tical printer, and has had long association with the press of Wisconsin.

Mr. Kaime, now of the Standard, formerly edited the Omro Journal very creditably.

CHAPTER I.

Municipal Finance — The several issues of bonds given by the City of Oshkosh — Amount the city has invested in Permanent Public Improvements — Present Indebtedness.

The following is a list of bonds issued by the City of Oshkosh at various times, and the amount of the same. Also, a full statement of the present indebtedness of the city.

BONDS ISSUED.

In 1854, in payment for the old float bridge $2,000
In 1858, in payment for building new float bridge 8,000
In 1865, in payment for the draw bridge at the foot of Main Street 21,000
In 1871, in payment for the Algoma bridge, $6,000, cash, and bonds 19,000
In 1856, to aid in the construction of the Chicago, St. Paul & Fond du Lac railroad, now the Chicago & Northwestern 150,000
In 1857, to aid in the construction of the Winnebago railroad 20,000
In 1871, to aid in the construction of the Oshkosh & Mississippi railroad 75,000
In 1879, to aid in the construction of the Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western railroad 75,000

Total $370,000

Of this amount all has been paid and cancelled, except outstanding bonds, which represents in September, 1879, the entire bonded indebtedness of the city, to the amount of $120,500

Previous to the bonds just issued to the new Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western railroad, the old bonded debt was all paid, except $45,500

The city has invested and paid for other permanent public improvements as follows:

In 1870, toward the Northern State Hospital for Insane 19,000
In 1870, toward State Normal School 30,000
Up to the year 1865, the city expended in erecting frame school buildings, something over 27,000
Since that time, in the construction of brick schoolhouses, their equipment, and the purchase of sites, a sum amounting to about 97,000
In making water reservoirs, and the purchase of hand and steam fire engines, hose-carts, and in the construction of engine buildings, and the purchase of sites for the same, an amount approximating to 62,000

Expended in hose about 20,000

Total Expenditures to the year 1879, including those for which bonds were issued $631,000

This, of course, is exclusive all the ordinary yearly expenses of the city government, street improvements, expenses of schools and fire departments; and to the credit of the city, it can be said that her improvements are paid for, and that her amount of municipal indebtedness is comparatively small.

CITY OF NEENAH.

[Compiled for this work by W. M. Webster.]

CHAPTER II.

The Early History of Neenah — The Government Agency, for the Civilizing of the Menomonee — A Mill, Shops and Block Houses, Built in 1835-36, at Winnebago Rapids, the Present Site of Neenah — Harrison Reed, in 1844 Purchases the Site, 562.44-100 Acres, and all the Improvements on the Same, from the Government — In 1843, Mr. Geo. H. Mansur and Family Arrived, and Became the First White Family Permanently Settled within the Present Limits of Neenah — In 1845, Gov. Doty Builds His House on the Island — Gorham P. Vining, George Harlow, Ira Baird and the Rev. O. P. Clinton, Settle in Neenah, during the Same Year — First Birth — First Marriage — First Death — First Religious Services — The Joneses Become Proprietors — More Newcomers — In 1847, a Company Chartered for the Improvement of the Water—power — In 1847, First Village Plat Recorded, by Harrison Reed — In Same Year Mr. Ladd Erects the Winnebago Hotel — The Firm of Jones & Yale open a Store, 1847 — In 1848, the Kimberley’s Purchase Property, and Commence Improvements — 1850, Board of Village Trustees Elected — Kimberley Build the Pioneer Flouring Mill — Canal Lock Completed — Steamers Harlow and Jenny Lind Built — Another Flouring Mill Completed — Saw Mill Constructed — Another Manufacturing Establishment in Operation, and Two More Flouring Mills Built — The Village Plats of Winnebago Rapids and Neenah Consolidated under the Common Name of Neenah — In 1856, the First Passage of a Steamer Between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay, was Made — The Aquilla Passed Through the Neenah Lock.

O.L.L. back the wheels of Time less than half a century, and we find the present site of the City of Neenah in the quiet possession of the Indian “native, and to the manor born.” In all negotiations between France and England, England, and the United States, quit-claims to a vast extent of territory were passed from one to the other, which were simply intended to decide which one of these great powers should possess the exclusive right to rob the native of his hereditary title to the soil.

The United States, fully vested with this power, adopted a scheme in 1831 for the civilizing, Christianizing and general improvement of the Menomonee tribe, who had selected this place for their principal village, and who were owners of the contiguous country.
In pursuance of this plan, a grist mill, sawmill, blacksmith shop and several block houses about sixteen by twenty feet in size, were erected in 1835–6; also, five larger block houses for the use and occupation of the officers and teachers in charge, the smaller ones for Indian residences, and models after which the Indians were to build for themselves as required.

One of the large and one of the small houses were built on the point near the head of the channel and the old Council Tree; a large one on the lake shore at the east end of Wisconsin Avenue, long the residence of Harrison Reed, one near the grist mill, which has given place to the Winnebago Paper Mills; another on the Blair farm, and the other on the Neff farm; the last two being near the mounds of Buttes des Morts, on the west shore of the lake, the smaller ones being located conveniently within the same area. Upon the completion of these buildings in 1836, Clark Dickinson, Nathaniel Perry, Robert Irwin and Mr. Baird, father of the late Hon. Henry S. Baird, were appointed to supply the place of teachers in farming; Colonel David Johnson as miller, Joseph Jourdan and a man named Hunter as blacksmiths; a clergyman by the name of Gregory, and his brother, for teachers of religion and morals.

Water, for supplying the mills, was provided by the construction of a wing dam some two hundred feet in length. The Indians, informed that they were at liberty to occupy the smaller houses, at once removed the floors and pitched their wigwams on the ground within, or erecting wigwams outside, stabled their ponies within.

For a long time previous to 1833, the Winnebago Indians had owned and occupied the Island and a small tract north of the Lake and east of Fox river. (See Indian boundary lines.) On the Island was situated their headquarters, the village of "Four Legs," a prominent Winnebago chief, commanding this channel and where tribute was often exacted for passing. This had given it the name of "Winnebago Rapids," which naturally attached to the soil. These two prominent villages being separated only by the stream, the Menomonees and Winnebagoes had long lived on the most intimate and amicable relations—often intermarrying.

In September, 1836, at the annual payment, then held at Cedar Rapids, the Menomonees ceded to the United States all lands lying within the present limits of Winnebago County (and much more, see Indian boundary lines), except that portion previously ceded by the Winnebagoes. In 1839, this treaty having been ratified, orders were issued to Surveyor General Ellis, and this acquisition was surveyed, and October 2nd, 1843, all of Township 20 north, Range 17 east, lying west of Lake Buttes des Morts, was offered for sale, excepting and reserving such as was declared connected with the improvements; and the Christianizing enterprise was abandoned.

HARRISON REED PURCHASES THE SITE.

By an act of Congress approved March 3, 1843, the war department was authorized to advertise and sell this reservation, with the improvements, utensils, etc. In the meantime Mr. Harrison Reed visited this locality, in the winter of 1842–3, and became so favorably impressed with its advantages that he came again in the spring for the purpose of selecting a site and establishing a permanent home—leaving his family in Milwaukee. Finding this reservation advertised he sent in a bid, which was approved by the Secretary of War in 1844. This sale included 562 44–100 acres of land, and the price paid was $4,760. When Mr. Reed came in the spring of 1843 he was accompanied by Charley Wescott, now residing at Shawano, who worked for Mr. Reed that season, and was succeeded, in 1844, by Gil Brooks. Mr. Reed brought his family here in the winter of 1843–4. Mr. Reed's purchase included 562 44–100 acres of land, all buildings, a quantity of logs and timber, wagons, carts, farming implements, a supply of building material and a stock of iron in the blacksmith shop. His residence was the block house on the lake shore, which he occupied for many years.

FIRST SETTLER IN NEENAH.

In June, 1843, George H. Mansur left Buffalo with his family on the steamer Black Hawk, owned and commanded by Captain P. Hotaling, and coasting along the lakes, arrived at Green Bay in the latter part of that month. With the intention of running the rapids of Fox River to Lake Winnebago, the Black Hawk was taken to the foot of the Rapids at Grand Kaukana. Here, her wheel, a stern wheel, was taken off, placed upon the shore and covered with a large canvas, and Mansur's family moved into the wheel, where they resided for three weeks. Meanwhile, the boat was drawn out on rollers, and an attempt made to convey her around the rapids in this manner; but after progressing about three-fourths of a mile the project was abandoned, the boat restored to her natural element, and the wheel replaced. Captain Hotaling and Mansur now started to make a trip around Lake Winnebago, and on their return by Winnebago Rapids, met Mr. Reed, who wishing to obtain the services of just such men, soon induced Mansur to locate
here. After making arrangements for a Durham boat, whenever he should send for it, Mr. Mansur, with Captain Hotaling returned to Kaukauna, arriving about noon. About the middle of the afternoon he sent his son, Jeff, then a lad of thirteen years, back to Mr. Reed's for the boat. Jeff started out through the woods, without a road except the Indian trail which frequently branched to the right or left, barefooted and alone, and was soon overtaken by Captain Powell and some one else on horseback. Inquiring the way of them, he found their destination was Winnebago Rapids, and at once resolved to keep them in sight, which he succeeded in doing, and reached his destination before night. The next morning he was fitted out with a Durham boat manned by seven Indians, with which he arrived safely at Kaukauna, where the family effects were soon loaded, including one additional member in the person of Esther, a daughter born July 17th, during their sojourn at Kaukauna. Before leaving this point, it may be well to state that they here found the families of George Law and Augustin Grignon, old French traders from whom they received very hospitable treatment in the absence of Mr. Mansur. Piling and pulling the boat, they reached the foot of the Grand Chute, a perpendicular fall of seven feet; but the rock having been worn away near the shore, unladen Durham boats were drawn through the rapids by the use of tow-ropes. Here they camped for the night, unloaded their cargo, carried it along the bank past the rapids, towed the boat to a point above, and reloaded. Leaving their encampment in the morning, they arrived at Mr. Reed's, the block house before mentioned, during the day, August 9, 1843, the first white family permanently settled within the present limits of the City of Neenah.

Mr. Mansur was soon set to work repairing the old mills, and managed them until the spring of 1844. April 10, 1844, he made the claim of his present farm. Thus early in the season the family inform me that the wild plum trees were in full bloom. There being an endless profusion of this fruit, and the crab-apple along the shore of the lake and rivers, they became, when in blossom, very conspicuous.

In June, following, Mr. Mansur removed his family to this claim, where he has ever since resided, and claims he can still hoe a man's row, while Jeff, the lad of thirteen summers, has developed a muscle capable of sustaining twenty-five pounds, in each hand, at arm's length, but Jeff has always been careful of his strength, reserving it to fill his father's place.

