

PART VIII
TOWNSHIP HISTORIES

DELLONA

SLIGO

“**S** LIGO” is the name of a county in northeastern Ireland, overlooking the Donegal Bay to the north; a stretch of old Erin, bounded by County Mayo on the east, Roscommon on the south, and Leitrim on the west, with seventy-five or eighty miles of ragged coastline bordering the bay. It is a very small county, not more than thirty miles across as its greatest breadth. We are in doubt as to why its name was selected by the earliest Irish immigrants as the one to be applied to the locality they settled, in the town now known as Dellona, yet it was, and many settlers of recent memory knew Dellona in its early days as Sligo. And the fact that that name was given to the locality bears well when we recall that a man in that locality, was, at an unknown date, made postmaster, and that mail came to the Irish settlers addressed to Sligo. Nor do we know when the “postoffice” was discontinued. But the postmaster was Mr. Patrick Hickey, said to have been the first settler in the present confines of the town of Dellona.

The first character to be introduced then, in telling the story of pioneer days in Dellona, will be Mr. Patrick Hickey. This gentleman, a native of Ballycroy, County Mayo, Ireland, was born in 1809, son of Martin and Mary (Barrett) Hickey, and came to America in company with his brother Michael, in 1837. In New York, Maine and Chicago, they found employment for several years, but they were tillers of the soil, and in 1845 set out, with a party of land-seekers, from Chicago, with the Baraboo Valley as their ultimate destination. At that time there were but two settlements in the locality (James W. Babb and Don Carlos Berry were here) and they had no difficulty in selecting a suitable homestead. They chose a tract in the west central part

of Dellona, what is still known as the Hickey farm and occupied by a daughter, Miss Anna Hickey, of Dellona. Here, on this unimproved homestead, they camped two weeks, during which time they erected a rude shanty, the first dwelling in the township. The rest of the party, not believing in the future of the Baraboo Valley, returned to Chicago. This was the first settlement in Dellona, and the death of Michael Hickey, in the 27th year of his age, on the 14th day of June, 1850, was the first mortality in the town. His body was buried on a part of the Hickey farm, which part was afterward given to the All Saints Catholic Church for a building site and cemetery.



ALL SAINTS' CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Where Hundreds of Irish Immigrant Settlers Have Gone to Rest

Patrick Hickey improved his tract and built a home; then he married Catherine Crowley, daughter of Dennis Crowley, in 1855, and reared a family of six children, four representatives of which, Mary (widow of William Hayes of Dellona), Martin and John of Reedsburg and Anna, on the home place, have long been influential personages in the life of Dellona and Reedsburg.

Possibly the next family to settle in Dellona was that of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Horkan. Peter Horkan was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1825, and resided there until his immigration to the United States. His wife, whom he married in Ireland, was Bridget _____, born in 1816, and died December 25th, 1894. They came first to Toronto, Canada, and there their first child, George, was born. During the season of 1846 they remov-

ed to Sligo (Dellona), settling there shortly after the Hickey family, on the farm now owned by Mrs. John Horkan of Reedsburg, where the remainder of their years were spent. He died April 3, 1872. They were the parents of six children, George, Ellen, James, Mary, William and John. The first named married Bridget Davenport, and located on the farm now occupied by his grandson, Glen Horkan, in Dellona; besides Glen, George and Ellen Horkan had eleven children: James Horkan, who, married to Catherine Timlin, resided on the homestead, now occupied by their son, Glen; Frank Horkan, who, married to Catharine Welch, occupies the farm formerly owned by James Riley, in Dellona; Mary, wife of Edward Donahue, resides on the old Donahue farm in Dellona; Steve, married to Theresa Hayes, now living in Baraboo; George, married to Helena Welch, residing in Reedsburg; Nellie, wife of Nelson Winnie, (deceased); Adelia, Carrie, and Theresa of Chicago; and Katharine, wife of John H. Croal, deceased, formerly of Reedsburg.

James Horkan, son of Peter and Bridget, married Mary Gallagher, daughter of James and Mary (McHugh) Gallagher, and located in Winfield on the farm now owned by John and Patrick Horkan, sons. They had four other children: James, Mina, Peter and Patrick. Peter J. Horkan married Nellie McCabe, daughter of Edward and Mary (McConen) McCabe, of Winfield, and located on the Michael McCabe farm in Winfield, Edward and Michael McCabe, being brothers.

John, youngest child of Peter and Bridget Horkan, married Mary Ellen Mullarkey, and settled on a part of the Peter Horkan farm in Dellona, where their eleven children were born, four of whom live in the locality: William, married to Alice Taylor of Mauston, and residing on the O'Malley farm; Walter, married to Lorine Houghton, residing on his father's farm; and Joseph, residing on the Charles Pelton, Jr., farm and Francis.

Dennis Donahue, Sr., grandfather of Edward Donahue, previously mentioned, was a native of County Cork, Ireland, and is said to have settled in the Sligo settlement, simultaneously with the Hickeys and the Horkans, and to have come hither from Old Erin in company with the family of Dennis Crowley, 1846. His daughter, Mary Crowley, born in Ireland, at an early date married Dennis Donahue, Sr., and they settled in Western Del-

lona. They had a numerous family, and among others, three sons, Michael, Dennis Jr. and Edward.

Michael Donahue married Anna Carey, and located on the farm now owned by his son, Edward Donahue. They had nine children: Edward, married Mary Horkan; John; James; Francis; Mary, now Mrs. James Small of Mukwonago, Wisconsin; Anna, wife of Dr. John Mortell of Oshkosh; Seta, a teacher of Salt Lake City, Utah; Bon, of Houston, Texas; and Zina, wife of Smith Ivis of Redfield, S. D.

Dennis Donahue Jr. married Margaret Mulligan, and resided upon the old Donahue homestead in Dellona. For an account of the descendants of this couple see family sketch printed elsewhere in this volume.

Several families appear to have come to Sligo during the following year, 1847, but we are able to make mention of only two: that of Mrs. Margaret Hooben, a widowed woman, who brought her family hither from County Galway, Ireland. A granddaughter, Mrs. Frank Darrenogue, now resides in Reedsburg. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Timlin also came that year, 1847. The year of 1848 brought two other families into Sligo, those of James Slaven and Patrick Mulligan. Of these, possibly the Slaven family were first, for one record states that they came as early as 1847, while another places the date as 1848.

James Slaven, a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, was of French ancestors, who to escape the persecutions, fled to Ireland, during the early 1600's, where for several generations, they remained, and the man whose name introduces this paragraph was the only one of his name to come to Sauk County. He was born December 25, 1788, and died April 28, 1872. His wife, whom he married in Ireland, was Mary Denny. She was born August 15, 1818, and died October 11, 1873, and was a native of Kings County, Ireland. The family came to America at a very early date, and settled in Dane County, Wisconsin, prior to coming to Dellona. They located on the farm later owned and occupied by their son John Slaven. They were the parents of five children, three of whom, Mrs. Casey, Lyndon, John, just mentioned and Mary, who became the wife of Francis Burns of Ironton, were lifelong residents of this community.

The first representative of the Mulligan family to come to Dellona was Mr. Patrick Mulligan. He was a native of County Mayo, Ireland, born in 1810, and came to America in 1837. He came in company with a party of relatives, and they located near Caledonia, Ontario Province, Canada, where they dwelt for a number of years. The party consisted of his brother and wife James and Margaret (Mulligan) Mulligan, Eliza, sister of Margaret Mulligan, and Mathew, their brother. The ladies had a brother, Anthony, who had preceded them to Ontario, and it was with him that they first stopped. Mrs. Mulligan, mother of the ladies, was also in the party.

Shortly after coming to Canada, Mr. Patrick Mulligan married Eliza Mulligan, previously mentioned, and in 1848 (according to the best authority) brought his family to Dellona, where they settled and afterward made their home. His family consisted of his wife, and three sons; Thomas, John and William. Two children were born in Dellona, Eliza and James. John, married Ellen Hurley, and still resides in Dellona: His children are: Mary, married Eugene Murray and died in early life; Frank, of Dellona; Elizabeth (Mrs. Ed. Murray); Catherine, who became the second wife of Eugene Murray; Theresa, married Mr. Thomas Foley, Janesville; Margaret, Dellona. Eliza Mulligan married George Donley and lives in Dellona. James, married Mary Ann Hurley, daughter of Thomas and Isabelle (Dockery) Hurley. They always resided in Dellona where their five children were born: William P., married first, Clara Stein, and second, Catherine O'Keefe, and now is president of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank at Kilbourn; James, Kilbourn; Ellen (Nellie), married Spencer (S. C.) Fish of Winfield; Thomas, married Marion Murray and resides in the town of Delton; Arthur, Dellona.

In 1863 James Mulligan, the immigrant, moved his family to Dellona locating on the farm which was later occupied by Charles Pelton, Jr., and at the present time by Joe Horkan. There were in this family eleven children, all natives of Canada: Mary; Thomas; Ellen; James; John; Eliza; Jane; Frank; (Reedsburg) Margaret, who married Dennis Donahue and who now, widowed, makes her home in Reedsburg; Anthony; Wil-

liam, married Maud Raymond and went to Loyal, Clark County, Wisconsin.

Possibly the first of the eastern settlers to come to Dellona was Silas James Seymour. He was a native of Pompeon, N. Y., his parents being James and Susan (Ostrander) Seymour. In May, 1849, leaving the civilization of the East behind he came to Fort Atkinson where he had an uncle living. From there he set out for the Baraboo Valley and reached Portage, or as it was then known, Fort Winnebago. From there he was able to command a view far across the great reaches of eastern Sauk County, and selected a row of tall pines far in the distance, as his destination. (These were the pines which grew on the bluff known later as Pine Knob, northeast of the Seymour farm.) Duly arriving in the vicinity he went to the house of Patrick Mulligan where he took his first meal in Sauk County. After searching several days in Winfield, on Babb's Prairie, and in Dellona for a desirable location, he selected land in Glen Valley, and departed for Mineral Point to enter same.

While enroute he was thrown in contact with a gentleman riding overland horseback to enter land for some speculators. Reaching their destination together, Mr. Seymour went immediately to the land warden's office where he entered his claim, while his mounted companion went to a tavern to dispose of his horse. A few minutes later, the latter entered the office and stating the description of his desired locations, mentioned first the identical tract that the warden had just written a grant for in favor of Silas J. Seymour. Which proves it better sometimes to be afoot than horseback!

Mr. Seymour spent the winter of '49-'50 in a log shack six by eight feet, east of the present boundary of the farm, but from an old letter, it is evident that he started to build upon the present homestead that same fall. In the spring of 1851, he went back to New York and married, returning to Dellona with his bride in August, of that year. His wife's maiden name was Mary Ann Conine, and she will be remembered as a woman of considerable learning.

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour were the parents of five children: Ellen Augusta; Ida Jane; Merton Eugene, married Blanche Jeffris of Baraboo, and occupied the homestead, where he still

resides; Walter F., who became a Presbyterian Medical Missionary and spent thirty-five years in China, where he was shot during the Revolution of 1928; Arthur, who is a noted scholar and at the present time at the head of the foreign language department, of the Woman's State College, Tallahassee, Florida.

Another family of 1849 was that of Mr. and Mrs. William Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery was a native of Courtland County, New York. The Montgomery family located in the extreme southern part of the town, most of their land lying across the border in Excelsior. Mrs. Montgomery was William Montgomery's second wife. The Montgomery family consisted of sev-



MR. AND MRS. LYMAN MONTGOMERY

eral members and two sons, Lyman B., by the first marriage, and John by the second, who have always been representative farmers, are widely known for their local residences. Lyman married Achsah Peck, daughter of Newman and Sarah (Cone) Peck, very early pioneers of Excelsior, just south of the Dellona-Excelsior boundary line; they were the parents of three children: Lyman Eugene, of Dellona; Charles of Excelsior; and Sarah Achsah, widow of George Fish, Kilbourn, of whom personal sketches appear elsewhere in this volume. John Montgomery married Lucy Hirst and now resides in Winfield; sketch also.

Andrew Camp was a settler of 1849. He was born in Canada West and came to Sauk County in December of that year. Three years after his arrival he married Jane E. Buck, also, of Canadian birth. Their children were: John A., James E., Fran-

cis H., and Freeman L. After the death of his wife, Mr. Camp married Miss Juliette Brown, a niece of John Brown of Harper's Ferry renown.

SOME OF THE SETTLERS OF UPPER DELLONA

Other Irish immigrant settlers who play an active part in Dellona history were the McHugh brothers, James and Francis. Both natives of County Ballycroy, Ireland, James was born November 20, 1820, and died May 28, 1880, and Francis born 1822, and died July 15, 1883. They were sons of John and Bridget McHugh. James married in Ireland, Honora Hickey, whom he was to leave behind in 1850 when he and his brother Francis came to America, but who was to join him two years later in the New World. The brothers came directly to Sauk County and took up land, Francis in the town of Winfield, James in Dellona, the land later owned by his son Jerry McHugh. They were accompanied here by James Gallagher and son, Owen, who took up land which is now owned by Mary and Ann Gallagher. Owen McDonnell also came that year and settled the McDonnell farm on Dell Creek, the farm now owned by his grandson, John McDonnell. Owen's brother Enos, came likewise at that time. Patrick Murphy, another Irish immigrant settler of northern Dellona, came to America about 1830, and spent twenty years in the East. There, in New York, he married Catharine Rewan, and in 1853 moved his family to Dellona, settling the farm now owned by Charles Weir. Shortly after coming here, his daughter Mary, at the age of sixteen, married Francis McHugh. To Mr. and Mrs. McHugh were born eleven children, one of whom, Bridget, is the wife of Michael Gleason. They (the Gleasons) occupy the farm that Platt Fish homesteaded at an early date, and Mrs. Gleason is the only member of her father's family residing in Sauk County.

Mr. Owen Gallagher married Margaret Casey, daughter of Patrick and Mary Ann Casey. The Casey family were, also, Irish settlers and occupied the farm now owned by P. F. Healy in Winfield. Mr. and Mrs. Owen Gallagher settled on land in La Valle, the farm now owned by their son John Gallagher, who resides thereon. To them were born several children, Annie, wife

of Professor Gahagan of Madison; Mrs. Jake Fix, deceased; Mrs. Albert Ficks, Ableman; John, La Valle; Mary, wife of Frank Rogers, Madison, Wis.

LATER HISTORY OF DELLONA

Another settler prominent in the early annals of Dellona pioneering was Stillman Bass, founder of his name in this section of the country. He was born in St. Lawrence County, New York in 1816. His wife, whose maiden name was Julia Butterfield, was a native of Vermont. In 1851 the family moved to Dellona, locating on Section 35, where they afterward resided. They had twelve children: Chester, Laura, Luconda, Charles, Stillman, William W., Clarissa, Mary F., Melissa, Hattie, Julia, and William A. William W. and Stillman Jr. were members of Co. G, 49th W. V. I., and served during the Civil War. This Stillman was married to Miss Agnes Bass.

C. P. Davenport was, also, an early settler of Dellona. The date of his arrival is given as 1854. The next year he was married to Miss Mary Gillespie, a native of Scotland. Thomas Gillespie, brother of Mrs. Davenport, came to Dellona in 1856. He was a native of Scotland also, and came to America in 1842 with his parents. In November, 1879, he was elected to the State Legislature and served as a member of that body for several years. His wife was Miss Martha Simpson; a native of Vermont. The Gillespie children were: Mary, William, Hattie, John, Nellie, Carrie, Thomas, Bertie, Earl and Ed.

Another family we are able to mention is that of Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Catlin, the latter having been a relative of Admiral Perry, hero of the War of 1812. They had a number of children, three of whom are: Nettie; Claude; and Emmet, who married Emma Fish of Winfield, now resides at Elkhorn. John Foss, John Heimer, J. L. Dryer and Henry Radwell were also among the settlers of the early days.

John Foss, a native of Mecklenburg, Germany, came to America in October, 1850, with his father, Christopher Foss, locating near Milwaukee, where they resided until 1863, when they came to Dellona. His wife was Miss Minnie Springer, a native of Baden, Germany. They had four children: Albert, who married

Miss Augusta Rupp, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Rupp of Portage, and resided in Dellona until retiring to Reedsburg; Jonk; Mary; Frank, married Helen Harris of Spring Green, and became one of the most successful business men of Reedsburg, remembered as a senior partner in the firm, Stolte, Dangel & Foss Company.

Another German settler of this township was John Heimer. He was a native of Bavaria, Germany, coming to America in 1852, locating in Ohio first, in Sauk County in '54, and Dellona in 1860. His wife was Mary Knadler.

J. L. Dryer, who was a native of Madison County, New York, settled in Dellona in August, 1865. His wife was Adeline Richardson, a native of Tioga County, New York. Their children were: Helen J., remembered as a prominent Sauk County school teacher; Etta J.; Bertha J.; John W.; Grant; Eva; George W. Grant, of lamented memory, was one of the most prominent citizens of Sauk County at the time of his death, and was for a number of years County Sheriff; his widow, nee Blanche Weidman, resides in Reedsburg. The Dryer farm is now tenanted by their son Clifton Dryer.

We would make mention of the Hayes family, old residents of Dellona. William Hayes, a native of Ireland, was the first of his name to settle here. He came to America in his early years stopping for some time in the East. It was there that he married Catherine Fullan. About 1855 the family came west and settled on land in the central part of the township. Their children were: William, married Mary Hickey, resided in Dellona; Mary Ann; John; James; Catherine.

MISCELLANY

“The land now included in the town of Dellona, originally belonged to the town of Baraboo, which also embraced the territory composing the towns of Winfield, Reedsburg, Excelsior and the eastern part of the towns of Ironton and La Valle. In 1850 the present town of Dellona was set aside. In January, 1857, the town of Excelsior was organized and it was at that time that the Dellona-Excelsior boundary took its present form.” This is from the Sauk County history of 1880.

The first birth in the town was that of a daughter, Bridget, to Mr. and Mrs. James Slaven in 1847.

The first death was that of Michael Hickey, June 4, 1850. He was buried on a knoll on the farm of Patrick Hickey. The tract of land containing the grave was given to the All Saints Catholic Church in 1857, to be used as a cemetery and churchyard.

In 1851 a log schoolhouse was erected on Section 20 and a district school established, a Miss Wheeler being the first teacher. The Postoffice of Sligo was established at a very early date and was changed to Dellona in 1850.

In addition to the early settlers who have been mentioned in the foregoing pages, we would add the name of Platt Fish. He homesteaded the farm now occupied by Michael Gleason, and lived there for many years.

EXCELSIOR

CAPTAIN JOSEPH H. FINLEY

Reference was made on page one of Captain Joseph H. Finley, and his settlement in the town of Excelsior in the summer of 1839. This was the first settlement in the whole upper Baraboo Valley, and there was possibly but one settlement earlier than this in all Sauk County—that of Jonathan Hatch on Sauk Prairie in 1838. The captain was “a hard working, intelligent, much respected bachelor,” wrote the historian William Canfield in 1872. He was a native of Tennessee, and is said to have been prominent in military affairs during the War of 1812. However, he did not remain upon his Excelsior claim very long, but sold his farm and went into the lumber business on the Lemonweir river. “We have a sad record to make of Captain Finley,” continued Mr. Canfield; “after a series of financial misfortunes, he had a leg amputated, and, I understand, is now (1872) an inmate in the poorhouse of Clark County. His old farm is where Edward K. Hill now ('72) resides.”

Two years later the family of James Christie came into this region, March, 1841. “The Indians the year previous had been removed by the United States Dragoons, yet there was standing in Dandy’s (a Winnebago chieftain’s) village two lodges. . . . Into one of these he moved his family and made a stable of the other and this season gave the adjoining Indian cornfields a white man’s culture,” says Canfield. The Christie tract was later known as the Baringer place. Mr. Christie hailed from Scotland. Mr. and Mrs. Christie were the parents of a large family of children; they enjoyed a wide circle of friends, and their house, like many of the first settlers was “a semi-public inn, where hospitalities were as free as the spring water that flowed by the door.” In 1852, after a residence of nearly eleven years, at a time when most settlers were just beginning to come, the Christie family moved to Newport, then a noted lumbering town on the Wisconsin river a few miles below Kilbourn. His daughter, Eliza, later Mrs. Henry Snider was the first white child born in Excelsior. Like Captain Finley “we have at last a sad record

to make of our old and much respected friend," continued the historian of 1872. "He was murdered and his body cast into a pond near Kilbourn. . . ."

The next settlements in this town were made in 1847. Elias H. Hubbard, who came to Sauk Prairie in May, 1845, and remained there until 1853, took up a claim in this town that year. Don Carlos Barry, pioneer of copper note, town of Reedsburg, had a claim on Section 7, Excelsior, also this year; but with the discovery of copper on Barry's Reedsburg claim, Section 7 was returned by the government officials as mineral land. George Handy is supposed to have come this year, also. He erected a large frame house just south of the Narrows, near the Baraboo river, which was used as a tavern and was widely known as the Massachusetts House, so named from the circumstance of the proprietors Bay State nativity. Jonathan Knowles was another settler of 1847, and the death of his wife the next year 1848, was that of the first white woman in the Upper Baraboo Valley. Her death was the second in the community, a Mr. Farrington preceding her in 1846.

The next year Seneca J. Lamberton opened a farm. He was a native of Ashtabula Co., Ohio, born in 1823. His early years were spent there but at an early date came to Kenosha, Wisconsin, and was married there in 1844, to Eliza Huntington, daughter of William J. and Laura (Kuler) Huntington. In 1845 the family moved to Delavan, and in 1849 to Baraboo. While living in Delavan he located his Excelsior claim. About 1853, he sold a clothing store, which he had opened in 1849, the first store in Baraboo and located in this town. Mr. and Mrs. Lamberton had five children, Adelbert M., William A., Frank W., Percy C., and Chas. W.

In 1848 Colonel S. V. R. Ableman laid claim to the village site of Ableman, to the Narrows, and adjacent countryside.

The settlers of 1849 were numerous. The family of Isaac W. Morley came that year. Mr. Morley represented a long line of Colonial forebearers, tracing his descent from Isaac Morley, Mayflower pilgrim. His parents were Thomas and Lillis (Russell) Morley, and his grandparents Thomas and Lucy Morley and Mr. and Mrs. Abel Russell. Isaac Morley was a native of Mentor, Ohio, born in 1820. In 1845 at Kirtland, Ohio, he mar-

ried Maryette Smith, daughter of Elijah and Racheal Smith. Their children were: Mary, wife of Rufus C. Cole of Redwood Falls, Minnesota; Alvin H.; Lucius W.; Thomas E., who married Addie Craker and resides in Reedsburg; Harvey W., for many years an Excelsior farmer; Leaph, Minnie E.

The Reuben Butterfield family arrived here June 4, of that year, (1849). The family of John Johnson came that same month from Connecticut. Ira, James and Jessie Smith and William C. Cady came also, that year. Ira Smith's wife was Lucy Post and their daughter Esther, born in New York, was a prominent school teacher in the early days, and the first teacher in School District No. 1, Winfield. She married Jonathan Nye and Mrs. Enoch Shultis and Mrs. Montross Pelton of Reedsburg are her daughters. The family of Alworth Cole were also settlers that year, coming from New York. Mrs. Cole's maiden name was Hannah Lewis. The Cole family consisted of several children, two of whom were; Pamela, pioneer school teacher of Winfield; and Rodney, who married Anna Maria Beebe and remained an Excelsior farmer during his lifetime; Mrs. Ernest Retzlaff, Reedsburg, is his daughter.

The year of 1850 brought a number of permanent settlers to Excelsior. The Isaac Metcalf family came that year. Mr. Metcalf, son of Richard and Hannah (Cooper) Metcalf, was a native, 1826, of Kilbourn, Yorkshire, England, where he grew to manhood. In 1847 he came to the United States and for three years resided in Dutchess County, N. Y., where he married, in the spring of 1850, Mary Ridings, daughter of William and Martha Ridings. In June, following, he and his bride came to Wisconsin, locating in this town, where he entered 120 acres of government land. Here they built a log house, but soon erected a commodious frame dwelling house. Mr. and Mrs. Metcalf had eight children: Martha, Hannah, Margaret Ellen, Frank H., who married Pet Rose; Fred, who married Elnora Rose, daughter of Elias and Betty (Shultis) Rose, and was a prominent farmer of Excelsior; Chas. W., Emma; and Louis married Mabel Weidman, residing near Plain.

The family of George Townsend came in July, 1850; also William DuBois and family. Mrs. DuBois was before her marriage Cynthia Eighmie. Among their children were: Chas. E.,

for many years a prominent farmer of the town, who married Emma A. Young, daughter of John and Mary Young; John Henry, who was killed at the battle of Cold Harbor, in 1864; Mary A., who married T. R. Young, for many years a Reedsburg merchant—Fred Young and Edna (Mrs. D. O. Stine, Reedsburg), were her children. Henry DuBois, brother of William, was another early settler of the town and Sylvester DuBois of Baraboo and Mrs. William Daniels, Reedsburg, are his children.

Among the settlers of 1851 were the families of Rueben Kipp, H. G. Jones, Benjamin Holt, S. V. R. Ableman, C. S. Hitchcock. The Weidman family came also, that year. Thomas Metcalf, brother of Isaac Metcalf, previously mentioned, was a native, also, of England, and was married in Coxwold, England, to Mary Ann Brassington, who came with her husband to Excelsior in 1851. Their children were: Richard, Alice, Ellen (the late Mrs. Herbert Dano, Reedsburg), Margaret, and Jane; two others died in early life. Mrs. Metcalf died in 1859. Mr. Metcalf later married Jane Hannah, a native of Gallowayshire, Scotland.

Other settlers that year were Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Burt who came hither from Dane County, Wisconsin. Mr. Burt was born in 1809 in Wilbraham, Mass., but in 1817 his parents, Samuel and Amelia (Searl) Burt, removed to Connecticut where N. M. Burt grew to manhood; from there in 1832 the family removed to Medina, Ohio. In 1834 N. M. Burt married Eliza Hull, daughter of Austin Hull, and in 1850 removed his family to Dane County, Wisconsin. Among the Burt children were: Newton M. and Milton A., twins; and Gertrude, who married E. F. Barker.

The next year brought the family of Micheal Leifer, also the Barnes family, of which H. M. Barnes was a representative. Settlers of 1853 were the Kingslands, Watsons, and Chatmans.

It was that year that Elias H. Hubbard moved his family hither from Sauk Prairie. Mr. Hubbard, son of Hiram and Hannah (Archer) Hubbard, was born in Burke, Caledonia County, Vermont, in 1824. In 1833 the family moved to Canada, but in 1841 returned to Vermont. The next year Elias H. went again to the Dominion but shortly afterward located in Wayne County, Michigan. Returning later to Vermont he

joined his parents and came with them to Wisconsin locating on Sauk Prairie (1845). In 1850, Elias H. Hubbard was married to Catherine Barringer, daughter of Henry and Abigail Barringer. Their children were Elias, Celistia, Mary, Stephen, Theresa, Irenne, Alice.

Among the settlers of 1854 was T. W. Harrison. He was a native of Hunterdon County, N. J., son of Higgins and Margaret (Williamson) Harrison. In 1861, Mr. Harrison married Mary Minott, daughter of James and Nancy (Sheaf) Minott. William T. Hudson and family were other settlers that year; also, S. J. Jopp and family; and the Osburns, and Jonathan J. Nye.

1855—John Terry, J. T. Gourgas, William Montany, Sydney Holt, E. C. Watson, Chas. Hengsler, Gottlieb Hengsler, A. B. Case, Wm. Peers, Isaac Hartvet.

Mr. and Mrs. John Terry were natives of Ireland. E. (Ebenezer) Watson hailed from Boston, but was previously of New Hampshire. He came to Sauk City as early as 1850, located in Baraboo late that fall; and in May, five years later, came to Ableman. Edward C. Watson, later hotel keeper of Ableman, was a representative of this family. He married Laura E. Ableman, daughter of the Col. S. V. R. Ableman.

1856. The family of Newman Peck came this year. Mr. Peck was a native of Connecticut; there he married Sarah Cone and a large family of children were born in the East. Among them were Francis N., who married Eliza Janette Montgomery, daughter of William and Caroline (Lovell) Montgomery, Dellona pioneers, and was for many years an Excelsior farmer; and Achsah, who married Lyman Montgomery. The children of Francis and Caroline Peck were: Carrie E.; Kate M., who married Chas. W. Randall; Agnes J.; Tracy L.; Earl G.; Grace L.; and Ruby. The children of Lyman and Achsah Montgomery are mentioned in connection with the Montgomery chronicle, history of Dellona.

The family of Hugh O'Connor also settled here in 1856. Mr. O'Connor was a native of Ireland, his wife of Germany, her name being Julia Wener. The local representatives of this family are: George, married Wild Rose; Ned, married Margaret Ellen Metcalf; James, married Bernice Swetland and resides in

Winfield; Hugh; Mate, wife of W. L. Kelley, Winfield; Mina (Mrs. Sanford, milliner of Reedsburg); Ida; Nellie, married Arthur Kelley, Reedsburg.

Other settlers of '56 were Mr. and Mrs. Higgins Harrison, and A. J. Flickner. Of the families of '57 we can mention those of J. Britton, Thos. Chambers, Chas. Hengsler, and William J. Gemmill.

The latter, who was a native of Hopewell, York County, Penn., born in 1828, son of William and Frances (Blaine) Gemmill. In 1835 his parents moved to Indiana and it was here that William J. resided until 1853. That year he went to California in the gold rush and spent three years, after which he returned to his Hoosier home. In February, 1856, he married Miss C. E. Case, and within a few months came to Baraboo where he remained until coming to Excelsior. The Gemmill children were: Ambrose J., Emmet, William, Walter. The latter married Gertrude Reed and resides in Reedsburg.

Among the families coming the following year—1858—were those of J. Marsh and C. Schale; J. Livesly, and A. Foster. Mr. Foster and his son, T. J. Foster, planted an immense orchard, possibly the largest of its day in the state of Wisconsin, it containing 2100 trees.

It has not been possible to learn of more settlers than these, who came in the vanguard of Excelsior pioneers, but among the settlers of a later period we would mention the Shultis', Henry and Malinda (Silvermail) Shultis, the father and mother, descendants of Dutch forebearers—and Catherine, Margaret, Betsy Ann, William, Melvina, Enoch, Abram, Jacob, and Agnes, their children—who came in '78. We would mention Milton Armstrong and his wife, Sarah Ann Snoch, daughter of William and Francis (Smith) Snoch—1868; Adam Fay, Prussia emigrant of 1871; Louis Goedecke, another German immigrant, native of Brunswick, Germany, who came to the United States in 1853, thence to Waupun and in 1871, to Ableman.

