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## History of Janesville. 1935

Janesville, Wisconsin: Janesville High School, 1935

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HISTORY

Dearest Ed:-  
 Remember all the  
 fun in English. Probably  
 next yr. you'll have your  
 lesson. As B. H. H.  
 Eugenia Hov.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

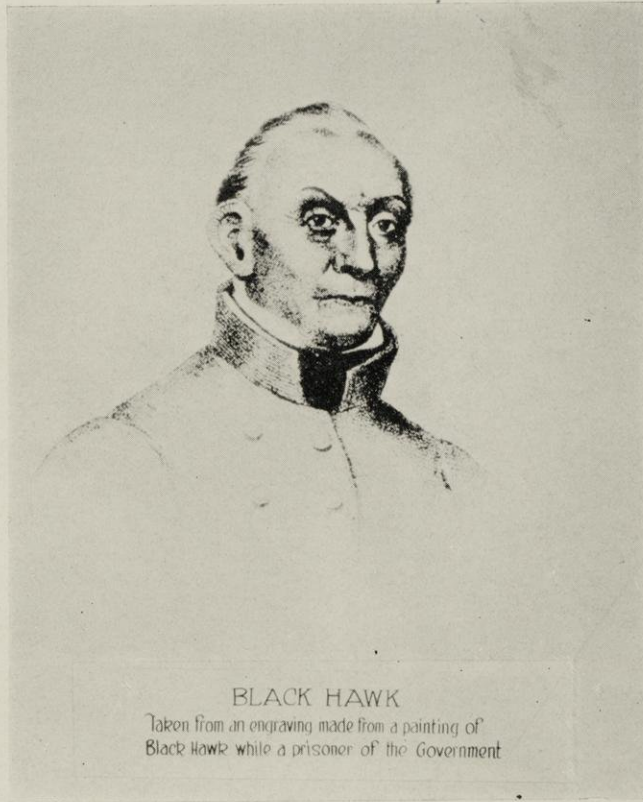
In our effort to make the History of Janesville complete and accurate, we have used every available source of information. Because we used such a large number of books, papers, and pamphlets, and our space is limited, we are not including our bibliography. We wish to thank all of you who gave us so generously your time, information, and material.

We are grateful to the following people for their special help in loaning material or giving interviews:

- |                        |                        |                                |
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| Miss Elizabeth Baumann | Janesville Fire Police | Mr. Otto Smith                 |
| Miss Grace Belding     | Mr. William Murphy     | Mr. Henry Traxler              |
| Mr. Stephen Bolles     |                        |                                |

## THE HISTORY

Constant change looks upon the history of transportation, from ingenuity, to greater usefulness, to the speed and beauty of today.



## HISTORY OF JANESVILLE

Picture Rock County before the year 1835,— a valley formed along a rocky river, everything wild, No civilized man had yet been there. The year of 1832 saw the gathering of Indian hordes within this territory. Black Hawk, the leader of the Sac Indians, had retreated up the Rock River, to a point just outside of what is known now as the City of Janesville, where the savages remained some-time in camp.

While Black Hawk was in camp at the Janesville grove, which afterwards received his name, the massacre at Ottawa, Ill. and the capture of Sylvia and Rachel Hall, who were brought to the present sight of Janesville, were memorable incidents of the Black Hawk War. After much hardships, they were ransomed from the Janesville camp, \$2,000 being paid in wampum, horses, and money. Through Rock County and north to Wisconsin river the Indians were driven by Gen. Atkinson, and Gen. Dodge.



Milwaukee St. looking East 1935



Milwaukee St. looking East 1896



Milwaukee St. looking East



Milwaukee St. looking East



*Remember the  
little boy with  
his rocks.  
Hirine  
Johnsons!*

Samuel W. St. John 1795-1849. Sophia Griffin his wife 1800-1836. Ann Foster his wife 1818-1842. First White Family on Rock River in Wisconsin Territory 1835. Erected by Janesville Chapter D. A. R. 1921.

### 1835

John Inman, George Follman, William Holmes, and Joshua Holmes arrived opposite "Big Rock" at Monterey. A claim was made and a cabin was built. They were soon followed by the first family to arrive in Janesville.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel St. John and children, Levi, Griffin, and Immogene moved into the cabin. The statistics for the year ending in 1835, were: a population of nine people with the total number of buildings being one.

### 1836

Seth B. St. John, born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel St. John in January, was the first white child born in the city limits. Mr. St. John made a claim and built a home in Black Hawk Grove.

Henry F. Janes arrived in the city and made a claim where the Meyers House now stands by carving his name in a tree. Several months later he brought his family. First election was held in the home of Samuel St. John.

Judge William Holmes and family moved to Janesville and later erected the first frame building in Janesville.

Mrs. Samuel St. John died, hers being the first death in Janesville.

John P. Dixon and wife arrived in Janesville from Vermont.

Hirine Brown and his family arrived at the cabin opposite "Big Rock".

W. H. H. Bailey arrived from Vermont and claimed land with Mr. Dixon in Spring Brook, which was known as the Dixon-Bailey addition. This territory was made a part of Racine County.

### 1837

Near the New Year, Henry F. Janes commenced running a ferry across Rock River, where Milwaukee street bridge now stands. He also ran a tavern which was situated near by.

A cigar box fastened on to the bar in Janes Tavern served as the postoffice. Mr. Janes, being installed postmaster, received the first letter.

Religious services were held in the open air under large oak trees or, when the weather was bad, in the Janes Tavern.

Hon. E. V. Whiton, later chief Justice of the state supreme court, settled in Janesville.

Three distinct villages had grown up in the present city of Janesville. They were known as "Rockport", "Wisconsin City", and "Janesville", which was surveyed by Henry F. Janes and named in his own honor.

Voluey Atwood arrived in Janesville and later married the belle of the village, Catherine Ann Holmes.



Main St. Janesville 1855



Williams House Burned 1877 Now the Site of  
Monterey Hotel



Main St Looking North 1935



Where the Grand Hotel used to be

1838

Charles Stevens erected a new hotel on the site of the present Meyers theater. It was a small building, one and a half stories high, and was known as the Janesville Stage House. A barrel of flour cost twenty dollars and a barrel of pork cost from thirty to forty dollars at this time.

1839

Ward and Lappin opened the first store in Janesville on the site now occupied by the clothing store of R. M. Bostwick. The stock of goods was worth \$350.