Gilbert Brooks, still a resident of the county, was here, in the employ of Mr. Reed, this season.

March 14, 1844, a postoffice was established, and Harrison Reed appointed postmaster.

GOVERNOR DOTY, AND OTHER EARLY SETTLERS.

In 1845, Governor Doty, having built the log house on the Island during this and the preceding year, now took up his residence here.

August 28, Gorham P. Vining and George Harlow declared their intention of becoming residents, and, by an arrangement with Mr. Reed, made some repairs on the mills and wingdam, and run them through the winter, and are now residents of the town. They kept bachelor's hall the first winter in the blockhouse near the mill.

Ira Baird and wife also arrived in December, and in the same month Rev. O. P. Clinton made a short visit, but of sufficient length to decide upon this as a place for future residence. In March, 1846, he removed his family to one of the block-houses near the Council Tree. In the fall, finding the other house vacant and more comfortable for a winter's campaign, he made some repairs and moved his family into it.

Mr. Clinton settled here under the auspices of the American Board of Home Missions; his circuit for that year included Oshkosh, Rosendale, Springvale, Waukau, Rushford, Strong's Landing, now Berlin, Fond du Lac and Neenah.

The payment for Mr. Reed's purchase from the United States having become due, and being unable of his own means to pay the required amount, he, through the instrumentality of Mr. Clinton, had opened negotiations with Mr. Harvey Jones, of Groversville, New York. L. H. Jones, a brother of Harvey, and Perrin Yale, a nephew in business at Waukesha, acting in the capacity of agents for Harvey Jones, came here in the spring and examined the property. Upon a favorable report from these agents, Mr. Reed went to Groversville, where an arrangement was made by which Mr. Jones furnished the money, and Mr. Reed, in July, satisfied the demand. The terms of this contract will, probably, never be known, as the statements in reference to it are extremely conflicting.

In March, James Ladd, Samuel Mitchell and L. S. Wheatley arrived, the former locating west of Lake Buttes des Mort, and the two latter near Mr. Reed's.
FIRST MARRIAGE, BIRTH, DEATH.

The first marriage occurring within the present limits of the city was that of the block-houses near the Council Tree, the residence of Elder Clinton, in May. The victims were John F. Johnston and Jeanette Finch, a sister of Mrs. Clinton, the Elder officiating. The first white child born within the present limits of the city, and the first female in the town, was a daughter of Harrison and A. Louisa Reed, in August, and was named Nina, a near approach to Neenah.

The first death was that of Stephen Hartwell, September fourth, at one of the block houses near the Council-tree, the remains with those of Jenson, who died the next day, (see Town of Menasha,) were buried near the Buttes des Morts mounds.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

There seems to be a difference of opinion as to the time “regular” religious services were instituted. During the stay of Mr. Gregory, United States Missionary to the Menomonees, divine services were no doubt conducted by him. It is also stated that a religious meeting was held at the house of Harrison Reed in 1845, by a Methodist Minister, who in his travels happened to stop at Mr. Reed’s, but it is probably safe to say that the first “regular” meeting was conducted by the Rev. O. P. Clinton, at his residence, the Sabbath after his arrival, in March 1846, which was attended by Governor Doty and wife, Harrison Reed and wife and his aunt, a Mrs. Griswald, Thomas Burdick, John F. Johnston, Henry Finch, Jeanette Finch and Mr. and Mrs. Clinton, a large majority of the settlers at that time.

HARVEY JONES.

In September, Mr. Harvey Jones came on, with his wife and son, Gilbert C., now a resident of the city, and for the first time examined his purchase. Remaining here during the winter, he employed several men in making improvements about the mills. Nelson Danforth was employed as miller.

Loyal H. Jones and Perine Yale seem to have settled here during the winter, also Asa Jones, another brother who became a prominent resident, for many years occupying a farm near the West shore of Buttes des Morts Lake.

LANDS COME INTO MARKET.

During the year, the lands in this vicinity on the South and West were placed in market, and many tracts claimed or entered, initiating the first settlement for purposes of agriculture.

NEW COMERS.

Among the new comers of 1846, were Lucius A. Donaldson, Cornelius Northrop, Corydon Northrop, Phillip Brien and Milton Huxley, with their families. John F. Johnson, Henry C. Finch, Stephen Hartwell, A. B. Brien, and one Jensen.

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE WATER-POWER—ORIGIN OF NAME.

February 8, 1847, by an act of the Legislature, approved this date, a company was chartered, consisting of Governor Doty, his son Charles, Curtis Reed, Harrison Reed, and Harvey Jones, with authority to construct and maintain a dam across each channel. It would seem that at this time the parties were all mutually interested in producing a water-power at the foot of Lake Winnebago, that should be second to none on this continent; all advantages considered; and there is little doubt that if amicable relations had continued, the energies of the entire company would have been devoted to that end, and the improvements confined to the South channel, the State canal included, except so far as might be necessary, from the nature of the case, to maintain a dam on the North Side. The charter obtained, differences at once sprung up between the parties; and the Doty’s with Curtis Reed, were driven to the North Side, when Jones and Reed, unable to work together for their mutual benefit, the latter was compelled to follow. Jones on one side, the Doty’s and Reeds on the other, were soon arrayed in perfect hostility. Law-suits were at once instituted, implicating the title on the South Side and were for years an obstacle to investments.

In the fall of 1847, Daniel Priest put in operation a carding-machine, which was run for several years, when Mr. Priest, having become a resident of Menasha, removed the carding-mill to that side. This was the pioneer institution of its kind in this county and vicinity and was the nucleus of the present Menasha Woolen Mills. The Town of Neenah was organized February 11, 1847, (see Town of Neenah). This reminds us of an old story, occasionally revived relating to this word “Neenah,” to the effect that Governor Doty once asked an Indian Chief, pointing to the river, “What is that? ” The chief replied, supposing that Doty meant the water, “Neenah” —Hence the name of river and town. We wish to say that no white man better understood the language, customs or character of these people than Governor Doty, and to accuse him of ignorance of the name of
Fox River in any Indian language spoken upon its banks is simply absurd.

FIRST VILLAGE PLAT — HOTEL BUILT.

September 8, 1847, the first village plat of Neenah was recorded by Harrison Reed, proprietor. The dam was built this fall, though not completed; in fact it was not completed for many years. It being difficult to obtain boarding-places for the men engaged on the dam, and a necessity existing for a house of public entertainment, Mr. James Ladd, who had, in October previous, taken up his residence in the Government block-house, which stood on the present Blair farm, was induced to erect a building that would serve the double purpose; and proceeded at once to put up a building which might be considered a very good barn or an inferior residence. Choosing it for the latter purpose, he accommodated fifty boarders and all travelers that might apply. His son Christopher informs us that at one time there were thirteen different languages spoken under that roof. Where is Babel now? This was the first frame building erected in Neenah, except the Government mills. In the fall, Mr. Ladd commenced the erection of the Winnebago Hotel, now standing on the southwest corner of Walnut Street and Wisconsin Avenue. This he completed the same season, converting the boarding-house into a barn—it having been located and built with that intention. For obtaining lime, Mr. Ladd built a kiln in the bend of the river, above the house, took the stone from the bed of the river and burned them. When the old Government buildings were erected, in 1835-6, a brick yard was started at the foot of the island, and here he dug out enough for chimneys. To supply the lumber and shingles, pine logs were cut, in the northwestern part of the present Town of Menasha, taken to the old Government mill and sawed, or shaved into shingles.

FIRST CHURCH—FIRST SCHOOL.

Early in the season Mr. Clinton, with the assistance of some members of his congregation, fitted up a log house, built by Smith Moores, in 1845, for religious services. Here Miss Caroline Northrup opened a private school, and in the fall, the first public school was inaugurated, with one Lambert for teacher, an itinerant dancing, singing and general teacher, but after about a month, an extended furlough was granted him, and his place supplied by Wm. Dennison. The following summer Miss Northrup officiated as teacher.

We have incidently spoken of Smith Moores, whose name seems somewhat connected with those of Col. Fuller, Robert Irwin, Archibald Caldwell, and probably some others, who were located here at an early day, as Indian traders, without any intention of making this a permanent residence, excepting perhaps Moores, who might have become more fully identified with the place, but for his death, which occurred in 1851, from small-pox, contracted at the Indian payment that fall, instead of 1853, as has been represented.

FIRST STORE OPENED.

During this season, 1847, Jones & Yale already mentioned, opened a stock of general merchandise and Indian goods, in one of the block-houses, which the early settlers found a great convenience, and which was the first mercantile undertaking, except such as had been established for Indian traffic.

From this time the new arrivals, with the many changes, came crowding upon each other in such rapid succession, that we are unable to give a detailed account of each and every person, and event, but shall endeavor to record each as fully and accurately as space and circumstances will admit. Thus far we have endeavored to give a history of the increase in population, the preparations for an extended business in the future, and the disadvantages encountered. If any names have been omitted it has been wholly unintentional, on our part, and in many instances they will probably be found in connection with the towns with which they afterwards became more closely identified.

KIMBERLEY’S — JONES.

In the spring of 1848, Harvey Jones became a permanent resident, having, as proprietor, caused a plat of the village of Winnebago Rapids, in the town of Neenah, to be recorded January 6, 1848. Soon after his arrival, he commenced the erection of a saw mill, Charles Lindley being associated with him in the enterprise.

In June, Mr. Harvey L. Kimberly came here and made an agreement with Mr. Jones, which gave him the privilege of purchasing two lots in each block of the plat of Winnebago Rapids.

Mr. Kimberly now returned to his home in New Haven, Connecticut, and at once made arrangements accordingly. Forming a partnership with his brother, John R. Kimberly, then a resident of Troy, New York, their native place, and leaving their families behind, they arrived at Neenah in September, having shipped a stock of merchandise from Buffalo to Green Bay, by schooner, which they char-
tered in connection with Jones & Yale, for that purpose. On reaching Neenah, they then announced their readiness to fulfill their agreement with Jones, and carry out their business intentions, but here a difficulty arose. Whenever they made a selection of any lots, they were either disposed of or reserved. At last, unable to obtain suitable lots for their purpose, they began to talk of accepting some very favorable offers proposed by Reed at Menasha, which soon produced its effect, and they were permitted to make their own selection, for building a residence, a store and mill. It now became necessary for one of them to go to Green Bay, to forward their goods, shipped from Buffalo, Jones & Yale were also expecting the arrival of their goods at the Bay.

