GENETIC HISTORY OF CATTLE IN WISCONSIN

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INTRODUCTION

This study was begun at the suggestion of Dr. L. J. Cole, who pointed out the need of a genetic history, or at least a historical survey, of the cattle of Wisconsin. At that time, as at present, there was no available source of information of this nature. This condition was almost equally true for American cattle in general.

The vast majority of the cattle of the state have at all times been unregistered. Without a knowledge of the different foundation stocks entering the general population there was no satisfactory method of determining the per cent and kind of different blood making up the unregistered cattle of the state. Unlike the registered breeds, which are closed to outside blood, various bloods could have entered into the make-up of these cattle from time to time. This paper is an attempt to evaluate the present cattle population on the basis of the different groups that have been brought into the population during its development. At present the work is complete to 1860. From 1860 to 1890 the emphasis has been placed on dairy cattle.

EARLY INTRODUCTION OF CATTLE INTO WISCONSIN

European and American Background.

When representatives of the European nations came to the North American continent in the fifteenth century no domestic cattle, Bos taurus, were found. American bison were present, but these never proved satisfactory animals for domestication. Importations of varieties of domestic cattle from Europe started with the establishment of the first settlements and have continued up to the present time.

For many years the cattle of America merely reflected various types that were present in Europe. Within Europe they differed greatly in size, color and form, even between sections

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of a country. Excellent reviews of these cattle are given in the United States Consular Reports of 1887, and by Morse, 1910. In this paper, breed terms have been used as a basis for classification of these differences, except in a few instances where it has been found expedient to use geographical distribution.

The cattle of the older North American settlements may readily be separated into three divisions. On a geographic basis these might be termed Spanish, English and French, respectively. In general, these divisions developed independently until

![Distribution of Cattle in America about 1750.](image)

Three geographically distinct divisions of cattle were present in North America. The lower Mississippi, however, probably possessed a number of cattle of French importation, as well as of Spanish importation, and the southern English colonies a few of Spanish origin.
after 1800. The three came together in Missouri near this latter date. (Fig. 1.)

The first two of these, the southern and the central, may be eliminated from the picture of the early cattle of Wisconsin. Of these two, the former never became of importance to Wisconsin at any time. The cattle of this division, first brought by the Spanish to the West Indies and then to the entire coast from Florida to Mexico, were only of importance in the south and southwest part of the continent. Cattle of the central, or second division, formed the foundation stock for the progressively westward moving “cow country” of North America. These cattle are discussed in connection with a later group of cattle in Wisconsin. It is of interest at this time to know that after remaining east of the Alleghenies for many years, their first move westward was from Virginia, to Kentucky and Tennessee. They reached Ohio by 1778. Other cattle are known to have been present in Wisconsin at this time.

The third division includes the cattle brought to the St. Lawrence. These are of particular interest here because of their importance in the French Northwest, of which Wisconsin was a part. French and Portuguese fishermen who settled in little groups along the Newfoundland shore were the first to make importations of cattle to this region. Starting as early as 1518, and 1525, these preceded even the adventurous Cartier, who discovered the St. Lawrence river for France in 1534. Only fragmentary history exists concerning these early importations.

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1 In 1495 cattle were sent to the Indies. Whitaker, p. 3. The first reliable data as to cattle on the continent are contained in a written report found in the Spanish Archives at Madrid, to the effect that Gregorio Villalobos in 1521, went to Spain (now Mexico) as Governor General or Vice-roy. Villalobos landed near the present town of Vera Cruz, Mexico, and according to the manuscript, “brought a number of calves from Santo Domingo, he being the first to bring them to New Spain.” Saunders p. 709. For early mention of the cattle of Porto Rico, see Memoir of Melendez, 1565, and for the Gulf region in general, Memoir of Sieur de la Salle, 1678.

2 See Schlarman for the relation of d’Iberville’s colony, Louisiana, to the French Canadian and Indian colony on the Kaskaskia.

3 In 1518 Baron de Ley made an abortive attempt at settlement on Sable Island where the cattle left by him remained and multiplied. Parkman, p. 172.

4 Saunders, p. 107, 1925.

5 Parkman, p. 211-212, treats of the attempt of the Marquis de la Roche to plant Christianity and civilization in the west. This catholic nobleman of Brittany landed forty of his colony of convicts on Sable Island while he and a few trusty followers explored the neighboring coast for a site for the new capitol of his domain. Meanwhile a storm drove him out to sea and he returned to France. Twelve survived until relief came five years later, 1603. “For food they caught fish in the surrounding seas, and hunted the cattle which ran wild about the Island, sprung perhaps from those left here eighty years before by Baron de Ley.”

6 Gorham.
Undoubtedly the animals of Cartier, 1541, and of the Roberval Expedition, 1842, were lost, as the settlements proved abortive. The cattle brought by de Monte and Champlain to St. Croix Island in 1604 started a more permanent group. This colony was moved to Port Royal in 1605, and more animals added in 1610. Mention is again made of these in 1613 and in 1629. Near this latter date cattle were first brought to Quebec, and following this, to other points along the St. Lawrence.

Cattle in this region were almost all from France and included two main types of cattle; those of Brittany and of Normandy. The first of these, the race Bretonne, is now interpreted as being a descendant of *Bos longifrons*, the Celtic Shorthorn, that had been kept pure for many years. It is characterized as a pie-black or black animal, hardy, a good milker, and measuring 3 feet 2 inches to 3 feet 6 inches in height at the withers. In contrast, the Norman breed is a descendant of *Bos primigenius*, and is described as one having an unprepossessing bony frame, long and heavy head, long of body, large, coat color variable, brown, red or piebald and never failing to present brown streaks over the surface of the body that have given rise to the term "brindled."

No critical information is available concerning the relative proportions of these two breeds that were imported. Frequent reference to small, black, and black and white cattle in the pioneer settlements of the French Northwest is assurance that the cattle of Brittany played an important part. Small size was undoubtedly of great aid in transportation as the early French in Canada travelled mostly by water. A number of references to ring-streaked, or brindled animals among the French cattle of Illinois, and of Wisconsin, exist for a later period. A combination of these early types, together with subsequent selection, produced the distinctive French-Canadian breed of this day.

Following the establishment of cattle in Lower Canada, cattle were taken from this region to the territory to be known as the French Northwest of the 17th century. This territory, between

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7 Charlevoix visited the Illinois in 1721 and wrote: "the inhabitants of Kaskaskia have black cattle and poultry and are doing well." Reynolds, p. 33. See Journal of Peter Pond for black cattle at Green Bay 1774 (Wis. Hist. Colls., 18, 329). (Quebec) "The cows have likewise been imported from France, and are about the size of our Swedish cows. The cows vary in color, most of them either red, or black." Per Kalm. Vol. 2, p. 327, 1749. Thompson notes black cattle at Vincennes after its founding in 1735, and at Fort Chartres in 1767. Black cattle were at Cape Girardeau, just across from Kaskaskia, W.H.C. Vol. 22, p. 58.
the Great Lakes and the Ohio, has been described as a wilderness, covered by forest and prairie, thinly peopled by Indians, and with here and there French forts, the only points of civilization in the whole region. Detroit on the south and Mackinac on the north were centers for the securing of supplies. Occupation was only along the waterways, the rivers and lakes, and at the most strategic points for fur trade. As cattle were taken into this region, they, too, were to be found only in limited areas.

The first record of cattle in the west is at Detroit in 1707, soon after the founding of the colony by Cadillac. In the first half of the following century cattle were taken to the prominent French posts of Vincennes, Kaskaskia, Mackinac and Sault Ste. Marie. In the latter half of the century they were found in Green Bay, Grand Portage, and Prairie du Chien, posts of special interest to the history of Wisconsin.

Within Wisconsin during this latter period, the posts at both Green Bay and Prairie du Chien began to attain a measure of prominence. Other villages within Wisconsin were intermittent-ly maintained. A few French and half-breeds were engaged in trade and transporting canoes at Portage and some were at Chequamegon and the Fond du Lac post in the north.

Cattle at Green Bay

The first reference to cattle in Wisconsin that has been found is that for the Green Bay settlement. This was to be expected from a knowledge of the early fur trading in the French Northwest. After having been the first point in Wisconsin to have been reached by a white man, Nicolet, 1634, it became one of a great line of French forts, or points of aid, for French traders in their barter with the Indians for furs. In the first part of the eighteenth century these forts described a broad arc from Quebec, up the Great Lakes and down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, to the Gulf of Mexico.

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"Antoine de la Monte Cadillac, Lord of Bonaget and Montdesert, and Commandant for the King at Detroit, acting under a commission from Louis XIV and being granted fifteen acres square, left Montreal in June, 1701 with one hundred men, a Jesuit missionary, and all the means for the erection of a colony; and reached Detroit in July of the same year, where they commenced the foundation of the settlements. Before that period Detroit had not been unknown. As far back as 1620, it was the resort of French missionaries, and when first visited by the French, its present site was occupied by an Indian village named Tensa Grondie." Lauman, p. 40. See Severance, p. 197.
Green Bay became the first of the primitive Wisconsin settlements to attain much in the way of permanence. This settlement dates from the time of the migration of the Sieur Augustin de Langlade, and his son Charles, from the region near Mackinac to Green Bay about 1745. The colony started with probably not more than eight persons, and as late as 1785 it did not exceed fifty-six souls. Very little is known regarding their conditions of life and for a number of years no mention of livestock has been found. It is known that the settlement was closely allied to Mackinac, which, together with the Sault Ste. Marie, possessed cattle about 1750. Following the ceding of Canada to England, 1763, connection with the outside world increased. British subjects began to follow the route pursued by the French traders and to engage in the fur trade. Jonathan Carver visited Green Bay in 1766 and noted that the few French cultivated the land and appeared to live comfortably. In 1773, Peter Pond, a fur trader who, together with Joseph Frobisher and his brother, form the principal names associated with the earlier explorations beyond Lake Winnepeg, visited Green Bay. He recorded his observations in a Journal and in this is found the reference previously mentioned in regard to cattle at Green Bay. Unfortunately it does not give a clue as to how long they may have been present. Part of the Journal in which he unmistakably speaks of Green Bay is as follows:

"In three or four Days we arrive at the Mouth of the Bay which is two or three Mile Brod. In the Mouth is Som Islands which we follow in crossing to the South West Sid & then follow ye Shore to the Bottom is Seventy Miles where the fox River Emptys in to the Bay. We went a Short Distans up the River whare is a small french Village and thare incampt for two Days. This Land is Exalent. The Inhabitants Rase fine Corn and Sum Artickels for fammaley youse in thare gardens. They have Sume trad with ye Indians which Pas that way. On the North Part of the Bay is a small Villeag of Indians Cald the Mannomaneas who Live By Hunting Cheafley. They have an-

11 A copy of a map in Yale University Library entitled, "Travels of Capt. Peter Pond", has the winter residences of Pond noted on the back. From this the year is interpreted to be at the first of a 1773-5 period. See Davidson.
other Resois [resource]—the Bottom of the Bay Produces a Large Quantity of Wilde Rice which they Geather in Sept for food. I ort to have Menshand that the french at Ye Villeg whare we Incampt Rase fine black Cattel & Horses with Sum swine.”