We would mention Isreal Green and his wife, Mary Jane Starks, daughter of General A. W. Starks who came in '59, and their children, Charles, John Starks, Maggie, Amie, Sarah, Annie. Also, John D. Sanford, son of Abram and Priscilla (Hambly) Sanford, a settler of 1875—and his wife, Ellen Dy-

son, daughter of John Dyson and Lydia Denton—their children, Lillie, Walter, Edna. And Edward Richardson, son of Edward R. and Lorinda Phillips, native of Brookfield, Worcester County, Mass.—a grandson of John E. Phillips, revolutionary patriot whose death ended a life of more than 104 years; and near relative of Wendell Phillips, famous abolitionist. Mr. Richardson's wife was Addie Pierce, daughter of W. S. and Mary A.

Chas. S. Turner and his wife, Angie Ball, daughter of Stephen and Abigail Ball, who settled here in 1866, were other settlers of the later period, as was Edwin S. Pierce. Mr. Pierce, son of James and Gerusha (Gilson) Pierce, was a native of Schaghticoke, New York. He married in Boston Zarina Tarbox, daughter of Benjamin Tarbox and Racheal Smith—came to Sauk County in 1879.

Then there were the Hambletons—Stephen D., son of Aaron and Sophia (Briggs) Hambleton—his wife, Mary A. Taylor, daughter of James and Nancy Taylor, whom he married in New York—and their children, Racheal, Addie, and Myra; and Augusta Wilson, Stephen D. Hambleton's second wife. The first wife died in Dellona where the family settled in '69. Mr. Hambleton moved to Excelsior in '75, when he married the daughter of Warren Wilson. A. B. Lamoreaux was a settler of 1879, native of Ohio, son of Andrew and Electa (Colton) Lamoreaux. When four years of age his parents moved to Illinois, in 1855 to Baraboo and it was there that in 1873 he married Elizabeth Hirschinger, daughter of Micheal and Melinda Hirschinger.

Edmund Gardner settled in '66, son of Isaac Gardner. In 1871 he married Janette Winnie, daughter of Cornelius and Mary. Menzo Winnie, son of Cornelius and Mary, settled on a farm in Excelsior in 1866; his wife was Percis, daughter of Henry and Maria Gardner.

Then there was Christopher Stackmann, 1868; Abram Silvernail, 1879; Adam Schuester, '61; Ehrenrich Bender, 1868.

ABLEMAN AS A PIONEER VILLAGE

In telling the story of the founding of this village, it will be necessary to recall certain facts relative to the life of Stephen Van Rensslear Ableman, its founder. This gentleman was born Dec. 25, 1809, in the town of Bethlehem, Albany County, N. Y., and

was the son of Christian G. Ableman and Regina Kanier, the father a native of Prussia, Germany, the mother of Clayverack, Columbia County, N. Y., her parents having come to that place from Bordeaux, France. When Stephen was eleven years of age, his parents moved to Albany, and he was enrolled in the Lancasterian School. In 1825 he enlisted as a drummer in the National Guard, with which he remained four years. He was next chosen ensign and served as such for three years, at the close of which he was elected captain of his company. In 1838 he was commissioned colonel of the 240th regiment, New York State Militia, and was ever after known as Col. Ableman.



LOWER NARROWS, ABLEMAN

In 1831 he married Elizabeth Bolt Jarvis of Connecticut, who bore him two children, a son who was drowned in the Bay of San Francisco, and a daughter already mentioned as the wife of C. F. Watson. Mrs. Ableman died in 1860.

After his marriage S. V. R. Ableman engaged as a carpenter in Albany, and immediately became prominent in municipal affairs in that city. In 1843 he was elected alderman, was subsequently reelected. Always a man of ambition he was early instilled with a desire to brave the hardships of the frontier, and on the 17th day of June, 1845, arrived with his family at Milwaukee. Here he established the first planing mill of that place. While residing in Milwaukee, in 1848, he made his first visit to Sauk County and laid claim to a valuable property at the confluence of

Narrows Creek and the Baraboo river at Ablemans. Two years later he sold his Milwaukee interests and moved his family to Baraboo, and established temporary residence there. This was in the year of 1850.

Immediately began the improvement of the present village site. Col. Ableman soon erected a log cabin, and when it was completed his family came from Baraboo. As soon as the log house was finished he engaged in hauling lumber from Baraboo for the erection of a frame house. While this was under construction six carpenters dwelt in the log abode with him and his family.

In 1865 Col. Ableman married Mary, the widow of Captain Adam Gilmore. Her maiden name was Watson, and she was a sister of his daughter's husband.

Other early settlers of Ableman were Maj. Charles H. Williams, who erected a house a few rods from Mr. Ableman's, E. C. Watson, who became Mr. Ableman's son-in-law, John Moistard, William Wademan, Stephen Pearl and Peter Manthey. The last named erected the first dwelling west of the river in the present village site.

The first marriage in the village was that of William Wademan and Miss Hannah Moistard.

The first saw-mill in the village was established by Col. Ableman as early as 1857, and was a few rods above the confluence of the Narrows Creek with the river. He added to his mill and continued its operation until 1875, when he sold to Alexander McDonald, who in turn sold to E. W. Gilmore and N. W. Dean. In 1864 M. B. Waltz erected the first house which was entitled to recognition as a hotel. Next came the Charter House, built by Col. Ableman, and conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Watson. The Charter House took its name from the circumstance that within its walls a memorable feast was held in 1870, in honor of the approach of the railroad, which was soon to pass through the Narrows. Col. Ableman had been instrumental in securing the charter for the Baraboo Valley Air Line Railway Company, which began the work, so the hostelry was fittingly named.

The first district school at Ableman was taught in 1856-1857 by Miss Maria Welton, and was located in the log cabin erected by Mr. Ableman when he first came to the village site.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

While the greater part of the village are now Lutheran in faith, there was in early times a popular inclination toward Methodism. A Methodist congregation was organized in the eastern part of the town in October, 1851, and although it no longer exists, it has not been very many years disembodied. H. G. Jones was especially prominent in its early existence, and his house was the place of organization. C. P. Sanford was the officiating preacher. Among the early members were Jacob Van Loon, Eva Van Loon, H. G. Jones, Mary Jones, G. M. Jones, Mary E. Jones and John Sanborn. In the summer of 1861 Father Teal, a Protestant Methodist, made efforts to build a church and his efforts were crowned with success. An edifice was speedily erected and dedicated that year. This was known as the Ebenezer Church.

We would also mention in connection with Methodism in Excelsior the Excelsior Chapel.

GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH

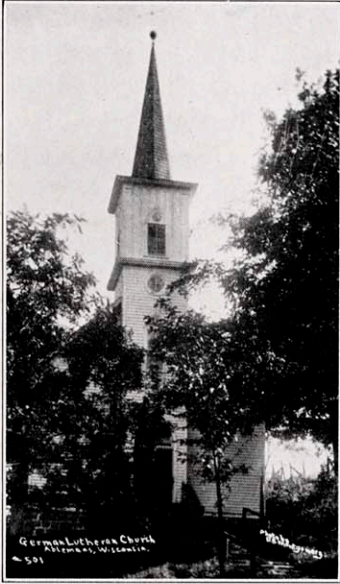
The earliest German settlers of the community seem to have been Baptists, for about 1862 they organized a German Baptist Church. This congregation was organized at the house of Mr. Stackmann, and some of the early members were Charles, Henry and William Manthey, August Marquart, Fred Luepke, Jacob Schmeltzer, M. Rindfleisch, Christ Graetzka, Jacob Felske, Adam Oegel and others. This church was originally formed in conjunction with the congregation of the German Baptist Church of North Freedom, but now Abelman and North Freedom each have churches of this denomination.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ABLEMAN

The St. John's Angelical Lutheran Church of Abelman and Excelsior dates from 1872. At that time Rev. Christoph Kessler, pastor of the Zion Lutheran Church of Westfield, began to hold services in Ableman, at various private homes, which he continued until the end of his pastorate in 1878. The congregation, made up of early German immigrant families who had settled in and

around Abelman and on Narrows Prairie during the 1860s, was organized at an unknown date. The earliest record dates from 1877. Some of the early members were:

Louis Bartenbach, Wilhelm Bartenbach, Friedrich Schulte, Christoff Meyer, Johann Brunnhoefer, Jacob Pfaff, Adam Schoester, Wilhelm Runge, Heinrich Rehr, Ehrenreich Bender, Heinrich Meyer, Friedrich Milke, Valentine Schneider, Christoph Weslemann, Christoph Behn, Albert Schenke, Heinrich Busch, Karl Schenke, and Christoph Frambs.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH,
ABLEMAN, WIS.

In 1878 Rev. Kessler moved away, but by 1879 he had relocated in Sauk County, in the township of Greenfield, and from his residence there came to serve the Ableman congregation, and was its pastor until 1889. During his absence the pulpit was filled by Rev. Brueckner. In 1882 the present church was erected at a cost of \$2,000. The church is still in use.

Since 1889 the church has been presided over by the Rev. Fred Pope. Rev. Fred Pope was formerly of the St. John's Lutheran Church of Baraboo, and served the Ableman church from that city until 1903, when the congregation built a fine parsonage on an adjoining lot, and invited him to become its resident pastor. Accordingly he moved his family to Ableman where they still reside, Rev. Pope in the forty-first year of his local pastorate. This a remarkable record; no minister in the county has occupied one pulpit for a greater period.

At the present time the members of the church are considering the erection of a new church edifice, and the Ladies' Aid Society, which was organized in 1907, has the fine sum of \$7,000 on hand to be used for that purpose. Officers and elders of the church are: Gottlieb Rohde, Herman Driefke, William Gall Sr.,

Herman Vertien, William Bartenbach, August Lange and John Ninneman.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

The town of Excelsior was organized in December, 1857, and took its name from a suggestion made by Col. S. V. R. Ableman. The literary interpretation of the word "excelsior" implies the highest type of excellence, and the word is the motto of the state of New York. Col. Ableman was a New Yorker. That is how Excelsior happens to be Excelsior. The name was first applied by the colonel to his village, but was adopted as a township name in '57. In 1870 when the railroad came through the valley the high officials, in appreciation of the earnest support of the project given by Mr. Ableman, named the station in his honor.

The first election in the town of Excelsior was held in the Red School House on April 6, 1858, and the following officers were elected: A. W. Starks, Chairman; F. N. Peck and H. F. Smith, Supervisors; Wm. C. Cady, Clerk; Otis Ryder, Superintendent of Schools; John Weidman, Treasurer; Joseph Pimbley, Assessor; Benjamin Holt and Newman Peck, Justices of the Peace; John Weidman, M. B. Waltz and Wm. T. Hudson, Constables. The inspectors at that election were John Johnson, Newman Peck and George S. Handy.

HON. A. W. STARKS

William Canfield wrote extensively of this Excelsior pioneer in his history of 1872, and we make extractions therefrom.

"Argalus Waldo Starks was born March 10, 1804, at Williamsburg, Mass. His father was Moses Starks, an ax-maker. He was of English descent, but far back. General Starks of Revolutionary War notoriety, was his ancestor (and probably his grandfather). And history speaks well of Starks, Continental General, whose glory centers around a number of battles, particularly the Battle of Bennington, at the opening of which Gen. Starks made his famous remark: "We will conquer today, or tonight Mollie Starks will be a widow."

Hon. A. W. Starks resided in New York state until 1850, and was there, like Col. Ableman, a man of influence and wide associations. He was three times married: first, in 1828, to Mary

Ann Filkins, and was left a widower ten years later; second, in 1839, to Margaret R. Worthman, sister of the late James Worthman of Baraboo. This wife came with him to Excelsior in 1850, and died in 1864. Late that fall Gen. Starks married his third wife, Catherine Schwartz. His death occurred June 28, 1870.

During his lifetime the General was an outstanding citizen of the county, and his friendship for Col. Ableman was immense, founded on a common understanding. They were both military men by natural instinct, fond of practical joking, and ardent democrats. An incident concerning them and their democratic rally in 1852 has become proverbial. As Canfield relates it:

"In 1852 A. W. Starks called a democratic caucus, no one attending but Col. Ableman, Robert Young and himself. There was then no paper in Sauk County, but the next number of the Milwaukee News contained an account of a *large, enthusiastic and respectable* meeting. Col. Ableman, with the paper in his hand, meets the General with a large smile on his face and says: "Gen., how could you?" Said Gen. Starks: "Col., here is the simple truth, as I will prove to you." Says Ableman, "Do so!" The General is ready: "You are *large* aren't you? Yes. Bob is *enthusiastic*? Yes. I am *respectable*." Col. Ableman laughed: "Ha! Ha! Gen., that will do for this time!" This meeting was held under a tree."



REEDSBURG COUNTRY CLUB

FREEDOM

Freedom, the most southeastern of the ten square townships, covered in this work, was first settled by white men in 1846, when R. N. Kingsley made a settlement on Section 2. He was followed by Samuel D. Sleutz, who settled on section 7 that same year. Rev. James Waddell was probably the next settler. He entered the south half of the northeast quarter of section 12, and other adjacent lands on February 11th, 1847. Samuel Hackett who came in 1848 was one of the earliest permanent settlers. He was born in the State of New Jersey in 1805, and after his marriage moved to Canada. Later he returned to this country and in 1839 located in Illinois. His wife was Dency Terry. Coming to Baraboo, he remained for some time, then came to Freedom, where he acquired land on the present site of the village of North Freedom. He died in 1873. He and his wife were the parents of a numerous family: Mary Jane, George, Julia May, Timothy, John, Joel, Hannah E., Dency M., Frank, William J., Parshall T., Sarah, Wesley and Jacob, only a few of whom grew to maturity. Timothy Hackett married Fannie J. Moulton, a native of Illinois, and had two children: Wesley married Inez Burt; and Major N. B. Hackett who married Anna Luckensmeyer. Frank Hackett, a soldier in Co. F, 3d W. V. C., lifelong farmer of Freedom, married first Pauline Wiggins, and second Miss Elizabeth Loomis. Her father, Jerome Loomis, was also an early settler of Freedom. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hackett had these children: George W., Joseph F., Samuel J., Joshua T., Mary Ann, John M., Jacob A., Martha E., Laura, Arthur J. and Ethel.

Another early settler of this township was William Sproul. This gentleman was a native of Ohio, and his pilgrimage to the western frontier was by way of Indiana, reaching Sauk County in September, 1848, locating in Bear Creek. The following spring, 1849, he purchased land in Freedom upon which he lived for many years. His wife was Mary Statser, a native of Switzerland. They had several children: James, John W., Mary J., and Alice. James was a member of Company A, 19th W. V. I. dur-

ing the Civil War. He was present at the capture of Richmond, and the first flag raised in the rebel capital was that of his regiment.

George Nippert was another settler of 1849. He was the founder of a large local progeny. We would mention, also, the Hill brothers who founded what is still known as the Hill Settlement, although they did not come until some time later.

The Nelson family of which John F. Nelson was a representative came to Freedom in 1852, from Illinois. John F. was a member of Company F, 3d W. V. C. serving throughout the war. His wife was Ellen A. Delapp, a native of New York. John Wiggins, carpenter and lumber dealers for many years in North Freedom, we would mention also. He came to Sauk County as early as 1851. The Zimmerly family came about the same time. Jacob Zimmerly, a son, for many years of local residence, was a member of Co. K, 45th W. V. I. He married Caroline Schellenberger. They had several children: Mary A., Charles R., John A., Alfred S., Louisa P., and John R.

Another widely known early family were the Trumbulls. This family came from Montgomery County, New York to Jefferson County, Wisconsin, 1852, and to Freedom the following year. Edward N. Trumbull who was 9 years of age when his parents came to Sauk County, grew to manhood and spent his entire life in the community. He was a member of Co. K, 6th W. V. I., and served throughout the entire Civil War. On May 26th, 1867 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Waddell. She was the daughter of James and Betsy (Coverstone) Waddell, and may be called the "First Lady of the Town". (It will do at this point to make especial mention of Mrs. Trumbull, pioneer woman, lifelong resident of Freedom, still living, at the age of 80 years, active, beloved by the people of the town. Mary Waddell Trumbull was born May 17, 1848, the first white child born in the Town of Freedom.

Of the settlers of 1855, we are able to make mention of a number. W. C. T. Newell was one of these. He was a native of Tompkins County, New York, and came to Dubuque, Iowa, in 1854, to Freedom the following year. In 1856 he married Temperance Waddell. This lady was a native of Indiana, and was a sister of Mary Waddell Trumbull. The Newell children

were: Mary, Clarissa, Alice A., Eliza E., George A., and Herbert.

Joseph Lamport was another settler of 1855, a native of West Penard, Somersetshire, England. In 1819 the family immigrated to America. In 1833, our subject came to Milwaukee, when that place was a mere frontier settlement, and there he resided until 1855. He will be remembered for his association with Mr. Delapp in the sawmill at Freedom. His wife's maiden name was Marietta L. Demuth, and she was a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Lamport had nine children: Priscilla E., George T., Mary J., Hattie A., James A., Clark, Clara (these two were twins), Ella J. and Grant. George T. was a member of the 3d W. V. C. during the Civil War. S. D. Slientz was another settler that year.

The Shellenberger family which came to this vicinity in 1856 was one of the earliest of the German families. There were in this family a number of children one of whom was August F. He married Miss Evelyn Hersinger, a native of the county. Adolph Shellenberger is another name associated with the early German settlers of the town. Another family was that of John Seils. He was born in Pommern, Prussia, where the early life of John Seils was spent. He married his wife, Mina Milke, in Germany. They came to Freedom in 1868. Their children were: Mina, Augusta, Matilda, Hannah, Lena, Theresa, and Theodore. Other German families were John P. Bierlen and Henry Maertski.

J. L. Girton, for many years an implement dealer of North Freedom was born in Lincolnshire, England and came with his parents to America in 1850, locating in New York. From there the family went to Michigan, thence to Walworth County, Wisconsin, and in 1856 came to Sauk County. L. G. Girton married Miss Mary E. Powell, a native of Lockport, New York.

G. W. Bloom, prominent citizen of Freedom for many years, came to Sauk County in 1850, to Baraboo in 1855, and to Freedom in 1860. He was a native of Bradford County, Pennsylvania. He will be remembered as the man who, with Mr. E. Kimball, in 1867 built a mill in the village of North Freedom. Mrs. Bloom was Harriet Wilkinson, a native of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Bloom had five children: Deb-

orah J., Selinda D., who married Charles W. Clark, William H., James E., and Hattie F.

Gustave Scharnke, a native of Prussia, Germany came with his parents to Sauk County in 1863. In 1876 he took possession of the sawmill, and in 1878 built the first grist mill in the township. The family of John Quandt came from Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1867. His wife's maiden name was Louisa Prien.

E. Maxham, a native of Oswego County, New York, came to Wisconsin in 1846, to Baraboo in '56 and Freedom in '68. He was a prominent farmer of his time. The family of R. G. Carpenter came from Madison County, New York to Wisconsin as early as 1842, but did not come to Sauk County until 1866. His wife's maiden name was Jane Head. There were three children in this family: Rollin B., Oscar D., and Washington G.

VILLAGE OF NORTH FREEDOM

What was probably the first white man's habitation in what is now the village of North Freedom, was the building reared by Mr. John Hackett, son of Samuel Hackett, in the summer of 1856. Be that as it may, the founding of the village proper dates from 1867 when G. W. Bloom and Mr. Kimball built their sawmill. This mill was, shortly after its erection, destroyed by fire, but it was again rebuilt, and the growth of the village was, thereafter, very rapid.

In May, 1871, Mr. Bloom acquired twenty-seven acres of land, which the following year he had surveyed and platted. Mr. Bloom was an enthusiastic promoter, with Col. Strong, S. V. R., Ableman, the Mackeys, and others in getting the railroad through the Baraboo Valley. The following year, 1873, other additions were made to the village plat, and it was W. C. T. Newell who surveyed and platted the village of North Freedom as it is today. In October, 1893, it was incorporated.

The village of North Freedom has three churches: The German Baptist; Methodist and German Lutheran.

The first school was established about 1849-50. J. R. Guile was the first teacher. Previous to this, a private school had been taught. The first devotionals were held in the home of Mr. Hirshinger, in the fall of 1847, conducted by Reverend James Wad-

dell. The first death in the township occurred July 16th, 1848, that of Elizabeth Harrison.

THE JOHN FALLER POST, WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS, No. 43,
NORTH FREEDOM

This Post of that great national organization dedicated to charity and other acts of benevolence, was organized in January of the year 1889, as an auxiliary to the John Faller Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Ida Lawton, one of the most active organizers, was chosen president. The charter members, numbering thirty, were:

Mrs. Emma Whetmore, Mrs. Jerusha Smith, Mrs. Mary Dwinnell, Mrs. Sarah A. Spahr, Mrs. Mary Blachly, Mrs. Lillian Fisk, Mrs. Sarah Baldwin, Mrs. Mary Trumble, Mrs. Polly Wiggins, Mrs. Martha Carpenter, Mrs. Nellie Allen, Mrs. Ida Lawton, Mrs. Ida Erswell, Mrs. Angie Nelson, Mrs. Priscilla Maxham, Mrs. Ann Hackett, Mrs. Marilla Rice, Mrs. Cordelia Fisk, Mrs. Mary J. O'Dell, Miss Alma Atwood, Miss Eva Wiggins, Miss Bessie Hoffman, Mrs. Mary Hackett, Mrs. Ann Chambers, Mrs. Janette Petteys, Mrs. Milissa Nippert, Mrs. Amanda Ashley, Mrs. Julia Gray, Miss Maud Sweatland.

Mrs. Lawton was re-elected president for the year 1890. The presidents, since then, have been: Mrs. Jerusha Smith, 1891, Mrs. Polly Wiggins, '92, Mrs. Mary Dwinnell, '93, Mrs. Ann Hackett, '94, Mrs. Mary Blachly, '95, Mrs. Ida Lawton, '96-'97, Mrs. Polly Wiggins, '98-'99, Mrs. Martha Carpenter, 1900, Mrs. Mattie North, '01, Mrs. Jerusha Smith, '02-'03, Mrs. Polly Wiggins, '04-'05, Mrs. Janette Petteys, '06-'07, Luna Hackett, '08, Ann McCoy, '09, Clara Hackett, '10, Mary Patterson, '11-'12, Mrs. Polly Wiggins, '13, Clara Hackett, '14-'15, Mrs. Mary Patterson, '16-'17, Edith Dickie, '18-'19, Johanna Johnson, '20-'21-'22, Mrs. Ida Lawton, '23, Edith Dickie, '24, Libbie Westenhaber, '25-'26-'27-'28.

With Mrs. Westenhaber, President, the present officers are: Mrs. Anna Hackett, Sr., Vice President, Mrs. Elizabeth Hill, Jr., Vice President, Miss Martha Northrup, Chaplain, Mrs. Mable Scott, Secretary, Mrs. Mable Buxton, Treasurer, Mrs. Mable Schmidt, Conductor, Mrs. Grace Hewitt, Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Louise Page, Guard, Mrs. Dell Young, Assistant

Guard, Mrs. Edna Rist, Organist, Mrs. Jennie Schorer, Patriotic Instructor.

The flag bearers are No. 1, Alma Angle; No. 2, Mrs. Minnie Voss; No. 3, Mrs. Laura Bonnell; No. 4, Mrs. Sophia Sinke.

THE BANK OF NORTH FREEDOM

The Bank of North Freedom of which R. B. Dickie is the President, was organized on the 4th day of May, 1903, with H. G. Merritt, President; Wm. A. Waven, Cashier; and August F. Fisher, Director. These three men were the original incorporators, and the bank was capitalized at \$25,000.00. It was soon discovered, however, that the figure was too high and on July 6th, 1903, the articles of incorporation were amended to reduce the Bank Capital Stock to \$10,000.00.

Like many small and young banks, it had trouble in getting started, and on March 28th, 1906 it was voluntarily put into the hands of the Commissioner of Banking. Fortunately for the community, the difficulties which caused the closing of the bank were soon satisfactorily adjusted and overcome, and on April 17, 1906, it resumed operations, under the management of a new board of Directors, which consisted of the following members:

R. B. Dickie, President and Director, John Barker, Vice-President and Director, T. L. Knauss, Cashier and Director, W. C. Hahn, Assistant Cashier, Conrad Egerer, Director, J. T. Lawton, Director, William Dickie, Director, E. B. McCoy, Director. January 14, 1907, Mr. Hahn was elected Cashier and continued in that capacity until his death which occurred December 22nd, 1925. Since the date of reorganization the bank has grown steadily, until it has become one of the most stable financial institutions in the northwestern part of the county. The bank now has resources of approximately \$500,000.00. On May 2, 1924 the capital was increased to \$25,000.00, at which figure it stands today.

The officers today are: R. B. Dickie, President and Director, R. S. Lange, Vice-President and Director, W. F. Greenhalgh, Cashier, Mary Moll, Assistant Cashier. Directors are: William Dickie, Conrad Egerer, E. L. Egerer, P. D. Stackman and R. M. Spaulding.

Data furnished by the Bank of North Freedom.

IRONTON

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The town of Ironton, one of the most romantic spots in the state of Wisconsin, a spot where romance and love itself have become traditional, lying squarely west of the town of Reedsburg, has a story truly historical. The territory within the present confines of the town originally formed a part of Marston, and was organized under that name about 1852. The town of Marston was divided at a later date, and the towns of LaValle, Woodland, Ironton and Washington were organized.

The first man to settle in the town was William Cochran, a married man, who brought his family hither in 1846. He built a shanty some little distance south of the site of the village of Ironton. The death of his wife, in April, 1850, was the first fatality within the town. Mr Cochran was a sportsman, by instinct, and spent most of his time hunting rather than in improving his claim.

Possibly the next settlers of the town were the Jessop brothers, Joseph and John, who came in May, 1849. They were natives of Brairley, Yorkshire, England, sons of John and Mary (Saville) Jessop, and came to the United States in 1849, and came directly to Ironton. The birth that summer of Elizabeth Jessop, to Joseph Jessop and wife Ann, was the first in town.

In the annals of pioneering the name of Reuben Thornton stands as that of one of the very earliest settlers. Mr. Thornton was a native of England, as was his wife Betty. In 1849 they immigrated to America, coming at the time directly to Ironton where they ever after resided. Mr. Thornton was always active in public work, and is credited as having made the suggestion that led to the naming of the town of Marston, when that great town was organized. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton were the parents of a large family of children: John, who married Hannah Harrison; Richard; Charles; Sarah; Hannah, who married Phillip Babb, and Emma, first wife of John Tordoff.

The family of Frederic J. Groat were also settlers in 1849. Mr. Groat was a native of New York, son of Frederic Groat, and at an early date removed with his people to Berkshire Co., Mass.,

where he grew to manhood. When a young man of about twenty-two years of age, he returned to his native state, and in 1846 married his brother Jacob's widow, Clarissa Groat. This lady was a native of Lennox, Berkshire Co., Mass., daughter of Cornelius and Rachel (Newman) Spurr. This woman had one son by her first marriage, who died at Vicksburg, during the Civil War. In 1848 Mr. and Mrs. Groat came to Wisconsin, stopping in Dodge County, where they remained until spring, 1849, when they went to Reedsburg. That fall they located in Ironton, where they afterward resided. Mr. Groat was a minister for many years. To Mr. and Mrs. Groat were born several children: Francis, who married Jenny Butman, Ironton; Camelia, who married Walter Roys, and lived for many years in LaValle; Esther, who married William Burchell, and also resided in LaValle; Mary, Ella, Ina. Mr. Groat was a soldier of the Union Army, and served in the capacity of Sergeant.

Of the settlers of 1850 few names appear with more prominence in the annals of pioneering than that of Humphry. The pioneer, George Humphry, was born in Yorkshire, England, and at the age of eighteen came to America (1840). In 1845 he was married to Nancy Donley, daughter of Felix and Catharine (McGregor) Donley, the lady being a native of Glasgow, Scotland. Upon their marriage they came to Whitewater, Wis., and resided there until 1850, when they settled in Ironton. To Mr. and Mrs. Humphry were born seven children: William, Isabella, Mary, George, who married Miss D. Evans, and lived for many years in Ironton, Nelson, Esmeralda, later Mrs. L. N. LaRue, of Ironton, and Catharine. After the death of her husband at an early date, the widow engaged in hop-growing, and the Humphry Seedling was the result of her propagation.

George Washington Gray, mentioned extensively in connection with the town of Washington, was a settler of 1850 in the town of Ironton, but early moved away.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Clossey, the latter a daughter of Felix and Catharine (McGregor) Donley, like the wife of George Humphry, were settlers of 1850 also. Mr. Clossey was a native of County Kilkenny, Ireland, born in 1813, son of Thomas and Susan (Kelley) Clossey, and came to New York in the year of the great fire in New York City; later he went to Hudson, and

was married in 1842 to Mary Donley. Her people were originally of Scotland, but went to Ireland, where she (Mary) was born, and in 1835 came to the United States. In 1845 the family came to Wisconsin and after spending five years in Rock County came to Ironton, where they established permanent residence, and became prominent in the community. Mr. and Mrs. Clossey were the parents of a large family: Edward, who married Isabella Pine, and went to Minnesota; John, who married Margaret Sammond, and remained an Ironton farmer; Thomas, who married Margaret Welch, and also resided on an Ironton farm; William J.; Felix D.; Catharine, and Joseph. This family is still represented in Sauk County.

Of the settlers of 1851 we are able to make mention of several. One of these was Nehemiah Austin, who earlier located in the Little Baraboo Valley, further west, but who acquired land a part of which now comprises the village site of Ironton about this year. The Austins are mentioned in connection with John D. R. Mitchell, Woodland history. Joseph Gaylord Blakesley, familiarly referred to as Squire Blakesley, was another settler in 1851, and brought with him a large family. His wife's name was Ruby Bliss. They settled in the town of Marston, and their original land is now contained in the town of LaValle, but members of this family soon became connected with the village of Ironton, where for more than half a century Blakesley's Store has been traditional, so the facts concerning them may fittingly be given in this sketch of Ironton. The children of Joseph Gaylord Blakesley were: Phoebe, who married Leander Wheeler, more of whom follows; Clarine, who became the wife of J. T. Lunn, esteemed early Sauk County Educator; Ephriam, who married first, Mary Ballard, daughter of Hiram Ballard, and had three children, Eulella J., Charles G., and Alfred J., and for a second wife married Caroline A. Huntley, daughter of Ludwick and Charlotte (Smith) Huntley, widow of George Swift, and had two children, Mary L., and Lee C. Blakesley; Noah G. Blakesley, who married Mary E. Blanchard, daughter of O. C. and Hannah (Kezear) Blanchard.

