

PIONEER MOTHERS—1854 TO 1860

Superior

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It is difficult to single out any particular pioneer mother, or group of mothers, that came to Superior as early as, from 1854 to 1860.

After these dates, conditions were fairly comfortable, depending on the adaptability, keenness and industry of the individual. These mothers all left comfortable homes and surroundings to face the discomforts of real pioneering, coming from Maine, Vermont, New York, Ohio, Illinois and other eastern states, but largely from Kentucky. The majority of the original promoters and proprietors of Superior were Kentuckians who early recognized the possibilities of a city at the head of lake navigation.

Too much cannot be said of these early Pioneer Mothers. It meant the utmost self sacrifice, from any view point. Many of them, however, reared large and sturdy families—a credit to any community.

Superior's climate was healthy, churches and schools were established immediately, and self reliance and industry was developed automatically. The very first Pioneer Mother and a martyr to pioneering, was Mrs. Ed. Rogers from Michigan, who gave her life in the birth of a daughter, in April, 1854. Her body and that of the babe who later died, is buried on Wisconsin Point, Superior.

Mrs. James M. Bennett, a native of Ohio and the wife of a prominent storekeeper, was Superior's earliest "Fairy Godmother." She was prompt in extending aid to, and visiting the poor and sick. Her noble deeds have been spoken of by every early settler.

In the line of education Mrs. John M. Newton, Mrs. Washington Ashton and Mrs. A. C. Brown and Mrs. William Mann were among the earliest teachers.

In a religious way, it is difficult to single out any particular leaders, because of the different creeds and walks of life. The Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Methodists, perhaps covered the field in order named, but the best of feeling and co-operation prevailed. Reviewing Superior's population, while of all classes and beliefs, they were a God-fearing, law abiding and tolerant people, owing largely to the broadminded Pioneer Mother.

Owing to space we can mention only a few Mothers of this earliest period: Mrs. Bennett, Shaw, Barnett, Higgins, Merritt, Coborn, Schutte, Gates, Edwards, Anderson, Clark, Bardon, Bradshaw, Ashton, Roy, Garrity, Lenroot, Bischoff, Wheelock, Peyton, Dopp, Brown, Calverly, Le Fave, Cadotte, Morrison, Neill, Morisset, Smith, Pugh, Bertrand, St. John, Newton, Soderlund, and Palmer. There are many others and equally worthy.

In conclusion, we are unable to honor enough, the Pioneer Mothers. Mine was conscientiously religious; one who believed strictly in obeying the laws of the land, one who observed the Holy Days and National Holidays; was firm yet most loving—tolerant and fair minded. Urged industry with a sprinkling of diversion, was cheerful and hopeful, even perhaps under adverse circumstances, and always saw that kid-chums had a generous snack of anything on hand. I am certain all the other mothers were equally regarded.

God Bless the memory of our Pioneer Mothers.