At the same date stock is again mentioned at Mackinac; their manure being used to fertilize the sandy gardens. Hay for this stock was then being brought a distance of thirty miles by boat, while for others it was transported over the ice during the winter.

The observations of Peter Pond are in part supported by the recollections of Augustin Grignon, an early Green Bay settler, whose memory may be said to extend to 1784-1785. He states: “Horses, cattle, hogs, and fowls were plenty as far back as I can remember: and must have been common in the settlement long before my day.” He also recalls that cattle for beef were sold to traders passing into the Indian country.

A few years later, 1793, the English trader, Robert Dickson, writes as follows: “The land is poor and barren on the north side of the lake until near La Baye where the soil is excellent and the seasons are early. Here it has long been settled from Canada by people who sow a little grain and have about 100 cattle which run in the woods.”

Cattle received more notice during the disturbances at the beginning of American control at Green Bay, 1814-1816, as well as in the following years when the increases in population produced problems relative to sources of food. In Bullock’s letter to Captain Loring it is said: “In my reply to the information required by the General, I am sorry to say that our resources here are very few, and in that of the articles of provisions almost consumed—only 68 pounds of salt meat in store. The proportion of animal food purchased was so small that I found it necessary on the 1st of November to reduce the ration of beef to half a pound per day, and since, on the 25th Decm. to limit the issue of meat to four days in the week,—at the above rate—so that the troops might have a small proportion of that food as long as possible, and which they will have until about the middle of the ensuing month.” John Lawe, one of the most prominent livestock raisers complained a few years later that: “the soldiers has reduced me in cattle so that I have but few remaining. 2 Years running I could never save a calf nor a pig.” Losses of
cattle reported to the Court of Inquiry as due to Indian depra-
dtions totalled eighty-eight head; eleven calves, two heifers,
twenty-eight cows, six bulls, and forty-one oxen. Again in 1824,
John Lawe complained that: "there has been a great number
of U. S. troops garrisoned or that are stationed at Green Bay,
but what good does that do me it is only to assist in ruining of
me and the Pilfering or general Stealing, Killing of cattle, and
the committing of every kind of depredation."

Throughout the period of early United States control, the
Green Bay community continued to have the native, or French,
cattle population, even as it remained essentially French in hab-
it, custom and language. General Ellis's Recollections for 1822
picture the conditions as follows: "the residents on the river
except some half dozen Americans were retired French Voy-
ageurs, and half-breed French and Menomonees; they had with-
out let or hindrance, taken up the whole shore of the river above
the fort, for six miles; divided it off into little strips of one or
two French arpents in width, which they called their farms;
they claimed back at right angles from the river eighty arpents,
about two and three-fourths miles in depth. They had reduced
most of the fronts for an acre, or two, or three, some more, some
less deep, to a state of cultivation; and had growing at the time
of our arrival, the first of September, very fair crops of pota-
toes, maize, oats, peas, spring wheat, pumpkins, melons, cabb-
gages, onions, and other common vegetables. Most of them had
teams of native oxen, and a kind of implement claimed to be a
plow, with which they broke the soil. This plow went on wheels
one of which was twice the size of the other, the larger one going
in the furrow, and the smaller one going on the land. The plow
beam was fourteen feet in length; the chip, on which the share
was fastened, was four feet long, and altogether, when in motion
was drawn by six or eight bulls, it was a formidable object, and
answered well the end of its construction. . . . These bull-teams
were a curiosity to a raw American. The animals were unblished—the yoke was a straight stick of hickory worked off
smoth, and bound to the bulls necks just back of the horns."

The progress of the French in the raising of cattle at Green
Bay was not great when compared to that of the French in Illi-
nois during the same period, and extensions of cattle that might
be attributed to the Green Bay settlement were few. From the Indian agent at Mackinac it is learned that the Ottawas residing at the river Shabogian (Sheboygan) had progressed considerably in the arts of agriculture by 1816, and had applied to him for cows, hogs, fowls, etc. About 1814 Mirandeau, at Milwaukee, secured two cows from Chicago. They were brought for beef to the Chicago (Fort Dearborn) garrison and being milch cows were purchased and brought to Milwaukee.

No direct statement has been found regarding the source of the Green Bay cattle. It is known that their horses were from Detroit, and their sheep directly from Mackinac. It seems probable that the cattle were secured from one of these points along the water route.13 Detroit was the first agricultural post in the west, and notices regarding cattle at that point have been found as early as 1707. It is known that corn and supplies were secured for Mackinac from Detroit, starting as early as 1715. Cattle were present at Mackinac and at Sault Ste. Marie by 1751, and at this time it was planned to have the care of the cattle take precedence over that of the cultivation of the land because it was thought that as Detroit and other southern posts became more settled they would supply an abundance of grain to the northern posts, which would send them cattle in return.

Cattle at Prairie du Chien

Prairie du Chien was a second point in Wisconsin to which cattle were brought before 1800. The natural advantage of Prairie du Chien, which was derived particularly from its situation at the junction of two large and navigable streams, the Wisconsin and the Mississippi, did not escape the observing eyes of the early French travelers and traders. A village was established by the French from Canada for the purpose of trade with the Indians. Reynolds14 writes that this was built not long after the first discovery of the country, and occupied by Indian traders and farmers.15 Carver, in 1766, found a large Indian village here, containing about 300 families; and he represents this place as "the great mart". Horses were present but no mention is made of cattle. Pond speaks of this as a "very handsome

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13 Kellogg, p. 390, interprets the early cattle, "probably from Detroit."
14 Reynolds, p. 121.
15 The author interprets the term farmer to mean collector of revenue for France; the collecting being let, or "farmed". See W.H.C., Vol. 16, p. 177.
plain" and tells of the gathering of the French and Indians. Large thirty-six oar boats were coming to this place from as far south as New Orleans and bringing such products as wine, ham and cheese.

The first evidence of cattle at Prairie du Chien is from the writing of the English trader, Robert Dickson, who was very familiar with this area near the close of the century. In a letter to the Hon. Robt. Hamilton of Queenston, 14 July 1793, he says: "about two leagues from where the Ouisconsin falls into the Mississippi there is a meadow about three leagues in width called Prairie du Chien. Here a good number of families are settled. They have lately got cattle from the Illinois and begin to raise wheat". There seems to have been no regular settlement at the point Dickson refers to before 1781, which indicates that, if true, the indefinite term "lately" as used would not cover a span of more than twelve years.

The Illinois, the place from which Prairie du Chien received its first cattle, was a region settled by the French from Canada at an early date. The Jesuit Fathers had put forth their best efforts to make farmers and stockmen out of the savages here, bringing cattle to the mission at Cascaskias (Kaskaskia) as early as 1712. So well was this early work done that cattle were being returned to Detroit by 1743, where they were known as the Illinois breed. In 1720, Illinois led in the cattle census of the colony of Louisiana. In 1732, the Jesuits alone at Kaskaskia possessed 15 cows. Cattle became more numerous here

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16 Their location was made on the Mississippi shore, about midway of the prairie, some distance above the site of what had formerly been an Indian village. Here a slough which they had designated the "Marias de St. Feriole", runs up from the river, and being generally filled with water, separates the principal prairies, a strip of lower ground, nearly a half a mile wide, and something more than a mile in length. Upon this tract, fronting the Mississippi and upon the border of the slough, these settlers erected their houses in groups, designated collectively as the village of "Prairie des Chiens", and that upon the mainland being designated by the name of St. Feriole. History of Crawford County, p. 281.
17 History of Crawford County, p. 281.
18 Reynolds states that the present site, about one mile above the old village, was built in 1763 under the English authority.
19 Cattle may have been introduced at Cahokia (the Tamarois village) earlier than this. "Gabriel Marest came to Canada in 1694; four years later he began working among the Kaskaskias of Illinois with whom he spent the rest of his life—dying in that mission on September 15, 1714. He accompanied those savages when they removed from Peoria to Kaskaskia (in the summer of 1700) teaching them to cultivate the soil and raise domestic animals". W.H.C. Vol. 16, p. 179; from Jesuit Relations.
21 Reynolds, p. 33-34.
22 Morris, p. 7.
than in any other area in the French Northwest\(^2\). An early description of these cattle comes from Charlevoix, who visited the colony in 1721, and wrote: "the inhabitants of Kaskaskia have black cattle and poultry and are doing well." It was also said that these cattle were from Canada, a horned and hardy race, not large but neat of form.

The population of Prairie du Chien, from the census, is given at 65, in August 1800. In 1807, in the village of Prairie du Chien and vicinity there were 37 houses. A few cattle were also reported on the west side of the Mississippi at Giard's river at this latter date.

