CHURCH HISTORY

The Germans who settled in this region were Lutherans. From the History of Dane County by Keyes we learn that the Blue Mounds German Lutheran congregation was organized in 1858 with seven members. These were: Heinrick Kahl, Heinrich Bilse, Jacob Bilse, Philip Kably, Daniel Becker, Michael Bilse, and Ferdinand Steyer. Services were first held in the homes. A church was built in 1868. This proved to be too small and was torn down. The second church was struck by lightning and destroyed. The last church was built in 1907. Reverend Nitardy was pastor of this church for many years. The pastor of the first church was Rev. John Deindoerfer.

Finally the last church was also torn down. This was in 1953. It had not been used for many years as the people attended services in Mount Horeb.

At the present time a very modern and beautiful church has just been completed in Mount Horeb. It was dedicated July 31, 1955.

CHEESE FACTORY

The first cheese factory in German Valley was built in 1888. The German Valley Cheese Company was organized at that time. In 1937 the factory was enlarged.

The cheesemakers were of Swiss decent, therefore, Swiss cheese was always made here. The following were cheesemakers: Mr. Strup, Dan Rothlisberger,