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Souvenir, Kenosha County Court House: and bits of yesterday, foundations of today. 1925

Trenary, Otis L.

Kenosha, Wisconsin: [s.n.], 1925

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SOUVENIR
KENOSHA
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COURT
HOUSE
AND BITS OF
YESTERDAY
FOUNDATIONS
OF TODAY

K R 517.75

✓
OFFICE



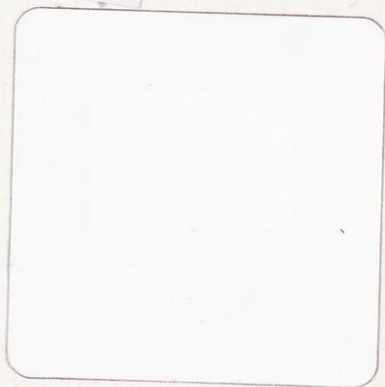
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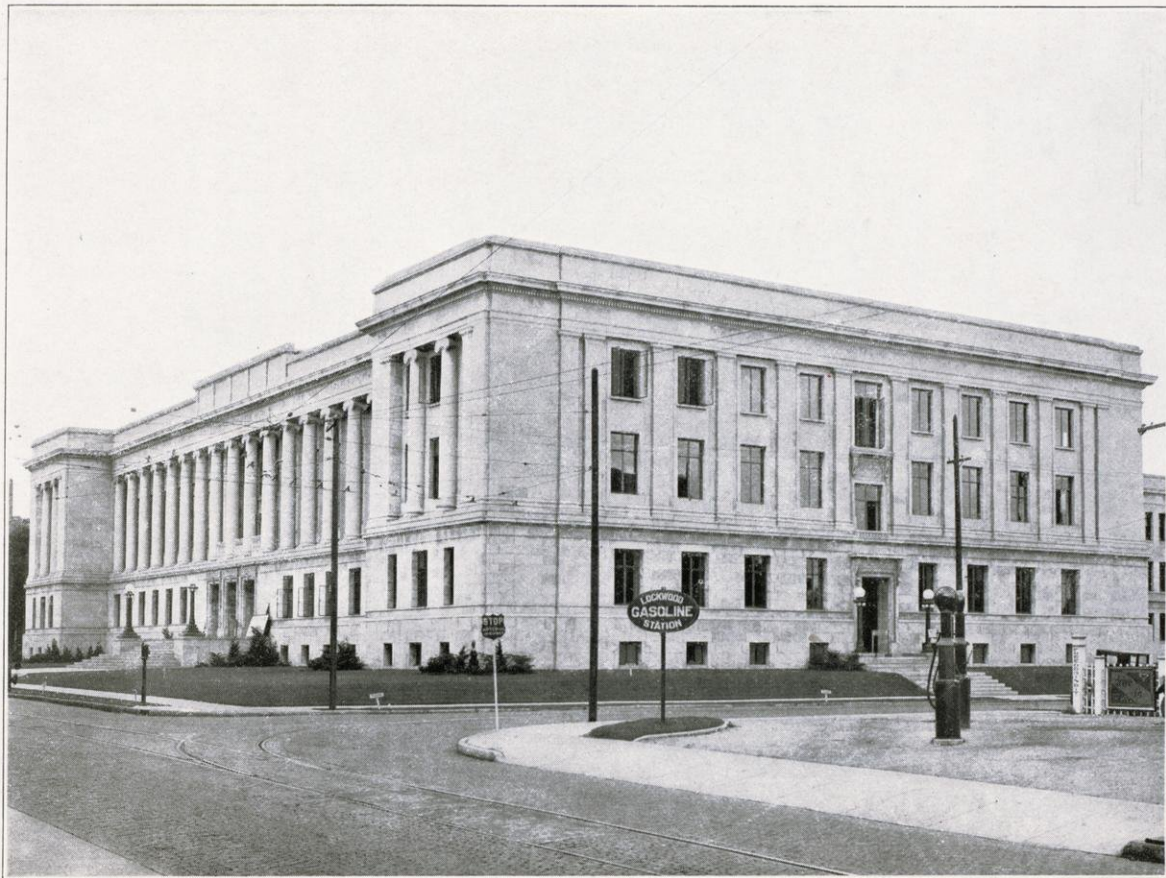
STATIONER TRADING
VARIABLE
SERIALS

Foreword

ON THE completion of the first magnificent unit of the "new city" that we and our children, jointly, are about to build, it is altogether fitting that the officials directly responsible for it give an account of their stewardship. It was liberal of them to grant my request to be allowed to add some incidents of the long ago—some, yes, many—acts of patience, of endurance, of courage, and of foresight that enable us of today to enjoy the wonderful legacies from yesterday upon which *we* must build for those who come tomorrow. We believe that knowledge of the cost, in time, in effort, in money, and in sacrifice, will enable the young people who begin where we leave off to build more appreciatingly and so wiser and better than they would otherwise do. Hence the story.

