

ROSELINE WILLARD PECK

Contributed by the John Bell Chapter, D. A. R.

Roseline Willard Peck was born in Middletown, Vermont, February 24, 1808. She came to Blue Mounds in 1836 and thence to Madison in 1837. At Blue Mounds they rented the tavern stand owned by Colonel Brigham and boarded the old Colonel and the hands employed by him.

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MRS. PECK'S ACCOUNT FOLLOWS

"We started from Brigham's, at the Blue Mounds, on Thursday afternoon, April 13. I rode an Indian pony. We travelled about seven miles and came to a place where some one had made a claim, and had laid about five rounds of logs toward a cabin. We camped there that night with a tent over us. The next day we pushed on—a more pleasant day I never wish to see. We pitched our tent on a little rise of ground, within three miles of Madison; spread down our beds, and rested very comfortably until nearly 3 o'clock on Saturday morning, when we were awakened by a tremendous wind storm and howling of wolves, and found snow five or six inches deep which continued to fall until we reached Madison."

She with her husband, Eben Peck, were the first settlers of Madison. Their house was located in Block 107, Madison, near the present site of the Capital House on Butler Street. This was the first home established in Madison. They kept the first boarding house where workmen who built the first Capital in Madison boarded, and later known as the Madison Hotel. Here Victor Peck, the first white boy in Madison, came as a one year old boy. In this house his sister, the first white child born in Madison was born. She became the wife of Nelson W. Wheeler of Chippewa Falls, and after his death, was married to A. S. Hawley of Delton, Wisconsin.

"We enjoyed ourselves in various ways just as you do now. There was the regular dancing school twice a week held in the old cabin that first winter. Euchre parties became the fashion. Christmas and New Year's suppers were made lively by the verbal and practical jokes passed around.

"We had turtle soup suppers, also. The turtles were caught by cutting holes through the ice on what was called 'Mud Lake', and brought to us by Abel Rasdall. Mr. Peck sent some of them to a Mineral Point hotel keeper, who informed us that he netted \$50 on the sale of the soup. The turtles were frozen solid, and rattled together like stones, and were put in the cellar to thaw out before we could dress them, and, going down in a few days after I found they had thawed out and were crawling around on the bottom of the cellar."

Mrs. Peck's husband who started for California in 1844 was supposed to have been killed by the Indians while crossing the plains.

About 1838 the family removed to Baraboo and there Mrs. Peck spent most of her life, returning to Madison for frequent visits at her son, Victor Peck's home. Her death occurred October 30, 1899 and her remains lie in the Baraboo cemetery.

MRS. WILLIAM VROMAN
(Nee Harriet Field)
Author—Mrs. E. C. Mason, Madison

It was in the spring of 1836 that my embryonic father William Vroman anticipated the voice of Horace Greeley and "went West". It was to him a boyish adventure, encouraged probably by his two brothers who had already gone. His destination was the new Territory of Wisconsin which had just been established, surveyed, platted and opened to the public for sale at \$1.25 per acre. He experienced all the vicissitudes by field and flood that