A territorial act was passed and an election was held, Janesville being suggested as the county seat of Rock County. Janesville made seat of Justice. Judge Irving presided over the first term of Circuit Court which was held in the Janesville Stage House.

The principle citizens of Janesville were, John P. Dixon, W. H. H. Bailey, Henry F. Janes, Judge Holmes, Charles Stevens, Luke Stoughton, Dr. Guy Stoughton, John L. Kimball, General Sheldon, and Thomas Lappin.

Mr. Janes moved Westward because there were too many settlers in Janesville. His name is found in many other cities going Westward, the Pacific Coast being the only thing that interfered with his going any further.



First Bridge to cross Rock River at Milwaukee Street (1842) 1. Shows Jackman-Smith Store. 2. Ford Flour Mill. 3. Tallman Block. 4. Peter Meyers Packing House.

1840

The first public school was opened in Janesville in a woods near Main Street. Miss Cornelia Sheldon was the teacher.

Commissioners replatted the city of Janesville.

1841

County Commissioners took measures looking towards the erection of a court house.

Second store opened near Lappin's, by D. A. Richardson.

McClure and Felton, a Milwaukee firm, also opened a store.





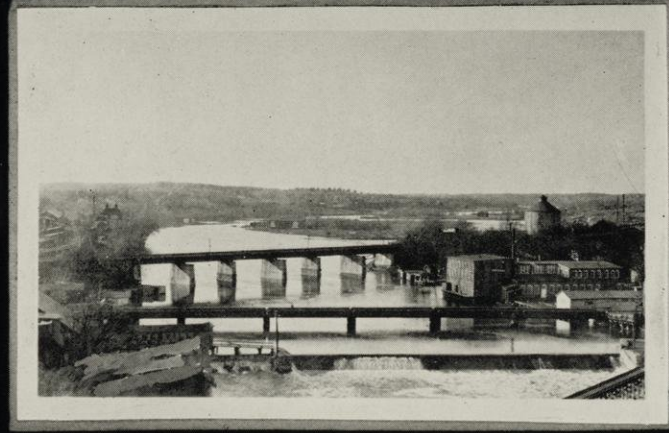
Air view of the west side of the river. Milwaubee St on the left. Janesville. 1934



Taken from upper end of Riverside Park looking south 1934



Jackson St. Bridge



Hydro Electric Plant & Gas works

## 1842

The court house was raised, roofed, and completed for occupancy.

A jail of logs was built, for the people of Janesville began to get unruly.

The first bridge was built by Charles Stevens, Thomas Lappin, and W. H. H. Bailey over Rock River. It was located on the site of the present Milwaukee St. bridge. It operated as a toll for nearly 10 years.

A. Hyatt Smith arrived in Janesville, and from the time of his arrival, Mr. Smith took a prominent part in the business enterprises of Janesville.

## 1843

The First Methodist Church organized with nine members.

A lumber yard was opened by Elbridge Fifield, who built many homes in Janesville.

There were 157 dwellings and 855 inhabitants in the city.

A charter was granted to A. Hyatt Smith, W. H. H. Bailey, Charles Stevens and others to establish an Academy in Janesville. A stone building was erected on High Street. Upper dam was built by Charles Stevens.

## 1844

Janesville Academy was opened with the Rev. Thomas J. Rugar as first teacher.

Trinity Episcopal Church organized with six communicants; Rev. Thomas J. Rugar, rector.

First Baptist Church organized with thirteen members; Rev. Jeremiah Murphy, pastor.

A steamboat came up the river from the Mississippi to celebrate "the fourth of July" by giving excursion parties. This was the last steamboat to reach Janesville from the Mississippi.

First brick block built on Main Street.

## 1845

The First Congregational Church was organized by Rev. C. H. Buckley with sixteen members.

The first building was erected by the public, it being a little one story brick schoolhouse. Orrin Guernsey was the first teacher in charge. It was located on the East side of Division Street between East Milwaukee and Court Street. Later another schoolhouse was built on Eastern Avenue. It was painted red and known as the "Little Red Schoolhouse."

A weekly paper was published by Levi Alden and E. A. Stoddard, it was called "The Janesville Gazette."

## 1846

The first bridge was built across Monterey, Captain Ira Miltimore was the contractor.

St. Patrick's (Catholic) Church services were held by Rev. Father Morrissey, who traveled to different towns. The services were held in the home of James Tarny, also baptisms and marriage ceremonies were held there.

## 1847

The first brick house was built by Peter Myers on North Main near Prospect Street.

St. Patrick's (Catholic) Church was built. It being a small brick building at the corner of Holmes and Cherry Street.

A mass meeting was held at the Stage House to consider a project for a railroad to Chicago.

The first secret society was organized in Janesville, being the Wisconsin Lodge No. 14 of Odd Fellows.

## 1848

The State of Wisconsin was admitted to the Union. The State Constitution was adopted by a vote of the people.

The Stevens House at the corner of Milwaukee and Franklin Streets was completed and opened. James Sutherland opened the first book store in Janesville.

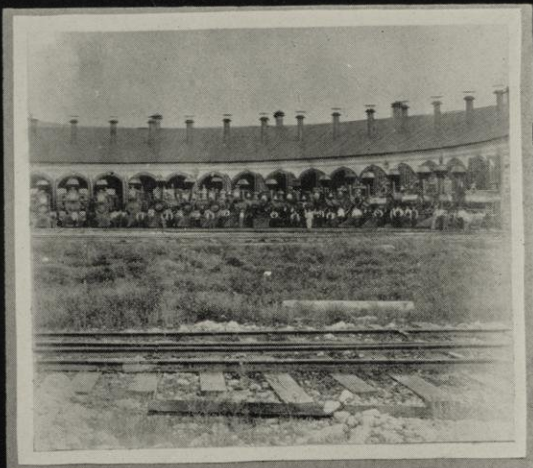
William Hodson brewery on North Main Street was destroyed by fire, also his residence at North Bluff and Pease Court.

First session of state legislature.

Monterey dam was built by Captain Ira Miltimore.

First telegraph office opened in Janesville, the wire running to Milwaukee, from there to Chicago and other points. A. Hyatt Smith was president of the company.

Trinity Episcopal Church was erected and consecrated. It was situated on corner of N. Jackson and W. Bluff Streets, the land being donated by A. Hyatt Smith.



