CHAPTER III.

PIONEERS AND CELEBRITIES.

The pioneers of our city were not the first settlers in the territory, now known as Wisconsin, and therefore we shall look outside our own borders to construct a sketch of the early days, which will connect the house of Eben Peck and his wife Rosaline, with the remote past, as well as with the present. The chief whose name is spelt by different writers in so many differing ways, De Kaury, Day-Kau-Ray, Decorrah, Decorri, and otherwise, in every manner that will give even an approximation to the original sound, is said to have been the son of a French voyageur, or trapper, who had made his home among the Indians, giving rise to a succession of able men, who were influential in the affairs of the tribes. One of that family, a Winnebago, surrendered Black Hawk to Gen. Street, the Indian Agent, at Prairie du Chien, after the close of the Black Hawk war in 1832. The Frenchman Pellkie—whose name is undoubtedly a corruption from the original, who assisted to build the first log house for Eben Peck—was officered by another resident among the Indians, named Wood, afterwards a mill owner, who had married into the family of a De Kaury. Some exquisite stories could
be written of the Four Lake country, connecting Indians with white men, in the days before the city of Madison was even imagined. One of the De Kaurys exercised the powers of a chief in this immediate locality. Gray-headed Day-Kau-Ray or De Kaury, with a considerable force, met Gen. Atkinson at Portage, while Gen. Dodge was in the field during the troubles preliminary to the war, which was ended at the Bad Ax. They were various in their characteristics, as well as numerous and widely diffused, these Franco-Indian warriors and sachems. One-eyed De Kaury of La Crosse bore a good reputation, but another of the family was suggestively described as Rascal De Kaury. Mrs. Kinzie says that the mother of the race, a Winnebago, was alive in 1831, and supposed to be more than a century old. There were four or five brothers, of whom the Winnebago chief was one, and Washington—or Wau-kon—De Kaury another. One sister married a French trader named Lecuyer, another was twice married to Canadian French traders, named De Riviere and Grignon, and three married Indians. But enough about the De Kaurys. They were pioneers in this territory, busily engaged in the war of 1812 on the side of the British, and the advent of white settlers was the prelude to their removal by death or transfer. Descendants from the Lecuyer marriage were united in wedlock with white settlers at Green Bay, and elsewhere, and prospered according to the customs of civilized life.

Eben Peck and his wife came to the Blue Mounds,
where they rented the tavern stand owned by Col. Brigham, and boarded the old colonel and the hands employed by him. While so engaged, Mrs. Peck entertained Judge and Mrs. Doty on one occasion, and the conversation turning upon Madison, where the location of the capital was yet recent, the judge and his good lady made a promise, which was afterwards forgotten, apparently, that if Mrs. Peck was the first to commence housekeeping on the village site, she should have the best lot in the township, and also a present. Mrs. Peck was the first housekeeper; but it is probable that she did not care to recall the promise, which in the hurry of affairs, at that time, might easily have been forgotten by Judge Doty. Boarding houses must have been expensive and troublesome institutions to run, in the early days, as we find that flour fetched $17 a barrel in Milwaukee in 1838, irrespective of the cost of freight, in the days when travelers made their own routes, and carried axes along to cut down the timber that blocked their course. Pork cost as high as $33 per barrel, and potatoes $3 per bushel; add thereto the cost of transfer, and the profits incidental to boarders must have been whittled down considerably. Some courage was wanted then to open an establishment, such as the Peck family meant to run, when Indian villages were the only habitations near, and deserted wigwams along the borders of the lakes and streams told of the red men who had flourished and faded in this locality. Until now the cabin of Michel St. Cyr had served all the purposes of a
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1837.
hostelry, and the old man had not grown rich by entertaining his few and scattering guests.