H. L. Kimberly and L. H. Jones, accordingly, started on horse back over the only road—the old Government road—cut through the woods many years prior, and now grown full of underbrush, leaving a mere bridle path. Mr. Jones being obliged to return home immediately, Mr. Kimberly remained to look after the interest of both, in the coming freight. At the end of a weeks delay, the necessary arrangements completed, Mr. Kimberly set out on his return, accompanied by H. L. Blood, then proprietor of the Astor House, at the Bay, bound for Grand Chute. Arriving at the present site of Appleton, they found John F. Johnston, before mentioned, living in a board shanty, the only resident of the place. This being the point of Mr. Blood's destination, and unable to find lodging for both, Mr. Kimberly was advised, and in fact compelled, to push on a mile and a half to a Mr. Murch's. Scarcely had he resumed his way, when the sky became overcast, and he found himself in almost total darkness, obliged to depend entirely upon the instinct of his horse, which at least brought him to a barway at the road side. Opening this, and unable to see anything, he again seated himself in the saddle with unlimited confidence in his four footed companion and soon found himself at the house, where he was informed that they had no accommodation for man or beast, but, pointing to a light at Mr. Craft's, some half a mile across the field, he could probably find what he was in search of, there. Making his way toward the light, he met with no better success, but was advised to make another effort at Murch's. Retracing his steps, he this time found Mr. Murch, who granted his request, and entertained him with perfect pioneer hospitality.

On the arrival of the goods they were dis-played in a building erected for the purpose, that year, by Benjamin Paddock, who occupied the upper story as a residence, situated across the street from the present barrel factory, and which may be seen at the present time.

MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES.

S. R. Kellogg also came in the spring, and viewing the prospect o'er with very satisfactory results, returned for his family, with which he returned in August, accompanied by Mr. Benjamin Simmons.

In the mean time Lucius A. Donaldson and John B. Lajest had commenced the erection of a building, on the water-power, near where Patton's paper mill now stands, for a planing mill, wash, door and blind factory. Messrs. Kellogg & Simmons, owners of machinery for the manufacture of bedsteads and chairs, soon after formed a partnership with Donaldson & Lajest, setting up their machinery in the same building, and the entire business was conducted under the firm name of Donaldson, Lajest & Co. This was the first building completed on the water power, always excepting the Government enterprise, and was also occupied by a wool-carding machine, owned and operated by Daniel Priest, which had been running in another building.

MORE ARRIVALS.

A. T. Cronkhite opened the first drug store in the place in September.

Captain J. M. Ball, born at Southboro, Worcester County, Massachusetts, in 1816, removed to Boston in 1834, to Chicago in 1847, and to Neenah in the spring of 1848.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

At this time, and extending back as far as the memory of man, the great thoroughfare for all territory lying contiguous to the Fox, the Wolf and Wisconsin rivers, was via Green Bay, along the Fox River, by Durham boats. These boats were from eighty to one hundred feet in length, decked over for the protection of their cargo, and would carry from fifteen to twenty-five tons. They were propelled usually by four, but sometimes six men, with setting poles, and a helmsman. Tow ropes were used whenever occasion required the passage of any of the numerous rapids of the river, and in such cases they were unloaded and their freight rolled or hauled around the rapids; the usual way, however, being to run from Green Bay to Kaukauna, unload and return, leaving their freight to be transported around the rapids, when it was taken on another boat which proceeded to the next
rapid, unloaded, and loading with a cargo destined for the opposite direction, returned. Wm. H. Bruce, of Green Bay, seems to have been the first to engage in this enterprise on private account, establishing a line from Green Bay to Fort Winnebago. Another line was eventually started, by Daniel Whitney, also an early resident of Green Bay. Soon after Captain Ball arrived at Neenah, he contracted with Mr. Bruce to run that part of the route between Grand Chute and Neenah, including the portage at the latter point. Large quantities of flour were at this time sent from Mackford, Dartford, Kingston and Neenah, to the fisheries and pineries of Green Bay and the East.

ACCESSIONS TO THE POPULATION.

In 1853, Captain Ball was elected treasurer of the town of Neenah, which office he held until 1855, when he became associated with another pioneer, an employe in the Bruce line, Reuben Doud, in the transportation between the head of steamboat navigation, at Kaukauna, and steamboat facilities at Menasha, employing one hundred teams, which made daily trips both ways.

In 1856, Captain Ball was elected chairman of the Town Board of Supervisors, and in 1867, County Treasurer, and was re-elected in 1859. He is now a resident of Oshkosh.

In 1849, Hugh Sherry, Charles A. Leavens, Marvin R. Babcock, Robert Hold, Melancthon Burroughs, Edwin Wheeler and N. S. Emmons, became residents.

In March 1849, Mr. D. D. Dodge located here, purchasing the corner now occupied by Pettibone block, where he erected a hotel known as “Dodge’s Hotel,” which was destroyed by fire in 1852. Jones and Yale also built a large frame building, still standing, on the corner opposite and directly East of the Winnebago Hotel, this they occupied for mercantile purposes, the second story was fitted up and long occupied as a place for religious worship. This building has since undergone many changes, and served many purposes.

A building known as the Old Foundry was erected on the water-power this year, by Giles S. Olin, and when completed, supplied with the necessary machinery for a foundry and machine shop.

DEATH OF HARVEY JONES.

November 8, 1849, occurred the death of Harvey Jones, principal proprietor of the place, leaving, so far as known, no will or provision for the future management of his estate, which consequently fell to three minor heirs. This with the pending law-suits, proved a death-blow to further substantial progress of this primitive settlement for a time, and greatly retarded its growth for many years. Mr. Jones, although unsuccessful in gratifying himself with those mutually interested, had before his death made extensive arrangements for the improvement of the water-power and the place generally.

The location of the State canal had during the summer been made upon the other side, but a canal being necessary for a supply of water to the mills, he had determined to construct it large enough for purposes of navigation, with the necessary lock to overcome the fall between the lakes.

IMPROVEMENTS.

During this fall, 1849, Messrs J. R. and H. L. Kimberly commenced the erection of a dwelling and the brick store, still extant, on the corner opposite and directly North of the old Winnebago Hotel building, now along side the railroad track. Robert Hold established himself in the furniture business. A little later in the year and near its close, was laid the keel for the steamboat Peytona, on the present stave yard, which was completed in spring of 1850, the second steamboat known to these waters, and for many years the favorite.

WINNEBAGO RAPIDS INCORPORATED.

April 10, 1850, the village of Winnebago Rapids was incorporated by the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, and M. N. Bosworth, E. B. Ranney and J. Keyes, probably Joseph Keyes, Inspectors of Election of the Town of Neenah, appointed inspectors of an election to be held, for the purpose of submitting to a vote of the people the question for and against incorporation, pursuant to chapter fifty-two of the Revised Statutes.

This order of incorporation may be found recorded in the County Registers office, volume H. of mortgages, on page four hundred and seventy six, under date of March 15th 1851.

We find no record of the election mentioned, or of the election of the village officers, although such elections undoubtedly occurred, as a record exists of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees of Winnebago Rapids, at office of J. B. Hamilton, June 11, 1850, at half-past seven o’clock. Present—Smith Moores, president; D. D. Dodge, A. B. Brien, J. S. Bloom, L. H. Jones and H. L. Kimberly, trustees. J. B. Hamilton was by the board unanimously elected clerk and Robert Thompson, marshal. At an adjourned
meeting, June 17, Perine Yale appeared and took the oath as trustee, and was elected village treasurer. At a meeting, July 5, the American half-dollar was adopted as the seal of the corporation.

VILLAGE OFFICERS, TRUSTEES.

In 1851, Smith Moores was re-elected president, but it was soon discovered that the proceedings at the organic election were somewhat informal, and the incorporation, therefore, invalid; this was wholly ignored until 1856, when the village was re-organized, as hereafter explained, with the following officers: J. B. Hamilton, president; A. G. LaGrange, clerk; J. R. Kimberly, Jeremiah Cummings, Ed Smith, D. R. Pangborn, H. O. Crane and A. H. Cronkhite, trustees.

In 1857, the officers were J. B. Hamilton, president; Samuel Roberts, clerk; J. H. Townsand, S. G. Burdick, J. R. Davis, E. S. Welch, Ed Smith and H. O. Crane, trustees.


In 1859, D. C. Van Ostrand, president; Moses Hooper, clerk; John W. Williams, Newell Demerritt, Abner Smith, O. T. Walker, Jno. A. Welch and L. Milton Marsh, trustees. Two hundred and sixty-one votes were cast at this election.

In 1860, D. C. Van Ostrand, president; I. W. Hunt, clerk; Charles A. Leavens, J. L. Clement, A. E. Cross, S. G. Burdick, Robert Hold and W. M. Moore, trustees.

In 1861, Edwin L. Hubbard, president; I. W. Hunt, clerk; C. J. Packard, P. R. Williams, Hugh McGregor, E. P. Marsh, James Smith and Charles A. Leavens, trustees.


In 1867, Samuel Galentine, president; W. W. Daggett, clerk; W. B. M. Young, Newell Demerritt, G. C. Jones, John Bergstrom, S. E. Ford and A. E. Cross, trustees.


In 1869, Wm. Pitt Peckham, president; W. W. Daggett, clerk; D. C Van Ostrand, Hugh McGregor, Alexander Billstein, M. Hayward, John Bergstrom and John Hunt, trustees.


In 1871, Robert Shells, president; D. E. Markham, clerk; Hugh McGregor, Theodore Brown, Franklin Pickard, D. L. Kimberly, A. E. Cross and Harold Nelson, trustees. Four hundred and thirty-two votes were cast at this election.

In 1872, Alex. Billstein, president; D. E. Markham, clerk; Martin Gavin, A. E. Cross, M. E. Sorley, Theodore Brown, Daniel Barnes and S. G. Kellogg, trustees.

MISCELLANEOUS.

During the seasons 1850-51, the steamer made daily trips from Fond du Lac to Neenah, and return, supplying a necessity long felt.

The Cronkhite warehouse was built in 1850, on, or very near, the site of the present barrel works, and was burned in the spring of 1864, or 1865.

A telegraph line was also constructed from Fond du Lac to Green Bay, with a local office in the Jones and Yale store already mentioned. This line was built and supplied on what was considered the strictest principles of economy, running nearly its entire length through a dense forest; the tops of trees were cut off and the wire passed from tree to tree, but in the absence of trees, poles were substituted, the average time required for the transmission of a message being greater than by stage, with an even chance that it would remain tangled among the tree tops along the way. The writer having occasion to communicate with Fond du Lac, endeavored for a whole day to get a message over the line. Failing in this, he took the stage at two o'clock the next morning at the old Winnebago Hotel, Dud Cronkhite, proprietor, and reaching Oshkosh at eight o'clock, went immediately to the telegraph office, and asked the telegraph operator if he could get a message to Fond du Lac. He replied, "Yes, if I can get the d—d machine thawed out."
The subscriber took his breakfast in time to continue his journey to Fond du Lac, deliber-
ating upon the convenience and importance of telegraphy, for which he had ample time,
arriving at Fond du Lac at dark. The machine was not thawed out when we returned, and
the line became inoperative in 1852.

