

## THE WILD HONEYBEE IN EARLY WISCONSIN

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It is not known exactly when the honeybee (*Apis mellifica*) was brought to North America. The literature indicates that it was introduced first into Massachusetts, but the earliest records are for Virginia. Williams (1844) listed honey and beeswax among the commodities produced and available in Virginia, and gave their prices as of 1621. Evidently bees had been brought in some time previously. A letter of December 5, 1621, from the Virginia Company of London reported that beehives, peacocks and pigeons were being sent to the colony for preservation and increase (Kingsbury, 1933). Swarms escaped to use hollow trees as hives, and by the end of the 18th century honeybees were well established beyond the Mississippi.

Unfortunately we do not know the rate at which bees spread westward. Bradbury (1817) wrote that in 1810 they were found in eastern Nebraska, and that they had moved 600 miles westward in 14 years, approximately 40 miles a year. At this rate of progress bees would have advanced from the coast of Virginia to the Mississippi in 20 years, which is improbable. In 1754 there were swarms of bees at the forks of the Ohio (Pittsburg) (J.C.B., 1941), and in 1782 bees were kept by the Moravian Indians at Gnadenhutten on the Muskingum (Zeisberger, 1885, I:80). Although in 1776 wild bees were reported to be abundant at Detroit (Hamilton, 1908), Zeisberger (1885, II:316) wrote in 1793 that no bees were found in the woods at Fairfield on the Thames (near Detroit) and bees brought there by an Indian from the Huron River, Ohio, swarmed twice. The dates available show poor coincidence with longitude. In 1804, two men from the Moravian Mission near Anderson, Indiana, went with a Cherokee squaw to fell some bee trees which she had found (Gipson, 1938). The U.S. Factory at Chicago paid to the Indians thirty nine cents per pound for beeswax in 1805 (Peake, 1954). Flagg (1912) wrote from Edwardsville, Madison County, Illinois (a prairie state), September 12, 1818, that more wild honey was available in the territory than elsewhere in the world. Bees progressed slowly in the virgin forest, but rapidly at the margins of grasslands.

The date of the appearance of the honeybee in Wisconsin is uncertain. The U.S. Factory at Prairie du Chien purchased "wax,

tallow, etc." to the amount of \$70.88 during the first half of 1818 (J. W. Johnson, 1911). An 1825 inventory of the trading post at Fond du Lac (Superior) appraised 10 pounds of wax at \$2.00 (Anon., 1911). Although neither record indicated the source of the beeswax, it probably came from near the Mississippi. The first mention of wild bees in Wisconsin was in 1828. In January of this year Fonda (1859) and a Frenchman, carrying mail from Chicago to Green Bay, discovered in southeastern Wisconsin a bee tree, revealed by the claw marks of a bear and cut it down. Fonda ate so much of the honey that he became ill. Subsequently he could not eat honey without a feeling of nausea. In the same year honey was so abundant in Grant County (Hollman, 1922) that bees must have colonized the region before 1800.

#### COLLECTION OF HONEY BY INDIANS

The Indians had collected honey long before the first white settlers came to southern Wisconsin as shown by their ladders and bee trees which had been cut. Except in the Lead Region, the tide of immigration was unimportant until about 1840. The Indians were on hand to exchange honey for pork and flour.

The Potawatomes in Walworth County used crude ladders to reach the cavity containing the honey and opened it with hatchets (Dwinnell, 1874). The earliest settlers in Waukesha County found a great number of Indian ladders made from tall young trees, their branches cut off to leave prongs eight to ten inches long which served as rungs (Western Hist. Co. 1880.3:626). At times the Indians sought assistance from the whites. Joseph H. Stickney came to Waukesha County in 1839. His daughter described the procedure (Martin, 1925): "My father said when an Indian came of an errand, he never failed to make his want known; he would continue to act it out in pantomime until you caught his meaning. Sometimes it was a bee-tree he had found, and he wanted the white man to go with him with an axe and chop the tree down. First he made the white man understand what he had found; he attracts his attention, then bends over and imitates the bee as he flies from flower to flower, buzz, buzz, buzz; then he points, as away the bee flies with his load to his home in the distant tree, then he says, 'armo sispoquet'\*; 'sispoquet' meant bee sugar or honey. Then father gets his axe, the Indian shows him the way to the honey the Indian divides with him; then taking his half, vanishes among the trees of the forest."