In following the progress in stock raising at Prairie du Chien it is found that as with Green Bay, great losses were suffered with the cattle during the war period of 1814-16. Notices regarding the cattle were infrequent near this date, however, and start with a brief reference which shows cattle to have been present in the settlement in 1812. Another reference mentions the order of one Nicolas Boilvin directing a man to drive up his cattle as he wished to kill a heifer that day and have some fresh meat. In 1814 as the fighting started it is recorded: "Many of them (Puants) in place of meeting the enemy immediately on their arrival ran off to the farms, killed the inhabitants' cattle and pillaged their houses even to the covering off their beds, and leaving many without a second shirt to put on their backs." Grignon also recollects that McKay had much difficulty in managing his Sioux and Winnebago allies, particularly the latter, and that they had in the most wanton manner shot down a number of horses and cattle belonging to the citizens. A few months later it was written that there were not 10 head of cattle left in the whole place where it could formerly boast of near 400. Another item states that several who two years before had upwards of 30 head of cattle have not now one left.

Cattle continued in the settlement, however, and Stephen H. Long describes the farming in 1817 as follows: "About one mile back of the village is the Grand Farm which is an extensive enclosure cultivated by the inhabitants in common. It is about six miles in length, and from a quarter to a half mile in width, surrounded by a fence on one side and the river bluffs on the other and thus secured from the depredations from the Cattle and

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\(^2\) Schlarman, p. 160.
Horses that were at large upon the prairies.” In 1822 it could again be said that Prairie du Chien possessed cattle in considerable numbers. As will be shown later, replenishments, at least after the war period, may have involved some cattle from the now westward expanded cattle of English importation.

Cattle at Superior and in the North.

In 1807 cattle were reported at a third point in Wisconsin. These were in northwestern Wisconsin at the Fond du Lac Post, three miles down the St. Louis river, a location now within the present city of Superior, Wisconsin. The notice is from George Henry Monk, Jr.25, which is in part as follows: “Three miles up the river St. Louis on the south side, the N. West Company has an establishment, of which the situation is low but commands a beautiful and romantic view of Lake Superior, of the river and the small lake.

“In the proximity the face of the country is either lakes or rivers of low fenny, or sandy, or high and craggy; few or no spots for civilization. Some of the lakes grow a scanty harvest of wild rice. . . . Here are two horses, a cow, a bull, and a few pigs; with manure of these animals a garden of three acres of pure sand is cultivated, which produces about 200 bushels of potatoes.”

Many of the Posts in this section were without cattle at this early date. The Northwest Company possessed a fort and garden on the south side of Leach lake and had introduced horses and pigs26. Horses, cats and hens were present on the west end of Leach lake27. In 1820, twenty-one miles up the Fond du Lac river (St. Louis river) the N. W. company had transported to their establishment, with great difficulty, three horses, three cows, one yolk of oxen, and four bulls. Doty28 reports that it was a great treat to obtain milk at this distance in the wilderness. By 1832 Sandy Lake could report thirty head of cattle, three or four horses and fifteen swine. In 1838, fifteen cows were at the upper Winnipeg post.

25 Written to Roderick Mackenzie, a partner of the Northwest Company, who contemplated writing a history of the company; by George Henry Monk, Jr., Leach Lake, 18 April, 1807. He speaks of it as “Some Account of the Department of Fond du Lac, or Mississippi.” Minnesota History Bulletin, Vol. 5, p. 28.
26 M. H. B., Vol. 5, p. 36.
settlement. Possibility of permanent cattle at this place starts with Michel Cadotte who took up residence at La Pointe on the southwest corner of Madeline Island at this time. Cadotte lived here at his ease for over a quarter of a century; cultivating a "comfortable little farm"; and commanding a fluctuating but often far-reaching fur trade, first as agent of the Northwest company and later for Astor's American Fur Company.

Chequamegon Bay (La Pointe) was another northern Wisconsin post that had cattle at an early date. Although traders had frequented this place since Radisson and Groseilliers had traded at Chequamegon Bay, 1654-1661, and this had been the site of the Jesuit mission of Allouez, 1665, and of Marquette, 1669, it is only since about 1800 that there has been a continuous

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**FIG. 2. Routes of French Cattle to Wisconsin.**

The extension of cattle into the French Northwest was probably along the waterways, the common routes of travel of the time. This map shows some of the leading routes between points at which cattle are known to have been present, together with the first positive dates; Quebec 1620, Detroit 1707, Kaskaskia 1712, Sault Ste. Marie and Mackinac 1751, Green Bay 1773, Superior 1807, and Prairie du Chien 1793.
The first definite reference to cattle is in 1820, at the time Cass, Schoolcraft and Doty visited the establishment. Besides a stockaded house and several out-buildings, they report some land in cultivation and also “several cows and horses, which have been transported with great labour.” Doty reports the bringing of a horse from the Saulte in a bateau. (Fig. 2) Livestock were again reported at La Pointe on Madeline Island in 1835, at the time of the changing of the headquarters of the American Fur Company from Mackinac to that place.

Grand Portage, on the north shore of Lake Superior, and Mackinac, both having had cattle before 1800, may well have been sources for these extensions. The first cattle taken up the Mississippi river into this section were from Prairie du Chien, near 1820. Near the Red River of the North, the few animals brought over from Europe by the Scotch colonists had been destroyed. Following the transfer of several pairs of oxen and cows, a drove variously estimated from 200 to 400 were taken to the colony. Upon abandoning the colony, 1825-26, a number of these cattle were returned to Prairie du Chien. The cows sold at £4 to £10 each.

DESCENDANTS OF THE CATTLE OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES IN WISCONSIN

American Background.

The progressively westward-moving cow country of North America provided the cattle for the second introduction into Wisconsin. These were descendants of the cattle of the colonists at Jamestown, and those of the subsequent New England, Central and Southern colonies of the Atlantic coast. The first cattle to reach the American colonies were brought by Sir Richard Grenville to Virginia in 1585, in an expedition sent out by Sir Walter Raleigh, but the colony perished, and the cattle were probably slaughtered by the settlers. After several attempts that proved abortive, cattle were permanently established, at Jamestown, in 1610.

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31 Morse, p. 227.
From the records it is evident that the cattle introduced at Jamestown were from the English breeds, with some mixture of Irish and Flemish cattle. In New York the cattle were largely of Dutch origin. The cattle in Pennsylvania were brought over by the Dutch and Swedish settlers. At Plymouth, the cattle were brought from Holland and England. The ships which arrived at Boston contained mostly English breeds, the Devon predominating. Into New Hampshire, Captain Mason introduced a large yellow breed from Denmark. A mixture of all of these types, without selection or improvement eventually came to be known as the Native breed, or Native cattle. A description of these after 1800, when they had moved west of the Alleghenies is as follows: "They are a mixture of every breed, and the intelligent and observing breeder sees in them traces of almost all the English varieties, such perhaps as they were before science and attention had improved them, such as might offer to the American breeder the original materials of the most improved and valued stock, but requiring more time and perhaps more talent, skill and attention than the American farmer would be willing to bestow on the subject and yet necessary to enable him to arrive at the same results."

After 1800 the cow country had reached the region west of the Alleghenies. The cattle of this New West may for convenience of discussion be separated into three sectors with definite physical boundaries; the northwest, central west, and southwest. Of these, the southwest, south of the Tennessee watershed, became of no importance to Wisconsin. It concerns the cattle taken to the west by the slave-holding planters. Next is the central west, which included Kentucky and Tennessee, regions which sent many cattle into Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Finally, the Northwest, between the Great Lakes and the Ohio river, including as it does the cattle of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, is of direct interest for Wisconsin.

Following French occupation in the Northwest Territory, the pioneer settlers from the American colonies brought cattle with them from nearby states: Pennsylvania, Virginia, and later, New York. The increase of these in Ohio made this the most important cattle raising country of the United States between

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31 Bidwell, and Thompson both review these cattle, giving original sources.
32 Bidwell, p. 224.
1815-1830. Indiana never became as important as Ohio, or Illinois, in cattle raising. The cattle history of Illinois is much a repetition of that of Ohio. The prairies were used for grazing rather than for farming until relatively late. The southern part of Illinois was settled first by Ohio river emigration, in a region in which the French had already extensively raised cattle. Up to 1840 the chief movements of cattle from the early center around Kaskaskia were to the valley of the Illinois, to the prairies in the central part of the state, and to the north in the Fever River lead region, in the vicinity of Galena. This latter movement extended the cattle of the American colonies, now mixed with the French cattle, to the very edge of Wisconsin. Their start within Wisconsin was about the time of the Blackhawk war, 1832.

Cattle in Southwest Wisconsin.

The development of an early cattle population throughout Wisconsin closely parallels the early settlement of the state. Up to the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the settlers were nearly all French-Canadian, or half-breed, and lived principally at Prairie du Chien or at Green Bay. The cattle of these settlements have been discussed. In 1825, the lead mines in the southwest corner of what is now the state of Wisconsin began to attract attention. Miners coming in induced hostilities with the Winnebagoes, who claimed the country containing the mines. United States troops readily quelled the disturbance and a ceding of this area by those Indians to the General Government soon followed. Up to 1831 the inhabitants were compelled to pursue the uncertain and precarious fortune of mining as a means of livelihood, the cultivation of the soil being expressly prohibited by the laws and regulations governing the mines. In 1832 the prohibition ceased to be enforced and

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"The following is a graphic sketch of a family floating down the Ohio on a raft: "To-day we have passed two large rafts lashed together, by which simple conveyance several families from New England were transporting themselves and their property to the land of promise in the western woods. Each raft was 80 or 90 feet long, with a small house erected on it, and on each was a stack of hay, round which several horses and cows were feeding." Belmont Gazette, Vol. 1, Nov. 7, 1836.

"Gould travelled in the west in 1849 and commented on the cattle of Illinois as follows: "The quality of the cows is of very little concern. I have seen, however, some of the finest cattle in Illinois that I have ever seen in my life, but in general a more ill-looking, black, ring-streaked and speckled race have never been known since the days of the patriarch Jacob."
the country began to hold out more inducements to general immigration.

A traveler in the lead region of Wisconsin, in 1832, just following the defeat of Black Hawk and the removal of Indian troubles, spoke of the farming thus: “Occasionally a farm might be seen running out from an island of timber, and supplied with comfortable buildings but most of the improvements were of a temporary nature, consisting of a lead furnace and cabins adjacent.”