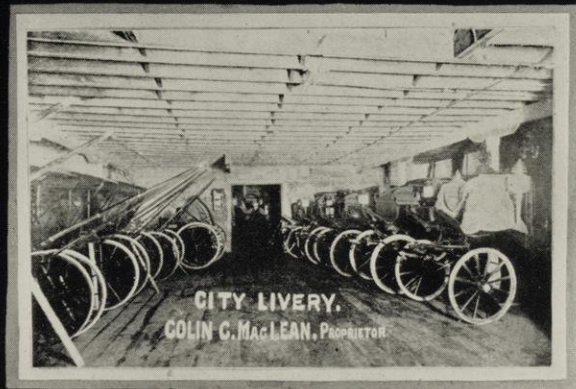
Wood Burning Engines



Jan. 10, 1853. the first Railway Locomotive Arrived in Janesville



Main St. Looking North from Court St.



Before the Garage

## 1849

The Monterey Woolen Mills were built on the present site of the Rock River Woolen mills. It was built by Frank Whitaker.

The school for the Education of the Blind was established in Janesville. It was first held in one of Ira Miltimore's buildings on Center Ave. Mr. Miltimore donated ten acres of land for the school (a portion being the present site). Josiah F. Willard was instrumental in bringing it to Janesville.

A daily mail service was established by the post office department between Milwaukee and Janesville. There were nine mail routes crossing Janesville, the arrival and departure of stages furnished daily excitement.

## 1850

The population of Janesville was 3,100.

## 1851

Oak Hill cemetery association organized and land purchased where cemetery now is. The ground now used by the Jefferson school was formerly used as a cemetery.

The first state fair was held.

The Baptist society built a church at the corner Cherry and Pleasant Streets.

The first ground was broken for the use of a railway between Fond du Lac and Chicago, it is now the Chicago and North Western Railway Company.

Three story building erected on Main Street by Ensign H. Bennett and J. F. Clapp being now a part of J. M. Bostwick and Sons.

The Ogden House, a five story building was built by J. M. May, for commercial purposes.

## 1852

Mt. Olivet (Catholic) cemetery dedicated. Rev. Father McFaul of St. Patrick's church purchased four acres of land east of Oak Hill cemetery.

## 1853

An act of incorporating the city of Janesville was approved March 19.

The city election followed and resulted in the choice of A. Hyatt Smith as Mayor. C. P. King was elected Superintendent of Schools.

Common council elected B. F. Pixeley as President. On election night, the Stevens House burned and endangered the whole city as there was only a volunteer bucket brigade to fight it. The Stevens House fire prompted the common council to take action on a better fire department and apparatus.

Completion of the Milwaukee and Mississippi railroad to this city.

U. S. Grant, visited Janesville with a party of railroad men, registering at the Old American House and staying over night.

## 1854

A new Milwaukee Street bridge was built to replace the old toll bridge.

Thomas Wallescrafft built a store building at the east end of the bridge. The lower portion was used as a postoffice, the upper part for a meeting hall of the Young Mens Christian Association.

The first number of the *Janesville Daily Gazette* was issued by Levi Alden and Charles Holt.

J. B. Doe was elected Mayor.

## 1855

The present system of graded schools was adopted by the city. The old academy was used as the central high school. Orrin N. Gorton was first teacher of public schools.

The Janesville fire department organized and two hand fire engines were purchased.

Andrew Algers found murdered; David F. Maberry arrested and convicted for the murder.

David F. Maberry was lynched in Court House Park after an infuriated mob had taken him from officers.

Rock County Bank organized; Timothy Jackman as president.

The central Bank of Wisconsin organized; O. W. Norton was president.

The Presbyterian Church organized with twelve members. Rev. M. Staples, pastor.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church organized with Rev. Adolph Preuss, pastor.

E. L. Dimock was mayor.



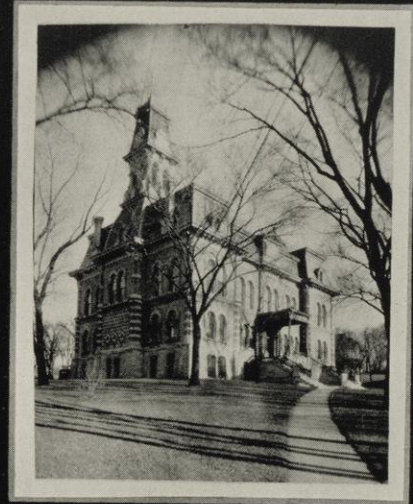
Notice the Lighting System



Note the Board Fence & Small Shrubs



Janesville Court House. Note the Pagoda in back and also the Board Walks



At Present 1935

## 1856

The Monterey bridge was rebuilt.

A bridge was built across the river between Court and Pleasant Streets.

Janesville police court established: Sanford A. Hudson, Police Justice.

The first Northwest passenger train arrived in Janesville on the Chicago St. Paul, and Fond du Lac Railroad.

The Janesville Gas Co. completed its plant, and gas was used as the new illuminator.



1. Hyatt House. 2. Tallman Blk. 3. Farmer Mills. 4. 1st. Tobacco warehouse. 5. Lumber Yard.

## 1857

The *Janesville Morning Gazette* made its first appearance, published by Charles Holt and Hirim Bowen.

Hyatt House was erected by A. Hyatt Smith on the site where the Stevens House burned. It was the most pretentious building of its day, being five stories high, and costing \$140,000. Leath's Furniture store now occupies the site.

Chester A. Arthur, later President of United States, registered at the Hyatt House. He was on a prospecting tour.

A. Hyatt Smith was Mayor.

## 1858

The Jefferson School building was erected at a cost of \$33,000. It stands on the highest elevation in the city and with its three stories and large cupola it still remains a landmark of the city.

The first class of Janesville High School graduated. The class consisted of three people; E. E. Woodman, M. Rosella Moon, Sahra Scofield. There were no graduation exercises.

The Young Mens' Christian Association of Janesville was organized by Joseph T. Wright.

Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company began business in Janesville.

## 1859

Chief Justice E. V. Whiton of State Supreme Court died. The county courthouse was totally destroyed by fire, leaving Rock County without an adequate home for its courts and records. Many important records were destroyed.



Looking west from where the  
Gazette is now



Milwaukee street showing the  
Jackman Building



West Milwaukee St., 1928



West Milwaukee St. about 1930

1867

The Hyatt House was totally destroyed by fire, the loss was estimated at \$140,000. Miss Maggie Burns, an employee of the hotel was caught on the fifth floor and burned to death.

Three days later, the Hanson and Morse furniture factory and the McChesney mill were totally destroyed by fire.

Baptist Church erected a brick church on South Jackson Street.

