Researched and written by twenty-one local authors, this book is the result of the coming together of two communities in a joint effort to understand their "historical identities." The reader will be captivated by the variety of approaches and styles the writers display. Varying perspectives from which history is viewed emerge as well. An editorial decision was made to retain the style and content of the work of the authors, most of whom are nonprofessional writers.

The book is not merely a chronological account of events which formed and shaped the twin cities of Neenah and Menasha. It is designed to include the world around the feuding settlements and to show how pioneer life affected the early inhabitants.

Funded by the Neenah Historical Society, the book is the result of many citizens from both sides of the Fox River uniting to search for explanations for why they are, indeed, two cities. Events which occurred in years to 1856 sealed their fate and today they continue as "friendly rivals."