of the State; and the track of railroad lines on both shores, may be traced by the smoke of the locomotive.

What a spectacle is here afforded of the wonderful progress of the age! Twenty-eight years ago this location was one of the frontiers of Western civilization; and the Indian title not then extinguished to the tract lying west of the Fox River, only ten miles distant from Oshkosh, then a frontier village. Now populous cities, marts of trade and commerce, with educational institutions, and all the luxuries, and elegancies of modern social life, cluster around these waters—highly cultivated farms cover the whole face of the country—rural roads stretch away in every direction; and the empire of modern progress holds undisputed sway. The Indian wigwam and the pioneer's log cabin are supplanted by the stately mansion and towering steeple—the bark canoe and the voyageur's bateau have given way to the magnificent steamer and graceful sail craft; and the generous hospitality of the pioneer—his hearty welcome—his kindly manners and his brave enterprises that opened up the pathway of progress, are among the things of the past.

And now, if the writer, who has endeavored to sketch the country on the line of these great water courses, and the outlines of its eventful history of two centuries, with its transformations from a wilderness into the populous centers of busy life, has succeeded in drawing the picture, that portion of his task is ended, and the next subject will be the history of Winnebago County, and its several cities and towns.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

The Fox River Valley and Central Wisconsin—Indescribably Charming in its Picturesque Beauty of Commingled Prairie, Woodland, Lakes and Rivers—The Lovely Water Scenery an Especial Feature—The Richest Fertility of Soil, with Good Water and a Healthful Climate—The Fox Valley a Conjunction of Three Distinct Types of Country, with Great Natural Elements of Productive Wealth, and One of the Chief Business Thoroughfares of the State.

By an examination of the map of Wisconsin, it will be seen that the Wisconsin, and Upper and Lower Fox Rivers, form a water-line through the entire breadth of the State, whose main direction is nearly northeast from the mouth of the Wisconsin, on the Mississippi, to that of the Lower Fox, at Green Bay. This line is the dividing point between two districts of very distinct physical features. The territory lying south of this river line, comprises the great rich prairie and opening district of the State, which stretches from Winnebago county to its southern and western limits. This vast tract, with the exception of the strip of timbered land in the counties bordering Lake Michigan, constitutes the northeastern section of that great agricultural empire of fertile prairie and openings, which extends to the south, and west for distances that include whole States in their vast limitations, and presenting in almost one continuous body a tract of agricultural country, whose territorial immensity and fertility is unparalleled in the wide world. That portion of it included in the limits of the State of Wisconsin is more diversified with openings and detached bodies of timber, and consequently does not present those great monotonous stretches of level prairie, which largely abound in the more southern portions of the district. The face of this prairie and opening country of Wisconsin is indescribably charming in its picturesque beauty of commingled prairie, wood land, lakes and rivers; forming vast rural landscapes of the most exquisite loveliness. Here are lakes rivaling the finest in the world, with handsome sloping banks rising in the most graceful undulations.

The rolling prairie, in a succession of smoothly rounded ridges, stretching away as far as eye can reach, dotted with picturesque openings and bordered with the dense foliage of the more heavily wooded slopes, affording views, whose distant vistas fade into a perspective that resembles some enchanting mirage of wooded hills and grassy lawns, with glimpses of water flecking the whole scene in artistic light and shadows. But in all this magnificent country, there is no tract that can surpass, and but few that can equal, that embraced in the counties of Winnebago, Green Lake and western Fond du Lac. These now present one expanse of highly cultivated farms, with farm houses that, in many instances are elegant rural villas; spacious barns and good fences, giving every evidence of the wealth and thrift of their occupants.

In Green Lake and Winnebago counties, the beautiful water scenery is an especial feature, which gives additional charms to the contrasting varieties of prairie and woodland. These large bodies of water modify the heat of summer, and purify the air, which is delightfully exhilarating and healthful. These lakes
and rivers, too, form a great water-course through the heart of the country, which is navigated by steamers, and upon whose banks have arisen some of the chief cities of the State. Here, then, is a country of the richest fertility of soil, with a healthful climate, in which malarial diseases are almost unknown; with pure air and an abundant supply of the best of water; while every portion of it is in close proximity to business centers, and abounding in great physical resources of agriculture and manufacture. Immediately adjoining this country is the heavily timbered region, of northeastern Wisconsin, traversed by navigable streams, and possessing the greatest water-power on the continent, with a capacity, at a number of points, for miles of mills and factories; at one point on the lower Fox the capacity being one hundred and fifteen thousand horse-power. This "timbered" country of northeastern Wisconsin is also a fine agricultural district, in addition to its great manufacturing resources. The thirty large flouring and paper mills, many of them mammoth establishments, in Neenah and Appleton, and the extensive iron works and manufactories of wooden ware, at various points on the river, already give evidence of the giant proportions of its manufacturing capacity, but which is yet in the very infancy of its development. The country, collectively, constitutes the Fox River Valley; the Upper Fox, prairie and openings of the richest fertility; the Lower, hard-wood timber lands, with a good, strong clay soil, while to the northwest is the belt of sandy district, which terminates in the great forest lying beyond. This country, to the north and west of the Upper Fox, with the exception of a portion of Winnebago county, is one distinctively different in its physical features to that lying to the south and east, as stated in the beginning of this article.

The vast prairie country to the southwest has its northeast boundary in the beautiful valley of the Upper Fox, in which the face of the country, the soil and general features, are similar to those of the best part of the southern portions of the state, with the additional feature of numerous bodies of navigable waters. A short distance to the north, after crossing the Fox, the character of the country changes, and the region called Northern Wisconsin here has its beginning. The soil changes from the rich, black loam of the prairie, and clay of the wooded land into a sandy soil, which very generally prevails in Waushara and northern Marquette counties, and the southern half of Portage and Waupaca, with variable degrees of fertility. After crossing the belt of open, sandy country, the pine and hardwood forests of Northern Wisconsin are reached. The vast region lying beyond the Fox Valley, and extending north to the shore of Lake Superior, is one of great variety of soil, resources and face of country, embracing small, sandy plains, handsome openings of fair fertility, extensive cranberry marshes, grass lands, cedar and tamarack swamps, pine lands, and rough, rocky districts, and mineral lands. It is well watered by innumerable lakes and rivers.

There are also in Northern Wisconsin large tracts of the very finest sugar-maple land, comprising nearly whole townships in a body, with a rich, warm, black soil—as fine farming land as can be found in the West. There is a wide belt of this maple land mixed with other hardwood timber, and an occasional patch of pine, extending through Oconto, Shawano and Marathon counties. Some townships are already well settled, and large tracts in a good state of cultivation. This whole tract is well supplied with the purest of running water, spring brooks, rivers, and in many locations, beautiful lakes.

The country to the north of this is more broken, rough and rocky, and constitutes a portion of the great mineral tract, which extends to Lake Superior. It will be seen, therefore, that this region has a great variety of natural resources in its timber materials, mineral deposits, agricultural lands, navigable streams and water-power.

The Wolf River and its large tributaries, flowing from this region, empties into the Upper Fox, and is navigable for one hundred and fifty miles or more, thus giving the Fox River Valley country water communication and easy accessibility to its vast material resources.

It is this conjunction of the respective natural elements of three distinct types of country, which constitutes the great manufacturing and business capacity of the Fox River Valley, where Nature, with the most prodigal hand, has scattered the richest elements of productive wealth; and it is this which makes the beautiful country on the line of these water-courses a populous thoroughfare, on which have sprung up thriving cities—the busy centers of modern enterprise and manufacturing activity.
CHAPTER XXX.

County of Winnebago—Its Area—Face of the County—Altitude—Water, Timber, Soil and Productions.

The county of Winnebago, comprising sixteen townships, four of which are fractional, constitutes one of the finest tracts in the Fox Valley. It is situated west of Lake Winnebago, which bounds its entire eastern border.

The tract embraced in its limits forms the northeastern extremity of the great prairie and opening country of Wisconsin; and one more lovely and picturesque cannot be found in the West.

Its surface is generally rolling; the more level districts being on the margin of the streams. The greatest altitude is one hundred and seventeen feet above the level of Fox River. The country, in its natural state, resembled a vast park, in which prairie, woodland, lake and river combined in one diversified scene of natural beauty.

It is one of the best watered districts of the State, being intersected by three navigable rivers, the Upper and Lower Fox, and the Wolf, and bordered by Lake Winnebago, a body of water thirty-five miles long and ten to twelve wide. The lovely water scenery of the county is one of its charming features. In nearly every direction the scene embraces distant views, disclosing vistas, in which lake and river, prairie and forest are blended together in exquisite harmony. The mouth of the Upper Fox forms one of the most spacious harbors in the State. This stream, between Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Winnebago averages five hundred feet in width. It empties into a handsome bay, on the shores of which Oshkosh is situated. The mouth of the river is a half mile in width, and, with the handsome point that forms the northern outline, and the steamers and numerous sailing crafts moving on its surface, forms a most attractive scene.

The shores of the lake were originally forest, a belt of “timber” extending inland from two to five miles, which was composed chiefly of oak, sugar-maple, hickory, elm and basswood. Adjoining this were heavy burr-oak openings, which, in some places, approached the shore of the lake. Along the shore, in the town of Black Wolf, were what were called “timber openings,” and Indian planting grounds; being very large, tall oaks scattered at intervals through open spaces, with occasional thickets of hazel brush, plum and crab-apple. The undergrowth was so kept down by the annual fires, that large tracts presented the appearance of great, well-kept parks. At some points the lake could be seen through the trees from a distance of one or two miles back from the shore. The Indian planting grounds were mere open spaces, with an occasional tree or clump of bushes, and were the sites of the Indian villages that previously occupied the most eligible points on the lake shore. On Lakes Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan were also many large Indian clearings, the sites of villages and planting grounds; for, as stated in previous pages, this county was the center of a large Indian population.

A large proportion of the shores of the lakes is handsome, undulating land, frequently forming points with gravel and sand beaches. In some places on the margin of the streams and lakes, were extensive hay marshes, with a luxuriant growth of red top and wild pea vine. The bottoms of the smaller streams and the “interval lands” also furnished natural meadows.

The soil, though varying much in different localities, when taken as a whole, is nowhere surpassed,—from a deep, purely vegetable mold to a vegetable loam, clay and sand, all resting upon a sub-soil of clay, and small areas of sand mixed with ochre, which makes the earliest and richest soil known. The prevailing rock is of limestone, which is found in extensive quantities, supplying an abundance of hard, durable building stone, and superior grain growing qualities to the soil. Sand stone is also found to a limited extent.

Good water is everywhere abundant; the lakes and streams meandering through the country from various directions, with innumerable springs as feeders, furnish a lavish and never failing supply, while excellent wells are readily obtained at a depth of from ten to thirty feet, and by drilling from fifteen to one hundred feet (generally within forty-five feet), constant flowing fountains of purest water are produced, discharging from two to five feet above the surface, in any part of the county, the deeper fountains supplying water of remarkable medicinal qualities.

The lakes and streams abound in a great variety of the finest fish, of which the black bass, rock bass, pickerel, pike, perch and sturgeon, are prominent, affording rare sport to those whose inclination leads in that direction; and added to these are the sucker (red horse), buffalo fish, cat-fish, and other varieties.

In the northeastern, as in some other portions, extensive beds of brick clay of superior quality are found and largely utilized, producing the cream-colored brick.
The notable products of the county are wheat, rye, oats, corn, barley, buckwheat, hops, potatoes, butter and cheese, horses, cattle, sheep and hogs; apples, plums, pears, cherries, grapes, and a profusion of the smaller fruits, with an abundance of hay, both natural and cultivated.

As evidence of the inexhaustible fertility of the soil, Mr. Commodore Rogers, of the town of Oshkosh, pointed out a field of wheat, just harvested, the twenty-fourth consecutive crop on that piece of land; which was equal to the average of this year's growth within the town.

CHAPTER XXXI.


In 1818, Augustin Grignon and James Porlier established a trading post, just below the present village of Butte des Morts, on the bank of the lake. Mr. Grignon was at that time a resident of Kaukauna, and Mr. Porlier resided at Green Bay. Robert Grignon had charge of the post for a time, but subsequently went to Algoma, and started another. In 1832, Mr. L. B. Porlier took charge of the post at Butte des Morts, and for many years did an extensive business at that point. He still resides at that place, which is one of the oldest historical landmarks of the country; while he is a surviving representative of the old French-Indian occupation.

This place in its day was the business center of the Upper Fox; the Indian trail from Green Bay to Fort Winnebago crossed the Fox at this point. The opposite shore, now a wet marsh, afforded solid footing for a horse. A ferry was kept and a public house for the accommodation of travelers. At times a large number of Indians were congregated at this post, trading their furs for Indian goods, and many a festive backwoods frolic has occurred there.

Augustin Grignon, a man most highly esteemed by the old settlers, also kept a public house at Kaukauna, which was a favorite resort of officers from forts Howard and Winnebago, who on great occasions used to assemble with their ladies; to trip the light fantastic toe.

General Cass, Governor Dodge, and other high dignitaries, even, have participated in these festive occasions.

Another early settler was Peter Powell. He built a place on the shore of the lake in 1832. His son, Captain William Powell, who lived with him at that time, acted a conspicuous part in the early day, and was very popular with both the white settlers and the Indians. He was noted for his fine address and pleasing, genial ways, and for being one of the driest jokers in the country.

In 1835, another trail was adopted for the mail route between forts Howard and Winnebago. This trail crossed the river just below the foot of Lake Butte des Morts, near the present Algoma bridge, and in that year, George Johnson, father of William Johnson, well known to the old settlers, as the Indian interpreter, built on what was afterwards known as Coon's point, two log houses, established a ferry, and opened a tavern. He subsequently sold the whole establishment to Robert Grignon and William Powell. They afterwards sold the same to James Knagg, a half-breed, who immediately opened up at this point, a trading post, with a large stock of Indian goods. This was the first business concern within what is now the limits of Oshkosh.

In 1839, Charles Grignon, with his family, settled on what is now known as Jackson's Point. A band of Menominee soon joined him, and an Indian village, with adjacent planting-grounds, sprung up on that site.

In 1831, a treaty was concluded with the Menominee Indians, which provided for the payment to them from the Government, of $5,000 per annum, for four years, and after the expiration of that time, $6,000 for twelve years; $4,000 of this latter yearly annuity was to be expended in arms and ammunition; and in pursuance of a plan adopted by the Government for the civilizing of the Indians, it was agreed upon, that an agency should be established at some suitable place, a Government grist and saw mill erected, and log dwelling houses for the use of such Indians as would live in them. It was also provided that five farmers should be established at the agency, at a salary of $300 each per annum, five female school teachers, at $60 each per annum, and mechanics, tools and farming implements. In 1834, Winnebago Rapids (the site of Neenah), was selected for the location of the agency, where the Indians were to be instructed in the arts of civilized life; and in that year Nathaniel
Perry, appointed by the Government, as one of the farmers, came to this site and erected a log house, into which he moved with his family. In 1835, the Government made contracts for the building of the saw and grist mills, and the erection of the log houses, with William Dickenson and David Whitney of Green Bay. These parties, with a large number of mechanics, entered upon the work, and erected the mills and the bodies of some thirty odd log-houses.

The mill occupied the present site of the Winnebago Paper Mills, Davis, Ford & Co., and adjacent to them were the residences of the miller, Colonel David Johnson, and of the blacksmiths, Jourdan & Hunter. The saw mill had one upright saw and the gristmill two runs of stone.

Four log houses in different localities were occupied respectively by Nathaniel Perry, Clark Dickenson, Robert Irwin and Ira Baird, who were appointed by the Government to act in the capacity of instructors of the Indians in the art of agriculture.

Some thirty odd log-houses in three rows, were in various stages of completion, and partially occupied by the Menominees, who seemed to be generally averse to living in them; preferring to pitch their wigwams outside.

About this time, Richard Pritchett settled at the Rapids, and was allowed to occupy one of the houses. Archibald Caldwell came about the same time and lived with a Menominee woman as his consort. He took a deep interest in the welfare of the Indians and was highly esteemed by them.

The Indians, not proving very apt pupils in anything requiring very steady application and industry, the project was soon abandoned; and the whites, who were in the employment of the Government, left the place. Clark Dickenson moving into the southern part of the County, finally settled at Oshkosh, and was at one time Register of Deeds.

In 1838, the small pox broke out among the Indians at the Winnebago Rapids agency, and the Government surgeon was sent from Kaukauna, by the agent at that place; but on his arrival, instead of visiting the patients, he sought out Caldwell, left his medicine chest with him, gave him instructions for treating the disease and fled to a place of safety. Caldwell and his wife faithfully administered to the sick ones, and were untiring in their exertions, until they were at last stricken themselves with the contagion. Caldwell's wife died, but he recovered, and continued to reside in the vicinity of Neenah for many years, and finally removed to Shiocton.

The buildings at the Rapids fell into neglect and decay, and the Government advertised for sale the land, buildings, tools and implements. In 1844, Harrison Reed purchased the same, and commenced the permanent settlement of Neenah.

**CHAPTER XXXII.**

First Permanent Settlers in Winnebago County—The Stanleys and Gallups—The First Houses in Oshkosh—Henry A. Gallup's Interesting Narrative—New Accessions to the Population in the Arrival of the Wrights and Evanses—First Matrimonial Event in the County—Joseph Jackson Sets a Good Example to the Bachelors.

The first permanent settlers in Winnebago County, in its American occupation, were the Stanleys and the Gallups, who settled at the present site of Oshkosh, in 1836. Those who preceded them were temporary occupants, either connected with the old French-Indian occupation, or in the employment of the Government, and moving with the Indians from place to place. That settlement which produces substantial results in the progress and improvement of a country, was now to commence.

Webster Stanley, while in the employment of the Government, engaged in transporting supplies from Fort Howard to Fort Winnebago, in 1835, observed, as he passed this place, its natural beauty and great advantages, and was so favorably impressed with it that he resolved to settle on the same.

In 1836, he was engaged in the construction of the Government buildings at Winnebago Rapids, and, on their completion, he procured one of the agency's Durham boats, and loading it with a year's supply of provisions, lumber, tools and such furniture as he was possessed of, he and his family embarked, and were on their way to the foot of Lake Butte des Morts, a locality that had particularly charmed him.

They reached Garlic Island the first night, where they remained till morning, when they again started and reached the mouth of the Fox in the afternoon. They landed on the south side, and Mr. Stanley, and his son Henry, thoroughly explored the location, and then encamped for the night. The next morning they started for the locality afterwards known as Coon's Point, now in the Fifth Ward of the City of Oshkosh, where they duly arrived and unloaded their goods. The crew assisted him.
to erect a shanty, into which the family moved, and then the former took their departure.

Stanley's nearest neighbor was one Knaggs, an Indian trader on the opposite side of the river. With him Mr. Stanley soon became acquainted, and accepted an offer to take the ferry and tavern business of Knagg's, on shares. He therefore moved the establishment to his side of the river, and commenced his new vocation.

During that year the Government made a treaty at Cedar Rapids with the Menominee Indians, Governor Dodge acting as commissioner, which resulted in the cession to the United States of about four million acres of land, lying north of Fox River and west of Lake Winnebago. The Governor, while on his return home from the treaty-council, was ferried across the river by Mr. Stanley, whom he informed of the result. Our pioneer then lost no time in availing himself of the knowledge of the purchase, and being joined by Mr. Gallup and the sons of the latter, they made claims to the tract lying on the north side of the mouth of the river. Mr. Gallup's claim embraced the beautiful point formed by the mouth of the river and Lake Winnebago; and contained one hundred and seventy acres. Mr. Stanley's tract adjoined Mr. Gallup's to the west, one hundred and seventeen acres. They erected a house on Mr. Stanley's claim, in which both families lived until the following November, when Mr. Gallup built a log house on his own land, and the future city of Oshkosh had its first permanent residents.