\* The Potawatomi were closely related to the Chippewa, in whose language honey was *amo sisibakwat*.

## COLLECTION OF HONEY BY WHITES

Cane sugar was an expensive item for the early settlers, and maple sugar could be made only in particular areas. The cheapest and most available sweetening was honey. In fact the only readily marketable products were deer skins, furs, ginseng, honey, and beeswax. Many of the settlers from the east were experienced bee hunters and some became professional collectors of honey. Greening (1942:213) wrote at Mazomanie in 1847: "Parties go bee hunting for months together in Summer, they take wagons and a pair of oxen, an ax and coffeepot, and that's all except barrels for the honey. When they come to a prairie they turn out the cattle, and watch the flowers till they see a honey bee, catch it, put it into a box, for its humming to attract other bees, then they let it go and watch in what direction they fly, and then search all the hollow trees on that side, find the tree, chop it down, smother the bees and take the honey, barrel it up, then *ditto*, several times a day perhaps. They shoot for meat, roast corn in a frying pan for coffee, barter honey for flour from settlers, bake it in a pan, and sleep in their wagons at night."

The use of the box as described above is incorrect. The box contained honey which the bee consumed to the limit of its capacity. When released, it flew directly to the bee tree. The standard procedure in Sauk County for locating a bee tree is given by Brown (1946): "In the spring when the plum and apple trees were in bloom he [Uncle Isaih] took a small box, put some honey in it and caught a dozen bees or so and put them in the box, leaving a small crack that would allow one bee to escape at a time. When ready to 'hunt,' he would open a small slide and let out one bee. It came out laden with honey to be carried to the tree. When it first escaped, it flew around in spirals until it reached a height of twenty or thirty feet. Then it darted away in a straight line for the bee tree . . . After Uncle Isaih had followed the direction taken by the bee, until he was no longer sure of the direction, he opened the slot and let out another bee which repeated the operation." Bees were released until the tree was found. Occasionally an entire day was consumed in locating the tree, but the reward might be as much as 100 pounds of honey.

The finder of a bee tree carved his initials on the tree. Under unwritten pioneer law, this was a claim to ownership usually respected. Unonius (1950), writing of Waukesha County where he arrived in 1841, said that the finder could not cut the tree without the consent of the owner; but if the owner cut the tree, he had no right to the honey. With the influx of Europeans, the traditional

custom broke down and honey was taken without regard to ownership.

#### ABUNDANCE

It has been said that "Wisconsin was one extensive apiary" (Cole, 1930). This was true only of the southern two-thirds of the state. An early observation in the middle west was that bee trees were most numerous in the woods bordering the prairies. The reason for this lay in the profusion of flowers which existed on the prairies from early spring until autumn. Honey could be obtained from forest trees such as basswood and maples only during spring. Sufficient honey usually could not be collected to more than last the bees until the next flowering season. When clearings were made in the woods and crops such as buckwheat and white clover were raised, bees appeared. About 70 percent of the bloom in the forests occurs before June 15, while on the prairie at least 25 percent of the bloom occurs after August 15 (Curtis, 1959). The finding of bee trees by the early settlers is accordingly of ecological significance since it shows the presence of prairie or oak opening. Evidence for this is found in the title of the book by James Fennimore Cooper, *The oak openings; or, the bee-hunter* (1848).