And we have just *taken it* from anywhere and everywhere that we could find it. We gratefully acknowledge many cullings from "History of Kenosha County," by Francis H. Lyman. Mrs. Lyman has graciously allowed us to use several plates from this work.

May I add a wish that at least some readers may derive as much pleasure from the reading as Mrs. Trenary and I have found in the compiling.—OTIS L. TRENARY.



COURT HOUSE No. 4, 1925; Cost, \$1,000,000

The Building

—By JOSEPH LINDL

THE court house is located on the central axis of the Civic Center on the block bounded by Market street, Sheridan road, Pearl street and Congress street. The architecture is Italian Renaissance. Featuring the south, or principal facade, is an imposing colonade of monolithic columns. The frieze of the cornice contains the following inscription:

ERECTED • BY • THE • PEOPLE • OF • KENOSHA • COUNTY • TO
THE • CAUSE • OF • JUST • AND • CAPABLE • GOVERNMENT

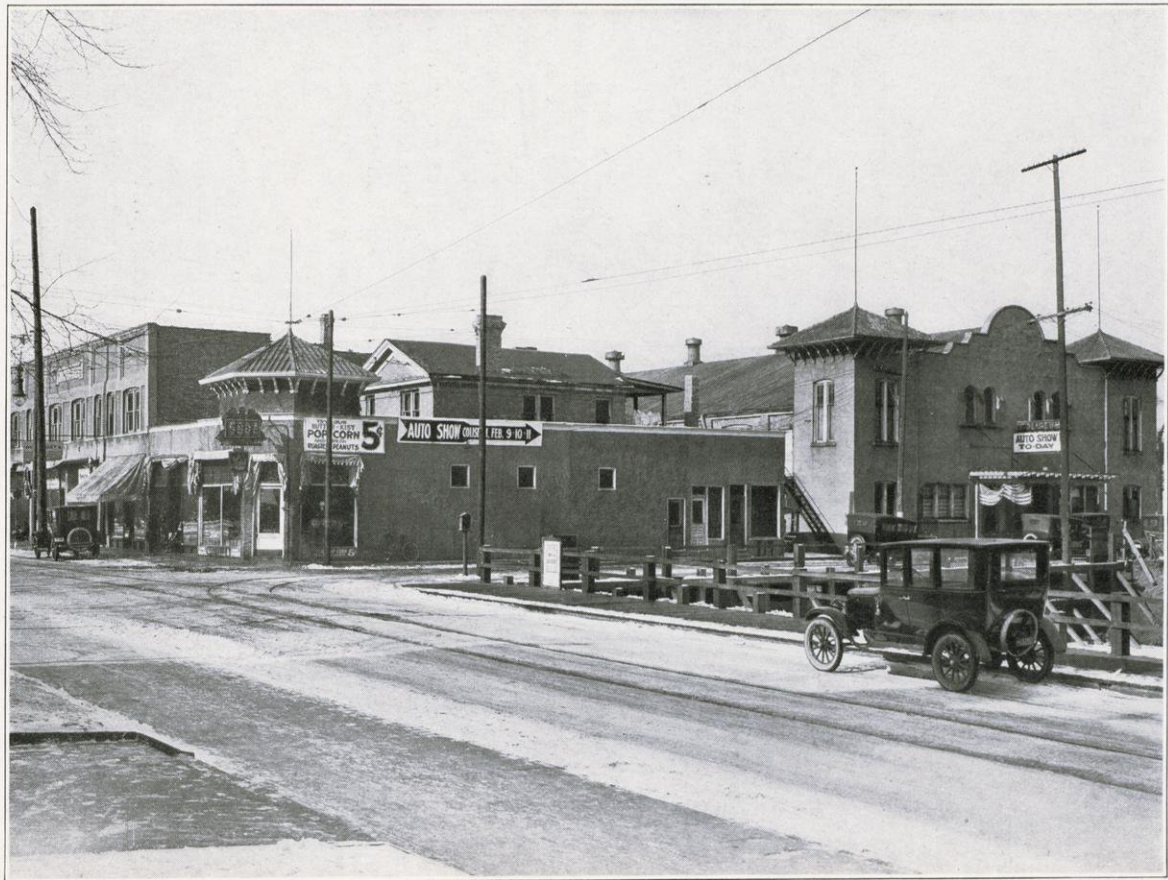
The exterior is faced with selected gray Indiana limestone. The building is enframed by a terraced lawn with a planting of evergreens and deciduous shrubbery kept at the correct scale to emphasize the architecture. The building is hailed by professional and lay critics for its outstanding merit and will compare favorably with the best recognized examples in this country or abroad.

The architects are Lindl, Lesser & Schutte, who have designed many prominent buildings in the Middle West. The building is three stories in height, with the disposition of spaces arranged so that the large County departments are all on the first floor; the court rooms, court officers and related officials on the second floor; the County Board, County teachers' quarters, jury rooms and other departments that are occupied only at fixed periods, on the third floor. This floor also contains certain undivided floor space which has been reserved for future demands. The entire scheme is planned with a view to a large increase in population and on that basis is figured to answer all needs without crowding for at least *fifty years*.