During this year the Kimberlys completed their residence and store, and occupied them-
both. They also commenced the erection of the pioneer flouring mill, ever since known as
the "Neenah Mills." The timber, white oak, for the frame, was cut on the north shore of
Lake Winnebago, for other parties who failed to take it, when it was purchased for these
mills, and drawn on the ice to their place. The machinery was shipped from the East, via
Green Bay, and the entire work superintended by H. A. Burts, millwright. It was completed
the next year, and operated by S. G. Burdick, head miller. Running for a long time under
the management of the original owners, H. L. Kimberly at last became sole owner, who
leased it for a few years, after which it became the property of his son, D. L. Kimberly, who
has successfully conducted it for several years. It contains five runs of stones, and daily per-
forms its allotted task, having been lately overhauled and rebuilt.

The death of Harvey Jones necessitated the appointment of administrators, and L. H.
Jones and John R. Kimberly were soon chosen; but Kimberly refusing to serve, another was
appointed, Erastus W. Drury, of Fond du Lac. L. H. Jones was also appointed guar-

The canal lock was commenced this year, 1850, under the administration of L. H. Jones,
Marvin R. Babcock, contractor. The Jones' saw mill was completed this year, and pur-
chased by Robert Hold, Wm. L. Lindsley and Asa Jones.

The frames for the steamer Van Ness Bar-

BARGE TO THE ISLAND — CANAL LOCK

The bridge leading to the Island was also
built, and the road across the Island cut out; but
the corresponding bridge across the north
channel was not completed until 1852.

A building was erected at the south end of
the bridge and east of Cedar Street, by John
and Eben Welch, and supplied with barrel
machinery, which proving unsuccessful, was
replaced for a lathe for turning wooden bowls,
a planing mill, and, at last, sash, door and
blind machinery.

IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.
The plank-road, completed this year from Menasha to Kaukauna, added greatly to the
shipping facilities of both Neenah and Menasha. Connecting with steamboat navigation at both
extremities, it soon superseded the line of Durham boats, which are now known only in the
recollections of old settlers. This was the first passable road to any place.

There is, perhaps, no one obstacle so diffi-
cult to overcome in the settlement of a new
country, as the lack of facilities for commu-
nication with the world, but even this is a thou-
sand times intensified when a deep clay soil
with a heavy growth of timber is encountered,
and none but early settlers can fully appreciate
all that is implied in the term "bad roads."
The incident of a trip to Fond du Lac in the
stage, before related and literally true, of thirty-four miles in seventeen hours, is a fair
illustration. The steamer Jenny Lind was
built during the winter and spring, east, and
near the brick store of the Kimberlys, by Dr.
U. Peake and Patrick Tiernan, but being too
large for this trade, was taken to the Missis-
ippi River the same season. This boat was
commenced in 1851, the third steamboat built
at this place.

This year, 1852, preparations were made for the
second flouring mill. Edward Smith, who
had been engaged here in mercantile pursuits
since 1850, Hugh Sherry, who had settled here
in 1849, and who had been connected with the
"old government mill," and Hiram Wheeler,
associated themselves together, and during the
winter sent a crew of men to the pinneries of
the Wolf River, where they cut the timber,
 rafted it down the river in the spring, and, in
the summer of 1853, built the "Winnebago
Mill," on the bank of the stream and west side
of Cedar Street. Mr. Wheeler, as millwright,
superintended its construction and Mr. Sherry
the running.

Mr. John Proctor became the owner, with
Mr. Smith, in 1857, and the names of Smith &
Proctor have become as familiar as any
household word.

The plank-road completed the past season
from Menasha to Kaukauna, in the spring,
1853, A. H. Cronkhite, who came here a law-
yer in 1848, but had abandoned the profession
and engaged in various enterprises, now, in connection with D. C. Van Ostrand, who had resided here since May, 1850, established a line of teams on the road for the transfer of freights between these two termini of steamboat navigation. Ed Smith also built a brick block of two stores, which were completed in the summer. The corner store was occupied by Mr. Smith and his brother, Hiram Smith. This block, known as Smith’s block, is still standing, northeast corner of Cedar Street and Wisconsin Avenue. A large brick building, called the Weeden House, was also built in the southeast corner of Cedar Street and Wisconsin Avenue, by R. C. Weeden. This, afterwards known as the Dolsen House, and still later as the Russell House, has, at last, given place to the present handsome structure of that name.

B. F. Moore, having purchased the steamer Peytona, run her this season from Fond du Lac to Menasha, in connection with the plankroad, divesting Neenah of all direct steamboat communication, another link in the chain of misfortune, which, for a long series of years, fettered the energies and unaltering perseverance of her citizens.

SASH, DOOR AND BLIND FACTORY.

The planing mill, sash, blind and door factory of C. O. Page was put in operation this year, and after various changes is still in operation, next east of the Island City Mill.

Very little seems to have occurred in 1854, to mark the progress of events. Many strangers came, but few invested. Occasionally, one more venturesome would lease or purchase such title as was attainable, open up in some mercantile branch, or manufacturing, in a small way, get discouraged, and sell out; while others, with more confidence in the future, resolved to remain to the end.

The Cronkhites opened a small exchange office, an embryo bank, which, at a later date, expanded into a bank of issue, and continuing to expand until 1861, it was past contraction, and the result was a collapse.

About this time, Mr. John R. Davis, who commenced the manufacture of wagons here in 1849, purchased an interest in the government mill, which he retained until its destruction by fire in 1874.

TWO MORE FLOURING MILLS BUILT.

In 1854, Cronkhite and Burdick purchased the Donaldson and Lajest building, and converted it into a flouring mill, being the third mill constructed.

The Fox River mill, fourth on the list of flouring mills, was added in 1856. This was erected by Hugh Sherry, and was soon after sold to W. E. and J. R. Ford, who retained the ownership until its site was required for other purposes, when it was again sold and taken down.

WINNEBAGO RAPIDS CONSOLIDATED WITH NEENAH.

March 28, 1856, the village plats of Winnebago Rapids and Neenah were consolidated, and the corporate name, Winnebago Rapids, changed to Neenah. Although we have herefore more commonly used the word Neenah, it should be remembered that no such incorporated village existed until now.

THE FIRST PASSAGE OF A BOAT THROUGH THE LOCK.

An event, considered at the time, of unparalleled importance, occurred in June, 1856, the passage of the steamer Aquila through the Neenah lock to Green Bay, and return, the first passage between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay.

TWO MORE FLOURING MILLS AND A FOUNDRY BUILT.

The flouring mill known as the Brick or Atlantic mill was commenced by J. Mills in 1856, and before its completion in 1857, E. W. Peet became interested, and it was completed and run for several years by the firm of Mills & Peet, while the walls of the stone mill adjoining were probably built at the same time, and the machinery added soon after, built and operated for a time by Smith & Lisk. These last two mills, being the fifth and sixth in order, are at this time combined under the name of Falcon Mills, with eight runs of stones, owned and operated by Clement & Stevens, who have long been residents and engaged in this business.

The iron foundry out on the bank of Buttes des Morts lake, at the inlet of the big slough, was built this year, 1858, by Moore & Wells, (W. N. and A. K. Moore, and B. W. Wells), with the expectation that in the immediate future, steamboats would unload the raw materials on the premises, taking away the products of the foundry in return. This establishment was eventually confined, almost exclusively, to the manufacture of stoves, and then became the property of Smith, Van Ostrand & Leavens, and later of George C. and D. W. Bergstrom, who still retain it.

1858 and 1859 seem to have been quite barren of important events.

BARRREL FACTORY.

In 1860, Theodore Brown commenced the manufacture of barrel stock, and has steadily
increased the business to the present time. Mr. Brown also turns out a very large amount of flour barrels, consuming a great portion of his stock, in supplying the various mills of the place.

CHAPTER LIII.


Near the close of the year 1860 the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad extended their line from Oshkosh to Neenah and Appleton, and for some unaccountable reason was run around both these water-powers, the depot situated a mile west from the Neenah power, and two from the Menasha side, with a clay road which in a short time by the heavy teaming became almost impassable. All parties becoming disgusted, a new line was adopted across the Island, as at present, and the depot located between.

The first line was completed in January 1861, and the cars running across the Island on the new line in December 1862.

BANKS ESTABLISHED.

September 1, 1861, an exchange and banking office was established by Messrs. Smith & Sheills, called the Neenah Bank, David Smith, president, and Robert Sheills, cashier. Mr. Smith being interested in an institution of the same character at Appleton, devoted his time there, and Mr. Sheills conducted the one at this place.

In 1865, a charter was obtained, and the National Bank of Neenah organized, Nov. 12, 1865. The stockholders and incorporators were Henry Hewitt Sr., Alexander Syme, John Hewitt, A. W. Patten, Alexander Billstein, Edward Smith, Moses Hooper, W. P. Peckham, H. Babcock, J. R. Davis Sr., J. A. Kimberley, J. W. Williams, N. S. Robinson and Robert Sheills. Henry Hewitt Sr., president; Robert Sheills, cashier. These officers have held their positions to the present time.

Another exchange office was located here the same year by Ansel Kellogg, of Oshkosh, which continued business about a year.

THE SEVENTH FLOURING MILL BUILT.

In 1862, A. W. Patten purchased the Page building, and substituting flouring mill machinery, run it for some years as the Keystone Mill, when it was sold to A. D. Gustavus, and subsequently remodeled into a planing mill, sash, door and blind factory again, and so remains at present.

The steamboat St. Paul was built this year, by Tremain, May & Co. The fourth enterprise of the kind undertaken here.

SETTLEMENT OF JONES' ESTATE.

In 1863, Willard Jones, the youngest of the heirs of Harvey Jones, attained his majority. The Rev. James Bassett called to preside over the Presbyterian Church, soon after married Miss Abigail Jones, also one of the heirs, when he became interested in the condition of the estate, and consequently made a thorough examination of the past management by the administrators, who were still acting in that capacity. Satisfied that the grossest injustice had been done, that a princely estate had been depreciated by mismanagement and misappropriation to scarcely a tithe of what its value would have been, if properly cared for, he resigned his pastorate and devoted his energies to collecting together what might possibly be saved from the ruins. Demanding, by the most summary means, an account of the stewardship of these agents, they found themselves unable to produce any statement that even they could look upon as the slightest justification or extenuation and to avoid unpleasant consequences, one of them fled the country in the night, while the other shielded himself behind the assumption that the court having appointed administrators once had exhausted its power in that direction, and therefore, he was not a legally appointed administrator under obligations to render an account as such, and, ergo, his share of the booty was legal plunder.