These two families led the way in the present occupancy of the country. We find them here in the midst of an unsettled wilderness, the nearest point of intercourse with civilization being Green Bay and Milwaukee, some fifty and seventy-five miles distant, respectively; with no lines of travel, and the nearest settler at Neenah, thirteen miles distant, and the Piers at Fond du Lac, the only white settlers and civilized habitation between here and Milwaukee. But this part of the early history of Oshkosh is best told in the following very interesting and well-written narrative, from the pen of Henry A. Gallup. After mentioning their arrival at Green Bay, and describing that place, he says:

"When we left Ohio our destination was Lake Winnebago, and leaving our father, and mother, and sister, in good quarters, myself and brother started for that particular locality without making any inquiries, except as to the direction and distance. We started on foot, our course being up the Fox River. A sandy road of five miles, thickly settled by French and half-breeds, with quaint-looking houses, many of them surrounded by palisades and the windows secured by shutters, brought us to Depere, a rival of Green Bay. Here we found quite a number of houses, and extensive preparations for building more. We were told here it was necessary to cross the river, and were accordingly ferried over in a skiff, an Indian trail pointed out to us to follow, and were told it was ten miles to the first house. Five miles carried us beyond civilization. We expected to find a new country, but were quite unprepared to find it entirely unsettled, and a foot path ten miles in length struck me as remarkable. Our trail led us directly along the river. Sometimes we were on the top of the hill, and then our path would wind down to the very water's edge to avoid some deep ravine, as nature seldom makes bridges. The scenery was beautiful, the side of the river we were upon was quite open, while the other side was heavily timbered. The waters of the broad river undisturbed, except by an occasional Indian canoe, which seemed to float so beautifully, we were sorry we had not adopted that mode of travel. Our trail would sometimes pass through a grove of wild plum or crab apple trees with scarcely room enough for a person to pass, which suggested to us ambushes, and we were always glad when we were through with them. Indian file was the mode of traveling in those days. Our ten miles was soon over; when we came down upon a low natural prairie, covered with a luxuriant growth of grass; the river had quite an expansion, and in it were several little grass islands. This was Petit Kickalin, and here was the house spoken of; a log house with the usual lay-out buildings, and surrounded by a dozen Indian wigwams. This was the residence of Eleazer Williams. The veritable Dauphin of France; but he was as ignorant of the fact at that time, as we were ourselves. As we approached the house, we were beset by an army of Indian dogs, and their bark was as intelligible to us as anything we heard on the premises. The Indians looked their astonishment at seeing two Kich-e-ma-kam boys in their encampment. We made many inquiries of them, but got laughed at for our pains. As none of Williams' family could be found, it seemed like seeking information under difficulties; and finding the trail that led up the river, we pushed on, feeling satisfied that if we had gained no information, we had not imparted any, so the Indians and we were even. Our next point, we had been told, was Grand Kickalin, which, for some reason — perhaps the name — we supposed was quite a place. About sundown, we came down from the high bank upon which our trail had been, upon the most beautiful flat of land I ever saw, covered with a tuft of short grass and dotted all over with little groves of crab-apple and plum trees. The flat contained perhaps a hundred acres, the hill enclosing it in the shape of a crescent, and the boiling rapid river in front, which here is more than half a mile in width. Here we found several large springs, very strongly impregnated with sulphur, at which we drank. Upon this flat we discovered a large pile of buildings which consisted of a large dwelling-house and trading-post, with the necessary outbuildings, and belonging to Mr. Grignon, an Indian trader. This was Grand Kickalin, but the name is applied to the rapids in the river.

"Our greeting here was still more cordial than at our last place of calling, as there were more dogs. At this house we were applied for food and lodging, but without success. Things began to have rather an unpleasant look, and we began to think we were too far from home — twenty miles from Green Bay and fifteen from any place.

"On looking about the premises we discovered, for the first
time after crossing the river, something that wore pantaloons; and on accosting him, found that he could speak English. He was half negro, and the balance Stockbridge Indian. He informed us that Mr. Grignon was not at home, and there would be no use of trying to get accommodations in his absence. That he lived directly on the opposite side of the river—that his canoe would not carry us—but he would get an Indian to take us over, and that we should be his guest over night. To all these propositions we readily consented, and procuring an Indian to take us across, we got into a log canoe, when our ferryman, an old Indian of perhaps eighty or ninety years, taking his position in the stern with a shoving pole, shoved us safely through the boiling waters. Passing the night under the hospitable roof of our mixed friend, we hailed our native ferryman, and were again soon upon our march.

“At a point five miles from the Grand Kack-a-lin, called Little Chute, we found a Catholic Mission in course of erection, to which Nym Crynkle gives a very ancient origin. The manner of building was a very curious one, which was by setting up posts about eight feet apart, and then filling up between with small logs and pinning through the posts into the corners of the logs. There were but one or two men at work upon it. It was afterwards occupied by a Catholic priest, who was also a physician, and administered to one band of the Menominee Indians, both bodily and spiritually, with very beneficial results. Five miles further brought us to the Grand Chute, now Appleton. Here was a perpendicular fall in the river of seven feet, but close to the shore the rock had worn away so that a boat could take the plunge in going down, and he led up by ropes if quite light. Here the Durham boats, which did all the freighting at that time up and down the river, were obliged to discharge their freight and roll it along under the bank on poles to above the falls. The boats were then lifted and dragged up by a large party of Indians and reloaded above. The amount of freighting was then considerable. All the Government supplies for Fort Winnebago were passed up this way and detachments of soldiers often passed in the same manner. Nothing could exceed the grandeur of the scenery at this point, everything at that time being in its wild and natural state, and no habitation within miles. Just below the falls, at the mouth of a little ravine, was a little plat of grass turf among a grove of plum and forest trees, entwined with wild grape vines, which was the favorite camping-ground, and a more enchanting spot was never found. I had the pleasure of camping here two nights that same fall, in the month of November under most unfavorable circumstances—a crew of drunken Indians with nothing but the canopy of Heaven above us. But still the place had attractions for me. Following the bank of the river a short distance above, our trail suddenly diverged from the river, and we found ourselves floundering through the woods and mud of Mud Creek. This was the first place we had found but what had some attractions. This was dismal enough. A few miles and we emerged into another enchanting spot of ground known as Little Butte des Morts, or Mounds of the Dead. Here on a rising piece of ground are several large mounds where the dead of some Indian battle had been buried. An expansion of the river here is called Little Butte des Morts Lake, at the upper end of which appears to be quite a village. This was Winnebago Rapids, (now Neenah.) Here the Government had built a grist and saw mill and had commenced the building of a large number of small log houses for the Menominee Indians, which were in different stages of completion, when the work was stopped by the Indians con-senting to sell the land to the Government. Some of the houses the Indians had taken possession of by tearing out the floors and pitching their tent on the ground inside the walls. They were also furnished with four farmers to instruct the Indians in farming, at a salary of $300 per annum, which the Indians paid. These farmers were the only inhabitants of the place, at the house of one of whom, Mr. Clark Dickinson, we were welcomed and furnished with our dinner. We could make but a short stay, as we still had sixteen miles to travel without a habitation.

“Our trail now ran across the country, through prairies and openings, to Knagg’s Ferry, now in the Fifth Ward of the City of Oshkosh, and just above Algoma Bridge. I do not suppose I could, at this time, trace that trail through all the highly cultivated fields between these two points. But at that time it was a lonesome journey, indeed; all the low ground was covered with water a foot deep, and grass up to our arms, and in the whole distance we did not see a living thing with the exception of a few prairie chickens. Arriving at the river at the point mentioned, we found a log house belonging to Mr. Knaggs, a half-breed, and owner of the ferry, but which was then run by Webster Stanley, who lived on the opposite side of the river in a board shanty, and who, in answer to our call, came over for us. We were once more among friends. Mr. Stanley had, about two years before, left Ohio and went to Green Bay, and then to Winnebago Rapids, and had, within thirty days previous to our arrival at the ferry, moved to this point. We now learned that our journey, from where we had crossed the river five miles from Green Bay, had all been through Indian territory, and that we were now for the first time on Government land.

“We had at last arrived at our journey’s end, and our next object was to bring up the family. There were just two ways to do it. One way was on horseback, by land; the other by water. We adopted the latter, and, procuring a large bark canoe and an Indian, we started. Passing down the river we stopped at an Indian encampment on what is now Jackson’s Point, and procured another Indian, which was thought to be sufficient crew—respectively named No-to-kee-sleek and Kish-e-quom—who were full of fun and frolic, and who, if we could have talked with them would, no doubt, have been very companionable. We then saw, for the first time, the spot on which the City of Oshkosh now stands. Our Indians worked with a will, and we very soon passed through Lake Winnebago, and were in the rapid waters of the Lower Fox. Here the Indians laid aside their paddles and taking long poles confined themselves entirely to steering the boat clear of rocks, the sharp points of many of which were above water. We were leisurely enjoying the beautiful scenery of the river when we were startled by the sudden velocity of our canoe and the wild whoop of our Indians. On looking about us we found ourselves on the very brink of the falls. The Indians had, from a listless manner and sitting posture, suddenly sprang to their feet, one in the bow, and the other in the stern, and every nerve was strung, for their energies were to be tried to the utmost. Their manner was really terrifying. We had hardly time to notice so much before we had taken the fearful leap and were in the breakers below. One false set with the steering pole and we were surely lost. I watched the Indians closely—they were as pale and stern as marble statues. The bow of our canoe, when we descended into the breakers, struck a rock, which stove considerable of a hole through it, when our leeward Indian, with the quickness of
thought, had his blanket over the hole and his foot upon it. We were going with the speed of a race-horse. About a mile below the falls we were enabled to make a landing and repair damages. We again encountered very rapid and rough water at the Kaack-a-lin, but the Indians were masters of the situation and we passed through in safety, and arrived at Green Bay towards night of the same day. Taking the family and a few necessary articles into our frail craft, the next day we started on our return, which we accomplished in two days; the Indians using paddles in still water, poles in moderately swift water, and walking and leading the canoe when it was very rapid.

"The appearance of the country on the west shore of Lake Winnebago, from Neenah up, was beautiful to look upon from our canoe — heavily timbered from Neenah to Garlic Island, and the balance of the way openings.

"We had now arrived at the point started for when we left Ohio — the veritable Lake Winnebago. Now the questions to decide were: Where to locate? Who to buy of? Should we buy? The country from Oshkosh to Neenah then belonged to the Menominee Indians. From Oshkosh (or Fox River) south to where Fond du Lac now is, and around on the east side of the lake as far as Calumet, belonged to the Government. Then came the Brother-town Indians' land, fronting six miles on the lake; and, adjoining them north, the Stockbridge Indians, with the same amount of frontage; the Government owning the balance of the country around to Menasha.

"We now decided to make the circuit of the lake, so as to better understand the situation, which we accomplished in about a week's time, using a pack-horse to carry our baggage, and encountering but one white family in the round trip, which was Mr. Pier, who had just built a log house on the Fond du Lac Creek. After getting back and comparing notes, the following was the summing up of all we had seen and heard: First from Green Bay to this point of our sojournment on the west side of the river and lake belonged to the Indians, and but three white families the entire distance of fifty miles, and but one family between us and Fort Winnebago (now Portage City) and Mr. Pier's only house between here and Milwaukee and Sheboygan. Being better pleased with the west side of the lake than any other place we had seen, and learning that the Government intended trying to purchase it of the Indians the coming fall, we decided to await the issue, in the meantime amusing ourselves with hunting and fishing and explorations. In September I had the pleasure of ferrying Governor Dodge and suite over the river myself — the ferryman being absent — who was on his way to the annual Indian payment then held at Cedar Rapids, near the Grand Chute, (now Appleton.) The entire party (six I think) were on horseback, the Governor armed to the teeth. He had two pairs of pistols, and a bowie knife on his person, and a brace of large horse pistols in his saddle holsters, I suppose to impress upon the Menominees, what he told the Winnebagoes a few years before — that he was as brave as Julius Caesar. At this payment then held, the treaty was formed, ceding to the Government the territory from here to Green Bay, and although the treaty could not be ratified until December, we did not choose to wait — never doubting but what the old veteran Governor knew what he was about. Accordingly in the month of October, 1836, we commenced the erection of two log houses on ground now within the city of Oshkosh. The Indians were quite plenty here at that time and manifested some curiosity as to what we were doing, but were perfectly friendly. Mr. Webster Stanley was the owner and occupant of the first house. About the first of November we had to make another trip to Green Bay for our goods. We hired a boat called a lighter, this time, of about six tons capacity, and with a crew of ten or twelve Indians we made the trip up in seven days, arriving at home on the evening of the sixteenth of November. Camping out and cooking rations for that trip was anything but pleasant at that season of the year. It was the last day that a boat could have passed through, the lake freezing entirely over that night.

"Although liking the excitement of a new country, I must confess that that first winter was rather tedious. Our two families were the only ones nearer than Neenah or Fond du Lac, with no roads but the Lake, and surrounded by Indians, no less than five hundred wintering within what is now the City of Oshkosh. The next summer was passed rather more pleasantly, the monotony being relieved by an occasional Durham boat passing up the river with supplies for Fort Winnebago, and frequently a company of United States soldiers.

"We had made some little progress in the way of farming, and in the fall of 1837 had raised some few crops, and sowed the first acre of winter wheat ever sowed in Wisconsin, and only to have the most of it stolen by the Indians, the next summer, as soon as harvested, they carrying it off in the sheaf in their canoe.

"In the winter of 1837 we had the first accession to our population by the arrival of two more families, Messrs. Evans and Wright, and from that time the country began to settle slowly on both sides of the river — that upon the north side not coming into market until 1840. We had given this point (the mouth of the river) the name of "Athens," and goods were so marked at Green Bay des-
tined for this place; but at a meeting of the inhabitants, called for the purpose of choosing a name for this particular locality, which was held at the house of George Wright, and which was attended by all the French and half-breeds from as far up the river as Butte des Morts, and who, in fact, had no interest in the place or its name, it was decided by an even vote that the place or locality should be known hereafter and forever as "Oshkosh." But it came nearer to universal suffrage than any election I ever attended, and smoking was participated in to that extent that you could not recognize a person across the room, the smoke was so dense — plug tobacco and kinnikinick (the bark of a bush by that name) mixed in about equal quantities. Such was the christening of Oshkosh.

In 1837, Mr. George Wright Sr., and his family, and David and Thomas Evans, settled on land adjoining the Gallups and Stanleys. These four families now comprised the settlement, which was called Athens (rather more classical than the present name), and they are to be regarded as the early founders of the city of Oshkosh. They have all taken an active part in advancing its enterprises, and have proved useful and valuable citizens.

In the following spring, an event of much local interest occurred, chronicled in the Green Bay papers as follows:

MARRIED — At Athens, March 8, 1838, at the house of Chester Gallup, Esq., by the Rev. S. Peet, Mr. Joseph Jackson, and Miss Emeline Wright, daughter of George Wright, Esq., all of that place.

Mr. Jackson and wife shortly after went to Green Bay, where he resided for a short time, and came to Oshkosh again in 1839.

Mr. Stanley lived to see the transition from a wilderness to a populous and thriving city; but he derived but little benefit from his frontier enterprise, having, in one way or another, lost all his property, and removed from here a few years since, one of the numerous examples of the pioneers who endure the hardships and privations incident to the early settlement, and the fruits of whose labors are enjoyed by those who come into after-possessions.

Mr. Chester Gallup, an enterprising and deserving man, highly esteemed in the new community, died in 1849; leaving to his children the inheritance of a good name, and the possession of valuable lands. This land, having become desirable for village lots, the Gallups sold the same, and moved on to farms adjoining the present city limits. But Henry and John were always identified with Oshkosh and its interests, and although a large portion of their early years was passed among the rough scenes of frontier life, yet they were gentlemen of much culture, fine address and courteous manners, and had acquired, through contact with leading minds and events, and the incongruous social elements which surrounded them, that intimate knowledge of men and things which rather characterize men of varied experience in the great channels of business life. They will be kindly remembered for their hearty and generous hospitality; for their unremitting kindness to neighbors and friends, and their pleasant, companionable qualifications of heart and mind. The writer of this could not pass in this connection without paying the above tripping tribute to their worth.

Amos Gallup, who will be well remembered by the old settlers as an enterprising and intelligent man, a kind and good neighbor, moved from here to Missouri, about the year 1860, and died a few years subsequent. John continued to reside in Oshkosh till the time of his death, which occurred in 1876, and Henry lived on his place adjoining the city limits until 1877, when he moved to California.

Mr. George Wright, Sr., died in 1841, universally lamented. His sons, George F., W. W., and P. V. Wright, who succeeded to the estate, have ever taken a prominent part in advancing the interests of the city, and have been among its honored and influential citizens. George F. will be remembered for his efforts, in conjunction with Albert Lull and others, to build a railroad to the southwest via Ripon. He was the first County Clerk of this county, and held other responsible offices. He died a few years ago, lamented by a large circle of friends.

W. W. Wright was the first County Treasurer, and was associated with Joseph Jackson in the survey of the first village plat. P. V. Wright also took an active part in improving and building up the city. A year ago he moved to California, on account of failing health.
Chapter XXXIII.


The next settlers in the county were Chester Ford and his son, Milan, who arrived in the fall of 1837. Mr. Ford soon assumed prominence in public affairs, and was a leading member of the Board of Supervisors, and one of the chief business men of Oshkosh. His son, Milan, has risen to the dignity of an "Hon.," and is now serving his second term as a member of the Legislature.

The next settlers in this county were Jason Wilkins, who arrived in the fall of 1837, and took up a claim on the lake shore, north of Miller's point, and Ira Aiken, who settled on the lake shore, near the site of the asylum.

Joseph Jackson, after his marriage, returned to Green Bay. He moved to Oshkosh from that place in 1839, and built a log house on the present site of Kahler's brewery. In 1844 he built the first frame house in Oshkosh; it occupied the present site of the Beckwith. In 1846, in connection with W. W. Wright, he surveyed and platted a tract into village lots, now the west side of Main street. He contributed liberally toward the growth of the city; was elected the second mayor; re-elected, and has held many other offices of trust and honor.

Mr. C. J. Coon arrived in 1839, and purchased land from Robert Grignon. It is the site of the Sawyer and Paine property. He built his house near the site of the Paine mill. Mr. Coon was looked upon as a substantial addition to to the infant settlement, and was a man of much influence.

Joseph L. Schooley made a claim the same year in what is now the town of Oshkosh. He worked, at times, as a printer on the Green Bay Intelligencer, the first newspaper printed in Wisconsin.

Stephen Brooks and family came in 1839, and took up land near the site of the asylum.

Samuel Brooks came in 1842, and subsequently settled at what is now called Brooks' Corners. He was a surveyor, and run out the first roads which were opened in the country, and was the first County Surveyor.

W. C. Isbell came next, and took a very prominent part in public affairs, and was a member of the first Board of Supervisors, the members of which were Chester Ford, W. C. Isbell and L. B. Porlier.

William A. Boyd, son-in-law of Chester Ford, settled on what is now the Roe farm, about a mile from the city limits, in June, 1840. He brought with him twenty-one sheep, the first ever brought into this county. He shipped them by water from Cleveland to Green Bay, and drove them from that place, on an Indian trail. He also brought in the first stock of leather, and manufactured the first boots and shoes ever made in this county, and was one of the first mail carriers. His route was semi-monthly, on an Indian trail, from Green Bay to Stanley's Ferry.

When Mr. Boyd was moving into the country he met, at Green Bay, Mr. Clark Dickenson, who was intimately acquainted with Mr. Boyd's friends, at the mouth of the Fox; and that gentleman kindly proffered to Mrs. Boyd the loan of his saddle horse as a means of conveyance, which offer was thankfully accepted; and, seated on the horse with an infant in her arms, she made the trip from the Bay to this place, Mr. Boyd on foot driving the sheep.

Doctor Christian Linde, now a resident of the city of Oshkosh, emigrated from Denmark to this country in 1842. He was accompanied by his brother Carl, and, on the seventeenth of July they purchased from Col. Tullar two hundred and eighty acres of land, now occupied by the Northern Insane Asylum, on which they built a log house, very nearly where the Asylum now stands, into which they immediately moved. In 1843 the doctor married a daughter of Clark Dickinson.

In November, 1844, Carl Linde, under the necessity of obtaining flour, crossed the lake to the mill at Stockbridge (the only accessible mill then in operation) in a small boat with a grist. Arriving at the mill, he was unable to obtain his grist in time to return the same day, and as it was very cold, with every prospect of the lake freezing over, he left his boat, and, procuring a canoe, started for home. After leaving the Stockbridge shore, he was not seen again until his body was found by Colonel Tullar and some Indians, near Grand Chute, the following spring; but the day after his departure from Stockbridge, his canoe could be seen from that shore; and, sufficient ice having formed during the night to enable the neighbors to walk out to it, they found it had not been upset, but judged from appearances that he had endeavored to convert his blanket into a sail, and in the attempt had lost his balance, and fallen overboard. The sides of the canoe gave ample evidence that he had
traveled through the great lakes, the Fox and Wisconsin, and ascended to the sources of the Mississippi in birch bark canoes. In 1823 he was appointed United States District Judge for the northern district of Michigan, which included the northern part of the present State of Michigan, all of Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. This year he was married, and moved, with his wife, to Prairie du Chien, traveling from Green Bay to that place in a birch bark canoe. The next year he moved to Green Bay. In 1836 he donated the land for the site of a State Capitol. In 1841 he was appointed Governor of the territory of Wisconsin, which position he held three years.

