FOURTEENTH CHAPTER.

CONDENSED HISTORY.

For a period of six years, beginning with January, 1872, and extending to January, 1878, all local transactions of general importance or interest are given in the succeeding pages. This will be an invaluable feature of the work, and alone worth the cost of the book. It has been a tedious and laborious undertaking to secure and arrange all this matter, but we feel that all who are interested in the book will fully appreciate our efforts to place before them a complete historical record of our city.

The matter is arranged by months, showing the monthly occurrences during each of the years named, and the exact date is given in matters of more general interest.

G. A. C.

1872

JANUARY.

Lamar Olmstead seriously injured while at work in the flour mill of J. H. Kimberly & Co. Eben Welch, for several years teacher in the Neenah schools, died in town of Clayton. First festival and supper by the Daughters of Rebecca. E. T. Williams became a partner in the Neenah Stove Works with Mr. A. K. Moore. Aylward’s Plow Works established.
FEBRUARY.


MARCH.

First switch engine located at this point. Theodore Tilton lectured in Pettibone Hall. Firm of Kimberly, Clark & Co. formed, and arrangements made for building the Globe Paper Mills.

APRIL.


MAY.

Moore's foundry rebuilt. Little son of Mr. Warnes drowned. A boy named Peter Estes killed by a runaway team. T. G. Kellogg died, age 75 years. G. Olds begins the manufacture of buses.

JUNE.

Mrs. J. E. Chapin died at Albany, N. Y. Riverside Park purchased by village authorities. Death of Hattie

**JULY.**

Miss Nettie Hewitt and Miss Maggie Shiells go to Europe. Loos’ steam bakery built. Savings department, of Bank of Neenah organized. Wheeler and Cunningham lease the Old Government Grist Mill. Henry Sherry lays out and improves Lake View Addition.

**AUGUST.**


**SEPTEMBER**

Great temperance meeting held on Doty Island, addressed by Father Willard, Col. Watrous, and others. Barnum’s World’s Fair exhibited in Neenah. Mrs. J. W. Williams narrowly escapes death from asphyxiation at the residence of R. T. Morgan, Oshkosh.

**OCTOBER.**


**NOVEMBER.**

The remarkable epidemic, known as the horse epizootic, makes its appearance. McConnell elected to the Legislature over I. W. Hunt. Mr. H. Shoemaker receives $500 from the village for injuries sustained by driving into an opening carelessly left in the street. Epizootic and bad roads cause a wood famine.
DECEMBER.

Deacon Walbridge died, Dec. 5th. H. Mack received $275 for damages received through defective sidewalk. Horses resume work, after having the epizootic. Residence of A. J. Webster burned. Extremely cold, thermometer ranging from 32° to 38°. Vote to ratify purchase of Riverside Park, and amendments to village charter.

1873.

JANUARY,

In this month died A. K. Moore and Lulu Manville. Slight small pox scare during this month. Great snow storm occasions stoppage and delays of railroad trains. Pettibone Block narrowly escapes destruction by fire.

FEBRUARY.

Influenza, in epidemic form, not unlike the epizootic, proves a sore affliction. The Presbyterian Church adopt the plan of sustaining expenses by contribution. Several railroad accidents occur near Dixie.

MARCH.

In this month Neenah was incorporated as a city. Clement & Stevens made the first purchase of wheat in Minnesota, shipping via the West Wisconsin and Green Bay & Minnesota railroad to Green Bay, and thence by Chicago & Northwestern to Neenah their first purchase was 20,000 bushels. Messrs. Smith, Van Ostrand & Leavens purchase the Neenah Stove Works. and begin active operations in the manufacture of stoves. Postmaster John W. Williams died suddenly, March 21st.

APRIL.

In this month occurred the first charter election, Edward Smith being elected as Neenah’s first Mayor with-
out opposition. The following were the first aldermen elected in this city: First ward—J. B. Russell, W. Kell-ett. Second ward—A. W. Patten, A. Michelson. Third ward—Fred Krueger, J. Bergstrom. Geo. Danielson was first treasurer under the city administration. Clement & Stevens purchase the stone mills.

MAY.