It was now found that in many cases deeds had been given by said agents without authority, and the consideration paid to them; and in some instances, the purchasers were compelled to pay the second time. These difficulties were however amicably settled, lands upon the Island side platted and offered for sale, and Neenah, relieved of this incubus that had weighed upon her for fifteen years, started upon a career of prosperity fully realizing all reasonable expectations.

THE PETTIBONE BLOCK—MERCANTILE FIRMS.

In 1863, the block known as Pettibone
block, was erected by Wm. E. and J. R. Ford, on the southwest corner of Cedar Street and Wisconsin Avenue, who, soon after its completion, sold it to C. J. Pettibone. Mr. Pettibone occupied the corner store with a stock of merchandise, and J. A. Kimberly, son of John R., with Havilah Babcock occupied the next. This firm of Kimberly & Babcock had for a number of years been prominently known in mercantile circles and had carried on a successful business at the old brick store of John and Harvey L. Kimberly, where they commenced business in 1857. This block is three stories high, and contains on the ground floor three stores on Wisconsin Avenue, and one on Cedar Street.

FIRST PAPER MILL — ANOTHER PLANING MILL.

In 1866, the first paper mill was erected near the lock, on the site of the Jones' sawmill, which was removed for the purpose, by a stock company, consisting of Nathan Cobb, president; Hiram Smith secretary and treasurer; Dr. N. S. Robinson, Edward Smith, John Jamison and Moses Hooper, as the Neenah Paper Mill Company. The first two years after its completion, it was run under the management of Dr. N. S. Robinson, the first year as lessee, and the second as superintendent for the company. It was then sold to Hiram Smith and D. C. Van Ostrand, who in 1874, sold it to Kimberly, Clark & Co., J. A. Kimberly, Havilah Babcock, F. C. Shattuck and C. B. Clark.

The same year William Pitt Peckham, who had resided here since 1835, built the Island City Stove Foundry, on ground now covered by the Globe Paper Mill, and which was a prominent feature in the business of Neenah for some ten years.

The Island City Flouring Mill, the eighth in number, was built in 1868, a substantial stone structure, thirty-four feet by sixty, four stories high, erected by A. H. F. Krueger and Carl Stridde, under the supervision of John Jamison. After the death of Mr. Stridde, which occurred in 1877, Mr. Krueger leased that interest and has since that time managed and controlled the business.

TWO MORE FLOURING MILLS BUILT.

In 1868, we find uncle John R. Kimberly, senior partner in the first undertaking of the kind, engaged in a new venture, with his son J. A. Kimberly and H. Babcock, which soon resulted in 1869, in the completion of a commodious and ornamental stone building, with six run of stone, known as the Reliance Mill. The millwright was H. A. Burts, who was also pioneer millwright in the Neenah Mill. Forty by seventy-five feet on the ground, it is the ninth in numerical order. In 1877, John R. Kimberly having sold his interest, it has since been conducted by the firm of J. A. Kimberly & Co.

A. W. Patten having sold his mill to Mr. Gustavus, now purchased the Welsh sash, door and blind factory, and converted it into the tenth flouring mill. This mill became the property of Howard & Davis in 1877, and is still owned by them.

ANOTHER SASH, DOOR AND BLIND FACTORY.

During 1867-8, Mr. James Bassett moved a building which was standing near the race and railroad track, originally intended for a grain elevator, to the river bank adjoining the Neenah flouring mill on the North, and directly in front, on the bank of the canal, erected a shingle mill. The elevator building was soon after purchased by J. A. Sanford, who added the necessary machinery for a planing mill, and for the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds and mouldings, still owning and occupying it. Henry Sherry became the owner of the shingle mill, which with a full set of machinery for a first class saw mill, he is still running at its fullest capacity.

THE WISCONSIN CENTRAL RAILROAD.

In 1871, the Wisconsin Central Railroad, completing its track to Stevens Point, commenced running its cars over that part of the road, with the depot near the Northwestern depot, on the Island, but obtaining possession of the Milwaukee & Northern Railroad, it removed its business to the office of that road at Menasha, soon after.

Having now enumerated the long list of mills and manufactories that have heretofore occupied important positions on the water power, and many changes connected with them, we now turn to their final disposition and changes of a later date.

THE GLOBE PAPER MILL.

In 1872, Messrs. Kimberly, Clark & Co., proprietors of Neenah Paper mill, purchased the old Fox River Mill, and removing the building, erected a part of the present Globe Paper Mill, and in 1876, bought the Island City Stove Foundry, and added to the Globe Mill, making a total length of two hundred and ten by eighty-eight feet, of brick.

NEENAH CITY INCORPORATED.

March 13, 1873, an act of incorporation was passed by the Legislature, constituting Neenah a city of three wards, and on the 31st
of the same month, was held the organic election.

LIST OF OFFICERS FROM DATE OF ORGANIZATION.

Edward Smith, mayor; William Kellett and John B. Russell, aldermen of the First Ward; Ansel W. Patten and Andrew Michelson, aldermen of the Second Ward; A. H. F. Krueger and John Bergstrom, aldermen of the Third Ward.

At the first meeting of the Council, April 5, Carl J. Kraby was elected city clerk; J. B. Hamilton, attorney, and J. L. Mathews, chief of police. James Conlan was at the charter election, chosen police justice; George Donelson, treasurer, and Lovel Stowe justice of the peace, for the First Ward.


The charter was now amended, providing for four wards.


CITY SEAL—THE COUNCIL TREE.

The seal adopted by the Council was very appropriate, being a representation of the old Council Tree. This old elm tree is one of the institutions of Neenah and is claimed to have been the scene of frequent councils among the different tribes of this vicinity. Gov. Doty is the authority for this, while it is contradicted by those who say they never heard of any councils there. We will take the statement of the man who has heard, and regard it as a relic of the past, under whose wide spreading branches perhaps the fate of Indian nations has been decided.

A. W. PATTEN'S PAPER MILL.

In 1874, A. W. Patten purchased the old Empire Flouring Mill, took away the building and in its stead built a paper mill, one hundred and fifty feet long and forty feet in depth, of brick. In digging the wheel pits for this institution Mr. Patten discovered a relic of antiquity, which we will endeavor to describe, but leave for the more scientific to account for. About four or five feet below the surface of the ground, and corresponding very nearly with the bed of the river, a bed of hard clay and coarse gravel was struck, which produced numerous large blocks of a fine grained, hard, blue limestone, very closely resembling in appearance, the stone obtained at the Oshkosh quarries. At a depth of about eight feet below the bed of the river and twelve feet or more below the original surface, one of these blocks was found of unusual size. Mr. Patten availed himself of the use of these stones thus taken out for the foundation of his mill, and in splitting this large block for that purpose, an implement of flint was found imbeded in the fractured surface; it was about twelve to fourteen inches in length, two inches in greatestd width, and three-eighths of an inch in thickness, tapering gradually for four inches to a point, and double-edged; about eight inches from the point, it slightly diminished in width, with rounded edges, forming a handle nearly one third its entire length. In the endeavor to remove it, it was broken, but about four inches of the pointed end was secured and is now in Mr. Patten's possession.

WINNEBAGO PAPER MILL.

In February of the same year, the old Government grist and saw mills were destroyed by fire; but, phoenix-like, arose from the ashes the fine brick building, known as the Winnebago Paper Mill, built by John R. Davis, Sr., president; J. R. Ford, secretary; H. Shoemaker, treasurer; C. H. Servis, C. Newman, Mrs. E. A. Servis and S. M. Brown. The main building is forty by seventy, machine room thirty by ninety, and boiler room sixteen by twenty two. In 1876, George A. Whiting purchased an interest and became secretary of the company.

The Neenah, Winnebago, Reliance, Island City, Falcon, Howard and Davis mills, the Hooker & Wiekert and the Sanford planing mills are still in operation.

Of the new and elegant brick blocks and
single stores along the streets, they are too numerous to mention, with their respective dates, and it is unnecessary, as it can be said, for each one and all, that they are in the highest degree ornamental, substantial and creditable to the city and proprietors, and are occupied by a class of business men who with her manufacturers have built up a reputation for strict business integrity and stability second to no equal numbers in the West.

HOTELS.

We now come to the crowning glory of Neenah enterprise—her hotels. The Russell House, erected by John B. Russell, owner and proprietor, in 1875, on the site of the old Weeden House, is not only a chief ornament, but is a substantial benefit, of which the city may and does feel a commendable pride as shown by the liberal assistance extended in its construction.

The Roberts House, although not a hotel of the city, is situated within its limits, was completed in 1877, by John Roberts, favorably known in this section, as landlord at the National Hotel, at Menasha. Situated on the old homestead of Governor Doty, on the south bank of the Neenah channel, it commands a delightful view of Lake Winnebago, and would prove a desirable acquisition to any locality.

The Page Hotel, for many years a popular house, is still open, and C. O. Page, one of the early settlers, is always happy to shake hands with the weary and hungry and ever ready to cater to their wants and pleasure.

The Neenah Hotel, Wm. Hess, proprietor, the Union Hotel, by A. Pfeiffer (both German), two commodious structures on Cedar street, and the Island City House, Mrs. Lachman, proprietress, long and favorably known, at the depot, offer comfortable quarters to the traveler.

SHIPPING FACILITIES—PUBLIC HALLS.

In 1875 the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company constructed a side track the entire length of the water-power, by which each mill is enabled to load and unload cars direct from their own doors, thereby saving the enormous transfer bills between the mills and depot, and affording conveniences for shipping by railroad nowhere excelled.

The handsome and commodious hall of the Schuetzen Bund, was erected in 1875, and dedicated in November, which, with the large hall in Pettibone Block, affords ample accommodations for public entertainments and amusements.

The steam bakery of A. Loos, and omnibus manufactory of G. Olds, have also became permanent institutions of the place.

EARLY RESIDENTS.