It seems that in all his travels, he found no place more attractive to him than the beautiful island at the foot of the lake, called after him, for he continued to reside there from 1845 till he was appointed, in 1861, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Utah. He died at Salt Lake City, in 1865. His cozy looking cottage on the island is in a good state of preservation, and one of the attractive features of John Roberts' Summer Resort, being a historical relic of the early times.

Curtis Reed, associated with Governor Doty in the ownership of the water power at Menasha and of the adjoining land, went to that place in June, 1848, for the purpose of improving the water power and starting the future city of Menasha. He built a log house at the head of the canal which was used as a tavern and boarding house. At this time the site of the present city of Menasha was a wilderness, untouched by the hand of man. He next erected another log building which he occupied as a store, and then commenced the construction of the present dam. Before the close of the year some eight or ten families had settled in Menasha, so called by Mrs. Governor Doty.

L. M. Parsons, still a resident of the town of Rushford, made the first settlement in that town March 7th, 1846, erecting at that time a house ten by twelve, in which he afterwards accommodated the travelling public to the extent of its capacity.

The same year J. R. and Uriah Hall, the Stones, Deyoee, John Johnson, J. Mallory and the Palfreys settled in the vicinity. Mr. Parsons erected a saw-mill the same fall, and in 1850 completed a grist mill which was very popular in its day. The present fine mill of Bean & Palfrey, celebrated for the superiority of its flour, now occupies the site.

The first settlers in the Town of Winneconne, after the old French settlers, were Samuel Champion and his son John, Samuel Lobb and
George Bell and family, who located here in the spring of 1846.

Mrs. Bell was the first white woman in the town, and in the fall when the fever and ague prevailed to such an extent that she was the only well person in the settlement, she harrowed in a field of winter wheat. The same fall, having lived for some time on boiled wheat, she yoked the oxen, and loading a grist on the wagon started for Neenah, twelve miles distant, with no road but an Indian trail. Returning in the night with her grist she was entertained with the howling of the wolves, and arrived home about midnight.

About a month after the advent of the Bell's, Mr. Greenbury Wright accompanied by Dr. A. B. Wright, now of this city, located on the present site of Buttes des Morts, and now enjoys the distinction of being the oldest resident family in town.

In that year the settlement received accessions in the arrival of George Cross, J. Ashby, L. McComber, Stephen Allen, William Calkins, Edwin Boulden and George Snider.

Mr. George Cross was engaged at a very early day in Western explorations, having visited Wisconsin in 1835, and was engaged in running the line of the Fourth Principal Meridian; he also accompanied Governor Doty in his explorations. (See history of Winneconne.)

Joseph H. Osborn and John Smith built houses on their present farms in the now Town of Algoma in 1846. Mr. Osborn took a prominent part in the early affairs of the County, for which see history.

C. L. Rich migrated to this County in 1845. On reaching Ceresco, he took the Indian trail for Stanley's ferry, and reaching his destination, was ferried across and put up at Stanley's tavern, which, with Amos Dodge's little store and a few log houses, comprised all of the beginning of the future City of Oshkosh. About two hundred Indians were encamped on the river shore at the time. In that year he selected his present fine farm in the Town of Oshkosh. The country was almost an unsettled wilderness, there being only three or four log houses between his place and the Neenah settlement.

The Town of Utica had its first settler in the person of Erwin Heath, afterwards postmaster of the City of Oshkosh.

In February, 1846, Mr. Heath selected a claim in the now town of Utica, and built a log house on the same. On the first of April, of that year, he started from Jefferson County, Wisconsin, where he had been living, for his home in Wisconsin, loaded with household goods, farming tools, feed and provisions; and also, drove a lot of live stock, composed of neat cattle, sheep and hogs. He was compelled to ford the streams, there being no bridges this side of Beaver Dam, and in fact, no road cut for a long portion of the distance.

Arriving at his place on the tenth of April, he found himself monarch of all he surveyed; the nearest house being at Ceresco, the Fourierite settlement, eight miles distant. The next, were the settlers near the mouth of the Fox, Oshkosh. On the night of his arrival, a heavy snow storm set in, and snow fell to the depth of fourteen inches. In the morning, Mr. Heath set two men, who were with him, to work chinking and mudding up the house, and then started with an ox team and sled for Daikens, near Green Lake, twelve miles distant, to procure a load of hay. A heavy crust had formed that would hold a man, but the cattle broke through at every step, which made very painful and tedious traveling. He arrived at Daikens that night, got his load of hay, and reached home with it the next night. While he was gone the men had fed all the feed they had to the stock, and when Mr. Heath approached his place, all the stock came running to meet him, bellowing a welcome, and commenced to help themselves, eating as he moved it along. Leaving it over night on the sled where they could feed at their pleasure, he found it all gone in the morning. The snow disappeared as suddenly as it came, and the stock found abundant feed on the Rush Lake marshes, from that time on.

E. B. Fisk was the next settler in Utica, locating on the beautiful place now known as Fisk's Corners, where he dispensed a bountiful hospitality in the early day.

Armine Pickett and David H. Nash arrived in May, 1846, with their families, and settled on places which they had selected the previous fall.

George Ransom and family were also among the very earliest settlers in this town, having settled on the beautiful farm near Fisk's Corners, now occupied by one of his sons, E. B. Ransom, in the same month of Heath's and Pickett's settlement, viz: April, 1846.

These were soon followed by C. W. Thrall, T. J. Bowles, H. Styles and others.

The first settlement in the Town of Nepeuskun was made by Jonathan Foote and family, in March 1846. The Foote's, after living in their wagon some weeks, finished a shanty, thirteen by sixteen feet, in which they entertained new comers.

In May, of that year, Lucius Townsend and
brother arrived and took up claims. On the day of their arrival, they took a plow from their wagon and turned the first furrow ever plowed in the soil of Nepeuskun. Before the close of the year they received as accessions to the settlement A. B. and J. H. Foster, Samuel Clough, Jerome Betry, S. Van Kirk, J. Nash, D. Barnum, T. F. Lathrop, George Walbridge, W. C. Dickerson, L. B. Johnson, H. F. Grant, John Van Kirk, Solomon Andrews, H. Stratton, and Alonzo J. Lewis.

The first settlement made in the Town of Vinland was in the spring of 1846, by N. P. Tuttle, followed immediately by Horace Clemans, who settled on Section twenty-five, now Clemansville, and Jeremiah Vosburg on Section fifteen. The same year came W. W. Libby, Charles Scott, W. Partridge, Silas M. Allen, Samuel Pratt, Jacob and Walter Weed, William Gumaer, and Thomas Knott, Jr. In 1849 came A. T. Cronkite, L. Beemis, Chas. Libby, Henry Robinson, and others.

The first settlers in the Town of Clayton were D. C. Darrow and William Berry, who came in 1846. They were followed by Alexander Murray, John Axtell, William Robinson, Benjamin Strong, L. H. Brown, William M. Stewart, George W. Giddings, W. H. Scott, L. Hinman, J. F. Roblee, and others as early settlers.

The Town of Omro was first organized under the name of Buttes des Morts; it had for its first permanent residents, Edward West, A. Quick and Hezekiah Gifford, who settled there in the spring of 1846. The town filled up so rapidly after this that it is difficult to determine the respective priority in settlement of the next new comers.

At the town election held the following year, April sixth, 1847, Edward West, John Monroe and Frederick Tice were elected Supervisors; Nelson Olin, Clerk, John M. Perry, Treasurer, Barna Haskell Assessor, and Isaac Germain, Justice. Among the earliest settlers were John R. Paddleford, M. C. Bushnell and S. D. Paddleford.

The plat of the Village of Omro was recorded September fifth, 1849, Dean, Beckwith, and others, proprietors.

The first settler within the limits of the Town of Nekimi was A. M. Howard, who located on Section two, in the summer of 1846. A large number followed so soon after that it is difficult, at this day, to fix their respective priority of settlement. Among the early settlers were Hiram B. Cook, who moved on his farm in 1847; Wm. Abrams and his brothers, in the same year. John Joyce, John Ross, the Lords and Powells were among the early settlers.

The first settlers in the Town of Algoma were Chester Ford and his son-in-law, W. A. Boyd, and Milan Ford. J. H. Osborn next followed in the spring of 1846. During the same spring came J. Botsford, E. S. Durfee, John Smith, Noah and Clark Miles, Elisha Hall and Doctor James Whipple. By 1848 the land in this town was very generally taken up.

The first permanent resident of the Town of Black Wolf was Clark Dickinson, who built his house and moved into the same in 1841. He was soon followed by C. B. Luce, Ira Aikens, Wm. Armstrong, Charles Gay, T. Hicks, Henry Hicks, Frank Weyerhorst and others. Armstrong and Gay settled there in 1843.

The first settlement in the Town of Winchester was made by Jerome Hopkins in the winter of 1847-8, followed in the spring by Samuel Rogers and family, and James H. Jones. This town was organized in 1852.

The first settlers in the Town of Poygan were Jerry Caulkins, George Rowson and brother, Thomas Robbins, Thomas Mettam, Thomas Brogden, Henry Cole, Richard Barron, the Maxons and Reed Case. The first settler came in the spring of 1849, and most of the rest mentioned came during that year.

The first white settler within the limits of the Town of Wolf River was Andrew Merton, who settled on what has been known since as Merton's Landing, Wolf River, in the fall of 1849, and was immediately joined by Albert Neuschaef and Herman Page.

These few persons, for several years, constituted the only white inhabitants in that town. The population is now almost exclusively German.

The foregoing shows the progress of settlement in the various localities of the county, at the dates mentioned. * 

*Note.—For full details of the history of the several towns, cities, and villages of this county, see their respective histories in subsequent pages of this work.
CHAPTER XXXIV.

The only White Settlers in the County, in 1842, were Those Located in the Vicinity of Oshkosh — Products of the County in 1839 — Naming the Place — Post Office Established — The County Organized — Population — First Births and First Death of White Persons — Fourth of July Celebration — Religious Services — School — Ferry Established — First Roads — First Stores — First Village Plat of Oshkosh — Large Migration from 1846 to '50 — The Villages of Neenah, Menasha, Waunakee, Oromo and Winneconnie, in 1848-50.

As will be seen from the preceding pages, the only white settlers within the present limits of Winnebago County in 1842, were those located in the immediate vicinity of Oshkosh, which, at that date was merely a little settlement of a few log houses on the farms of their respective owners.

From among the letters written from here in the years, 1838 and 1839, one writer, a lady, says: "We have little of the world's goods, but the promise of a hereafter shines brightly here." Another says: "We are working hard, with but few enjoyments, but the progress of the settlement, the rich soil promising food in abundance, the good health enjoyed by all, and the care of our families, keep us from repining, and fill us with hope for the future." One writer says: "I have two heifers worth fifty dollars a piece, and two pigs, and shall get a yoke of oxen, if they can be found, as they are scarce and dear. Another says he "has raised one acre of spring wheat, yielding twenty-eight bushels, and three acres of winter wheat, producing thirty bushels to the acre, and one acre of buckwheat. Flour here is $1.2; mess pork $30; potatoes 25 cents; beans $3; corn $1.50; wheat $2."

The products of Winnebago County in 1839; were 362 bushels of wheat; 446 bushels of oats; 21 bushels of buckwheat; 1,000 bushels of corn; 1,960 bushels of potatoes; 200 tons of hay; 4,400 pounds of maple sugar; 2 barrels of fish, and $9,000 worth of furs.

About this time a meeting was held at the house of George Wright, for the purpose of voting a name. The names proposed were Athens, Fairview, Ocola, Stanford, and Oshkosh; but Robert Grignon and associates from the river at Buttes des Morts, were the strong party, and formed a majority in favor of the name of Oshkosh, in honor of the Menominee chief. The orthography of the original word was, by some mischance, changed to its present form, Oshkosh. The original was pronounced without the "h" in the first syllable, and was accented on the last, Oshkosh. There is a difference of opinion about the signification of the word, many claiming that it means brave.

In 1840, a post office was established, and J. P. Gallup appointed postmaster. The first mail from this county was made up by J. P. Gallup, done up in a piece of brown paper, and carried by Chester Ford, mail contractor, in his vest pocket, whose route was semi-monthly, from Wrightstown to Fond du Lac, on an Indian trail.

In 1842, the County of Winnebago was organized. An idea of the public economy of the time may be formed from the fact of the first Board of Supervisors voting to raise a tax of fifty dollars for County expenses. The number of inhabitants at this time was 135, and in 1845, the population of the whole County was but 500.

The first birth of a white child in the county was that of George W. Stanley, on the 26th of August, of 1838. The first female white child born in the County was Elizabeth, daughter of Chester Ford.

In 1840, the first Fourth of July celebration was held. The entire population assembled in grand array on the lake shore, at the foot of Merritt street. A procession was formed in which a number of Indians joined, who seemed to enjoy this outburst of enthusiasm as fully as their white neighbors. John P. Gallup delivered the oration, and Joseph H. Osborn read the Declaration.

In 1841, a religious meeting was held at Mr. Stanley's house, at which a sermon was preached by Jesse Halstead, of Brothertown. Religious services were frequently held in the settlement, at which Clark Dickenson exhorted.

Miss. Emeline Cook, a sister-in-law of Jason Wilkins, taught a school for some time; but Henry A. Gallup, regardless of the educational interests of the community, married the school ma'am, and selfishly appropriated her services to his education in the science of domestic life.

In 1842, Webster Stanley was authorized, by act of the Legislature, to maintain a public ferry. It was located at the present site of the gang mill.

In 1843, the town of Winnebago was organized, comprising the whole county, and the Legislature passed an act requiring that "all elections shall be held at the house of Webster Stanley."

In 1843, Jefferson Eaton, with Amos Gallup, and Stephen Brooks as commissioners, and Samuel Brooks as surveyor, laid out the first road in the County, the same being from Stanley's Ferry to Neenah.

In 1844, the second road in the County was
laid out on the town line, between townships eighteen and nineteen, from Lake Winnebago to Lake Buttes des Morts.

The lack of a grist mill was a want severely felt by the earliest settlers, and large coffee-mills were frequently brought into requisition for grinding wheat. The nearest available mill for a long time was the one at Manchester (Stockbridge), across the lake; and, as there were no sail crafts or large boats, the grist had to be carried in canoes, in the summer time. In the winter the ice afforded a good road. Until roads were cut out, the settlers had to pack in on their backs groceries, flour and such other necessaries as they needed from Green Bay; and many a load of sixty or eighty pounds of flour or pork has Doctor Linde and others, packed on their backs over an Indian trail from Green Bay to this place. The doctor's muscle was pretty good then, and if any one were to question its tension now, he would feel a little ignignant.

Green Bay was the great emporium of this section in those days, from whence all the supplies of civilized life, except home productions, had to be obtained.

In 1844, Joseph Jackson built the first frame house in the County on the present site of the Beckwith. In the same year the first store was opened by J. H. Osborn, and the second by Smith & Gillet, and the third by Miller & Eastman, in 1846. The first store, that of Osborn's, was in a little addition to Stanley's house — that location was the business center then. In the spring of 1844 Mr. Osborn united with Amos Dodge under the firm name of Dodge & Osborn. They also had a trading post near the present site of Montello, and in that year put a sail boat on these waters.

In 1844 Joseph Jackson and W. W. Wright platted a tract into village lots — the west side of lower Main Street.

Up to the year 1846, the progress of the settlement was slow, and the population of the County was but 732, but this inviting field for immigration was now attracting general attention. The fame of this beautiful lake and river country, with its rich prairies and woodlands, had gone abroad and immigration began to pour in with a rapidity almost unprecedented in the settlement of a country. A continuous stream rolled in and overspread the County.

In the spring of 1846, Lucas M. Miller and Edward Eastman, attracted by the apparent advantages of the site of Oshkosh and the rich surrounding country, purchased a tract of land from Joseph Jackson, and erected a store near the present site of Hutchinson's store. Business was now to commence in earnest. They also bought a frame building opposite, which had been erected a short time before for a tavern, and which Manoah Griffin afterwards bought from Miller and converted into the Oshkosh House. The "business center" of Oshkosh then consisted of those two build- ings opposite each other — the store on one side of Pa-ma-cha-mit Road and the country tavern on the other. The residence portion was the one frame house occupied by L. M. Miller for a dwelling, and which stood on the present site of the Beckwith House. This was the Oshkosh of 1846 — the store, the tavern the dwelling house, and the ferry constituted all there was of Pa-ma-cha-mit (the crossing) except the little store on the present Gang Mill site. Its suburban district was extensive, composed of the adjoining farms and their log houses, with a plentiful supply of Indian wigwams.

Miller & Eastman did a rushing business in groceries, provisions, dry goods and Indian notions.

The growth of the county in population, might now be said to have commenced, ten years after the advent of the first settlers (the Stanleys and Gallups, in 1836). The population of the county increased in one year from 732 to 2,787. Hotels, stores and dwellings were erected in Oshkosh and Neenah, saw mills and grist mills were built, various branches of industry were established; and the year 1850, found Oshkosh a thriving frontier village, with a population of 1,392; and Neenah also a promising village, with stores and several branches of industry started; among others, the pioneer flouring mill of the place, Kimberly's, known after as the Neenah Mills.

In 1847, the first store for the sale of general merchandise, in Neenah, was opened by Jones & Yale, and in the fall of that year Daniel Priest put in operation a carding mill. The town of Neenah was organized the same year, and a company chartered to construct dams across both channels of the river. In that year the first village plat of Neenah was recorded by Harrison Reed. The dam was built, but not fully completed, that fall, and the same year the first two frame buildings (excepting the old Government mill) were erected by James Ladd, the same being the Winnebago Hotel, still standing, and the barn of the same, which was first built and used for a boarding house.

In 1850, the village of Winnebago Rapids (Neenah) was incorporated by the Circuit
Court of Winnebago County (See history of Neenah, on subsequent pages.)

Menasha, which was commenced in the erection of two log houses, by Curtis Reed, in 1848, was beginning, in 1850 to assume the proportions of a village. The first frame house was erected by Elbridge Smith. The first store was opened by Curtis Reed, in 1848. In 1849 the first mill—a saw mill—was built by Cornelius Northrup and Harrison Reed; and the dam, which was commenced in 1848, was completed in 1850, the saw mill set in operation and Menasha started in that career of manufacturing enterprise which has since distinguished the place.

In 1850, Waukau was also a promising village, and at that time, could claim no mean pretensions. The first saw mill in the county, excepting the government mill at Neenah, was put in operation by L. M. Parsons, in 1847. It was a small concern, but it has the honor of priority. In 1847 the first store was opened there by Elliott & White; and James Deyoe erected the first frame house. In the same year a log school house was built, and a school opened.

In 1848 a post office was established, another store opened by Lester Rounds, and mechanic shop started. A plat of the village of Waukau was made, and the same recorded December 30th, 1848, and in 1850 a grist mill was completed. (See history of Rushford.)

The village of Omro was started later than Waukau. A plat of the village was recorded in 1849, and in 1850 the place commenced to make that, and which has since developed the a half mile prosperous village of Omro, on land now of Thomas, this town of Berlin, rival of Oshkosh, for the possession Clough of county seat. In 1849 the first frame building was erected by F. T. Hamilton, and the first store, for the sale of general merchandise, opened by the same party. A post office was established the same year. The second frame structure was erected by Augustine Grignon, for a hotel. In 1850 a saw mill was completed and set in operation, and quite a village had sprung up on the site of Buttes des Morts.

E. D. Gumaer completed the first frame building in Winneconne, in 1849. The same year Charles Gumaer and John Atchley constructed buildings, and the Mumbrues erected a frame building for a hotel. In 1850, H. C. Mumbrue built a chair factory, and, during the same year, the Hyde Brothers constructed a saw mill. John Scott, in 1849, opened the first store, followed the same season by H. C. Rogers; and, in 1850, Winneconne was a village of much promise. (For full history of these places see subsequent pages.)

CHAPTER XXXV.

Wolf River Pineries—First Logging Operations—First Logs in the Pineries Cut on Rat River in 1835—First Saw Mill on These Waters Built at Shawano in 1843-44—First Saw Mill in Oshkosh Built in 1847—The Beginning of the Great Lumber Industry of Oshkosh and Its Rapid Growth—First Flouring Mills—First Steamboats, the Manchester and Peytona—First Boat Through the Portage Canal—Bridges Across the Fox—Telegraph Line—The First Newspapers—The Condition of the County in 1850.

