

PIONEER WOMEN OF SUPERIOR

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Superior

Among the pioneer women who came to Northern Wisconsin the names of these three stand out as examples of the true pioneer spirit: Mrs. I. W. Gates, Mrs. J. F. Smith and Mrs. R.G. Coburn.

Coming to the Northern Wilderness in 1856 from homes of comfort and the luxuries of life, they bravely carried their share of the burdens of a wild region and made for themselves a place in the heart of the community.

Coming to Superior with their husbands who were prominent business men they shared in entertaining many noted men of history.

When Abraham Lincoln and Secretary Steward made their trip to the northern boundary of Canada and the United States one of these women entertained them in her home.

These women were charter members of one of the Churches, organizing the first Missionary Society and the circulating library, as well as looking after the cares of their households.

Mrs. Gates' home was on a farm in a log cabin which was replaced by a handsome house in town, here she cared for her seven small children.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Coburn lived in town, both had five small children to care for.

Mrs. Gates was educated at Mt. Holyoke Seminary, Mrs. Coburn in New York and Mrs. Smith in Indiana.

They were close friends and shared their joys and sorrows together for fifty years. Their lives were lives of service and no one could come within the radiance of their smiling graciousness without being better for the acquaintance.