Of the early residents not particularly mentioned we still find George Rogers in the jewelry and watch business. Mr. Rogers came here in 1847. Gotfred Christensen, a settler of 1852, dealer in dry goods, notions, etc. Charles A. Leavens and James Callaghan, who both commenced business in the grocery trade in 1853 and still doing a successful business. James Monahan, who settled in Neenah in 1851, still running his blacksmith shop. The first Catholic service in Neenah was celebrated at his house, and he was largely instrumental in procuring the site for the church edifice, afterward erected. His wife was a woman highly esteemed by a large circle of acquaintances, and her death, which occurred in 1858, occasioned the deepest grief in the community. Her family was an influential one, and one of her brothers represented the City of Drogheda, in the British House of Commons. John Hunt, still in business here, and one of Neenah’s substantial and most reliable business men, with a wide circle of acquaintances and highly esteemed by all, for his kind heart and integrity of character.

Carl J. Kraby, who came to Neenah in 1849, and was subsequently appointed United States Consul to Norway, which position he held for several years, and returned to his old camping grounds, where he has long held the office of City Clerk, and was last year elected Register of Deeds of Winnebago County.

Other old settlers and business men will be mentioned in connection with the business directory on subsequent pages.

SCHOOLS.

As has been stated, the first school taught within the present limits of the town of Neenah was in 1847.

In 1855 there were two schools within the town, attended by one hundred and fifty-one scholars (number of teachers not given). In 1875, the public schools of the city were organized under a special act of the Legislature, during the winter previous, and the “Free High School Act,” the first of which provided for the election of a superintendent, by the qualified voters of the city, who was also constituted president ex-officio of the Board of Education, which was composed of one commissioner from each ward, to be elected by the Common Council, In pursuance of this law, T. T. Moulton was elected superintendent, and the following persons commissioners:
Robert Shiells, Edward Smith, Jacob Bell and E. Giddings.

The first meeting of the board was held July 10th, 1875, at the Council Room, and L. J. Dunn was elected clerk.

September 1st, the schools were opened under this organization. At that time there were six school houses (two of brick); three of these were devoted to different grades in the High School department. The teachers were thirteen in number, of which H. A. Hobart was principal, and Miss F. E. Hobart, assistant. E. S. Starkweather, Jennie Jaquith, Carrie P. Emery, Anna Jones, Delia Darrow, Mattie Quinn, Marion L. Smith, Delia Meigs, Ella E. Hayward, Amy Warnes and Maria Bergstrom, as teachers in the various departments of the High and Ward schools.

The total number of children between the ages of four and twenty years, was 643 male, and 636 female; total, 1,279. Of these 660 attended the public school.

Since that time a new brick school house has been added to the number, in the Fourth Ward. Substantial additions have been made to others and the school grounds generally enlarged and improved.

The present officers of the Board of Education are as follows: J. B. Russell, superintendent, and William Krueger, W. P. Peckham, G. H. Albee and George Danielson, commissioners; Carl J. Kraby, clerk. The teachers are: H. A. Hobart, principal; Miss M. G. Van Olinda, assistant; Julia Bacon, Anna Jones, J. M. Montgomery, Maria Bergstrom, Delia Meigs, Jennie Wheeler, Mary McIntosh, Mary Ager, Miss Ager, Amy Warnes and Isa E. Brown.

There are at this time seven school houses—three in the High School department and one in each ward.

The number of school children, that is those between the ages of four and twenty, residing in the city, was, according to the Superintendent's report of 1878, 1,294.

These schools are graded under a system requiring ten years for a full course, but a very important feature is added to this system, termed a "mixed school," permitting the pupil to take up any study, or drop it at pleasure, thereby giving such as can only attend a portion of the year, an opportunity of educating themselves in such branches as may be deemed most suitable and desirable.

The High School Building, now in course of construction, will be completed in time for the ensuing spring term, and will then take the place of four of the present buildings. This is a fine brick structure, and will cost, with furnaces and equipments, $25,000. See view of same in this work.

The following description is from Superintendent Barnett's report:

"In largest dimensions it is one hundred feet square and contains eight class-rooms—five on the first floor, three on the second. Excepting the high-school room, they have a uniform height of fifteen feet. The former is fifteen feet high. On the first floor, on each side of the main corridor, in the front part of the building, is a class-room 27x33 feet in size, with two closets off each. Back of the cross corridor are three class-rooms, each 27x33. These corridors are respectfully 9 and 9 1/2 feet in width. On the second floor, just above the first named class-room, are two more of like dimensions. Back of these is the high-school room, 36x52 feet in size, having two recitation rooms, 15½x28. Near these and in opposite sides of the building, are the Superintendent's office and library, each 11½x15 feet in size.

"The arrangement of stairways at the ends of the cross corridor, with double-swinging doors to intercept sound along the halls, is the best possible, to reduce to a minimum the noise of children passing up and down. The architect has been equally thoughtful in more important things, admitting light only from the rear and one side of the class-rooms, thus guarding the eyes of the pupil from the injury of direct light and of multiplied and angular shadows, caused by crossing rays of light.

"The heating of the building is the most perfect possible, short of the most expensive system of steam heat. As the latter must cost us very nearly twice as much, and as it has no corresponding superiority, it had to be left out of consideration. Three large furnaces are made to supply a sufficient amount of warm (not hot) air, to maintain that in the several class rooms at a temperature of 70°, and to renew it every twenty minutes. The admission of hot air is made impossible by the construction of the furnaces, which, being of double thickness, never permit the outer surface to reach a red heat.

"The air warmed is pure, because admitted to the furnaces directly from out-of-doors. It flows to the several rooms through flues so large, that injurious currents within are obviated.

"The system of ventilation is, I believe, as perfect as the present state of sanitary science will admit of."

"The report of the Finance Committee, appended, shows that there was on hand at the beginning of the school year $5,032.05. There has been received from all sources, including $1,230 in outstanding orders, $19,301.92; giving a total of $24,534.57. Of this there has been expended for all purposes, including contract payments upon new school building, and for heating apparatus, $13,930.70, leaving a balance in the treasury of $10,394.87."

CHURCHES.

The first church organized in Neenah, was the Congregational, in 1847, with Rev. O. P. Clinton, pastor; followed by Revs. C. A. Adams, J. M. Wolcott, A. Lathrop, Hiram Marsh, J. E. Pond.

In 1848 a Presbyterian Society was organized by Rev. H. M. Robertson, succeeded by Revs. J. H. Russell, H. B. Thayer, A. A. Dinsmore, and J. C. Kelly, which brings the latter to 1870, and the Congregational to 1860, when
it was reorganized as the Second Presbyterian, with Rev. J. E. Pond, pastor; after him came Revs. H. G. McArthur, James Bassett, J. H. Walker.

In 1870, they were united under the name of First Presbyterian; Rev. J. E. Chapin became pastor, and still remains.


Trinity Episcopal, organized 1866, by Rev. Wm. D. Christian; services having been previously held by Rev. Simon Potter and Rev. Geo. Gibson.

In 1869, the present church building was commenced under Rev. E. Peake, next after him was Revs. Geo. N. James, J. A. Deavenport, H. M. Thompson, George Verner, J. W. Tays, and Geo. Gibson, officiating at the present time.

The organizations in 1878 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Organized</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Pastor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>1847</td>
<td>206 John E. Chapin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>1848</td>
<td>70 W. J. Aplin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>1869</td>
<td>67 Thomas T. Potter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal</td>
<td>1869</td>
<td>21 George Gibson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universalist</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>56[O. L. Lombard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Evangelical Lutheran</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>80 Otto Hogue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Association of North America</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>76 R. Kortener</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran</td>
<td>1871</td>
<td>70 O. C. Anderson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish</td>
<td>1872</td>
<td>18[UN. Thompson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Lutheran</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>45 J. Haas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran (Trinity)</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>39 J. C. Jacobson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welsh Calvacistic</td>
<td>1848</td>
<td>14 No resident Pastor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welsh Congregational</td>
<td>1861</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Baptist</td>
<td>1866</td>
<td>44[Un. Kordson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Day Adventists</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td>27 J. P. Jampson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwegian Methodist</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>30 [Henry Danielson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making a total of sixteen religious societies, of which fourteen have good houses of worship and resident pastors.

CIVIC SOCIETIES OF NEENAH.

Masonic — Island City Chapter No. 23, R. A. M. Kane Lodge, No. 61, F. & A. M.

Odd Fellows — Neenah Lodge, No. 41. Rebekah Lodge, Doty Island Encampment, No. 43.

Temperance — Crystal Lodge, No. 75, Good Templars; Neenah Temple of Honor; Neenah Division, Sons of Temperance, No. 154; Coral Workers, Juvenile Temple, No. 40.

Miscellaneous — Neenah Grange, No. 109, Scandinavian Library Association; Knights of Honor, Relief Lodge No. 383, Schuetzen Society.

NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper started on this side of the river was The Conservator, issued May 21, 1856, by Harrison Reed, editor and proprietor, and was thus continued until 1858, when it was sold to B. S. Heath, and removed to Menasha. Republican in politics, it was largely devoted to the interests of this section. Mr. Reed was also a pioneer editor of the Milwaukee Sentinel and a popular writer.

At the same time, May 21, 1856, W. H. Mitchell issued the first number of the Neenah Bulletin, which, however, was published but a short time, the place being then too small to sustain two papers.

This was succeeded by the Neenah Democrat in 1858, published by D. Hyer, editor and proprietor; ably conducted but very unfortunately located for that name.

The next was the Island City Times, the first number appearing October 22, 1863, conducted by J. N. Stone, in a very satisfactory manner, until July 15, 1870, when the press and materials were sold to Messrs. Tapley & Ritch, both editors of some experience. The name was changed to Winnebago County Press, and, in 1871, it was again sold to Menasha parties, and called The Menasha Press, and edited by Thomas Reid, until 1877.

In 1871 or '72, Verbeck Brothers commenced the publication of a small sheet, called the Neenah Times, which they enlarged and conducted until February 6, 1876, when the materials were purchased by Bowron & Maxwell, and a new name, The Tectotaller, adopted. This lasted about eighteen months.

Upon the removal of the Winnebago County Press to Menasha, in 1871, a new paper was started here by Charles H. Boynton, owner and editor, and called The Neenah Gazette. In April, 1874, G. A. Cunningham became associated with Mr. Boynton, as owner and editor, and in August, 1875, purchasing the interest of Boynton, became sole proprietor, and thus continued until May 25, 1878, when, on account of failing health, he was compelled to dispose of the paper and sold to H. L. Webster, the present editor.

Mr. Cunningham died within a few days (less than two weeks), after relinquishing his editorial labors.

After an interregnum of about five years, Mr. J. N. Stone, having conducted a paper at Appleton during that time, returned to Nee-
nahn, and October 15, 1875, issued the first number of a new paper, under the name of Neenah News, and, upon the sale of the Neenah Times, and change of name February 6, 1876, adopted the title Neenah City Times, under which it still continues to make its accustomed rounds, and with the Gazette is all that remains to this place of the forgoing list.