There was certain to be a much greater demand for hotel accommodation, because the capitol had to be soon erected, and visitors were sure to become more numerous as the works advanced, but the workmen, as the event proved, would build their own lodgings before long, and make arrangements among themselves about cooking provisions. Travelers who came to see the country, to visit the mines, or to see the spots made famous by engagements during the Black Hawk war of five years before, seldom failed to visit Madison, which had charms of its own sufficient to justify a detour. Before long there were numerous hotels doing a prosperous business on the ground which had at first been exclusively possessed by Eben Peck's log house; and hundreds occupied their leisure in exploring the sparkling lakes, skirted with every kind of scenic beauty. Groves and meadows, suggestive of love in a cottage, capes, bluffs, ravines and prairies, the peninsula itself with its elevation seventy feet above the lakes, on which the capitol stands, now in the center of a lovely park, the undulating lines descending thence to rise again in numerous ridges, and most beautiful of all, in the grounds now occupied by the university, offered variety enough to gratify the most persistent searcher after loveliness. Mrs. Peck became the owner of a canoe which had been the property of an Indian chief, and Cleopatra never enjoyed her famous voyages, celebrated by the poets,
more than did the few who were privileged to glide over the lakes of crystal in that vessel. Only to see that boat freighted with pleasure seekers was a delight equal to all that is realized by the average looker on in contemplating a regatta. The joy of the rowers, and the charms of the scene could not be surpassed. A picture painted by C. A. Johnson, a fine and truthful representation of the first residence in Madison, with the canoe in the distance, is one of the most valued properties of the Historical Society, and an engraving of that scene accompanies this sketch. The primitive looking dwelling was at one time quite a luxurious abode, on Butler street, near the Lake House, lately destroyed by fire, not far from the Third Lake.

The picture is a perfect reproduction of the reality, in almost every detail.

Professor Chapman has recorded one fact which should long since have been tested by experience, in the natural desire of the early settlers to vary the supplies on their table. He states on the authority of Mr. Rasdall that the Indians used a root which grew in the marshes, as a substitute for potatoes, called by the red men no-ah-how-in. It was bulbous, but did not resemble arrow root. Mr. Rasdall said that having been cast ashore, without provisions, from Mendota Lake, in 1835, while arranging a trading establishment near the First Lake, he had subsisted on the root in question for ten days. The early settlers were not very speculative, as it appears that water for daily consumption was brought from the lakes until 1839,
when the first well upon the plat was excavated on the American House lot the labor being performed by two soldiers, James Nevil and an Italian named Whildean. Mr. Darwin Clark, our fellow citizen, gives a vivid idea of the state of society in the summer of 1837, and while glancing thereat, we can understand that a fully employed population, engaged upon a task which must be finished in a hurry, and surrounded by hot blooded Indians, had little opportunity for making permanent improvements, which others would probably enjoy. That summer a party of Winnebagoes camped on the shore of the Third Lake, on the flat just below the old Lake House. During the continuance of the encampment, a quarrel occurred between two young Indians, one of whom stabbed the other, and from different sources we learn that the murderer sat on the body of his victim with perfect unconcern, smoking his pipe, as though modestly disclaiming special merit in a very creditable transaction. The white workmen, who were unaccustomed to look upon murder with satisfaction, were much incensed, and by way of warning that the knives of the red men must not be too freely brought in as umpires, they carried their rifles and shot guns to and from their work. The Winnebagoes took the hint in a proper spirit, and soon after left for parts unknown. The Indian stabbed as above described, was the brother-in-law of Pellkie’s partner, another French Canadian, and, as stated elsewhere, Pellkie was himself shot on a subsequent occasion. There were consequently other
matters deserving attention besides digging wells, and seeking roots as substitutes for the potato. The vigorous action of the volunteers, who provided their own rifles and ammunition, may have prevented worse trouble. Public opinion, speaking through the rifle barrel, was a power which the red skins did not wish to provoke.

About two weeks after the arrival of Mrs. Peck in Madison, a party of fifteen men came on from Milwaukee via Janesville, and the work of the hostess began in earnest. Commissioner Bird was one of the arrivals, and he was accompanied by hired hands whose work had consisted in blazing and preparing a road by which other workmen and supplies would follow. It was important that proper tracks should be defined where so much traffic must shortly occur and the acting commissioner was provident. The American Hotel, already mentioned, was built in 1838, and circumstances gave that establishment an advantage over all competitors, for a time. It continued to be a place of considerable note, until it was destroyed by fire in 1868. The Madison Hotel also dated from 1838, but the structure was at first quite small. The territorial supreme court was organized in this building, in June, 1838, and held its first session here when the legislature assembled in the American Hotel. Gov. Dodge and many of the leading members of both houses made the Madison Hotel their headquarters. The structure belonged to Commissioner Bird, and was at first kept by his brother. The long continued efforts
of the other side to remove the seat of government from Madison found in this building an unceasing watchfulness which could not be evaded. There were numerous hosts, after the hotel passed out of the hands of the Bird family, and the name was changed several times, but it was known by the old name at the last, in March, 1863. It was situated on King street on the present site of Dean's block. The establishment kept by Mr. and Mrs. Peck, has already been mentioned.