In October 1834, E. Johnson (n.d.) and companions cut 31 bee trees in four days near the "Big Spring" between Dodgeville and Helena. After the honey was divided among the participants, he kept of his share a sufficient amount to supply his family for a year, and sold the remainder in Dodgeville for \$75.00. A man in Grant County found 75 bee trees between Lancaster and Beetown (Western Hist. Co. 1881). Perkins (1842), living at Burlington, stated that thousands of swarms were destroyed annually by the Indians and whites and advised how the bees could be housed and saved. In 1841 the inhabitants of Milwaukee County petitioned the legislature to pass a law relating to wild bees. This petition could not be found. It evidently sought to protect the bees from destruction when a tree was cut; however, "the committee had not deemed it necessary to take any action upon the subject, and asked to be discharged from its further consideration" (House Journ. 1841).

The census of 1840 recorded 1,474 pounds of beeswax produced in the state. Grant County led with 399 pounds. Probably nearly all of this wax was obtained from wild bees. The census of 1850 gave a combined production of 131,005 pounds of honey and beeswax, indicating that bee culture was then well under way. (The data are for the year prior to that in which the census was taken).

## BEE CULTURE

An apiary in pioneer times usually began by the capture of a swarm of wild bees. The simplest hive was a section of hollow tree boarded at the top and bottom. As late as 1863, mention is made of the transfer of a colony of bees from a hive of this kind to a "patent" one (Madison, 1863). The wild bee was the so-called German, or black bee. Perkins (1842) wrote: "I wished to purchase some swarms and made considerable inquiry but notwithstanding the vast number of swarms which have been taken, yet from the reckless manner [in which] they have been destroyed, and the bad management of those kept, there is scarcely a swarm to be bought in the country." Adam Grimm (1927), settling near Jefferson in the spring of 1849, found the country full of wild bees and soon formed an apiary. These bees were black and vicious. L. Teetshorn (Watertown, 1875) was convinced that the "native or black bees" were superior to the Italian and was limiting his apiary to them.

In 1847, Raeder (1929) found that bee keeping was thriving in southeastern Wisconsin. A year later Ficker (1942) was in Mequon, Ozaukee County, where bees were kept. They were considerably more productive than in Germany. Many kinds of patented beehives were offered at Watertown in 1849 (Watertown, 1849). A year earlier Mellberg recorded in his diary at Lake Koshkonong, "Hived a swarm of bees for Mrs. Devoe" (Barton, 1946). A beehive was robbed at Kenosha in 1851 and thrown into the river (Kenosha, 1851).

There was considerable early discussion of the relative values of the German and Italian bees. The opinion prevailed that the latter were the more docile and superior in the production of honey. I. S. Crowfoot began an apiary in the town of Hartford, Washington County, in 1856, and is said to have been the first to introduce the Italian bee. He had as many as 900 hives at one time (Western Hist. Co., 1881.1). The earliest specific date that has been found for the Italian bee is 1864, when J. W. Sharp, Door Creek, Dane County, offered Italian queens at \$5.00 each (Madison, 1864).

The leading bee keeper was Adam Grimm (1927) of Jefferson. He died in 1876, and on his tombstone is carved a straw beehive. He had gone to Italy in the fall of 1867, returning in the spring of 1868 with hundreds of Italian queens. Some were sold subsequently at \$20.00 each. In January, 1871, he shipped 365 swarms to Utah (Grimm, 1871). Only a few people were keeping Italian bees at the time. Grimm began the season of 1870 with 600 swarms which increased to 903 during the summer. His production of honey during the year was 22,725 pounds, which was about one-tenth of the total production in the state (Anon., 1871). Dr. Maxson of Whitewater

had 100 hives of imported Italian bees in 1874. Thirty hives were taken to the Bark River woods, where, in three days, they produced 700 pounds of honey (Whitewater, 1874). This would be at the rate of 7.8 pounds of honey per hive per day.

#### DISTRIBUTION

The places where bee trees were found are shown on the map (Fig. 1). Below, by counties, is the information that has been found.