From 1851 on the settlement of Ironton was very rapid, and within a few years the whole community was settled. William All, Abram Stansfield and Charles H. Sands came in 1853. Wil-

liam All, son of Peter and Mary All, was born in New York state in 1818, and moved with his parents from one place to another, finally locating in Washington County, where he married in 1843 Miss Phoebe Hurd, daughter of Zenus Hurd, the lady a native of Vermont. In 1844 Mr. and Mrs. All came to Wisconsin settling temporarily in Dane County, where they resided until 1853. The All children were: Peter, who married Lydia A. Davis and resided for many years at Ironton; Elizabeth, who married John Markham and went to Dakota; Julia A., who married William A. Wright and resided at Ironton; Lucretia D., who married P. Burgess of Ironton; Chloe A., Olive A., Josephine E.



HILL, SOUTHEAST OF IRONTON, ONE OF HIGHEST POINTS IN SAUK CO.

Charles H. Sands, remembered as a prominent farmer of the early days, was a native of Benton, Yates Co., N. Y., born in 1830, son of Nathaniel and Jane (Weyart) Sands, but early went to Cayugua County, where he resided until coming to Walworth County, this state, in 1846. After a residence there the family located in Dane County, and in 1853 in the town of Ironton. The following year he married Elizabeth A. Atkinson, daughter of John Atkinson, and went farming. There were seven children born of this union: Jane, who married A. Hughes, of Ironton; George G., Orin L., Annie, Charles H., Willia and Arvin C. In 1864 Mr. Sands moved from a farm in Section 5, to one in Section 9; the following spring enlisted for the Civil War. Mrs. Sands died in 1872 and the following year Mr. Sands mar-

ried Mrs. Susan Bostwick, widow of Charles Bostwick, and daughter of Anthony Emily. Charles and Susan Bostwick had three children: Isa, who married Howard Wickersham; and Willie and Nelson.

Abram Stansfield, also a farmer by occupation, was an Englishman by birth, born in Yorkshire, England, in 1813, son of John and Susan (Dobson) Stansfield. His early years were spent in his natal place, and he married there in 1838 Miss Grace Marshall, daughter of William and Ann Marshall. Coming to America in 1849, the family spent three years in New York and one year in Massachusetts prior to coming to Ironton. Later Mr. Stansfield served his country in the Civil War, and was raised to the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant. Of their two children, only one grew to maturity: William.

Another early family of this town was that of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cushman, who came in the fall of 1854. Mr. Cushman, descended from early Puritanic stock, was a native of Ohio, while his wife Julia Robinson, traced her descent from John Robinson, who came to America from Scotland about 1750. Mr. and Mrs. Cushman located near Lime Ridge first, and he was the first postmaster of that place; but later the family moved to Ironton, where the family opened a wagon shop. The children of this couple are: Wellington Bruce, who married Ella Ackerman, and is now deceased of Independence, Kansas; Belle, wife of Robert L. Bohn, Lime Ridge; Nelson Ackley, who married Mary Elizabeth Harris, and resides in Reedsburg; Julia, who married first R. J. Sanders, and second, Judge Halsey, and now resides, widowed, at Colorado Springs, Col.; Blanch, wife of E. F. Truck, Kearney, Neb.; Charles E., of Hooper, Neb.; Edward F., married Lulu Osborne, now deceased. His widow resides at Lincoln, Neb.

NELSON AND EMELINE (WARNER) WHEELER

Of all the settlers of the town, whose posterity is still represented in the community perhaps none have more local representatives than Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Wheeler, pioneers of the year 1854. Mr. Wheeler was born in the state of New York in 1811, son of E. F. Wheeler, and there grew to manhood and married Emeline Warner. Upon their marriage they moved to Ohio, and

lived there until their removal to Ironton in 1854. The Wheeler farm is in the southern part of the town, and was in the original town of Washington, near the Gray farm, and was, like that, set into Ironton by a re-survey made some time later. Mr. Wheeler was a farmer by occupation, and was ever a man of prominence. He was a member of the Wisconsin Legislature during the term of 1859.

Nelson and Emeline Wheeler were the parents of seven children: Jane, Henry, Leander, Robert Alonzo, Emily, Mary, Nelson Duane.

Jane Wheeler married LaFayette Ackerman and died in early life.

Henry Wheeler married Electa Benson, daughter of Almeron and Lucinda (Stanton) Benson, and had four children: Will, of Madison; Orton, of Baraboo; Elias of Reedsburg, and Emma, wife of Albert Sorge, formerly of Reedsburg, and now of LaCrosse.

Leander Wheeler married Phoebe Blakesley, daughter of Squire Blakesley, and was for many years an active Ironton farmer. His children are: Ruby, deceased; Nelson, who married Jesse Wood, daughter of William A. and Betsy Ann (Ball) Wood of Washington township, and resides in Reedsburg; Walter, who married Gertrude Lewis, and lives in Lime Ridge; Arthur, at Cornell, Wis.; Mate and Hattie, twins, the former the wife of Ed. Bohn and well known milliner of Reedsburg, and the latter the wife of Walter Fish of Winfield; Edna, wife of Walter Walling, Reedsburg; Bert, of Aniwa, Wis.; Frank, married Alma Webster, now of Reedsburg; Charles, married Lillie Gonslin, Reedsburg; and Guy, who married Blanch Dorrow and resides upon the Wheeler farm in this town.

Emily Wheeler married James Priest and lives in Superior.

Mary Wheeler married Ed. Blank, and resides, widowed, in Reedsburg; she has three children: Genevieve, wife of Fred Young, Reedsburg; Nina, wife of Art Coleman; Edward, of Stevens Point, Wis.; and Hanson, prominent educator of Little Falls, Iowa. Hanson Blank is a gifted modeler, and his model of Col. Charles Lindbergh has won considerable popularity. Mrs. Mary Blank, nee Wheeler, deserves especial mention here

as one of the oldest active society ladies of Reedsburg. Mary Blank's coffee at Old Settlers Meetings has become traditional.

Duane Wheeler married Louise Fuller. His children are: Alvin, who married Daisy Bennett of Winfield; Harry, of Baraboo; and Alta (Mrs. Judd).

FAMILIES OF 1855

Among the settlers of this year were James L. Benson and his wife. Mr. Benson was son of Almeron and Lucinda (Stanton) Benson, as was the wife of Henry Wheeler, a native of New York, the husband of Louisa Martin, daughter of Herman and Sarah Martin. They located upon a farm and were for many years prominent farmers of the town.

David Bryden was another settler this year, 1855. He was born in Scotland, in 1831, and was the son of David and Jenet (Lees) Bryden, his people having been people of wealth and position. In 1854, leaving all his relatives behind, he came to America, and after spending one year in Waukesha County, came to Section 28, where he began improving a tract of virgin timber. In 1859 he was married to Miss Julia Swallow, daughter of Lucien Swallow, pioneer of 1849 in Reedsburg. They were the parents of four children: David, who married Eulella Blakesley, daughter of Ephraim Blakesley, and is now several years deceased; Annie, who married Arvin Sands and resides in Iowa; Jessie, who married Chester Miller and died in Chicago two years ago (1926); and Edna, wife of Charles H. Stone, Reedsburg.

The family of Ephraim Smith came also in 1855. Mr. Smith was a native of Rutland, Vermont, son of Oliver and Deborah (Thomas) Smith, and was born in 1826. In 1836 his parents removed to Ohio, settling in Delaware County, where he grew to manhood. In 1845 he married Betsy Wheeler, daughter of Lyman and Mahala Wheeler. In 1855 the family came directly to this town, and located on land in Section 24. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born nine children: Albert U., who married Mary Johnson, and resided on a farm in the town of Washington for many years; John L., who married Ellen Seldon; Melissa, who married H. St. John, and lived in Woodland; Jeremiah; Mahala,

wife of S. Z. Hudson; Joseph E.; Clarinda; Emmet and Malinda.

William A. Kester brought his family to the town this year also. His wife was Sarah R. Washburn, and the family came hither from Ohio, where they had resided for many years. One of their children was Charles M. Kester, aged resident of Reedsburg, who had lived for more than seventy years in the Upper Baraboo Valley, for many years in this town where he was a prominent farmer of his day. Charles Kester married the widow of Amos Ford, Civil War hero, and had two children: X, who married Allen Reese and now, widowed, resides with her father; and Charles Earle. Mrs. Kester died in middle life and Charles M. Kester later married Electa, the widow of Henry Wheeler, who is now also deceased.

STORY OF THE IRON MINE*

To the casual visitor, what remains of what once existed on the spot where for nearly forty years dozens of strong-bodied men engaged in digging iron ore, the complete abandon and tragic stillness of the wood and hillside ore-pits canst but cause him to reflect upon what has been, rather than on what there is. Today all that remains of the Ironton iron mine is the great pit, half-way up the hillside, hemmed in by a blanket of underbrush, stalwart trees. It is scarcely visible to the unknowing frequenter as he climbs around the hillside. His eyes are attracted by the dilapidation of an old log building, standing squarely in the center of a wide clearing; and we picture the old house as the writer photographed it last summer, especially for this work. To the right, the clearing is bordered by a thick wood, tall oaks lift their spreading tops toward the sky. Here, in this wood, is the scene of the mining days, pits, pits, pits, dozens of them, some larger than others. You climb around these minor pits, and at last stand in awe before a mighty depression in the earth that is possibly a hundred feet in depth and more than that in width and breadth. This is the big, or main pit: It is pictured herewith,

* Mrs. Paul Miller, born Mary Byrne, daughter of the late Frank Byrne, for years associated with the Iron Mine, has kindly given of her time and knowledge, to aid in the compilation of this sketch on the MOST ROMANTIC SPOT IN THE BARABOO VALLEY. Mrs. Miller resides in Baraboo, Wis.

as it appears today. There is nothing more to see. But turning back a page from memory and from ancient archives we can relate the story of the days when Ironton was the industrial center of the whole Baraboo Valley.

DISCOVERY

Just who was the first to discover the ore deposits is uncertain; it has been credited to Henry Perry, who came to these parts with Don Carlos Barry in 1844, but the fact that Perry died seems to dissipate the belief that he was the individual. To



LAST OF THE MINING BUILDINGS

the gentleman who accompanied David C. Reed here in 1847, and who died soon after, it has likewise been accredited. This is the more probable, for Mr. Reed is said to have learned of its existence from his friend, and it is a fact that he visited the location with Mr. Powell, another friend, early in 1848. Mr. Powell appears to have entered it and received a deed for same on Jan. 3, 1849, which was transferred to Reed the 8th day of January, same year. Thus it is evident that Reed once held the property.

JONAS TOWER

The development of the mines began with the coming of this experienced miner to the site in 1855. Mr. Tower was a man of means and came from Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where he had recently wed a fashionable lady of that place. In 1852 he came to

Mayville, where he built a foundry. There learning of the Iron-ton deposit he started for Reedsburg, and, upon reaching that place, sought out Mr. Reed, its owner, and together the two men journeyed to the bluff over-looking the present site of the village of Ironton. Standing there, enrapt in the magnificent view before him, he remarked to Mr. Reed, in a voice that was full of pathos, "This will be my home; I shall remain."

Upon examining the deposits, he was instantly satisfied as to their worth, and that year completed the purchase of the property. Those were days of hardships and handicaps, and two years



IRON MINE, AS IT IS TODAY

(or possibly three) were to elapse before a foundry was completed. The first thing he did was to build a dam on the Little Baraboo river, at Ironton, at the present site of the mill, and near this the foundry was established.

In 1858 he began the erection of a fine pioneer house, the object of which was to attract his young wife (a fashionable lady of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., society) to share his life in the western wilderness. This lady, so the story goes, was a very gifted woman, and had remained in the East, refusing to come west. But after the house was completed that fall, the finest in all the countryside (and may it be added there was nothing to compare with it for many miles, save perhaps the Andrews house in Winfield, or the McClung house at Lodi) she was finally induced to join her husband.

So in the autumn of that year four huge teams from the foundry were dispatched to Portage to bring the new mistress of the Tower House to Ironton. Thus it was that the village of Ironton came into being, and the mines came to be opened.

During the early days the burning of charcoal for use in the furnace was a great industry, and it gave employment to a large number of people. Mr. Tower continued to operate the mine, and grew rich at it, and at his death in 1869, it passed to the management of John F. Smith. This man managed it for many years, and at his death in 1878, the estate was valued at \$170,960. At the time of Smith's demise Moses R. Doyon was head superintendent, and Francis Byrne was high in official capacity, having come to Tower's employ in 1855, and remained with the mining company throughout.

Upon the demise of Mr. Smith his sister, Mrs. Moses D. Herrick became chief heir, and her son-in-law, Moses R. Doyon, was superintendent. Under this management the mines were exhausted, and Francis Byrne came into possession of the property, which is still held by his heirs, the Byrne brothers of Ironton and Mrs. Miller of Baraboo.

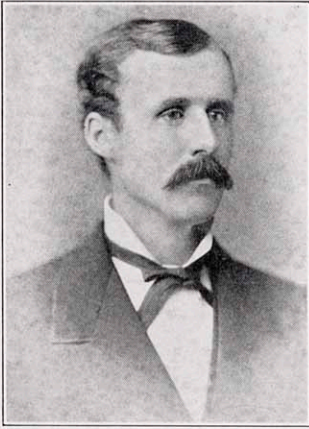
IRONTON, THE VILLAGE

The village came into existence in 1855, when Jonas Tower and others, namely R. Dickinson, J. and E. Tout, C. Keith and Putnam Fuller acquired the village site and organized a firm with the idea of plotting a village. Within a short time, however, his partners all withdrew, and Jonas Tower was left alone to prosecute his claim. Within a few years a number of buildings came into being, saw-mills, churches, schools, etc., and with the prosperity of the mines, the village grew. Ezra Hagaman put up the first frame house in the village on August 6, 1856, but soon sold to Mr. Sandgren. The first store held in the village was by Tower & Company, and was kept for the purpose of furnishing supplies to the men connected with the mines. The first private store was that of Tout & Fuller. The following year, 1857, Benjamin Paddock opened one, which he conducted until about 1870. Later, in 1873 the Blakeslee store was established.

A postoffice was established at Ironton in 1855, or early in 1856, with N. H. Austin postmaster. Benjamin Paddock succeeded Austin and Peter Crook, another name frequently associated with the story of the Iron Mines, was also at one time postmaster.

EDUCATION*

A district school was established in 1857. The first record of the district is dated September 29, of that year. The officers were Putnam Fuller, Director; William W. All, Treasurer; and Nehemiah H. Austin, Clerk. It was voted that a school tax of \$50 be raised for school purposes, and that "the site of the schoolhouse be removed," by which it is understood that there must have been a schoolhouse prior to the date on the record. An old settler remembers the existence of one on Brownell's Hill, and another described as "Pearson's" which stood "a mile away." Whether or not these were maintained under the district school system, he is unable to say. At the next meeting of the board, it was resolved to purchase Jonas Tower a schoolhouse site in the village for \$150. Upon this site an educational edifice was later built. It was a brick structure and cost \$600.



DR. E. LEWIS, father of Sinclair Lewis, celebrated writer. Dr. Lewis, in early days, was Ironton's outstanding physician, and his memory is still cherished by local townsmen of the older generation.

Prior to this action of the board, E. M. Tout taught a class in a dingy apartment under Fuller & Keith's store, and Miss Sarah E. Bailey of Reedsburg gave instructions to a limited number of pupils in the carpenter-shop kept by Mr. Johnson. B. F. Blackman and John F. Wilcox appear to have been the first to teach in the brick schoolhouse, and taught in 1859. Among the early teachers of the village were: Miss V. Long, Alma Weir, Nellie Davis, Rosa C. Glass, O. T. Green, Jabez

* This is from the Sauk County history of 1880.

Brown of Woodland, Frances E. Danforth of Reedsburg, Ella Keith, Miss Meyers, Miss Ellinwood, Phoebe Bates, Lorenzo Brown of Woodland, Miss Sprague, Miss Walker, J. T. Lunn who later became County Superintendent; Mary A. Wood, W. T. Cortleyou, D. E. Morgan, Frank L. Twist, of whom more elsewhere, Mary Wood, Kate Fitzgerald, Hannah Mann, Lizzie Stowe and H. M. Johnson.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

One of the first religious institutions in the village of Iron-ton was the Catholic Church, organized in 1862, which year a parish church was also erected, at a cost of \$300. Among the families instrumental in its organization were those of James Douglas, Frank Kernan, and Henry Martin and Mr. Frank Byrne. Father Montague was the first pastor, and he came from Lyndon Station twice each month. He was followed by Father H. Steeley, who filled the pulpit from his charge in Westford, Richland County. Now the parish has a resident pastor.



CATHOLIC CHURCH PROPERTY, IRONTON

In 1872 a Methodist church was organized, but previous to that meetings were held in the schoolhouse. Mrs. Tower was especially interested in Methodism, and engaged itinerant preachers to come to the schoolhouse meetings. The church, erected in 1872, cost \$3,000. The early pastors were Revs. Walker, Dudley, Thomas, Holcomb and Tyake.

Baptist services were conducted here at a very early date by Elder Conrad, then Rev. John Seamans, later Elder A. D. Barbour, pastors of neighboring charges, but later a church was organized.

SETTLERS IN CARR VALLEY

So far as is known Mr. Carr was the first settler in this region, and the community takes its name from this circumstance. Mr. Carr came about 1850, and lived in what is known as Upper Carr Valley, but may have owned some land in Lower Carr Valley also. He settled on the W. E. Bible farm. Possibly the next settler to come was Ira Allen, locating on the farm now known as the Charles Benson farm. His wife was Rebecca Bliss, and they had previously resided in Sheboygan County. Mrs. Mary Bible, Reedsburg, is his daughter.

Among the other settlers in this valley were: J. Doyle, on the John Doyle farm; James Frank, on the D. Andrews farm; a Mr. Bennett, where Peter Vosen Jr., now lives; Mr. St. John, on the Bradie Smith property; John Osborne, on the Eugene Gasser farm; Mr. Mackintyre, where John Burgess now lives; Owen Manville, on the Thos. Manville place; Patrick McDonald, on the Herbert Bingham farm; C. Collins, on the Jabez Marshall farm; E. Small, on the Frank Gasser farm; Mr. Davis, where the Ora Schuluter family reside; then there was Andrew Hillestad on the Daniel Webb place; Nelson Osborne, where Peter Vosen Sr., resides, and William Griffin, on the Abraham Griffin farm.

The first school in this community was established about 1854, and a schoolhouse was built on the Griffin farm. Some years later a frame building was put up and used for a schoolhouse. This stood on the David Webb farm.

From a letter written the editor this summer is taken the following extraction: "The Ironton Iron Mines affected the district in a way, for much of the wood cut on the farms was made into charcoal to be used in the furnace, in smelting ore. Rock for the building of the furnace was quarried on the Bradie Smith farm, on the Wm. Griffin farm, and on the hillsides one often finds the old dug-out roads which led to the furnace at Ironton."

Other settlers in the Lower Carr Valley country were the Casey family, who resided in a little cabin in what was then known as Wigwam Hollow, a ravine which starts on the William Griffin farm and opens toward Ironton. The father's name was Hugh Casey. John Casey, an early pupil of the first school on

the Griffin farm, now residing at Ironton, writes that the schoolhouse stood in a grove of trees just north of the road that climbs the hill across the Jerry Doyle farm, and thinks the first board was comprised of the following individuals: Abraham Griffin, Mr. Mackintyre and Mr. (Doc.) Thompson, who later moved to Valton. The first teacher was probably Ellen Keith, sister of Charles Keith; possibly Miss Theresa Green, aunt of Ed. Mortimer of Ironton, was the next teacher. Theresa Green married Nelson Osborne. A Mr. Conklin lived on the James Francis place (now the Andrews Farm). His children are John Conklin of LaValle and Mrs. Rachel Wells of Loganville.



THIS RANGE OF HILLS FORMS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN IRONTON
AND REEDSBURG

In regard to School District No. 9, we would say that it was started in the early 1850s and that Alexander P. Ellinwood was the first teacher. In reply to inquiries Mr. Archie Thomas wrote as follows: "The earliest record seems to be 1865. Miss Emeline Finch was the teacher at that time. The first building was a log structure, but that was abandoned about 1865 and a new building erected. The latter was abandoned in 1875, when a frame house was built. The first schoolhouse Archie Mallon can remember was on the old Keith farm. Later it was down in the valley across from Ernest White's house. Now, of course it is on the ridge and there have been two schoolhouses there."

LIME RIDGE

THE STORE

The village of Lime Ridge, situated in the southern part of the town, dates from 1867, according to reliable information on the subject. In that year a wooden building 16 by 26 feet was erected and used as a store by Wesley Marsh, who owned considerable property in the present village site. It was one of three or four buildings (dwelling houses) that then stood at the four corners, almost in the woods. The land was originally called school land, and was obtained by paying interest each year on the valuation, and was held by Mr. Marsh. Within a few years Mr. Marsh sold his store and real estate to John T. Pollock, later of Tuckertown, who in 1876 sold to R. L. Bohn. Mr. Bohn paid off the amount due the state and received a patent. Mr. Bohn continued the store for many years, and in 1907 the business was incorporated as The R. L. Bohn Co., with Mr. Bohn, President, and F. Pauls, Manager. In 1922 a fine new brick and tile store, 50 by 56 feet, was built, and the old one torn down. The present manager is C. E. Fuller, who has held that position since 1924. The business is now a large general merchandise store in the village of Lime Ridge which grew up around it as the years passed.

THE BANK

With the growth of the village and the prosperity of the community, it became some of the villagers to organize a bank, and in 1909 the State Bank of Lime Ridge was established. R. L. Bohn was the first president, and O. L. Bohn was the cashier. It was located in Bohn's hall, but in 1913, the present bank building was erected, and has housed the institution since. Within a short time Mr. Bohn retired from the presidency, and was followed by Mr. F. H. Pauls, who, after a short time, withdrew, and Mr. Bohn returned, and has continued as president since. J. B. Prouty is Vice-President; E. A. Prouty, Cashier and Wm. Wood, Assistant Cashier. Directors are Messrs. R. E. Bohn, E. A. Prouty, F. L. Ward, J. B. Prouty and B. C. Bohn. The bank has a capitalization and surplus of \$18,000; and resources, June 30, 1928, of \$263,480.67.

ERICSON-GERLACH COMPANY

The Ericson-Gerlach Company has been in business in Lime Ridge since the fall of 1919, with W. H. Gerlach as manager. In that year Mr. Gerlach formed a partnership with Ericson, and purchased the brick building on the corner of Maple and Bond Streets, of E. B. Lewis, where they established a general hardware and farm-equipment store. They have the International Agency and deal in farm implements, trucks and tractors of that make. Mr. Gerlach came to the village, a stranger, in his first business adventure, and the business, under his management, has had marked success.



ERICSON-GERLACH COMPANY

CHURCHES

In connection with the religious life of the village of Lime Ridge, we would mention the United Bretheran Church, the Lutheran Church and the Baptist Church. With the latter especial mention may be made of the Rev. John Seamans, prominent clergyman of the early days. This gentleman came to Sauk County about 1856, locating in Loganville, that winter, then moving onto a farm in the town of Ironton. For many years he was a minister of the Gospel in the Baptist Faith.

LATER SETTLERS OF THE TOWN OF IRONTON

Of the later settlers who came to the town we are able to make mention of several. James Cohoon and his wife Palmyra Baird, came in 1856; also their son, Cornelius, who later married Alice Lyons and remained a resident of the town for many years. Then there was Richard Hainstock and his wife Catharine Den-

non, who came in 1860. Thomas F. Lawrence and his wife Sarah Widner came in 1861, the husband a native of England, the wife of New York. Frederic Renaud, a gentleman from France, immigrant of the year 1853, pioneer of Sauk County, was a settler in 1861 also. His wife, whom he returned to Massachusetts in '61 to marry, was Miss Judy Beuchat, native of Switzerland. Then there was Ezra B. Reynolds, a farmer, native of the Empire State, and his wife Elizabeth Krysler Riddle, born in Canada, who came in 1862. Charles Lawrence, son of Robert and Sarah, like Thomas Lawrence, his brother, was a settler in 1863, also his wife, Eliza Newton. And V. Fisher, native of Paris, France, traveler of the principal countries of Europe, came in 1864, with his wife Malinda, daughter of John Baptiste Loudez, a Frenchwoman; it is said that their early years in Ironton were spent in burning charcoal.



REEDSBURG FROM LIME RIDGE ROAD

The family of E. T. Corbin came in 1856; his only son, Seneca Corbin, prominent farmer for many years, native of the state of New York, married Adelia M. Emery, daughter of Harrison Emery. The Corbins were early settlers in Baraboo, later in Dellona, but finally came to Ironton. Among the settlers of 1866 were the family of Aaron Weston and his wife Charlotte Beal. They came to Wisconsin as early as 1851, locating in Dodge County, and two years later came to Reedsburg, where they resided until coming to Ironton. The family of Isaac N. Settle came in 1866 also. Mrs. Settle was formerly Adelia R. Thornburgh.

In 1867 the family of Ner Stowe came—they are also mentioned in connection with the Little Baraboo Valley settlement in the Woodland history. Mr. Stowe was a native of England, son

of William and Sarah (Dunn) Stowe. His brother George Stowe, remembered as a farmer and proprietor of the cheese factory of Section 6, this town, and wife Sarah Batty, daughter of William and Rebecca (Kirk) Batty, came to America in 1857, and to Ironton in 1873. They had several children, Lizzie, Sarah, Lucy, who married George Wickersham, and whose son, Howard E. Wickersham is a resident of Reedsburg, Mary and Minnie R.

Also we can mention Charles Parret, a Frenchman like Mr. V. Fisher, born in Haute Saone, France, and his wife Margaret Becker, also a native of France. Then there came Patrick Newman, native of Old Erin—the Newmans and the Parrets were settlers of 1869.

Another family having many local representatives was that of Amos and Anna Maria (Lown) Seamans. They came from Genesee County, N. Y., in 1868, and located in this town where they ever after resided. Their children were George J., prominent publisher of the Reedsburg Free Press, Grant, deceased, a daughter who died in infancy, Archie, deceased, Bertie, local farmer, Amos Leigh, who married Edith Darrow, Winfield, and is an Ironton farmer, Ina, Reedsburg, Frank, and Jennie (Mrs. O. J. Crane), Reedsburg.

William H. Brenizer and his wife Martha Wheeler, daughter of Upton and Eliza (Dearholt) Wheeler and his brother, Hugh H. Brenizer and Mr. and Mrs. Upton Wheeler and V. I. Van Loon were settlers of the period of about 1870-71. Mr. Van Loon was a son of Abram and Sarah (Colier) Van Loon; his wife was Mary J. Wells, daughter of Thomas and Susan (Bond) Wells. Mrs. Ed. Mortimer, Ironton, is a representative of this family.

LAVALLE

To those schooled in the language of far off France, the word *LaValle* may bring to mind the presence of a pleasant valley. But we are not French. However, there is a popular belief that the territory lying due north of the town of Ironton, may have taken its name from the circumstance that its hills and streams were at an unknown date frequented by hardy French trappers and fur traders, and that the Indian Village at the confluence of the Little Baraboo River with the Big Baraboo River, at the present site of the village of LaValle, led to the naming of the region *LaValle* (the valley) as a means of identifying it. Be that as it may, the naming of LaValle is, in fact, a vague uncertainty.

The territorial organization of the town of LaValle, as it is today, took place in 1861, when the town of Marston, of which it formed a part, ceased to exist. The first election of town officers occurred on April 1, 1862, in the village of LaValle, and the following were elected: J. G. Blakesley, Chairman; E. B. Hageman and J. H. Douglass, Supervisors; C. F. Christnot, Clerk; H. G. Howard, Treasurer; H. A. Sturgess, Assessor; and David Beery, H. A. Sturgess and Calvin Gardner, Justices.

The first settlement in the town was made by Samuel Karstetter, who entered land on Section 28, in 1847. The following year this man's parents, Sebastian and Mary Elizabeth (Marks) Karstetter, both natives of Pennsylvania, but later of Ohio, came hither from Indiana, whither they had gone from Ohio, with other members of their family, located on this claim, and to them belongs the distinction of having been the first family to penetrate the wilderness of the town. Among their children were, besides Samuel: Sarah Ann Karstetter, who married William Rabuck of LaValle; and Joseph P., who came to this county in 1856, a married man, and located in this town.

That same year, 1848, Manelious Pearson and his family located on Section 34, near Ironton, and the Pearson house was the first substantial dwelling in the town. Of all the early settlers, possibly none has a more widely spread or more numerous progeny

than this pioneersman and his wife Sarah Roe. Mr. Pearson was a native of Bradford, Yorkshire, England, born in 1810; his early years were spent there, where he married Sarah, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Roe. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson immigrated to America in 1841, and spent one year in Indiana. Then they came to Columbia County, Wis., and early in the spring of 1848, established themselves in LaValle, where they were to spend the remainder of their lives.



MR. AND MRS. MANELIOUS PEARSON

DESCENDANTS OF MR. AND MRS. MANELIOUS PEARSON

This pioneer couple were the parents of a large family, and their posterity is numerous in the town today. The children were Charles, Martha, Isaac, Mary Ann, Thomas and Christopher.

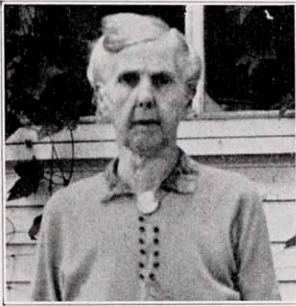
Charles married Martha Harrison, daughter of George Harrison, and had eight children: Eleazer, married Gertrude Kinnamon, and residing in LaValle; Azilla, wife of William Rabuck of Reedsburg; Jacob, who married Eva Atwood, first, and Ambrozone Harrison, second; Sarah, widow of the later Harry Thornton of LaValle; Selina, wife of George Stowe, Reedsburg; Charles Pearson, who married Emma Tordoff, LaValle; Ida, wife of Daniel S. Williams of Bozeman, Montana; and Mina, wife of Dr. J. S. Boher, Richland Center, Wis.

Martha Pearson married James Harrison, son of George Harrison. They had ten children, among them the following:

Amanda, deceased wife of Bert Lawrence, Ironton; Ambrozine, who married Jacob Pearson, Ironton; Isaac, later of Canada; Charles, deceased, of Iowa; Sarah, wife of Will Stowe, Ironton; Manelious, of Takoma, Washington; Eddy, Takoma, Wash.; Bertha (Mrs. Peck), Minnesota; Joan, wife of Charles Bible, Casenovia; George, of Canada; and two children who died in childhood.

