they gladly accepted. Meantime, they made every effort to rehabilitate themselves from the vicissitudes of their long travel and to prepare for the approaching pilgrimage.⁵

PINE LAKE

While they were waiting for Lange to arrange to get away, the three men, Unonius, Groth, and Polman brought out and polished up their firearms. These consisted of twenty pieces or more of guns, pistols, and so on. They had brought these with them with the intention of selling them as occasion might offer. So they passed the time between helping the ladies and hunting ducks in what now comprises the city of Milwaukee. Ducks were plentiful and were easily shot, but they were hard to land, as the river bed which traversed the city was surrounded by morass and overflowed lowland. Their dog, Fille, brought from Sweden, was not trained in retrieving waterfowl. The mud banks were not solid enough for him to walk on, and the marsh grass prevented his swimming. It was practically impossible to paddle a canoe except in the middle of the channel, so comparatively few birds were procured for their dining table. Hunting trips within the confines of a city may seem to be something out

⁵ Unonius and his companions made a thorough study of the district, and he gives in his works an exhaustive description of the entire territory. He was a very scholarly man and possessed keen powers of observation. His systematic dissertations in detail on the geographical, historical, mineral, agricultural, and social conditions and future possibilities of the country are worthy of a textbook.

In his chapter on the 'Description of the Country' he elaborates on the territorial divisions of the country, its people, and how it was governed. He recites minutely how sections and subdivisions are determined and how obtained by the settlers, how the taxes are levied and the school system maintained, how the various sections are divided into prairie, timberland, or mixed, and the possibilities of remuneration from each. He gives a complete epitome on the Wisconsin flora and fauna, and his familiarity with the Latin name of each species, be it mammals, flowers, fish, or fowl, evinces the thoroughness in higher education and training in the land of Linneus, the father of botany. He concludes the chapter with an apology for his extensive remarks and offers as his excuse his overwhelming enthusiasm in the matter, and his hope that it may prove serviceable to others in the future.
of the ordinary, but the city limits of Milwaukee at that time, like the beginnings of many other American cities, were elastic and so far distant that the area included desert, forest, and marshland. The diary continues:

We were offered city lots on the river for from fifty to two hundred dollars, but to us they appeared to be nothing but half dried up mud holes. It aroused our pity and commiseration to see some of the new arrivals swindled into buying lots, some with small primitive houses on them, supported on poles in the river bed and connected with land by rickety board walks. But later observation showed that these new arrivals had greater vision for the future than did we, for on my last visit the value of these lots had risen beyond all comparison with the original prices. Besides the greater and better part of the city was on high land with a magnificent view over the river and the bay.

Mr. Lange now informed the men that he was ready to guide them on the expedition of discovery, and on the early morning of October 7 they started out on foot, well supplied with food, guns and ammunitions, and also with the letter of introduction from the land office to Mr. Pearmain of Delafield. Although rather late in the fall, the weather was mild and summery.

The first ten miles took them through dense forest, and the riot of colors on the trees that autumn day attracted their particular attention. It was a new sight to them. Unonius writes of the effect of these variegated colors upon himself and his companions as follows:

But my eyes followed less the road than the trees, for the autumn forest in America is something extraordinarily beautiful with all the colors of the rainbow reflected in the dead and not yet fallen leaves. With a constantly changing panorama, enhanced by the variations in color schemes, the views that met our eyes were an ever increasing source of admiration and delight.

They emerged from the woods proper and entered the more thinly-wooded oak openings with an occasional tree-
covered hillock. Up to this time they had rambled alone over the Indian path, but now they came up to a single small house, the first log cabin they had seen. It seemed to have been newly built and served as a home as well as a tavern. Here they asked if they could have something to eat. The woman of the house replied that they could if they would wait until she had baked some bread. This struck them as something too long to wait for, but Lange assured them that it would not take so very long. She got busy making some soda biscuits, and in a short while they sat down to a really good meal. Their long tramp had given them a lively appetite.\footnote{He describes in detail how this dinner was prepared over an open fire and dwells particularly on the soda biscuits, as they were new to them.}

This tavern was undoubtedly the beginning of the later so much frequented Half Way house, which in the days of excursions with buggy and tallyho served as a resting place at a point halfway between Milwaukee and Waukesha.\footnote{It is located today in its modern form at the junction of the Elm Grove road and state highway 19.}

They had still some twenty miles to travel, as they planned to be at Pearmain's place by nightfall. This they would hardly have been able to accomplish had they not had the good fortune to secure a ride with a wayfaring settler who overtook them on the road and consented to convey them to their destination, which they reached in the late afternoon.