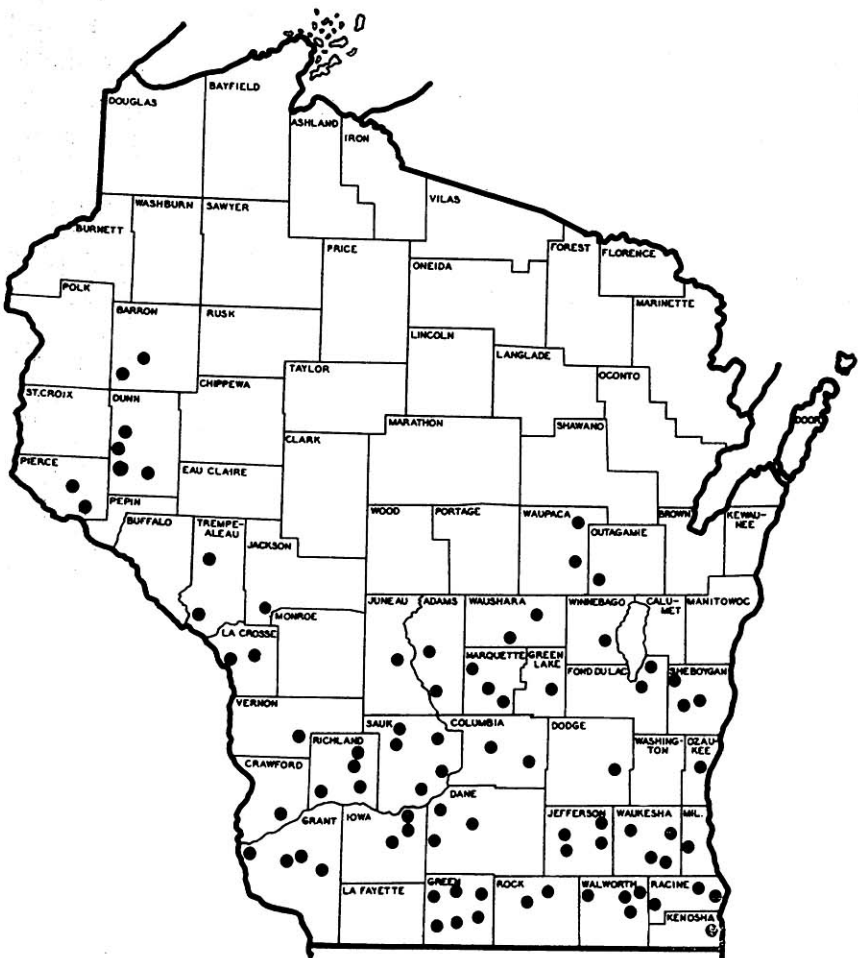


FIGURE 1. Locations of early wild honeybee trees.

*Adams.*—Two men cut down a tree in the town of Springville from which 250 pounds of honey were obtained (Friendship, 1870). Bee trees must have been found previously for the above amount of honey was viewed as a record. Another tree, found by James Needham, yielded 125 pounds of honey (Friendship, 1876).

*Barron.*—Apiaries were started in the towns of Vance Creek and Arland, at unrecorded dates, by the capture of swarms of wild bees. J. P. Carlson began raising bees in the town of Prairie Farm about 1884 (Gordon, 1922).

*Clark.*—Although wild bees were undoubtedly present, no record has been found. John R. Sturdevant, Neillsville, is credited with having introduced the first swarm of bees into the county (Lewis Publ. Co., 1891).

*Columbia.*—An early settler, staying at the cabin of William Rowan at Poynette in 1837, reported "We had good coffee and plenty of honey" (Butterfield, 1880). Beyond a doubt, only wild honey was available at that time and place. A tree found in the town of Fountain Prairie contained 65 pounds of honey (Portage, 1878).

*Crawford.*—In November 1830, Johnson (n.d.) found a colony of bees in the root of a tree on the west side of the Kickapoo River, town of Wauzeka.