1868

The American House was destroyed by fire at the corner of Court and S. Main street, the loss was \$12,000.

Two steam fire engines were tested and purchased by the city. One was placed in each fire station on the east and west side of the river.

1869

Garrett Veeder and Sylvester St. John issued the "Rock County Recorder."



The Court House—Note the board walk.

1870

The Court House was erected at a cost of about \$75,000.

The Court Street Methodist Church was built and dedicated. It was on the site of the Old American House at the corner of S. Main and Court Street.

1871

Brick buildings were beginning to be erected on Main and Milwaukee Streets.

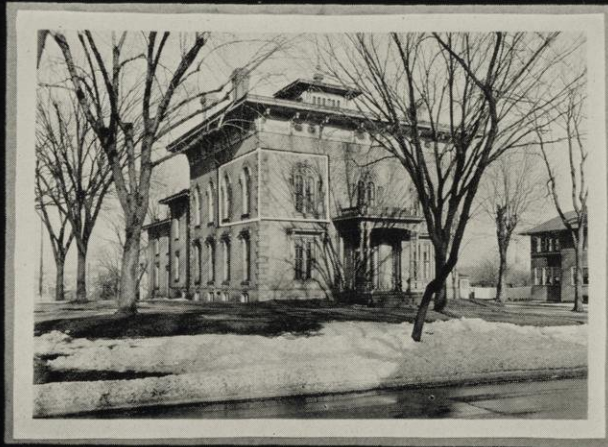
J. Bednell Doe was Mayor.

"Big Mill" destroyed by fire. It occupied the site of the present postoffice.





Jansville City Hospital



The Tallman Home. Lincoln slept in the upper room  
marked on the picture



Modern View of City Library



The Mercy Hospital 1935

On the nights of Oct. 1 and 2 Janesville had Abraham Lincoln as its guest. He made a political speech in Young American Hall in the Lappin building which is now the Hayes Block. He stayed at the Home of William Tallman on N. Jackson Street, which is known to the citizens of Janesville as "the house that Lincoln slept in."

Christ Episcopal Church was organized and held services in Lappin's Hall.

Peter Myers was building the Myers House to take the place of the Old Stage House.

The High school was transferred from the old stone academy to the third floor of the Jefferson building.

## 1860

Stephen A. Douglas, Democratic candidate for President of United States, made a political speech to a large crowd in front of the Hyatt House.

The first twenty-five years since the settlement of Janesville have passed.

The population at this time was over 7,000.

Janesville had started or was well on the road to industrial and commercial progress.

## 1861

Myers Hotel opened for business. Mr. Myers ran it personally at that time.

Wave of patriotism surged through Janesville when the war started between the North and the South. Teachers and pupils responded to the call of arms.

Company D. was the second regiment of Wisconsin.

Volunteers were served dinner in Janesville on their way from camp Randall to Washington, D. C.

Camp Treadway was started in the Fair Grounds on Milwaukee Avenue, the regiment left later for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Camp Cameron was started in Spring Brook, later leaving for the Southwest.

The Christ Episcopal Church was consecrated. The church was situated on the present site of the Trinity Episcopal Church.

## 1862

Lieutenant E. G. Harlon, with sixty recruits left city for Camp Randall.

Company E Thirty-Third Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, Captain Ira Miltimore, left Janesville for camp Utley at Racine.

Carrie Jacobs Bond, noted composer, was born on Pleasant Street in Janesville.

## 1863

President Lincoln called for 500,000 men. The quota for Janesville under this call was 125 men. The draft took place in Lappin's Hall.

Central Bank of Wisconsin organized as the First National Bank.

St. Patrick's Church was completed. St. Joseph convent and school buildings adjoining the church in the east were completed soon afterwards.

Coldest day ever known in History of Wisconsin was New Year's eve when all thermometers dropped down in the bulb.

Soldiers in the Army in the South suffered from the cold weather which spread all over the country.

General W. T. Sherman visited the fourth state fair.

## 1865

Rotheringer Brewery at foot of S. Main Street burned. All buildings on the east side of the street were destroyed.

Congregational Church Society built a new edifice on the corner of South Jackson and Dodge Street.

St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized.

## 1866

The aggregate of the Annual Manufacturing production was now estimated at \$1,623,000 and consisted principally of flour, agriculture implements, furniture, woolen cloth, cigars, wagons, etc.

Fifteen newspapers had been published in Janesville, all which ceased to exist except the *Janesville Daily* and *Weekly Gazette*.



A later bridge at Monterey

### The Monterey Bridge

The first bridge was built in 1846. Notice it was partly covered and made of wood.

Later a steel structure replaced the old wood structure.

The steel structure has been replaced by our present steel and concrete bridge.



The first Monterey Bridge in 1846



The "Big Rock" in the early eighties

### The "Big Rock"

The first one room log cabin was built across the river from "Big Rock" in 1835.

It was then occupied by nine people.

This was the first cabin built within present city limits.

Note the one tree on the old photograph.

Note the new Wilson School and Stadium.



"Big Rock" 1935

## 1872

The ice skating rink, corner of South Main and South Second Street was totally destroyed by fire.  
The passenger depot of the Chicago and North Western railway burned and was destroyed at the "five points."

## 1873

Colonel Burr Robbins, owner of the Great American and German Allied Shows, purchased the Doty Farm on the south eastern part of Jackson Street to make a winter quarters for his circus. His circus wintered in Janesville up into the 80's.

## 1874

The main building of the Wisconsin School for the blind was destroyed by fire. Henry Nelson, a student from Beloit perished in the flames.

The Madison House on West Milwaukee Street, was totally destroyed by fire.

## 1875

The Congregational Church suffered a \$55,000 fire loss when an uncontrollable fire burned the church before everything could be saved.

Merchants and Mechanics Bank organized under state laws.

Janesville Shoe Manufacturing Company began in Janesville.

## 1876

The City Hotel at the "Five Points" was totally destroyed by fire.

West Side fire station was built.

St. Mary's Catholic Church was organized and a house of worship was built at the corner of Wisconsin and North First Street.

## 1877

The Williams House, on the site of the present Monterey Hotel, burned to the ground.

The East Side fire station was built.

## 1879

Three murders occurred in Rock County in the year of 1879.

Grand Hotel was built on the site where the Williams House burned, by David Jeffris.

## 1880

Ex-President U. S. Grant visited Janesville and held a reception at the Myers House.

Electric light was first introduced into Janesville.

The Janesville Electric Light Co. was organized by Henry Palmer and W. T. Van Kirk.