Isaac Pearson married Emily Mallon, and has no local representatives.

Mary Ann Pearson, now the wife of George Inman of LaValle. This lady, born Sept. 21, 1850, was the first white child in the town of LaValle. During her early childhood she had the unusual experience of being kidnapped by Indians, and kept in captivity for some time. Mr. and Mrs. Inman are the parents of seven children: Richard Inman, Chicago; Nina, deceased wife of Hugh Pinn, California; Susan; Rachel, wife of Fred Harper, San Francisco, Cal.; Eddy, deceased; Lillian, wife of Charles Rabuck of Ironton; and Pearl, deceased.



MRS. GEORGE INMAN

Thomas Pearson, married Martha Greenhalgh, and had one child, Carrie, now married and residing in California; then, for his second wife, married Julia Faivre and had four children: Eva, wife of Phillip Apple, LaValle; Susan, wife of Herbert Weidman; Arvin, a soldier and hero of the World War; and Robert, of the town of LaValle.

Christopher Pearson married Eliza Greenhalgh, native of Yorkshire, England, daughter of Peter and Ann (Crook) Greenhalgh; they resided in the town of LaValle for some time but went to California several years ago. Their children are: Harry, Canada; Winnie, California; Ray, California; Mary, deceased; and Herbert, California.

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE HARRISON

Other settlers of 1848 were Mr. and Mrs. George Harrison. Mr. Harrison was born at Yorkshire, England, where he grew

to manhood and married Martha Bottomley. At an early date the family immigrated to the United States, and located in the East, prior to coming to LaValle. For a time they resided in Connecticut, but went to Massachusetts later, where the mother and older daughter were employed in the textile mills. The father, George Harrison, with his sons George and James, the latter having lost his young wife in England the year before, and Martha, a girl of twelve years, came west in 1848, and took up land. After a time the mother came to LaValle and the girl Hannah went east to work in the mills; but within a few years the sisters decided to join their parents, and came to LaValle to live. In 1856 James Harrison married Martha Pearson, and his children are named in the Pearson chronicle; George Harrison married Mary Cameron, and had two children: Chester, deceased, and Linnie, wife of August Bratz, Mendota, Wis.

The Harrison sisters, daughters of George and Martha, were:

Jemina, who married Abram Clarkson, and resided in the town of LaValle.

Rachel, who married Jack Inman, and had ten children, as follows: George Inman, who married Mary Ann Pearson; Elissa, wife of Orin Ryington, now of California; Martha, wife of David Fuller, who resided near Casenovia; Jemimah, wife of John Brewer, deceased; Jack, deceased; Rachel; Willie, Chicago; Charles, who married Anna Ludwig, deceased; and Sam of Alabama.

Malissa Harrison, who married Samuel Andrews of Iron-ton, and was a life-long resident of that locality. The children of Malissa and Samuel Andrews were seven: Walter, married Lucy Fitzgerald, and now residing in California; Martha (Mrs. Martha Johnston), Baraboo; George Andrews, married to Eliza Cooper, now residing in Baraboo; Jane, widow of John O'Gorman, Duluth; Eleazer, deceased; Joseph, of Chicago; David, married Clara Royce, LaValle; and two who died in infancy.

Hannah Harrison married in 1856 John Thornton, and resided in the town during her life time. The children of Hannah and John Thornton were: Jane and Edward, who died in infancy; Rachel, wife of John Conklin, deceased; Harry Thornton, who married Sarah Pearson, and remained a life long resi-

dent of the town; and Martha, wife of Charles Clark of Reedsburg.

Two other children of George and Martha Harrison, Eleazer, who married in Connecticut, and Selina, who married in Massachusetts, never came to Wisconsin to live.

OTHER EARLY SETTLERS OF THE TOWN

Of the settlers of 1851 John Tordoff was one of the most prominent. He was a native of Yorkshire, England, born in 1830, and was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Priestley) Tordoff. In 1848, at the age of eighteen, he came to America, locating in Columbia County, Wisconsin, where he resided until coming to LaValle, in 1851. The following year he married Emma Thornton, daughter of Rueben Thornton of Ironton; they were the parents of six children: Edmund, who married Amanda Karstetter, and resided in LaValle; Samuel, married Emma Royer; Emily, died in early life; Squire, John, and Paul. In 1864 Mrs. Tordoff died and Mr. Tordoff later went to England and married Fannie Tetlow. They had a number of children: Annie, Ledger, Harry, Tom. After John Tordoff had been in LaValle some time, he was joined by his brother Edmund Tordoff who became a permanent citizen of the town. Edmund Tordoff returned to England and in 1858 brought his wife to LaValle. Her maiden name was Harriet Pickles; and their children were: Jane Elizabeth, Mary Ann, Emeline L., who married Charles Pearson and resides in LaValle, Hattie Olive, and Charles Colfax.

Another settler of 1851 was William Rabuck. He was a native of Germany, son of John and Dorathy (Lange) Rabuck, and came to the United States in 1847, stopping in Milwaukee until 1851, when he came to this town, and the following year married the daughter of Sebastian Karstetter. They always resided in the town and have a number of local representatives. Their children were: Joseph H., who married Cornelia Gardner; Mary M., who married J. H. Karstetter; William S., who married Azilla Pearson; John W.; Albert A.; Edward N.; Jane S.; Charles E.; Frank; Levi H.; George A.; and Arthur R.

The family of Elisha Potter came in 1853, and were among the early settlers. His son, A. D. Potter, spent many years on

the farm in this town. His wife, whose maiden name was Miranda Barney, was a daughter of S. P. and Lydia (Harrington) Barney.

Among the settlers of 1854 were G. W. Dickens, and David Beery. George W. Dickens was a native of Cayuga Co., N. Y., born in 1823, son of Phillip and Lucy (Rathbone) Dickens. He grew to manhood in his native place, and was married there in 1846 to Mary Mellon, a native of Woolwich, England. In 1848 George Dickens brought his family to Wisconsin, and located at East Troy, Walworth County, Wis., where he resided until coming to LaValle. Mr. and Mrs. Dickens were the parents of a large family of children: Sarah M., who married William H. Field, and resided many years at LaValle; Roena; John M., who married Mary A. Gear, and spent many years in this town; Lucy J., who married E. Leigh; George; Lydia, who became the wife of V. Courtier, Ironton; Idellah M., who married James Courtier, also of Ironton; Elsworth E.; Maston; and Mary. Mr. Dickens was a member of Co. B., 12, W. V. I., during the Civil War. David Beery located on a farm. His wife was formerly Sarah Shisler. Their son Lyman, for many years senior partner of the firm of Beery & Yager, Millers, LaValle Village, married Adelia Andrews, daughter of Russell and Caroline (Noble) Andrews.

Settlers in 1855 were: S. P. Barney, Wellington S. Hubbell, W. W. Rathbun, John White.

S. P. Barney, son of Royal and Rachel Barney, was a native of Jefferson Co., N. Y., but at the age of four years removed with his parents to Lorain Co., Ohio. His wife was Lydia Harrington, daughter of Joshua and Ruth Harrington. They came to Fort Atkinson, Jefferson Co., Wis., in 1850 and, after a residence there of five years came to a farm in this town. After a year and a half they located in the village of LaValle, and their connections there are mentioned in the early history of that village. The children of S. P. and Lydia Barney were: B. S., married Annie E. Potter; Miranda, previously mentioned; and Emery, who married Mary Allen (his widow later married George W. Bible).

William S. Hubbell, for many years a farmer of the town, was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., son of Zalman and Cinda

(Beardsley) Hubbell. He resided in the Empire State until 1850 when he came to Wisconsin, and after a one year's stop at Beaver Dam, in the spring of 1851, located land on the village site of Ironton, which he sold in 1854 to Jonas Tower. Previously, however, he went to Ohio, where he married Mary Patrick, daughter of Alanson and Dorina Patrick. Upon coming to Sauk County that fall, he purchased land in LaValle township, and the following spring, 1855, established his family thereon. The site of his farm was at an early date the scene of an Indian maple-sugar camp. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hubbell were: Eugene W., Ella G., Henry A., Florence M., Charles E., and Myrtie E.

W. W. Rathbun, pioneer of 1855, was a native of Steuben Co., N. Y., born in 1824, son of Thomas and Nancy (Vroman) Rathbun. In 1844 he came to Madison, Wis., and remained there until coming to LaValle. He married in Reedsburg in 1858 Miss Julia Perry, daughter of Israel and Calista (Mosier) Perry. This lady was a relative of Commodore Perry.

The family of John White, settlers this year, 1855, also, were settlers in Reedsburg in 1854, and came to their LaValle farm from that place. Mr. White was a native of Devonshire, England, born in 1812, son of Charles and Mary (White) White. He grew to manhood in his natal country and was married there in 1830 to Jane Cotterell. In 1849 the family came to this country, settling at Waukesha, Wis., where they resided until coming to Reedsburg. Mr. and Mrs. White had a large family: Charles, drowned in the Baraboo River in 1857; Mary E., who married Charles Gibbons; William A., who married Almira Lake; John H., who married Emily Pond, daughter of Andrew Pond; Sarah, who married L. Gardner; Elizabeth, who married William Canon; Anna; Robert J., married to Ann J. Slater.

LAVALLE, THE VILLAGE

In the early days, when the settlers first came to the present village site, there was a number of Indian Wigwams at the confluence of the Little Baraboo with the Big Baraboo River, and tradition has it that this had been for many years a favorite rendezvous for the Winnebago Indians then dwelling in the Upper

Baraboo Valley. J. F. Hamlin, who was first of all the settlers upon the present village site, staked a claim at that point, and commenced immediately the development of the waterpower. This was in 1849. Within a short time other settlers had come into the vicinity, and while they did not locate upon the immediate village site, they were factors in its beginning. Among these near-by settlers were: Solon Rushmore, A. H. Brownell, Elisha Potter, Ezra Hagaman, Sebastian Karstetter, and M. A. Matthews.



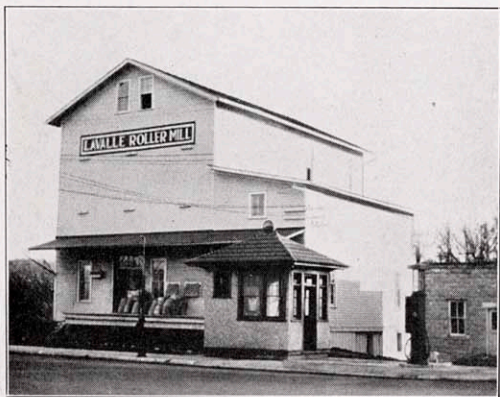
LAVALLE, FROM HILL TO THE WEST

These settlers appear to have come early in the year 1849. Mr. Hamlin built a shanty on the south side of the Baraboo river, opposite the point he thought the best for the location of a mill. He was joined that same season by Mr. Rushmore, who took an active interest in the project. They spent the summer of 1849 building the dam and mill, and early the following spring it was equipped with machinery and put in operation. The irons for the mill were manufactured by Sanford and Becket, who then were conducting a small foundery at Baraboo. That summer the saw-mill operated and the first lumber produced, it is said, was used in the construction of a substantial frame dwelling, the home of Mr. Hamlin.

J. F. Sanford, in 1848, had come to Baraboo, and established the pioneer store at that place, and, in fact, the following year opened the pioneer store of Reedsburg, which was conducted by O. H. Perry. In 1864 Mr. Sanford came into possession of the mill property at LaValle, and removed to the village to take immediate charge of it. Mr. Sanford soon established a flour-barrel factory in connection with the mill, and also equipped the mill for the manufacture of broom handles. In 1869 Mr. Sanford turned his attention to the building of a grist-mill, to be operated from

the water power. A large three story mill was erected, and within a few months *LaVallians* were using home-made flour.

"In 1874," reads the Sauk County History of 1880, "the old machinery in the saw-mill was taken out, and the establishment was fitted for the manufacture of staves by Stafford & Company of Reedsburg, who had rented the building and a certain portion of the water-power for the term of three years. In 1876 Messrs. Keith and Paddock, who also owned and conducted the Reedsburg stave-mill, obtained control of the concern.



LAVALLE ROLLER MILL

In the fall of the same year, a building was erected a short distance above the dam. In it were placed a steam boiler and engine and other necessary machinery for the manufacture of staves. Work began immediately and continued until June 15, 1878, when the establishment was destroyed by fire, at an estimated loss of \$1,000. Immediate preparations were made for the

re-occupation of the old mill, and within a few weeks the silent precincts of LaValle again echoed with the buzz of busy saws." It has not been written that the hauling of stave logs was for a number of years a means of ready money for the farmer, who had acres of standing timber, which had to be cut from the land before the soil could be put into productiveness. For miles around teams drawing huge loads of oak and basswood were frequently to be seen, and if asked whither they were bound, the driver's ultimatum would be "To the LaValle stave mill!"

After Sanford's retirement from the grist-mill business the property passed to the ownership of Lyman Beery and Theodore Yager. From them it passed through various ownerships, and about thirty years ago it came into the hands of Joseph Dudleson. The Dudleson family still own it, and it is managed by Victor Dudleson, son of Joseph Dudleson. It is one of the largest

mills for a village the size of LaValle, in central Wisconsin, and has a thoroughly modernized plant.

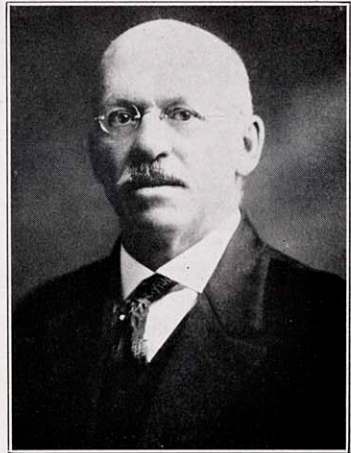
The first general store in the village is said to have been kept by S. P. Barney, who, a farmer in 1855, moved to the village after a year and a half, and established a general merchandise store, which was burglarized in 1859 to the extent of \$600. For the next few years Mr. Barney dealt largely in hops, and did not resume his store until 1874. His son E. E. took over the business about 1876, and conducted it for many years.

The first school in the village was taught in 1855, but there are no records available which show anything concerning the early pupils or teachers. But it was taught in a shanty which stood near the residence of the late Benjamin G. Paddock; in 1859 the village erected a better building, which was occupied until 1875, when it was replaced by a still better structure.

LaValle became a postmaster in 1856, when a "special post-office" was established, and S. P. Barney received the appointment of postmaster. These "special postoffices," as is well known, were "rural conveniences" and supplied from an older, established office. In the case of LaValle and Ironton the main office was Reedsburg.

PADDOCK'S STORE

This store, which has been in the possession of the Paddock family for three consecutive generations, and which is said to be one of the oldest firm names in the community, was established in LaValle in 1873, by the late, much respected gentleman, Benjamin G. Paddock, who was a pioneer storekeeper in Ironton about 1858. Mr. Paddock conducted the establishment for many years, but about 1890 his son, Herbert E. Paddock took over its management. Herbert E. Paddock, deceased since 1921, managed the store with decided success and upon his death he was succeeded by his son Benjamin Eger Paddock, present proprietor.



HERBERT E. PADDOCK

Benjamin G. Paddock and his wife, Harriet Ives, were the parents of three children: Cora L.; Herbert E., previously mentioned; and Carrie, wife of William Wilson, LaValle. A private sketch of the Paddock family appears upon another page.

STATE BANK OF LAVALLE

This institution was organized in July, 1902, with Herbert E. Paddock, President; Charles Pearson, Vice-President; and Harry Thornton, Cashier. It has always been at its present location. In 1905 C. F. Eder became Cashier, when Mr. Thornton retired from the capacity. Mr. Thornton returned in 1910, and continued as Cashier until 1928, when he retired in favor of his daughter Miss Elsie Thornton, present incumbent. Messrs. Paddock and Pearson continued in their original positions until the death of the former in 1921, at which time the latter became President, and Benjamin Eger Paddock became Vice-President.



STATE BANK OF LAVALLE

SCHROEDER BAKERY AND GROCERY

This establishment, of which William E. Schroeder is proprietor, is the only one of its kind in the village, and one of the leading bakeries in the county. It was opened in 1826, and from that time its trade has grown steadily, until today it has the widest local trade of any bakery in northwestern Sauk County. The bakery is equipped with a Superior Bakers Oven, and has a daily output of four hundred loaves. Besides bread Mr. Schroeder bakes doughnuts, cookies, cakes, rolls, and buns. He transports his viands by auto to Reedsburg, Loganville, Hillpoint, Ironton and Lime Ridge, making daily trips.

OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

LaValle has a number of thriving industrial places. The LaValle yard of the Reedsburg Supply Company is one of these. This yard is under the managership of William Hyslop, and enjoys an extensive business. There is a co-operative creamery at this point also, which does a creditable business. Sorges' Creamery, Reedsburg, has a cream station on Main Street, which is conducted by Harry P. Apker, a veteran farmer of the town, and an aged resident. Bert Marsh has a prosperous business on Main Street, and in addition to a general grocery store, conducts a restaurant and short order counter. Bert Blank has a flourishing drug and grocery store on the opposite side of the street. A modern barber shop is run by Will Sloniker, a completely modern establishment, creditable to a city of any size. Then there is Henry Gleue's shoe store, which does a good business on Main Street.



SCHROEDER BAKERY, LAVALLE

LATER SETTLERS OF THE TOWN OF LAVALLE

Among the later settlers of the town we are able to mention John W. Findlay, James Fordham, Asa Gale, Henry G. Head, Harvey Gifford, Benjamin C. Douglass, Henry C. Douglass, Thomas J. Clark, Thomas Cameron, H. P. Apker, William Kuhn, Patrick Carroll, who came in 1861, and whose son, Patrick Carroll, Jr., is a contemporary farmer, Thadeus S. Martin, Frederic Meyers, Wenz Mihlbauer, Jewett Nye, Frank P. Sanford, George Sanford, John Sinclear, George Meyer, whose daughters, Frieda (Mrs. A. Lyckburg) and Elsie (Mrs. H. D. Krug), reside in Reedsburg, and Meta, the wife of Henry Thies, LaValle. The Thies', too, were early settlers in the town.

RURAL SCHOOLS

In regard to the history of rural schools of the town we are able to give something of two districts: Dist. No. 7, was organized Oct. 1, 1875, with the following board: George A. Karstetter, Clerk; Wm. Young, Treasurer; and S. C. Barnett, Director. A frame schoolhouse was erected, and Miss Mary S. Bundy was the first teacher. Sam Karstetter is the present clerk.

Concerning Dist. No. 11, Miss Estella Thies wrote: "In 1854 Archibald Mallon came from Ireland and settled in this district. He cleared a tract large enough for a house on the Addison Decker farm. The hut he made was of poles set up endwise like an Indian tent and was covered with grass and mud. A large fire was kept burning all night to keep the wolves away. The following spring Mr. Mallon cleared some land and planted some buckwheat. Within several years Mr. Dickens came from New York and settled on the Ned Kingsley farm. Later Mr. Tollard, Mr. Rood and Mr. Skidmore came from Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania, respectfully, and settled here. Mr. Skidmore settled on the George Goodrich farm, Mr. Rood on the Tom Gallagher farm and Mr. Tollard on the Fred Dargel farm."



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH,
LAVALLE



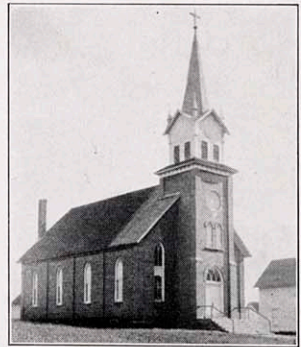
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, LAVALLE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, UPPER LAVALLE*

"St. Paul's Lutheran congregation of LaValle, was organized in 1875, with the following charter members: August Lucht, John Lucht and Herman Lucht of this town, Albert Daugs of

the town of Summit, Juneau County, and Carl Nemitz of the town of Seven Mile Creek. Rev. A. E. Winter of Loganville served the congregation from its organization until 1888. In 1884 a chapel was erected, and dedicated July 27th of that year. Rev. Rohrlack of Reedsburg and Rev. Sauer of Wonewoc officiating at the dedication. After Rev. Winter retired from the pastorate, Rev. John Karrer of Loganville was called and served until 1893. In that year it was decided to have a resident pastor, and that summer a parsonage was built. During the time that elapsed between the resignation of Rev. Karrer and the coming that fall Rev. Justus Blumenkranz, Rev. Mayerhoff of Wonewoc was pastor.

Rev. Blumerkranz served until 1904, and was followed by Rev. Christian Meyer. A parochial school was organized during the year 1905 and had at the close of the first term an enrollment of forty-seven pupils. The following April, 1906, it was decided to erect a larger church building, and the cornerstone was laid July 21, 1907. The completion of the edifice was rapid, and on Oct. 27, 1907 the congregation gathered to dedicate the new structure.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH, LAVALLE

Rev. Meyer served the charge until 1914, and was followed by Rev. Gustav Meyr. He served until 1923, and was followed by Rev. O. C. Thusius of Camrose, Canada, who was installed May 23, 1903. He is the present pastor.

The church celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its founding in July, 1925, at which there were present a number of the former pastors. The present official board is as follows: Rev. O. E. Thusius, Pastor; Albert Roloff, President; August Lucht, Secretary; Herman Lucht Sr., Carl Roloff and Wm. C. A. Lucht, Elders; and Herman Lucht, Herman Sietlow and William C. E. Lucht, Trustees.

WASHINGTON

West of the town of Westfield, south of Ironton, bounded on the west by Richland County and the south by the towns of Bear Creek and Franklin, the town of Washington is the most southwestern of those covered in this book. While not as old as the other towns, comparatively, in point of early settlement it has as much of a local literature and more perhaps than most of the other towns.

Originally the boundary of this town enclosed a part of the present Ironton, and the first settlement was made on that part which after a later survey, was set into the town of Ironton by George Washington Gray. It was this man who accompanied Mr. Babb here from Ohio in 1846. As early as 1848 he entered his claim on what is now the south Ironton line. The following year, 1849, the family of Lucian B. Swallow having come to Reedsburg from Ohio, he was married to Frances Swallow, a daughter. Remaining in Reedsburg and on Babb's Prairie, that year, in the spring of 1850 he built upon his claim and established his family. The town of Washington was named in honor of this pioneer. Later the Gray family left the county.

Russell O. Myers is credited with having been the first settler in the present confines of the town. This gentleman was a native of Columbus, Chenango County, N. Y., born Sept. 14, 1819, his parents having been Oliver and Amy (Hall) Myers. Remaining in the place of his birth where he married Jane McIntyre in 1850, he brought his family to Sauk County, and entered 160 acres of government land, where he immediately began improvements. To Mr. and Mrs. Myers were born two children: Byron L., who married Margaret J. Johnson, daughter of George Johnson, and resided in the township; and Daniel H. In 1870 the wife died and some time later Mr. Myers married Eunice L. Hale, daughter of Addison Hale. They had two children, Russell O. and Eunice L., twins.

Sevyer Seldon was the next settler. Among the pioneers of 1852 were Clark Miller, and Lewis Lumery. Of these the Miller family were perhaps the earliest. Mr. Miller was a native of the

East, but at an early date located his family in Kentucky. His wife was Matilda Wood. In 1836 the family left Kentucky, moving to Indiana. In the latter state they resided until 1852 when they came to Washington, then town of Marston, where the family afterward resided. E. S. Drake came in 1853. Mr. Aden Tucker and family came as early as that year also, for it is known that a daughter, Miss Jane Tucker, taught a private school in her father's house in 1853. The Tucker family located in the valley west of Loganville, near the head of Narrows Creek, and the community known as Tuckertown takes its identity from its pioneer settler.

The year of 1854 brought a notable influx of settlers into the town. Of these Gilbert Wheeler was one of the earliest. He was a native of Brown County, N. Y., but early went to Pennsylvania. From there he came to Walworth County, Wis., and thence to Washington in 1854, locating on land in Section 14.

Another prominent settler this year was Harvey W. Reeve. This family came from Ohio, of which state both the father and mother were natives, and located on virgin land in this township, on Section 17, in November, 1854. They entered the town on Oct. 20 of that year, and spent their first night in an old log cabin standing on Section 31. This crude habitation was called the "Mansion House". It had walls and a roof and an opening for a door, but was without floor, and was hardly large enough for the party, which consisted of Mr. Reeve's family, and three gentlemen friends. The following day the party moved into a similar dwelling on Mr. Reeve's land, and ten days were to elapse before a commodious log house could be built. After a year's residence the family moved to a site now known as Sandusky, a locality that at that time seemed destined to become important as a center between the thriving village of Reedsburg and other villages to the southwest, as a tavern town and stagecoach stopping place. Mr. Reeve was one of the most enthusiastic promoters of the village, and upon locating at that point, in company with a Mr. William Cobb, built a steam sawmill. This did not prove profitable enough for two, and within a year he sold his interest to his partner, and shortly after opened a general store. For a time the village enjoyed some growth, and in 1855 it was made a postoffice. William Dano, another early settler in the

community, was appointed postmaster. Mr. Reeve became postmaster in 1861, and conducted the affairs of the office, along with his store, for many years, with decided success.

Mr. Reeve was a native of New Lyme, Ashtabula Co., Ohio, born in 1823, and represented a long and honorable line of forebearers. His grandfather was a captain in the Revolutionary War, and his father a soldier in the War of 1812. In Ohio he grew to manhood, and married Elizabeth Dodge, daughter of Edward and Ursula (Willie) Dodge. To this union were born eight children: Dora A., who married I. W. Francis, and went to Dakota; Ida F.; Rose A., who married Charles W. Towsley; Emma C.; Westley E.; Nettie N.; Hurbert L.; George C.

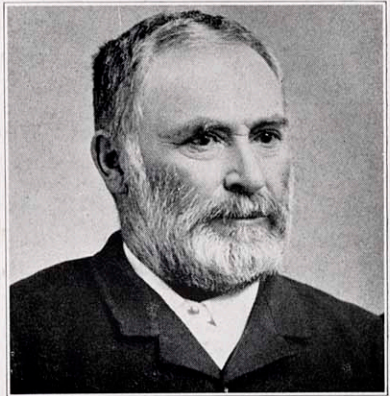
Joseph Powell, another settler of 1854, was one of the first of the old world immigrant families to locate in the town of Washington. He was a native of Tipperary, Ireland, son of Robert and Elizabeth (Ringwood) Powell. In 1832 he came to New York, and began to make shoes. In 1835 he married Esther Belcher, also a native of Ireland, and about 1842 left New York and located in Lockport, New York state. Here the family resided for ten years, coming about 1853 to Beloit, Wis., and the ensuing year to Washington. He located on Section 32, and engaged in farming and shoemaking. Mr. and Mrs. Powell had twelve children, four of whom died in infancy. Those who survived early life were: William J., who resided for many years in Ohio; Robert I., who was a soldier in Co. E, 32d Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and is supposed to have died a prisoner in South Carolina; Frank H., also a Civil War soldier, of Co. H, 36th W. V. I., married Emogene Smith and resided at Sandusky; George A., married Augusta Smith and lived in Iowa; Edward L., who married Annie Maxwell and lived at North Freedom; Rachel, who married Joseph Kennedy; Joseph B., who married Ida Saulsbury and lived in the town of Washington.

Dr. William Wood will long be remembered as another early settler of this township, a pioneer of 1854, an accomplished physician, a permanent settler of the county. He was born in Vermont in 1811 and resided in his native town, Thetford, Orange County, until 19 years of age, when he commenced the study of medicine in Ellisburg, that state. Later he removed to Watertown, N. Y., where he completed his studies. He began his prac-

tice at Chaumont, N. Y. In 1836 he was married to Betsey Ann Ball, daughter of Eleazer and Mary (Farlin) Ball. They remained in the East until 1852 when they came to Lone Rock, and two years later to Washington, settling in Section 25. The Wood family consisted of seven children: Samuel, married Frances Gray; Naomi, who married C. D. Spoon and died in early life; William, a member of the 23d W. V. I., who died in a hospital at St. Louis; Albert, married Ida Organ and resided for many years in Washington; Mary, Francis and Jesse.

Other families to come this year (1854) were those of Addison Hale and A. C. Harris. Mr. Hale was a native of Ohio, where his parents, Levi and Eunice (Downing) Hale went when that state was the western frontier. There he remained until 1839 when, with a number of other Ohio frontiersmen, he came to Walworth County, this state. In 1843 he was married to Olive Lavisa Bacon, daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Sweeney) Backon. Residing in southern Wisconsin until the spring of 1854, the family started for the wilderness of Westfield, and reached their lands on the tenth day of May. Mr. and Mrs. Hale had seven children: Alvina, who married Samuel Miller, Washington; Eunice L., who married R. O. Myers, Washington pioneer; Alonzo A., who married Nettie Halleck; Melissa; Elmer E. and Viola M.

A. C. Harris was a native of Stamford, Bennington County, Vermont, born in 1827, son of Francis and Angeline (May) Harris. His early life was spent in Vermont, and there he married Mary E. Potter, daughter of Lyndon and Lucy B. Potter, the Potters having been an early Vermont family. To this union was born one son, Arther E., who came with the family to Washington in 1854. Prior to coming the family spent several years in Ohio. The Harris



A. C. HARRIS

family located in Section 9, where the mother died in 1863. In 1865 Mr. Harris married his second wife, Jane A. Jayne, wid-

owed sister of his first wife. They had one daughter, Angie May. This lady married Albert Rebety, and, widowed, Luther Craker. Mr. and Mrs. Craker reside in Reedsburg. Arthur E. Harris, son of A. C. and Lucy E. (Potter) Harris, married Elizabeth Welton and lived in Washington until his untimely death. His widow resides in Reedsburg with a daughter, Miss Lucy Harris. Other children of Arthur and Elizabeth Harris were: Bernice, wife of Albert Thorn, Reedsburg; Mary E., wife of N. A. Cushman, Reedsburg—this lady has been Reedsburg librarian for over twenty years; and Frank, who died in childhood.

The Lyndon Potter family also came to Washington at an early date, and were rural folk, descendants of Roger Williams.

From 1854 on the settlement of the township was rapid. One of the earliest settlers of 1855 was Jeremiah Buell. He was born in New Hampshire, Sept. 7, 1802, son of Reuben and Mary (Crisco) Buell. When he was but a small child his parents removed to Vermont and from there to Westport, Essex Co., N. Y., where he grew to manhood. In 1831 he was married to Bethiah Robinson, daughter of Isaac and Martha (Howe) Robinson. In 1849 the family came to Rock County, Wis., and in 1855 to Washington, locating on a farm on Section 16, where he engaged in farming and blacksmithing. Mr. and Mrs. Buell were the parents of four children: Mary E., who married D. T. Kenyon and resided in Janesville; Clark R., who married Emily M. Grover and lived in Washington; Jane A., who married A. R. Kingsley of Rock County, Wis.; and James A., who married Malina E. Marsh.

