

ant opportunity to observe the native flowers and birds, these ambitious women classified, made her bariums, and studied the use of the different medicinal herbs, so that their knowledge became of considerable value in that region where doctors were almost unknown.

A work, near to the hearts of both Mr. and Mrs. Riddle, was that of the church and they helped to establish and maintain services in the log school house or in different homes until churches could be built.

They both lived to see their home town, Wauwatosa, become a beautiful village, with schools and churches. Mr. Riddle was for many years postmaster. After his death in 1869, Mrs. Riddle moved to Appleton, Wisconsin, where she later married the Rev. Joseph Rork and died in 1909. She was buried in the family plot at Wauwatosa.

Of her five children, but one survives, the writer of this sketch, Frances Riddle Cooke, of Kaukauna, Wisconsin.

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CATHERINE ANN HOLMES ATWOOD

Author—Miss Abbie Atwood

Janesville
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Mrs. Volney Atwood, whose maiden name was Catherine Ann Holmes, was born in Newark, Ohio, August 10, 1819. She was educated at Marion, Ohio, where her father was judge of the county court.

With her father and mother, Judge and Mrs. William Holmes, her sister, Lucinda, and brothers, John and George, she started at the age of sixteen for Wisconsin early in the year of 1836.

Three brothers, William, Thomas and Joshua, had gone to Milwaukee the summer before. There they heard such glowing accounts of the Rock River Valley

and prairies from those who had been over the ground during the Black Hawk war, that they decided to see this wonderful place. They went on horseback along the Indian trails to the banks of the Rock River opposite the Big Rock at Janesville. Here they camped with no one for miles around, and nothing to break the night's stillness but the howling of the wolves.

The Holmes boys were so deeply impressed with this spot that they decided to persuade their family to come and take a claim here. They built a log cabin just across the river from the "Big Rock" in which William stayed while Thomas and Joshua went back to Ohio to interest their folks. It was agreed that the family would start for Wisconsin early in the spring. Previous to their starting the boys took six loads of household goods, furniture and a row boat to Wisconsin.

The Holmes boys shared their log cabin that winter with the St. John family, who came in November.

During the winter Judge Holmes and family came from Ohio to La Porte, Indiana. The first of March the party of nine passed through Chicago. They had three two-horse wagons, one yoke of oxen, two saddle horses, six cows, some calves, pigs, and fowls.

Friends tried to persuade them to remain in Chicago, but the Holmes brothers felt that the Rock River Valley was a much more inviting place than Chicago, which was swampy and low, with mud in the streets, knee deep. They stopped over night three times between Chicago and their destination at the only houses on their route. They travelled mostly over prairies and had to ford all the streams as there were no bridges. They stopped at the present site of Beloit to get warm in the cabin of Teabo, the Frenchman and his three squaw wives. He was the only white person there in the midst of a camp of Winnebago Indians.

The last day of the journey was cold and raw. The snow was falling so heavily that the party lost the trail

after they left Beloit. While the men were searching for the trail they kept blowing their fog horns in order to keep in touch with one another.

William Holmes, who was waiting and watching daily for them, heard these horns. He fastened a lantern to a long pole, climbed upon the roof of his cabin, and all evening held it aloft and waved it whenever he heard the horns. At 9 o'clock March 9, 1836, the party reached the cabin travelling through snow eighteen inches deep.

Nineteen people stayed in this log cabin of one room 18 by 20 feet for five days. For the next six months the Holmes family lived in a cabin built by William, on the bluff where the railroad crosses Rock River at Monterey.

That summer Judge Holmes built the first frame house, the logs being sawed with a whipsaw, on the opposite side of the river, east of the Big Rock, at what is now the corner of S. High and Wilson Ave. His claim ran west to the rapids beyond the Big Rock. He named this section Rockport.

The Holmes boys went to Chicago at least once a month. In this way they brought the windows, doors, and material needed for the new frame house when they were bringing supplies. Flour was \$21 a barrel and all other groceries accordingly.

Mrs. Atwood loved to talk to her grandchildren and friends of this pioneer life. She never enlarged upon the hardships and vicissitudes which we know a frontier life subjected one to, but was always ready to tell interesting tales of those days. She would talk of her wonderful flower garden—the wide expanse of prairie covered with beautiful flowers of many kinds. To her the river was fascinating. She liked to watch the teams and wagons ford the river just above the Big Rock. Later her father established a ferry at this point. One can imagine her great excitement, when in June a steamboat from the Mississippi came up the river. All the settlers were given a ride. In 1839 another steamboat went up as far as Jefferson.

Mrs. Holmes taught her daughters to be kind and polite to the Indians at all times. A large fog horn hung over the door so that a signal of distress could at any time be given to the men if hostile Indians should approach. But it never had to be used in their home. Many times those in the house have looked up to find an Indian's face staring at them through the window. The door was never kept locked in the day time for this angered the Indians. They did not want to be shut out.

Mrs. Atwood's grandchildren would beg her again and again to tell the story of the Indian who helped himself. They could easily imagine her amazement when one day shortly after her mother had baked several delicious pumpkin and berry pies, a big ugly Indian chief walked into their house, went straight to the pantry and helped himself to the fresh pies. She watched him devour first one pie then another and another until all were gone. He came from the pantry, gave a satisfied grunt and left the house. She looked at her mother in horror but Mrs. Holmes smiled and said it was much better to keep his friendship than to save the pies. This old chief was very fond of both Mrs. St. John and Mrs. Holmes. He called them "the good squaws."

Mrs. Atwood's jolly laugh pleased her grandchildren when she told them that for quite a while she was the belle of the Rock River Valley for miles around, and why, because she was the only young lady here. Her sister had married and gone to Michigan to live.

Volney Atwood came here in 1837. His older brothers—bankers in St. Albans, Vermont—sent him to make a survey of this western country in interest of their bank. He went first to Missouri, then came up to Chicago and Milwaukee. He came with a surveying party

to the Rock River Valley. Here he decided to remain. There were five houses here when he came.

Mr. Janes established a ferry across the river where the Milwaukee Street bridge is now built. A post office was established at this point and the town named Janesville. From then on the town grew rapidly.

The first public school was opened in 1840.

In 1844 the Episcopal Church was formed with six communicants one of which was Catherine Ann Holmes.

In 1843 the population was thirty-three hundred and thirty-three.

In 1843 Catherine Ann Holmes was married to Volney Atwood. Their homestead is the red brick house at the corner of Franklin and Dodge Streets, across from the post office.

MIRIAM CARPENTER EASTMAN

Author—Mrs. E. W. Eastman

Plymouth

Miriam Carpenter Eastman was born in Sandy Creek, New York, February 16, 1822, daughter of Asa and Louisa Wood Carpenter, married Enos Eastman in Sandy Creek, New York, January 11, 1844.

In 1849 Miram Carpenter Eastman and family moved to Wisconsin, Mr. Eastman purchasing 160 acres of land for which he paid \$700.00. They moved into a log house the same site on which later they erected a beautiful home. More land was added to the homestead year by year. Mrs. Eastman was a true pioneer; her home was always filled by those less fortunate than herself. Mrs. Eastman was a devout member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman lived together over 50 years, her death occurring January 16, 1914.