The new comers, whose names and influence have been beneficially associated with Madison since that date, would defy enumeration, but there are some who cannot be omitted, from a record, however brief, which aims at any measure of completeness. The scene enacted in plastering the kitchen of the Peck boarding house, in which Judge Doty, Col. Brigham, and all the available masculinity of Madison, took part, is historical. The pioneers of Wisconsin were well represented and well occupied on that occasion. One of the earliest visitors from abroad, was an English geologist named Featherstonehaugh, afterwards a British consul until his death in 1866, and he provoked the ire of his hostess at a later date, by some ill-mannered jokes and very unnecessary criticisms, about Mrs. Peck and the accommodations obtained in her pioneer restaurant, which were published by him in London. There is unexceptional testimony, from a witness no less reliable than Gen. Mills, that Mrs. Rosaline Peck made excellent coffee, a point expressly denied by the earliest writer whose lucu-
brations concerning Madison, were published in Europe. The somewhat vulgar and untrustworthy book served its purpose in procuring him a government appointment under the British crown, so that Madison helped at least one man to fortune.

Before the days of Featherstonehaugh, there had been celebrities in Wisconsin, and not a few of them had stood where the capitol has since been erected. Capt. Jonathan Carver may have been a visitor to this precise locality, certainly he was for some time in the lake country. Gen. Dodge, who came occasionally to the capital, in discharging his official duties as governor, was in that way a Madisonian, and it is no small matter that we should be identified with the man whose conduct of the war did most toward effecting the defeat of Black Hawk in 1832. Col. Zachary Taylor was for some time in command of the troops in Prairie du Chien, and while there, a young lieutenant, Jefferson Davis, was sparkling the daughter of the commandant, so that there were two celebrities in Wisconsin; the one destined to become president of the United States, after serving the country for many years in the field with “rough and ready” effectiveness, and to die of the turmoil of political life; the other, to lose by ill-directed ambition, the repute won as a soldier, and to find the grave of his success in the presidency of the confederation whose ruin it was his fortune to survive. Both officers rendered good service in the Black Hawk war until the end was reached in the battle of the Bad Axe on the second of August,
1832. But for the vigor with which the United States troops and volunteers fought then, in vindication of the faith to be placed in treaties, and in defense of property and life, there might have been no Madison on this peninsula. In that sense the men named were pioneers.

The Hon. John Catlin was essentially among the first comers. He was one of the party that accompanied the surveyor, Moses M. Strong, to survey and plat the town, and a lot purchased by himself, near the present post office, was utilized by him by the erection thereon of a log house, to be used as the post office store. That building was the first erected in Madison, as it was commenced some time before Eben Peck began his structure; but an accident destroyed the interior of the building, a fire having been by some means originated, and in consequence the primeval log house was not the first residence. Mr. Catlin was the pioneer *par excellence*. He was a Green Mountain boy, as he came from Orwell, Vermont. He was a partner with Mr. Strong in the law business at Mineral Point in 1836, and clerk of the supreme court. He became postmaster in this city in 1837. Removed from office by Gen. Harrison, he was reappointed by President Tyler. Subsequently he served as chief clerk of the house of representatives; was district attorney for Dane county, and judge at a later date; in 1846, he became secretary of the territory. Mr. Catlin was a good citizen and an able man of business. He died in 1874.
Hon. Simeon Mills ranks in the same category, with this difference, that he still remains in our community. Born in Norfolk, Litchfield county, Conn., in February, 1810, he is now in his sixty-seventh year, and he has spent his lifetime in Wisconsin since attaining the age of twenty-five. Mineral Point was his first abode in this territory, but immediately after the location of the capital, he moved to this city when there was only one house upon the ground, and on the 10th of June, 1837, he commenced a small building of hewed logs, in which to begin business as a storekeeper. For five years from 1837, Mr. Mills carried the mails to and from this city for the government, and about the same time the responsible duties of a justice of the peace were imposed upon him by Gov. Dodge. Numerous offices of honor and emolument have since that date been conferred on Mr. Mills. He was one of the commissioners for Dane county upon its organization in 1839; clerk of the United States district court; territorial treasurer; first senator for Dane county; one of the regents engaged in the organization of the state university, and subsequently paymaster general of the state during the war, from 1861. The record left by Gen. Mills, in every relation of his well spent life, reflects credit on one of the oldest pioneer families in Dane county, and his industry has contributed, in no small degree, to the prosperity and growth of the city.