Linus F. Bennett was another settler of 1855, a native of Pennsylvania, going from there to Michigan. In the latter place he married Marcia H. Estas, a native of New York, and in 1845 located in Janesville. In 1850 he went to California in the gold rush, but returned the following year to that city, where he pursued his trade of carpenter and joiner until 1855, when he came to Washington. Ever after he engaged in farming. There were three children in his family: Hattie A., Frederic J., and Edward L., the latter dying at an early age.

John Hopper, Thomas Lyndon and Frederic Schoephoister were settlers that year also. John Hopper and his wife, Jane E.

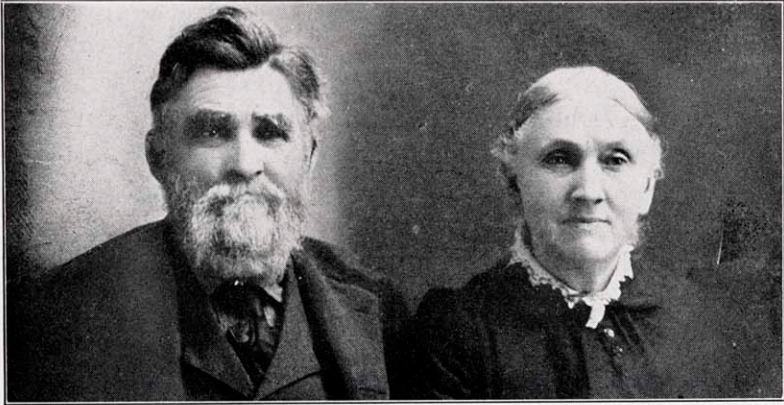
Kirkpatric, had previously resided in Ohio, and their son, W. C., for many years a farmer of the town, was born there.

Thomas Lyndon, remembered as a cooper in the village of Sandusky, was a native of Utica, N. Y., son of James and Elizabeth (Roland) Lyndon. When Thomas was a child of five his people moved to Rochester, N. Y., but twelve years later returned to Utica, where they resided for several years. In 1841 Thomas Lyndon was married to Louisa M. Webb, daughter of Gould and Fanny (Parker) Webb, she a native of Connecticut. In 1848 Thomas Lyndon brought his family to Wisconsin, locating first in Dodge County, next in Marquette County, and in 1855, in the town of Washington. After a short residence in this town the family moved to Reedsburg, then to Excelsior, but soon returned to Sandusky, where he afterward engaged as a cooper.

The family of Timothy Chapman were among the settlers of the next year, 1856. Mr. Chapman was a native of Ohio, son of Caleb and Deborah (Knowlton) Chapman. In 1843 he was married to Mary Gardner, daughter of John and Edith (Sisson) Gardner. In 1854 Mr. Chapman came to Wisconsin, locating at Lone Rock, and two years later in Washington, where he engaged as farmer, carpenter and joiner. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman had three children: Nancy, who married Jacob Runyon; Caleb; and Guy, who married Ann Powers. Nathaniel Hart came this year also. He was born in the Empire State, his parents being John and Elizabeth (Eaton) Hart. He spent his early years in his native place, and married Lydia Newman, daughter of Joseph Newman in 1843. Mr. and Mrs. Hart resided in the East until 1856 and came directly to Washington. They had five children: Orcelia, who married Henry Grover; Mary E., who married Charles Ward; Charles, married Carrie Earle; Ada, married Lee Coan; and Maria, who married William Webster, and resided for many years at Sandusky.

Lewis Maxham and his wife were among the permanent settlers of that year, also. The father was a native of Sandy Creek, Oswego County, N. Y., son of Asa and Cynthia (Sprague) Maxham. In 1845 he came to Elkhorn, Walworth County, Wis., and then moved to Sugar Creek, same county, where he was married in 1849 to Harriet Jane Fliteroft. Two years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Maxham came to Baraboo, and, after living

there five years, moved to a farm in this town, where they resided for many years. They were the parents of five children: Alice E., who married Henry E. Stewart of Loganville, now residing in Los Angeles; Frances E., who married Vance Richards; Charles W.; Lewis; and H. Leslie, who married Susan Charlotte Goodwin, and now is a farmer in the town of Reedsburg. The family of William Thornburgh came likewise that year.



MR. AND MRS. LEWIS MAXHAM

Charles D. Schulter, a native of Prussia, Germany, was possibly the first of the German settlers to locate in the town. His wife, who he married in Germany, was Mary Maerhof. They came to America in 1854, and resided in Rockford, Ill., until 1856, when they located in the town of Washington. In this family were seven children: Caroline M., who became the wife of C. J. H. Erffmeyer; Christian; Louisa; Charles F., of Reedsburg; Henry, later of Washington; Mary, wife of William Schoephoister; and Minde, who became the wife of Fred Kollmeyer.

EARLY GERMAN SETTLERS

With Frederic Schophoister and Charles D. Schluter in the vanguard of early German immigrant settlers of this town, the community began to fill up rapidly with German pioneers. By 1864 this class of settlers had grown strong enough in numbers to commence the organization of two Lutheran Churches.

The first of these was the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and was built in October, 1864, on land donated by C. J. H. Erffmeyer on Section 27, at a cost of \$400. The society was organized at a meeting held at the house of Charles Schluter, June 5, 1862, and Rev. Joseph Harlacher was the first pastor. Of the German settlers especially interested in this church were: Charles Schluter, Fred Schoephoister, Christian Uphoff, Henry Ties, Chris Schluter, C. J. H. Erffmeyer, John Schoephoister, Ernest Bierhiet, Chris Gieseke.

A second Lutheran church was organized the same year, 1864, known as the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. This organization had its inception in the meetings held at the homes of the settlers as early as 1858. The first of these home meetings was held at the home of Charles Brandt, a pioneer of the town, in 1857. These home meetings continued for some years, and a church structure was not erected until October, 1871. Among the early members of this church were: Charles Brandt, Frederic Brandt, Henry Brandt, John Wise, Chris Krueger, Mr. Westedt, Charles Muchow, August Krueger, William Krueger. The first regular pastor of this congregation was Rev. A. Susner.

POSTERITY OF JONATHAN AND SARAH SEBRING

Back in Pennsylvania, within a few years after the opening of the 1800s, there was contracted the marriage of Jonathan Sebring and Sarah Corson, both natives of that state. We have data for only a brief mention of this notable family. It is obvious that they resided for some years in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, going thence to Tioga County, where they seem to have resided until coming to Wisconsin. In the Quaker State thirteen children were born, four of whom were Rachel, Hannah, George and Harriet, the last named being the youngest of all.

But it was she who led the children of Jonathan and Sarah in their settlement in the town of Washington. In 1850 this lady married Samuel Thompson, and four years later, 1854, came with him into the wilds of Washington, where they resided ever after. Mr. Thompson was a native also of Pennsylvania, and was a son of James and Margaret (Carothers) Thompson. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were the parents of a large family: Reese W.,

who married Ida King, and resided in Washington; Royal P.; Marion V.; George S.; Ernest W.; Otto G.; Orlan; James L.; and Phoebe.

The next year, 1855, Jonathan and Sarah came to Washington, and they were followed a year later, 1856, by their daughter Hannah and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Corson. Mr. Corson was himself a native of Pennsylvania, and his parents were Cornelius and Phoebe (Tallman) Corson. The children of Daniel and Hannah Corson were: Sarah E., who married John S. Miller and resided in Washington; and Robert P.

Three years later another daughter of the couple heading this sketch, came to Washington, Rachel Sebring Costerisan, wife of Felix D.,—notable pioneer of this town. Mr. Costerisan was a native of Lyons, France, born in the year 1814. At an early date he came to America, and, after spending several years at sea, in 1836, located permanently in the United States. Soon he went to Pennsylvania, and the following year, 1837, was married to Rachel Sebring. They resided in that state until 1859 when they came to this township where they made their home afterward. The Costerisan children were: Margaret and Claudius, who died in infancy; Sarah E., who became the wife of Alexander Miller; Robert G.; Clara R.; Harriet C., who married James Richards; George F., married Rose Powell; John J., married Phoebe Corson; Henry W., married Ida E. Peters; Hannah C., who is the widow of Benjamin Tyler, and was interviewed for this work last summer; Michael Charles; Rachel M.; and Francis M.

And then, in 1867, came a fourth member of the family of Jonathan and Sarah—George L. Sebring. This man was born in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, and was married in his native state to Rebecca M. Thomas, daughter of William and Anna (McElrath) Thomas. Later he went in the gold rush to California, but returned to his native state, and came from that point to Washington. The children of George and Rebecca Sebring were: William T., who married Isabelle Rockwell and resided in Washington; Emma F., who became the wife of Irwin Baird and died in early life; Robert H.; and Cora Bell.

OTHER SETTLERS

Joseph Lunn was another prominent settler of the town. He was a native of Yorkshire, England, son of John and Esther (Ebitton) Lunn, born in 1816. In May, 1839, at the Parish Church at Ashton-Under-Lyne, he was married to Ann Taylor, daughter of James and Mary (Scotfield) Taylor. Two days after Mr. and Mrs. Lunn sailed for America, and for three years made their home in Paterson, N. J., and then moved to Wisconsin in 1842, settling in Germantown, Washington County. About 1845 they moved to Milwaukee, where they resided until coming to Washington. To Mr. and Mrs. Lunn were born seven children: John, James, Taylor, Lunn, all born in New Jersey; James, who married Mary Blakeslee, daughter of Squire Blakeslee, of Ironton; Joseph; Esther Ann; Sarah Ann; and Samuel.

Rev. Orin B. Kilbourn was another early settler and clergyman of this town. He was born in Litchfield, Conn., in 1820, son of Erastus and Lydia (Whetmore) Kilbourn. At the age of 17 he left the state of his birth, and located in Pennsylvania, where in 1841 he married Miss Lavina M. Palmer, daughter of Gideon Palmer, the Palmers having been Rhode Island people. In 1856 Mr. Kilbourn brought his family to Illinois, where in 1857 Mrs. Kilbourn died, leaving one child, Ann E., who married Julian Whitman. Returning to Rhode Island, Mr. Kilbourn married Clara E. Palmer, half-sister to his first wife, June, 1858, and came immediately to Washington where they settled. To this union were born five children: Lillian M.; Otto; Theral; Linas; Kingston P.

We would mention Levi Purdy also as another pioneer of the Tuckertown region.

The family of Calvin Sedgwick were also early settlers of the town, and date their coming to 1861. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Sedgwick was Harriet N. Webb. At an early day the family had lived in Dodge County, Wis., but in 1856 they came to Reedsburg, later went to Excelsior, and from there to this town. James and Ed. Sedgwick, contemporary residents of Reedsburg, are members of this pioneer family. A daughter of the former is the wife of Gus. Rueland, also of Reedsburg.

In concluding this brief history of the early settlers of this township we are able to make extended mention of Philip Apple, an early settler of this town, earlier still of Loganville and prior to that of Reedsburg. Mr. Apple was born in Bavaria, Germany, 1832, and came to the United States in 1845, settling in Lycoming County, Penn., where he remained until 1855, coming at that date to Reedsburg. After a short stay in Reedsburg he went to Loganville and assisted Mr. Kinsley with his sawmill; then he spent a year in the Wisconsin pineries, and about 1857 located in Washington on unbroken land, where he built a cabin and laid the foundation for a home. In 1857, at Loganville, he was married to Sarah Kyle, daughter of Andrew Kyle. To this union was born one son, Frank W., now residing in La Valle. Frank W. Apple married for his first wife, Anna Head, and had four children: Alica and William, deceased, and Philip and Marion. In 1899 Frank W., married a second time, Louise Eder, and they have three children: Glen, Clarence, and Sylma. In 1867 Philip Apple married his second wife, Almira Mead, widowed daughter of Joseph and Lydia Harriman, this lady a native of St. Lawrence County, N. Y. To this second marriage were born two daughters: Minnie May and Rena. The latter grew to womanhood in Winfield and married Jasper Fish of that town. Her children were Frances and Forrest. The latter married Florence Mittlesteadt, deceased, and is a postal employee at Reedsburg.

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH AT TUCKERTOWN

The United Brethren Church at Tuckertown, now supplanted by a Lutheran Church, was organized about 1868, and the meetings were held in private homes. The first pastor was Rev. George Hickey. In 1876 a frame church was erected at the point known as Tuckertown, and was dedicated the last Sunday in June, 1877. The pastor at that time was Rev. James Aldrich. Among the early members and supporters of the church were: John Shoup, Nelson Blood, William Blackburn, Levi Purdy and Philip Apple. Aden Tucker donated the site.

There is a quaint cemetery at Tuckertown that forms the subject of an article by Mr. O. D. Brandenburg, published herewith.



LUTHERAN CHURCH AT TUCKERTOWN

THE SAUK CITY OIL COMPANY *

In the spring of 1865 indications of oil were found on the surface of a spring on the farm of J. C. Piper, Section 36, Washington. Two companies were at once organized with a view of developing the oil business in this town. Each leased about a thousand acres in the vicinity of the discovery. One was composed mostly of parties from Sauk City; the other of citizens of the town and different parts of the county. The Sauk County Oil Company procured an engine, boiler and drilling apparatus; an expert was employed and drilling commenced. Excitement ran high. Fabulous prices were asked for the land in the vicinity. Parties by the name of Long and Perkins built a hotel by the proposed well.

The drilling progressed to the depth of 138 feet, when the drill was lost. Shortly afterward the work was abandoned. Excitement abated, and citizens awoke from their dreams of sudden prosperity to the fact that they were only an agricultural people, and that in that calling lay their only riches.

FORT HART

On a Saturday evening, shortly after the New Ulm massacre of Minnesota, when the people living on the frontier were excus-

* This episode is reprinted from the Sauk County History of 1880, also the story on Fort Hart.

ably nervous, a Mrs. Stambaugh, living a mile and a half north of the village of Sandusky, seeing, as she supposed, a party of Indians pass through the woods by her place, took her little ones and fled to Mr. Hart's, a near neighbor, and sought protection. On hearing her story the news soon spread, and by common consent the neighboring settlers gathered with their wives and children at the Hart place, taking with them only such weapons and household goods as they could conveniently carry. Here they made a stand, determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible.

Fort Hart was soon in readiness to resist an attack. Windows and doors were barricaded, weapons, from rifles to pitchforks, placed at hand. A young man living further south, and who happened to be at Mr. Hart's house mounted his horse and made a bold push for home. On the way he spread the alarm, without stopping to enter into particulars. As he passed Mr. Reeve's house he made a warning cry:

"Oh, Harvey, the Indians are coming! The woods are full of them!"

He rode on like the wind. This naturally excited Reeve's fears, and he began instant preparations to fortify his dwelling also. Bullets were run, rifle loaded, corn knives and scythes placed within reach. Barricades were erected, and the general aspect of the place began to look as though anything but a large band of Indians had no business here. About this time, neighbor Joseph Powell put in appearance at the Reeve fortress. He and Reeve determined to do a little reconnoitering in the Hart neighborhood. At great risk of being shot for redskins they succeeded in gaining admission to this formidable place.

Here they found about thirty men, women and children all crowded into one small room, the floor covered with bedding and such household goods as the refugees in their fright had brought with them. Women and children were pale and trembling, men nervous yet pretending to be cool. All sorts of weapons had been pressed into service, from flintlock rifles to brush scythes. It was certain that no scalps would be taken here without a desperate struggle. One old man, with more bravado than the others, pulled open the door, and cried out in defiance—

"Come on, ye bloodthirsty savages!" but quickly closed the door for fear of being taken at his word.

Captain Reeve and the veteran Powell, watching an opportunity when no painted warriors were in sight, stole back to the protection of their families. Greatly to Mr. Powell's concern, he found his home deserted. It was plain wife and little ones were in the hands of the merciless savages. In fear and trembling he made a close search of the premises, expecting every moment to stumble upon the mutilated remains of his loved ones. But finally a faint voice from the loft of his log barn reached him. Greatly to his relief he found them all safely hidden away under the hay.

Mr. Reeve, in order to allay the fears of his family, pretended to doubt the actual presence of any Indians, and went to bed, *but not to sleep*. His wife, not satisfied with this arrangement, spent the long night in anxious waiting. She was positive that, if they were permitted to live till another day, they should go back to Ohio at once. The long night passed without unusual sound. The clear light of day brought with it confidence and hope. The garrison at Fort Hart ventured on an investigation. It was then discovered that Mrs. Stambaugh's ferocious Indians were only three innocent hunters, who, in passing her place at dusk, by their bronze faces and buckskin suits, had caused her to mistake them for Indians.

And thus ended the Indian scare of Sandusky and the siege of Fort Hart!

HILLPOINT

The first settlements in the vicinity of Hillpoint, if we except Gilbert Wheller, who has already been mentioned, were made by David Boland and Mr. Lummney, who followed him within a short time. These two men took up adjoining farms, Mr. Boland's lying farthest north. In 1866 he purchased a small tract of land south of the Lummney place, now the Kohlmeyer farm, and erected a saw-mill, on a branch of Narrows Creek that flowed through the tract. This was during the years of the hop boom and the sawing of hop-slats was the first done at the mill. Mr. Boland operated the mill until 1869, when it was discontinued.

While Hillpoint is not an incorporated village, it is a thriving little inland hamlet today, with a Creamery business



HILL POINT

that is famous throughout the state, for the excellent quality of its butter, it having won the highest score at the Dairy Show at Milwaukee in 1928. The creamery is an incorporated business, a stock company, and Mr. Henry Kohlmeyer, ranks high in official capacity.

OTIS AND MARY (JENKS) PHILLIPS

While the couple whose name introduces this sketch did not number among the settlers of the town, they are indeed a part of its history, for several members of their family were to come into the town to live. Of them Mrs. John Brown was first. Mr. and Mrs. Brown came in 1864, and located on a farm. Then in 1867 the families of Lucien and Otis Phillips came, both settling on farms, and establishing a permanent posterity. Amy (Mrs. John P. Stone) and Otis Phillips, representatives of the latter, are local townspeople, while the Phillips sisters so well known in Reedsburg represent Lucien. Otis and Mary (Jenks) Phillips were both descendants of Roger Williams.

WESTFIELD

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The history of this township is that of one of the oldest sections of northwestern Sauk County. The first settlement within its confines was made by John Mephram, who in 1848 took up a claim one mile north of the present village of Loganville. Mr. Mephram was a native of England, where he grew to manhood and married Mary Forward, a sister of Mrs. Jesse Cottington, Winfield pioneer. In 1840 they came to the United States, locating in New York, where the family resided until 1850. Returning to his home in the East after staking his claim, Mr. Mephram brought his family to Westfield that year, built upon his claim, and established himself as a permanent settler of the township. Roy Mephram, Reedsburg, is a representative of this family.

One R. Sprague is said to have located a claim in Westfield prior to the return of Mr. Mephram. The following year, 1851, Horace Smith was a settler. Henry Davey and John Seldon pioneered in 1852.

The Twist family, so well known to Westfield pioneers, came into the town in 1853. The name Twist is old in American annals, and was first brought to this country by one Lyman Twist, Holland immigrant, who came in the early 1600s. Lyman Twist, local pioneer, four generations from the immigrant, was a native of New York, born in 1808. His wife was Lydia Scoon. When this family came west they bought the tract now occupied by Orloff Twist, which was originally a grant issued in favor of the widow of Philip Reily, a soldier shot during the Seminole War, under date of Oct. 1, 1852. It was from the widow Reily that Mr. Twist acquired title. Upon this land, when the Twist family arrived, was an Indian Village, and Ah-Ha Choker dwelt here for some years afterward. Mr. and Mrs. Twist had a number of children: William A.; Frank L., who for his first wife married Mary Stewart, daughter of John M. and Sarah Ann (Dorneck) Stewart; Mary Alice, who married Orloff Twist and died some years ago. For many years Frank L. Twist was a popular teacher of the county, but after the death of his wife he

went to the state of Washington, where ever after he made his home. Returning on a visit during the Autumn of 1910 he revisited scenes of his childhood, and committed his musings to verse, printed at the time in the Free Press, and reproduced in this work under the captions, "The Song of Ah-Ha Choker," and "Loganville."

The year 1854 brought a large number of settlers to Westfield, among whom was Chancey P. Logan. This gentleman built a cabin on Section 8, near the bank of Narrows Creek, on the present site of the village of Loganville, which place was named in his honor. Shortly after his arrival he was joined by R. B. Balcome, and for several years the two families dwelt together in the former's cabin. Their wives were sisters. During the summer following, S. N. Kinsley, A. H. Bosworth, R. T. Root, Truman Parker, William Palmer and others came to the village site. Mr. Palmer erected a frame house, the first in the village. Later he sold to Mr. Kinsley, who lived in it for many years. Palmer engaged, with Logan, in building a sawmill that season, but late that fall sold his interest to Mr. Davis and moved with his family to a farm in Section 6 where he resided afterward.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer were the parents of nine children: Mary M., married Francis Conrow, and resided near Flushing, Ohio; Jesse B., married Adelia Westenhaver, and went to South Dakota; Joseph S., married Elizabeth Dougal; Charles W., married Sarah J. Bunker, Walworth County; Florence, now the only living member of the family, widow of E. W. Bunker, residing in Reedsburg with her daughter, Mrs. William H. Hahn; John R.; Sarah E.; William A.; William H.

The Stephen N. Kinsley family was also large, and there are several local representatives at the present time. Mr. Kinsley was born in Clinton County, N. Y., in 1828, son of Caphas and Lucinda (Newell) Kinsley. He married in Westfield, Lucy A. Seamans, daughter of Benjamin and Abigail (Brown) Seamans. They had four children, Frank D., Fred B., Charles H., and Burt. The mother died in 1868, and some time later the father married Elizabeth E. Seamans, daughter of George B. and Matilda (Howard) Seamans. To this union were born several children, Hoyt S., Martha (Mrs. Melvin McClure, Reedsburg), Aime, Faye (Mrs. James H. Hill, Baraboo).

Another old family of Westfield were the Gullifords, who also came this year, 1854. The pioneer, Daniel Gulliford, was a native of Pennsylvania and a descendant of William Gulliford, a preacher in the Church of England, prior to the Revolutionary War, through his father Samuel Gulliford and his grandfather William G. His mother was Catharine Ball, daughter of Daniel Ball. In 1831 Daniel Gulliford married Melissa Johnson, daughter of Friend and Polly (Perry) Johnson. In 1846 the family came to Wisconsin, locating in Sumter, where they resided until moving to Westfield. Mrs. Gulliford is remembered as a woman active in the social life of Reedsburg, especially for her prominence in the early efforts of the W. C. T. U. To Mr. and Mrs.



LOOKING NORTHEAST ON NARROWS PRAIRIE

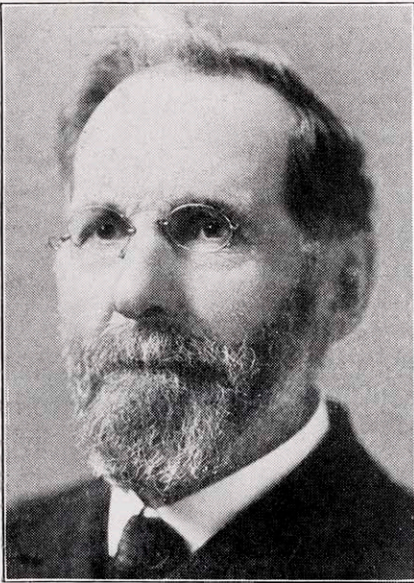
Gulliford were born nine children: Catharine, who married George Gattwinkel; Harriet M., who married Simon P. Sutton; Rosanna, married John H. Gray; Charles W., married Olive Tinker; Horace W., who married Mary E. Sweesey; Violetta; Loran; Anna; Ursula.

The Richards too were early Westfield folk, and date their coming to 1854 also. Joseph Richards, the pioneer, was a native of the East, but later went to Ohio, where several members of his family were born. His wife's maiden name was Carpenter. From Ohio the family came to this town, where several members later became prominent citizens. A son, John Richards, born in 1838, located within the town, and married and had a family. His wife was Minerva Dearholt.

Among the early German families who came that year, 1854, were those of George Moog and Henry Kopf. The Moog family were from Westphalia, Germany; the Kopfs from Hesse, Germany. From 1854 on the German settlers came steadily, and

within a few years the whole of Narrows Prairie was to be settled by these farmers, who, by their industry and thrift, have transformed Narrows Prairie into the beautiful region that it is today. In this brief narrative on Westfield we cannot attempt to go into detail regarding these sterling German settlers: theirs is a history worthy of a volume in itself, and we leave that field, confident that within a few years an exhaustive history of them will be forthcoming.

Of those especially early may be mentioned Henry Brandt, Nicholas Hasz, George Koenecke, John Luhrsen, John Werron, E. A. Winter, John W. Schultte, Heinrich Schewe, Mr. Schaum, Herbert Riggert, Henry F. Niemann, Henry Luckenmeier, Mr. Heitkamp, Frederic Dargel, Henry G. Tiele, Henry Schlickau, Charles Thies, Adam Leicher, Frederick Harms, Peter Hass, Christopher Luhrsen.



DAVID B. HULBURT

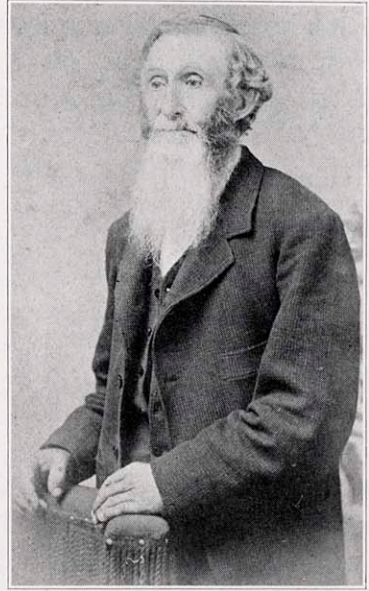
The year 1857 brought several more widely known pioneer families. The family of David B. Hulburt was one. Mr. Hulburt was a native of Chautauqua County, N. Y., born in 1829, son of James and Lydia (Peters) Hulburt. He spent his early life at the place of his birth, but in early manhood went to Buffalo, N. Y., where he was connected with a newspaper. He also

taught school in these early years. Returning to Portland, Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1855 he was united in marriage to Josephine M. Van Scoter, daughter of Thomas Van Scoter, representative of an early Dutch family of New York. Coming to Wisconsin in July, 1857, the family settled on a farm near Loganville, and in that place they afterward resided. In 1870, in company with E. H. Newell, Mr. Hulburt opened a store in

Loganville but sold out in 1874 and resumed his farming. He also did surveying. Mr. and Mrs. Hulburt were the parents of eight children: Alice M.; Frank D., who married Mina Markee, and is of late lamented memory as a veteran physician and townsman of Reedsburg; Hattie, who died a few years ago as Mrs. C. W. Constantine; Josephine M.; Lena Bella; Harvey L.; and Jesse. Mr. Hulburt served Sauk County both as senator and assemblyman.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN DORNECK

John Dorneck, ancestor of several contemporary families, was a native of the East, and probably Pennsylvania Dutch. His wife was Mary Palmer, sister of William Palmer, previously mentioned, and this circumstance must naturally



FRANK L. TWIST
See page 176

have had a relationship to various members of the family locating in Westfield. During their early years Mr. and Mrs. John Dorneck resided near Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, and their many children were born at that place. The first to come to this vicinity was a daughter, Caroline Dorneck, wife of Jacob H. Reighard.

Jacob and Caroline Reighard were married in 1844 at Lock Haven, and two years later moved to Wheeling, West Virginia; but in 1853 returned to Pennsylvania where, at Pittsburg, he engaged in the manufacture of glass. In 1861 he enlisted in the Union Army, and remained in it until 1863 when he was injured by a fall from a horse. Having acquired a tract of land in Westfield in 1855, upon returning from the service he brought his family to Wisconsin, and located thereon. This was the fall of 1863. To Mr. and Mrs. Reighard was born one son, Ellis W., who grew to maturity and married Addie Holmes.

In 1845 John and Mary (Palmer) Dorneck left the Quaker State and moved to Ohio, settling at Flushing, where they resided

for many years. Here their son Henry B., born in Pennsylvania in 1836, grew to manhood. In 1865, at the close of the Civil War, he came to Westfield, locating on a farm in Section 9. In 1866 he married Temperance A. Dearholt, daughter of John and Lucinda (Aldrich) Dearholt. To them were born three children: Eva, Myrtie, Maud.

Sarah Ann Dorneck, another daughter of John and Mary, in Pennsylvania married John Myers Stewart. They went to Ohio, prior to the Civil War, where they resided during most of that struggle. Mr. Stewart served as a private and later as a first lieutenant. In 1867 the Stewart family came to Westfield, and after a month's sojourn settled at Loganville, where Mr. Stewart became a merchant. He died at Reedsburg in 1913 at the great age of ninety-three. His wife died in 1900 at the age of eighty. To Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were born eight children, among them Henry E., now of Los Angeles, who served more than four years in the Union Army, enlisting at the age of sixteen. He married Alice E. Maxham, daughter of Lewis Maxham of Washington. Estella, daughter of John M. Stewart, is now Mrs. Howland, and resides in Reedsburg. Glen and Donald Howland are her sons.



JOHN DEARHOLT, who was prominent in Loganville, and remembered as a man of wide associations.

In 1860 John Dorneck came from Flushing, Ohio, to Westfield, where he spent his later years, and died in 1869. His wife died in Ohio in 1857.

Back in Ohio another daughter, Catherine Frances Dorneck, had been married to Joshua Turner Brandenburg, merchant. Left a widow in 1864 with seven children, one of whom died within a month, this mother came to Westfield to join her people, and established her family on a farm a mile east of Loganville. Later they moved to Baraboo. A member of this family grew to manhood in Baraboo, but retains tenderest memories of his early days in Westfield. This is O. D. Brandenburg, for over thirty years a daily newspaper editor and publisher at Madison.

EARLY LOGANVILLE

We have seen how the earliest settlements at this point were made by men like Chancey P. Logan, R. B. Balcome, S. N. Kinsley, William Palmer, and others.

After selling his village interests Mr. Palmer moved to a farm three miles west of Loganville where he afterward resided. In 1861, in company with James Mackey, he built a gristmill at the village, but within a year sold to his partner. It is interesting to record that the sale was necessary because of the adverse atti-



EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET, LOGANVILLE

tudes of the two men on the subject of slavery. Mr. Palmer was a staunch abolitionist, while the other was a Northerner in sympathy with the South.