The Wolf River, a large stream, and navigable for one hundred and fifty miles, flows from the pine forests of Northern Wisconsin, and traverses this county to its outlet, in Lake Winnebago. This fine river, with its numerous tributaries, is one of the best lumbering streams in the State; and gives this county the readiest means for floating the products of the pineries to the many mills engaged in the manufacture of lumber. Winnebago County, therefore, although not a pine growing country itself, being one of the richest prairie and opening districts of the State, is, through its water communication with the pine forests, one of the chief lumber manufacturing centers of the Northwest; Oshkosh alone manufacturing one hundred million feet of lumber, and more, per annum, in good years, and over a hundred million shingles, which, with its sash and doors, are sufficient to load over fifteen thousand railroad cars.

The first saw logs cut, in the Wolf River pineries, were those got out by David Whitney, of Green Bay, to be used in the construction of the Government buildings at Neenah. They were cut on the shores of Rat River, in 1835.

The next "logging" was done by one, Clark, of Taycheeda, and Thomas Evans, of Oshkosh, in the winter of 1843. The next winter, Gilbert Brooks, Milan Ford and Philip Wright, all of Oshkosh, cut 30,000 feet, on Rat River, which they sold to Harrison Reed for $2.50 per M.

The first saw-mill on the Wolf River waters was built at Shawano, in 1843, by Samuel Farnsworth, and lumber from that point was floated in rafts to Oshkosh during the same year, and sold for $5.00 per M.

The beginning of that lumber industry of Oshkosh which developed into such vast proportions, was the building of the two steam
saw mills by Morris Firman and Forman & Bashford.

In 1847, Morris Firman built a mill near the present site of the gang mill. Forman & Bashford constructed one at the same time at Algoma, and succeeded in completing it a short time before that of Firman’s was finished. The third mill was built by Geer & Co., which was followed by those of Ebenezer Hubbard and L. P. Sheldon.

By the year 1852 the lumber business was overdone. The supply was greater than the demand; lumber that would now be called good second clear, sold for five dollars per thousand.

For several years the manufacture of lumber was not a very profitable business, and that interest struggled against serious difficulties. The building of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad to this point in 1858, opened up a wider market and afforded a means of transportation to the great prairie country to the southwest. Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, as well as Southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, now became a great market ground for the Oshkosh mills. New mills were now constructed on a large scale with improved machinery and with circular and gang saws; and in 1871 there were in Oshkosh twenty-four large saw mills, sixteen shingle mills and seven sash and door factories — employing from twenty to eighty hands each. In this year there were sixty odd establishments in Oshkosh run by steam.

The first flouring mill was built at the village of Algoma, now the Fifth Ward of Oshkosh, by D. W. Forman & Co. in 1848. This and the Waukau mill supplied a want that had long been severely felt.

The first steam boat navigating these waters was the little Manchester, built on the opposite shore of the lake, and which made her first trip in 1844. She was the only boat on this lake until the Peytona made her appearance in 1849. The Peytona was a fine boat, built at Neenah by Captain Estis, who also sailed her for some time. She had a very successful career. The old settlers will remember the crowd of passengers she used to carry on her daily trips from Fond du Lac to this place.

In 1851, the Portage Canal was so far constructed that two steamers passed from the Fox into the Wisconsin.

The fine steamer, Menasha, made her appearance in 1852, and in 1853 the passenger and freight business on these waters had increased to such an extent that daily lines of steamboats were run to various points.

The travel and immigration to the “Indian Land” was at that time, and previous to it, via Oshkosh and the Wolf River.

The fine water communications branching from Oshkosh in different directions made it a central point in travel, and in the transportation of freight to various points. The steamboats, therefore, did a good business, and the docks presented a scene of great business activity.

In 1850, a telegraph line was completed from Milwaukee to Green Bay, passing through this county and connecting with its business points.

In 1847, Stanley’s Ferry, which had been removed from its original location, at the site of the Gang Mill, to the present location of the bridge; was superseded by a float bridge, on the third day of July, 1847, the first team passing over it on that day.

In 1850, Messrs. Weed, Gumara & Coon built a bridge across the river at Algoma. At that time Algoma was a rival of Oshkosh, and confidently expected to outstrip the latter place in growth, business and population.

The county, at this time—1850—was pretty well settled, and plentifully dotted with log houses, with an occasional frame house and frame barn.

The land was so easily brought into cultivation and was so productive, that a large area was soon under cultivation, and large crops were raised.

The county now began to assume the appearance of a settled country, and, as building material was cheap, large frame barns began to spring up in every direction.

The better class of farm houses were built. The year 1860 no county in the State surpassed, and few equaled Winnebago, in the appearance of highly cultivated farms, with handsome dwellings and spacious barns and out-buildings. The well-painted, substantial farm buildings, giving an air of thrift and comfort, were a matter of surprise to the new-comers from the East. The building of school-houses and churches also kept pace with other improvements; every community had its district school, and its educational interests well attended to.

The population of the county had in this year, 1850, reached 10,167. The population of Oshkosh was 1,392. It contained twenty odd stores, and hotels, mills, mechanic shops, etc., and was making a rapid growth.

The first newspaper in the county was the Oshkosh True Democrat, first published on the ninth day of February, 1849, in the village of Oshkosh by Densmore & Cooley. The next was the Winnebago Telegraph, by Morley & Edwards (Hiram Morley). Then came
the Oshkosh Republican, by Morley & Hyman. Then the Fox River Courier by McAvoy and Crowley, first published in June, 1852. About the same time the Anzeiger des Nordwesten by Kohlmann Brothers. The Menasha Advocate was started by Jere Crowley at Menasha in 1853, and the Conservator and Bulletin, the first by Harrison Reed and the latter by W. H. Mitchell, were published in Neenah in that year.

CHAPTER XXXVI.


Mr. Samuel Clough, at the present time a highly respected citizen of Nepeuskun, started, in 1844, for what was then considered the out-posts of civilization, and in his peregrinations reached Rock Prairie in the vicinity of Janesville, Wisconsin; remaining in that neighborhood about one year, during which time he made explorations as far north as Seven Mile Creek in Fond du Lac County. In 1845 he started with a view of making a permanent settlement, and made a purchase about one and a half miles west of his present residence on land now owned by T. McClelland and M. Thomas, this being the first land entered in the town of Berlin.

Mr. Clough after making his selection set out for Green Bay to purchase; but on his arrival at the farm of John Bannister, about two miles south of Fond du Lac, he learned that Mr. Bannister was acting as land agent, and to save the walk to Green Bay and back entrusted his money for entering the land to him, retaining only one dollar and eighteen cents as the sum of his worldly possessions, with anticipations of a patent for 160 acres of Uncle Sam’s domain, and again turned his face toward Rock Prairie about one hundred miles distant. Weary and footsore, with his shoes in his hand and traveling in his stockings, he was soon overtaken by a gentleman with a horse and comfortable buggy, who asked him if he would like to ride. He replied he would but was short of money.

“How much have you got,” was asked.

“One dollar and eighteen cents,” was the reply.

“Good; that’s more than I’ve got; where are you going?”

“To Rock Prairie.”

“Well, get in here; I am going to take this horse to Racine and have got just one shilling. If you will pay for feeding the horse at Wau- pump I will carry you to Watertown.”

Arriving at “Wilcox’s” at Waupun, the stranger took the horse to the stable, and, seeing a barrel of barley there, very dexterously transferred a peck to the manger; then walking into the house, he saw a pan of cookies in an unoccupied room and filled his pockets.

Rejoining Mr. Clough in the kitchen, Mr. C. proposed to invest in a bowl of bread and milk, each involving an outlay of twenty cents. This the stranger declined, and after Mr. C. had relieved the inner man in manner aforesaid, and resting the horse sufficiently as the stranger expressed it to Mr. Wilcox, they started again and arrived in Watertown before five o’clock. Here Mr. C. discovered the well-known mule team of uncle Jo Goodrich of Prairie du Lac (Milton) and from thence continued his journey on foot. Working here through harvest, he went to Metomen, Fond du Lac County, and after splitting 160 rails started for his Berlin estate. Arriving there he sold out in April, 1846, and taking the proceeds started for Green Bay, where he purchased 200 acres, his present farm.

Returning from Green Bay, he, with an acquaintance, set out for Oshkosh with the intention of purchasing a boat, and with the requisite provisions as freight, proceeding to Wolf River to procure logs, which when floated down the Wolf and up the Fox to a point most convenient to his purchase were to be converted into shingles. Reaching Omro on his way to Oshkosh, he found Jed Smalley (at the time an Indian merchant), where he stopped for dinner which consisted of boiled peas, the only solids obtainable.

Arriving at Oshkosh they found Webster Stanley, George Wright, P. V. Wright, Amos Dodge, two Gallups, and what was supposed to be a town site. Unable to procure boat or provisions, the expedition to Wolf River was abandoned, and while considering the next best thing, Mr. Sam Farnsworth (who had built a dam and saw mill at Shawano the year before) made his appearance in search of assistance to rebuild his dam which had been washed out, and a millwright to repair the mill which had been badly damaged. Mr. C. and nine others enlisted. Purchasing three or four barrels of pork and beef at Fond du Lac, and
some thirty bushels of potatoes, Mr. Farnsworth's boat was loaded, and with eight oars the boat was rowed to Shawano, the dam and mill completed and the party returned to Oshkosh in six weeks, arriving on the evening of July 2d.

Immediately on arrival Mr. C. was accosted by a young gamín with, "we're going to have a celebration here to-morrow." There being no settlers in the region where Mr. C. left he very naturally asked the boy, "where are the folks coming from?"

"Oh, the country is full of folks!"

"But," says Mr. C. "to-morrow is not the Fourth of July."

"Well, we've got to celebrate to-morrow, 'cause the steamboat (the old Manchester) is going to celebrate at Fond du Lac the Fourth."

And they did celebrate, Amos Dodge and a key bugle comprising the band, and Mr. C. was greatly interested to see the increase of population during his absence of a few weeks.

The same year Mr. C. had fourteen acres broke at a cost of two dollars per acre, and in the spring of 1847 purchased twelve bushels of seed wheat (of William Daikin of Green Lake) at fifty cents per bushel, and with it sowed six acres of his breaking from which he harvested 126 bushels. Up to this time he had purchased his flour and pork on Rock Prairie.

The flour was manufactured at Whitewater from wheat that cost thirty-nine cents per bushel, (first quality of wheat.) Pork and beef were purchased at one and a half cents per pound.

Having raised the wheat the grinding was the next consideration. Joining with a neighbor each put in twenty-two and a half bushels, making forty-five bushels, which was taken to Watertown, a distance of fifty-three miles, ground and returned, feeding the bran on the way home.

In the winter of 1848–9, Mr. C. contracted with Messrs. Brand & Sawyer, of Algoma, for sixteen thousand feet of pine lumber at eight dollars per thousand, to be one-third clear stuff, and drawing it home erected his present residence in the spring of 1849.

ENCOUNTER WITH INDIANS.

Doctor Linde gives the following recital of a most tragical event which occurred near his place at Muckwa, during his residence there:

On a fine hunting-night, in the latter part of June, 1856, Mr. Walter James went to a small lake near Muckwa, with his canoe, for the purpose of night-hunting deer. Fortunately he took the doctor's hunting-knife, a formidable weapon, made of the best steel, and weigh-

ing two and a half pounds. He found plenty of deer, but they would not take to the water on account of the carousals of three Indians, who with their families were encamped near the lake. James, being familiar with the Indians, and not anticipating any trouble, then went to their wigwams, and asked them not to make so much noise, and let him have a chance at the deer. The Indians who had drank just about whiskey enough to make them excitable and quarrelsome, then attacked him. One grabbed him by the throat; when James pulled out his big hunting knife, and then the Indian grasped him by the fore arm, to prevent James from striking with it; but his desperation lent him strength; and the great weight of the weapon enabled him by the strength of his wrist alone, to strike a blow which split the Indian's skull, when he fell unconscious. This was the work of a few seconds. The Indian had no sooner released his hold on James and fallen, than another made a thrust at him with a knife; but James being a skilful swordsman, easily parried the thrust, and struck his antagonist on the right arm with the intention of crippling him. The blow severed the bone between the shoulder and the elbow, barely leaving the artery uncut and a shred by which the arm dangled. At the same instant that the second Indian made the thrust with his knife, the other grasped the gun which James held in his left hand. The latter clung to the gun, which was loaded with buckshot, well knowing that his life depended on keeping it in his possession; but after he had disabled the second Indian, the third kept beyond the reach of the knife, holding the gun by the barrel, while James held it by the breech. Seeing that he could not get within reach of the Indian without releasing his hold on the gun, he let go and at the same instant jumped forward and made a desperate stroke at the Indian's head. The latter threw his head back and received the blow in the left breast, which partly cut four of the ribs, and expended its force on the wrist, cutting deeply into the bone. The Indian then fled with the gun and James followed in close pursuit, knowing well that it was a race for life; for if the Indian could get sufficient distance to turn and get a shot at him, he was gone. After running a short distance, in which the Indian barely succeeded in keeping but a little more than arm's length from James, the latter was tripped by a wild grape vine and fell. At the same instant the Indian turned and leveled the piece at him and pulled the trigger. When James saw the muzzle of the glistening barrel that contained twenty-four buck-shot, he felt,
for an instant, that his chances for life were narrow. The Indian, however, failed to discharge the gun, and James, quickly comprehending the reason, which was that the gun was at half-cock, jumped up and plunged down the bank of the stream which was the outlet of the lake. As the place where he happened to fall was near where he had left his canoe, it was the work of but a few moments to reach it, when he quickly paddled out in the lake, trusting that the obscurity of the night would prevent the Indian from getting a shot at him. This desperate encounter, up to the time when the Indian fled with the gun, occupied but a few seconds; as the three Indians attacked James simultaneously, and in fact it was but a few minutes from the time he had landed to visit the Indians, until he was again out on the lake.

Another man was on the lake in a canoe watching for a chance at deer; a Mr. Jerroux, who owned the adjoining land. As the Indians were making such a racket, he had lain down in his canoe to rest, till the noise subsided; and had fallen asleep, unconscious of the tragic events transpiring so near him. James paddled out to him and awakening him, related, what had occurred, and requested him to go to the wigwam and see what condition the wounded were in. He went, came back and reported to James, who immediately started for Doctor Linde, feeling that his surgical services were much needed; but the Doctor who had been at Weyauwega, was then on his return on a steamboat, which met James' canoe in the river. The latter was taken on board and gave a recital of what had occurred. He showed the marks of the encounter; his neck still retaining the indentations of all the finger nails of the hand which had grasped it.

On their arrival at Mukwa, the Doctor took his surgical instruments and accompanied by James, went immediately to the wigwam. The Indian, whose skull was cleaved, was still alive, but unconscious, and beyond the reach of surgical skill. He soon died. The one whose arm was nearly severed was attended to. The bone being cut slanting, it was found necessary to cut off the points, so as to square the ends; which was done. In due time the bone united, but the main nerve having been severed, caused paralysis of the arm and left him a cripple for life. The wounds of the other were dressed and the gashes sewed up, but about a year afterwards he died; it was reported from necrosis of the ribs occasioned by the injury.

The fatal quarrel caused great excitement among the Indians, who flocked from all direc-
tions, to the scene of the tragedy; and congregated in large numbers, in the vicinity of Linde's, assuming a most threatening attitude. The settlers were in such great fear from apprehension that the Indians had assembled for the purpose of taking revenge, that they dared not afford Linde any protection. He thought it a necessary precaution to send his little son Fred, to Oshkosh. The Doctor seemed to be involved in the trouble, from the fact that it was supposed hostility to him that provoked the attack on James; they having in the night and the phrenzy of the moment mistaken James for Linde; as the latter had caused the arrest and fine of some parties who had been selling whiskey to the Indians, for the purpose of suppressing the evil; considering his life in danger when the Indians were in liquor, whereas, he had no fear of them when they were sober.

The Doctor resolved to brave out the excitement which for a time ran very high. One of his neighbors deserves to be remembered in this connection. A man by the name of John Thorn, a blacksmith, who offered to help Linde in the event of any attack on him. Linde believed if any hostile demonstration were made, it would be immediately; so the night he had sent Fred away, he determined to keep a vigilant watch. Knowing that his dogs would give prompt notice of any hostile approach, it was arranged that he should give Thorn notice, if he were needed, by discharging a gun. The night passed without any disturbance, and in the morning Linde decided to empty one of his revolvers, that had been loaded a long time, and, forgetting his arrangement with Thorn, commenced discharging the piece. After firing a few shots he happened to look in the direction of Thorn's house, which was just across a little marsh, when he discovered Thorn running toward him at full speed, with his rifle in one hand and hunting-knife in the other. There was, however, no need of his services, so they amused themselves for some time in shooting at a mark.

James Clark, of Winchester, as soon as he heard of the danger surrounding his friends, promptly came to their defense, and offered to stand by them till the danger was over.

After the Indians and their friends had fully investigated the sad encounter, it was settled—Indian fashion—one of the conditions of the settlement requiring James to consent to be adopted by the tribe as one of its members, taking the place of the one who was killed. He therefore became a Menominee by adoption.

Many who read the foregoing statement of James' desperate struggle on that, to him, mem-
orable night, may deem it an exaggeration, but the people who were living here at the time, know the facts to be as they are here substantially stated, and will distinctly remember the circumstances. There were, it is true, some differences of opinion as to where the chief blame of the encounter rested; some alleging that the Indians had cause of provocation, in former attempts to drive them from Linde's hunting grounds; but the general opinion seemed to be that it was not reasonable to suppose that James would go alone in the night, with any hostile intentions, to a wigwam of three able-bodied Indians; and that the reasonable conclusion was, that he thought he could get them to quiet down and give him a chance to hunt; but they, mistaking him in the night for Linde, and being in the first stages of intoxication, construed the visit into an attempt to drive them off, and feeling belligerent, attacked him.

**INDIAN SCRIMMAGE AT OMRO.**

Among the Indian scrimmages, which the Doctor participated in, was one which threatened serious consequences.

Captain William Powell had a trading-post near the present site of Omro; and in the summer of 1844, the Winnebagoes were encamped, two hundred strong under old Yellow Thunder, at the outlet of Rush Lake. Yellow Thunder's boy, with eleven other young bucks, came down to Powell's to rob him of his whiskey and have a spree. There happened to be at Powell's shanty, at the time, three other whites: Jed Smalley, Leb Dickinson and Charles Carron, a Menominee half-breed. They resisted the attempt of the Winnebago bucks to get the whiskey, and a general fight ensued; but both whites and Indians, well knowing the consequences of using any deadly weapon, confined themselves to their fists and clubs. Just as the struggle was at its full height, and after Captain Powell had his right arm broken, but was still using his club with his left, Doctor Linde, who happened to come on a visit, appeared on the scene. The combatants were so engaged that neither party observed the accession to the force of the whites. The Doctor quickly comprehending the situation, and the necessity of prompt action, as the whites were getting the worst of it, threw down his pack, cocked both barrels of his rifle and laid it down on his pack, and went into the scrimmage with his tomahawk. He first struck Yellow Thunder's boy; the Indian turning his head as he received the blow, the tomahawk peeled the skin entirely across the forehead. He fell senseless, when Linde struck another Indian. The fight now proceeded so vigorously that the Doctor had no time for observation, until a cessation of hostilities revealed to the sight twelve Indians hors du combat. Things now looked much more serious than ever, for if one Indian was killed the band at Rush Lake would seek revenge in an attempt to kill the whole party; whereas, if no life was lost, it would only be looked on as deserved punishment, and the whites entitled to the highest respect for their victory over such superior numbers.

Measures of safety now had to be taken until it was ascertained whether any of the Indians were killed. Charley Carron was, therefore, sent out to a point, about a mile distant on the trail to Rush Lake with orders to shoot any Indians that were en route for Powell's. Then the party of whites proceeded to pack their goods into their canoes and get everything ready for a sudden start, for if one Indian out of the lot did not recover, they must, with all dispatch, get out of the Winnebago country into the Lower Fox region and down to Green Bay. If all proved well, Carron was to be notified with a signal of two shots.

Powell's arm was next dressed and set, and then the Indians were attended to, most of them getting upon their feet, having received no serious injury. The wounds of some had to be dressed, but one by one they came out all right: that is, alive; a broken arm or a badly gashed head was no very serious matter. So the young bucks very gratefully partook of the hospitalities, including a little whiskey, which concluded the ceremonies of the occasion; only regretting that their plan for getting on a big drunk had miscarried, and laughing at the affair as a bad joke on themselves. Old Yellow Thunder laughed at the discomfiture of the Indians, who, when they returned, sadder, but wiser Indians, had to own up that the good joke of stealing Powell's whiskey, though well conceived, had materially failed in its practical execution.