Darwin Clark came to this city with acting commissioner Bird, in the spring of 1837, to commence
work as a cabinet maker on the capitol, and since that
time he has been a resident in Madison, holding many
offices of trust with honor to himself, and conducting
for many years a very extensive business. He was
born in Otsego county, N. Y., in May, 1812, in which
state he also married his first wife. He set out for
the west when twenty-five years of age, to make a
home where there would be better opportunities than
in the crowded east. The pioneers had among them
few more estimable men. A young mechanic of mark
in the early days, when there was only one family in
Madison, and growing up with the place, figuring in
its gayeties in the first New Year's festivities, which
lasted two days, a guest at the first wedding when a
young woman in Mrs. Peck's household became the
wife of Jairus S. Potter, his name is interwoven with
most of the early celebrations, as well as with many
later responsibilities.

The community was very limited when that mar-
riage occurred, on the 1st of April, 1833, and the be-
ter half was held in high esteem. Gen. Simeon Mills,
not then holding military rank, but a prosperous store-
keeper, and in office, rose betimes to gather an early
bouquet of wild flowers to grace the occasion. The
spring, in honor of the event of course, came early, or
that feature would have been wanting from the festi-
val. The wedding ceremony was performed by Mr.
Eben Peck, in his capacity as justice of the peace, and
when the dance followed, the better half of the Peck
family played on the violin, assisted by Luther, her
husband’s brother, according as the exigencies of the time demanded. Mrs. Peck played well, but she danced well also, and there were so few ladies to take the floor that one could hardly be spared to form the orchestra. The disparity of the sexes was happily expressed by Mrs. Peck: “You cannot call it succotash; there was too much corn for the beans.” Both bride and bridegroom have since passed away, but the memory of the event is part of the domestic history of the city. Mrs. Prosper B. Bird was present, and she yet remains to honor and grace our community, a living memento of a time from which sad memories, mingled with few delights, yield a gentle perfume as of bruised but never dying flowers. Mr. Potter died in Madison, somewhere about the year 1841. His wife’s maiden name was Elizabeth Allen. There were two Potters then in the village, Jairus, known as “Long Potter,” for he was a man of great altitude, and Horace, whose more stunted proportions caused him to be known as “Short Potter.” Miss Allen, after considering “the long and the short of it,” did not follow the maxim “of two evils choose the least,” consequently there was more husband in her home than in any other household near the capitol. Darwin Clark was good for many things, besides, being good company, in the early days, as thank goodness, he still remains. In the summer of 1837, when Wm. A. Wheeler came here to erect a steam saw mill west of the foot of Butler street, on the bank of lake Mendota, the young cabinet maker was able to give valuable
assistance toward the erection of the works; and although owing to the fact that the engine and machinery had to be brought from Detroit, operations were not commenced until nearly the end of the year; much of the timber used in the old capitol was sawed in Wheeler’s mill. The McDonalds, the Smiths, and others whose names have escaped us, who mingled in the throng when Commissioner Bird and his wife led off in the “Virginia reel” or “Hunt the squirrel,” will never have for us more than a phantom existence, as they “come like shadows, so depart;” but friend Clark is a reality.

The days in which Judge Doty, treasurer of the board of commissioners, came in from Green Bay with specie and currency to pay the men, guarded by Capt. John Symington and a squad of soldiers from Fort Howard, were not without their charm; more especially when we see the commissioner laying aside the pomp of office to stand sponsor at the informal christening of the first white child born in Madison; and editor Sholes, who was then in his company, must have been favorably impressed by our band of pioneers. Some four years later we find the Hon. C. C. Sholes identified with the publication of the Enquirer newspaper, the material of which journal was eventually removed to Milwaukee from this city. Mr. Sholes was more actively identified with Kenosha. The name most intimately associated with our early press is that of the Hon. George Hyer; but his work in that capacity will appear in reviewing our news-
paper history. He was one of our pioneers, and before Madison was platted, he had accustomed himself to thread his devious track through the woods, having on one occasion made his way from Milwaukee to Green Bay, and on another in 1837, from the same starting point to Rock river settlement, when he was specially sworn in by old Solomon Juneau to carry the mail.