Common Council meetings first held in the room over Patten’s Block. Government survey of the south channel completed. Geo. E. Scott buys the interest of Mossop, and is alone in the hardware trade. Residence of John Stevens partially destroyed by fire. Brick stores of Cook, Bradley, Newdeck and Elwers begun this month. Gilbert Jones sells a number of city lots at auction.

JUNE.


JULY.

Neenah Amateurs give the play of the “Stranger,” Pettibone Hall, July 3d. Grand regatta, in which the Minnie Graves wins first prize. $200. Deacon Mitchell, one of the earliest settlers, died this month, 21st. Work commenced on Monaghan’s block, Cedar street.

AUGUST.

An effort to rebuild the “long bridge” is defeated by farmers from the Neenah side of the river. Work commenced on the fine residence of J. A. Kimberly, Esq. The slash-boards on the dam removed by Capt. Edwards and a posse of Government employees. Park hall built. Elisha Quartermas, an estimable young man, died Aug.
25th. Geo. O. Bergstrom buys the entire business of Neenah Plow Works.

SEPTEMBER.

Grand Grange pic-nic at Riverside Park. In this month is recorded an incident remembered by all readers of THE GAZETTE, the same being the mysterious death, at the Russell House, of the wife of one "Philippe," a wizard and sleight-of-hand performer, who gave an exhibition at Pettibone Hall, Saturday night his wife, lying in a dying condition at the time, and being dead in the morning. She was buried in the Potter's Field the same day, attended only by the boarders from the hotel and the strange man who claimed to be her husband. The latter left the following morning, and the whole affair made a deep impression on the community. In this month began the famous panic of '73.

OCTOBER.


NOVEMBER.

Peckham elected to the Assembly over Verbeck. Winter sets in uncommonly early, heavy snow storm 11th. Famous railroad case between Tilly Walker and Wisconsin Central railroad tried in Circuit Court at Oshkosh. The famous Vinland ghost scare creates considerable interest.

DECEMBER.

Tuesday, Dec. 2d, large gathering in honor of the completion of the chapel addition to the Presbyterian
Church. Two cars loaded with wheat are pushed off Clement & Stevens’ side track into the river. Old School Presbyterian Church purchased by the M. E. Society, and the brick church by the German Lutherans.

1874.

JANUARY.

The custom of New Years’ calls inaugurated in Neenah. Wildfang’s mineral well discovered. Green Bay Store established in this city. Robert Colyer lectures in Pettibone Hall.

FEBRUARY.

The old Government Flour Mill and Sherry’s saw mill destroyed by fire Monday night, Feb. 9th. Menasha incorporated as a city. Kimberly & Henry dissolve partnership in the drug business. The present house of worship used by the M. E. Church re-dedicated.

MARCH.


APRIL.

G. A. Cunningham becomes editor of The Gazette. Edward Smith re-elected Mayor over J. R. Barnett, majority, 38. The following Aldermen were also elected: First ward, H. P. Leavens. Second ward, M. E. Sorley. Third ward, M. O. Brian, and George Daniels- son City Treasurer. Inauguration of the remarkable “woman’s crusade” in the temperance cause. The license question is hotly discussed.

MAY.

A. W. Patten purchases the old Empire Flour Mills of L. C. Porter, and breaks ground for a paper mill in
the same locality. John Hunt commences brick block on Wisconsin avenue. Kimberly, Clark & Co. purchase the Neenah Paper Mills of Smith & Van Ostrand. Mr. and Mrs. John Stevens and Robert Shiells, Esq., go to Europe. Considerable excitement this month over the “temperance crusade.”

JUNE.

Steamboat dock built at Riverside Park. Rev. Mr. Freeman takes the pastorate of the Baptist Church. Temperance and religious services are held in George Thompson’s saloon. Pingle and Wildfang begin operations on brick stores.

JULY.


AUGUST.

Miss Lu Case is thrown from a buggy while driving near the Neenah Stove Works and quite seriously injured. Simon Nelson, a Danish laborer dies from sunstroke. Two boys, one a son of Alderman O’Brien, another named Williams, are smothered to death in Shoemaker’s elevator, Monday, Aug. 10th.

SEPTEMBER.