Doctor Linde was well acquainted with Cha-ka-mo-ca-sin, war chief of the Menominees. From the Doctor we learn the following incidents in his career. Like all the war chiefs of Indian tribes he arose to the position through an established reputation for bravery and skill on the war-path. He once made the trip alone from here to the Pacific Coast, stating that he crossed mountains whose tops were covered with snow, and went from the land of sweet waters to those of bitter. This was before the days of over-land travel, when travelers had to be self-sustaining. He was a man of great physical strength and great power of endur-
ance. On one occasion, when lying drunk in his lodge, an enemy stabbed him, the knife passing through the lung. His friends discovering him lying dead, as they thought, put on their mourning paint and were singing around him, when, to their surprise, he rose up and asked who was dead. On being informed that he was, and what killed him, he immediately took his knife and went to the lodge of his enemy who was sitting down with his blanket drawn over his head in expectant retribution. Cha-ka-mo-ca-sin pulled off the blanket and told him to “look up if he wanted to see a man.” The Indian stared as if at an apparition. Said Cha-ka-mo-ca-sin: “Do you suppose you could kill a war chief. You don’t know how to strike. This is the way,” and suitting the action to the words, drove the knife into him, up to the hilt, when the Indian fell dead.

On one occasion the Doctor saw him sitting on a log smoking, with all the nonchalance of Indian imperceptibility, while his squaw was belaboring him angrily, with all her strength, over the back with a paddle, and accusing him of lying around drunk, when he ought to be hunting and trapping. As the blows increased in number and vigor, he quietly looked around to her and said “it hurts.” “I make it hurt more,” she replied, renewing the blows with all her strength. After taking his punishment for some time longer with true Indian stolidity, he coolly laid down his pipe and getting up told his squaw to take his place on the log. She obeyed, for she saw he meant business. He then took up the paddle and returned measure for measure. She squatted and said “it hurts.” “That is what I told you, now you believe it,” he replied, and coolly resumed his pipe.

Doctor Linde occupies a prominent place in the pioneer history of this county. He migrated here from Denmark, in 1842, and immediately purchased 280 acres, the present site of the Northern Hospital for the Insane. The patent for this land was issued to him. The first fifteen acres which he cleared and broke, is now the vegetable garden of the hospital. On this place he built a log-house, in which he resided for three years, in pioneer style—hunting, trapping, clearing land, splitting rails, and the other incidental work of a new-comer, excepting when at times important surgical operations demanded his services. He married Miss Sarah Adelaide Dickenson, daughter of Clark Dickenson, who was one of the very early settlers of the county. The Doctor had selected this locality for his future home, then on the very confines of civilization, for the purpose of gratifying his taste for a frontier life, and his love for hunting, trapping and backwood sports, and consequently did not practice his profession; but being one of the only two professional surgeons in the territory at that time, he was reluctantly compelled to practice, when occasion demanded his services.

The country, on his arrival here, was a comparative wilderness, his house and two others, being the only ones between Oshkosh and Winnebago Rapids (now Neenah). The only roads in the country were Indian trails, and the means of transportation, packing by land or in canoes by water, and many a weary mile has he packed his heavy load. The pioneer hospitality of the day is illustrated by his keeping a light burning till late in the night, to guide the traveler on the lake to a place of shelter, and whether Indian or white man, he was welcome to a place by the fireside. Speaking French fluently, and from similarity of tastes, he found most congenial companions among the old French settlers. Being one of the very best rifle shots in the country, he soon became famous among the Indians and whites, and passed a large portion of his time in the chase. His mark was so well known and respected by the Indians, that they never intruded on ground occupied by him, when hunting and trapping. The incidents of his years of backwoods life, would make an interesting volume. On one occasion, having a number of guns out of doors which he had been cleaning, he observed a band of Pottawattamies on their travels, who, in passing along near the guns, stopped and contemptuously remarked in their language, “White man have heap guns, but can’t shoot much.” The Doctor came up and by those significant signs with which Indians so readily express themselves, pointed at the guns and then at the Indians, and holding his other hand about two feet from the ground, to signify that they were little children in the use of fire-arms, and then straightening up and pointing to himself as big man who would try them. He then took out one of his pistols and got an Indian boy to hold out at arm’s length a bit of board, about six inches square, at which he fired, putting a ball nearly in the center. The second shot he struck the center. The boy showed nerve—never flinching a hair’s breadth. The Indians then cut off, a bit of bark on a tree — long range; on the second shot the doctor’s ball struck the center. The Indians, without a word, turned on to the trail and left. The Doctor regards himself an instance of the degenerating effects of civilization, as he was known among the Indians as White Bear, and by the settlers, as the Hunting-Doctor. “Whereas now,”
he says, he is "only Old Doct Linde." He did not take the precaution of Nicodemus Easy, the father of Marryatt's hero, who, when it was proposed to name his first born after him, objected, on the ground that the boy would be called Young Nick, and he would in contra-distinction be called Old Nick.

After a residence of four years on his land, he moved to Green Bay, where he lived about a year, practicing his profession. While at the Bay, he made the acquaintance of an old Indian, who had been scalped, when a boy, by a Chippewa. A portion of the skull was bare, where the scalp-lock was cut off; this was one of the survivors of a famous event in Menominee tradition, and is celebrated by the "Dance of the three Menomeines." When this Indian was a boy, he was, with some women and children, taken captive by a party of Chippewas. A short time after the Chippewas had departed with their captives, three Menomeines on a hunt, who had just killed a deer, came upon the scene of the capture. With the unerring sagacity of Indians, they readily perceived what had taken place, and that the party who attacked and carried off their women and children, was composed of twenty-one Chippewas. Dividing up the deer among them, which afforded a plentiful supply of food for several days, they immediately took the trail of the Chippewas, and notwithstanding the great disparity in numbers, determined, without waiting for any accession to their forces, to attempt the recovery of their people, and obtain revenge for the injury. They followed the trail to a point in the Chippewa country, beyond Post Lake, where they discovered the smoke of their camp. They now proceeded cautiously, and stealthily creeping up, saw the captives and the twenty-one Chippewas. The latter had deposited their fire-arms in a place a little removed from their camp-fire. By a strategic movement the three Menomeines succeeded in getting between the Chippewas and their guns, and then quickly possessed themselves of the latter. Each Menominee then picked out his Chippewa, and fired; three fell dead. They then repeated their shots with fatal rapidity; after which they closed in with the remainder in a hand to hand fight. Every Chippewa was killed, except one old man, whose life was spared for the purpose of sending the compliments of the three Menomeines to his tribe, and informing them how the Menomeines avenged an injury. This event is celebrated by the Menomeines with one of their most popular dances.

After something more than a year's residence at Green Bay, Doctor Linde removed to Osh- kosh. He purchased one and a half acres of land, the present site of the First National Bank and postoffice. While living on this place his wife died, when he sold the place to Colonel Lucas Miller, and moved to Fond du Lac, and again engaged in the practice of his profession, which he followed for about a year, when he embarked in the fur trade. At this time, about 1852, he married a niece of Governor Doty—Miss Sarah M. Davis—who died the next year in child-birth. Shortly after this event, he moved with his son Fred, eight years old, to Mukwa, where he lived for five years, chiefly trapping and hunting.

For two years Walter James, son of G. P. R. James, the English novelist, lived with him. James, the elder, was Consul at Norfolk, and for a period, acting as English Embassador to the United States. He made a visit to his son and the Doctor, participating with much zest in all the novel incidents of a back-woods life. After a morning's hunt, of a fine Indian summer day in October, during which G. P. R. James killed a deer, and while they were sitting down in the house after dinner, the dogs gave signs of the near approach of game. The Doctor, who was lying down comfortably smoking, called to Walter James to take his rifle. He did so, and no sooner reached the door, than he fired, standing just inside the door-step, bringing down a large buck, whose last jump was in the vegetable garden, where he fell dead.

After a residence of five years at Mukwa, Doctor Linde removed to Oshkosh, where he has since resided and engaged in the practice of his profession, and is now associated with his son, Doctor F. H. Linde, in an extensive practice. He has risen to eminence as one of the leading physicians of the State, and among the highest of the State Medical Association. His son, Fred, has already established his reputation as a successful practitioner, and is devotedly attentive to his profession.

The old hunter and trapper has had to succumb to the civilization which crowded him and the Indians from their old hunting-grounds; but the Doctor says, were it not for his children, he would return with the greatest pleasure to his beloved frontier life, and the enjoyments and hardships of the chase.

THE LOST PARTRIDGE CHILD.

In April, 1852, a great excitement prevailed throughout the county, occasioned by the supposed discovery of a white child among the Menomeines, that they were suspected of having stolen two years previous.

The father of the lost child was Mr. Alvin
Partridge, who lived on a farm in the Town of Vinland, and owned a piece of woodland which was situated about five miles from his residence. To this place he repaired with his family early in the spring, and lived in a camp while he was engaged in making maple sugar. His little son, Casper, three or four years old, wandered away from the camp, and was missed immediately after his disappearance, when search was made for him; but night came on and the child could not be found. The agitated parents were frantic with grief, and the sympathising settlers from far and near, numbering hundreds, turned out and searched night and day, scouring the woods in every direction; but no trace of him could be discovered, with the exception of a small piece of his dress, which was found near the edge of a marsh. What became of the poor little fellow is to this day, a matter of conjecture; many believing that he wandered off to the Rat River marshes, which were partly frozen and got into some deep hole of mud and water.

Two years after this sad occurrence, the bereaved parents were informed that a Menominee woman, named Nah-Kom, was in possession of a child that was suspected to be the lost one. Mr. Partridge at once went to see Nah-Kom, who very kindly consented to go with her little boy to see Mrs. Partridge, and remained at Partridge's house over night. It became very evident to Mrs. Partridge that the child was not hers, as she failed to recognize any resemblance, and the boy showed no signs of remembering any of the things about the house, that the lost child was so familiar with; so Nah-Kom was suffered to depart with her child, who was a half-breed, and bore some resemblance to a white child, which was all the reason for the suspicion that it had been stolen.

Although the parents of the lost child, and especially the mother, were convinced at first that the boy with Nah-Kom was not their child, they seem to have been afterwards persuaded through the persistent efforts of friends, to take legal measures for the recovery of the child. Therefore, Mr. Partridge's brother, who was most persistent in the matter, took out the necessary papers, and accompanied by a deputy sheriff of Winnebago County, Kendrick Kimball, went to Nah-Kom's camp, which was then in the western part of Wau-Shara County, and demanded the boy, who was to remain in the custody of the officer till the court determined the case. The Indians at once complied with the demands of the law, although poor Nah-Kom cried until she found she could accompany the child. Although the Menominees had been invariably kind to the whites, and had in many instances saved many white families from perishing with hunger; still, the sheriff found eight or ten teams loaded with armed men, which shows how easy it is to create an unjust hostility toward the poor Indian.

Mr. Kimball, however, took no one with him but the parties immediately concerned, and found no difficulty with the Indians. He brought Nah-Kom with her little boy, and another Menominee woman for company for her, to Oshkosh, and kept the boy at his house over two weeks.

The trial was before Court Commissioner Buttrick, and was attended by an immense concourse of people.

Those who were familiar with Indians, on seeing Nah-Kom and the child, had not the least doubt that the child was hers, and that it was a half-breed. The most conclusive evidence was given in favor of Nah-Kom's claim to be the mother of the boy; among other, that of a most estimable lady, Mrs. Dousman, of Keshena, who was cognizant of the child's baptism, and had seen him frequently from babyhood to the time of the trial. The interpreter and traders, and the chief, Oshkosh, also testified to a personal knowledge of the child from the time of its birth.

After hearing all the evidence in the case the court allowed Mr. Partridge to keep the child in his family, pending the decision. After duly considering the case, the court decided in favor of the claim of Nah-Kom, and the sheriff, with an order, started for the boy. Arriving at Partridge's house, the sheriff was told that if the boy went, Mr. Partridge must go too, and he was requested to wait till a team could be harnessed. The sheriff consented, but before the team was harnessed, some twenty men assembled and informed the sheriff that he could not have the boy. The child was then spirited away; but the Indian agent took measures by which the Menominees recovered him. The Partridges then instituted another trial before Judge Smith in Milwaukee. The court again decided in favor of the Indians, but that the child should remain in the hands of the sheriff for two days, to give the Partridges time to commence new proceedings, if they desired; but instead of taking legal measures to obtain him, they managed in some way to get possession of him and ran him off. This is what the Indians call white man's justice, and is to the certain knowledge of the writer, about a fair sample of the general treatment they have received at the hands of the whites.
The father and the mother of the lost child, if left to their own judgment, would not have made any effort to get the boy, believing it was not theirs; but the over-officiousness of irresponsible parties, worked up their feelings to a high pitch, which were intensified by the painful uncertainty of the fate of their lost one. The bereaved parents were to be pitied, and so was the poor Indian mother, so unjustly bereft of her child.

The Partridges fled to Kansas with the boy, where he grew to manhood in their family, and served as a soldier in the late war.

The skeleton of a four or five year old child was afterwards found on a marsh, not far from the site of the Partridge sugar-camp.

The head men of the Menominees were in Milwaukee in attendance at the trial, and when the child was thus unlawfully taken away, they went to the Sentinel office, accompanied by William Johnson, the interpreter, Captain William Powell, and Robert Grignon, to tell the world, through the medium of the press, of the wrong that had been done them. Their request was readily granted, when Oshkosh spoke as follows:

"We have called upon you, and have shaken hands with you with a good heart. We have come to ask your aid. We want you to publish what we say. You see that I am growing gray. I am an old man. I have seen many years. I was quite a young man when the Americans came to my place at Green Bay. It was in 1816. They shook hands with us, and told us they had come to live among us, and make us happy, and that if we followed their counsel, we should have no trouble. At a council we held, in 1827, at Little Buttes des Morts, General Cass told us the same thing—that the Americans were our friends, and if we followed their advice we should always be happy. Again, in 1836, at Cedar Point, we met Governor Dodge, who came from the General Government to treat with us, and told us that whatever he promised, our Great Father, the President, would perform. Our Great Father, he said, was very glad that we had submitted to his wishes, and made a treaty to cede a part of our lands. And he promised that our Great Father, the President, would always protect us like his own children, and would always hold our hands in his. Governor Dodge told us that our Great Father was very strong, and owned all the country, and that no one would dare to trouble us, or do us wrong, as he would protect us. He told us, too, that whenever we got into difficulty or anything happened we did not like, to call upon our Great Father, and he would have justice done. And now we come to you to remind our Great Father, through your paper, of his promise, and ask him to fulfill it. We always thought much of Governor Dodge, as an honest man, and we thought more of him when he came to us on the part of the Government. We believed all that he told us. We have done what we agreed to do. We have been always friendly with the whites, and have taken up arms for them against our Indian brothers. If any of our young men were foolish, the chiefs were the first to rebuke them, and to give them advice. We have respected our white neighbors, and now we want their help. It was at the payment, at Lake Pauwaygan (Poygan), made by Colonel Jones, that this boy was born. I then lived on the Wisconsin River, and was notified to come to the payment with my tribe. The roll had all been made up, and the payment was to be made the next day. During the night this boy was born. I was told of it in the morning, and asked Colonel Jones to put his name on the roll. The Colonel said this could not be, but if the chiefs were willing, the child should have his share. They were all willing; the boy's share was given to me, and I gave it to his mother. It was this same child—the same one now taken from us. And now we want your help to get back the child. We still hope to find him. We cannot give him up. We want you to satisfy the public that the child is ours. We hope to take him home with us this time. We came from a great distance. Once before the child was carried off by force, after the law had decided in our favor, and now he is again carried away. We are grieved and disappointed. This is why we ask your help."

RECOLLECTIONS OF HON. C. L. RICH.

Mr. Rich migrated from Lewis County, New York, to this county in October, 1845, and entered the lands now comprised in his present farm. At that time the country was a wilderness, with only three or four log-houses between Oshkosh and Neenah.

Mr. Rich in his migrations landed at Sheboygan, and started on foot for Winnebago County. After reaching Ceresco he took the Indian trail which passed around the head of Rush Lake for Stanley's Ferry (now Oshkosh), and arrived at the river shore at dark, when he was ferried over and put up at Stanley's tavern, on the present site of the Gang Mill. This tavern, with Amos Dodge's little Indian trading post and a few log-houses, constituted the Oshkosh of that day.

About two hundred Indians were encamped
on the river shores near the ferry; and just after Mr. Rich's arrival Mr. Stanley came into the house with a pail of water and remarked to his family, "Charley Carron pushed me as I passed him," when a woman said: "Stanley! You have got to kill that Indian, and you may as well do it now as any time."

In a little while Stanley, who had again went out, came back to the house and said that Carron had struck at Dodge with a knife, and that the knife had entered a plug of tobacco in the pocket of the latter.

Mr. Rich now witnessed the scene that followed. Dodge picked up a handspike and struck Carron a blow with it that felled him, and then followed up the blow by giving Carron a terrible mauling. In the melee another Indian was accidentally struck by Dodge, which occasioned considerable feeling among the Indians who thought it had been done purposely. The only whites on the scene were the Stanleys, Amos Dodge, Charley Wescott, C. L. Rich and two other travellers. The row was kept up until midnight, when the Indians got Carron back to his camp and quiet prevailed.

In the morning Carron came into the house and took breakfast with them, and friendly feelings prevailed between the formerly belligerent parties. The fumes of the whiskey had passed off, and Carron, for the time being, was a sadder but wiser man. The principal dish on the breakfast table was muskrat stew, and this was the first time Mr. Rich had ever tasted its excellency.

After a general exploration of the country, he selected his present location and entered and paid for the same. Sometimes parties of Indians would camp on his place, and at first he was a little apprehensive. During the next year (1846), an immense immigration poured into this county and log-cabins sprang up in every direction; breaking and splitting rails was pushed with great vigor, and the work of improvement continued, until Winnebago County presented an expanse of cultivated farms.

In 1846 Mr. Whittemore, one of Mr. Rich's neighbors sowed two hundred acres of winter wheat, and harvested a splendid crop, thirty bushels per acre of the finest quality of grain. Mr. Rich was also successful in raising winter wheat. The herds of Indian ponies, which, at that time, were running at large, sometimes grazed it too close, but the settlers had the use of the ponies as a compensation. The best quality of wheat sold at the time for fifty cents a bushel.

Mr. Rich's fine farm which he settled on at that early day is now in a high state of cultivation. It is situated on Section 35 of the Town of Oshkosh, and contains 345 acres, with spacious barns and outbuildings, one of which is one hundred and twenty-five feet by forty-five feet, with twenty-four foot posts. The yield of wheat has averaged twenty bushels per acre. In connection with this farm Mr. Rich has a stock farm in Outagamie County, containing one thousand acres, on which he pastures all his young stock and where he keeps seventy milch cows, the milk of which is converted into cheese at the factory on his place.

The old pioneer seems to have stuck his stakes in a good place for him, for he has prospered financially, physically and socially, having been a representative man of this county since his advent. He has been for several terms a leading member of the County Board, and represented his county in the State Legislature as senator.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Compilation of Early Official Data of Winnebago County—Compiled from the Records and Other Authentic Sources, Expressly for this Work, by W. H. Webster—Organization of County—First Election—Proceedings of County Board—Elections—First Town Organization Embraces the Whole County—County Expenses—Locating County Seat—First Term of Court—Organization of Towns—Erection of County Buildings—Court House, Etc.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY was first set off from Brown County, by act of the Legislature, January 6th, 1840, with following boundaries: North, by the north line of Township 20; east, by the line dividing Ranges 17 and 18, extending through Lake Winnebago; south, by the north line of Township 16; extending into the lake, until it intersects the aforesaid line, and west by the lines dividing Ranges 13 and 14 (the same as at present.)

Nathaniel Perry, Robert Grignon, and Morgan L. Martin, were, by the same act, appointed Commissioners to locate a seat of justice at any point in the county, and to purchase the quarter section of land, for the use of the county, upon which the same was located.

We find no record showing that these duties were ever performed or any organization perfected or authorized by or under this act; but prior to this, by an act approved March 8th, 1839, a town was organized from Townships 20 and 21, Ranges 16 and 17, to be called Winnebago, the first election to be held at Perry's dwelling-house; also, the Town of
Buttes des Morts, from Townships 18 and 19, Ranges 15, 16 and the fractions in 17, the first election to be held in the house of Webster Stanley.

February 18th, 1842, an act was approved organizing the counties of Winnebago and Calumet, from and after the first Monday in April, 1843; the first election to be held in the school-house in Manchester (Calumet County), the first Monday in April, 1843, the said counties to remain attached to Brown County for judicial purposes. The same date, an act authorizing Webster Stanley to keep a ferry on Section 23, Town 18, Range 16.