In the earliest apportionment of offices for Dane county, the name of John Stoner occurs as treasurer, and that of R. L. Ream, father of the famous Vinnie Ream, a Madisonian, as register of deeds. Ream succeeded to the old log house erected by Eben Peck, after another residence had been built for that family. Geo. P. Delaplaine was surveyor, N. T. Parkinson, the first sheriff, William A. Wheeler, assessor, Adam Smith, collector, and the three commissioners were, Simeon Mills, Eben Peck and Jeremiah Lycan, with LaFayette Kellogg for clerk. The father of Vinnie Ream assumed the management of the pioneer "Tavern Stand," as Mrs. Peck phrases it, when Eben and his wife gave their attention to farming, unfortunately for themselves, cultivating a piece of land which had been deeded to them by mistake. The change was made in the spring of 1838, and the birth place of the sculptress was torn down in 1857, after twenty years of peculiarly eventful service. The old Madison House, the picture of which we preserve, was, under the presidency named, the resort of the aristocracy of Wisconsin, and it long continued to be the
stage house. According to Judge Knapp, the charges were not very moderate, as "two feet by six of floor could be had for the night," only upon payment of "two pence per square foot," and "the weary traveler might spread his own blanket, using his saddle or portmanteau for a pillow, rejoicing that he had so good a bed." The other hotels were no more sumptuous than Ream's, as in all of them, the lakes, the woods and the slow coming "prairie schooner," were drawn upon liberally to supply the table. Sleeping accommodation was at a premium everywhere, even after the American Hotel, the largest on the ground, was raised.

The first treasurer of Dane county, John Stoner, was born in Washington county, Maryland, in 1791, consequently, when he died in this city, in 1872, he was in his eighty-first year. He served in the war of 1812, and was one of the early arrivals in Madison village. His pioneer log cabin was in the second ward, abutting on the lot now occupied by the church of Norwegian Lutherans. The old landmarks are nearly all effaced, so far as they were raised by men in the springs and summers of 1837–8. The log house on the marsh is gone, the first frame house built in the city at the southwest corner of Wilson and Pinckney street, for J. S. Schermerhorn, has given place to a large two story brick dwelling. The old steam mill on the bank of the lake is so entirely gone that it is not easy to find even a trace of its foundations. A grey sandstone slab, erected to mark the spot where a
carpenter named S. Warren was buried in 1838, having been killed by lightning in that summer, cannot be found.

"Chief Justice of the Peace, Seymour," who is mentioned in a very pleasant and appreciative way in "Reminiscences of Madison," by Judge Knapp, loomed large in our early days, at once a pioneer and a celebrity. Mrs. Peck mentions him as possessed of a feather bed, once her property, and containing "over thirty pounds of fresh geese feathers," so that he had ideas of luxury. Judge Pratt says, that "his pipe was part of the man; with that in his mouth, he was clerk in the commissioners' store, kept books, dealt out silks and dry goods, tea and powder; was surveyor of the town plat, only he read the degrees and minutes at the wrong end of the needle; tried causes, civil and criminal, administered justice, mingled largely with equity and common sense. ...... All knew he was the Gazette, the very latest edition, and he had under his special care all the affairs of town, state and church. ...... A dreadful sickness came upon him and Seymour lost his pipe, the city losing its best guardian." Gov. Dodge appointed Seymour justice of the peace, upon the recommendation of Eben Peck, when Dane county was organized, and the commissioners set about bridging the Catfish, and erecting the jail, reducing "the bounty on wolves' scalps," to render their funds available for such works as have been suggested. Wm. N. Seymour published a directory of Madison, a copy of which is in the hands of
the Historical Society. He has lived to see several other works of a similar character, but none of them more interesting than his own. The stroke of paralysis under which he fell in November, 1859, has not deprived him of the satisfaction of witnessing the steady growth of the city, the infant steps of whose village days were in part guided by himself. His form is well known on the streets, and most of the old pioneers can tell of some good deed in his career, which retains for him a pleasant place in their memories. The Masonic fraternity stood by the "Chief Justice of the Peace" in his affliction, and by their aid he is comfortably circumstanced.

