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The index which follows makes certain distinctions and uses several abbreviations. All men and women mentioned in early documents who settled in Portage County, permanently or temporarily, or paid taxes to the county, between the years 1836 and 1850 are referred to as “frontiersmen”; all, similarly classified, who came after them between 1850 and 1870 are referred to as “pioneers”. One exception, however, is made. Owing to a reorganization of Sharon township boundaries in 1870, the tax roll of 1872 was included in the foregoing text instead of an earlier one. As the names listed in this roll were taxpayers in 1872, it is reasonable to assume that the vast majority settled here on or before 1871 and therefore have been included in the category of “pioneers.”

Frequently, the rolls include only one name of a taxpayer. When this is the case, the abbreviation NFN (no first name) or (NLN) will be used. The abbreviation CWV stands for Civil War veteran from the county, although no distinction is made in the index between veterans who died in service and those who returned. The abbreviation WWI, WWII, and KW after a name means that the man was either killed in action or died in service during World War I, World War II, or the Korean War.

Considerable difficulty is experienced with the spelling of names when dealing with the raw material of history. It must be emphasized that the spellings are taken as they appear to be spelled in the original hand-written document.

Owing to the fact that Plover township at the time of organization took in territory to the east — later incorporated as Stockton and Buena Vista townships — quite a few names which appear in the Plover tax roll of 1854 later reappear in the Stockton and Buena Vista rolls. Almond, similarly, took in Belmont before the latter was incorporated in 1856, and several families who paid taxes to the Almond treasury were actually residents of modern Belmont. Thus, quite a few names of taxpayers appear more than once in the text, but what one document may refer to as “John E. Doe,” another may simply write “J. Doe.” As cross-references to all these names would extend the index to impracticable length, an attempt has been made, through cross-checking of the several sources, to indicate the full names in the single entry, as well as different spellings and use of initials which some men preferred.
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