*Dane.*—The fall of 1829, Johnson (n.d.) hunted for bee trees at Blue Mounds. He took the honey, along with onions and potatoes which he had raised, by ox team to Fort Winnebago for sale. Rose Schuster Taylor (1945), born in 1863, daughter of Peter Schuster who settled near Middleton in 1855, wrote: "Wild bees deposited their delicious honey in hollow trees. We gathered it on cold days when the bees could not fly and could not sting us since such bees were truly wild. Many pounds of wild honey were added to our supply which was used as a sugar substitute in sweetening as well as for corn bread and griddle cakes. White sugar cost 15 cents a pound, and brown sugar was only a little less." The early hunting for bee trees at Mazomanie has been mentioned.

*Dodge.*—In the town of Herman, in the fall of 1848, Reuben Judd "took over thirty swarms of wild bees" (Western Hist. Co., 1880).

*Dunn.*—Two men, after an absence of eight days, returned to Durand with over 500 pounds of strained honey obtained along Wilson Creek in the center of the county (Durand, 1863). In 1864 Mrs. Thomas Huey came to the home of O. Cockeram, town of Lucas. Mrs. Cockeram "had some honey for supper which they told



us had been gotten out of a tree in the woods, which we thought very wonderful then" (Curtiss-Wedge, 1925). That year wild honey was reported to be very abundant and bee hunters were prospering. Honey cost 30 cents a pound (Menomonie, 1864). In 1879, in the town of Dunn, many swarms of wild bees were found in the woods (Menomonie, 1879). A year later bee trees were found in the town of Weston, the woods along Knights Creek being mentioned (Menomonie, 1880).

*Fond du Lac.*—Government surveyors in the town of Calumet in 1834 noted that numerous trees had been cut by the Indians to obtain honey. Reuben Simmons, who settled in the town of Empire in 1840, took butter, eggs, and honey, presumably wild, to Green Bay (McKenna, 1912). At this time the Indians brought honey for sale or exchange (Western Hist. Co., 1880.1). Titus (1936) adds that the settlers obtained maple sugar and honey from the woods.

*Grant.*—Beetown, nine miles southwest of Lancaster, is said to have obtained its name in 1827 when a large bee tree blew down, exposing lead ore, one piece of which weighed 425 pounds (Western Hist. Co., 1881). Another version derives the name from local mining activity (Lancaster, 1845). Hollman (1922) brought his family to his cabin near Platteville April 9, 1828). Some men suddenly left the cabin which was in a filthy condition: "in the other corners were troughs full of honey in the comb, and kettles and pans full of strained honey, which had been procured by the miners from 'bee trees' found in the vicinity."

James Grushong came to the Hurricane district, town of South Lancaster, in 1836 when bees were so numerous that a bee tree could be found almost anywhere (Western Hist. Co., 1881). About two gallons of honey were obtained from a cave in the bluffs bordering the Mississippi, just below the entrance of the Wisconsin (Platteville, 1841). Holford (1900) wrote: "Little sugar did they have to buy; the wild bees of the woods had laid up in many a hollow oak an abundant store of sweets gathered from the incredible profusion of prairie flowers."

*Green.*—The county seems to have been well supplied with wild honey. John Dougherty established a trading post at the "diggings" near Exeter in 1831. After the Black Hawk War was over he returned to the mines and "found his merchandise, which had been left buried in the ground much injured by moisture; but a barrel of metheglin which had been made early in the spring 'to keep' was found so much improved that all present drank immoderately, forgetting, until intoxication came, the unusual strength of its ingredients." There were enough bee trees around Monroe to furnish



sufficient honey for the inhabitants. In 1843 John Adams, while looking for a bee tree in the town of Adams, discovered the Badger Diggings. Honey Creek, which rises near Monroe and flows into the Pecatonica, got its name from the felling of a bee tree to form a bridge (Bingham, 1877).