The first store in the village was kept by A. D. Gibson, but within a short time the Newell brothers, Elihu and Eleazer, opened another. Their store was located in a building erected by Logan and Kinsley, the latter two having given them the use of it free, in the hope that a store would encourage settlers to locate there. Elihu Newell's wife was a sister of John M. Stewart, previously mentioned. Her father, Andrew Stewart, came to Loganville with them and died there. Eleazer Newell had a daughter Emma who married Thomas Hill, and James H. Hill, retired county judge, is her son.

During the early years the manufacturing of farm wagons was an important industry in the village. The first shops were

run by A. Lennox and I. Richards. Later Adam Leicher opened one which he ran for many years.

RELIGIOUS EFFORTS

The first religious services in the village were conducted by the Rev. S. A. Dwinnell, Congregational Minister at Reedsburg, in May, 1854, at the cabin of Mr. Logan. About this time Methodist meetings began to be held in what was later known as the Bacon Schoolhouse, conducted by Rev. Butler. A year later, 1855, a Methodist society was organized in the Loganville Schoolhouse, Rev. Bean presiding. Among the early members were



WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET, LOGANVILLE

Daniel and Melissa Gulliford, Mr. and Mrs. David Wise, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bliven and Mrs. Sarah Newell. In 1859 a Presbyterian congregation was organized; also a German Methodist. Rev. Adam Salzer was the first pastor of the latter, and some of the earliest members were Henry Faller, John Werron, Philip Grubb, George Moag, Peter Stackhouse, N. Haefer, Christ Moag. The Baptists were also prominent in early Loganville, organized about 1855, with Rev. John Seamans and Rev. D. B. Barker especially interested in the movement.

ST. PETER'S GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Having the most imposing structure in the village of Loganville today, this church merits especial mention. The society was

organized in 1874, and Rev. Christoph Kessler served the pastorate for some time. A church structure was erected that same year at a cost of \$1,500. Among early members were Henry Nieman, John Williams, August Meyer, Christian Hasz, Fred Tilker, Henry Licht, August Marquart, George Krause, August Schacker, Charles Behn and Henry Jacobs. The present fine structure was erected during 1926 at a cost of about \$35,000.



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, LOGANVILLE

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

This organization, perhaps more widely known as the Stone Church,—lifting its lofty spire high above the landscape in the northern part of the town of Westfield,—was organized in 1856, with Rev. K. Beckel, pastor. Rev. Deindorfer of Madison supervised the organization, but never filled the pulpit. Rev. K. Beckel was followed by Rev. Rohrlack, who a little later established Lutheranism in Reedsburg, and he in turn was followed in the Zion Lutheran pulpit by the late, honored Rev. Christoph Kessler. The pastors since Rev. Kessler have been Rev. H. Bruckner, Rev. Musing, Rev. Streick, Rev. Riegel, Rev. Huhn, Rev. Schreiber and Rev. John von der Lindenburg, present pastor. The stone church was erected in 1872 at an approximate cost

of \$4,000. The membership consists of some fifty families. The church maintains a pastoral residence on adjacent land.

Among early members we list the families of the following German settlers: Casper Luckensmeier, John Hahn, H. Behn, Carl Uphoff, William Schulte, Fred Schulte, H. Schmidt, Heinrich Schewe, H. Burmeister, H. Schroeder, H. Baumgarten, William Kopf, Peter Hasz, I. C. Luhrsen.

A second rural Lutheran Church was organized about 1865, and an edifice erected on Section 15. Among the first members of this congregation were the following German pioneers: Henry Licht, Henry Giffert, Fred Tilker, Fred Horstmann, Henry Luhrsen, Nicholas Hasz, Nicholas Luhrsen, William Funte, Fred Gade, William Krueger, Christ Koenecke, Fred Dargel.

POLITICAL FORMATION

When Sauk County was originally surveyed in 1844 the territory now comprising the township, with other lands, was enclosed within the town of Eagle; later it was included in the town of Reedsburg, and did not take its present name and proportions until 1854. The first town officers were: J. K. Thompson, Chairman; Martin Davey and Henry Nippert, Supervisors; William Baird, Clerk; R. B. Balcome, Treasurer; Chancey P. Logan, Justice of the Peace; Lyman Twist, Assessor; N. H. Briggs (grandfather of Clare Briggs, celebrated cartoonist), Superintendent of Schools; R. T. Root, Constable.

SCHOOLS

The first school in the village of Loganville was taught by S. N. Kinsley in a house erected by Kinsley and Logan at their personal expense. Later the village took it over.

School Dist. No. 7, one of the earliest rural schools in the town, was organized in 1856. Horace Crauch was the first teacher. The original building, which was log, survived until destroyed by fire in 1869. The following year it was rebuilt by William Noyes.

District No. 6 was organized Nov. 29, 1889, with the following board: Herman Riggert, Clerk; E. Perry, Treasurer; William Wieneke, Director. A frame building was erected and is still in use. The first teacher was Miss Bina Finnegan.

LOGANVILLE

By Frank L. Twist

In early days the force employed
 In making boards or flour
Was commonly the out-of-date
 Old fashioned water-power;
And this determined frequently
 The place to settle down
And build a mill or little store
 Or start a little town.

And so it proved on Narrows Creek
 For there the power was found
As soon as settlers on the stream
 Began to look around.
Then Lemmox built a blacksmith shop,
 Steve Kinsley built a mill,
And Chancey Logan settled there
 And then came Loganville.

Just who was next to settle there
 I cannot now recall,
For Loganville was little then
 And I was very small;
But these were first upon the ground,
 And after Logan came
His land was sold in village lots
 Which gave the place its name.

The Logan house was built of logs,
 Except, I think, the floors,
Which Kelsey sawed the lumber for
 And also for the doors;
The house, I know, was long and low
 And bore a sign to show
That somewhere in the Logan house
 Was Uncle Sam's P. O.

And there the folks for postage stamps
 Would come from far and near;
And some times too the mail would come
 At least some times a year;
And Logan worked for Uncle Sam,
 And sold his village lots,
And Mrs. Logan kept a school
 And taught the little tots.

Except a few fond memories
 That cluster round the spot,
That little school, the first in town
 Is now almost forgot;
But even now I recollect
 The doughnuts and the tarts
That came from Mrs. Logan's hand
 And won our little hearts.

Then came the Gibsons, George and Sam.
 And Abe and Hi and Ri;
And these all settled in the place
 Or on their lands near by.
Then "Uncle Daniel Newell" came,
 And Newells soon began
To pack their household furniture
 And follow Uncle Dan.

Eleazer Newell, Elihu,
 And Homer, Sile and Bill,
Appeared among the very first
 Who came to Loganville.
Eleazer then with Elihu
 Erected Newell's store;
And other Newells followed fast
 The Newells who came before.

And thus from these three families
 The little town began;
For people in the village then
 Were almost to a man,

Related to the Logan folks,
Or to the Gibson clan,
Save those who owed allegiance
To the Newell "Tribe of Dan".

But immigration did not cease;
Each building called for more,
And A. D. Gibson rustled 'round
And built another store;
Then Pierce and Lummis soon appeared,
And both came there to stop,
And each erected in the place
Another blacksmith shop.

And Mary Elmer taught a school
Across from Gibson's store,
Where cattle, pigs, and Gibson's sheep
Came snooping round the door.

.

Then James L. Noyes came on the scene,
And made the burdens light
For settlers whose financial needs
Had placed them in a plight.
To such, on good security,
He loaned at ten per cent;
And thus their woes were seemingly
Relieved to some extent.

For many years was "Jimmy" Noyes
A factor in the town,
A benefactor who achieved
A sort of mixed renown.

.

Then came the Colvins, Spooners, Bairds,
The Turnclifts and Kyles,
The Gullifords and Grays and Meads,
And Fred and Edwin Giles.

The Richard boys, the Inman boys,
 The Pipers and the Wrights,
 The Hornbecks and the Fosdick boys,
 The Blacks and Brown and Whites.

The Mephams, Stewarts, Sallades,
 And Roots were early there,
 As also were the Seamans folks,
 And Crouch and David Ware;
 The Parkers, Palmers, Thompsons, Scoons,
 The Winslows and the Snells,
 The Bradys, Emorys and Deans,
 Joe Meyers and Ham Wells.

Among the early settlers too
 Were Trumbulls, Travers, Hindes,
 The Settles, Suttles, Pollocks, Ports,
 Sam Buss and Jacob Wynes.
 The names of Bosworth, Briggs and Graves,
 I must not overlook,
 Nor those of Dearholt, Gordon, Gwynn,
 Bill Oates and Barry Cook.

Nor should I here neglect to speak
 Of Crum and Gideon Jones,
 The Warrens, Fosnaughts, Hamiltons,
 Vet Sprague and Billy Bones;
 Or Albert Johnson, Charley Ward,
 John Hudson, William Cupp;
 For all assisted in their way
 To build the village up.

John Meyers must not be forgot,
 Nor yet must Hiram Hall,
 But, save Van Dusen, more than these,
 I cannot now recall.
 And some of these lived out of town,
 And some of them within;
 But all were early pioneers
 Who saw the town begin.

WINFIELD

LOWER WINFIELD OR HAY CREEK VALLEY

We have seen, in Part I, how, in the spring of 1849, Alexander Locke abandoned his village dwelling—Shanty No. 4, of Shanty Row fame—and moved with his family into the wilderness north of the village, where he erected a rude log house, the first structure in the township of Winfield, in April, 1849. The site of this log abode was west of the road, where the barn now stands, on the farm recently vacated by Mr. Lloyd Breene, at the present time owned by Mr. Wm. Breene, hard by the south Winfield town line. Here it was that his daughter, Harriet Locke, in 1850, was born, the first birth in the town, and that a daughter Phoebe Locke died, August 28, 1850, the first death in the township. Phoebe Locke was interred in the cemetery plot set aside by David C. Reed, within the village, but when the Greenwood Cemetery was established in 1855, her remains were moved thence, where her grave can be found today, marked by a simple, white marble slab.

The history of Winfield begins, then, in April, 1849; and within a few years we find the community settled by many settlers, of many nationalities of many religions.

Contemporaneous with Mr. Locke's settling here, was the coming of Alfred F. Leonard and George Huffnail. They were married men, but came here unaccompanied by their wives, who eventually joined them. They staked a claim adjoining Mr. Locke's on the north, the tract of land recently vacated by the Guy Davis family, where they erected a rude log house in which to live. The house is said to have been very rude, indeed, with neither doors nor windows. A strip of crude fabric was hung at the doorway to separate the inside of the house from the great out-of-doors.

During their temporary bachelorhood these men did their own cooking, and were persistently annoyed by the Indians who begged or borrowed everything they possessed. At first it was thought best to conciliate the natives by acceding to their demands; but the begging continued and the settlers soon found

that they must stop giving or be without needed articles themselves. They had given enough to make the Indians very persistent, so persistent that Mr. Leonard (lost patience) and decided to be rid of them. The next morning he armed himself with bowie knives and pistols and went about his work with darkly threatening brow. The Indians made their daily visit as usual, but for the first time of all they omitted the begging. They gathered in little groups some little distance away, gesturing and talking; they even approached Mr. Leonard and examined the knives and pistols, without expressing the slightest want. Finally they went away.

The inmates of the cabin, it must be said, were a little anxious concerning the results of the strategy. And that night the blanket hung at the door seemed to hang between themselves and danger. It was not a very pleasant reflection. In fact, that same night, they were terrified by an unusual disturbance, as though a band of Indians were drawing near.

"The tumult," reads an article, *Pioneers of the Old School*, published in the *Wisconsin Agriculturist*, March 3, 1928, "grew loud and close, then faint and far, as though the band had receded to wait a more favorable moment for attack. Throughout that long, terrible night Mr. Huffnail and Mr. Leonard sat on the edge of their bed, pistols in hand, ready to fire at the first 'Red-skin' who dared to attack. Came the dawn! A drove of Indian ponies, broken from confinement, hovered in the shade of trees, a short distance away. The Indians dwelt to the north of them."

Mr. Leonard died in 1851, but Mr. Huffnail and his family continued to occupy the farm for many years.

Probably the next man to come to Winfield, with intentions of settling, was a certain Mr. Duncan, who broke land, June 1, 1849, on the farm now owned by Harry Powell, said to have been the first land broken in the town.

On the 13th day of June, 1849, Mr. Silas J. Seymour, a pioneer of Dellona, found a party eating dinner by a log fire on the farm now owned by Edwin K. Fish. The party was comprised of Mr. William Andrews, his two sons and son-in-law, a Mr. Mills. "They had come up from Baraboo," reads the *Story of the Years*, published in the *Reedsburg Times* last spring (1928), "with Mr. Noyse the day before, and spent the night

there. They had not built a house yet, but soon did build one, which Mr. Seymour helped raise.

“Mr. Mills began about the same time to build a house on the grant of land owned by him to the north, on the farm now known perhaps most widely, as the Dell Kelley farm; but while at work on it he had the misfortune to cut one of his legs severely and was unable to finish his dwelling. His tract was taken over by Mr. John Carlisle.”

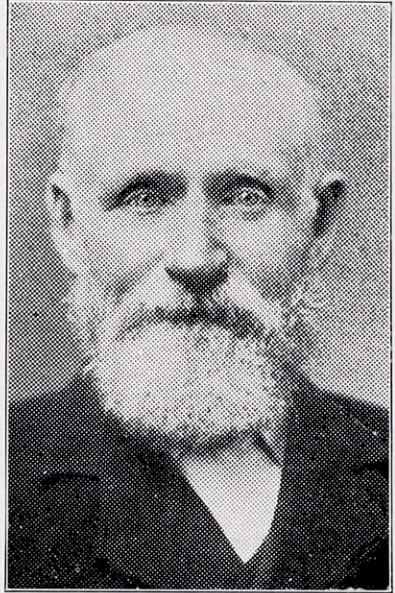
Mr. Carlisle, a native of Old Erin, had previously been engaged in lumbering on the Wisconsin river, to which occupation he returned soon after taking over Mr. Mills' tract. He was at that time a single man.

In 1853 he went to California, returned in 1857 to his land, married Miss Mary McCray in 1857, and they spent half a century on that tract which was, during this period, developed into a fine Winfield farm home-

stead, where hospitality was ever demonstrated. The Carlisles had four children, one of whom, Matie, married Adelbert Kelley. Mr. Kelley occupied the farm after Mr. Carlisle, but is now retired; and his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Cassity, own it.

Little, indeed, is known of the settlers of 1850. John Flynn, a veteran of the War of 1812, received a large grant of land, several hundred acres, and built a dwelling on the northern part of it, which is now known as the Riske place. Peter Golden is said to have taken up land this year also, the old Charles R. Kelley place, now owned by Mr. Will Kelley. On this land he came to live, erected a log dwelling house and, later, got out logs for a schoolhouse. However, this was never put up.

Joseph Swetland was the first known settler of southeastern Winfield, a native of Pennsylvania, where he married Hester



JOHN CARLISLE

Ann Miller, came to Winfield in 1850, and settled on the farm now owned by Charles Powell, where he afterward resided. They had a son, George, who married Emma Caroline Fosnot, pioneer on Babb's Prairie in 1850, and remained on the homestead for several years, subsequently going to Reedsburg, where he still resides. George and Emma Swetland had a daughter Bernice, who married James O'Conner, and resides in Winfield.

John Pelton and family, including his sons, George, Hiram and Charles, were the first of the settlers to hail directly from New York State. They came in 1850 and settled on the extreme southeast of the township. Of these three sons, Hiram was already married and brought with him, his wife. George Pelton married (1854) Phoebe Montross and settled on the farm now owned, and recently vacated by their son, Montross Pelton. Charles Pelton married (1857) Miss Nancy M. Oakes, and they began life together on the farm now owned and occupied by Alvin Claridge.

Many settlers came in the spring of 1851. Mr. Lachlan McIntosh was one of these. He came from Scotland in 1841, in company with his parents, James and Anna (Burns) McIntosh, his parents being natives of Paisley, Scotland, the mother said to have been a relative of Robert Burns, the poet. The family located at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where Lachlan married Catherine Cameron (1850), coming immediately after their marriage to Winfield, settling on the farm now owned by Clinton Kelley. James McIntosh was also a pioneer of that year, and removed here with his entire family, including, besides Lachlan, the following four children, Mary, Joseph, Anna and Elizabeth, all of whom spent their first years in Winfield. Anna was one of the first school teachers of the town. Mr. and Mrs. Lachlan McIntosh had ten children, all of whom were born in Winfield: Margaret, died in childhood; James, married Alice Southerly, and lived in Minnesota; Annie, married Eugene Montgomery, and died in middle life; Catharine (Mrs. George Thayer, Reedsburg); Thomas, married Lina Lincoln, and now is Assistant Attorney General, Madison; Jeanette, who married Anthony Winkler of Reedsburg; Lizzie (Mrs. A. L. Kleeber), Winfield; John, married Edith Patterson, of Chicago; and Miss May McIntosh of Reedsburg.

Mary, daughter of James and Anna McIntosh, married Mr. Edward Hemmingway, and they came at that time also. Mr. Hemmingway was a native of England, immigrating to America with his parents in 1840. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hemmingway had a large family, three members of which, Mrs. Frank Houghton, James and Edward have always been active members of the community.

The Robert Greenwood, Sr., family were other settlers of 1851. They came from England in 1847, remained in the east some time, then came to Racine County, Wisconsin, and thence



VIEW IN HAY CREEK VALLEY, WINTER, 1928-29

to Winfield. Of his children, three became widely known in this vicinity, Elizabeth, who married E. G. Gregory, son of Ezra Gregory, the pioneer of that family in Winfield; Miles, who married Mary Cameron and settled in Winfield and Robert Greenwood, Jr.

Robert Greenwood, Jr., married Evaline Miller, daughter of Heman and Elizabeth (Darrow) Miller, the mother, daughter of Henry A. Darrow, pioneer of 1852, and had a large family, four of his sons now being residents of Winfield. Benjamin, married Eva Hemmingway, daughter of James Hemmingway, living on the farm her father spent his active life upon; Joseph, who has a farm adjoining the old Frank Houghton farm in Winfield, married to Bertha Wachholtz; Que, a Winfield farmer, married Vera Leak; George, who married Helen Frazier of Valton, now a local farmer; Eva, wife of Earl Craker; Vesta, wife of

Ray Lawton, La Farge, Wisconsin; Carrie, wife of Frank Finck, Reedsburg.

George F. Lawson was another of the settlers of 1851, a native of Nottingham, England, veteran of the Seminole War. Other settlers of that year were Ezra Martindale and his family. Mr. Martindale was a native of Lower Canada, born in the year 1800, son of James Martindale. His wife, whom he married in Hopkinton, N. Y., was Thankfull Horton Simonds, and they were the parents of five children, Delia Sophia, died long before the family came to Winfield, George Edward, who died early; Laura Adelia, who married N. O. Hunt of Reedsburg, Weltha Maria; and Mary Emeline, one of Sauk County's most prominent school teachers, who later married James S. Worthman, and now resides at Baraboo, aged eighty-nine years. The Martindale family lived on the farm now owned by Walter E. Fish, which farm they sold about 1872 to Mr. Ira Churchill.

Other settlers of 1851 were S. C. Millard, on the farm now owned by John R. Davis; Truman Safford, on the farm now owned by George Darrow; and Ezra Gregory, on the farm now owned by W. H. Krug.

Ezra Gregory, a native of Ohio, was of an old Colonial family, and his father, native of an eastern state, was a Revolutionary soldier. This soldier, having received a grant of land for his martial services, moved his family to Ohio, at an early date. On this farm Ezra grew to manhood and married. In 1851 the family settled in Winfield, where they remained until 1870. There were in the Ezra Gregory family, among others, five children: John, Malinda, Ezra, Irvin and Annie. John eventually married and went to Kansas, but his family remained in the locality, and a daughter, Lois, married John Cook and lives at North Freedom. Ezra married and located on Millard's Prairie near Elroy. Irvin married Elizabeth Greenwood, daughter of Robert Greenwood, Sr., and located near Reedsburg, on a farm two and one-half miles southwest of the city. His son, James Gregory, of recent memory, married Jennie Faivre, of Ironton, and resided on a farm within the township of Reedsburg. Annie, the youngest daughter of Ezra Gregory, married, while the family lived in Ohio, Myron Mills. Mr. and Mrs. Mills accompanied her people to Winfield, and settled on an adjacent farm. Mr. and Mrs.

Ezra Gregory resided in Winfield until 1870, when they rented their farm to William Krug, Sr., who purchased it three years later.

Myron Mills, who during his early years was a sailor on Lake Erie, left a numerous progeny at his death. Two of his children, Olive and Orson, were born in Ohio, and one other, Alvira, was a native of Winfield. After residing a few years in Winfield Myron Mills moved to Juneau County, where he afterward resided. The son, Orson, married Lodema Luke, of Elroy, and settled in that vicinity. His daughter, Effie, married David Bennett of Winfield.

Mr. Bennett's father, conveniently mentioned at this time, was William J. Bennett, who located land in the township prior to the Civil War, but did not move his family hither until 1871. Part of his land is now within the confines of the David Bennett farm. William J. Bennett, a native of Old Erin, was of Scotch descent, and came to America, at the age of 13, in 1844. In New York he was met by several brothers who had come across some time before. William J. Bennett remained in the East same time, grew to manhood and married there, Mary McKnight, a lady of Scotch descent. From New York they moved to Milwaukee and from thence to Winfield. They were the parents of several children, but David, born in Milwaukee, is the only local representative. David Bennett is assisted on the Winfield farm by his two sons, Arthur and Frank Bennett.

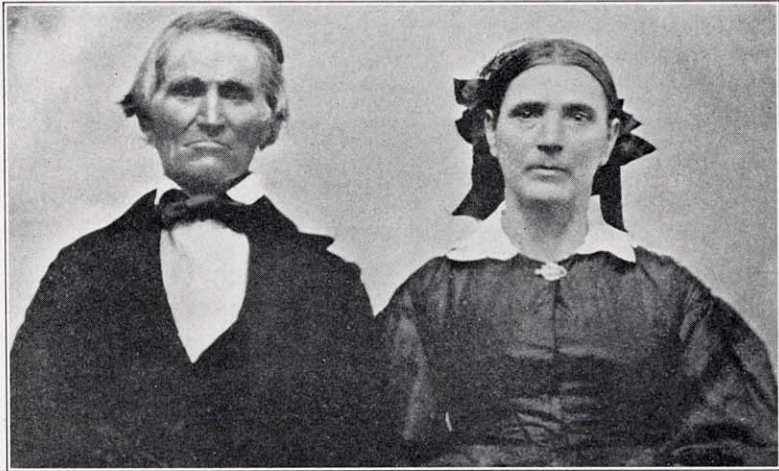
The year of 1852 brought many permanent settlers to Winfield. Of these the Hiram Fuller family was probably the first, the date of their arrival being given as February 12th. They settled on the farm now occupied by Victor Craker. They were natives of the East and descendants of Edward Fuller, a Mayflower Pilgrim. There were many children, two of whom became prominent people of Winfield, Clayton, who married Ellen Kelley, and occupied the old homestead, and whose daughter Clara, Mrs. Lewis Hyzer, resides in Reedsburg; and Artimas, who married Harriet Kelley, and settled on property now owned by William Wagner. Artimas's son John D. Fuller, now owns the Edwin Kelley farm, a daughter Belle being the wife of Wilber Douglas, resides in Reedsburg.

Another family to come that February was that of Mr. Jesse Cottington. They came hither from Bloomfield, N. Y., and were of English nativity. They settled on a farm they sold about 1873 to Samuel Skinner, and which is now owned by Mr. W. H. Skinner; and here in 1852, they planted the first hop roots in Sauk County. This is fully treated elsewhere. Jesse Cottington's son Amos, married Almira Fish, daughter of Elisha and Polly (King) Fish, and located on the farm her mother, Mrs. Polly King Fish, settled at a very early date (1856). This farm passed from Amos Cottington to his son, Orna E. Orna E. Cottington married Adelia Darrow, and upon his death, Nov, 18, 1928, the farm passed to his family.

Another family to come that spring was that of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Darrow, whose progeny is more numerous in the town at the present time than that of any other of the pioneers. They had come to Dellona the fall previous, from Walworth County, where they had resided since 1839. Previous to this they had lived in Ohio, going there from New York in 1832. Mrs. Darrow, whose maiden name was Luceba Dann, was a granddaughter of Colonel Rall, the Hessian general who commanded the Hessian troops at the Battle of Trenton. It will do to recall that it was to attack Colonel Rall that Washington made his historical crossing of the Delaware, Christmas night, 1776. The Darrow-Dann genealogy is printed elsewhere in this work.

Henry Ammiras Darrow settled on the farm now owned and occupied by Robert N. Cassity. They had acquired the farm through the sale of their Walworth County property, it having had a previous homesteader, and they found upon it a rude log house. But the Darrow family being large, they soon reared a more commodious frame house. The family at that time consisted of thirteen members: Mr. and Mrs. Darrow, eight unmarried children, Adelia, H. Ammiras, Nathaniel, Sarah, Albert, George, Caroline and John, and Elizabeth, the oldest, who, with her husband, Heman Miller, and their daughter, Evaline, completed the party. Another Darrow girl, Phoebe, came to Winfield later. If thirteen is misfortune for some it certainly was not for this family. For Mr. and Mrs. Darrow lived to see seven of their children comfortably situated on Winfield farms, all within an area of less than three miles. Nathaniel Darrow married Elnora

Campbell and occupied the home place, and upon his death it passed to its present owner, Mr. R. N. Cassity. H. Ammiras settled the farm now owned by Jesse W. Churchill, son of Ira, previously mentioned, and died unmarried; and George Darrow bought the Truman Safford farm about 1871, which farm he still retains. He married Ida Powell, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Fish) Powell; they had a large family of children; Cora, wife of Floyd Webster, Elkhorn, Wisconsin; Edith, (Mrs. Leigh Seamans), Lime Ridge; Howard, Idaho; Thomas Henry



MR. AND MRS. HENRY A. DARROW

(Dick); Burr, Pennsylvania; Adelia, widow of the late Orna E. Cottington, now of Reedsburg; Floyd, Chippewa, Wisconsin; Stanley, Chippewa, Wis.; and Harold, married to Lillian Rhodawald, resident of Reedsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Heman Miller had a number of children besides Evaline, who married Robert Greenwood, Jr. Among them were: Henry, of recent local memory; Luceba, who married Ed. Cassity, and whose children, Robert N. Cassity and Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles W. Radloff) are of local residence; George, Nathaniel, Silas, Harvey, Arthur, John, William.

We will mention the four maiden daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Darrow a little later.

Thomas Senogles and family came in July, 1852. They were natives of England. They had several children, one of

whom, Emma, married John Darrow and went with him to Barron County. She died shortly after and he married another daughter, Emma Senogles, who, with him still resides at that place. Lavina, another daughter, married Will Newman, and a daughter, Mary, is the wife of Herbert L. Fish, Woodstock, Ill. The Senogle family settled first on land north of the Henry A. Darrow farm, but will be remembered by contemporary people as living on land south of the present S. C. Fish farm.

A little later we see Samuel Montross and wife, Lydia, daughter Phoebe (later Mrs. George Pelton) and son Enos L. Montross and wife (nee Sally Ann Pelton, daughter of John and Sarah (Hinkley) Pelton) coming up the Glen Valley trail with ox teams, and stopping there in the wilderness in the southeastern part of the township. Then we see them starting off to Reedsburg to get lumber, see them bringing it back to their land and erecting a frame house. This was the first frame house in the town of Winfield. The Montross family was from the Hudson River country, although Mrs. Montross, whose maiden name was Lydia Raymond, was a native of New Canaan, Conn. She was the first representative of the old Raymond family of that place to come to Wisconsin. The Montross farm was that which was later owned by Enos L. Montross and now owned by Montross Pelton, a grandson of Samuel and Lydia.

Mr. and Mrs. George Carlisle, the latter a brother of John Carlisle, previously mentioned, were also among the settlers of that year. They settled the farm now occupied by V. A. Hewitt. By this time John Harp had bought out Mr. Duncan, and moved onto the farm.

The first school taught in the town was a private one in Mr. Locke's dwelling on Hay Creek. It was conducted by Miss Pamela Cole, in the original shanty Mr. Locke built in 1849. In one of her old letters Miss Cole relates an incident that bears testimony to the hazards of the day. It was in the fall of 1851, also there was a rainstorm. The roof was so poor that she was obliged to get the children hovered into one corner of the room and hold an umbrella over their heads to keep them from getting wet. Miss Cole was a daughter of Alworthy Cole, a pioneer of the year 1849 in the town of Excelsior.

The first district school was organized in the spring of 1852. A frame schoolhouse, 16 x 16 feet, with an 8 foot ceiling, was erected, and stood some distance south of Mr. Martindale's dwelling, just south of where Mr. Ransom's house now stands. "Prominent among its instigators," reads the Onward March, history of the school district, printed in the Free Press, December, 1927, "was Jesse Cottington, who helped build it; but Mr. Locke, Mr. Pelton, Mr. Huffnail, Mr. Martindale, Mr. Gregory and S. C. Millard appear with equal prominence in its early annals." Miss Esther Smith, who later married Jonathan Nye, was its first teacher. She was born Feb. 19, 1831, at Hopkinton, St.

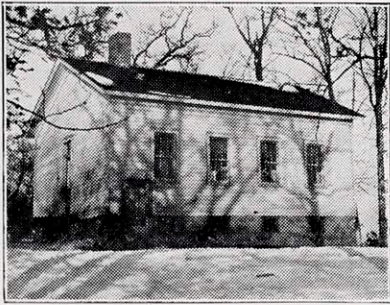


HAY CREEK SCHOOL, DIST. NO. 1, WINFIELD

Lawrence Co., N. W. came with her parents to Excelsior, in 1850, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lizzie Schultis, Dec. 25, 1918. Other early teachers in the school were Frances Marrow, Maria Bicknell, Alfred Lawton and Sarah Shaw. The original schoolhouse stood until 1867. Then the present site was acquired and a more ample structure erected which stood until November, 1917, when the present school edifice was erected, at a cost of \$3,000. Miss Lillie Sparks, who taught four years, 1915, '16, '17, '18, served the longest period of any teacher in the school. Miss Lucile Squires is the present teacher. This school district is Hay Creek School District No. 1, Winfield.

