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.
The four-horse coaches of the United States mail, with nine passengers inside and more on top, passed each way daily. The old stage-coach, now almost forgotten, was then in its glory.

Among the best known of the good drivers of that day was Andrew Bishop. He would sound his horn to announce the arrival and bring his load of happy passengers up to the door of the Brigham Place for dinner.

When the Black Hawk War broke out in 1832 the Blue Mounds fort was built for the protection of the settlers against the Indians. The fort was situated on a high prairie and commanded a good view in every direction for many miles. The fort was sometimes threatened but never actually attacked by the Indians who were frequently seen in the neighborhood, so that it was never safe to be far outside the stockade. At different times they succeeded in killing three men of the garrison. Two of them were killed in plain sight of the inmates of the fort, but too far away to be rescued.

The two Hall girls, who had been captured by the Indians, were brought to the Mound Fort by the Winnebagoes and surrendered on the payment of ransom by Colonel Dodge. Their story attracted a good deal of attention and interest throughout the country and the Blue Mounds were brought into considerable notoriety by the fact that the surrender
was made there.

Nothing remains today of the Mounds Fort. A marker has been placed there by the State Historical Society. (The land where the fort stood is now part of the Rinehart Eckel farm.)

Charles Lycan, born in 1835, was the first white child born in the town.

Blue Mounds was set off as a separate town by the legislature on March 11, 1848. At that time it also included the present town of Vermont.

The first town meeting of Blue Mounds was held at the home of Ira Isham in April 1848. The first chairman was Ebenezer Brigham. He was the first postmaster of the region also.

The first school in Dane County was opened in the Brigham settlement in 1836. This school stood for over 100 years and was finally torn down in about 1940.

The Military Road was built by the United States Government in 1831. It was used to carry army supplies from Fort Crawford to Green Bay.

A large part of the town of Blue Mounds was covered with timber in the early days. Settlers came to farm and to mine lead.

Blue Mounds had the first post office in this part of the state. It was located at Brigham's Inn and Ebenezer Brigham was postmaster. It was called Moundville.

The principal crop raised in the early days was
wheat. Some of this was raised as a cash crop. Later the dairy industry began to grow. In 1848 a cow was worth about $12.00. Some farmers made butter and shipped it to Milwaukee. Later cheese factories were built in almost every township.

The total number of enlisted men from Dane County in the Civil War was 5840. Of these 746 died in service. Fifteen men from the town of Blue Mounds died in service.

A Dane County regiment (the 8th) carried the live eagle throughout the Civil War and came to be known as "The Eagle Regiment."

SCHOOLS

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3, TOWN OF BLUE MOUNDS—1855

Written by—Olin Ruste, Mount Horeb

The early settlers had only a one way ticket to America, and brought with them all their worldly possessions. As this was to be their permanent home, it was not long before they were longing for a school for their children. So it came to pass that Edward Dale recorded in the records of the town clerk, that school district No. 3, comprising the S. W. quarter of the town of Blue Mounds, was established and so organized, on April 9, 1855. This was the first tax supported school in this section of the township.

The pattern followed by these communities was somewhat similar. In every community there was a "bellwether" who carried the leading part in building