Unonia comments on the miserable road between Milwaukee and Delafield\footnote{The stretch of territorial road just mentioned is now state highway 30 between Guerke's Corners and Delafield.} that it was not a road at all to his way of thinking. He was astonished that the strong sturdy wagon could endure so much punishment all along the way between stumps and stones. He says he was not in the seat more
than half of the time and speaks of his own limbs—how robust they must have been—taking all the bumps and jolts. He makes note of the fact that for even this kind of a ride the driver charged them a rather stiff price and adds: 'For nothing is done, and nothing is gotten here, except it is paid for.'

They found upon their arrival that Pearmain's home was another log house, not altogether finished and not too comfortable either. Supper was served in much the same way as was the dinner. The fare was good and substantial. After dark they walked over to Pearmain's farm, also located a little distance up the road and entered his home, which was also used as a tavern. Their quarters for the night consisted of two poorly equipped beds up in the dark, windowless attic of the cabin, reached by a rickety ladder and a trap door in the ceiling. They crawled, carefully feeling their way in the dark under the roof, to their beds. Carl had to share his bed with a carpenter, who was boarding there while putting up a store building. This new building project and the grist and saw mills, which were also in the making near a small river, were looked upon as the humble beginnings of a great and flourishing city. Pearmain, the carpenter, and the future miller considered it a matter which could by no means be disputed that Delafield, because of its favorable location and the water power there available, soon would develop into another Rochester, New York. Of this, the first log cabin in which he had spent a night, Unonius says:

The rough uneven logs, the small, low windows, the leaking roof, the floor with open cracks between the planks, with a similar floor for the dark musty loft, were not especially inviting, and yet just such a house would soon be mine, and in such a cabin would I shortly offer my young wife the long hoped for peace and happiness.
The following day—it was October 8—Pearmain took them around in the vicinity where several unclaimed parcels of land were viewed. He had taken a horse along, so they changed about horseback riding. They walked through the woods and the openings, which latter were more pleasing to the eye than suitable for cultivation. The prairie again was even less tempting in the absence of firewood for winter, except at a great distance, and thus they deliberated and hoped to find a location on some lake where a happy medium might be struck that would solve their problem satisfactorily. Such a place they thought at one time they had found and hesitated to go in further search, but Pearmain smiled meaningly and promised a still more attractive piece of land, both in beauty and fertility, not a long distance away.

As they were thus walking about in the woods, following the Indian trails, they suddenly heard some unusual noise, and turning to look, they saw five or six deer roused from their resting places. The men carried their Swedish firearms but they were so surprised that they simply forgot to exercise their hunting prowess. Pearmain and Lange shouted, 'Shoot, shoot,' but before they could get themselves to cock the hammers on their guns, the light-footed animals with high jumps were out of reach and soon there was nothing to be seen of them except their branching antlers above the grass and brush. 'If a Yankee had had that gun now, we would have had venison for supper,' said Pearmain, and Unonius answered that he had no doubt but that he was right. However, he did not regret that he had not fired although he and the rest hoped that they would have another opportunity later to demonstrate that Swedish hunters also know how to bring home the wild game from the woods and prove their skill to their new made friends.

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10 This Indian trail, upon which they rambled along, is now county trunk C, leading straight north out of Delafield.
On their trip they had passed several lakes, probably either Nagawicka, the Nemahbins, or the Nashotahs, or possibly all of them, and arrived at last at Pine lake. Of this Unonius writes:

At last we came to the shores of one of the most beautiful of the many lakes we had seen on our trip. It was called Pine lake, in the Indian language Chenequa, for the reason that the pine, which as a rule does not grow in this part of Wisconsin, was found growing there in company with the red cedar in one or two places on the shore. The greater number of these trees had, however, been cut down, most likely by the Indians, who use the easily worked logs for making canoes. On a small peninsula we found one of these boats left unfinished and partly burned.

This tract of land seemed one of the most desirable one could wish for, and the lake, two miles long, with its bays and peninsulas simply captivated them, and their minds were then and there fully made up to here stake their claims. Unonius in this connection gives a complete description of the land, its topography, presumed fertility of the soil, and the various species of trees that decorated its shores. There was no need of going farther. He remarks:

We would by no means have any one of the thousands who roamed back and forth through the country looking for land get in our way and claim this parcel before us. Therefore we decided to return to Milwaukee immediately and file at the land office under the preemption act our intention to settle on each one quarter section.