In the early part of the year 1879, Frank S. Verbeck removed his printing office from Winneconne to Neenah, and started the Neenah Herald, which he still publishes, making three newspapers in Neenah.

IMPROVEMENTS.

In the summer of 1878, the Neenah and Menasha Gas Company, J. D. Patton, Thomas and Henry Higgins, proprietors, commenced the construction of gas works, and on the twenty-fifth of December of that year the city was lighted. As this was the anniversary of the opening of the Schuetzen Hall, the events were celebrated by a grand illumination of the hall, and befitting festivities.

In 1879, another flouring mill was erected, being that of Wolf, Walker & Co., on the site of the Sherry saw mill.

Another improvement of the present year, is the enlargement of Patten's paper mill.

The mill-race is also being enlarged and deepened at a cost of about seven thousand dollars.

An event that will resound to the lasting credit of Neenah is the building of the fine High School building, now in course of construction—a structure which will rank with the finest common school edifices in the State. See view of same in this work.

Neenah is now making a substantial growth in business and population, while prosperity, business activity and progress is visible on every hand.

CHAPTER LIV.

[BY H. J. HARNEY.]

Description of Neenah—Scenery, Location and Historical Associations—Summer Resort—Water and Railroad Communications—Manufactory—Business Houses—Illustrations and Personal Notices.

ONE of the most charming localities in the West is the outlet of Lake Winnebago, which, in addition to its picturesque scenery, can claim the most interesting historic associations. with the very earliest events in the civilized occupancy of the continent. At this point, over two hundred years ago, was made the first treaty with the Indians of the West, and that, at so early a date, that the English settlers on the sea coast had not penetrated the interior beyond the ranges of the Alleghanies. Here Nicollet met the Winnebagoes and other tribes in council, in the year 1634—nearly a hundred and fifty years before the American Revolution. Through this outlet Marquette and Jollet paddled their canoe in their famous voyage in 1673, which resulted in the discovery of the Upper Mississippi; and here, on the banks of the Little Buttes des Morts, fought the decisive battle between the French and the Foxes and Sauks—one of the most sanguinary encounters in Indian warfare, and which resulted in the expulsion of those tribes from the Fox valley and the occupancy of this tract by the Menomines.

The head of the outlet is divided into two channels by Doty's Island, which is something over a square mile in extent. This Island and the shores of the mainland rise in a gentle elevation, and were originally covered with a luxuriant growth of native trees, including oak, maple, elm, linden and hickory. A large portion of these have been preserved and the leafy verdure of grand oaks and elms on the shores of the lake and river form a charming contrast with the sparkling waters of Lake Winnebago. The view of this outlet expanding into the broad open lake, with its handsomely wooded points, and the distant shores of Calumet is lovely beyond the power of description.

On the mainland and Island is situated the City of Neenah, with a population of about four thousand.

Its main business street presents a very handsome appearance, and is largely built up with fine substantial brick structures, as the view of the same in this work exhibits. Its larger mercantile establishments do a heavy business and carry large stocks of goods.

The residence streets are very handsome, and there are a large number of elegant residences, with tastefully laid-out grounds. One of the attractive features of the place is the original forest trees, embowering the houses and grounds in luxuriant foliage. Shade and ornamental trees have been largely planted to give additional adornment, and it is rare that a place can be found with so large a proportion of palatial residences and which give

*Note.—See Pages 10 and 11 of "Early History of the Northwest," in this work, for Nicollet's voyage to the Winnebago Country. Pages 32, 33, etc., for Discovery of the Mississippi. Page 48, for the Fox River Country, and Page 53, for the Battle of Little Buttes des Morts.
evidence of the wealth and taste of their occupants.

FACILITIES FOR A SUMMER RESORT.

River Side Park, a view of which will be found in this work, is one of the loveliest spots in the West, and affords a delightful retreat in the summer months. This locality is now one of the most popular summer resorts, and attracts many visitors from abroad. The lake affords the finest yachting facilities and good fishing. The air is salubrious and exhilarating, and the adjoining country, and especially the lake shore, furnish most delightful carriage drives.

John Robert's summer resort on the Island, the old home of Governor Doty, is famous as one of the most popular watering-places, and is well patronized.

The Russell House, a fine commodious structure, and one of the best kept hotels in the country, affords comfort and conveniences to satisfy the most fastidious guests. Views of both these places will be found in this work.

WATER AND RAILROAD COMMUNICATIONS.

The situation of the place on the line of water communication, so fully described in these pages, gives it steamboat communication with Lake Michigan to the East, and with the tributary waters of Lake Winnebago, in western and northern directions. Its railroad and shipping facilities are unexcelled, through the medium of the Chicago and Northwestern and Wisconsin Central.

MANUFACTURES.

The crowning glory of Neenah is its fine water power, with Lake Winnebago for an exhaustless reservoir and feeder. There are no freshets, the flow of water being gradual and regular, and its volume so large that no formation of ice ever interrupts the working of its machinery.

This city is now one of the chief manufacturing centers of the State; its river shore is one continuous line of mammoth manufactories, and its manufactures of flour and paper are industries of immense magnitude, as the following list of mills and statistics of manufactures will show.

FLOURING MILLS.

There are seven flouring mills. The names of the firms are as follows:

Krueger & Davis, Smith & Proctor, D. L. Kimberly, J. A. Kimberly & Co., Clement & Stevens, C. W. Howard, Wolf, Walker & Co. These seven mills manufacture an average per day, an aggregate of 1,425 barrels of flour.

Their actual yearly manufacture reaches the immense amount of 427,500 barrels, with an average value of six dollars per barrel—amounting to the sum of $2,565,000. At the present prices, the yearly product of the Neenah flouring mills would aggregate over three million of dollars.

These mills are chiefly large, substantial structures with all the modern improvements in flouring mill machinery, to which within the last two years, has been added the new patent machinery for the manufacture of patent flour. Patent flour now constitutes about eighty per cent. of their product.

In connection with the mills, are a number of large cooper shops, in which are employed about 150 hands, and with the product of the barrel factory, turning out about 1,500 barrels per day—in itself an industry of large proportions. About ninety hands are employed in the flouring mills, which with the number engaged in cooperage, make about 240 hands in connection with that industry.

PAPER MILLS.

Another branch of vast importance is the manufacture of paper. There are four large paper mills, viz: The Winnebago Paper Mills, (a stock company); A. W. Patten’s mill, the Globe Mill and the Neenah Mills. These employ some fifty hands each, making two hundred in all, and produce in the aggregate, twenty-two thousand pounds of print and book paper per day, amounting to 6,600,000 pounds per year, and aggregating a value of $495,000. The receipts of paper rags per day are over twenty tons.

FOUNDRIES.

There are two foundries, those of Wm. Aylward and Bergstrom Bros. & Co.’s Stove Works; the latter an extensive concern, employing about twenty moulders, and about fifty hands in all.

STAVE AND BARREL STOCK FACTORY

Of Theodore Brown, is another large establishment, turning out twenty thousand dressed staves per day, and employing forty-five hands. He also employs about twenty hands in making flour barrels.

PLANING MILLS, AND SASH AND DOOR FACTORIES.

E. F. Weickert, J. A. Sanford. The aggregate yearly value of the manufactures of these two factories, is about $20,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Among the miscellaneous branches of manufacture are the machine shop of John-
son & Jamison, omnibus factory of G. Olds, Adam Ergot's Brewery, two brick yards and the various mechanic shops.

MERCANTILE HOUSES OF NEENAH.

Banks — One bank of issue, the National bank of Neenah.

Dry Goods — The number of dry goods houses is eight. Some of these deal exclusively in dry goods and others in mixed merchandise, and several of them are spacious, well stocked establishments, doing a very large business.

Drugs — There are four drug stores and some of them are elegantly fitted up.

Hardware — Four hardware stores, large concerns, and well stocked.

Clothing — There are three clothing stores, some of them in connection with merchant tailoring.

Boots and Shoes — Two boot and shoe stores well stocked.

Groceries — There are fifteen grocery stores, several of them fine establishments with large stocks and doing a good business.

Jewelry — Two stores in this branch.

Musical Merchandise — One music store.

Stationery and Books — One stationery store.

Agricultural Implements — Two houses doing business in this line.

Furniture — Three furniture warerooms, carrying fine stocks.

Flour and Feed — Two stores.

Harness and Saddlery Hardware — Four in this line of business.

Wholesale Liquor Store — One establishment.

There are in addition to the above, the proportionate number of millinery, confectioneries, tobacconists, bakers, meat markets, etc.

For agents, professional men and names of all business and manufacturing firms, see classified business directory of Neenah in last pages.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

On another page will be found a view of the fine residence of Hon. A. H. F. Krueger. Mr. Krueger emigrated from Crivitz, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, to the State of New York in 1848, and resided there until the fall of 1850, when he moved to the town of Clayton, in this county, where he settled on a tract of new land, which he cleared and converted into a fine farm, and on which he resided eighteen years. In the fall of 1868, he moved to Neenah, and in partnership with Mr. Stridde erected the Island City Flouring Mill, and has since that time been engaged in the milling business. The product of his mill averages two hundred barrels of flour per day.

Mr. Krueger is regarded as one of the most prominent and public-spirited citizens of Neenah, and among the foremost in promoting public enterprises. He has served in several public capacities; first, as a school commissioner, which position he held for nine years; next, as one of the village trustees, then as alderman, under the city organization, during the years 1874 and 1875. In 1876, he was elected Mayor of the city, and again elected Mayor in 1878, and is now the nominee of his party for Member of Assembly.

He was chiefly instrumental in securing the erection of the Schuetzen Hall, which gives Neenah a fine and capacious hall for public entertainments. He was also one of the most zealous and persistent of those who advocated the construction of the New High School building, which is a credit to the city. Mr. Krueger is also noted for his generous benefactions to the poor and unfortunate, and for his readiness to aid all who merit assistance.

It is such men who leave enduring monuments of their existence, and who, when they have passed away from the scenes of their earthly labors, linger in the memory as a pleasant recollection.

Mention has already been made of the Russell House, which is illustrated in this work. Mr. J. B. Russell, the enterprising proprietor, came from St. Lawrence County, New York, his native place, to the town of Clayton, in this county, in the spring of 1851, where he settled on a new farm, which he improved and on which he lived till 1868, when he moved to the village of Neenah, where he has since resided.