The first telephone exchange was opened by the Janesville Telephone Company. There were 16 subscribers.

## 1881

The Janesville Machine Company took over the Harris Manufacturing Company. The Machine Company was incorporated by James Harris, J. B. Crosby, and others.

Municipal Court for Rock County was established. L. F. Patten was the first judge.

## 1882

City granted a piece of land to construct and operate a system of waterworks.

Janesville police court abolished.

## 1883

Tornado occurred in the towns of Turtle and La Prairie.

General Lucius Fairchild held a reception with Governor Risk at Surgeon General Henry Palmer's home on Madison Street.

## 1884

The Baptist Church was destroyed by fire. A new church was begun the same year.

The Janesville Business Men's Association was organized with Dr. Henry Palmer as president.



The Meyers House



The Meyers' Home  
on the hill

The Meyers House 1866  
Note the lobby was then Gookins  
Jewelry Store

The bay window was later  
Removed and added to the Meyers'  
home on the hill

Corner of Main & Milwaukee  
Note:

1. The street car tracks
2. The horse and buggy
3. The Meyers House Buss
4. Quarters of beef hanging  
in the open street
5. Awnings made of wood



Corner of Main and Milwaukee  
1896



Corner of Main & Milwaukee

## 1885

A large roller skating rink was built on River Street; the building is now being used as a garage. Polo teams were formed, the game being played on roller skates.

A franchise was granted the Janesville Street Railway Company to build a horse railway in the streets of Janesville.

## 1886

Janesville Street railway completed and opened.

Myers opera house completed.

Fourth Avenue bridge opened for public travel.

Free delivery system installed in Janesville by the postoffice department.

## 1887

Artesian water commenced to flow at the water works pumping station.

Franchise granted Turner, Clark, and Rawson to construct and operate a system of water works in the city.

Service of the fire department was made more efficient by the construction of a fire alarm telegraph.

## 1888

The first fire alarm was sent in over the new fire alarm system for a fire at the Wisconsin Shoe Company.

Peter Myers died. He was known as the man who built the most brick buildings in the city.

Water works were completed and tested. The service was accepted by the common council.

## 1889

The Myers Opera House burned with a \$40,000 damage. A good supply of water saved the Myers Hotel and other buildings.

Fire department reorganized and name changed to Janesville Fire Police.

J. W. St. John held the office of mayor till 1892.

## 1890

St. John's German Lutheran Church was organized and had fourteen members. A church and parsonage was erected at the corner of North Bluff and Pease Court.

## 1891

The Myers Opera House rebuilt and opened.

An iron bridge was built at Monterey.

Thomas Lappin died.

Patrick Hageny, August Benneitz, and John Flaherty were killed by the falling walls while razing the old Douglas School building.

Parker Pen Company was incorporated by George S. Parker and others.

The corner stone of a new edifice for the First Presbyterian Church was laid.

## 1892

The Wisconsin Telephone Co. was granted a franchise by the Common Council.

A. Hyatt Smith, Janesville's first mayor died.

Four Hundred thousand dollars was invested in new buildings in Janesville during the year.

## 1893

The Barker farm was purchased by the county for an insane asylum, poor house and farm. These county buildings had been formerly located in Johnstown.

General J. B. Doe appointed assistant Secretary of War by President Cleveland.

## 1894

The county insane and poor inmates were removed to the new quarters.

Corner stone of the Y. M. C. A. building laid in place at the Northwest corner of West Milwaukee and High Streets.

The Willard farm, where Frances Willard spent her girlhood was sold to Mr. Blackman.

1. Saint Paul's German Lutheran church - 1883
2. Norwegian Lutheran church 1873
3. Saint Patrick's Catholic church 1864
4. First Presbyterian church - 1891



5. Saint Mary's Catholic church 1902
6. First Baptist church burned 1884
7. All Souls church now Wood's Flats where teachers have resided.



City Hall



## 1895

The Bower City Bank opened for business with Fenner Kimball as president.

The Palmer Memorial Hospital opened with Dr. E. E. Loomis as president.

The High School building on South High Street was completed and the fall term opened for students.

The Y. M. C. A. building was dedicated.

## 1896

The Postal Telegraph Co. was granted a franchise by the Common Council.

Sinnissippi Golf Club was incorporated on the Woodruff estate.

## 1897

The Chicago and Northwestern Company contracted with C. F. Nowlan to build a new Passenger depot in this city.

Growth of Sinnissippi Golf Course steady.

## 1898

Woodruff estate purchased by a corporation and the Janesville Country Club was formed.

Judge M. M. Phelps, of the Municipal Court, died.

## 1899

Dennis and Michael Hayes purchased the Lappin Block and remodeled it for office buildings.

Jackman Block was remodeled for office buildings.

## 1900

City began to improve streets, Macadam was laid on many streets.

A new jail was built just north of the old jail.

Rural free delivery introduced at Janesville Postoffice.

## 1901

The county added to the city's appearance by the erection of a soldiers' monument in the court house park. It cost \$10,000.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie gave \$30,000 to the city for a new library. A site was selected and bought by the city on South Main Street for the building.

F. S. Eldred, a leading merchant in Janesville, left the city \$10,000 after his death for the library. This was donated to the children's room and the art room on third floor.

The corner stone was laid for the building of the city hall at the corner of Jackson and Wall Streets.

The postoffice was started by the government.

## 1902

Contractors commenced building Public Library.

City Hall completed in the fall.

A magnificent new church building was erected by St. Mary's Catholic Church at the corner of Wisconsin and North First Streets. The spire is the highest point in Janesville.

The St. Paul Company commenced building a new station on the east side of Academy Street.

Bennison and Lane erected a large bakery on Wall and High Streets.

## 1903

The postoffice completed by the government.

June, public library was finished.

Colvin Baking Company extended its industry to shipping bread.

## 1904

Marshal John W. Hogan, city marshal and Chief of police since 1880, died.

The Rock County Sugar Beet Company was incorporated and began operating.

Work was started on the sewerage system for Janesville. \$40,000 worth of work was completed.





Myers House opened 1861



Off to the Civil War 1861



Fourth of July Parade 1863



Corner Main & Court Looking North  
During Civil War Days

## 1905

Janesville Advancement Association was formed for the purpose of attracting new industries to Janesville.

## 1906

Cargill Memorial Methodist Church was erected at the corner of Franklin and Pleasant Streets. It was built by the Court Street Methodist and First Methodist Churches which had united in 1904.