Gen. Geo. P. Delaplaine was county surveyor. We find him on the Fourth of July, 1839, reading the Jeffersonian Declaration, when William T. Sterling was orator of the day, and the music on the occasion was anything but first class. The dinner that day consisted of bacon and fish, with the addition of much whisky. Customarily the dinner comprised fish and bacon with less whisky. The celebration lasted three days. The pioneer Geo. P. Delaplaine came from Milwaukee to clerk in Jas. Morrison's store, and his ability no less than his high character soon made him master of the situation. His name stands honorably identified with most of the movements in early days for the advantage of Madison. Another of the early pioneers whose life has been honorable to the community, although there are no brilliant deeds to be pointed to in his career, is Mr. E. M. Williamson,
of Pinckney street, one of our earliest school teachers, and identified with the establishment of the Episcopal church, which will be found more particularly mentioned elsewhere. Many names that should have had notice have been omitted, but that is inevitable because of our limitations. The position and labors of Mr. and Mrs. Peck have already been briefly indicated. Eben Peck started overland to California when the gold fever spread over this western country, and it is supposed that he was slain by the Indians on the plains, but there is no record of his death, and it is claimed that he was heard from at a later date. His wife, a brave and able woman, has written many piquant papers, descriptive of pioneer life, in which her own experiences made her proficient. In her house the earliest visitors to Madison found a home, in her dining room the gayeties of several seasons found their earliest expression. Her husband as justice of the peace united in the bonds of wedlock the first couple lawfully married in this city, and after the irrevocable knot had been tied, as we have seen, the violin of the justice's lady gladdened the hearts of the assembled throng while they threaded the mazes of the dance. In the old log house was born Miss Wisconsiana Victoria Peck, the first child that saw the light in this city, concerning whose christening some particulars are given. Mrs. Peck and her husband were the pioneer settlers, and subsequently the lady became the first settler in Baraboo, where she still resides.
Mrs. Prosper Burgoyne Bird, formerly Miss Hewitt, another of our pioneers, came of good revolutionary stock, and was one of the most valued of our early residents. Her husband built a house for her in this city, while she remained in Milwaukee. There was only one house in Janesville when the lady came through to her destination. The party had seen enough of pioneer life to have discouraged most people, before they left Milwaukee. While they were neighbors of "Old Solomo," as the Indians always called Col. Juneau, they witnessed an election, in which the principal argument used in favor of the successful ticket was a dipper placed in a barrel of whisky, by the founder of the Cream City. The potency of such logic was manifested in the fact that a sober man could hardly be found in the settlement at the close of the day. The first boat launched on Lake Michigan, "The Juneau," kissed the water while Mrs. Bird was remaining in Milwaukee. The party set out on their road altogether, but at the last moment Mr. Bird, having business to transact on account of the capitol, for the building of which his brother was acting commissioner, returned to the village, leaving his courageous wife to prosecute the journey without his guidance, until sundown the following day. The ferryman at Janesville was not at home, so the little band went round by Beloit, where there were two log houses, one on each side of the river. The home provided for their accommodation was an uninclosed frame building, on the street now known as Webster
street, on lot eight, and the building was not completed until April, 1838. During part of the interval, Mrs. Bird resided in a log house on the site where Kentzler's livery stable now stands, and afterwards moved into the old log boarding house near Mr. Pyncheon's residence. There were, when Mrs. Bird arrived in the village, only four log houses; that built for Mr. Catlin, and partly consumed by fire; that occupied by Mrs. Peck, and known long after as the Madison House; the residence of Mr. Stoner, already mentioned; and one other of less note. Such an addition to the village was important.

The workmen engaged upon the capitol boarded with the newly arrived housekeeper, and there were rough times and hard work for all hands when she began her pioneer experience in this locality. In Mrs. Bird's mother's home the first death in the new settlement occurred from typhoid fever, and the second happened from her own house having been struck by lightning. The cemetery then in use forms now a part of the university grounds. The Bird family was one of the most numerous and energetic among the pioneers, but a volume would be required to record their several fortunes and adventures.