Work commenced on Myers’ brick building. Proposition by the city Council to aid Mr. Russell in the erection of a hotel. G. Christenson begins work on new brick store.
OCTOBER.

Senator Matt Carpenter and Col. Goodwin address a mass meeting on Doty Island, 10th. Robert Shiells and daughter, Bina, return from their European trip. Rev. Mr. Olmstead is retained as pastor of M. E. Church. Rev. Hiram Marsh, an aged and respected citizen, died Oct. 19th. Barlow & Young establish the C. O. D. store. Willis Leavens, died of apoplexy, 28th.

NOVEMBER.

Dr. N. S. Robinson elected to the Assembly over Merrill, of Winneconne. A. M. Kimball elected to Congress. Thanksgiving services held at the M. E. Church; Rev. J. E. Chapin delivering the address.

DECEMBER.

Robert Campbell, a young man 16 years of age, drowned while skating above the dam, Dec. 1st. The year's improvements, as figured up in THE GAZETTE, amount to $307,400. the year 1874 being the most prosperous of any in the annals of the place.

1875.

JANUARY.

W. N. Moore, once a prominent citizen of Neenah, died this month at his home in Joliet, Ill. Hon. Schuyler Colfax lectured in the Presbyterian Church, 14th. Exceeding cold weather during this month, thermometer ranging as low as 34° below zero. Hiram Smith, D. C. Van Ostrand and George Harlow go to California. Clayton cheese factory incorporated. Temple of Honor organized, 29th.

FEBRUARY.

Great snow storm early in this month; roads blockaded for days. City charter amended, making four wards.
Prof. J. A. Russell holds a musical convention. Course of lectures by Prof. Pepper. Coldest period on record; spirit thermometer indicating as low as 44° below zero. In this month is recorded a most interesting circumstance, it being the return to the city and town of the railroad bonds voted to the Wisconsin Central, and their public destruction by burning, in the street opposite The Gazette office. Immense snow drifts block up the roads.

MARCH.

Dr. J. C. Mills, died, aged 73. Common Council vote aid to J. B. Russell, in consideration of his building the Russell House. The spelling mania affects the country.

APRIL.

J. C. Kerwin commences the practice of law. City lot on Cedar street sold to the Schuetzen Bund. Alex. Billstein elected mayor over A. E. Cross. The following Aldermen also elected: First ward, Hugh McGregor; Second ward, Charles Petzold; Third ward, Gilbert C. Jones. The Fourth ward held their first election this month, sending J. W. Toby and Wm. Robinson to represent them in the Board of Aldermen. A. Eisenach was elected city treasurer, and T. T. Moulton superintendent of public schools, for a term of two years. The spelling mania strikes Neenah, and several exciting and interesting public spelling matches are held. The old Russell House torn down to make room for a large new hotel. City map prepared by county surveyor Palmer, delivered to purchasers. W. P. Peckham sells his interest in the firm of Peckham, Krueger & Co. New bell secured for the Presbyterian Church. Great fire at Oshkosh, April 28th.
MAY.
Corner-stone of the Russell House laid, 17th. Concert given for the benefit of sufferers by the Oshkosh fire; over $100 secured. Pitt Peckham purchases the hardware store of Smith, Van Ostrand & Leavens.

JUNE.
First annual cruise of Neenah Yacht Club. Very successful fair held by the Catholic Church, at Concordia Hall, Menasha; gold-headed cane voted to Mayor Alex. Billstein. Pic-nic by the Oshkosh Knights of Pythias, at Riverside Park.

JULY.
Grand Fourth of July celebration at Riverside Park. John Roberts buys the "Doty place" of Mr. Ernesting. Work commenced on the Schuetzen Hall. Gustavus' flouring mill sold to Sherry & Maxwell.

AUGUST.
H. L. Barlow sells his interest in the C. O. D. Store. Blind Tom gives an entertainment at Pettibone Hall. Sharp frost this month, 26th, doing much damage. G. A. Cunningham assumes entire ownership of The Gazette printing establishment.

SEPTEMBER.
Great gale of wind sweeps over this section of the country, causing considerable damage and loss. Fourth ward school house commenced. Burglars raid the stores of J. W. Worm, C. B. Manville and H. Schimpf. Big grain crops are recorded in this month, the yield for 1875 being one of the very best. A man named White is fatally injured while at work in the Winnebago Paper Mills.

OCTOBER.
The Gazette is enlarged to a nine column paper. Railroad side-track is built at the rear of the mills on

NOVEMBER.

Geo. A. Whiting becomes interested in the Winnebago Paper Mills. Eric McArthur, of Winneconne elected to the Assembly. Schuetzen Hall opened and dedicated on Thanksgiving Day. Prof. Pepper gives a course of lectures, the first entertainments in Schuetzen Hall.

DECEMBER.

Side track completed to the Winnebago Paper Mills. Yale time-lock attached to the vaults of the National Bank. The Neenah Amateurs tender a benefit entertainment to the Schuetzen Society. A large party go by special train to hear Mrs. Scott-Siddons at Oshkosh, 18th. A list of improvements for the year as given in The Gazette, amount to $300,000.

1876.

JANUARY.

Dr. N. S. Robinson and family returned from Portland, Me., and resume permanent residence in Neenah. Grand opening of the Russell House, Jan. 11th. Daily prayer meetings are held at Good Templars Hall. A fire in Patten's block, in store occupied by J. W. Worm, creates quite an excitement. Continuance of very mild weather, making it an unusually open winter.
FEBRUARY.

The cantata, Lost and Saved, is given at Schuetzen Hall by an Appleton amateur company. The oratorio "Esther" is given in Schuetzen Hall, 12th. George Phipps commences business in Neenah. An election is held on the question whether the city should adopt the high school plan; the result was favorable to its adoption. On the 29th of this month occurred a wonderful snow storm, it being accompanied by a genuine season of thunder and lightning. Ladies have a grand leap year party at the Russell House. Burning of Hogan's store, on Wisconsin avenue.

MARCH.

Amateur concert at Schuetzen Hall under the leadership of Mr. Bradish. The Camila Urso troupe visit Neenah. Wm. Aylward enlarges his foundry and plow-works.

APRIL.

Heavy snow storm early in this month. A. H. F. Krueger elected mayor, and A. Eisenach re-elected city treasurer. The following aldermen also elected: First ward, Wm. Kellett; Second ward, W. P. Peckham; Third ward, M. H. P. Haynes; Fourth ward, Martin Gavin. Presbytery of Winnebago meet at Neenah, Rev. T. C. Kirkwood, Moderator.

MAY.

In this month occurred heavy and continuous rains, raising the water in the lake and river to an unusual height, and making it almost impossible for farmers to continue their work.

JUNE.

Third annual cruise of the Neenah Yacht Club occurs this month. Special election held in the First ward for
successor to alderman H. McGregor, resigned; D. L. Kimberly is elected. The cantata "Court of Babylon" is given under the management of the Baker family. Kimberly, Clark & Co. purchase the Peckham & Krueger foundry property.

JULY.

Grand union celebration held on Doty's Island, July 4th; Alex. C. Bodkin, editor of the Milwaukee Sentinel, and Gen. Harrison C. Hobart deliver the addresses; ten thousand people estimated to have visited the grounds. Large addition to the Globe Mills built this month. Many citizens of Neenah visit the great Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. A. H. Boardman, local agent Chicago & Northwestern Railway, died this month, 19th.

AUGUST.

Neenah has a bad run of base ball fever. Extremely hot weather this month; men are forced to quit work at Neenah Stove Works; thermometer marked as high as 104 in the shade.

SEPTEMBER.


OCTOBER.

An unusually stormy month is recorded, being a continuation of like weather through September; the State Fair and the Northern Fair at Oshkosh are failures in consequence. A very stirring political canvass occurs this month preceding the great presidential contest of 1876. Order of the Knights of Honor organized in Neenah.

NOVEMBER.

A very exciting general election held the 7th; city goes Republican, 126, and H. P. Leavens is elected to
the Assembly over Alex Billstein, by 136 majority. Death of H. L. Barlow, 4th. Exciting and anxious time following the election, and pending the final decision.

DECEMBER.


1877.

JANUARY.

G. A. Cunningham is appointed postmaster and goes into office Jan. 1st. Exceeding cold weather, continuing for some two months; no change until late in January. Gas question is agitated, and a public meeting held at the Russell House.

