The original log church, completed in 1848, stood in the center of the present cemetery of "Holy Innocents" and there still remains an old cedar, which was then, as it is now, gracing its yard.

The Scandinavian Parish at Pine Lake was, however, later divided, and the congregation disbanded. Some members formed the St. John's Parish at Stone Bank, retaining the records of the early mother church.

Other members, retaining the material possessions of the mother church, namely, the log church and the cemetery, organized into the "Holy Innocents'" Congregation and built a house of worship in the Village of Nashotah.

St. John's Church is English Lutheran.
Holy Innocent's Church is Episcopalian.

The original log church was moved, about 1864, by John Ellefson, to be used as a dwelling, to one half mile east of Nashotah village. The records do not show how he obtained possession. Later Steve Sommers became the owner and lived in it for many years. Now, 1934, it is owned by Christian Endregard of Madison, and occupied as a dwelling. It is to be noted, that in the division of the original church there was no distinction made between the three Scandinavian peoples, but the families joined whichever of the new-founded congregations, that they thought suitable.

St. Olaf's Church at Ashipun had no special relation to the St. John's at Stone Bank except that the two congregations have in the past been served by the same pastor.

LATER DEVELOPMENTS

The Wisconsin Magazine of History in its brochure on "The Swedish Settlement on Pine Lake" gives a sketch of some very interesting events, which took place later at New Upsala, and which brings, so to speak, the historical thread
down to the present time. It evinces faithful research in local lore and part of it is by permission quoted here in order to complete into a uniform whole the task we have endeavored to accomplish.

Twelve families came over originally, including two noblemen of the realm and one baron. These people had held political positions in Sweden, but the death of the old king and the ascension of a new ruler with the consequent change in administration policies had caused them to lose their offices. All were anxious to better their conditions in some way, and so came to America, which they regarded as a land of beauty and golden prospects.¹

One of the first members of the colony to come over was Knut Bengt Petterson, a regimental paymaster in the Swedish army, who arrived as early as 1842, and took up a half-section of land on the east shore of Pine Lake, building his log cabin a little to the west, of where James A. Kirk of Chicago later erected his mansion. Petterson’s family, consisting of his wife and eight children, joined him several years later. The Petterson home became a veritable social center in this colony. The latch-string hung outside, and as the settlement grew, there was always company.

Captain Pollycarpus von Schneidau settled in 1842 on the southeast shore of Pine Lake, where Mark Gibson now resides, and Gustaf Unonius, in 1841, on the place just to the north of them, afterward the old Chapman farm, now the country seat of the Mayer brothers of Milwaukee. Farther northward, beyond the Petterson estate, were J. O.

¹ A legend prevails that the colonists planned to found a University at New Uppsala. Nowhere in his Memoirs does Unonius mention a word of any intention of himself or his associates of founding a university. It is undoubtedly a misconception based very likely on the name chosen for the colony, a compliment to their home city of Uppsala and not to the University located there. Besides, the colony possessed neither finances nor personnel which would admit of such intentions.
Rudberg's holdings, which remain in the family to the present day. Mr. Rudberg, who came over in 1843, was a surveyor, having been educated in the colleges of his native land in engineering and forestry, and was perhaps the most practical member of the settlement at Pine Lake. He surveyed a large piece of land in this vicinity and as far north as Lake Superior, later holding the position of county surveyor for two terms. Baron Thott, a nobleman, of whom little seems to be remembered, became a cook for Mr. Rudberg in order to get bread, accompanying him on his journeys into the wilds. The baron did not remain here very long, however, and no one seems to know what became of him.

George Bergwall, who was a revenue collector at the port of Gothenburg, Sweden, settled in 1842 one mile south of the village of North Lake, and Charles Balkman, a sailor, who had tired of the sea and wanderlust, settled just opposite Bergwall, on the east short of North Lake. Vohlene, another member, lived on the shore of Beaver Lake on the farm afterward owned by Hiram Simonds. On the West side of Pine Lake were located the Nordberg and Bergus families. Others in the colony were John Johnson, Ernest Eckedahl, a harness maker, who did not stay very long, George Gleerup, and a man by the name of Blanxius. Bergus, Gleerup, Blanxius and Bergwall married daughters of the Petterson household.