Pearmain informed them that this particular parcel of land could not be obtained in that way, at least not at present. A corporation had been organized some years previously with the object of constructing a navigable canal from Milwaukee to the Mississippi river by way of Rock river. To this corporation congress had granted under certain conditions all odd sections along the proposed canal, and the piece of land they wished to claim and occupy was part of such a section. A certain time was set for the canal to be
finished, and two or three years still remained in this time limit. But the work was practically never started, and it was generally known that it never would be finished. So in a few years the land would revert to the government, and could then be obtained in the regular way. Until such time the land could not be procured at the land office, and as far as the corporation was concerned, no one cared to pay out money to them for land that would soon be taken over again by Uncle Sam. Because of this situation they would not need to pay anything down on the land for some two or three years at least. This was welcome news to the land seekers, but what about settling on such land? Was there any safe way of doing it so that someone else could not get ahead of them and buy it with the improvements meanwhile made on it? Pearmain explained that this matter need not cause them any worry. In a case like this they would be protected by the so-called 'club law,' that is the understanding existing between settlers in a new place to protect each other's rights against intruders. This club law was effective to all intents and purposes. The result of all this was that they then and there resolved to select for their homestead the west one-half of section 33, town 8 north, range 18 east, town of Merton, Waukesha county, Wisconsin. The only formalities necessary were simply to cut a large letter C, which meant 'claimed,' in the bark of some tree or trees, informing other landseekers of the fact, and to later notify the nearest settlers. Pearmain had brought along an axe, so the first formality was soon over. They were much pleased with their selection—and a beautiful place it was—for their future home. A suitable location for the house was selected near the shore with a good view to the west across the lake. The diarist says:

So far, so good, and we were indeed happy in the thought that we were not obliged to pay for the land at present, particularly as the com-
bined cash assets of Carl and myself had now melted down to about $400. This sum would have to suffice to buy land, build a house, purchase a pair of oxen, a cow, and some pigs, besides provide for the ordinary necessities for housekeeping. In addition we would need a supply of food, at least for the approaching winter. How this small sum could be sufficient for the five of us, we failed to see. In spite of that we were now in good humor, but I must confess that in the romantic dream of 'love in a cottage' stern reality sometimes interferes with rather discouraging intermezzos.

My only worry was that we had no road leading up to our future home, and knowing all the labors spent on roads in Sweden, I thought this would cause us many difficulties. 'Cut down some trees and drag a couple of logs a few times between the nearest road and the home site, that's all that is needed, and, moreover, a road will appear as soon as you begin to do some driving back and forth,' Lange gave as his advice. And so even this difficulty was removed.

We now made arrangements with Pearmain to have Lotten and Christine come out and live at his home, while Carl, Wilhelm, and myself worked on the erection of the log cabin.

In the next place it was necessary for us to buy a yoke of oxen. These animals we could not do without on account of our immediate work of hauling logs, etc. It was just as well that we get them at once and also a wagon, so that we could get our things from the city with our own outfit without extra cost.

When it became known in the neighborhood that these new people wished to buy oxen, several of the settlers offered theirs for sale. Anything that would bring real money was for sale. A yoke of oxen somewhat old and tired were chosen. The newcomers reasoned that inasmuch as they had had no experience in managing and driving of oxen, it would be well to have a pair that would show some ox sense from previous training. At $60 they acquired two by the name of Spak and Wallis, and they were spoken of by Unonius as well mannered oxen.\footnote{He gives here also an interesting description of the way oxen are harnessed, or rather yoked, and the manner of driving them, all of which was new to him, but of no great edification to the reader.} Unonius becomes humorous when he says:

Upon our way back to Milwaukee, Lange gave us expert lessons in ox driving, in which noble vocation I pride myself in having since attained
a high degree of excellence. I wished many a time that my old brethren and boon companions of student days at Old Upsala could have seen and heard me proudly dominating the oxcart and with declamatory expertness and with great effective pathos expostulating my 'Dji,' 'Ha,' and 'Go along,' a language well-understood by the beasts, and finally with the knotted whip in a fantastic gesture swinging and producing a really scenic climax—and all this only wasted on a lonely road in the wilderness and without an appreciative audience.

During the long and many trips that I had to make, especially in the beginning, I had occasion to go into many philosophical meditations by which I arrived at the important conclusion that as an antidote for impatience and restlessness there is scarcely anything better than a few hours daily driving of oxen. If my former excitable and fiery disposition has been somewhat toned down later, I am indebted largely to Spak and Wallis for this change.