Monday, April 4th, and Tuesday, April 5th, 1842, an election was held at the house of Webster Stanley in the Town of Buttes des Morts, without authority of any kind, and town officers were elected (for result see Town of Oshkosh). This was the first election within the county, and, being unauthorized, was legalized by the Legislature, March 29, 1843.

By an act of the Legislature, approved December 6, 1836, to amend certain acts passed by the Legislature of Michigan, dated March 6th, April 17th and 22nd, 1833 it was provided "That each county within this territory now organized, or that may be hereafter organized, be, and the same is declared, one township for all purposes of raising taxes, and providing for defraying the public and necessary expenses in the respective counties, and to regulate highways; and that there shall be elected, at the annual town meeting in each county, three supervisors, who shall perform, in addition to their duties assigned them as a county board, the duties heretofore performed by the township board." (The clerk was also to act as county and town clerk.)

An act approved December 20, 1837, provides for the organization of a board of county commissioners to consist of three qualified electors.

Act of April 1, 1843: "The Town of Buttes des Morts, County of Winnebago, shall hereafter be known as Winnebago, embracing all territory within the limits of said county, and future elections shall be held at the house of Webster Stanley."

ELECTION OF SUPERVISORS.

In accordance with the act of 1842, the annual town election was held at the house of Webster Stanley, the first, Monday, April 4, 1843, and "on motion, W. C. Isbell was chosen moderator, and sworn by W. A. Boyd, clerk." The result was the election of Wm. C. Isbell, chairman; L. B. Porlier and Chester Ford, supervisors, and Geo. F. Wright, clerk, with a full set of officers. (See Town of Oshkosh.) These supervisors and the clerk subsequently performed the duties of the County Board in pursuance of the law of December 6, 1836, and April 1, 1843, already quoted, and the following is a verbatim copy of the record of proceedings at the first meeting as a county board.

COUNTY BOARD MEETS.

"Board of County Supervisors met at the house of Webster Stanley, May 1, 1843. Present, Wm. C. Isbell, Chairman, and Chester Ford, Supervisor; a quorum. Wm. W. Wright, County Treasurer, filed his bond, with C. J. Coon and Edward E. Brennan as sureties; approved. George F. Wright was unanimously appointed Clerk of Board of Supervisors. The Board adjourned to meet again on Saturday, the sixth instant, at one o'clock P. M."

May 6, Supervisors met according to adjournment. Present: Their honors, Wm. C. Isbell, Chairman, and Chester Ford, Supervisor. Voted to raise by tax, for county purposes, fifty dollars. Resolved to adopt this seal: device, an eagle holding a snake in his claws. May 6, 1843, county estimates:

Dickenson 52 25
Election, Sept. 1842 7 00
Election, May, 1843 8 00
Stationery 20
Clerk Board Supervisors 2 00
Election Returns 8 00
September Election, 1843 10 25
Supervisors' Annual Meeting 8 00
" Special 10 00
Clerks, stationery 2 00
Treasurer 1 00
Total 58 75

SPECIAL ELECTIONS.

May 1, 1843, a special election was held for sheriff in the district of Brown County; at the same time and place (house of Webster Stanley), and by the same officers, for judge of probate, for the district composed of Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Marquette counties; also, for justice for the Town of Buttes des Morts; Clark Dickenson, Ebenezer Childs and Jason Wilkins, received the highest number of votes for justices, of which there were twenty-polling, sixteen for sheriff, and twenty-five for judge of probate.

These election returns are each certified by Wm. C. Isbell, chairman, Chester Ford, supervisor, G. F. Wright, and Clark Dickenson, clerks.

January 22, 1844, the Legislature passed an act, authorizing the voters of Winnebago to vote at the next town meeting, for and against being attached to Fond du Lac County, for
judicial purposes; and on the twenty-sixth of the same month, to vote at the general election, on the fourth Monday in September, next, for and against State Government.

FIRST ELECTION OF COUNTY OFFICERS.

At the annual town election held at the house of Webster Stanley, April 2, 1844, for the Town of Winnebago, under act of April 1, 1843, Harrison Reed was elected Chairman; Wm. C. Isbell and C. R. Luce, Supervisors; Chester Ford, Jason Wilkins and George F. Wright, Justices.

The highest number of votes cast for these officers was twenty-three. For being attached to Fond du Lac County, twenty-five votes; for remaining attached to Brown County, five votes.

The first county election was held the fourth Monday in September, 1844, resulting in the election of W. C. Isbell, Register of Deeds; George F. Wright, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors; Wm. W. Wright, Treasurer; Ira F. Aiken, Coroner; Samuel L. Brooks, District Attorney. Highest number of votes polled was nineteen. For State government, four; against, nineteen.

Representatives and members of the council were also voted for; also judge of probate, of which T. J. Townsend received twenty, and R. F. Eaton two. A sheriff was also voted for.

October 1, 1844, the County Treasurer made the following (verbatim) report:

To the Board of Supervisors of Winnebago County, Wisconsin Territory:

The undersigned submit the following report of the state of the treasury, for the current year. There has been received into the treasury, of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H. A. Gallup</td>
<td>$36.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. L. Mead</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. L. Mead</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. C. Isbell and G. F. Wright</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. F. Wright</td>
<td>2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. L. Mead</td>
<td>3.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. J. Coon</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making $49.76

To costs on lands sold to county, on thirteen tracts $3.80
Two per cent. commission, for receiving and paying out moneys 1.00
One quire writing paper 25
Orders redeemed 44.71

Total $49.76

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM W. WRIGHT,
Treasurer.

April 21, 1844, report of County Treasurer.

of lands sold for taxes of 1843: twenty-eight descriptions sold; amount of tax, $25.47; costs, $7.97; total, $33.44.

LOCATING COUNTY SEAT.

February 22, 1845, an act was passed providing for the election of three commissioners, to locate the seat of justice in Winnebago County.

At the annual town meeting, April, 1845, Clark Dickenson and Robert Grignon, were elected such commissioners. H. Reed and Joseph Jackson receiving an equal number of votes, a special election was held April 24th, when Harrison Reed was elected.

July 16th, the Board met at the house of Webster Stanley. Robert Grignon presented a proposition from Augustine Grignon, for locating the county seat at Big Buttes des Morts. Clark Dickenson presented a like proposition from Chester Ford, for locating near the mouth of the river; and Harrison Reed a verbal offer for a location on Section 27, Town 20, Range 17, near Winnebago Rapids. Board adjourned to July 31st.

July 31, 1845, Board met, pursuant to adjournment, and located seat of justice on land offered by Augustine Grignon, according to the survey of the County Surveyor, viz: Three hundred feet square in Section 24, Town 19, Range 16 (Buttes des Morts). This land was deeded by Mr. Grignon to the county October, 1845.

ORGANIZATION OF TOWNS.

In 1846, settlements were made in various parts of the county, and February 11, 1847, the Legislature set off and organized four additional towns, viz: Buttes des Morts, (see Omro), Brightton (see Nekimi, Neenah and Rushford); also organized Winnebago (see Oshkosh). For the territory and particulars of organization of these towns, the reader is referred to their history, by the names just indicated.

LOCATING COUNTY SEAT.

February 8, 1847, three days prior to this last act, was passed an act fully organizing Winnebago County for judicial purposes, from and after January 1, 1848, the county seat to be located on Section 24, Town 18, Range 16, for the next three years; provided, the proprietors of said town shall furnish suitable buildings for holding court, free of cost to the county; and after the expiration of that time the voters of the county may vote on the question of raising a tax for the erection of county buildings.

March 13, 1847, L. M. Miller and Edward
Eastman made a proposition to donate land for the buildings.

The Board of Supervisors examined the land offered, but considered it inexpedient to locate the county seat at that time.

March 24, 1847, proposals were offered by Miller & Wolcott, by Wm. W. Wright, and by Joseph Jackson. After due deliberation the board accepted the proposition of L. M. Miller and S. A. Wolcott, and located the present site.

April 2, 1847, L. M. Miller, Samuel H. Farnsworth and Sewell A. Wolcott, proprietors of the plat of the first addition to the village of Oshkosh, presented a deed of ten lots in block 19 of said addition, which was accepted.

**FIRST TERMS OF COURT.**

January 12, 1848, Judge A. G. Miller of the Third Judicial district of the Territory of Wisconsin, issued an order for holding a term of court for Winnebago County, in pursuance of the act of February 8, 1847, on the second Thursday of May next at eleven o’clock in the forenoon, to which time all writs are returnable.

March 28, 1848, Edward Eastman, having been appointed clerk of said court, was, by the County Board, directed to furnish suitable rooms for the convening of the term of court on the second Thursday of May.


Judge Miller not being present, the clerk adjourned to the twelfth, when the jury were discharged.

On the seventh of August a special election for circuit judge was held, at which Alexander W. Stowe was elected, and "October 16th a session of the Circuit Court was begun and held at the school-house in the Village of Oshkosh. Present, A. W. Stowe, Chief Justice; N. P. Tuttle, Sheriff; Edward Eastman, clerk of the late District Court. " The following persons appeared and were sworn as grand jurors: Benjamin Strong, Theodore Pillsbury, Samuel Clough, Barna Haskell, Henry C. Finch, Irvin (Erwin) Heath, Luther M. Parsons, Josiah Woodworth, J. L. Schooley, John Monroe, A. H. Green, James Woodruff, Eli Stilson,

William Luckey, David Chamberlain, W. N. Moulthrop and John Nelson.

Under the act of February 8, 1847, before mentioned, the first court-house was erected by a subscription of the citizens, and so far completed that a term of court convened therein April 9, 1849. This building was erected on the present court-house square.

**ORGANIZATION OF TOWNS.**

The towns of Utica and Winneconne were set off and organized by act of the Legislature, March 11, 1848. (See Utica and Winneconne.)

August 28, 1847, an act of the Legislature was approved, authorizing county boards to set off, organize and change the name of towns.

By an act of March 15, 1849, the name of the town of Buttes des Morts was changed to Bloomingdale; and the Town of Vinland set off and organized. (See Vinland.) On the twenty-first of the same month an act was approved setting off and organizing the Town of Clayton, and on March 22, re-organizing the towns of Winnebago and Brighton.

November 7, 1849, the Town of Nepeuskun was set off from Rushford, (see Nepeuskun) and organized by the County Board in pursuance of the act of August 28, 1848; and on the same day a resolution was passed by the County Board, appropriating three hundred dollars from the county treasury for building a jail; provided, the people of the Town of Winnebago shall raise two hundred dollars for the same purpose; said jail to be built of oak timber, the walls and floor to be twelve inches thick, fourteen feet wide by twenty-eight feet long, and not less than ten feet between joists. It was voted that Albert G. Lull be employed to superintend the building of the jail, and instructed to let the contract to the lowest bidder. The contract was let to Kendrick Kimball, and the jail completed and accepted February 5, 1850.

The Town of Algoma was set off and organized by authority of the County Board, February 5, 1850 (see Algoma), and the same date, by the same authority, the name of Brighton was changed to Nekimi. On the fourteenth of November of same year the Town of Black Wolf was also set off from Nekimi and organized by the County Board.

**ELECTION ON REMOVAL OF COUNTY SEAT.**

April 2, 1850, at an election held in Winnebago County, for and against the removal of the county seat to Buttes des Morts, there were 472 votes for removal and 690 against; the towns of Algoma, Utica and Neenah not making returns to the Clerk.
CHANGE IN BOUNDARIES OF COUNTY.

On the 8th of March, 1849, the boundaries of the county were largely extended by the addition of a number of townships acquired by the United States at the treaty with the Menominee Indians, October 18, 1848, and known at the time as the "Indian Land." This tract was subsequently set off to other counties at various times, until March 28, 1856, when eight townships were attached to Shawano county, and the remainder to Oconto county; again reducing the county to its present limits.

November 4, 1851, the counties of Winnebago and Waupaca elected an assemblyman, Winnebago casting 1,503 votes, and Waupaca 128.

November 11, 1851, the town of Winchester was organized by the County Board. (See Winchester.)

December 30, same year, the County Clerk was order to quit-claim to August Grignon the land heretofore conveyed to the county for seat of justice.

Winnebago and Waupaca counties jointly elected a county judge, May 29, 1852.

November 11, 1852, the Town of Poygan was organized by the County Board.

ERECATION OF COUNTY BUILDINGS.

In 1853, the subject of erecting county buildings was agitated, and a petition was presented to the County Board to that end. A committee was appointed, November 19th, to consider the matter and report. This committee reported December 15, that they had examined several sites, but recommend the present one, and the erection of a fire-proof building for county offices, twenty-four by thirty-four feet, and fifteen feet high, with three rooms, one for the Register, one for Clerk of the Court and Sheriff, and one for Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and Treasurer. They also reported against undertaking to build a court house and jail, until the Legislature of the State should pass an act authorizing the county to issue bonds for that purpose. This report was adopted, and Eli Stilson, Joseph H. Osborn and Seth Wyman were appointed a committee to let and superintend the erection of the fire-proof offices. The contract was let to Markham and Dexter, who completed the low brick building, in the northwest corner of the square, which will be generally remembered. The contract was eighteen hundred and eighty-five dollars; completed in 1854.

The town of Orihula was organized by the County Board, January 4, 1855, and the name subsequently changed to Wolf River. (See Town of Wolf River.)

Two days later, January 6, the Town of Menasha was set off from Neenah, and organized. (See Town of Menasha.)

In November, 1856, representations having been made to the Board of Supervisors, that no suitable place could be found for holding court, Mr. Markham, one of the members, submitted a resolution for the appointment of a committee of five, to enquire into the expediency of erecting county buildings, to procure plans, specifications and estimates; and to enquire into, and report as to the proper manner of raising funds therefor. This resolution was adopted November 13, 1856, and Messrs. William Markham, Theodore Schintz, Andrew Merton, Charles Weisbrod, and C. L. Rich were appointed such committee. January 15, 1857, the committee recommended a plan, and the erection of buildings this year, provided they do not cost over twenty-five hundred dollars.*

This report being adopted, proposals were received, and on the fourth of March following a resolution was adopted letting the contract to A. V. Parker, the lowest bidder, for the sum of $23,975. Nothing further seems to have been done towards the final consummation of this enterprise, until January 28, 1859, when a resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors, to appoint a committee of three to enter into a contract for the erection of county buildings, and superintend the same, limited to a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. Messrs Eli Stilson, of the Oshkosh Assembly District, D. K. Pingborn, of the North District, and G. Miller, of the South District, were appointed, and on the 29th of January, a resolution was adopted "that the contract with A. V. Parker, in relation to county buildings (if any exist, or ever did exist) is hereby declared void, and the said Parker is hereby notified to that effect."

November 17, 1859, the committee reported "that they had let the contract for building the court house and jail for a sum not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars, and over twelve thousand if the work was completed." The contracts were made March 25, 1859, for masonry with A. W. Parker; carpentry with Sharpe & Fitzgerald; iron work with Moore and Wells. A resolution was adopted November 18, 1859, to raise twenty-three hundred dollars additional.

* NOTE—This is probably an error in the records; twenty-five thousand dollars, no doubt, intended.
to carry out the original plan. The total cost was:

<table>
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<td>Carpenter and Joiner Work</td>
<td>$7,397.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mason Work and Material</td>
<td>$9,049.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron Work</td>
<td>$2,065.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incidental Expenses</td>
<td>$1,207.52</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,669.60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The laws relating to county government, have, from the first organization of the territory, received their full share of attention, and scarcely a legislative session has passed during that time, without additions, alterations, or repeals in some form; often of little or no consequence, while occasionally the whole system has undergone a change.

The original law, of December 6, 1836, provided that there should be but one town in each county; that three supervisors should perform the functions of town and county government. In December, 1837, a law was enacted for the organization of a county board in each county, called a Board of Commissioners, to consist of three persons, to be elected at the general election. This system of three commissioners seems to have prevailed (with various changes as to powers and duties) until 1841.

February 18, of that year, an act was approved providing that the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of each town shall meet at some place within the county, and shall constitute a county board of supervisors, and in cases where there was but one town in the county, the supervisors of the town should also officiate as county board.

It was not until 1847 that Winnebago County could boast of more than one town, and to that time was consequently governed by three supervisors.

By act approved March 8, 1861, that system was abolished, and providing for the election of three supervisors in each county, except when there are three or more assembly districts in the county, when one supervisor shall be elected from each assembly district, and in case of an even number of districts, a supervisor at large.

Again, March 16, 1870, an act was approved repealing the last-mentioned law, reviving and reinstating the previous law, authorizing the chairman of each town board, and supervisors from cities, duly authorized, to constitute a county board.

**CHAPTER XXXVIII.**

State, County and Town Organization—Incorporation of the Cities of this County.

The following list shows the political subdivisions of the county. To make it complete and convenient for reference, the date of territorial, state and county organizations, with the extinguishment of Indian title to all the land in the limits of the county, and the organization of each town, in its regular order, is given. This last will be found valuable, as it is the only one which gives a full list of the organization of the towns in this county; the county records being defective.

**STATE ORGANIZATION.**

Territory of Wisconsin, organized July 4, 1836.

State of Wisconsin admitted into the Union May 29, 1848.

Towns of Winnebago and Buttes des Morts were organized in pursuance of act of Territorial Legislature, March 8, 1839.

**COUNTY ORGANIZATION.**

Winnebago County, set off from Brown County, by act of Territorial Legislature, approved January 6, 1840, and commissioners appointed by same act to select a location for county seat.

The territory now constituting the County of Winnebago, the Indian title to which was extinguished at various dates and obtained by the United States from different sources, was acquired and offered for sale in something like the following order:

At a treaty held at Rock Island, February 13, 1833, the Winnebagoes ceded that portion lying east of Lower Fox River, including Doty’s Island, being Sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, and the fraction of 3, Town 20, Range 17, which was offered for sale August 31, 1835; also, all that portion of the county lying south of Fox River, viz: Township 17, Ranges 14, 15, 16 and 17; Towns 18 and 19, Range 15; and Town 18, Ranges 14 and 16, south of the river; offered for sale in June and November, 1838.

September 3, 1836, the Menominees relinquished their claim, at the Cedar Rapids Treaty, to all that portion north of Fox River and Lake Winnebago, and east of Wolf River.

In April, 1840, a portion of this (the greater portion) was placed in market, viz: Township 18, Range 17; Township 19, Ranges 16 and 17; and so much of Township 18, Range 16, Township 19, Range 15, and Township 20,
Range 14, as lay within the prescribed limits; also, Town 20, Range 15 and 16.

October 2, 1843, all that portion of Township 20, Range 17, not before offered for sale or reserved (Winnebago Rapids Reservation, see City of Neenah), was offered for sale for two weeks, and all that was not sold at that time was withdrawn from market.

January 12, 1846, all lands in Township 20, Range 17, previously offered (August 31, 1835, and October 2, 1843), and not sold were now offered at private entry; the sale of 1835 being an auction sale, to the highest bidder.

October 18, 1848, the Government obtained the title to all lands belonging to the Menominees within the State, and included Township 18, Range 14, north of Fox River; Township 19, Range 15, north of the Fox and west of the Wolf Rivers; Township 20, Range 14, west of Wolf River, and Township 19, Range 14, previously known as the Indian lands, and which was offered for sale in November, 1852.

The earliest dates that titles could be obtained and the consequent inducements to settlers, is thus indicated.

TOWN OF WINNEBAGO.

Town of Winnebago, by act of April 1, 1843, is made to include all the territory in the county.

TOWN ORGANIZATIONS.

Oshkosh — Originally organized as the Town of Winnebago, and reorganized as Town of Winnebago in pursuance of act of Legislature, February 11, 1847. The first election held in pursuance of act of reorganization, was on April 6, 1847. November 10, 1852, by order of the County Board, the name of the Town of Winnebago was changed to Oshkosh. By resolution of the County Board, dated July 8, 1856, all that part of Township 19, Ranges 16 and 17, lying south of the south line of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, was taken from the Town of Vinland, and attached to the Town of Oshkosh, establishing the boundaries of the latter as they now exist, except such changes as have resulted from the various limits assigned to the city.

Neenah — This town was organized in pursuance of act of territorial legislature of February 11, 1847. Organic election April 6, 1847.

Omro — By act of territorial legislature of February 11, 1847, all of Townships 18 and 19 in Range 15, lying south of Fox River, was set off and organized as a separate town called Buttes des Morts. This included the present Town of Omro. The organic election was held April 6, 1847. On March 11, 1848, Winneconne was set off, and on March 15, 1849, the name of Buttes des Morts was changed to Bloomingdale; in 1852 the name of the town was again changed to Omro by act of the County Board.