Sylvester Hills came to the town of Albany in 1838. The sweets required for the family were provided by maple sugar and wild honey. T. B. Sutherland, who came with his family to the town of Sylvester in 1843, mentioned the cutting of an oak to get the honey in it (Union Publ. Co., 1884). According to Hiram Brown, town of Albany, wild honey bees were quite plentiful between 1842 and 1850. He wrote that in 1838, a "swarm of my bees" settled in the hollow limb of an oak which was later cut to obtain both bees and honey (Butterfield, 1884).

*Green Lake.*—In 1840 the family of Richard Dart (1910) settled near the Twin Lakes, town of Green Lake. He wrote: "We also had splendid wild honey from the bee-trees."

*Iowa.*—The large number of bee trees found in 1834 has been mentioned (Johnson, n.d.). Foster (c. 1840) wrote from Helena: "Some make a business of hunting for honey, furs and deer." The Jones family came in 1857 to the town of Arena, where "bee trees were eagerly sought by the younger generation and bee keeping was carried on as a side line by some of the more enterprising farmers" (Jones, 1938).

*Jackson.*—Robert Douglas settled near Melrose in 1839. An Indian brought him honey in the comb, obtained from a bee tree (Polleys, 1948).

*Jefferson.*—Much attention was given in this county to hunting for wild honey and bee keeping. William Ball was a noted bee hunter at Jefferson in pioneer days. Buck (1876) reported that he would find from one to three swarms a day, and that "fifty-two swarms were taken up by us, upon the town site alone." Cartwright (1875), in the early 1850's, lived in the town of Sullivan in the Bark River woods. Here, "Bees thronged in multitudes of swarms, and their honey was very abundant. I commenced with my neighbor, Mr. Thomas, to hunt bees and we were very successful." A bee tree was found in which a bear had made an unsuccessful attempt at gnawing an opening. The tree when cut yielded over 160 pounds of excellent honey.

The Coes settled in 1839 in the town of Ixonia where a man named Smith was a very successful bee hunter (Coe, 1908). Hart (1925-26) was born at Ft. Atkinson in 1840. Expert bee hunters could find honey in the Bark River woods. The wife of Charles

Rockwell, one of the pioneers of Ft. Atkinson, in the spring of 1838 traded pork and flour for the honey brought by two Potatomies (Western Hist. Co., 1879).

*Juneau.*—In the early days, according to Kingston (1879), wild honey could be obtained in any desired quantity. He wrote: "As an instance of the abundance . . . it may not be out of place to state that Zach. Sheldon came up from Portage City in the fall of 1851, and at the end of a four weeks' bee hunt, took home eight barrels of strained honey."

*Kenosha.*—In the fall of 1836, Kellogg (1924) came to the farm of relatives near Kenosha. He was served biscuits and honey as his uncle had found a bee tree. Quarles (1932) wrote from South Port (Kenosha) on February 14, 1839, that 60 to 70 pounds of strained honey were obtained from a tree.

*La Crosse.*—Manly (1927) and a trapping companion went down the Black River into the Mississippi, then down to Prairie du Chien (his chronology is awry and instead of May, 1847, it must have been 1844). On the way they found two bee trees. About 1865, when Hamlin Garland (1917) was a small boy, he was taken on a visit to his grandparents in West Salem. Hot biscuits and honey were served. "I am quite certain about the honey," he wrote, "for I found a bee in one of the cells of my piece of comb and when I pushed my plate away in dismay grandmother laughed and said, 'That is only a little baby bee. You see this is wild honey. William got it out of a tree and didn't have time to pick all the bees out of it.'" In 1889 he visited the farm, at adjacent Neshonoc, of his uncle, William McClintock, who was an expert in tracking wild bees.

*Marquette.*—In the fall of 1865, James L. Jones of Packwaukee, took 103 pounds of honey from a tree (Montello, 1865). John Muir (1913), who came to Marquette County in 1849, wrote that honeybees were not seen until several years later. They were probably overlooked. In 1860 his parents moved to the Hickory Hill farm, town of Buffalo. After hearing men on the farm talk of "lining" bees with a box containing honey, he tried it, and traced bees to a hollow, bottom log in a fence. Someone had chopped a hole in the log and removed the honey. In May, 1879, Christopher Kellogg of Buckhorn found a bee tree, hived the bees, and took 25 pounds of honey (Westfield, 1879).