## 1907

Janesville Park and Pleasure Drive Association was formed.

Twilight Club raised a fund towards the purchase of Palmer Memorial Hospital on Washington Street, which ran privately for a number of years. The Catholic Sisters of Mercy bought the property with the aid of Twilight Club funds and began operation of a public hospital.

United Brethren in Christ Church was built.

Chicago and Northwestern Railway built a thirty-six-stall round-house and twenty miles of sidings on a 300 acre tract of land.

Janesville was employing in its factories 3,000 persons.

## 1908

President-Elect W. H. Taft was greeted by an audience of 5,000 people when he spoke from the rear end of his private car at the Chicago and Northwestern depot.

A two story building was built at the School for the blind at a cost of \$10,000. It was to be used as a music hall.

United Brethren Church was dedicated May 17. It cost \$18,000.

The 30 stall round house at the new C. and N. W. Railroad Company and assorting yards were occupied April 13.

## 1909

Janesville Gazette moved into the Bostwick Building on East Milwaukee Street. The first edition issued from its new home was February 22. The Parker Pen Company later occupied the third floor.

10,000 visitors were in the city for the Independence Day celebration. An added attraction in the afternoon was the Nonsuch Brothers parade put on by business men of the city.

The Salvation Army made arrangements for the purchase of the Evenson Block on N. Main St.

The Wisconsin Carriage Company built a \$22,000 office and factory building on the corner of W. Milwaukee and Locust Streets.

## 1910

The Janesville Machine Company constructed a new large ware house on the corner of River and Pleasant Streets at a cost of \$25,000.

The Shurtleff Creamery constructed a two story red brick structure on South Main St. at a cost of \$13,000.

A new exchange building for the Wisconsin Telephone Company was started on the corner of E. Milwaukee and Division Street.

The Rock River Machine Company and Janesville Batten Mills erected new buildings.

## 1911

Rock County Rural Normal School was established.

\$1,000 was spent in remodeling and adding to the St. Joseph convent and school building of St. Patrick's Church.

## 1912

W. T. Sherer built and opened the Apollo Theater in January.

New bridges were built by the city, at Racine Street and Fourth Avenue.

New Mercy Hospital was near completion on Washington Street. It was erected through the efforts of the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent and the contribution of the business men of Janesville.

The Christian Science Church was built on the corner of Pleasant and South High Street at a cost of \$20,000.

Doty's Feed Mill at the foot of Dodge Street was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire. A new mill was erected the same year at a cost of \$7,500.



## 1913

April 1, the Milwaukee Street bridge was destroyed and six stores burned to the ground in a fire that endangered the whole city. The loss was estimated at half a million dollars. The first motor fire truck was bought and put in service later in the same month.

The new Mercy Hospital was opened for occupation.

St. John's Lutheran German Church was built on the corner of N. Bluff and Pease Court at a cost of \$25,000.

Construction was under way for a new home for the First National Bank on W. Milwaukee St.

## 1914

A new Milwaukee bridge was opened in the spring to replace the one destroyed by fire. The bridge cost \$36,500.

The First National Bank was completed.

An addition was put on to the School for the blind at a cost of \$21,531. A contract was made for a kindergarten department at a cost of \$7,000.

## 1915

Janesville Public Library celebrated the 50th anniversary of its organization.

All telephone and power poles were removed from the business district of the city. Improvement in the appearance of the city was made by installation of ornamental lighting. One mile of concrete pavement was laid in the city.

Rock County spent \$100,000 on highways.

## 1916

63 students received diplomas in June. The Janesville Country Club spent \$3,000 in remodeling the club and could stand favorably with any golf club in the state.

## 1917

War stunted all activities and building in the city. An addition was made to the building of the Hough Shade Factory.

St. Mary's Church Parsonage was the most modern building constructed.

5,790 men of Rock County registered for service in the World War. 267 men were drafted June 5, and sent to Camp Grant at Rockford.

## 1918

1,109 Men were sent to army camps from Rock County.

Three registrations of men of draft age were held at different periods. 3,536 men were listed for military service.

November 11th brought peace after four years of war.

Rock County's contribution to Liberty Loan Issues was \$17,500,000.

## 1919

City was undergoing industrial expansion. The Boom had started.

General Motors spent millions to lay a foundation for the greatest farm machinery plant in the nation. The company had announced a year ago that the Janesville Machine Co. would start the million dollar Sampson tractor plant.

2,888 men were employed in the Sampson plant or were working on Sampson construction projects. It was known as the greatest farm machine plant in the nation.

200 residents were built and 50 were remodeled.

Every school in the city was crowded. There was the largest enrollment in history.

## 1920

One thousand Sampson tractors were put out in 1920. A gigantic foundry, modern equipment and facilities costing \$2,000,000 was recently completed.

Two million dollars was spent in building. 300 homes were built.

The Parker Pen factory, costing \$375,000, was built and completed on the corner of Court and Division Streets.



11th Ward School Now the Washington



High School opened 1895 now used for Vocational School



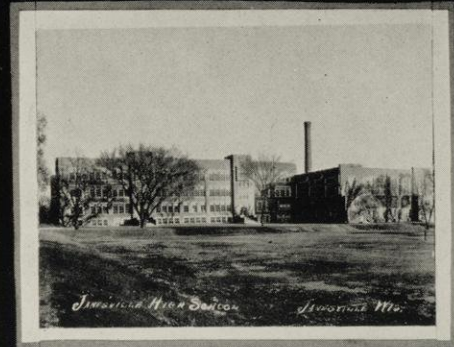
1859 High School Finished \$33,000 cost, Now Jefferson



High School 1935. Corner stone laid 1921



The School for the Blind when it burned 1874.



High School 1935- First graduating Class 1923

A large addition was built on to the Mercy Hospital.

Knights of Columbus moved into their new club house on S. Jackson St.

The First Christian Church built an edifice costing \$30,000 on the corner of South Third and Park Streets.

Baseball team, backed by the Sampson Company, was formed to be placed in a league with 21 large cities. Baseball was the king of sports.

A health board had been confirmed by the city council. Dr. L. J. Woodworth was appointed Sanitary Inspector.

A commodious building was erected for the children of St. Patrick's Church. It was built on Holmes Street at a cost of \$100,000.

Frank O. Holt took over the position of Superintendent of Janesville Schools starting fall term.

## 1921

High School Bonds to the amount of \$600,000 were sold, the contract let and a very good start had been made in the construction. Another issue was made later of \$70,000.