Rushford — This town was organized in pursuance of act of territorial legislature of February 11, 1847, comprising, in addition to the present town, the territory now comprised in the Towns of Utica and Nepesukin. The organic election was held April 5, 1847.

Nekimi — This town was organized in pursuance of the act of the Legislature of February 11, 1847, under the name of Brighten, and included what is now Black Wolf. The organic election was held April 5, 1847. In 1850 the name was changed from Brighten to Nekimi by act of the County Board.

Utica — The organic election of this town was held April 4, 1848, in pursuance of the act of the Legislature of March 11, 1848.

Winneconne — The organic election of this town was held April 4, 1848, in pursuance of the act of the Legislature of March 11, 1848.

County Boards were authorized to set off, organize and change names of towns by virtue of act passed by the Legislature August 21, 1848.

Vinland — Organized by election held April 3, 1849, in pursuance of act of Legislature approved March 15, 1849.

Clayton — Organic election held second Tuesday in April, 1849, in pursuance of act of Legislature passed March 21, 1849.

Nepesukin — Set off from Rushford by act of County Board November 17, 1849. Organic election held first Tuesday in April, 1850.

Algoma — Organized in pursuance of act of County Board, February 5, 1850. Organic election April 5, 1850.

Black Wolf — This town was set off from Nekimi by act of County Board, November 14, 1850. Organic election, April, 1851.

Winchester — This town was organized in pursuance of act of County Board of November 11, 1851. Organic election April 6, 1852.

Poygan — This town was organized by act of County Board, November 11, 1852. Organic election April 5, 1853.

Wolf River — This town was organized under the name of Orihula in pursuance of act of County Board of January 4, 1855. Organic election April 3, 1855. The name was changed to Wolf River by act of County Board, July 6, 1855.

Menasha — This town was set off from Neenah by act of the County Board January 6, 1855. The organic election was held April 3, 1855.
JUDICIAL.

County seat located at Oshkosh by act of the Legislature of February 8, 1847, which act also organized the county for judicial purposes.

Term of Circuit Court held in the schoolhouse in the village of Oshkosh, commencing October 16, 1848.

Court house built and term of court held therein April 9, 1849. Present court house built in 1859.

CITIES INCORPORATED.
The City of Oshkosh was incorporated 1853; City of Neenah incorporated 1873; City of Menasha incorporated 1874.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

List of County Officers and County Supervisors from the Date of Organization to 1879.

The first sheriff was N. P. Tuttle, elected September 6, 1847; succeeded by M. N. Moultrop, elected in November, 1848; A. B. Cooley, in November, 1850; A. F. David, in 1852; John P. Gallup, in 1854; Jeremiah Hunt, in 1856; Josiah Woodworth, 1858; C. R. Hamlin, 1860; Erwin Heath, 1862; A. J. White, 1864; A. B. Smith, 1866; J. R. Cavert, 1868; Josiah Woodworth, 1870; O. P. White, 1872; Ebenezer Stevens, 1874; W. D. Harshaw, 1876; Frank Morgan, 1878.

CLERK OF THE COURT.
Edward Eastman was appointed by Judge A. G. Miller, January 12, 1848, and was followed by Dudley C. Bledgett, who was appointed by Judge A. W. Stowe, October 16, 1848. E. R. Baldwin was elected to the office at the general election, November, 1848; re-elected 1850 and 1852; Charles A. Weisbrod, in 1854; Jedediah H. Smallle; 1856; George Gary, in 1857 and 1858; W. G. Rich, in 1860 and 1862; H. B. Harshaw in 1864, retaining the position by successive elections, every two years, until his resignation, January 1, 1878, when T. D. Grimmer was appointed to the vacancy, and elected in 1878.

JUDGE OF PROBATE OR COUNTY JUDGE.
A. A. Austin was first elected November 7, 1848; Jedediah Brown, September 3, 1849, and May 6, 1850; Edwin Wheeler, May 29, 1852; Dudley C. Bledgett, September 3, 1853; Alexander P. Hodges, April, 1857 and 1868.

In November, 1868 Mr. Hodges was elected State Prison Commissioner, when G. W. Washburn was appointed to fill the vacancy until 1865 (the term of County Judge being four years), but on the fifth of April, 1864, Judge Washburn was elected Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, and J. B. Hamilton was appointed to succeed him. In the meantime it was claimed that A. P. Hodges, having resigned in 1868, a new election should be held in April, 1862, and in accordance with that belief of a few, Earl P. Finch and J. A. Bryan became candidates for the office. There were but few votes polled, of which E. P. Finch received the majority, but never qualified. J. B. Hamilton was elected in April 1864, for a full term; George Gary in 1869-73-77.

An act of the Legislature approved April 2, 1860, constituted this a court of record equal in jurisdiction with the Circuit Court in all civil actions for all sums not exceeding $500.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY.
The first District Attorney was J. J. Barwick, elected November, 1848; J. B. Hamilton in 1850, Elbridge Smith in 1852; Edwin Wheeler in 1854, A. A. Austin in 1856-58-60; H. B. Jackson in 1861; A. A. Austin in 1864; H. B. Jackson in 1866, A. A. Austin in 1868-70; G. W. Burnell in 1872, A. A. Austin in 1874, G. W. Burnell in 1876-78.

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.
George F. Wright was elected in 1843 and retained the office until 1848, inclusive; Silas M. White elected November 7, 1848, entered upon the duties January 8, 1849; William Denison was elected in November, 1849, E. A. Rowley in November, 1850, J. H. Osborne in 1853-54, Wm. M. Greenwood in 1856-58, A. H. Read in 1860-62-64, O. F. Chase in 1866, and has continued to officiate since that time.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.
Clark Dickenson performed the duties of Register in 1843, although we find no record of election; Wm. C. Isbell was elected in September, 1844; S. L. Brooks in September, 1845, and September, 1846; Henry Dickenson in 1847, but died before the expiration of his term and his brother, Clark Dickenson, was appointed to the vacancy, elected in 1848 and 50; E. A. Rowley in 1852 and 1854, Edgar Cronkhite in 1856; James H. Foster in 1858 and 1860; Andrew Merton in 1862 and 1864; Robert McCurdy in 1866, 1868, 1870; William Gudden in 1872 and 1874; Gunders Larsen in 1876, Carl Kraby in 1878.

COUNTY TREASURER.
W. W. Wright was the first County Treasurer, elected in 1843, and again in 1844, succeeded by Chester Ford, elected in 1845,

MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY


LIST OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

Winnebago County

1845 W. C. Isbell, Chairman, Chester Ford, Sup'rs W. C. Isbell, CASTOR Ford, G. R. Loven. 1846 W. C. Isbell, Chairman, Chester Ford, Sup'rs W. C. Isbell, Chairman, Chester Ford, Sup'rs C. J. Coon, Chairman, W. C. Oay. 1845-50 W. C. Isbell, Chairman, Chester Ford, Sup'rs W. C. Isbell, Chairman, Chester Ford, Sup'rs C. J. Coon, Chairman, W. C. Oay. 1850-55 Joseph Jackson, Chairman, John McFarlin. 1855-60 Joseph Jackson, Chairman, John McFarlin. 1860-65 Joseph Jackson, Chairman, John McFarlin.

Algonquin

1852 Josiah Woodworth, Chairman, Wm. A. Boyd. 1852-55 Josiah Woodworth, Chairman, Wm. A. Boyd. 1855-60 Josiah Woodworth, Chairman, Wm. A. Boyd. 1860-65 Josiah Woodworth, Chairman, Wm. A. Boyd.

Black Wolf


Orinola

1856 Earnest Davis, Chairman, James Crays. 1856-57 Earnest Davis, Chairman, James Crays. 1857-62 Earnest Davis, Chairman, James Crays. 1862-65 Earnest Davis, Chairman, James Crays.

Winnebago

1852 Edward Eastman, Chairman, Edward West, Chairman, Edward West, Chairman, Edward West. 1852-55 Edward Eastman, Chairman, Edward West, Chairman, Edward West. 1855-60 Edward Eastman, Chairman, Edward West, Chairman, Edward West. 1860-65 Edward Eastman, Chairman, Edward West, Chairman, Edward West.

Foygan

1852 J. J. Woodworth, Chairman, J. D. Hovey. 1852-55 J. J. Woodworth, Chairman, J. D. Hovey. 1855-60 J. J. Woodworth, Chairman, J. D. Hovey. 1860-65 J. J. Woodworth, Chairman, J. D. Hovey.

Winchester


Neenah


Neshkow


Chilton


Rushford


Woodchuck


Menasha


Chippewa


WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

1848-79 — HISTORY OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

Note — In the early days of the organization of the county it was attached to Brown or Fond du Lac county for judicial purposes, and with Calumet, Fond du Lac and Marquette counties, forming a probate district. Under this order of affairs, Mason C. Darling of Fond du Lac County was voted for as Probate Judge; in 1843 Seth Reese and John J. Driggs, (probably from Brown County), for the office of Sheriff at the same election, May 1, 1843. In 1844 Samuel L. Brooks was a candidate for District Attorney. In 1846 Henry Conklin and John Bannister, both of Fond du Lac County, were candidates for the office of Probate Judge, and in 1847 Walter H. Weed, of Oshkosh, for the same office. All these were elected in this county, but as we have no record from other counties we are unable to determine whether they were elected. Under the territorial form of government this county was attached to several others in forming senatorial and assembly districts, but at the first session of the State Legislature in 1848, Winnebago County sent one Member of Assembly.

S E N A T O R S.

### LIST OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS — CONTINUED.

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<tr>
<td>Utica</td>
<td>George Miller</td>
<td>J. A. Story</td>
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<td>Armirne Pickett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vinland</td>
<td>Horace Clemens</td>
<td>Horace Clemens</td>
<td>J. A. Stewart</td>
<td>J. B. Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>Wm. Markham</td>
<td>James H. Jones</td>
<td>James H. Jones</td>
<td>W. S. Mena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winchester</td>
<td>James H. Jones</td>
<td>Daniel Fink</td>
<td>James H. Jones</td>
<td>W. C. Reed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Ward, Oshkosh</td>
<td>L. W. Mead</td>
<td>L. W. Mead</td>
<td>W. N. Marshall</td>
<td>W. M. Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>J. W. Mains</td>
<td>W. L. Fitzgerald</td>
<td>J. F. Mills</td>
<td>J. C. Jewell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>C. A. Weister</td>
<td>L. E. Reed</td>
<td>H. C. Jewell</td>
<td>F. Saydey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>J. F. Weeder</td>
<td>L. E. Reed</td>
<td>H. C. Jewell</td>
<td>J. A. Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>G. W. Washburn</td>
<td>L. E. Reed</td>
<td>H. C. Jewell</td>
<td>L. A. Marshall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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By an act approved March 8th, 1891, it was provided that the Boards of Supervisors should consist of three Supervisors in each County, except where there are three or more Assembly Districts in each County, when one Supervisor shall be elected from each Assembly District.

Under this law the following were elected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1892.</th>
<th>1893.</th>
<th>1894.</th>
<th>1895.</th>
<th>1896.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ell Silsbo, 1st district</td>
<td>Edward Smith, 3rd district</td>
<td>Samuel Stancliff, 3rd district</td>
<td>H. P. Leavens, 2nd district</td>
<td>H. W. Webster, 2nd district</td>
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</table>

### BIENNIAL ELECTION.

Steven Bowron, 1st district; H. P. Leavens, 2nd district; H. W. Webster, 3rd district.

The law was now changed, the term of office being three years, one member elected annually.

H. P. Leavens, elected from the 3rd district.

C. Bromley, from the 3rd district.

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By an act approved March 16th, 1870, by the law of March 8th, 1891, was repealed and the Revised Statutes of 1896, revised, constituting the chairman of the various Town Boards as County Board.

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LIST OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS — CONCLUDED.

1875
3d Ward, Neenah
Wm. Hewitt

4th
J. W. Tobey

1st
Oshkosh
O. Beach

2d
C. S. Weston

3d
F. C. Taplin

4th
L. M. Miller

5th
H. G. Jewell

6th
L. E. Knapp

City of Oshkosh
Montrose Morgan

1876
C. N. Herrick

O. Beach

C. S. Weston

Theo. Damms

L. M. Miller

H. G. Jewell

Montrose Morgan

John Roberts

G. H. Albee

I. Bailey

F. A. Mueller

Jas. Gillingham

H. C. Jewell

A. Haben, Mayor

G. H. Ogle

G. H. Ogle

H. Morley

Geo. H. Buckstaff

G. Kahler

A. Gebauer

 Jas. W. Brown

H. H. Brennan

Pat. Kelley

Geo. H. Buckstaff

M. Frock

A. Gebauer

|

CHAPTER XL.

The Period from 1850 to 1860 — The Cheapness and Abundance of Building Material Greatly Facilitates the Construction of Buildings — Breaking up Land — Fertility of the Soil and Large Crops — Prices for Farm Produce — Market Report for 1858 — The Big Crop of 1860 — Improved Methods of Farming — The Cultivation of Tame Grasses — County Agricultural Society — Stock Growers’ Association — The Growth of this Timber that has Sprung Up Since the Settlement of the County — First Effort at Fruit Raising — Improvement of Roads.

As will be seen by preceding pages, the county was, in 1850, making rapid progress in improvement and population. The cheapness of building material greatly facilitated the erection of comfortable farm buildings, and a better class of farm houses began to take the place of the primitive log structures. The breaking of new lands and fencing in the same, was one of the chief occupations of the pioneer farmer, and this work went on in every direction. The breaking was generally done in the months of June and July.

The land was very productive and abundant crops rewarded the labor of the farmer; good wheat soil yielding from twenty-five to thirty bushels of spring wheat per acre; large crops of corn and oats were also raised. The prevailing varieties of wheat for some years was the Canada Club and Hedgerow. Up to 1858, small grain was principally cut with a cradle. Farm machinery was gradually introduced until the reaper and mower very generally took the place of cradle and scythe.

The price of wheat was from fifty to sixty cents per bushel. The market report for April, 1858, gives the following prices at Oshkosh: Wheat, 45@52 cents; oats, 18@20 cents; potatoes, 18@20; beans, 50@75 cents; butter, 16@20 cents.

Occasionally an enlarged foreign demand raised the price of wheat, but the general price, for some years, was fifty to seventy cents.

In 1849, the large immigration created a demand beyond the supply of home production, and wheat was $1.00 per bushel; flour, $4.06@$5.00; pork, $5.00 per cwt, and beef, $4.00; but the large area that was soon brought under cultivation, reduced the prices of farm products.
COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A County Agricultural Society was formed in 1856, and held the first fair in the county on the tenth and eleventh of October of that year at Oshkosh; and afterwards, fairs were held yearly at that place, until the organization of the Northern Wisconsin Agricultural and Mechanical Association, which took their place. The exhibitions at these county fairs were highly creditable to the county in the fine display of fruits, vegetables, grain and live stock.

STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION.

A Stock Growers Association was formed, which purchased a large tract of land adjoining the City of Oshkosh and fitted up the same for exhibitions, with a fine mile track for races. The grounds are now appropriated to the use of the Northern Wisconsin Agricultural and Mechanical Association. The raising of blooded stock has received much attention, and there are several fine herds in the county.

THE GROWTH OF NATIVE “TIMBER.”

In the early day, the prairie and openings portion of the county was more open even, than at present. The annual fires kept down the young growth. Since they have been stopped a native growth has sprung up on the uncultivated ground, and especially in the towns of Utica and Nepeuskun that used to be considered prairie towns, large groves of good sized trees have grown up within the past twenty-five years. The writer has seen many places that were but little more than mere copses of hazel brush and grubs through which a wagon could be driven, that are now covered with a dense growth of trees which, in many instances, have attained a heighth of from thirty to forty feet, composed principally of oak and poplar with an occasional hickory. The timber grows so rapidly that twenty acres, formerly grub land, furnishes a farm with an ample supply of fire-wood.

FRUIT RAISING.

In the earlier years of the settlement of this county the apple trees that were planted were generally the old favorite varieties of the East, and the method of culture the same as of that section. The orchards that were planted very generally proved failures, and a belief generally prevailed that it was a “poor fruit country,” and the fact greatly deplored. It was soon ascertained by the more observing that the richness of the soil occasioning too rank a growth, and the bright, clear, dry air causing a rapid evaporation, were among the circumstances inimical to the health of the apple tree. Persistent investigation and effort to produce slower growing and harder wooded varieties, soon discovered kinds better adapted to the rich soil and climatic conditions of the Northwest, and ascertained more judicious methods of culture. The consequence was, that the culture of the apple tree was more successfully conducted, and several varieties producing a fine quality of fruit have become very popular. Before the year 1860 a large portion of the farms had bearing orchards; many of them small, it is true, and in many instances in a poor condition, but in the aggregate producing quite a large yield of apples and making a a very promising show of fine fruit at the County Fair.

Small fruits, from the first, have been cultivated with the highest success; strawberries, currants and especially grapes of the choicest quality have been grown in profusion.

ROADS.

In the early day the roads in the timbered portions of the county were, in rainy periods, almost impassable; and many of the small streams had, in the absence of bridges, to be forded; but the roads were rapidly improved, streams bridged, and, by the year 1860, the roads throughout the county were comparatively good. During the last ten years, great progress has been made in the improvement of roads; and this county can now boast of as good roads as can be found in the West.

Gravel beds are found throughout the county at short intervals, which furnish an abundance of bank gravel, which has proved an excellent material for road-making. This has been largely utilized, and in every direction is found excellent, hard-surfaced roads, extending from one extreme of the county to the other. This bank-gravel cements into a hard surface, and makes most enduring roads, over which it is a great pleasure to drive, and view the beautiful lake and river scenery.

THE GROWTH OF CITIES AND VILLAGES IN THE COUNTY.

In 1853, Oshkosh had attained sufficient size to be incorporated as a city, and in 1855 had a population of 4,118. Her manufactories, in 1856, consisted of fifteen saw, shingle, planing mills, and sash and door factories. The aggregate of lumber manufactured during the year was about thirty million feet. There were two grist mills, a machine shop, two plow factories, two steam boiler factories, and a large number of mechanic shops.

The village of Neenah, in 1856, had about twenty-five stores, four flouring mills, and another in process of construction. Three saw mills, a planing mill, sash and door fac-
Residence of W. S. Catlin, Sec. 21 Town of Utica.
tory, barrel factory, machine shop, two furniture factories.

The population in 1855 was 1,074.

The village of Menasha, in 1856 had four dry good stores, one hardware store, two clothing stores, two drug stores, five grocery stores, a tub and pail factory—an extensive establishment, three saw mills, two flouring mills, three furniture factories, two sash and blind factories, a pottery, one turning shop, and a number of mechanic shops. The Government Land Office was in this place. Its population was 1,700.

The village of Omro, in 1856, had nine stores, three saw mills, one planing mill, one flouring mill, and mechanic shops.

The village of Winneconne, in 1855, contained five stores, a saw mill, and several mechanic shops.

The village of Buttes des Morts had two or three stores and shops.

The village of Waukau had, in 1855, three country stores, a flouring mill, and several mechanic shops; and had a population of five hundred.

In 1856, Eureka had one store, two steam mills and mechanic shops.

In 1855, the population of the county had reached 17,439.

GREAT FIRE OF 1859.

In 1859, May 10, occurred the first great fire in Oshkosh, which destroyed almost the entire business portion of the city. For the particulars of this, see history of Oshkosh in this work.

During the same year the Chicago & North-Western Railroad reached this county in the course of its construction, and the first through passenger train arrived at Oshkosh.

This was an event hailed with much joy, and the county now, for the first time, had railroad connection, and a new outlet for the products of its farms and manufactories.

C H A P T E R  X L I.

War Times—Business Prosperity After the Close of the War—Prices of Commodities—Manufacturing Stimulated by an Increased Demand—The Progress in Improvements in all Parts of the County—New Factories and Mills Constructed—New Railroad Lines through the County—The Great Fire in Oshkosh in 1874 and 1875—Big Crops in 1875.

The war which broke out between the North and the South, in 1861, convulsed this county with the excitement common to all other sections of the country.

On the first call for troops, the county promptly responded, and companies were formed and assigned to various regiments, which marched to the scene of action. The first company formed in Oshkosh became a part of the famous Second Wisconsin, which acted so distinguished a part in the campaigns of the Iron Brigade.

In 1862 a regiment was in camp here. Its quarters were in the old fair ground, and the place had a very martial appearance.

The bodies of armed men passing through here, from other points, to the seat of war, the new companies forming, the soldiers home from time to time on furlough, the return of the wounded, and sometimes the remains of those who had perished in battle, gave evidence of the trying scenes through which the country was passing.