District No. 2 was founded that same year, Oct. 7, 1852, with William Andrews, Clerk; Truman C. Safford, Director; and Henry A. Darrow, Treasurer. However, Mr. Darrow did not

incline to the office and at a special meeting November 11, Thomas Senogles was appointed to fill the vacancy. Miss Climeda D. Hastings was the first teacher. This schoolhouse, which was also a frame structure, became a Congregational Mission, services being conducted there frequently



PLEASANT KNOLL SCHOOL,
DIST. NO. 2, WINFIELD

by the Rev. S. A. Dwinnel. The teachers following Miss Hastings were Anna McIntosh, 1853, Harriet Pattern, Amelia Stutton, C. Ingram, and Adelia Darrow. Adelia Darrow taught the summer term of 1855. We are indebted to Adelia Darrow (now Mrs. Elias Fish, of Woodstock, Ill., for much of this data. Mrs. Fish is now in her ninety-fourth year.

School District No. 3 was organized in the spring of 1853. Miss Corilla Houghton, daughter of Solomon Houghton, was the first teacher. On the early history of this school Mrs. Frank Houghton (Elizabeth Hemmingway) said, "It was a log schoolhouse, neither chinked nor plastered. It was located in the valley between the present homes of John Montgomery and Ben Greenwood, where it remained about two years. Then it was moved to the present site, where it was nearer to the center of the district." Some of the first pupils were Maggie, James, Miles and Jane McIntosh; Susan, Lydia, George and Lizzie Lawson; Elizabeth Hemmingway; Margaret and Mathew Flynn; Maria, John and Frank Houghton. The second teacher was Mina Soul; the third, Emeline Martindale.

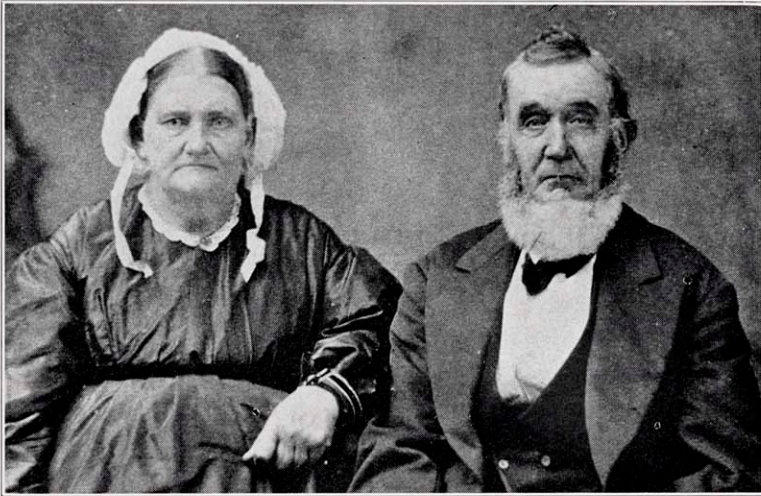
The settlers of 1853 were Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCray and family. Mrs. McCray, whose maiden name was Sarah McGookin, was a sister of Mrs. George Carlisle; and the families were of Irish birth, of Scotch-Irish descent. The McCray family settled on land which is now within the S. C. Fish farm. There were in this family several children, Mary (later Mrs. John Carlisle), John, Ellen, Eliza (Mrs. Robert Hunter), Mathilda and George.

Elias R. Fish came likewise in 1853. He was the forerunner of the Fish family whose descendants are so numerous in the town, although his (Elias') descendants have long since gone from these parts. He laid claim to a large property, what now comprises both the Albert Wagner farm and that owned by Mr. Chas. DeBeir. He shared his claim with his brother, Spencer Caleb Fish, who came from New York the following spring, 1854. Spencer Caleb Fish returned to the East in the spring of 1855, married Miss Mary J. Fish, his second cousin, and they began housekeeping on the Albert Wagner place. Their children were Edgar, Woodstock, Ill.; Orton, Washington; and Mina, widow of Silas Hand, Madison, Wis. Elias retained the DeBeir farm and upon his marriage, Feb. 24, 1858 to Adelia Darrow, made that his home. Some years later, about 1870, his house burned to the ground, causing him much loss. Within a few years he sold his farm and moved to Sparta, where the rest of his life was spent. Despite her advanced age, Adelia has always enjoyed the use of her faculties to a marvelous degree, and last summer, 1928, she related to relatives who visited her at her Woodstock home, an incident in her young life that occurred when the family was living in Mecca, Ohio, over ninety years ago.

Another settler of 1854 was Nathaniel Stillick. He settled on the farm now occupied by Albert Kutz. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Frances Raymond, was a niece of Mrs. Samuel Montross. She was the second of the Raymonds to settle in Winfield. The Samuel Welch family also came at that time, settling on the Riley Stone farm.

When Spencer Caleb Fish returned from New York with his bride he was accompanied hither by his father's family, in May, 1855. This was the Silas Fish family, and they took up residence on the William Andrews farm, which place they purchased, the Andrews family moving to Minnesota. Silas Fish, who was a native of Albany County, N. Y., was a representative of the old Fish Family of Providence, R. I., in which place the first of the family had settled as early as 1636. Through maternal connections, through the intervening generations, Silas Fish was thrice descended from Puritan forefathers. Mrs. Fish, whose maiden name was Betsy Raymond, was a sister of Mrs. Montross, and was the third of her family to come to Winfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Fish were the parents of a large family of children, all of whom were intimately connected with the pioneer days of Winfield. The children, besides those already mentioned were, Lewis, Jasper, Emma Jane, Lucius, Elbert and Elizabeth (Mrs. Thomas Powell), the oldest.



MR. AND MRS. SILAS FISH

Mr. Thomas Powell, who came at that time, was a native of New York, and of Welsh extraction. He married Elizabeth Fish in Green County, N. Y., and two of their children, Charles Powell of Reedsburg, and Ida (Mrs. George Darrow), were born in the East. Mr. Powell bought the Duncan place of Mr. John Harp, and it was there that he settled and spent his life. His children, Clarence, Charles, Edgar, Ida (Mrs. George Darrow) and Alden became farmers of Winfield, and the last named occupied the homestead, which is now owned and occupied by his (Alden's) son, Harry E. Powell. Clarence Powell married Edna Cottington, daughter of Amos Cottington, and purchased the farm settled in 1856 by Alfred Lawton. Charles Powell married Olive, daughter of Charles Pelton, Sr., and they settled on the original John Pelton farm. Their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schroeder, now occupy the farm. Edgar Powell married Mary Hirt and lived for many years on the old Spencer Caleb Fish farm which was sold to Albert Wagner, when they retired.

Jasper Fish married Temperance Hand. Her mother was a Raymond girl also, and they settled on what is now the S. C. Fish farm. Lewis Fish married Sarah Darrow and purchased his brother Jasper's farm, the latter moving his family in 1869 to Walworth County. Lewis and Sarah Fish had nine children: Ida, George, Edwin, Jasper, Emma, Walter, Mary, Spencer (S. C.) and Blanche. Ida died in infancy. George married Sadie Montgomery of Excelsior, and settled near Kilbourn. Edwin married Rhoda Lawton and bought the Andrews place some years after the death of his grandfather, Silas Fish, and still owns it, (it is occupied by his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Middlesteadt). Emma married Emmet Catlin of Dellona, and moved to Walworth County. Walter married Hattie Wheeler and purchased the old Martindale property of Ira Churchill who acquired it about 1870 of Mr. Martindale. Mary married William H. Krug, and resides in Winfield. Spencer (S. C.) married Nellie Mulligan of Dellona and occupies the home place of Lewis Fish. Blanche married Albert Messenger and moved to Hillsdale, Oklahoma.

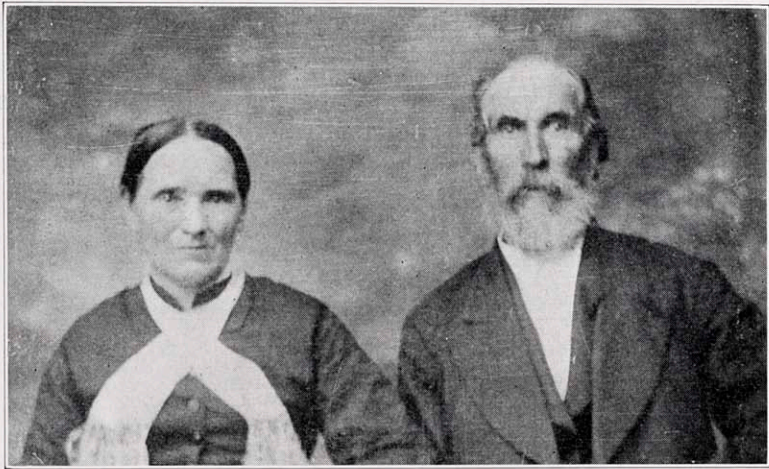
Elbert Fish married Ellen McCray and settled on the George Carlisle farm. They had several children, three of whom survive: Earl, a prominent farmer of Excelsior, Lizzie (Mrs. Milton Perry, Reedsburg); and Ada, who married Vern A. Hewitt. Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt now occupy the home place.

Lucius Fish married Phoebe Darrow and settled on the farm now owned by Charles W. Radloff. After a few years spent on that farm they moved to Barron County where she died, and where he still resides. In 1869, when he moved away Mr. Louis Sherman, son of William and Elizabeth (Star) Sherman, married Caroline Darrow, and bought the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman had four children, Flora and Willie (deceased), Della (Mrs. Jesse Churchill), and Ida Belle (Mrs. Rathbun) of Minnesota.

The Charles R. Kelley family is said to have come within a very few weeks after the Silas Fish family. They settled on land originally taken up by Peter Golden. Mr. Kelley was of an old Dover, Massachusetts, family, to which town his ancestors came in Cromwell's time, while his wife, whose maiden name was Eliza J. Dearborn, was a cousin of General Dearborn, celebrated hero

of the War of 1812. The Charles R. Kelley family consisted of eight children, Edwin, Eliza, George, LaFayette, Ellen, Harriet, Bell and William. Three other children were born in Winfield; Fremont, Herbert, and Adelbert.

Edwin Kelley married Emma Jane Fish and settled on the farm now owned by John D. Fuller. No person in Hay Creek Valley, belonging to the generation of our fathers and mothers was unfamiliar with the appellation, "Aunt Em" and the benevolent spirit of this beloved neighborhood friend. George Kelley married Amanda Root and resided for many years in Winfield,



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES R. KELLEY

and had two daughters, Emma, married Ed. Snyder and Mina, wife of Ed. Thom, both of Reedsburg. LaFayette Kelley married Elizabeth Empster and located in central Winfield, where their entire lives were spent. They had eleven children, three of whom have been closely allied with Winfield life, James, who married Ida Corbin, and had three children; Clinton of Winfield; Harold of Mauston and Ruth (Mrs. Frank Wagner) of Winfield; and LaFayette (Lafe) and Ella, who still occupy the home place. William L. Kelley married Mate O'Conner, and occupies the homestead, they have one son Carroll who resides at home; Fremont Kelley married Ida Carley, lived in Reedsburg and had two children. Arthur, who married Nellie O'Conner and resides in Reedsburg, and Irma (Mrs. Otto Heimer); Adelbert

Kelley married Matie Carlisle, daughter of John Carlisle; they had one daughter, Ethel, wife of R. N. Cassity.

Another family of 1855 was that of Solomon T. Houghton. Mr. Houghton was a native of Caledonia County, Vt., whence he went to Waterville, Maine, where he married Catherine Albee in 1837. Upon coming to Winfield he located on the farm now owned by George Greenwood. There were four children: Corrilla (who married V. B. Clark and went to Minneapolis); John C., (who married Annie Mavor and went to Nebraska); Maria S.; and Frank T. Houghton, who married Elizabeth Hemmingway and resided on the Winfield farm.

August Kleeber came about this time also. He, a native of Wittenburg, Germany, came to America in 1845, stopped at Albany, where, in 1852 he married Maria Hart, a native of that place, and one child Emeline was born there. This family located on the Henry Wagner farm, where four more children were born: Leonard; August, married Elizabeth McIntosh, Winfield; Julia, married Louis Strubeing, and removed to Oshkosh, Wisconsin; and John, now a dentist of Madison.

The year 1856 brought several more families into southeastern Winfield. John Jackson and wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Croft, came that year, English immigrants of 1845, and the progenitors of their name in this respective community. Then there was a Mr. Reese Davis and his family; and the family of his brother-in-law, David Ransom. The former settled back in the broad valley, east of the Ransom place, which farm he later exchanged with Mr. Vickers for the John R. Davis property. Reese Davis and wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Ann Seymour, were the parents of two children, Inez Adell, who died in early childhood, and John R. Davis. This gentleman, a contemporary farmer of the town, married Jennie O'Connell, who is of French-Canadian ancestry and has two children, Justin, and Inez. Inez, who married, in Germany, Mr. Paul Richter, is a very gifted singer and accomplished musician and has spent many years of her life on the operatic stage in Europe and America. At present she lives in Minneapolis.

The David Ransom family settled on the farm still maintained by his widow, Mrs. Harriet Davis Ransom, who is one of the few surviving members of a passing generation. She resides

with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brooks, who occupy the homestead, and was 98 years of age in November, 1928. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks have one daughter, Hazel, wife of Arlo Giles, also residing on the home place. Mr. Brooks' parents, William and Temperance (Raymond) Brooks, settled in the town in 1858, on the farm now owned by another son, Thomas Brooks. A third son, Raymond Brooks, married Emma Ward, and occupied property within the town, which still belongs to his widow and daughter Lillie. The latter is the wife of Roy Palmer, and they occupy the farm. Temperance Raymond Brooks was the fifth of the Raymond family to settle in the town.

James Hirst, Sr., father of James Hirst, contemporary farmer, is one of the few later settlers we are able to mention here. He and his wife were natives of Yorkshire, England and came to America at an early date, residing in the East until 1865 coming at that time to Winfield, locating in the northern part of the township. Mrs. Hirst's maiden name was Harriet Croft. Mr. and Mrs. Hirst were the parents of nine children, two of whom died in England. Of the others we mention: James, married Laura Lawton; Francis, married Rose Todd—they had two sons, one of whom, Leslie, who married Alice Hawes, resides in Dellona; Lucy married John Montgomery—the Montgomerys are local residents; William, married Myrtle Vogel, and resides in Beloit.

Mr. and Mrs. William Krug settled on the Ezra Gregory farm in 1871. They were natives of Hanover Province, Germany, and both are now living, retired in Reedsburg. They had five children: Anna, who married Fenton Leicher of Westfield, and went to Luverne, Minnesota; Bertha, widow of August Fritsch, Cobb, Wisconsin; William H., who married Mary Fish and resides in Winfield; Hubert D., married Elsie Meyer and resides in Reedsburg; and Walter L., who went to Luverne, Minnesota, where he married and now resides.

Another family of this later period was that of Ira Churchill. he was a native of New York, of English descent, son of Charles and ————— (Davenport) Churchill. He came with his parents to North Prairie, Waukesha County, and there married Jane Vickers, who was the daughter of John and Mary Ann (Bradley) Vickers, her parents being natives of Lincolnshire,

England, coming to America about 1867, locating at Waukesha. In 1872, the Vickers family came to Winfield settling on the S. C. Millard property, which he traded seven years later with Mr. Reese Davis for the latter's property at the head of the valley east of the Ransom place. Mr. and Mrs. Vickers had one son, Richard Vickers. He married Emma Green and had two daughters: Myrtle, wife of Dwight Hudson; and Maud, wife of William Bingham. Mr. and Mrs. Ira Churchill came to Winfield and purchased the Ezra Martindale property where they resided for many years. Their children were: Mary, wife of George Webley, Reedsburg; and Jessie, who married Della Sherman and purchased the H. Ammiras Darrow farm in central Hay Creek Valley.

In 1881 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Skinner, natives of England, purchased the Jessie Cottington farm where they lived for many years. Mrs. Skinner's maiden name was Priscilla Audiss. There were five children in the family: Clara, wife of Maurice Carr, Reedsburg; William H., who married Ethel Davenport of Deltona; Arthur of Illinois; and Frank and Ray, who died in childhood. William H. Skinner retains the old home in Winfield.

Another prominent farmer of a later period was John Wadleigh. Of the contemporary farmers may be mentioned: Charles W. Radloff, Albert Wagner, William Wagner, Arthur Maske, Theodore Schyvinck, Frank Coleman, Albert Kutz, Chas. DeBeir, Chas. Kutz, John Jackson, Charles Farber, Fred Strutz, Frank Johnson, Albert Hawkins, Paul Mittlesteadt, Pat Hurley, Frank Fisher, Albert Rathman, Frank Craker, John Zeick, Charles Westerwald, Paul Sparks, David Sparks, John Swetland, John Horkan, Pat Horkan, Walter Kutz, Michael Hart, Fred Farber, Fred Wachholtz, Robert Greenwood, Giles Greenwood, Arthur Biesek, Stephen Legman, Peter Legman, James Gavin, Martin Harrington, John Hurley.

Another early family of Hay Creek Valley was that of Patrick Healey who settled on the Truman Safford farm in 1855. He was a native of County Cork, Ireland, came to America in 1850, and stopped in New York, where he remained until coming to Winfield. There he married Annie Egan. Mr. and Mrs. Healy resided on the Safford place until 1871, when they sold to George Darrow and moved to a farm about one and a half miles

further up Hay Creek Valley to the present P. F. Healy residence, where they spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Healy was the daughter of John and Catherine (Braudrick) Egan. Her people were natives of Ireland but later came to Wisconsin and died here.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Healy had seven children: Katie, who died in the Sister of Mercy Convent, 1908; Mary, Winfield; Nora, widow of Timothy Kelley, Winfield—they had three children, Joseph, Mercedes, and Ruth (Mrs. Arthur Welsh); Maurice, married Janie Carroll, and resides in St. Paul; David, married Mamie Kittson and resides in Rochester, Minnesota; Patrick on the home place; and Anna, wife of Patrick Carroll, town of La Valle.

William Kelley was another Irish settler of the later period. He was a native of County Cork, Ireland, born in 1829. His parents were Patrick and Elizabeth (O'Donnell) Kelley. In 1848 at the age of 18, he came unaccompanied to New York—later going to Pennsylvania, where he was employed in the coal fields. There he was married to Julia Shehan, daughter of Daniel and Mary (Driscal) Shehan. The Shehan family came from Erin in 1836, locating in Pennsylvania.

In 1867 Mr. and Mrs. William Kelley came to Winfield where they afterward made their home. They had several children: Timothy, J. G., Michael; Francis H.; and Elizabeth. Elizabeth is the wife of Daniel Sullivan, a continuous resident of Winfield until 1915, when they retired to Reedsburg.

John Kelley, native of County Cork, another son of Patrick and Elizabeth, came to America a few years after his brother William. He also located in Pennsylvania. He married Bridget Shehan, another daughter of Daniel and Mary. They eventually came to Winfield, too, locating in the northeastern part of the town. They had three children who grew to manhood, Timothy, William and John: Timothy married Nora Healy—his widow now occupies the old farm; William, married Bridget Harty and lives in Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County.

We would record something of James Mitchell. He was a native of County Cork, Ireland and came to America about 1860, locating at Baraboo. There were living in Baraboo at that time a brother and sister, Daniel and Ellen Sullivan, both natives of

Ireland, early settlers of Sauk County. Mr. Mitchell married Ellen Sullivan and located in Winfield. Daniel Sullivan had married Kate Hedrington, who died about 1864, leaving two sons, one of whom was Daniel. He came to Winfield and became a member of the Mitchell family. Daniel Sullivan married Elizabeth Kelley and resided in Winfield for many years.

Another early Irish family of Winfield was that of Patrick Whitty, a native of Wexford, Ireland, where he was married to Mary Furlong, immigrant of the year 1847, and early pioneer of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was left a widower with five children: Thomas, Richard, James, Patrick and Eliza, but he married a second time, his second wife having been Margaret Daly (widow of Michael Burns). In 1857, the family, including the Burns children, Mary and Michael, came to Winfield and settled in the western part of the town. Two children were born of the marriage, one of whom was Agnes, wife of William Breen of Reedsburg.

Richard Whitty married Sarah McDonnell and lived in western Winfield. They were the parents of several children: Frank, married second, Nellie Daly, Montana; Mary, for many years a prominent school teacher; Sarah, teacher; John, prominent physician of Washington; Joseph and Anna.

James Whitty fought through the entire Civil War, was wounded four times and the last time at the battle of Antietam lost his left limb. Later he married and located in Reedsburg. Patrick Whitty married Cecelia Gahagan and occupied the Whitty farm in Winfield. In their family were five children, four of whom are living: James, who resides in Dakota; Francis, married Agnes Gerrigan and occupying the old Michael Gahagan farm; Patrick contemporary farmer; Eliza, who married Harvey Weidman, quite recently of South America. Eliza, daughter of Patrick Whitty, Sr., joined the Sacred Heart Convent of Chicago in 1865 and died a faithful Sister in 1928.

Another prominent early family of western Winfield, numbered among the Irish Settlers, was that of Michael Kivell. He was a native of County Roscommon, Ireland, came to America at a very early date, stopped for some time in Vermont. It was there that he married Catherine, his wife. About 1856 the family came to Winfield. There was a large number of children: Bart-

let, John and Michael, who with their father, served in the Civil War; Catherine, who married William Swetland; and Mary, who married H. D. Manion.

H. D. and Mary (Kivell) Manion were married in Vermont and came about the same time as her people, locating on a farm in eastern Winfield. Their children were: Patrick, on the home place—married Joan Healy; Nancy, Reedsburg; Janie, and

District No. 4, Winfield was organized about 1860, and Michael.

Patrick Whitty, who is known to have taught there in the early days, was possibly the first teacher. Among those particularly interested in organizing the district we can mention: H. D. Manion, Seth Swetland, Albert Hawkins, Edward McQuade, Isaac Johnson, Samuel Ray, Nicholas Rossiter, Michael Kivell, Thomas Carroll, Franklin Johnson, William Sherman and Francis Meckler.

Albert Hawkins' wife was a daughter of Michael Kivell.

Samuel Ray was the father of Andrew and William Ray, well known to Reedsburg people.

Francis Meckler's daughter married Louis Hirt, and now resides in Dutch Hollow.

DUTCH HOLLOW

Possibly the first settler in this community was William Reynolds, German pioneer, and he was followed by the Sher-mans, Mecklers, Elsessers, Alonzo Ford, a veteran of the early American Wars, is said to have been the first Irish settler in Dutch Hollow. The hollow or valley takes its name from its early German pioneers.

MISCELLANY

The first marriage in the town was probably that of George Pelton to Miss Phoebe Montross which occurred on November 16, 1854. Another early marriage was that of Miss Ann McIntosh to Mr. George Hague in 1855.

Quite an excitement occurred in the autumn of 1853. Adelia Darrow Fish writes of this event: "One day in September a little five-year-old daughter of Mr. Flynn was sent after the cows. It grew dark, and as the child did not return, the family became

alarmed and set out to find her. Soon the whole neighborhood was aroused and forty or fifty, with all the lanterns that could be found, were scouring the woods. There was small hope of finding her alive, as there were wolves and other wild animals running at large at that time, but before midnight she was found at the foot of a tree, exhausted from weeping and trying to find her way home. She said she couldn't find the cows on the commons, didn't want to return without them and lost her way looking for them in the woods.'

The town of Winfield was named at a meeting held in November, 1852. It is said to have been named in honor of Winfield Scott, who was at that time running for the presidency against Franklin Pierce. Henry A. Darrow is credited with having made the suggestion.



REEDSBURG, PHOTOGRAPHED FROM AEROPLANE
by E. W. Meyer

WOODLAND

LITTLE BARABOO VALLEY

The settlement of this town, the most westward extremity of Sauk County, lying squarely west of La Valle township, dates from 1848. A man by the name of William Richards is said to have been the first white man to enter its wilds. Possibly the next settler was one John Rice, who is accorded the distinction of having been the first to take up land in this community. He settled on the southeast quarter of section 36, also at that time. Other settlers to come that year were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moore, one Mr. Kingsley, and Isaac Jay.

Beyond all doubt John D. R. Mitchell was the next of the Woodland pioneers. This gentleman was of Scotch descent, a native of Massachusetts. He is said to have led a very interesting early life, to have accumulated considerable wealth, and to have traveled extensively, making two trips to England. He married his wife, Catherine Evans, in London. She was of a very wealthy Birmingham family, and they were married decidedly against the will of her people, as she was but 16 years of age and he was a foreigner. They lived in London eight years, then came to America, locating in New York City, where they conducted a large hotel. The main guests at this hotel were sailors, and Captain Cook, who first sailed around Cape Horn, was one who stopped with them. They remained in New York until 1848 when Mr. Mitchell came west, stopping in McHenry County, Illinois, where he had a sister living. The sister was Mrs. Nehemiah Austin.

About this time Mr. and Mrs. Nehemiah Austin, having planned the trip for some time, left their McHenry County home, to take up a tract of virgin wilderness in the Little Baraboo Valley. The journey was made with a wagon and team of horses, together with other things they would need in a new and wild country. This was the first team of horses brought into the entire Upper Baraboo Valley; and old "Jim" was the first horse shod in the Village of Cazenovia, by a Mr. Tinker.

The Austins located land in the Little Baraboo Valley, some two miles west of the present site of the village of Ironton. Mr. Mitchell probably followed them some weeks later; it is known that he took up his land, what is now the farm of Mrs. Rufus Owen, that year, 1848, the first settlement in the Little Baraboo Valley, town of Woodland. Returning to New York he continued his business there until the spring of 1850, when he sold out and came to Woodland to settle. He built a house on his land and his family joined him in November of that year. Mr. Mitchell brought with him from the East, a stove, one of the first stoves to be brought into Northwestern Sauk County, and the first to the town of Woodland.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell brought with them three children; John D. R., Jr., who married Lydia George and resided in Woodland, Catherine (Mrs. Elijah Dyson), Charles, who married Laura B. Bennett and went to Nebraska in 1873. Two others, James, married Mary Dyson and spent his life in Woodland, and William H., who married Ellen Shattauch and now of Peterson, Minnesota, were born in Woodland. Charles Mitchell has two daughters, Mrs. Thomas Cox and Mrs. E. L. Wood, both residing in Woodland. William Mitchell had a large family and two of his daughters, Mrs. B. U. Seamans and Mrs. Feight are of Sauk County residence.

Prior to the return of John D. R. Mitchell, one John Kelley had settled on what is now known as the old St. Claire place, about one mile northwest of Ironton. It was with the Kelley family that the Mitchells stayed until their own house was completed. At that time the nearest house west of the Mitchell place was at Debello, ten miles distant.

"There was an Indian village on the Mitchell place, about twenty rods from the house and the Indians were very troublesome though not warlike," writes Mrs. B. U. Seamans in an article on local history published in the Free Press some years ago. "It was a village of fifteen tepees."

Other settlers of 1850 were Mr. and Mrs. Abram Langdon, Mr. and Mrs. Hayden and Alexander Camp.

1851—Mr. and Mrs. James Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Ephriam Sands and James Burwell.

The year of 1852 brought rapid settlement to Woodland, especially up and down the Little Baraboo Valley. Possibly Mr. and Mrs. Mark Davis were first of those who settled in this community. They were in the vanguard of Indiana Quakers who were to come and as it were, found what is today said to be the only Quaker Church in Wisconsin. Mr. Davis was an inspired Quaker preacher, and was able to quote the Bible from memory, hours at a time. His ministrations were made up chiefly from these quotations.

Mark and Rebecca Davis were the parents of several children: Hadley, married Betty, daughter of Benjamin Pickering; Jacob, married Mary Ann, sister of Betty; Neal, married for his third wife, Mary Cammack, daughter of William Cammack, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Elihu Presnall came simultaneously with the Davis family, Mrs. Presnall having been a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Davis. They were also from Indiana and Quakers.

Other families who came that year were: Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jay, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Meek, and Luke and Eliza Hall. The latter couple will be remembered as possibly the first negro family to locate in the Upper Baraboo Valley. We would mention the Wallace children, Mary, Ed., Mrs. George Vergeront.

1853—No year in the early annals of pioneering brought more permanent settlers into the Little Baraboo Valley, than this. Many of them were Quakers, and hailed from the aguey lowlands of Indiana. These were the esteemed old Quaker families, and it is written that they “drove in covered wagons westward in search of a more healthy country and climate, and for some unknown reason, perhaps because of the pure water supply, took up land in the Little Baraboo Valley . . .” This was the beginning of the Settlement of the Friends, though many came later who were not Quakers.

James Stanley and his wife Jemina, and family were among these. Mr. Stanley, like Mr. Davis, was an inspired minister and often preached in the Quaker church which was later founded. He had two children, one of whom, Hulda, married William, also a child of Benjamin Pickering. Jessa and Hannah Dennis, the former a minister, Frances and Louisa Jones, Zimri and Pheriba Small, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Small, Bailey and Betty Pearson,

Solomon and Martha Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Pickering, Mr. and Mrs. William Badgley, John Horine, Henry and Rachel Horine, Wilson and Martha Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gaylord Blakeslee, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Tennall, George Henry, Adam Fight, Burford Tunnel, William All and Jessie Mallow and Simeon Mortimer came that year.

Others were Mr. and Mrs. William Mann and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mason. Mr. and Mrs. William Mann had at a much earlier date resided east of the Ohio river, but early moved to the Quaker settlement in Indiana, where they remained until coming to Woodland, they locating on a farm in the Settlement of Friends, later known as far-famed Friendswood, seat of Quakerism in all Wisconsin. With Mr. and Mrs. Mann came a numerous family, one son, Richard Mann, meriting especial mention here. He was born in Ohio, in 1830, went to Indiana, where he was married in 1852, to Mary A. Jones, and accompanied his people to Friendswood in 1853. Other children besides he were: Lewis, married Sarah Jane Jones, and finally removed to Kansas; Thomas; Jonathan, who spent his later years in Iowa; Sammy, who gave his life in the Civil War; Amos, married Addie Gregory first, and Sattie Davis, second. He, also, went to Iowa.

It was his second wife whom Thomas Mason brought to Friendswood. His first wife, who died in Indiana bore him five children, as follows: Edith, who with her husband, William Bates was to come the following year; Mary, wife of Thomas Addington, who remained in Indiana; Melinda, wife of Meredith Beeson (the Beesons accompanied her people here)—after the death of his wife, Mr. Beeson married the widow of Richard Mann; Elihu who remained in Indiana; and Eliot.