Col. Wm. B. Slaughter, whose eloquence is still the pride of his fellow townsmen, was born in 1797, in Culpepper county, Virginia, and came to reside in Green Bay in 1835, where he was appointed register of the land office. While serving as a member of the
legislative council of Michigan, which assembled at Green Bay in the winter of that year, he initiated the memorial for the organization of Wisconsin. About the same date, he entered the lot held by St. Cyr, near this city, and gave the half-breed $200 for his improvements. When the capital was located, he made his residence where the City of the Four Lakes was platted by M. L. Martin, Judge Doty and himself, and continued a resident until 1845, when Virginia attracted him to his old home. On the commencement of the war, the colonel was appointed commissary and quarter-master by the president; and now, nearly eighty years of age, he is one of the most active and intellectual of the residents in this city. There are but few men to be found who, from their personal experience, know more about Madison from the beginning. Soon after the capitol was commenced, and when Commissioner Bird’s residence was small and cold, Sheriff Childs from Green Bay mentions a visit to Col. Wm. B. Slaughter’s, on the west bank of the Fourth Lake, near Pheasant Branch. Long before this time, all the land business of the territory had passed through the colonel’s hands at Green Bay. When the location of the capital was under debate, and long before it came to the vote, Col. Slaughter made arrangements with St. Cyr, under which the half-breed enabled the colonel to enter the tract in the summer or autumn of 1835, and he subsequently conveyed an interest to Judge Doty, with the hope that the capital would be there located. The arrange-
ment with Gov. Mason of Michigan, and the purchase of the peninsula for $1,500, wrecked Col. Slaughter's project, seeing that he was absent in the south while the session was being held at Belmont, upon which the location turned. Sheriff Childs, already mentioned, says that the votes which determined the matter were those cast by representatives who knew that their several localities would be erected into a distinct territory soon afterwards. Iowa had six councilmen and representatives, so that the influence of the outsiders really determined the issue, and the country west of the Mississippi was separately organized with little delay. Childs says that the town plat of Madison was divided into twenty shares, and that he was offered one share for $200, apparently with the hope that he would in that way be induced to vote for the location. His Roman virtue was equal to the emergency, and Green Bay was pleased with the course taken by him. Col. Slaughter's site had been very wisely chosen, upon the historical ground where Gen. Dodge held his "talk" with the Winnebagoes, when the Black Hawk war had begun, and after Stillman had sustained his defeat.

Josiah A. Noonan did not come to our territory until the year 1837, and in 1840, removed to Milwaukee, whence, still later, he migrated to Chicago to take charge of the Industrial Age; but as the founder of the first newspaper issued in this city, the Wisconsin Enquirer, he must have a place among our pioneers. The first press and printing materials
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bought for this enterprise, were thrown overboard, off Mackinaw, in Lake Huron, in a storm, on the voyage from Buffalo to Green Bay, and in consequence the Racine Argus, with its material, was purchased and removed, to do duty in the capital. The paper was published on King street, in a room over the commissioners’ store, and eventually some of the ablest journalists in the state were identified with its career. C. C. Sholes became a partner in the paper in 1839, as is elsewhere mentioned, and it lived until June, 1848, taking an active part in all public affairs until its death. Judge Knapp was for some time its editor. That gentleman has left on record a brief description of the Fourth of July celebration in 1839, and according to his winged words, there was no lack of spirit among the celebrants. There was an oration, and the declaration in proper order, but a liberal supply of “Pecatonica” and “Rock River,” the latter a peculiarly strong water, with an orchestra consisting of two violins and a flute, filled every soul with martial music. A fat steer which had been brought to grace the tables of the citizens on the Fourth, was forgotten until three days later, when the keg was empty, and there was then but little superfluous fat upon the bones of the delayed sacrifice. It must not be supposed that all the citizens were affected by “old rye,” but the carrier, who had brought the steer, had kept the secret of its whereabouts, until his senses were sobered by the emptying of the keg.

Abel Rasdall cannot be utterly omitted from a
record of our pioneers; his bravery during the troubles and his good faith at all times, entitle him to be mentioned, but he has been referred to at large in the first chapter, as will be remembered.

The schoolmaster was in request, but the number of pupils was not great. Mr. Edgar S. Searle taught school in the summer of 1839, and was followed by Mr. E. M. Williamson, mentioned among our pioneers, who had six pupils. Mr. Williamson taught at the corner of Pinckney and Dayton streets, one term, in a very primitive building. In the winter of 1842-3, Mr. Theodore Conkey also taught. Miss Pierce was at the same time engaged in the tuition of girls in an old building near the spot where Dean's block is now standing. Another step in the same direction, aiming at the improvement of adults, was an association for church purposes, entered into in July, 1839. The instrument of association indicated the establishment of a parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church as the object of the members. There were sixteen signatures to the document. The first Sunday school was also started about this time and conducted by Rev. Mr. Clark, Presbyterian clergyman. It was held in the capitol.