Y. W. C. A. was formed in a beautifully equipped quarters on the 3rd floor of the Gazette building.

Kiwanis Club started clinic work for underprivileged children.

At the end of the year the New High School appeared as a skeleton in its new \$700,000 structure.

## 1922

Sampson Tractor Co. building used as assembling plant by Chevrolet because the number of tractors had outgrown the demand.

The skeleton of the New High School was transformed into the most beautiful building in Janesville.

Thomas Welch was the last mayor in Janesville. Petitions had been circulated to adopt a new form of city government.

## 1923

Final classes were held in the old high school, the new high school was completed on South Main Street; 1,500 attended exercises at the new high school where pupils entered in February.

In April a vote of the people showed that they had elected a new type of city management. The common council of six men and one woman were to select the city manager. Henry Traxler was made the city manager and has held that position ever since.

240 were enrolled in school bands (junior and senior).

Elks Club purchased Myers Theatre Building as the lodge home at a cost of \$50,000.

Janesville had acquired a natural park along the river, roads had been put in and Riverside Park development was noticed.

A children ward was established in the hospital.

## 1924

\$276,000 was subscribed for the Y. M. C. A. building fund, and plans were made for the erection of a new building.

Fire company abandoned east side and Spring Brook stations. Complete motorization was brought about through purchase of a 75 foot motor-driven aerial ladder truck. The total number of firemen were 25.

A \$375,000 concrete paving program was completed in the city. More than 9 miles of streets and alleys were improved with a layer of one course reinforced concrete.

## 1925

The Janesville Daily Gazette celebrated its 80th birthday August 14.

The assessed value for Janesville in the year 1925 was \$28,400,000.

The dedication of a memorial for Frances E. Willard was held on September 27. It was a bronze tablet marking the site where Frances E. Willard lived for many years. Dr. Irving Maurer, president of Beloit College gave the dedicatory address.

The first Lutheran Congregation dedicated a \$50,000 church building at the corner of Ravine and Jackson Streets.

A six hole municipal golf course was laid out at Riverside Park.

Edward Lichtfus was the first fireman to be killed in the line of duty. He died from injuries received when he fell from a roof of a house on 419 Locust St.



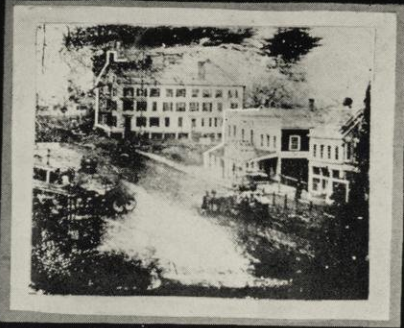
West Milwaukee Street 1882  
King's Book Store present site of  
Smith Drug Store



Mitchell Block now known as Carl Block  
Present site of Carrs Grocery Store



West Milwaukee Street in 1850  
Vally Gun Shop present site of  
Smith Drug Store



The Hyatt House present  
site of First National Bank



Fire Department in 1935  
Present First National Bank on corner



The First National Bank was  
established in the year of 1855

## 1926

\$200,000 addition was completed for the Fisher Body Company and a new \$100,000 unit started for parts and service of the Chevrolet Motor Company.

Franklin Gardens, the largest dance hall in Southern Wisconsin, was completed.

An addition was constructed at the Postoffice at a cost of \$20,000. The parcel post department was moved into the new quarters.

Lions Club erected and dedicated a soldiers' monument at the corner exchange to the memory of Janesville's World War Veterans.

A nine hole municipal golf course was completed at Riverside Park.

Janesville Country Club built an 18 hole golf course.

The new Y. M. C. A. building at the corner of Dodge and Franklin Streets opened the first three floors of its new beautiful building. The fourth was completed in 1928 with the aid of a donation made by W. T. Palmer of \$18,250. The total cost of the building was \$265,000.

Tennis courts were laid out and built at Riverside Park.

## 1927

L. R. Creutz was named superintendent of schools and V. E. Klontz was named high school principal succeeding F. O. Holt and W. W. Brown.

Building reached its highest mark since the boom of 1920. The Wisconsin Power and Light Company erected a \$40,000 brick store and office on West Milwaukee Street. A \$30,000 factory building was built as an addition to the Hough Shade Corporation at South Jackson Street.

The Janesville Floral shop and J. C. Penny erected new stores on South Main St.

The largest civic project of the year was a \$132,000 reservoir on the northwest corner of the city at the end of Maguolia Avenue. The structure was built to hold 9,000,000 gallons.

## 1928

The Women's Club on 108 South Jackson Street was dedicated May 7. The club house, a two story red brick building with a simple colonial entrance was erected at a cost of \$42,000.

The Lions Club purchased land at Goose Island to be used as a city park where a municipal swimming beach and skating rink were to be developed. It was one of the Lions' outstanding contributions to the city. St. Mary's School was erected. The total cost when completed was \$160,000.

St. Paul's school on Academy Street was dedicated. The building was erected at a cost of \$70,000.

Y. W. C. A. purchased the A. C. Hough house on the corner of St. Lawrence Ave. and South Main Street. After several changes to make the home suitable for a public building, the quarters were moved from the third floor of the Gazette into the new house.

The Janesville airport was established under control of the Kempton-Duddy Flying Service, on the Beloit Road.

Rotamer Camp on Spauldings pond was established by the Rotary Club. It was established to furnish an outing for boys and girls in the summer.

Eagles Club remodeled and moved into the former Y. M. C. A.

## 1929

Financing and near completion of the Hotel Monterey by Sam. Olson of Chicago on the site of the former Grand Hotel. St. Mary's school was dedicated and opened.

Palmer and Jeffris Parks were donated to the city.

Pinehurst Sanatorium was completed. The institution was built to care for about 70 patients and equipped with the most modern devices used in curing tuberculosis.

The system of street car transportation was abandoned in favor of the gasoline motor bus.

A new Kresge building was opened on West Milwaukee Street.

Woolworth Store was remodeled.

Five new greenhouses were constructed on the Milton Road by the Janesville Floral Co. at a cost of \$50,000.

Janesville Little Theater was organized as a community project. Malcom P. Mouat was president J. M. Bostwick and Sons remodeled large dry goods store on South Main Street.

## 1930

Completion of the largest structure ever undertaken in Janesville was the opening of the new Monterey Bridge and railroad overhead at a cost of \$250,000. It was open to traffic September 20 and was 18,000 feet long.