In Neenah he first engaged in the mercantile business, which he followed for six years. At the end of that time he purchased the Dolsen House, a brick hotel on the present site of the Russell House, which he had taken down brick by brick, and in 1875, built the present elegant hotel, the Russell House. Mr. Russell is one of Neenah's most enterprising citizens, and a very popular landlord. He has frequently served in capacities of public trust, and is now City Superintendent of Schools, and the nominee of his party for Member of Assembly.

Among the illustrations in this work is that of John Roberts' Summer Resort. This delightful place has been mentioned in the general description of Neenah. It is the Governor Doty place, which Mr. Roberts purchased, and on which he erected, in 1877, the present fine hotel. It is now one of the most popular resorts in the country. The facilities for boat-
ing and fishing are unexcelled, and the delightful surroundings afford the greatest attraction for the summer tourist.

Mr. Roberts has represented his Ward in the County Board of Supervisors to the fullest satisfaction of his constituents, and is now serving his third term as alderman.

Among the early settlers of this county is Doctor I. H. Wright, now of the City of Neenah. Doctor Wright moved from Ohio to Oshkosh, in August, 1847. There was at the time no passable road from Fond du Lac to Oshkosh, and he came from the former to the latter place in a row-boat. Shortly after his arrival in Oshkosh, he commenced the practice of his profession, which he followed for over twenty-five years in that place, and then went on a tour through the southwest, passing about two years in traveling and sojourning in that section, and during which time he opened up a farm near Salina, Kansas. He traveled extensively in Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and other sections, but found no locality so attractive and desirable as a place of residence, as his much-loved Wisconsin, and he returned to his old home with an enlarged appreciation of its delightful and healthful climate, its picturesque scenery and material advantages.

His family having resided in Oshkosh during his travels, he remained in that place about a year after his return, and in 1875 removed to Neenah, where he has since resided, following the practice of his profession. There are few men more widely known in this county than Doctor Wright, who is highly esteemed by a host of friends who have known him for more than a quarter of a century.

TOWN OF NEENAH.

[Compiled for this work by Wm. Webster.]

CHAPTER LV.

Early History — Physical Description — Organization — Early Settlers — First Births, Marriages, Etc.

The Town of Neenah, organized February 11, 1847, by an act of the territorial legislature, embraced Township Twenty (20), Ranges Sixteen and Seventeen (16 and 17), and the north half of Township Nineteen (19), Ranges Sixteen and Seventeen (16 and 17). In 1849, it was reduced by the setting off and organization of the towns of Vinland and Clayton; and in 1855, the Town of Menasha was taken from her limits; so, that at the present time, the Town of Neenah comprises about seventeen sections and a half, of which eleven sections are in Township Twenty (20), north, Range Seventeen (17), east, and nearly six and a half sections in Township Nineteen (19), Range Seventeen (17).

It is bounded on the north by Menasha, east by Lake Winnebago, south by Vinland, and west by Clayton. Originally covered by a heavy growth of hardwood timber, along the eastern and southern portion, consisting of oak, hard maple, ironwood, hickory, elm, basswood, ash and butternut, with oak openings in the northwest.

It is now largely under a good state of cultivation, with a rich vegetable soil, overlying a deep subsoil of clay, producing fine crops of wheat, rye, oats, barley and hops; is well adapted to grazing and most kinds of fruit are successfully raised.

Watered by the lake and river on the north and east, a good supply of water is obtained at a depth of ten to twenty feet below the surface.

Limestone is readily obtained along the lake shore in the eastern portion of the town, and a good quality of clay for brick-making on the shore of Lake Buttes des Morts, which is being utilized to a considerable extent.

The surface, well elevated above the water courses, is sufficiently rolling to afford good and inexpensive drainage and a pleasing variety to the eye.

The land lying south of the south channel of Fox River was first obtained from the Menomonee Indians, by treaty at Cedar Rapids, September, 1836, ratified by Congress and proclaimed February 15, 1837, and surveyed by Gerret Vliet, under the direction of A. G. Ellis, Surveyor-General, in 1839. October 2, 1843, it was offered for sale at the United States Land Office, Green Bay (except the reservation at Winnebago Rapids), the offer remaining open until October 14, when it was withdrawn (such as was not sold).

The reservation comprised so much of the following sections as was lying west and south of Lake Buttes des Morts and the south channel, to-wit: sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 34 and 35.

The lands offered for sale October 2, 1843, as already mentioned, were again offered, subject to private entry, on the twelfth day of January, 1846.

In the meantime a portion of the reservation had been sold to Harrison Reed, which
sale was fully consummated in July, 1846, (see City of Neenah.)

This sale included all south of the lake in Sections 21 and 22, north half of Section 16, the north fraction of Section 26, and all of Section 27, except the south half of the northwest quarter, and the south half of the southeast quarter.

The remainder of the reservation was subject to private entry, on or after December 28, 1846.

As already stated the town was organized by the Legislature in 1847, and the first election was held at the mill house of L. H. Jones, April 6, 1847.

Cornelius Northrup was chosen chairman and Harrison Reed, secretary. After some preliminary business, the proceedings were certified to by Northrup, chairman, and D. M. Montgomery, town clerk.

The polls were then opened for the election of town officers, and sixty-five votes were cast, resulting in the election of James D. Doty, chairman; James Ladd and Salem T. Holbrook, supervisors; D. M. Montgomery, town clerk; Perine Yale, treasurer; Henry M. Filley, Cornelius Northrup and L. H. Jones, Assessors; L. B. Brian, collector; Milton Huxley, Erastus Seymour and John T. Sanborn, school commissioners, Lucius A. Donaldson, Samuel Mitchell and Alfred Hubbard, Justices of the Peace.

At a special election held at the house of James Ladd, in the Town of Neenah, September 18, 1847, the following town officers were elected, Cornelius Northrup, chairman, and H. C. Finch, supervisor.

Although no record seems to exist showing cause for this election, it is probable that James D. Doty and Salem T. Holbrook neglected to qualify; and Northrup and Finch were elected to fill the vacancies.

At a meeting of the supervisors September 30, 1847, it appearing that there is a vacancy in the office of town clerk, by the removal of Montgomery from the town, Herbert Reed was appointed to fill the vacancy.

At this meeting the town was divided into five school districts. The same number of road districts having been established at the organic election.

October 6, 1847, Herbert Reed resigned the office of town clerk.

November 29, 1847, Lucius A. Donaldson seems to have acted in the capacity of town clerk, and continued to do so, although no record is found to show by what authority.

The first white family making a permanent settlement within the present limits of the town was that of George H. Mansur, in June, 1844. (For a complete history of his advent see City of Neenah.)

Mr. Mansur’s family seems to have been the only population within the present limits, until 1846, when G. P. Vining, George Harlow (both without families), Ira Baird, Stephen Hartwell and Salem T. Holbrook, selected farms and moved on to them. From this time the growth of population wasrapid and very largely composed of young, industrious and energetic men from the Eastern States.

Many of these early settlers we have noticed in the early days of the city, and unable to ascertain the date of their settlement in the surrounding country, can only say, that, while numbers eventually moved out, others remained until they suddenly found themselves within the limits of a city.

In 1847, a building was erected for a store, on the south east quarter of Section 20, near the present residence of Mr. William Tipler; but after a year’s experience the enterprise was abandoned, and, in 1848, a school was opened in the same building — the first public school within the limits of the town, and was taught by Miss Caroline Boynton, that year.

Miss Boynton soon after became the wife of Deacon Samuel Mitchell, of whom mention is made in the sketch of the city, as a pioneer, in 1846.

The first birth in the town was that of Greenville K., son of George H. and Mary Mansur, August 3, 1845. The first female child born here was Helen, daughter of Asahel Jenkins, in June, 1848. The first death occurred in December, 1849, that of Mrs. H. Houghton.

The first post-office was established March 14, 1844, being long prior to any town or village organization. Harrison Reed was appointed postmaster, and Simon Quatermass, now residing in Vinland, was the first mail carrier.

Mr. Reed held the office until April 1, 1847, when he was succeeded by John F. Johnston, who, at the expiration of six months, resigned in favor of H. C. Janes, and he, in turn, gave place to H. C. Finch in 1848, when the office was removed to the store of J. R. and H. L. Kimberly, the latter and Earl P. Finch (now residing at Oshkosh, but at that time a clerk in the store), served as deputies. The next office, and the only one within the present limits of the town, was established at Snell’s, a station on the Northwestern Railroad, May 4, 1876, and called Snell’s Station. David Reed was appointed postmaster.
HISTORY OF CITY OF MENASHA.

Chapter LVI.


The soil upon which the City of Menasha now stands, was first offered for sale by the United States, August 31, 1835, and was bid off at prices ranging from five to ten dollars per acre, evincing an unusual confidence in the future importance of this locality.

The Hon. James Duane Doty, long acquainted with this section, became the owner of a large portion of the present site.

By an act approved February 8th, 1847, the Legislature granted authority for the construction of a dam across each channel of the Fox River from the Island to the mainland. This authority was obtained through the efforts of Gov. Doty, who had long foreseen the importance and value of this immense water power, associating with himself Harvey Jones and Harrison Reed, who had become owners of the property on the south side, and Curtis Reed who was particularly identified with Doty on the north side. Disagreements soon sprang up between the two interests, in consequence of which Doty and Reed, through Mr. Reed, procured a new charter, March 10, 1848, and the repeal of the old charter, so far as it related to the dam on the north side.

Commencement of Improvements.

In June 1848, Mr. Reed came here for the purpose of improving the water power, and locating a village thereon. He at once commenced the erection of a log house, near the head of the present canal, which when completed was occupied by Clark Knight as a tavern and boarding house. About this time the place was named by the wife of Governor Doty, “Menasha,” signifying “an island.” At this time that portion of the present town, lying north and east of the lake and river, was an unbroken wilderness, untouched by the hand of man, except that two months previously Mr. Cornelius Northrup had erected a slab house, by placing two vertical courses of slabs with their flat sides together, and was occupying it. This stood in the center of what is now known as Milwaukee street, at the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section fifteen, within Reed’s addition to the city of Menasha. The same year Mr. Reed put up a log building which he occupied as a store, and commenced the construction of the present dam.

Before the close of the year, Philo Hine, George Stickles, Thomas and William Brotherhood, Henry C. Tate, I. M. Naricon, William Geer, J. H. Trude, Uriah Clinton, Henry Alden, John B. Lajest and Jeremiah Hunt, had settled here. The latter, and some of the others had brought their families. Elbridge Smith also came in October, and immediately commenced the erection of the first frame building, situated on Canal Street, and which was so far completed at Christmas, that a dance was held within its walls.

First Frame Building—First School—First Religious Services—The Menasha House.

The first frame building was also the first devoted to the practice of the legal profession; in it was also, taught the first school within