In 1863 the prices of all kinds of commodities had advanced fifty per cent., and more, and continued to advance, until caleeces and sheetings, that formerly sold for eight and ten cents, brought twenty-five to forty cents. Woolen goods doubled in price. Boots that used to be sold for five dollars, advanced to ten dollars. Groceries, in common with every thing else, went up to high figures, and farm products also took an upward bound.

During the first year of the war, times were dull, but after that, improved. Mechanics’ wages were three dollars a day, and laborers’ wages two dollars.

The close of the war ushered in a long period of business prosperity. The vast expenditures stimulated business; the extension of railroad lines opened up new sections of country to settlement, and the lumber business received great impetus from foreign and local demand. Farm products, of all kinds, commanded good prices, and all branches of industry flourished.

The manufactories of Oshkosh, Neenah and Menasha, and the villages in the county, were in the full tide of prosperity. There was an enlarged demand for their products, money was plenty, and in rapid circulation; trade brisk, and business of all kinds good.

The progress in improvement, in all localities, was rapid. New farm buildings and barns sprung up in every direction; while in the cities and villages, handsome structures were erected by the hundreds. At Neenah, new mammoth paper and flouring mills were constructed. At Menasha new works erected and old manufactories enlarged. At Oshkosh, new mills were built on an enlarged scale. The capacity of sash and door factories increased, and new ones were constructed. New branches of manufacture were also established,
and business blocks and costly residences were rapidly added, increasing the comely appearance of the city.

The Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad extended its lines to this county as far as Winneconne, giving the county another railroad connection. This gave a great impetus to the growth of Omro and Winneconne; and new manufacturing establishments sprang up in those towns.

In 1871, the Wisconsin Central completed its line to Stevens Point, passing through the northern portion of the county, and gave Neenah and Menasha another railroad outlet.

In 1871 the Oshkosh & Mississippi Railroad was constructed as far as Ripon, and the road let to the Milwaukee & St. Paul, which immediately put on the rolling stock, and thus extended its lines to Oshkosh. The first regular passenger train from Milwaukee reached Oshkosh December 14, 1871.

The city of Oshkosh has, this year (1879), issued its bonds to the amount of seventy-five thousand dollars, in aid of the construction of a Northern railroad. This will be one of the lines of the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railroad, from Milwaukee to Lake Superior. It is expected that this road will be completed next winter, giving the county another direct connection with Lake Superior.

GREAT FIRES.

Among the notable events of the county were the great Oshkosh fires of 1874 and 1875, the particulars of which are given in the history of Oshkosh, in this work.

The fire of July 14, 1874, destroyed all the compactly built portion of Main Street above the Beckwith House, and, spreading from there, burnt nearly every building in its course for a distance of more than a mile from the point of its origin.

During this year, between six and seven hundred structures were erected in Oshkosh.

The fire of April 28, 1875, was a still greater disaster. This fire destroyed the business center of the city, and, spreading from there, extended for over half a mile through the Second Ward, burning every thing in its track, but the court house and one dwelling, in a tract over a quarter of a mile in width.

This fire was followed by the immediate rebuilding of the city.

REBUILDING OF OSHKOSH.

The enterprise and vigor which characterized the rebuilding of Oshkosh, added to the fame of the city, and was a matter of favorable comment by the newspapers of the country. Oshkosh astonished the outside world by the wonderful recuperative force she exhibited. Her courage and enterprise under such disheartening circumstances excited universal admiration.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY IN 1875.

[From the Oshkosh Northwestern.]

The year 1875 was a bounteous one to the farmer, and seldom, if ever, in the history of this section of country, have the harvests yielded so plentifully. The spring set in rather later than usual, the snow not melting away until the second of May. The excellent summer weather, especially propitious for grain and vegetables, quickly repaid with interest the backwardness of the season, and the harvest rounded up with the fullest store. The early frosts in August nipped and stinted the corn crop, which, however, is of but secondary importance in this section, and the crop was exceedingly light, and almost a failure in some places. Everything else developed and yielded to its fullest measure. The wheat and oat crops were never better, and reports as to threshing time came in thick and fast from every locality, of immense yields, which were considered astonishing. It was a common occurrence to find wheat turning out thirty to forty bushels to the acre, and in some instances fifty bushels to the acre has been claimed. The oat, barley and rye crops were proportionately up to the wheat.

The vegetable crop surpassed anything in the history of the county. The exhibition of vegetables at the Northern State Fair, held in this city in October, was the theme of remark and admiration by all who visited it. The crop of potatoes, which had been destroyed each season for several years previously, by the potato bug, came through without a scratch, and with an enormous yield. Potato vines which season were entirely relieved from the usual pest; where for several years before potatoes had sold at an average price of one dollar per bushel, the ruling price since the crop of 1875, is thirty cents.

CROPS.

There was raised in Winnebago county, in 1875, the following cereals, according to the best estimates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Bushels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>1,500,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn, poor in quality</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>27,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIVE STOCK.

According to the assessment returns of 1875, there was in the county of Winnebago the following live stock:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>8,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neat Cattle</td>
<td>18,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>36,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>6,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mules and Asses</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE COUNTY IN 1879.

The navigable water courses traversing this county, with its beautiful lakes, are one of its most attractive features. They also give it great commercial advantages, in affording steamboat communication with Lake Michigan on the one hand, and the Mississippi on the other; but above all, the Wolf River, flowing from the pineries, affording the best of facilities for floating their products to this county, has, from the beginning, been largely tributary to
its prosperity. For the last twenty years, from one hundred to two hundred million feet of pine logs, per annum have been got out in these pinierys, and floated down the Wolf, and the great portion of it manufactured at that point into lumber, shingles, sash and doors. The magnitude of these manufactories may be comprehended, when it is stated, that the products of the Oshkosh mills and factories, have, in some seasons, loaded fifteen thousand railroad cars.

A large force of men have found employment in this business. In the fall, supplies are first hauled to the camps, and, on the first fall of snow, hundreds of men take their departure for the woods. In the spring the logs come down, and the boom, which is situated about twenty miles from Oshkosh, where the logs are rafted is a scene of great activity. Here, large crowds of men are seen in every direction, engaged in sorting and rafting the logs, which, when formed into fleets, are towed by tugs to Oshkosh, and other points. The stir and bustle at Boom Bay, which is a lively place in the rafting season, is further increased by the noisy little steam tugs, coming and going, and by the passenger steamers, arriving and departing daily.

MANUFACTURES.

Winnebago County, in the value of its manufactured products, is second on the list of the counties of the State. The immense timber products of the Wolf pinierys, have formed one of the staple materials of manufacture. In the whole county, there has been for a long series of years, about forty odd saw and shingle mills—twenty-five to thirty of them in Oshkosh—one running gangs of sixty saws, and the others, large establishments, manufacturing yearly from 150,000,000 to 200,000,000 feet of logs into lumber and shingles, and aggregating not far from two million dollars.

SASH, DOOR AND BLIND FACTORIES.

The manufacture of sash, doors and blinds is carried on very largely, there being in Oshkosh alone, eight large factories, several of them employing seventy to a hundred hands each, and with a daily capacity for making 1,000 doors, 2,000 windows, and 450 pair of blinds. They manufacture per annum, 200,000 doors, and 600,000 windows, besides a vast amount of blinds, dressed lumber, prepared casings, mouldings, etc.

FOUNDRIES AND MACHINE SHOPS.

The vast amount of steam machinery running in the county has created a large demand for machine work; the manufacture, therefore, of steam engines, steam boilers, castings, and machinery of various kinds, is large, and carried on by several extensive establishments.

FLOURING MILLS.

The manufacture of flour ranks in importance next to that of lumber, and is an immense production. The fine water power at Neenah, makes that point a great flour manufacturing center. Here are some of the finest mills in the State. There are also large mills at Oshkosh, Menasha, Waukau and Omro. Their aggregate productions are estimated to be about six hundred thousand barrels per year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The manufacture of print paper is a leading industry. The mammoth establishment at Neenah, averaging a daily production of twenty-two thousand pounds.

The match works of J. L. Clark, of Oshkosh, employ about three hundred and fifty hands, and its products amount to about half a million dollars per year.

Webster & Lawson's hub, spoke and bent work factory, at Menasha, is another mammoth concern, the works covering some ten acres of ground. (See history of Menasha.)

The brick and lime works, of Cook, Brown & Co., of Oshkosh, employ a large force, and a steamboat and two sail vessels, of their own, in the transportation of material.

The trunk factory, of Schmit Brothers, Oshkosh, is another large concern.

The tub and pail factory, of Menasha, is a large establishment.

The carriage works, of Parsons, Neville & Company, of Oshkosh, is on a large scale, employing over a hundred hands.

Thompson & Hayward's carriage works, of Omro, is also a large concern.

The manufacture of furniture, wagons, leather, soap, clothing, woolen goods and other miscellaneous branches is extensively engaged in, and produce, in the aggregate, an amount of much value.

RAILROADS.

The railroads traversing the county are the Chicago & Northwestern, from Chicago to Lake Superior. The Milwaukee & St. Paul, with two lines, one to Oshkosh, and one to Waukau, Omro and Winneconne. The Wisconsin Central, from Milwaukee to Lake Superior via Neenah and Menasha. The Milwaukee Lake Shore and Western is now pur-
chasing the right of way for a line from Oshkosh to Hortonville, which is to be completed the present season.

STATE INSTITUTIONS.

These are the State Normal School, in Oshkosh, and the Northern Hospital for the Insane, an immense structure. (See view of same in this book.)

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

These are, the court house, Exposition building of the Northern Agricultural and Mechanical Association, and the various fine school structures, for some of which see views in this work.

CHURCHES.

There are a great many fine church edifices in the cities; and in many of the county towns, neat, tasteful structures of various denominations.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

F. A. Morgan, County Superintendent of Schools, appeared before the Board of Supervisors, and read and submitted his annual report, for 1878, as follows:

To the Hon. Board of Supervisors of Winnebago County: Gentlemen—My annual report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a copy of which is on file with the County Clerk, shows the following facts concerning the schools of the county:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of School Houses in Towns</th>
<th>No. of Children of School Age</th>
<th>No. of Pupils Enrolled</th>
<th>Average Weight of Pupils per Pupil</th>
<th>Total Amount Paid for School Work per Year</th>
<th>Total Amount Paid for School Work per Pupil</th>
<th>Average Number of Pupils per School House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algoma</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Wolf</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menasha</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neenah</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neenah</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshkosh</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poygan</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushford</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utica</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winchester</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>$23.70</td>
<td>$899.31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of children in the county of age 5,000. Last year the number was 17,365, 475 more than this year. The number who have attended school is 4,929. Last year the enrollment was 4,676, 461 less than this year, showing a decided improvement in attendance. The total number of days a school a school has been taught is 14,768 against 13,962 last year, showing an average of nearly two weeks more school for each district. Of one hundred and one school districts in the county, ten have maintained nine months school; twenty-four have maintained eight months school; forty-three have maintained seven months school; sixteen have maintained six months school; eight have maintained five months school. No district has maintained less than five month's school. The amount of money raised in the county, outside the cities for school purposes:

For the year ending August 31, 1878, $26,290.00
Received from income of school fund, 3,292.73
From all other sources, 1,853.75
Amount on hand August 31, 1877, 8,635.74

Total $38,650.41

The disbursements have been as follows:

For building and repairing $1,616.09
Salaries of Male teachers 9,416.22
Old Indebtedness 427.95
All other purposes 3,399.67
Apparatus and Library 47.45
Salaries of female teachers 13,033.75
School for mentally retarded 791.24
Amount on hand Aug. 31, 1878, 9,879.04

TEACHERS.

The number of teachers required to teach the schools is one hundred and fourteen. During the year one hundred and eighty-four different persons have been employed. Forty-four districts have not changed teachers the second year.

A majority of county districts do not employ the same teacher the second term. This fact tends to keep these schools in a disorganized condition. Teachers should be engaged for at least a year, and retained for that time unless removed by some good cause.

I am satisfied, from observation, that the advancement of pupils is much more satisfactory in those schools where the teacher is retained as long as possible.

EXAMINATIONS.

Ten meetings have been held during the year, for the examination of teachers, viz: One in Oshkosh, two in Neenah, two in Winneconne, one in Omro, and one in Waukan.

Three hundred and ten applicants have presented themselves for examination. Two hundred and twenty-seven certificates have been issued; ten of the first grade, thirteen of the second grade, and two hundred and four of the third grade. Of this number forty-five were gentlemen and two hundred and four ladies. Only thirty teachers holding certificates four years ago have received certificates this year, showing that in the course of four years there has been an almost entire change of teachers, and that a large portion of our teachers have had but limited experience.

INSTITUTE.

The institute this year was held at Neenah, beginning August 19, and continued two weeks. I believe it was the first ever held in this county of more than one week's duration. Nearly one hundred persons were enrolled as working members. A large portion were teachers, and the remainder persons who were fitting themselves for that occupation. The institute was conducted by Prof. A. O. Wright, of Fox Lake, assisted by the County Superintendent. A. A. Spencer, of the Omro High School, was present the first week, and conducted exercises. The second week Prof. Zimmermann, of Milwaukee, conducted two exercises daily in drawing. Prof. Albee, of the State Normal School and Prof. Wood, of the Oshkosh High School, were each present one day, and delivered instructive lectures.

Evening addresses were delivered by State Superintendent Whiford and Prof. Wright and Zimmermann. The attendance at this institute was larger than any that has been held for several years. The interest was maintained to the close, and the members expressed themselves as satisfied that they had been generally benefited.

In conclusion I will say that while the instruction given in most of our schools is defective, and the education acquired limited, we have reason to congratulate ourselves upon their present efficiency. The district school is within reach of every good cause in the county, and very few neglect the opportunity thus offered of acquiring the rudiments of education.

Very respectfully submitted,

F. A. MORGAN,
County Superintendent of Schools.

POST OFFICES.

Buttes des Morts, south-east part of Town of Winneconne.

Clemensville, southern part of Town of Vinland.

Elo, center of Town of Utica.

Eureka, center of Town of Rushford.
The following is an Abstract of the Assessment Rolls of the several towns and cities in the county of Winnebago, as returned to the County Clerk for the year 1879, under the provisions of section 1,066 of the revised statutes. Also the average value of each of said items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOWNS AND CITIES</th>
<th>HORSES</th>
<th>NEAT CATTLE</th>
<th>SHEEP AND LAMBS</th>
<th>SWINE</th>
<th>WAGONS, CARTS, LUGGAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebago City</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshkosh</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>21,720</td>
<td>17,280</td>
<td>1,240</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menasha</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>22,100</td>
<td>18,300</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neenah</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>19,500</td>
<td>15,600</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winneconne</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>75,320</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>4,840</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL VALUATION OF ALL PROPERTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1848:  $258,545.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850:  874,933.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855:  962,955.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860:  3,681,375.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865:  3,668,237.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870:  12,356,618.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875:  12,454,287.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEWSPAPERS.

Menasha Press, George B. Pratt, Editor.
Menasha Observer, John C. Klinker, Editor.
Neenah Gazette, H. L. Webster, Editor.
Neenah City Times, J. N. Stone, Editor.
Neenah Herald, Frank S. Verbeck, Editor.
Oshkosh Northwestern, Daily and Weekly, Allen & Hicks, Editors.
Oshkosh Times, Fernandez & Glaze, Editors.
Oshkosh Telegraph, Kohlmann Brothers, Editors.
Oshkosh Greenback Standard, Morley & Kaine, Editors.
Oshkosh Early Dawn, M. T. Carhart, Editor.
Omro Journal, P. M. Wright, Editor.
STATE GOVERNORS FROM WINNEBAGO COUNTY.

This County has had among its residents, some who have taken a very distinguished part in State and National affairs.

First on the list is Governor Doty, whose residence was on Doty Island, now part of the City of Neenah, and a brief sketch of whose career is given on Page 105. He took a most distinguished part in the public affairs of the Northwest and its early explorations, naming many of its localities, examining the country and its resources, and collecting valuable information in regard to the same. He took a part in the making of treaties with the Indians, and held the first court west of the lakes. He also donated to the State the present site of the State Capitol, and in 1841, was appointed Governor of the Territory of Wisconsin. He was a man highly esteemed for his valuable public services and for his ability, and integrity of character.

Governor Coles Bashford, now of Arizona, was Governor of the State of Wisconsin, in 1856 and 1857. He reached the executive chair through one of the most exciting political contests in the State, and his title to the office was obtained through a decision of the Supreme Court. His administration involved questions which occasioned bitter party strife; and some local and individual dissensions, on account of the disposal of the large land grant, which eventually fell into the possession of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. He was a man of very fine address and genial manners, of much culture and ability, and had many warm friends.

HON. PHILETUS SAWYER.

Probably no one, for the last ten years, has been more influential in the public affairs of the Northwest, than Hon. Philetus Sawyer, of this city, a man whose whole business and political career has been one long series of successes.

Mr. Sawyer commenced his business career as a manufacturer of lumber, in 1850, in the village of Algoma, now the Fifth Ward of the City of Oshkosh, and soon became the leading manufacturer of that staple from the Wolf River pines.

His business energy, promptness, and practical efficiency and sagacity, have led to the highest success in the accumulation of great wealth, and in an unremitting business prosperity which still attends his efforts.

Mr. Sawyer's integrity and practical ability soon attracted the attention of his townsmen, who called him from private life to public
position. He commenced his long and successful political career, as Member of the State Legislature in 1857, was again elected in 1861, was Mayor of Oshkosh in 1863 and 1864, was elected Member of Congress from this District in 1864, and was re-elected for four consecutive terms; making a continuous term of service as Member of Congress ten years.

His political career has been as successful as his business one, having never been defeated in any election in which he was a candidate.

His ten consecutive years in Congress, gave him an experience, which, added to his practical ability, caused him to be regarded as one of the most influential members of that body, and as one of the leaders in the public affairs of the Northwest.

After the close of his fifth Congressional term, he declined a renomination, and has since devoted his energies to the pursuit of his personal affairs. He has since been frequently and persistently urged to accept nominations for the highest positions, but has invariably and positively declined.

But few men of such a long political career, are so universally esteemed as Mr. Sawyer, and whatever bitter things may have been said in the heat of party strife, his morals and integrity of character have never been impeached.

He has been very liberal in his donations to benevolent associations and churches, and many of his benefactions will be known only to those he has kindly assisted in their pecuniary troubles; and if Mr. Sawyer is energetic in his struggle for wealth, he has been liberal in assisting those whom he considered worthy, and has contributed largely to the business success of many, who, without his assistance would have failed in their enterprises.

HON. GABE BOUCK,
Of Oshkosh, now Member of Congress from this District, was elected Attorney-General of the State of Wisconsin in 1857 and served for the term of two years. In 1860 and again in 1864, he was elected to the State Legislature, and in 1876 was elected Member of Congress, carrying this district by a large majority. In 1878, he was re-elected.

Mr. Bouck came to Oshkosh in 1849, and entered upon the practice of his profession—Attorney at Law, in which he has attained great success, having had an extensive and successful practice, from which he has realized much wealth. His professional career has been signalized by the closest attention to business entrusted to his hands, and by his promptness, efficiency and professional integrity.

He has been known as a political leader since his first arrival in the State and has exercised much influence in political circles.

HISTORY OF OSHKOSH.

CHAPTER XLII.


The history of the city of Oshkosh, from the advent of the first permanent settlers, the Stanleys and Gallups in 1836, up to 1846, is related in the early history of the county. Up to this period, the progress of the settlement was slow, and the place consisted simply of a few log houses on the farms of their respective owners, and the little stores of Osborne & Dodge, Smith & Gillett and Miller & Eastman. This was the embryo city of Oshkosh in 1846, destined to become the second city in wealth, business and population in the State of Wisconsin.

In 1846 Mr. Stanley opened the first public house, a small structure, on the corner of High and Main streets, opposite the present Union National Bank. The next public house was opened by Manoah Griffin on the site of Stroud's oil store, and nearly opposite to this was the store of Miller & Eastman. These two establishments constituted the business center of Oshkosh at that time.

The following article, copied from the Oshkosh Democrat of March 2, 1849, gives a very good description of Oshkosh in its earlier days.

Oshkosh was so named in honor of Oshkosh, the principal chief of the Menominee Indians, whose lands, in and adjoining our immediate neighborhood, were lately purchased by the General Government.

The village is located on the north side of the Neenah, or Fox River, near its confluence with Lake Winnebago, about twenty miles north of Fond du Lac, and fifty south of Green Bay.

No steps were taken towards the formation of a village until the summer of 1846. At that time there were no dwellings,