An instance of early settling in the lead region was that of the Parkeson families. These farming families, of English descent, were originally Virginians, moving to Tennessee soon after the Revolutionary war. About 1810 the families moved to southern Illinois. In 1827 the Col. D. M. Parkeson family removed to Wisconsin where Col. Parkeson engaged in the mining business at New Diggings, La Fayette county. In speaking of this region he says the newcomers were so intent on making money by mining that they could not take time to erect for themselves and families even a comfortable dwelling place; instead of houses they usually lived in dens or caves, a large hole or excavation being made in the side of the hill or bluff, the top being covered over with poles, grass and sods. In 1833, after the removal of the farming prohibition, the Parkeson family removed to a farm near Mineral Point. This family induced the J. B. Parkeson family to move to Wisconsin from Illinois, in 1836, the family bringing horses, oxen and cows.

Other accounts show that droving of cattle from southern Illinois was being practiced. Droves of cattle were taken up along the Mississippi as far as Fort Snelling. The Post at Prairie du Chien being close to the cattle area advertised for proposals for fresh beef (slaughtered weekly, or semi-weekly, as desired) in the Galena newspaper. The need was estimated at 40,000 pounds per year. The town of Prairie du Chien, which contained about 100 houses by 1840, secured much of its supplies from some 40 farms on Blake’s prairie, south of the Wisconsin river.

On the north side of the Wisconsin river a settlement was started at Prairie du Sac, or Sauk Prairie, in 1838. The letters

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56 Northwestern Gazette and Galena Advertiser, Vol. 1, No. 4.
of Jakob and Ulrich Buhler, furnish an interesting account of the bringing of cattle to this region in 1842. This Swiss family with their nine children moved, via Galena, to the town of Honey Creek, Sauk county, and took up a homestead there. The trip was made with a large company of Swiss people who made up a caravan party. The party was led by a French guide who furnished ox carts for the hauling of baggage, small children and the sick. A number of cattle were driven along and supplied fresh meat. Within the next few years but few cattle were raised as there was at that time no market other than for personal or local use, without long overland driving.

The situation for southwest Wisconsin has been summarized by Brunson in writing for the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society in 1851. He states: “The cattle of this section originally came from Illinois and Missouri and were not of the first quality. Some few of a good quality were obtained by the droves brought up but generally of ordinary character.”

Descriptions of cattle in the lead region of Wisconsin have been secured from the advertising of lost and strayed animals in the Mineral Point Free Press, and the Wisconsin Whig, Platteville, 1842-1843. These show the animals to have had little uniformity. Brindle and white-spotted cattle were the most numerous. For instance, five dollars reward was offered for the following strays from Platteville, 1842: “One pair of oxen, about 10 years old—description as follows: one of them is a brindle color, partly white, a little white on his back—horns widespread and high, some white on his flanks and his left eye is out. The other is a line black, with his sides, neck and head speckled with white, red, black and some rather blue spots—his left eye is also out”.

Droving to Green Bay.

Of the eastern part of Wisconsin a writer of 1835 states: “Three years ago on the whole route from this place [Green Bay] to Chicago there was but one house and the journey required the preparation of a month. It was Indian territory and none but Indians and Voyageurs had the hardihood to attempt the trip.” The Milwaukee trading post was the one house. Southern Wisconsin was described as a splendid waste, with no marks of civilization or cultivation.

*W. M. H. Vol. 6, p. 327-334.*
Droving of cattle through the eastern part of the State to Fort Howard, the Post at Green Bay, had been in progress a number of years. The first reference to this is only an incomplete account from a manuscript dated 5 January, 1820, and is as follows: “Toward the close of November a herd of cattle, for the Assistant Commissary at this Post, having arrived within two days march, the drover near Manitouwalk [Manitowoc] upon the Shore of Lake Michigan, was attacked by several Indians, robbed of his Portmanteau, etc., and one of the cattle taken from him and killed. Several Soldiers were employed in conducting these cattle, but the drover at this time, had fallen some miles in the rear, with a view to bringing up such as had strayed behind when the Indians had availed themselves of the opportunity, thus presented, to plunder him as above.”

A more complete account of an early drive, showing the origin of the cattle, is from the personal narrative of the drover, Col. William S. Hamilton. It is in part as follows: “Colonel Hamilton says, that he started from Springfield, Illinois, for Rock Island, in May 1825, to attend to some business there. After having attended to it he started back for Springfield. When he reached the Mackinaw River, he met a drove of cattle belonging to him, which on leaving Springfield for Rock Island he had ordered to be sent to Green Bay, he having a contract to supply the fort at that place with cattle. On reaching the Mackinaw he found that the drove had been crossed over, but that in effecting a passage, a man had been lost by drowning, the river being very much swollen. The party with the cattle being discouraged, the colonel decided at once to accompany them himself to Green Bay. He crossed the Mackinaw at Dillon settlement. He left the Mackinaw for Green Bay some time early in June with four men and about seven hundred head of cattle. His route from the Mackinaw was to the Illinois at the mouth of the Fox River of the Illinois. At that time there was no settlement between Dillon’s, on the Mackinaw, and Chicago, except on a stream called “Nine Mile Creek”, a stream between the Mackinaw and Vermillion. William Holland was living where he crossed Nine Mile Creek; Holland had been the Indian Blacksmith at Peoria.

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38 W. H. C. Vol. 20, p. 140.
39 Smith, the History of Wisconsin, Vol. 1, Pt. 2, Documentary, Madison, 1854.
40 Tazewell Co., Illinois.
“At the mouth of Fox River of the Illinois, he found some Potawatomies; he crossed the Illinois just above the mouth of the Fox; the river being high it was necessary to swim it. His cattle had cost him on an average less than ten dollars a head. When he arrived at Chicago he found the fort was not occupied by troops, but was under the care of ______ Forsyth, the Indian agent. He there met with Colonel Beaubien and ______ Crafts, of the American Fur Company. In crossing the Chicago River, Colonel Beaubien’s brother, in assisting the passage of the cattle contrived to drown one of them, so that they might have a chance to buy it as he afterwards (in 1836) told Colonel Hamilton; knowing that Hamilton would not sell, as his cattle were contracted for, by the government. He also met at Chicago with Dr. Wolcott who was married to a daughter of Mr. Kinzie. He also met there with Lieutenant Helm, formerly of the United States Army, and his wife; Helm was one of those who were saved at the Chicago massacre. He also found there a Frenchman named ‘Ouillimette’ who had a farm on the Chicago River. From Chicago to Gros Pointe he followed up the Lake, though not immediately along the shore. Not far from Gros Pointe, on a level and not elevated piece of ground, were the remains of an old fort, called at that time ‘Little Fort’, the site perhaps, or the town now called Waukegan. From Grós Pointe to Milwaukee, he followed mainly the shore of the lake; there were no white inhabitants between Chicago and Milwaukee; they passed some few Indians, but no Indian Villages.

“On reaching Milwaukee he found but one solitary person there, ______ Solomon Juneau. He was entirely alone—he had not his family with him—there was not even an Indian there. Colonel Hamilton thinks he recollects that Juneau told him that some persons had gone off for provisions. James Kinzie [note—of Racine] had a trading house on the south side of Milwaukee River, but at that time it was not occupied. Juneau had a trading house on the north side of the river. There were no other persons having houses there at that time. He found Juneau nearly starved out, and delighted to see him and his provisions. Mr. Juneau at that time was an engagé for the American Fur Company.

“Colonel Hamilton kept up the lake from Milwaukee to Manitowoc; between the two places he found Colonel Ebenezzer Childs, afterwards a member of the Legislature from Brown
county, with a party of men, with a seine, and a Mackinaw boat fishing for white fish; Childs and his party were from Green Bay; there was no settlement between Milwaukee and Manitowoc. At Manitowoc, they left the lake for Green Bay; the first house they reached was at Duck Creek, where there was a saw mill, about four miles from Green Bay. [Note—he means Manitou River].

“At Green Bay was Fort Howard, garrisoned by a regiment of troops under the command of Major Whistler; the town of Green Bay was then mostly occupied by the French. There were some Americans there, but four-fifths of the people were French. Of the Americans then there were Arndt, Lawe, and the Irwins. Colonel Brevoort was Indian Agent.

“Colonel Hamilton arrived at the bay about the twenty-seventh or eighth of June; by his contract he was to be there with his cattle on the fourth of July. He remained there until the sixth or seventh of July, when he took the back track to Milwaukee. There was an Indian village at Manitowoc, or Twin River, of different tribes. On his return to Milwaukee he found Junea, a few other Frenchmen and some Indians. At Milwaukee he left the lake, and followed an Indian trail south westerly and came upon the Illinois somewhere about Mount Joliet. From thence he kept down the Illinois to the Mouth of the Fox River where he crossed it and thence went back to Springfield by the usual route.”

It was on this trip that Colonel Hamilton first set his foot in Wisconsin; he lost none of his cattle except one purposely drowned in the Chicago River. (Fig. 3)

Another pioneer drive of cattle to Green Bay (Fort Howard) from southern Illinois was made in 1827, by Col. Ebenezer Childs. “262 head were purchased around Carrolton at $2 per hundred, and $5 to $7 apiece for the cows”. This drive, as with that of Hamilton, went up the Lake Michigan shore. By 1830, the whole quantity of land cleared and under any kind of cultivation at Green Bay was estimated at 2,500 acres. The great bulk of the wheat being raised by the inhabitants was used for feeding cattle, the flour required for the sustenance of the population being brought principally from the mills in Ohio, bordering on Lake Erie.41

Cattle in the Settlements in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Other than these occasional droves of cattle, there were no cattle in southeastern Wisconsin until about the time the lands were being surveyed and the Territory of Wisconsin established. By 1836 cattle were in the settlements at Skunk Grove, in Racine County, and in the Rock River settlements, Rock county. In the Fox river (Wisconsin) valley, Edwin Bottomley, a leader in the English settlement\(^2\) secured his first cattle in 1842 from a drover. At that time a cow and a calf cost him $15, and a cow and an "Efer" $15. In this settlement the cattle were allowed

\(^2\)W. H. C. Vol. 26, p. 32.
to run at large and the crops were fenced in. In 1844 he was milking four cows and states that he would buy more if they were to be sold.

For the story of a community, Jefferson county is considered. One of the first records available in this county is for Aztalan\textsuperscript{43} where it is recorded that in 1838, at a meeting, the thirty oxen of the settlement were counted up and an estimate made as to how long the band of settlers could subsist on them in case they were reduced to that extremity. Near Rock Lake there is recorded a more complete story concerning Mr. A. Pickett and family\textsuperscript{44} who removed from the State of Ohio and settled near Rock Lake, in the town of Lake Mills, in 1840. But few pioneers had preceded Mr. Pickett to this place. The grass which was growing over the openings and lower marsh, and which "had millions in it" was, for the lack of cows to convert it into milk, being consumed by fires, which had for centuries swept over the country. Mr. Pickett had driven from Ohio ten cows, and although he desired more for a cheese making enterprise, there were none to be bought at any price. Four neighbors together had ten cows which were enlisted in the enterprise and another ten rented from Aztalan. Two more settlers and five cows arrived in 1842. The cows grazed together in one herd, and at night all were driven to one yard and milked by their respective owners.

For cattle in a later community the Swiss colony at New Glarus may be considered. Here in 1845, upon the arrival of the colonists, breaking of the land was slow and laborious as teams and plows had not yet been obtained. Most of the first breaking was done with spades and shovels. Sometime during the spring of 1846, drovers from Ohio brought a lot of cows to Exeter, a mining town eight miles east of New Glarus. The colonists hearing of it, at once set out to purchase some; and being excellent judges, selected the best animals of the herd in sufficient numbers to give each family one. These cost $12 a piece and were paid for out of a general fund for aid. As the year advanced four yoke of oxen were purchased for the common use of the colony. They were used in turn, by each family, for breaking up land, drawing wood from the timber tract, or anything else necessary to be done. After one person had used the

\textsuperscript{43}W. H. C. Vol. 11, p. 421-422.

\textsuperscript{44}Jefferson County Union, Vol. 8, No. 51
yoke of cattle the allotted time he turned them over to the next on the list entitled to use them. The oxen were reported to have had as hard a time as any of the colonists. In 1849, the stock of the colony included one bull, forty-one oxen, forty-nine cows, forty-two-year-olds, and fifty-one calves. The colony population was one hundred twenty-five.

Schafer summarizes the situation for southeastern Wisconsin by saying that the people in the older settlements of Illinois and Indiana were always interested in the marketing possibilities of the new northern settlements and brought in herds of stock cattle, droves of hogs and flocks of sheep. The cattle served for work oxen, milch cows, and stock cattle. It was thought that a majority of the herds of southeastern Wisconsin, in 1850, could be traced to such importations. As yet, practically all of the people dwelt south of the Fox-Wisconsin waterway.

Descriptions.

If one is to accept the early history of American cattle as it has been written, there were, except in a few instances, no attempts to improve the stock by selection in breeding as it moved westward; often the likeliest animals were sold to the butcher. Descriptions of these cattle soon after they had reached Wisconsin have been secured through early Wisconsin newspaper notices. The Wisconsin newspapers started with the Green Bay Intelligencer in 1833. The early issues of the following papers were consulted: Green Bay Intelligencer, Green Bay Free Press, Milwaukee Advertiser, Belmont Gazette, Wisconsin Democrat, Miners Free Press, Wisconsin Territorial Gazette, Burlington Advertiser, Wisconsin Enquirer, and Wisconsin Whig.

The notices were infrequent. However, thirty-one individual descriptions were secured and their color relationships are presented in Table I. A lack of uniformity is evident. Other than is shown in the table, the red and the brindle cattle ranged from black-red to dun and light red. No uniformity of horn shape or size was found. Marking by cropped ears was the usual practice rather than branding. The high percentage of brindle cattle is interpreted as due to the influence of the cattle of French importation; the red to the admired Devon stock. In no instance was a breed name used in connection with the identifying terms.

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Schafer, p. 71.
IMPROVED CATTLE IN WISCONSIN

American Background.

In America the leadership in the improvement of cattle came from a few wealthy men who made a hobby of progressive farming. Their attention was directed to the new importation of representatives of English stock rather than to the betterment of the native, or common, animals by selective breeding. By 1840, representatives of all the important English breeds had been introduced into the eastern states, including Herefords, North Devons, and Shorthorns. The Channel Islands were represented by Alderneys and Guernseys. The efforts of cattle breeding enthusiasts in this period were directed chiefly to the building up of herds of pure-blood stock, and the improvement of pure-blood stock. The improvement of native stock by judicious crossing of breeds seems to have hardly begun before 1840.

The first improved English cattle to cross the mountains were those taken by members of the Patton family from Virginia to Kentucky about 1795. A few years later representatives of this stock were taken into Ohio, where they soon gained a wide reputation. They were large animals, coarse and rough, with long widespread horns, probably of the Lancashire or Bakewell breed. In 1817, the first importations of Shorthorn stock arrived in Kentucky. These cattle proved a valuable acquisition to the existing stock of the country, though the quality of their

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46 "A few English Cattle were brought to this country before 1800, probably of the Lancashire or Bakewell breed, but the period of greatest activity dates from about 1820. . . . They were kept with great care by their owners and exhibited frequently at the annual cattle shows, where they attracted much attention. Auction sales of pure-blood stock were social events in the neighborhood of Philadelphia and New York, where distinguished city folk vied with one another in paying high prices for animals of exceptional pedigree." Connecticut State Agricultural Society Transactions, 1854, p. 99.

47 Ibid.

48 American Farmer, 2, p. 313; 4, p. 223-226.
beef was perhaps not better than the Patton or Miller stock, nor were the cows better milkers. Although the new breeds were known in Indiana and Ohio as well as in Kentucky, there was little general interest among the farmers in stock improvement by importation. The English cattle were considered too "fancy" for the average farmer.

The organization in 1834 of the Ohio company for importing English cattle marked the beginning of a new stage in the betterment of Western livestock. Heretofore importations had been sporadic, depending on the whims and financial means of the gentlemen farmers. The new company, with a capital of $9,200, subscribed in shares of $100 each, sent agents abroad who selected and brought to Ohio 19 head of thoroughbred Shorthorn, or improved Durham stock, from the herds of the most celebrated breeders. The cattle were kept together under the care of an agent and their number was increased by later importation until 1836, when they were sold at auction and scattered extensively over Ohio. In 1837 another large importation was made and sold by the same methods*49,50. The first of the registered Shorthorns in Wisconsin trace both to these importations and to the 1817 Kentucky importation.

**Early Improved Cattle in Wisconsin.**

The first reference to improved cattle that has been found for Wisconsin is in a letter written by Mr. Briand, Brown County. After referring to a drove of cattle taken from Illinois to Green Bay by Colonel Tuller, in 1836-7, which, according to Mr. Briand, subsequently become the basis of most of the best cattle in that section, he gives an account of the Hon. M. L. Martin, who, in 1838 obtained and brought to what was later Brown county, a full-blood Durham shorthorn bull. This bull was kept for five years. The benefits resulting from Mr. Martin's enterprise were distinctly visible, many of the cows from his stock being excellent milkers and in form and symmetry showing their origin.

For a number of years more interest was shown in the care and improvement of the cattle of Green Bay than in any other section of the State. Farmers began to fence off their pastures, and became interested in securing more butter from their cows.

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It was predicted that stock raising and its concomitant pursuits would unquestionably become a leading business in the community. In 1844 the Green Bay Republican printed the following from the Guernsey Agricultural Society:

"Points of a Good Cow

1. Purity of the breed and qualities of the dam for yielding rich and yellow butter.
2. Small head, large and bright eyes, small muzzle, small ears, orange color within.
3. Straight back from the shoulders to the tail and chest wide.
4. A fine and loose skin, with soft and short hair.
5. Sides well rounded, flank small between the side and paunch.
6. Fore-legs straight and well proportioned, hind-legs broad above the knee, fine and clean below, hoofs small; legs should not cross in walking.
7. Udder large, and the teats large, and springing from the four corners of the udder; milk vein large and well defined."

A general interest in the improvement of cattle was evident in the State about 1850, following several years of partial crop failures. The Wisconsin Farmer and Northwestern Cultivator reflected the spirit of the times in the following article: "We have observed since we have been residents of Wisconsin, that the energies of the farmers are largely expended on wheat. During most of the time, the price has been low, and if at any time the article bore a fair price the cost of transportation consumed all possible profit. At the same time, we are exporting from the east articles which we could better raise here at home. The most costly of these are sheep, cattle, and dairy products. We are annually paying large sums for these, thereby rewarding the interests and enterprises of other states when we have every facility for raising them at home"51.

51 Wisconsin Farmer, 1, p. 254.
At this time a fairly good grade of oxen, showing much Devon blood, began to come in from New England and other Eastern states. Devon and Durham cattle became common topics of conversation, and made up the majority of the cattle at the State and at many of the county fairs. The lack of uniformity of these cattle was frequently commented on by the judges at the State Fair, as for example: "there was one feature in the Durham cattle obvious to the most casual observer and which ought not to be passed over in silence, viz: a great lack of uniformity, not in color merely, but as much difference in style and points, as between animals of different breeds, and this was observable, too, in animals of the same herd. Now it is presumable that every [breeder] of blooded stock has some definite object in view, a type of perfection either real or imaginary as his aim; and when he exhibits two animals perfectly dissimilar, it is evident in one instance that his pursuit has proven a failure. Nor was this lack of uniformity confined to the Durham breed, for the six aged Devon bulls on exhibition, with the exception of color, no two of them were sufficiently alike to have made a well matched pair of cattle ... the only class of Devons in which there was any competition, an agreement of the committee was an utter impossibility. One—it may be—esteeming size and weight; another fineness with the muscle of the blood horse; another, symmetry with the beautifully turned points of the Durham as the sine qua non of a Devon bull; each of which ideal animals was represented in the select specimens before us." Although few of these progressive farmers became famous as breeders, the animals they brought played an important role in breeding up and improving the native stock of the state.

Early Herds of Registered Cattle.

The first breeding herd of registered Shorthorn cattle of note in Wisconsin was that of Charles H. Williams, Baraboo, Sauk county. Mr. Williams was a native of Ohio, coming to Wisconsin early in the fifties. His first registrations appear in Volume II of the American Herd Book. Fig. 4 shows the registered animals of his herd. These trace to both the early Shorthorns of Ohio, and in the instance of Paris 1995, to the original '17's of Kentucky.

18 Wisconsin Farmer, 4, p. 166.
Wooley—Genetic History of Wisconsin Cattle 159

Fig. 4. The animals and their relationships in the Charles Henry Williams herd of Shorthorn cattle, *1850-1860,† with birth years below.

Another breeder who played an important part in the development of the Shorthorn industry in Wisconsin was John P. Roe of Muskego, Waukesha County. Mr. Roe came to the state directly from England in 1854, bringing Shorthorn cattle with him from the herd of George Faulkner of Rotherthorpe, England. Fig. 5 shows the first animals of this herd.

The Shorthorn, as started by these breeders, reigned supreme between the years 1850 and 1880. Many of the herds improved by Shorthorn animals were the foundation herds upon which the dairy breeds were crossed. After 1890 the Shorthorn definitely gave way to the dairy breeds.

The start of Wisconsin's purebred, later registered, dairy breeds is to be credited to the 1850's. These were Alderney (la-

* indicates that the animal in question was brought into the state.
† Volume V of the American Herd Book was not available.
Fig. 5. The animals and their relationships in the John P. Roe herd of Shorthorn cattle, 1850-1860, with birth years below. (See footnotes, p. 159).

ter registered Jersey) cattle in the pioneer herd of J. V. Robbins, Dane County.

The following statements from the records of the American Jersey Cattle Club records show the registry of Robbins’ Major and Bonamy, two of these early cattle, and is included for its historical value: “The sire of Mendota was Robbin’s Major 8310, dropped April 16, 1857; bred by Thomas Motley, Jamaica Plain, Mass., and registered by T. L. Haacker, Dec. 2, 1882, in the name of Simon Ruble, Beloit, Wis. The transfer record shows that this bull went from Thos. Motley to J. V. Robbins, Boston, Mass., July 31, 1857; from Robbins to J. W. Harvey, Madison, Wis., September, 1863; and from Harvey to Simon Ruble, Beloit, Wis., in the winter of 1866.

“Robbins’ Major’s sire was Major 75, and his dam was Flirt 326. Major’s sire was Colonel 76; his dam was Countess 114. Flirt’s sire was Colonel 76, and her dam was Flora 113. All these were imported in May, 1851, by Thomas Motley, of Jamaica Plain, Mass.

“Bonamy 10705, the dam of Mendota, was imported in dam, by S. S. Spaulding, Boston, Mass., and B. D. Godfrey, Medford,

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64 Wisconsin State Agricultural Soc. Transactions, 1860.
Mass., on Sept. 24, 1852, and dropped in the fall of 1852. Her dam must have been sold to C. W. Webster, Boston, Mass., as she was registered by him on Sept. 8, 1880. Neither her sire or dam was given, as Webster lost all his herd records in the great Boston fire. Bonamy was sold by Webster to J. V. Robbins, Madison, Wis., in June, 1858, and transferred from Robbins to A. G. Darwin, Madison, Wis., in July, 1863. She was registered to make her daughter Mendota eligible."

Through Mendota 17910, Mendota 2nd, 26326, and their mating with Omaha 482, this early start formed a permanent foundation for Jersey cattle in Wisconsin.

Stock Raising from 1860 to 1890.

The period 1860-1890 starts with a growing interest in stock raising, although the number of cattle even declined during the first few years. The raising of wheat had reached its culminating point between 1850 and 1860. The pioneers who had the courage to break away from the old routine and lay the foundation for many years of profitable agriculture, selected dairying for a regular business. In many instances improved feeding was the means to more profit in the specialized practice. Cheese was the outlet for production and such was the use of whole milk for this purpose that calves were not raised in many instances. Specialized breeds became more frequent and improved cattle were added to the formula for profit making. The battle between the beef, dual-purpose, and dairy breeds was fought vigorously. The Jefferson County Union, now an important voice for the dairy interests, promoted the specialized dairy breeds intensively. Breed interest became more and more evident. More and more registered herds were established, and sires of the new breeds used for general herd improvement. The Jersey came early and was used, and promoted, as a producer of butter. The Ayrshire had an early wave of popularity, and was then frequently supplanted by other breeds. The Holstein and later the Guernsey were used extensively for general herd improvement, although the latter was first put forth as a family cow. Butter and later whole milk were added to cheese as an outlet for dairy production. Seed stock were sold to neighboring states, particularly Iowa, and states to the west. The Babcock test, the silo, the breed organizations, as well as cooperative ventures in
the latter years of this period, all contributed to the formation of a mammoth, specialized industry. The registered breeds formed the fountain head.

The Period 1860-1870.

Evidence for the growing interest in the cattle industry for the period 1860-1868 is shown in the report of the Secretary of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society. "Thorough-bred animals of every class are becoming much more common than they were five years ago, and their influence upon the native or common stock is already very observable. In view of the marked adaptability of our State to their production, this advance in the right direction is an especial ground for hearty congratulation.

... Cattle breeding does not yet receive its proportionate share of attention. Returns show even a diminution in numbers from 1860 to 1866 in the proportion of 554,203 to 413,459. This falling off, if it has really occurred, is probably owing to the extra attention concentrated upon wool growing and other branches of farming during that period. The Durhams and Devons still are, as they must continue to be,—until some entirely new breed is developed,—the favorite breed; the former having no rival for beef and the latter none for work. There are also a few small herds of Alderneys and Ayrshires, but as yet their influence is hardly perceptible."

The report speaks of the almost entire immunity of all classes of Wisconsin stock, during the year, from the various diseases which had been so destructive in other portions of the country. "In this particular, our State has for many years, been highly favored. Indeed it has never been visited by any of the sweeping epidemics, like hog cholera, murrain, pleuro-pneumonia, abortion in cows, the Texas cattle disease, from which many of the other states have more or less suffered." It is also said that: "The conviction is yearly becoming more general among our farmers that there are definite principles of breeding, which it is necessary to understand and observe in order to [obtain] the best results: and the number correspondingly increases of such as are willing to make large expenditures and sacrifices, in order to insure their flocks and herds the best conditions of success. So that, not only in fine-wool sheep—in which we have, for sometime, held rank among the foremost of the wool producing states—but also in the qualities of our horses and cattle, we are quite
rapidly approaching a time, when the Wisconsin farmers will be able to show stock with even the foremost breeders in the older States. Our fairs, State and County are doing much to advance this interest, by bringing the best animals to the notice of many communities, by encouraging the owners of valuable stock bred in the neighboring states to bring it among us, and by stimulating many spirited breeders to import even from foreign countries."

A statement from the State Fair of 1870 gives a general picture. "The classes comprising the various breeds of neat stock were well sustained by farmers of the State. . . . The Shorthorns, as usual, were far more numerous than any other breed; next, in point of numbers, came the Devons; then the Alderneys and a small representation of Ayrshires. The two last named showing a better class of cattle than have been exhibited heretofore. . . . Breeders of thoroughbred stock have, for the past few years, shown a very commendable emulation, and great enterprise in bringing into the State so many valuable breeding animals. These breeders have done much towards advancing the general prosperity and it now becomes the duty, as it is in the interests of the general farmer, to make use of the advantage brought to his door, and to proceed without delay to improve his native stock, step by step, until they become paying property, and a credit to the grower, his country and the State.

"The show of milch cows was meagre indeed (altho the few animals exhibited were good), not such as it should have been when we consider how important and valuable that interest has become. The dairy farmers are not sufficiently alive to their own interests and that of the State when they neglect to represent themselves in a credible manner at our annual exhibitions of improved stock.

"The exhibition of grade cattle and working oxen was slim in point of numbers, and not as good in quality as it should have been. With the fine show of thorough-bred Shorthorns and Devons to be seen at our annual exhibitions for several years back, made up of choice stock from all parts of the State, it would be reasonable to suppose there would be a very large increase of improved grades, and better shows at our annual exhibitions. But it seems our farmers have not realized the great

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55 W. S. A. S. Trans., 1869, p. 36.
benefits to be derived from crossing the native cow with thorough-bred males. For at this time, improved grades are so scarce that persons engaged in stall feeding, are obliged to go to adjoining states to procure stock for feeding purposes, having learned by sad experience that money cannot be made by feeding native stock."

"It was said that farming is, and must continue to be the chief object of industry and the foundation of a large share of the wealth of the people of the State; it is encouraged by State grants of money, in various ways, by aiding Agricultural societies, published agricultural reports, collecting statistics; and recently by the establishment of an Agricultural college as part of the State University. About one-half of the land in Wisconsin still remains in the hands, either of the United States, or of the State government and subject to entry by any person at anytime, at the most moderate price. The whole number of farms is estimated 100,000 with an average of 40 acres each, in all, four million acres under actual culture. This shows a surplus of over thirty millions of acres uncultivated or about seven eighths of the whole land of the State."

*The Period 1870-1880.*

The year 1870 marks the starting of a small paper at Lake Mills, called the Jefferson County Union, which from its first issue, March 17, of that year began to urge the farmers of Jefferson county to organize themselves into cheese factory sections. One reaction involving the cattle of the state is shown in the report of Hoyt, 1870: "It seems that our farmers being within range of the Cheese factories are so anxious to turn their milk into money that they are in the habit of killing off their calves at a day old, or at latest as early as their hides will be salable. This naturally diminishes the supply of cattle and calves for the butchers and raises the price of meat in the local market; and this demand in turn results in the slaughter of large numbers of young cattle of all ages.""58

A statement of Hoyt in reference to breeding is as follows: "... No intelligent farmer any longer questions the possibility of greatly increasing the milk-producing qualities of his cows by

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56 W. S. A. S. Trans., 1870, p. 152.
57 State Board of Immigration, 1859.
58 W. S. A. S., Trans. p. 41, 1870.
breeding in reference to it; and yet, so far as we have observed, but comparatively little attention has been given to this matter. The Ayrshires are universally acknowledged to be the best milkers—at least if we regard quantity, and they also yield a good quality milk—and yet we know of but two or three small herds in the whole state. If there are unsurmountable objections to the introduction of this breed we have yet to learn what they are."

This period also marks the formation of the State Dairymen’s Association. "The Jefferson county Dairymen’s Association and a similar organization in Fond du Lac county had been organized the year before. The first move made towards forming a Wisconsin Dairymen’s Association originated in a motion to that effect, by the editor of this paper, in the Jefferson County Dairymen’s Association, Jan. 26, 1872, and we were instructed to prepare a call for a meeting to form such Association. The call was signed by S. Faville, W. D. Hoard, J. G. Hull, Q. C. Olin, Chas. Copeland, of this county; F. E. Morrow, Editor Western Farmer, Madison, Chester Hazen President and H. Strong sec. Fond du Lac Co. Dairymen’s Association. The first meeting was held in the Lindon House, Watertown, Feb. 15, 1872. But few persons were present, a constitution was adopted and the following officers elected: President, Chester Hazen, Ladoga; Vice Pres. H. F. Dousman, Waterville, and H. C. Drake, Lake Mills; Sec., W. D. Hoard; Treasurer, Walt. S. Greene, Milford. The influence yielded by the association thus formed, upon the agricultural prosperity of Wisconsin has been immense."  

Types of Herds and Their Management.

One of the great promoters of good feeding of dairy cattle in the next few years was Mr. Wm. C. White of Kenosha, who at the time said: Feed a cow only four quarts of bran shorts, and meal per day, and you can hardly see any good results; feed her eight quarts and she will increase her mess of milk, so as to pay down every day for what she eats; feed her twelve quarts and she will make a surplus for clear profit."

"An interesting statement regarding this very successful and veteran dairyman is the following: 'I always speak to a cow as
I would to a lady', which contains volumes of meaning. It means the kindest and most considerate care, the most generous and thoughtful regard for the comfort and content of the animal which in turn is to yield him such splendid results as 650 lbs. of cheese per cow in one season, from a dairy of 70 cows. Mr. White's farm consists of 384 acres of fine prairie and openings soil, about two miles from Mr. Simmon's farm, on the edge of Pleasant Prairie. He commenced dairying in 1857. He started the first cheese factory in southern Wisconsin. His herd consisted last season, of 75 cows mostly of Durham and Ayrshire grades, with 14 full bred Ayrshires. He has great success as a raiser of good cows and his maxim is: 'Commence when they are calves and never let them stop in growth.' He is a very heavy feeder, raising a half acre of corn to the cow besides purchasing large quantities of bran. We heard him asked once in a conversation if he thought such heavy feeding paid the expense, with a twinkle in his merry old eye, he replied 'I commenced poor and all that I am worth I owe to the cow.' . . . He stated to us that he believed he could select forty cows from his herd which would yield an average of 800 lbs. of cheese each, in a season. His dairy is one of his own breeding and shows the value of care and attention in this particular."61

At this time the owner of the largest herd of cows for dairy purposes in the state was Mr. Z. C. Simmons, President of the Northwestern Telegraph Co.; and also President of the Wisconsin Dairymans Association, 1879. "The total number were three hundred and fifty. In this instance two large farms were brought into requisition lying two miles apart, with most perfect appliances and buildings upon each. The first was known as the Somers farm and consisted of eight hundred acres of splendid prairie soil. One hundred fifty cows were kept on this farm. The second farm was known as the Prairie Farm and was a portion of the famous old Truesdale Farm, which, before the buildings were destroyed by fire, was considered the most elaborate and finely appointed farm establishment in the United States. This farm contained about fifteen hundred acres and supported two hundred cows. The amount of cheese made on the Prairie Farm in 1878 was 110,000 pounds, or an average of

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550 pounds per cow. The cows were fed twice a day with corn meal and bran.”

It has been said that one of the most important breeders of this period was Mr. C. H. Williams. The breeding of thoroughbred Durham or Shorthorn cattle was the branch of Mr. William's farming to which he devoted the greatest amount of labor and conscientious care, both at Meadow Farm at Ableman and at Elmwood Farm at Baraboo, beginning at the latter place in 1871. “At Elmwood Farm he introduced and carried on a system of public sales of Shorthorns that brought together farmers from various parts of the State. At this time, 1879, he was the veteran breeder of the State, having bred them since 1853. The beginning of this herd and all new additions came from Kentucky, except a later purchase from the herd of George Murray, of Racine, and one from W. B. Dodge of Waukegan, Illinois. His herd was subject to some criticism in that it lacked the blood that would command the highest prices. His animals, however, were just the type that were needed in Wisconsin; that is, well bred animals, of good quality which could be purchased at prices favorable to the general farmer and to the small breeder. During all his years of breeding, Mr. Williams had been tireless in his efforts to impress upon the livestock breeders of the State the advantage to be derived from good cattle. To quote Mr. Williams: ‘Farmers of Wisconsin, our interests and those of our state lie largely in improving our domestic animals, growing the best of its kind is the most profitable. Raise then only the best—the best cattle, the best sheep, swine and poultry—your means will warrant it; if not, go as many steps toward the best as you can, and, by a gradual improvement you will in time reach the desired goal.’ Too much credit cannot be given him, for his thirty years work with Shorthorns in Wisconsin. No one man exerted such a lasting influence toward the improvement of livestock of the state as did this man. He was a conscientious breeder, possessing unimpeachable business integrity, a good neighbor, and a man who had the interests of his community, his State and his country foremost in his heart.”

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* W.M.H. Vol. 6, p. 324.
* W.M.H., Vol. 6, p. 324.
Introduction of Holstein Cattle by Septer Wintermute.

Registered Holstein cattle were brought to Wisconsin in 1873. The first animal, Elswout Prince 95, H.H.B., came from Mr. H. C. Hoffman, of Horseheads, New York, and entered the herd of Mr. Septer Wintermute, of Whitewater, Wisconsin. This bull was used to grade up a herd that was primarily Shorthorn. Mr. Wintermute bought a second bull, Cruiser 210, before the purchase of any female stock. His herd was typical of a number of early Holstein purchases. They were to grade up “native” cattle, and cattle improved by Shorthorn crosses. It was believed by many that the future profit of dairying would lie in the direction of producing the largest yield from a given number of cows, and that the question of breed as well as feed had very much to do with the matter.

In 1883, ten years after the start of Mr. Wintermute’s “experiment” in breeding Holsteins, the results were entirely satisfactory to him. In addition to a larger production of milk there was a steadily growing demand for all the stock he had to sell. Among the important sales were those to the Home Fine Stock Co., Hampton, Iowa, Ira Miller, New London, Wis., C. H. Noel, Stillwater, Minnesota, E. W. Babcock, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, C. L. Converse, Ontario, Canada, M. McAlister, Missouri, and to parties in Indiana and Dakota, in lots varying from 2 to 20 head. Numerous sales were made to parties nearer home, and orders received for more stock than could be spared.65

Dairying as a Business, 1880.

A statement that indicates the trend of the time, 1880, as dairying became more of a business, is as follows: “Every detail in dairying must henceforth be managed with the utmost care and skill of which the farmer and manufacturer is capable. The industry has been elevated to a position which it can only retain through the exercise of the greatest skill and intelligence . . . the best breed of cows must be employed.”66

Another statement is the following: “The dairy business, at present, is ‘all the go.’ To procure a given number of cows; to keep them after the fashion of our fathers; to convert their milk into butter, in the manner of our grandmothers; to dispose

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66 Ibid., Vol. 51, 1879.
of the manufactured article, as best we may, in exchange for sugar and tea, will, however, not lead to very glorious results. To use a common phrase, that kind of dairy-business is 'played out.' Much brain work is required, many practical experiments must be made before we ascertain what particular breed of cattle is most profitable; how our cows must be kept; which process is the best, to obtain the largest quantity and the best quality of butter.

At a farmers’ meeting at Kenosha it was said that “an interesting feature of the meeting was a fine display of some of the best families of Dairy cattle by several of the progressive farmers of that county. R. S. Houston, the noted Jersey Butter Maker, exhibited a number of thoroughbred and grade Jerseys. Ward C. White, the veteran dairyman was present with several of his fine Ayrshires. E. A. Carpenter exhibited a splendid imported Holstein bull 3 years old, with several of his calves. It was a matter of deep interest to us to note such a spirit of pride and ambition in their calling as farmers.”

Although the notices regarding sale and purchase, as well as of experience, with the new breeds, particularly the Ayrshire, Jersey and Holstein became numerous, the native cow was not put out of the picture at once. The Jefferson County Union quoted the fine production of 4,920 pounds each for a herd of native cattle, in an article entitled “Better Cows.” J. C. Merriman, Jefferson County, reported a cow of native breed which produced 208 pounds of butter from the 10th of May till the 1st of December, besides giving all the milk and cream used in the family, and having no extra feed until October 1st.

Opinions Regarding the Dairy Breeds.

Many articles written at this time indicate uncertainty and differences of opinion regarding the dairy breeds.

A criticism of the Jersey is the following: . . . “but it is astonishing how much more milk a Jersey cow will give if she only has ‘grand whole colors’—and the Jersey breeders are ruining the milk record of their cattle. Instead of breeding toward the udder, they are breeding toward some pet notion, and proof of this is to be seen in nearly all the fancy herds. Most of

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their stock are mere trash, but they excell in color. One good, forty-dollar, native cow can discount their high-toned colored squabs a year in advance."

Another opinion: "We want Holsteins and Ayrshires for the general milk and cheese supply; we want Short Horns and Herefords for their beef; but the country wants the Jersey for her butter—so let us have an end to the opposition which this breed has met with for forty years. He who specialized wins. The "general purpose cow" is an impossible animal. Let each farmer decide whether all circumstances point to a beef, a milk or a butter breed, and choose his stock accordingly... the two tendencies flesh and milk cannot travel the same road together and produce the highest excellence and profit in both."