After the death of his first wife, Thomas Mason married his second, Mahala Pucket, who accompanied him to Woodland. To this union were born eight children, all of whom came to the Little Baraboo Valley:

Nathan. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Isaac and Ruth (Jones) Meek, and had ten children: Mary Elizabeth, married L. G. Gray, now of Portage; Isaac, who married Flora E., daughter of Richard Mann, now residing in Reedsburg; Thomas, married Clementine Sinclair of Ironton, now of Miltonvale, Kansas; Eli, married Minnie Pearson, now of Sioux

Falls, S. D.; Walter and Charles, who went to Iowa and married sisters—Charles, now of Glendale, Arizona; Walter of Idaho; Miles, now of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Luzena, married Morton Edgerton, now of Tabor, Iowa; Nora, wife of F. Whipple of Farington, Wisconsin, deceased; John of Harrison, Nebraska; Ida, (Mrs. Ida Kinney), Iowa City, Iowa.

Elwood Mason, son of Thomas, married Martha, daughter of Ephriam Bundy. They had several children, two of whom were: Clara (Mrs. Clara Sheldon) of Ontario, California; C. G., of Wichita, Kansas.

Gilla, married Will F. Bundy, and eventually went to Iowa. Clarinda, who removed to Warren, Illinois.

Isom, who married Margaret Thomas and went to Minnesota.

James, who died at the age of sixteen on Sherman's March to the Sea.

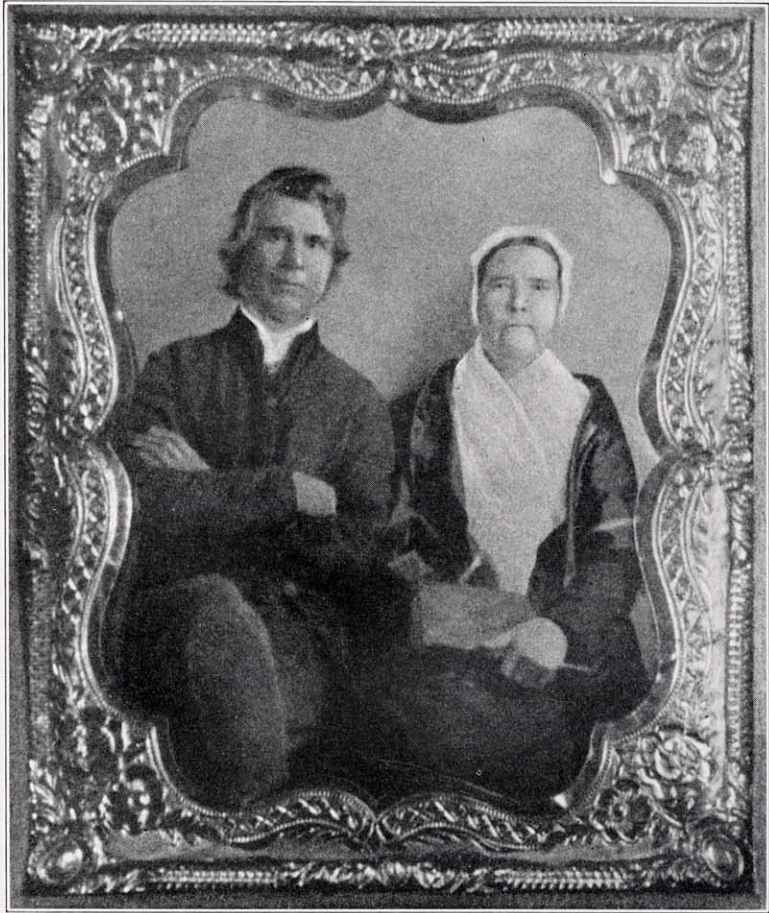
Falitha, who married George Canfield and lives at Luverne, Minnesota. They had two children, one of whom was Bertha (Mrs. Frank Shurr), now residing at that place.

The year of 1854 brought a number of other families, some of them Quakers, to Friendswood and other sections of the township. Among them were the following: Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Pickering, Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. William Broas, John Thomas, Berry and Polly Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. George Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Alpheus Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dyson, Mr. and Mrs. John Fessey, Meredith and Melinda Beeson, William and Bethany Jordan, Eli Holingsworth, William Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dyson, Solomon and Mary Cook, Fielder and Martha Brown, Jabez and Sarah Brown, Ephraim and Elizabeth Bundy.

We are able to make extended mention of some of these families. William A. Broas, son of William and Lucinda (Cleveland) Broas, was a native of Broome County, New York; his wife, whose maiden name was Emeline R. Shephard, was a daughter of Robson and Polly (Burton) Shephard and was a native of Cortland County, New York. The family came to Walworth County, Wisconsin, in 1851, thence to the town of New Buffalo, now Fairfield, and then to Woodland. They had eight children: Allen A., who married Emeline Thornton, and

resided in Woodland; Burton B., married Mary Mohler, resided in Woodland; Chancy T., Phoebe A., Mary A., Lucy, John and Albert:

Far down in Indiana where this colony of eastern Friends had settled at an ungiven date when the Hoosier State was the



MR. AND MRS. FIELDER BROWN

western frontier, there were tied a number of hymeneal knots, which were to result in the transformation of the wilderness of the Little Baraboo into a valley of kinship. There moved from an eastern state one Bundy family which had as its members, among others, one daughter and two sons, Martha, Ephriam, and

Phenias. The name of the father is not available at this writing. It is very little, indeed, that we know of this Bundy family. Possibly the first fact to be recorded is the marriage of Martha, the daughter, to Fielder Brown, about 1820, sooner or later. Nor, is it known the place of her marriage. Suffice it to say that Fielder and Martha continued to reside in the Hoosier state until their removal to Woodland. They were the parents of three children, Mary, Charlotte, and Jabez. Mary was the wife of Solomon Cook; Charlotte was a young lady, who later, in 1856, became the wife of Nathan Pickering; Jabez, was the husband of Sarah Durlfonger; and all three of the children of Fielder and Martha were to come with them to the Little Baraboo Valley.

Ephriam Bundy resided in Indiana also, until 1854. In Indiana a numerous family were born to him: Martha, married Elwood Mason; Will F. Bundy, who was an accomplished physician, a learned scholar, and poet, one of whose poems appears in this work; George, who married a daughter of Neal Davis, and eventually went to Kansas; Jabez, who married Maria Coucher first, and Margaret Stephen, second, and resided in Montana; Mary, who married Manliel Williams, son of John Williams; Eva (Mrs. Eva Berry) now of Baraboo; Myron Phenias Bundy, brother of Ephriam, came hither the following year.

Benjamin Pickering, mentioned among the settlers of 1854, was born October 15, 1808, and died October 17, 1892. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Moffet, was born March 31, 1809



MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN PICKERING

and died in 1888. Their son Nathan and his wife, Charlotte Brown, who later moved to Iowa, were prominent characters in the early history of Friendswood and have a number of representatives still living in the Reedsburg community. Of their nine children, only five are living: Emma, who married first Thomas Fitzgerald of Ironton and later widowed married Mr. Friday of Richland Center; Celestine, who married Walter Craker, and is an active personage in Reedsburg; Sanford L., now a resident of Pasadena, Calif.; Charles, in Ohio, and Edna, wife of Phillip Bowtts, also of Pasadena.

Solomon and Mary (Brown) Cook were the parents of six children all of whom became outstanding citizens of the communities in which they resided: Antoinette, who married Andrew J. Coryell and resided in Woodland for many years (more of them appears later); Ella C., who married Charles Veeder, lived for some years in Woodland, and went with the Quakers to Whittier, Cal.; Sarah, who married Lewis Williams, and also went to Whittier; Drusilla, who married Ezra, son of Neal Davis; Charles and Caleb Cook, both of California.

Few of the early Quaker men were more widely known than the late, honored Mr. Jabez Brown, for nearly thirty years one of Sauk County's foremost school teachers. His children were: Alonzo, who founded Brown's Preparatory School in Philadelphia in 1876; Lorenzo, who married Emma Hackett, North Freedom and later went to Dakota; George, who is now connected with the Philadelphia school; Eva (Mrs. George Lilly) of Salem, Washington; Fielder S., who married Agnes Dickey of North Freedom and lived in Dolan, S. D.; Miss Melissa Brown, who conducts the Brown's Cafeteria on State Street, Madison, Wisconsin; Miss Valeria Brown, with the Brown's Preparatory School in Philadelphia; Viola Catherine (Kate) who married a Mr. Chamberlain of Dakota; and Orin.

The settlers of 1855 were: Mr. and Mrs. William Clemens, Jesse Mallow, William and Edith Bates, Isaac Bates, Richard and Jane Bates, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Wright, Solomon and Elizabeth Moon, Caleb and Sarah Coryell, John and Elizabeth Sinclair, S. W. and Ann Sherman.

We would make especial mention of Caleb and Sarah Coryell. On their farm in this Little Baraboo Valley was run an inn

which is familiar to the people of this community as "The Valley House". This was conducted by Mr. Sands. The Coryell children were: Edward, died in boyhood; Andrew, married Antonette Cook. Mary Ann, married William Wood and will long be remembered as a prominent teacher and benevolent woman in the village of Ironton; and Emma.

The settlers of 1856 were numerous: Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Harvey and family, Mr. and Mrs. Phenias Bundy, Benjamin Cox, William and Elizabeth Cammack, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. William Stanley.

Mrs. Caleb Harvey, whose maiden name was Louisa, was a sister of Solomon Cook, and daughter of Nathan and Anna (Wickersham) Cook. They were, prior to their coming here, of the Quaker settlement in Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey were accompanied by their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan C. Harvey. The latter were married in Park County, Indiana the fall of 1856. Her maiden name was Mary A. Kersey, her parents being Stephen and Jemina Kersey. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan C. Harvey were: Clementine, Wilson B., George L., Anna L., Mary E., Horace G., Edward S., and James C.

William Cammack, pioneer ancestor of the Cammack name, had several children, four of whom are now living: William, married Lydia Williams, daughter of John and Eunice Williams; Mary, third wife of Neal Davis; Whalen; and two maiden daughters, all of Whittier, California. Mrs. Davis and William, son of William, died there.

Among the settlers of 1857, we can mention Louis and Sarah Hutchens, Levi and Maria Bunker.

1858—Wilson and Louisa Davis, William and Racheal Price, Calvin and Racheal Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Amacy Bunker.

1860—John Wickersham.

1861—Elwood Wright, Abner and Janette Stansbury, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Coach, John and Eunice Williams, Nathan Cook, Hiriam Cook, Virginia Cook. Mr. and Mrs. John Williams had eight children: Manley, married Mary Bundy; Luella (Mrs. Luther Packard); Louis; Lydia, widow of William Cammack, residing in Whittier, California; Frank and Will; Louisa and Linford. Nathan Cook was the father of Solomon Cook.

We are unable to state further of the families mentioned in the foregoing pages.

Some settlers for the year 1862 were: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kernon, and Mr. and Mrs. Mulhollen.

1863—Mr. and Mrs. Josephus Good; 1864—Mr. and Mrs. Abe Good.

Mr. and Mrs. Ain Ballenger, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hutchens, Mr. and Mrs. John Vorhees, Mr. Hess, and Mr. Vergeront were settlers about 1865. Considerable is known of Mr. and Mrs. Vorhees. They were both natives of Guernsey County, Ohio



MR. AND MRS. NATHAN PICKERING

where they were married and resided until coming to Woodland. Her maiden name was Mary A. Struble. Their family consisted of six children: Elizabeth, later Mrs. Thomas; George; Alpheus W., who married Melinda Griffe; William A.; Eliza C., who married John Sperrier, and lived in Woodland; and John R.

Other settlers for the period between 1865 and 1875 were: Mr. and Mrs. Ner Stowe, Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. George Stowe, Pres. Grubb, Mr. Bostwick, Isaac Pearson, George Woolever, Daniel Woolever, Mr. Brooman, Louis Gray, Mr. Noble, Reuben Farver, Stephen Long, Harmon Dean, Aaron Benbow, Dan Aber, Gregorys, Gibbeans, William Mullenix, Hans Thompson, Petersons, Seversons, Mosangs, Rufus Owen, Gardners. Ner Stowe and his wife, Ann Maw, came to America from Lincolnshire, England and settled in New

York prior to coming here. Four of their five children grew to maturity: Sarah, born in England, married Elwood Stanley, now widowed residing in Springfield, South Dakota; Mary, widow of Charles Noble, residing in Baraboo; William, married Sarah Harrison, Ironton; George, married Selina Pearson.

CHRONICLE OF THE MORTIMER FAMILY

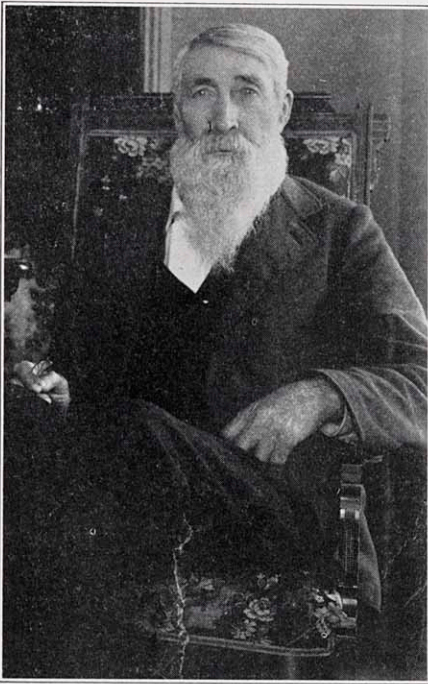
Possibly no family in the Upper Baraboo Valley has more members of the pioneer name than this. The first to locate in Woodland, was Mr. Simeon Mortimer, who, with his wife, im-

migrated from Wiltshire, England, in 1853. He was born in 1826, son of Michael and Mary (Rogers) Mortimer, and spent his early life in his natal country, where he married, in September, 1849, Miss Sarah Buell. Upon coming to Woodland they located near the present village of Valton, where they ever after resided. They had four children:

John E. Mortimer, who married Rhoda Small — had seven children—Bert, married Susan Mosang; Walter, deceased; Ralph, married Effie Colvin; Adolph, married Millie Stowe; Cimeon, married Nellie Hansen; Millie, married Arthur Hutchin. Other children of Simeon Mortimer were:

Mary, who married Charles Jordan; Noah, who married, first, Winnie Green and second, Anna Lyon; and Albert, who married Mary Snyder.

In 1885 two of Mrs. Simeon Mortimer's brothers, John and James Buell, came to America, and upon entering the country, had the name "Buell" set aside and the name Mortimer legalized. Continuing on to Woodland they bought land and established



JABEZ BROWN. See page 419

themselves and their posterity in the town. In 1856 John Buell Mortimer married Phoebe Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, pioneers of the town in 1855. To them were born nine children:

Martha; Wilson, married Della Horton, daughter of Eli Horton—of whom a biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; Mary (Mrs. Harvey), California—her children are Caleb, Lennie (deceased), Mannie and Della Harvey; Maria (deceased); Charles (deceased); Edward, of California—his children are Gladys (deceased); Vern, Clair, Dorothy; Abe, South Dakota; May (deceased).

James Buell Mortimer married, first, Margret Toole and second, Malinda Wolderman, and had twelve children: George, Washington—his children are Margaret, Marion, Stanley, Herbert and Helen; Sarah (Mrs. Ballentine)—her children are George, William, Paul B. and Mary Ballentine; Mary (Mrs. Becker)—her children are Mortimer and Lois Becker; Maggie, married Mr. Wheeler—her children are Max, Esther and Grace Wheeler; Lizzie (deceased); Nathan—children, Hollis and Doris Mortimer; James—sons, Gilbert, Virgil, Wayne; Frank—son, Avard; Ruth (Mrs. Theus)—children, James, George, Robert and Theodore; Tillie (Mrs. Jackson)—children, Arland, Thelma, Wilma and Gale; Glen—children, Maurice, Jerome, Verna, Vivian and Marcella; Thressa (Mrs. Leatherbery)—children, Clifford, Arlene, Bonard and Ives.

In 1863 a third brother of Mrs. Simeon Mortimer, Samuel Buell, came to America from England, and he, too, adopted the name of Mortimer. He brought his wife with him, and her maiden name was Selina Chapman. They likewise located in Woodland, and were the parents of nine children, as follows: Sarah (Mrs. Lawhorns), who was born in England—has two sons, Clarence and Ray; Mary, who married Mr. Bradley, and had two children, George and Mable; Ella (Mrs. Bridge)—children, Ray, Russell, Everett and Grace; William—children, Cecil, Clinton (deceased), Roy and Thelma; Martha (Mrs. Jones)—her children are Floyd, Amos, Lyle (deceased), Evelyn and Ardith; Fred—one son, Lee; David—has four children, Oliver, Adelbert, Hartzel, Willis; Lester—his children are Jennie, Everett, Harold, Grace, Clinton and Gerald; Bessie (deceased).

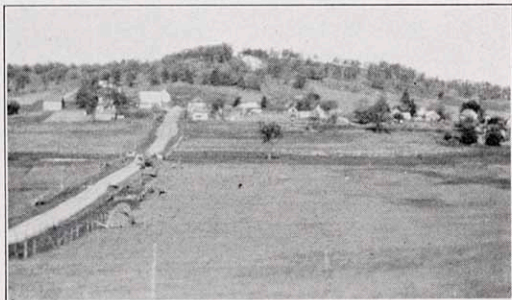
This simple chronicle, incomplete though it is, is printed here, that it may aid in preserving a history of this great family for generations to come, and commemorate the achievements of its founders, Simeon, John, James and Samuel Mortimer.

WOODLAND POSTOFFICES

The first postoffice in the Little Baraboo Valley was established at Ironton in the days when the foundry was being opened. But the rapid settlement of the valley further west made it necessary for mail to be brought to a point nearer the Quaker settlement. Consequently, in the spring of 1857, Hiram Cook received the appointment of postmaster and a postoffice called Oaks was established, a little west of the far-famed Settlement of Friends. This postoffice was discontinued later and established beside the Quaker Church. The postoffice was then called Friendswood. It was later discontinued, however, and the one at Oaks re-established. Eli Horton was then appointed postmaster. In 1866, further up the valley, another postoffice was established called Valton. Alonzo McKoons was appointed postmaster. He was followed by William Bedell, the latter by William Craig, and he in turn by Lester Clemens.

VALTON

Valton is picturesquely situated in the western extremity of the Little Baraboo Valley, surrounded by high rugged hills, commanding a view far down the Little Baraboo Valley to the east. The first settlement at this point was a mill, opened about 1856. A general store was opened in '57 by Samuel Mann. The next year, '58, another was opened by the Davis Brothers & Beeson Company.



VALTON FROM THE SOUTH

Today the most conspicuous structure in the Village is possibly Bert Mortimer's Store, situated on a decided elevation. Other buildings which figure in the life of the community are the

new schoolhouse, erected during 1928, the Quaker Church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

HISTORICAL FACTS

The first school taught in the town of Woodland was conducted by Mrs. Jane Gill, during the summer of 1855. It was taught in the house of Mark Davis, but before the term was out, a new schoolhouse on Section 33 had been completed, and the term was finished in this, the first schoolhouse in the town of Woodland.

Some vital records will be of interest. The first marriage was that of David Fancher who married Mrs. Jane Gill in October, 1855, Squire Blakeslee of Ironton officiating. The first birth in the town occurred March 7th, 1853, a son James, born to Mr. and Mrs. John D. R. Mitchell. The first fatality was that of Ameda Kingsley in the summer of 1854. She was a girl eight years of age. The first Quaker burials were made in a little cemetery plat in the woods about one-half mile east of the Oaks cemetery. The first interments were Mrs. Mark (Nellie) Davis and Mrs. Elizabeth Stafford, mother of Mrs. Ephriam Bundy.

The land contained within the present confines of the town of Woodland was first given political form in April, 1852 when it was organized as a part of one large township with the territory of La Valle, Ironton and Washington, under the name of Marston. Woodland in its present form appears not to have been established until some years later, for the first election was held April 7, 1857. Walter L. Clemens was elected Chairman; Benjamin Pickering and E. R. West, Side Supervisors; George F. Wood, Clerk; John Fessey, Treasurer; Isaac H. Stoltz, Assessor. At this meeting \$150.00 was raised for town expenses, \$200 for school purposes, and \$50 for the poor. Forty-three votes were cast at this election.

STORY OF THE QUAKER CHURCH

We have seen how, over a period of a very few years, a dozen or more Quaker families from the settlement of Friends in Indiana, came to Woodland and established their faith, where it was destined to play a great part in the history of that township,

and where it was to survive in an embodied church to the present time. Space does not permit but a brief history of this institution.

“ . . . In 1855 it was thought that a sufficient number of Friends had settled in the Valley to maintain a Friends’ meeting. Accordingly one was organized in the home of Jabez Brown and his father, Fielder Brown, who then lived in a little log house beside the creek,” wrote Mrs. Lydia M. Williams-Cammack, continuing: “Thirty charter members were on the list recorded including four ministers. As Friends’ ministers never received



OLD ABANDONED QUAKER CHURCH, LITTLE BARABOO VALLEY,
TOWN OF WOODLAND

salaries in those days, and spoke only when the spirit moved them, there was no thought of any embarrassment over the number of preachers for the congregation of thirty.

“In 1856 a little log ‘Friends Meeting House’ was built about three miles west of Ironton, and a Sabbath School organized a little later . . . A Reading Circle was organized in this log church and young and old alike went to read and hear read tracts and good books . . . Later a sort of private school was organized that the children might begin a guarded education. Antoinette Cook (Antoinette Coryell) was the teacher.

“Death early claimed three of the original ministers, and James Stanley, saint of all the valley . . . remained as shep-

herd of the flock for more than forty years and was assisted by others who came to the calling of preachers later."

Among those of the early Friends who led devotionals were Antoinette Coryell, Mrs. William (Hannah) Mann, Jessa Dennis, Thomas Mason, Coryells, Mark Davis, and Benjamin Pickering and others, perhaps not brought to the writer's attention.

By 1867 the congregation had outgrown their rudimental place of worship and now elected to build a new Quaker Church at a point three and one-half miles west of Ironton, which was called Friendswood. This structure was thirty by fifty feet, with a large meeting hall and a room on the second floor for school purposes.

FRIENDS' ACADEMY

"After the death of Mary Cook," wrote Mrs. Cammack, "and the moving to Madison of the Jabez Brown family, Antoinette Coryell was the moving spirit . . . She inaugurated a plan to fulfill the design of the builders of the church, to have a school in the upper story. The upper room was finished and the school advertised. Jesse Kellum of Earlham College, Indiana, was hired as teacher. Friendswood Academy was opened on the 6th day of October, 1884 with an enrollment of thirty-two:

Mattie Ballenger, C. A. Battey, Clemma Beeson, Eddie J. Cannon, Drusilla Cook, Ella Coryell, Fred Coryell, Ezra Davis, May Gardner, Lillie Grover, C. H. Hamburg, H. E. Harvey, Anna Harvey, Stephen Horine, Julia Horine, Lizzie Horine, T. F. Lawrence, John Mortimer, Mary Mortimer, Charles Pickering, Sanford Pickering, Eunice Presnall, Alice Price, Lester Price, Maetie Reeve, Susie Thompson, Louise Williams, George Wilson, Jr., Etta Ballenger, Charles O. Cook, Stephen Davis, and C. Mann.

And so the years went by, the generations passed on to their eternal resting, the babes grew into ennobled men and women. The parents who accompanied their grown children and grandchildren into the wilds of the Little Baraboo Valley, many of them now slumber under the sod of the cemetery at Oaks. The second generation, too, had ceased to hold dominion over the reaches of this beloved valley. The grandchildren have assumed

life's responsibilities and the fourth generation was now nearing man's estate.

We have but a brief statement to make. Let us tell how this great Quaker Church at Friendswood was taken down and how, out of its lumber, a smaller structure was erected, further up the valley, near the Oaks Cemetery and school, about 1893.

The story of this church, though it be not an ancient structure, is that of a hallowed landmark. There it stands today, far down on the valley, near the banks of the stream, abandoned, unfrequented save by those who happen by, whose lofty sentiments are stirred by the glory that it holds.



PRESENT QUAKER CHURCH
AT VALTON

So the old Quaker Church at Friendswood, later at Oaks, now at Valton—at Valton since about 1910—continues to expound its great doctrines, enshrining itself in the hearts of the townspeople.

A short resume, telling of the achievements of the descendants of some of the Quaker pioneers, we will read in the following article, written especially for this volume by Mrs. Lydia M. Williams-Cammack, 446 North Washington Avenue, Whittier, California.

WHY SOME OF THE QUAKERS WENT TO CALIFORNIA

The urge which resulted in the building up of the West during the '70s and '80s had taken many of the individual families out of the Little Baraboo Valley and scattered them far and wide. Thus the strength of the Quaker Church was being weakened, as the Friends moved away from their meeting places, and were assimilated with other churches.

This was a condition that was not local, but national in scope and resulted in the founding of the Quaker Church, shown in the accompanying illustration. The part that the people of Friendswood played in this great and highly successful movement is the story of faith and providence; to tell it is the purpose of this sketch.

A few of the Friends (Quakers) of Chicago were intensely interested in keeping the church body together for united strength in promulgating the principles and customs of life that were the heritage of the sect. Accordingly they formed the "Pickering Land and Water Company" and sent Acquilla Pickering and his wife, distant relatives of the Pickerings of Friendswood, to spy out a piece of land in California, where a colony of Quakers might be founded.

During the winter of 1886 and '87 they traveled extensively in Southern California, and after visiting many localities, chose the sloping land at the base of the Puente foot-hills, about twenty miles north of Long Beach, and sixteen miles east of Los Angeles, about half-way between the mountains and the ocean. They purchased two tracts of land adjacent to each other, making a tract of 1,265½ acres, for the sum of \$69,890.00 and began advertising the colonization project in the church paper. Friendswood Quakers read of the plan, and Antoinette Coryell was the first to suggest the venture. The Nathan Pickering family was then planning to move to Iowa; others had already gone west. But this was a call to Southern California!

Mr. Andrew Coryell, Antoinette's husband, communicated with the Chicago company, and was among the first to depart for the new land. He reported promptly of his venture to the Quakers of the Little Baraboo Valley, and within a short time parts of five families were on their way to the land of promise. The families were: Mrs. Andrew Coryell and six children; Solomon Cook and his wife (they were Antoinette Coryell's father and mother) and another daughter and a son; Charles and Ella C. Veeder of Ironton; Nele Davis, his wife and son and daughter; Charles Hamburg, a young man related by marriage to the Mitchells; and others from Ironton, not Quakers, were also in the crowd.

The summer's crop of mustard-seed had been harvested with a header, for the land had lain idle since its purchase. It had before been a broad barley field, grazed over after harvest by a great drove of sheep. When the Friendswood pilgrims reached it, only one house stood on the whole tract. Water was soon developed, the land was laid out in lots, and in five, ten and twenty-acre tracts and the place was named Whittier, in honor of the Quaker

poet, Whittier, and the streets were named in honor of other famous Quakers. The Friendswood people bought and went to work building. For a time they all lived together in a little house Mr. Coryell had previously constructed, twenty-one of them in one room. Within a short time, however, each family had reared a house and begun to make improvements.

Louis Williams' family who had gone from Friendswood to Dakota, was the next to join the colony, coming that fall. His son, Whittier Williams, was the first child born in the City of Whittier, and was named by an aunt who was at the time still residing in Friendswood.

Ella C. Veeder, formerly of Ironton, wrote the following poem, which was used as an announcement for the colony:

WHITTIER

Where Whittier stands, once the mustard bloom
 Overspread the ground, like the woof in a loom,
 Shimmered and glowed in the sunshine warm,
 Like the gold lace on a uniform.
 Multitudes came, as effect follows cause,
 Demonstrating the fact that mustard draws.
 All went to work as busy as bees,
 Building and plowing and planting trees;
 Now the fruits mature, and the flowers grow faster,
 Where Whittier wore the mustard plaster.
 High school and college and works of art,
 Prove that the mustard made Whittier smart.
 Friends, come to Whittier, and come to stay,
 Where the golden mustard once held sway.

Martha Cammack, formerly of Valton, was the next arrival, coming thither from Iowa.

In 1892 William Cammack and his wife, formerly Lydia M. Williams, and their foster-son, came in from the Quaker Valley in Woodland and within a few years the Cammack brothers and sisters, numbering seven and a niece, Hattie Mann Bennett, who had lived near Valton, came in from Iowa. The Williams brothers and sisters, numbering eight, came and still

remain, all living near Whittier at this writing, November 12, 1928.

Others who came to Whittier, who had preciously lived in the Quaker Valley or near it, are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Crook, and daughter Martha, and sons William and John Crook of Ironton, three families of Butmans, two of Groats, Harrisons, Pearsons, Stephen Horine and family and two sisters, Greenouchs, Jones, Walter Clemons and wife and daughter, Milton Smiths, and Will Halls; Nelson Tabor and wife and children, Macy and Hattie Ballard, and their families; Charles Cook and family; Edd Bailey and wife; Clara Mason Sheldon; Thomas Page and wife and sister; Tom Cannon and family; Horace Harvey and family and niece; Sanford Pickering and family and sisters Minnie and Edna and his mother Mrs. Nathan Pickering; and the W. E. Moon and Willie Beeson families.

The first school in Whittier was taught by Ella C. Veeder. Lou Henry (Mrs. Herbert Hoover) graduated from the first academy, which school is now beautiful Whittier College on the hill, seven fine buildings and five hundred students. The first building erected after the homes, was the Friends' Church, now rebuilt three times. It is now the largest Friends' Church in the world, with 1,500 members, and many departments of work. The little town, which the Friends of Friendswood were helpers in founding, has grown to be a city of about 18,000 inhabitants, a city known far and wide for its religious qualities, educational excellence and beautiful situation. John Greenleaf Whittier, pleased that the city should have been named in his honor, wrote the following poem:

WHITTIER TO WHITTIER

The name my infant ear first heard
Breathed softly with a mother's kiss:
"His mother's own", no tenderer word
My father spake than this.

No child have I to bear it on,
Be thou its keeper; let it take
From gifts well used and duly done
New beauty for thy sake.

The fair ideals that outran
 My falting footsteps, seek to find
 The flawless symmetry of man,
 The praise of heart and mind.

Yet when did age transfer to youth
 The hard-gained lessons of today?
 Each lip must earn that taste of truth,
 Each foot must feel its way.

Dear town for whom the flowers are born,
 Stars shine and song-birds sing,
 What can my evening give to morn?
 My winter to thy spring?

A life not void of pure intent,
 With small desert of praise or blame,
 The love I felt, the good I meant,
 I leave thee with my name.

—*John Greenleaf Whittier.*

And so, because we have forever left the dear old Quaker Valley at Friendswood, Town of Woodland, Sauk County, Wisconsin, we pass from the pages of this history, hoping, perchance, and believing that dear old Sauk County and Friendswood, we may never forget.



QUAKER CHURCH, WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA