A TALE of TWIN CITIES

The Development of the Fox River Waterway

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When the United States Government lands were offered for sale in 1836, the way was opened for speculators to invest in the desirable land along the Fox River where it exited from Lake Winnebago.

Dreamers and schemers envisioned a settlement which could become Wisconsin's premier city. In their efforts to outsmart each other, five men, James Doty, Harrison Reed, Harvey Jones, Curtis Reed, and Charles Doty, became embroiled in a struggle for leadership. Their conflicting interests resulted in the creation of two dams, two canals, and two cities.

By 1856 the die was cast and the two cities emerged. Former dreams began to fade as railroads started to replace the canals which the leaders had fought over for two decades.

Today the canals have again become the center of attention as the effort continues to keep them open and usable for the communities on the Fox River.

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