of Wisconsin increased by 55,000, a gain of 30 per cent.

New Englanders from New York state were the first to settle in Dane County. Then the Norwegians arrived, settling in the southeastern part of the country.

After 1850 the Germans arrived and by 1860 there were nearly as many Germans as Norwegians. They
settled in groups such as the Germans in German Valley. By 1940 there were more Germans born in Wisconsin than any other nationality.

The climate, forests and animals resembled those of Germany and for that reason many came here and avoided the southern states.

Over a million and a half people have come from foreign countries to live in Wisconsin and many of the nationalities have preserved the practices and customs of their native country.

The first settlers, who came to German Valley over one hundred years ago, found the land covered with timber, as did all Wisconsin pioneers. Their first task was to cut the timber to clear the land and build log homes. The stumps had to be grubbed out by hand.

They followed the same pattern as all pioneers, using ox teams, spinning their yarn, weaving cloth, making candles and soap. Every farmer raised wheat to furnish the yearly supply of bread. After it was threshed with a flail the wheat was taken to Black Earth to be ground. (In later years it was taken to Elver's Mill.)

As the railroad passed through Black Earth before it did here, the farmers often drove stock to Black Earth to market.

Pokerville was the nearest trading center for the earliest settlers.
Butter was made at home and sold. It was often put into wooden kegs.

The present village of Mount Horeb sprang up after the railroad went through in 1881. Before that time there was a settlement at what is now known as Luhman's Corner about one mile west of Mount Horeb. In the early days this was Brackenwagon Corner. There was a store and post-office there.

**BLUE MOUNDS VICINITY 100 YEARS AGO**
(The following information was taken from a *HISTORY OF DANE COUNTY*, newspaper clippings, etc. furnished by the State Historical Society and Extension Division.)

German Valley is located in the town of Blue Mounds, one of the earliest settled regions of our state.

The first settlement in this area was made in 1828 by Ebenezer Brigham. He came to mine lead and entered a claim on section 5 and 7. He mined lead and opened an inn known as Brigham Place. This was for the accommodation of the travelers who were numerous in those days. The Blue Mounds road was one of the chief thoroughfares of the territory. It followed the ridge which extends from near Madison almost due west to the Mississippi River. This was the military road from Fort Winnebago (now Portage) to Fort Crawford (now Prairie du Chien.) This was probably the first wagon road maintained within the limits of Wisconsin.