FEBRUARY.

A German named John Gause commits suicide by hanging himself in the woods west of the city. John Clark, saddler, commences business in Neenah. A runaway injures several members of the family of Mr. Quinn. Mrs. A. W. Patten died, 14th.

MARCH.


APRIL.

Charter election results in the choice of D. L. Kimberly for mayor; George Danielson for city treasurer; and the following aldermen: First ward, John R. Davis, sr.; Second ward, Henry Sherry; Third Ward, I. W. Hunt; Fourth ward, A. Jagerson. One Randall, gives a series of lectures on South America. The old Yale building known as the Jensen house, is partially destroyed by fire.
VIEW OF WISCONSIN AVENUE IN 1877. Looking West from Cedar Street.

From a Photograph by JOHN BRAITHWAITE
The building known as the Jewish house, is partly destroyed by fire.
MAY

Johnson & Co. start a machine shop on the south race. A large safe is purchased for the use of the city. Roberts’ Summer Hotel opened to the public, 30th. Burglars rob the residence of ex-mayor Fred Krueger.

JUNE.

D. E. Markham, for several years police justice, died on the 12th; James Conlan was elected as his successor at a special election held the 26th. In this month died P. D. Squiers, foreman in the Winnebago Paper Mill, and a very estimable man, 21st; also Mr. Carl Striddie, one of the earlier settlers of the place, and a partner in the flouring mill of Striddie & Krueger, 23d. Great camp meeting is held on Doty Island, continuing into the month of July; thousands were in attendance. Mrs. Wm. Maxwell and Levi Strait and son are seriously injured by runaway horses. Commencement exercises of the first class graduating under the high school system, is held at Schuetzen Hall, 29th; following are the names of the graduates; Jessie Cooke, Nellie Herrick, Della Boardman, Eva Leavens, Minnie Gittins, Della Brown, Mamie Ford, Fanny Wheeler and Jackson Tullar.

JULY.

C. W. Howard purchases the Patten flour mill, and in company with J. R. Davis, jr., engages in the milling business. On the 19th of this month occurred quite a serious conflagration, destroying the stores on Wisconsin avenue occupied by Swift Bros., Miss Wheeler, C. Langner, Hirsch & Co., and G. Bonner; loss about $10,000.

AUGUST.

Mr. F. E. Hubbard begins business in Neenah. Annual regatta of the Neenah Yacht Club; first prize won
by the Albatross. C. H. Cotton becomes interested in the dry goods trade with C. W. Moss. Geo. W. Todd, a young lawyer from Fond du Lac, locates in Neenah. Commencement of the agitation of the so-called "Greenback question."

SEPTEMBER.

U. N. Roberts a former resident of Neenah, died this month at Davenport, Iowa. Mum parties first held. Sebastian Haas begins business in Neenah.

OCTOBER.

The Presbyterian Synod of Wisconsin was held in Neenah this month, continuing five days; Rev. J. P. Nichols, of Milwaukee, Moderator. The water in the lake and river becomes very low, making it difficult for the mills and factories to do their usual work. Rev. Geo. Gibson becomes pastor of the Episcopal Church. Benjamin Paddock, one of the pioneer settlers of the place, died on the 22d of this month.

NOVEMBER.

C. Langner moves into his new brick store. Hirsch & Co. finish their new brick structure this month. In this month is recorded a remarkable episode in politics, it being the great stampede in favor of the "Greenback ticket," the vote for governor in the city of Neenah being for Allis, (greenback) 377; Smith, (republican) 115; Mallory, (democratic) 146. C. W. Sutton became interested with L. J. Dunn in the grocery business. Continuous rainy weather all this month, making it one of the sloppiest, muddiest times on record. Geo. O. Kingsbury begins business in Neenah in the jewelry line.

DECEMBER.

A large party go by special train to Oshkosh to attend the Emma Abbott concert. Continued rain and mud;
no frost or snow to speak of during this month, and farmers were plowing during the holidays; pansies were picked in the gardens on Christmas Day, lilac bushes and apple trees put out green leaves in December, and in every particular it was the most remarkable winter ever known, there being no snow until late in January of 1878.