*Milwaukee.*—Honey Creek rises in Sec. 26, town of Greenfield, and flows north into the Menomonee. As early as 1841 the legislature was petitioned to protect the wild bees in the county.

*Outagamie*.—Mrs. Ellen Van Tassel came to Hortonville with her parents in 1852. They easily found bee trees, so that honey was available in quantity (Ware, 1917).

*Ozaukee*.—Cigrand (1916) wrote: "The Indians gathered honey which was plentiful in the hollow trees of this part [Sauk Creek] of Ozaukee County. They strained the honey and then poured it into large hollow gourds, corked it and then in canoes paddled into Lake Michigan." The honey was taken to Milwaukee and sold.

*Pierce*.—The dates found for bee trees are so late that the swarms could have been escapes from apiaries as well as original wild bees. A bee tree found September 4, 1877, at Lost Creek, town of El Paso, yielded about 60 pounds of honey. At the same time a man was reported hunting bees (Ellsworth, 1877). A number of bee trees were found in August 1880, in the town of Maiden Rock (Ellsworth, 1880).

*Racine*.—Henry Trowbridge came to Racine in 1836. Wild honey was obtainable in the woods (Lake City Publ. Co., 1892). The winter of 1837-38, a man living in the town of Caledonia traded an ox for a barrel of flour. Having found a bee tree he invited his neighbors to partake of biscuits and honey (Kellogg, 1924). The abundance of bee trees at Burlington has been mentioned (Perkins, 1842).

*Richland*.—Johnson (n.d.) in 1840 was living in the town of Richwood, nine miles below Muscoda. At Christmas he cut down what he thought was a coon tree but it contained a swarm of bees. He sawed off a section containing the bees and placed it in the root-house where he had his bees. It seems probable that many people had swarms of wild bees at an early date. In November 1843, Samuel Swinehart and Thomas Parrish explored Pine River and feasted on the honey found in a tree. According to Israel Janney, wild bees were plentiful in 1846, and hunting them for the honey was profitable. James M. Cass came to the town of Richland in 1851. Some honey spilled in one of the wagons attracted the wild bees. The bees were followed and two swarms which were found yielded 150 pounds of honey. Honey was also plentiful in 1845 in the town of Rockbridge (Union Publ. Co., 1884.1).

*Rock*.—Levi St. John, who came to Janesville in 1836, wrote: "I have frequently visited their [Indian] camps, gone into their wigwams and bought honey and maple sugar of them" (Guernsey, 1856). Ogden (1838) recorded in his diary finding several bee trees, at Milton in the fall of 1838 and in the spring of 1839.

*Sauk*.—Honey Creek rises in the northwest corner of the town of Honey Creek and flows southeast into the Wisconsin River. It is conjectured that the name was derived from the abundant amount of honey collected by professional bee hunters (Western Hist. Co., 1880.2). Opinion differs as to the amount of honey to be found along the creek. F. J. Finn thought the supply was limitless. An early settler, under urgent pressure to pay for his land, collected, with the aid of his wife, so much honey that it brought him over \$100 in sales to neighboring settlements. Mrs. Henry Keifer, who arrived in 1846 after Honey Creek had already been named, reported bee trees here and there, but not in profusion. A Mr. Jassop of Ironton is also credited with payment for 40 acres of government land with the proceeds of the sales of wild honey (Cole, 1918).

Bee trees were so common in the town of Lavalie that honey could be obtained with little difficulty. A bee hunter in the town of Ironton is reputed to have taken to market 1500 pounds of honey in a single load (Western Hist. Co., 1880.2). Edmond Rendtorff (1861) came to Sauk City in 1840. Although he found wild honey he did not know the procedure for securing it. A bee tree found on Webster's Prairie, town of Delton, contained 135 pounds of honey in the comb (Baraboo, 1869). In the fall of 1886, four bee trees were found near Cassel Prairie, town of Troy (Prairie du Sac, 1886).