The following seems to be an extreme case: "Not long since a farmer who keeps a herd of 40 cows, and furnishes milk to a cheese factory, informed us that he was about to buy a Hereford bull. We very naturally inquired if he was going out of the dairy business. He replied "O! no; but I though I would like to increase the size of my cows, as they would make more beef when they get through giving milk.""

Mr. R. S. Houston of Ranney, one of the best known of Wisconsin dairymen writes: "Starting with the common cows of the country, I turned my attention to the butter capacity of my herd. After investigating quite thoroughly, I concluded to try the Jerseys, and from that time I have been improving; although for years I manfully withstood the jeers and scoffs of my entire neighborhood, it was only by determined will I persevered. I commenced by raising heifer calves, and when I felt that I was well stocked, occasionally would induce some one to buy a heifer calf, but the most that I could obtain for my early productions was $5. When the stock grew to maturity, I found much better sales and far better prices. For my own use I always bought the very best sire I could purchase, and they must certainly not only be pure bred but registered. When the Guernseys were introduced in the west in 1881, I purchased a Guernsey sire. At first the Guernsey was used rather sparingly, always increasing his service until the present time (1889), and now I shall dis-

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"Ibid.
"Ibid. Vol. 14, 1883."
pose of my Jersey at canning prices unless some one applies early that wants a well bred fellow at a give-away figure. I am a thorough convert to the Guernsey cows, and why? They are more docile, larger in frame, have more muscle and bone, more the looks of a farmer's cow, have better sized teats, color their product better, their calves are larger, and taking all in all they are more desirable as a dairy or family cow,—the cow which always finds a ready sale at remunerative prices."

Mr. Houston bred the cow Houston, that lead the herd at the Minn. Experiment Station. She was by a Guernsey bull, and her dam was a full blood Jersey. Houston was nine years old in 1892, and her record at the Station the next year was as follows: Weight, 880 pounds; days in milk 320; pounds milk 6976.1; pounds fat 366.98; average per cent fat in milk 5.3 per cent; cost of food per pound of fat, 10.8 cents.\(^7^3\)

The Guernsey Breed in Wisconsin.

The Guernsey breed was first brought to Wisconsin, to the herd of N. K. Fairbank, Lake Geneva, in 1881. Later in the year I. J. Clapp, Kenosha, imported a few animals of this breed. By 1884, considerable publicity began to be given the Guernsey cow in Wisconsin. Attention was called to I. J. Clapp's imported Guernsey cattle, now luxuriating in the green fields of Kenosha county, and being greatly admired by the fanciers of that neighborhood. Mr. Clapp had been crossing these cattle on grade Jerseys with good success. The crossed animals were said to have been a much finer looking animal than the Jersey. A successful cross of these cattle on grade shorthorn cattle is also reported and equally good results secured. It was reported that the reason for breeding these Guernsey bulls to high-grade Shorthorns rather than to common cows, of which there were a few very good ones in the dairy herd, was that the breeder wished the dams of the grade Guernseys to be good looking beasts.\(^7^4\)

Summary.

In summary of the history of the dairy interest in Wisconsin, it is pointed out that the counties of Jefferson, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Waukesha, Brown, Dodge, Walworth, Green, and Ken-

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\(^7^3\) Guernsey Breeders Journal, Vol. 2, 1911, p. 73.

\(^7^4\) Jefferson County Union, Vol. 15, 1884.
osha were the pioneer dairy counties of the State. The business had assumed considerable importance in Columbia, Richland, Calumet, Iowa, and Manitowoc counties, with a few cheese factories, creameries, or private dairies, scattered about in other outlying counties.

**Discussion.**

Starting in 1860 with 521,860 head, the cattle population of the state increased more than threefold, to 1,647,947 head, in 1890. Of this population 39 per cent were classed as dairy cattle in 1860, and in 1890 42 per cent were classed as dairy cattle. These numerical changes fail to show the most significant differences in the cattle population of these two periods. In 1860 as compared to 1890, improved animals were limited to the herds of a relatively few progressive individuals. The cattle were still, for the most part, unimproved native stock. The only improved breeds having a secure footing in the state were the Shorthorns and Devons. By 1890 the Devons, which had been used extensively as working oxen, had become of minor importance. They were shown at the State Fair for the last time in 1892. The influence of the Shorthorn cattle had steadily increased, meanwhile changing from the hands of large speculator breeding establishments, to those of small breeders and farmers after the late '70's. While the Shorthorns were the most popular beef animals, the rapidly increasing dairy business had proved to be too strong a competitor for the beef cattle business.

The success of the Ayrshire, Holstein, Guernsey, and to a less extent the Jersey was in most instances due to the preparatory work of the Shorthorn in grading up the native cattle of the state. The Jersey breed had developed in compact herds. In contrast the Ayrshires in the herds of W. B. Kingsbury and H. S. Durand, Racine, and W. C. White and Chester Hazen, Kenosha, had been extensively used for grading up purposes, as well as for the breeding of registered animals. The Holsteins were used for grading in many pioneer herds. This trend is shown in the registry of fifteen males as compared to three females in the first four volumes of the herd book. Guernsey cattle were frequently used for crossing on both Shorthorn and Jersey foundation animals.

By 1890 all of the dairy breeds, with the exception of the Brown Swiss, which had just been introduced, had many well
established herds, from which animals were regularly being registered.

*Early Registered Dairy Cattle and their Importance to Later Generations.*

Following the establishment of registered Jersey cattle in Wisconsin, there followed successively the Ayrshires in 1868, Holsteins in 1873, Guernseys in 1881, and Brown Swiss about 1890. A study of the dairy cattle registered in 1890 was made to find whether these breeds were being developed from the original stock brought into the state, from stock from other parts of America, or from stock directly from Europe. The sampling method reported in 1925 by Wright and McPhee, for calculating inbreeding coefficients and relationship coefficients from random ancestral lines of livestock pedigrees, was used as a basis for this study. From each breed two ancestral lines were traced back on each animal in the sample. The samples were taken from the registrations of the one year 1890, except for the Ayrshire sample, this being secured from a five year period due to the small number of registrations. A grouping of the ancestry was made by ten year intervals. A summary of the results is presented in table III. In constructing the table the expected number of animals in each ten year period was calculated with the generation lengths found in this study. The generation lengths are shown in table II. These were slightly but consistently longer than those usually given for the breeds.

The ancestry of the Jersey cattle registered in 1890 were largely found in the V. Fuller and R. H. Stephens herds of Canada, the Darling and Hoe herds in New York, and about 1850, in the Mills herd in Connecticut. Midwestern herds did not have a prominent part at any time. Some of the American Jerseys, however, were found in the ancestry for many years.

The Ayrshire cattle trace largely to the J. Stewart herd of Illinois, the J. F. Converse herd of New York and the J. Dunlop and J. Taylor herds of Scotland. Duke of Ayr 3617, bred in the Taylor herd and his son Duke of Ayr 3rd. 4364, in the Chester Hazen herd in Wisconsin, were both in more than twenty percent of the random lines.

The Holstein-Friesian cattle trace in many instances to the large importing herds of W. H. Green and W. A. Pratt, in Illinois, to the T. H. Wales herd of Iowa and to Smiths and Powell
in New York. The foundation herd of importance in Wisconsin is that of H. and J. Rust, North Greenfield. The names of Nether-
land Prince 716, and Netherland Carl 3279, occur in 7.5 and
5.7 per cent of the lines, respectively. Both of these animals
were bred in the herd of Smiths and Powell, New York.

A high percentage of the Guernsey ancestry traces to New
York and Pennsylvania, and in a few instances to the herd of
B. C. Biddle, one of the first Guernsey herds established in
America. As with the Holstein-Friesian cattle, Canadian ani-

Table II. Comparion of Generation LenthS Calculated from the Ancestry
of Dairy Cattle Registered in Wisconsin, 1890, and Generation
Lengths Calculated from Recent Herd Books.75

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<th>Breed</th>
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<th>Breed in General</th>
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<td>Length in</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Years</td>
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Table III. Distribution of the Ancestry of 1890 Wisconsin Registered
Dairy Cattle by ten year periods

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<th>Breed and Location</th>
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<th>1870-1880</th>
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<td>Isle of Guernsey</td>
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mals were not of importance to the cattle of 1890. Buckskin 834, bred by Silas Betts, New Jersey, received 13.6 per cent of the ancestral lines. The animals of early Wisconsin breeders were in this instance more prominent, with Barney 1568, bred by I. J. Clapp, Kenosha, and Nutwood 1408, bred by N. K. Fairbanks, Lake Geneva, each having 9 per cent of the ancestral lines.

Importation, both from America and abroad, was playing a more important role in the building up of the registered dairy herds of 1890 than was the breeding from foundation animals in the early Wisconsin herds.

CONCLUSION

The general cattle population of Wisconsin in 1890 consisted of a native foundation graded up by Shorthorn, and during the latter two decades of the period, more and more by dairy breeds. Forty-two per cent of the population was classed as dairy stock. Of this group three-tenths of one per cent were in registered herds.

SUMMARY

The genetic history of the cattle of Wisconsin involves four prominent phases over the period to 1890:

1. That of the cattle of French importation; cattle predominately from Normandy and Brittany. These were of importance to the time of the Black Hawk war, 1832.

2. That of the native cattle, descendants of the cattle of the American colonies. These became of major importance after 1832, and were the cattle of the territorial days, 1836-1848.

3. That of the improved breeds; first the Shorthorn and Devon, and later, particularly, the dairy breeds. These have been of importance since the early days of the State. Within the registered dairy herds the original animals brought into the State were exerting only a minor influence in 1890.

4. That of the improved native and grade cattle; these forming the general cattle population of the State in 1890. In

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*Iowa Bulletin 290.
the development of this group the Devon and Shorthorn were used through 1850-1870. After this date the Shorthorn and representatives of the dairy breeds were used for general improvement.

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