Air Mail was established and a new airport was opened on land leased to the city by Herman Krause about half a mile north of the city limits on highway 26.

Two of Janesville's finest grade schools were completed and opened. They were the \$200,000 Wilson School and \$100,000 Roosevelt School.





View from site which is now St. Marys Church and School



Corner Main & Milwaukee at 1850 to 1860. Photography Shop became Wunderlich's. Pease House on the hill.



Dodge St Looking East. Congregational and Baptist Churches, taken about 1875



Hyatt House completed 1856  
Burned 1867



First Rock River Woolen Mill destroyed by fire 1881



View North West Milwaukee St. Bridge

A new nurses' home was under construction just north of the main hospital buildings at a cost of \$80,000.

WCLO radio station was established and opened its studios on the third floor of the Gazette building.

Parker Pen Company remodeled and added to its factory at a cost of \$140,000; the new Parker Club House costing \$30,000 was erected.

Monterey Hotel was opened. The first banquet held was a joint session of United Commercial Travelers and Chamber of Commerce. Patriotic Hall was opened in the city hall building.

The new Armory was built on South High and Dodge Streets. It was sponsored by the Janesville Memorial Armory association and financed jointly by the city and state at a cost of \$56,268.

Trinity Episcopal Church was built on the corner of Court and Wisconsin Street, at a cost of \$85,000. It was built in Old English style and Gothic architecture.

## 1931

Mercy Hospital Nurses' Home was opened.

Prince and Princess Svasti, father and mother of the Queen of Siam, visited Janesville as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Parker.

Willey Post and Harold Gatty, noted fliers, visited Janesville.

An ink factory was started by the Parker Pen Company. The ink is known as "Quink".

A tornado swept Rock County. Only one life was lost but several were injured. The loss was estimated at a half-million dollars.

Palmer Park was donated to the city by W. T. Palmer.

Athletic field and stadium were built on land dredged from Rock River in the rear of the Wilson School. The stadium seats 3,000 people.

Modern warning signals were installed at the railroad crossings. The signals replaced the old gates.

WCLO Radio Station in the Gazette Building was burned by a fire of unknown origin. The loss was estimated at \$11,000.

Owen L. Robinson became vice-principal of Janesville High School succeeding E. D. Brown.

## 1932

350 musicians from schools throughout Southern Wisconsin took part in the first music festival. It was sponsored by the Gazette and WCLO.

The Janesville City airport was burned in a disastrous fire that burned the hanger and six planes. The damage was estimated at a cost of \$35,000.

A new auditorium was built on the second floor of the Public Library.

Janesville had the lowest tax rate in the state.

Shuffle board courts were added to Riverside Park.

## 1933

Three tennis courts were added to Palmer Park.

Failure of the County Board of Supervisors to provide the operating expense of the Rock County Rural Normal School necessitated its closing.

The C. W. A. projects in the city of Janesville included the site for the sewage disposal plant and the building of a wall along Rock River's banks.

The N. R. A. Code was accepted by business and industry in Janesville.

## 1934

The Parker Pen Company employed from 700 to 800 people during the year.

Chevrolet produced its 10,000,021st car in Janesville, November 14.

A \$100,000 wind damage was caused in this vicinity by a severe storm on the night of June 20.

The P. W. A. funds were used in March to continue work that had been done by C. W. A.

C. J. Murphy, fire chief since 1919, retired from his position.

## 1935

The Chevrolet, Fisher Body, Parker Pen, and Wollen Mills are employing 3,600 people.

100,000 people are expected at the Janesville Centennial Celebration in July. It is expected to be the largest crowd to ever visit this city.

The June Class of Janesville High School Graduates is the largest in all history of Janesville; 250 are expected to graduate.

The population of this city, developing from the number of 9 in 1835 to the present day 100 years later is about 21,628 people.

"TIME MARCHES ON!"



Looking North West from St. Mary's church



July 4<sup>th</sup> during Civil War days



Taken from St. Mary's church looking west



Corner Court & S. Main about ~1879



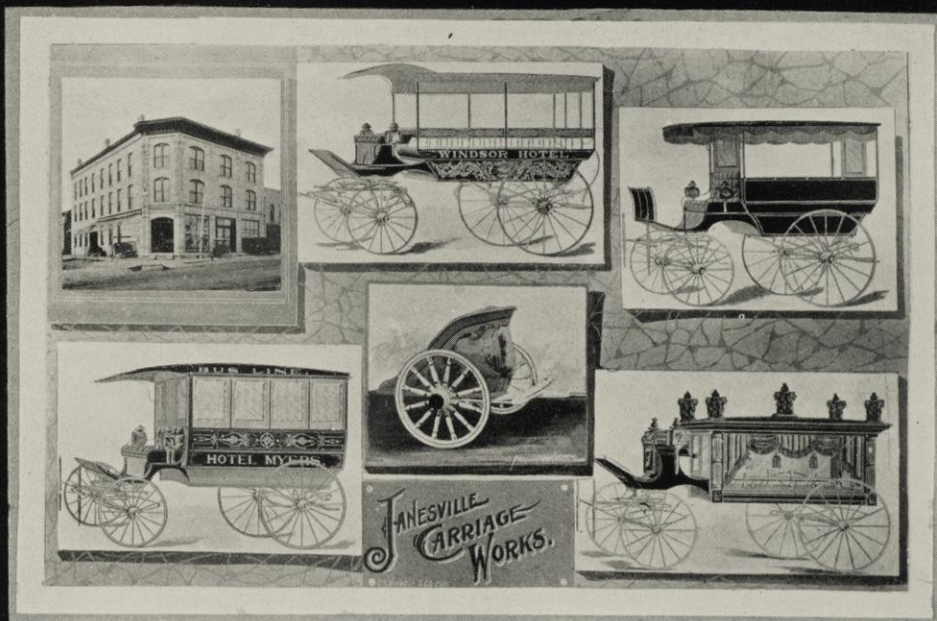
The Cotton Mill about 1875-6



Court Street



1896

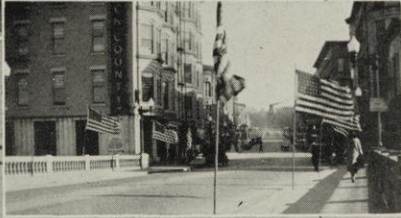


1896



*City*

*Scenes*



High School  
Post Office  
High School

Main Street  
Y. M. C. A.  
Library  
Milwaukee Street

High School  
Court House  
Y. W. C. A.