*Sheboygan*.—In the town of Lima, in 1839, A. G. Dye frequently accompanied Indians to fell bee trees which they had found. Honey was also obtained in quantity in the towns of Russell and Lyndon (Zillier, 1912). Joseph Benedict wrote on November 25, 1845, that there was plenty of wild honey (Buchen, 1944).

*Trempealeau*.—A farmer near Trempealeau reported honey stolen from a tree near his home (Arcadia, 1878). Bee keeping must have been established at this time because F. A. Goodhue of Arcadia had 25 swarms for sale at \$5.00 each (Arcadia, 1879). At Independence two young men found a bee tree after a search of several days (Independence, 1878).

*Vernon*.—In the early days at Kickapoo Center, according to Mrs. Cyrus D. Turner, the best fare was "pancakes with pumpkin butter or wild honey" (Union Publ. Co., 1884.2).

*Walworth*.—Honey Creek rises in the town of Troy and flows east-southeast into the Fox River. Its name was bestowed in the fall of 1835 when Jessie Weacham and Adolphus Spoor found honey which the bees had collected from the prairie flowers (Western Hist. Co., 1882). Dwinell (1874), settling in the town of Spring Prairie in 1836, found that the Indians were accustomed to collect-

ing wild honey. In 1845, the hollow oaks in the town of East Troy contained swarms of bees which collected honey from the woods and prairies (W.H.M., 1882). Joseph Nichols was a celebrated bee hunter at Whitewater in 1837. Having accumulated about 200 pounds of honey, he drew it to Milwaukee on a hand sled and exchanged it for provisions. That year an Indian, as a reward for being fed, brought Mrs. Norman Pratt a pail of honey (Cravath, 1906).

*Waukesha.*—Almon Welch settled in the town of Vernon in 1837. In the fall of 1839, he and N. K. Smith found 40 swarms of bees. The honey was sold in Milwaukee for \$60.00. His share went far towards paying for his claim (Western Hist. Co., 1880.3). In 1840 Charles D. Parker attended a school in the town of Muskego. As usual the teacher boarded around he reported, "but there was no butter or milk in most places. Honey was substituted for both" (Showerman, 1926). Unonius (1950) has described the method of locating bee trees by the settlers near Pine Lake. When a proper tree was found, it was left until winter. A section containing the swarm was cut off and taken home. Barker (1913) arrived in Milwaukee June 14, 1845, and the family settled in the town of Brookfield. His brother was a good hunter and supplied venison and wild honey.

The first swarm of bees owned by William Addenbrooke, town of Mukwonago, was captured in the woods about 1860. For a time he was in partnership with George Grimm, son of Adam Grimm of Jefferson. In 1879 Addenbrooke had 150 swarms of pure and hybrid Italian bees (Western Hist. Co. 1880.3).

*Waupaca.*—Honey Creek is a small stream emptying into the Pigeon River at Clintonville. The creek was named by N. C. Clinton, who came to the site of the town in 1855. An enthusiastic bee hunter, he found many bee trees on the banks of this stream (Wakefield, 1890). In the fall of 1883, Jim Turney found three bee trees near New London (New London, 1883).

*Wausara.*—The first land claim in the town of Leon was made in 1849 by a bee hunter named Worden. Evidently he was a member of the exploring party which in the fall of that year hunted game and bees near a lake which they called Lone Pine, possibly Pearl Lake. Isaac and William Warwick settled in the town of Marion in September 1848, and in the following spring they obtained a large amount of honey from a bee tree (Acme Publ. Co., 1890).

*Winnebago.*—Lockwood (1847) recorded in his diary on October 1, 1847, that he went with a local resident into the oak timber south of Oshkosh in search of bee trees.

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