Among the characters peculiar to this settlement was the hermit Peter Bokman, a dissenting Lutheran preacher and a religious recluse, who lived in a cellar or cave roofed over with logs, on what was then a part of the Rudberg estate, now the Patrick Cudahy summer home. Bokman died there and was buried nearby. When the late Dr. Leuthstrom became the owner of the property, he rebuilt a little log cabin
to mark the spot, where the aged hermit dwelt, but this has in late years been removed.

Lieutenant St. Sure, also a nobleman, lived over the hill, beyond the village, on the farm now known as the Christensen farm. The log house, which St. Sure built for his family, was one of the largest and finest of its day. It burned down only a few years ago, having been boarded over and used as a dwelling until that time.

The St. Sure family, who had been accustomed to much luxury in their native land, lived in most distressing circumstances for a time. St. Sure tried to break up a stony piece of land but failed completely, and in the early fifties sold the place and moved to Chicago. A story, which illustrates the sad contrast in their lives in this new land, is told about Mrs. St. Sure. Attired in a green velvet riding suit, sole relic of her former grandeur, she sallied forth one balmy spring day to visit her neighbor Mrs. Petterson. As she went up the pathway to the house, a great black pig followed her. Her hostess, standing in the doorway, remarked, "You have company." Turning, Mrs. St. Sure saw the ugly animal and burst into tears, saying, "And have I come to this!" Silken gowns and bare feet were not conducive to conjugal felicity either, and it is related, that husband and wife were separated after leaving here, St. Sure pursuing the study of medicine, for which his fine education had well fitted him. After many years, it is said, he was called to minister to a dying woman. It was his former wife, and it is a pathetic ending to the romance of their lives, that a reconciliation was affected upon her deathbed.

The most romantic interest, however, lingers about Captain von Schneidau, his wife and family. Captain von Schneidau belonged to the staff of Prince Oscar of Sweden, and was his best friend and daily companion, until he became
enamored of a great beauty. Fröken Jacobson, a Swedish Jewess. As it was an infringement upon the matrimonial codes of Sweden for Jew and Gentile to marry, they journeyed across to Denmark, where they were united, and then came to this country, joining the colony at Pine Lake. Thus they began life under the most trying circumstances and innumerable drawbacks, and they endured severe hardship. They conducted a very meager business here in the way of a grog shop and grocery, and a story is related of how the beautiful Fru Schneidau would tap her whisky keg until it was about empty and then fill in with Pine Lake water, keeping on until there was not much whisky left. But it is also related that none were the wiser for taking in the little lady’s wit and beauty at the same time. An infant son, born to them at Pine Lake, died from exposure to frost and cold. It was while they were suffering the greatest hardship, that they were visited by Mayor Ogden of Chicago, who induced Captain von Schneidau to go to the city, and afterwards adopted the daughter, Pauline. Von Schneidau conducted the first daguerreotype studio in Chicago. It was located on Lake Street. Their fortunes changed after their removal to Chicago, and they lived very comfortably. Their home was frequented by many of the best people of the city, and among the celebrities, whom they entertained was Ole Bull, the violinist. Von Schneidau’s reputation as a daguerreotypist spread beyond the limits of Chicago, and he even went to New York to make a likeness of the already famous Jenny Lind.2

2 In a recent correspondence with Captain Sune Tamm of Stockholm, Sweden, son of Mrs. Maria Unonius Tamm and grandson of Rev. Unonius, he gives the very interesting information that a large and valuable collection of articles used in the log cabin at New Vasa is preserved in the Museum of “Riksförenningen för Svenskhetens Bevarande i Utlanet” at Gothenburg, Sweden. The very “treasure-chest,” which was brought over from Sweden and was used by Unonius not only as dining-table but also as sofa and storage chest, is now in Captain Tamm’s home, and highly treasured because of its antiquity and of the sentiment attached thereto. He also mentions that at this writing 1896, two of the children of Rev. Unonius are still alive viz. Miss Ada Unonius and Mrs. Fanny Bertini born 1859 and 1861 respectively.