MAIN ENTRANCE HALL—Featuring the Main Entrance Hall are its height, scale, murals, Botticino marble, the art glass ceiling executed in exquisite design and colors, and the hand-wrought iron-work.

Hand-forged iron-work is inseparably associated with the beautiful and through its medium the skill of the architect can express itself as in no other material. The architects have skillfully distributed the wrought iron to contrast with the different textures of the surrounding materials.

Throughout the general design the inflexible rule of the architects has been to design honestly; to adhere to the use of materials of proved



SOUTHEAST CORNER COURT HOUSE BLOCK AS IT APPEARED WHEN PURCHASED FOR THE NEW BUILDING

merit, and not to imitate materials of prohibitive cost by camouflaging cheaper materials. The design of the various spaces, and the murals, are replete with hidden meaning not apparent to the casual observer, but are the delight of those who study and analyze the far reach of architecture and the allied arts. Concealed flood lighting will provide excellent illumination to the entrance hall at night.

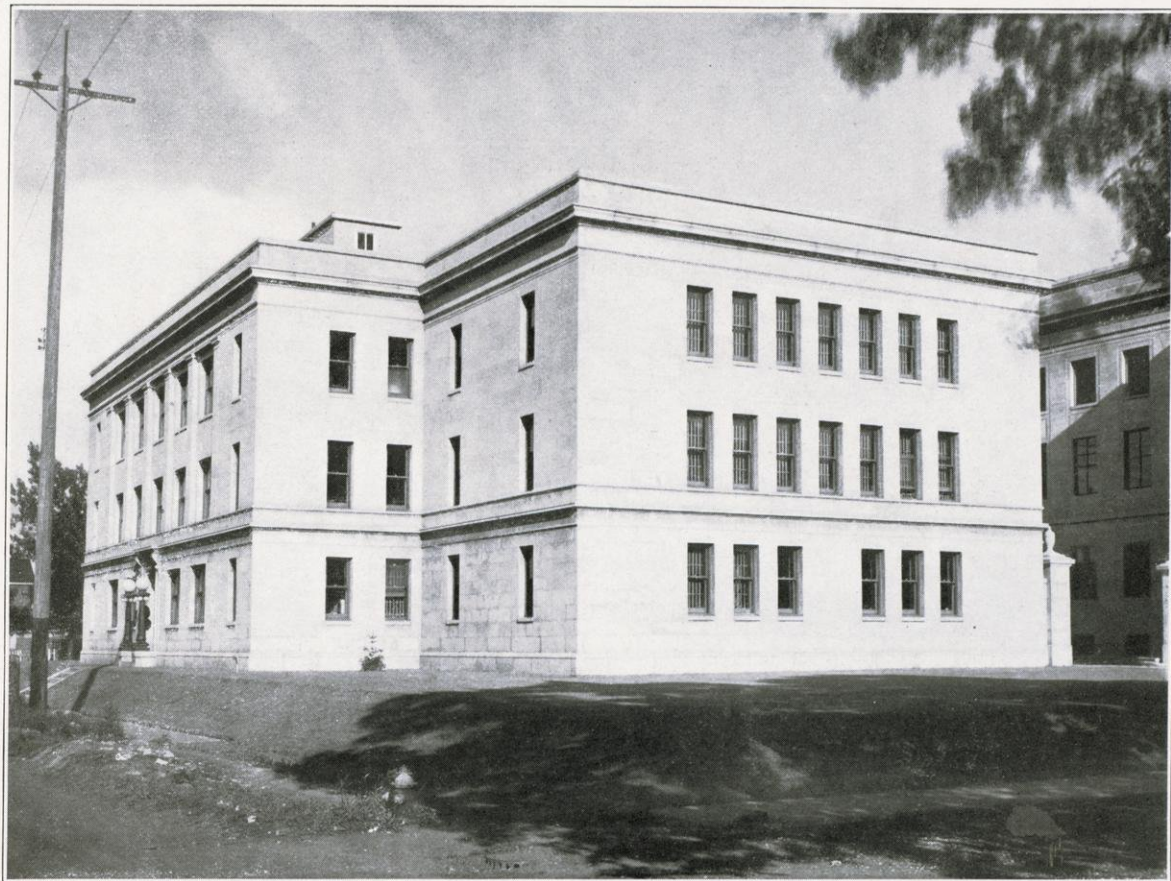
MURALS—The murals are by Mr. A. E. Foringer. The one panel symbolizes Civil Law introduced by two winged figures flanking a tablet containing the inscription "*Uphold the Right.*" The one figure, bearing a torch, typifies "*Knowledge.*" The other, bearing the fasces, "*Power.*" Below and flanking the doorway are two Roman braziers suggesting the Roman origin of much of our jurisprudence. The other panel is in a general way similar as to composition. In this panel the figures represent "*Mercy*" and "*Force*" respectively, with the quotation "*Prevent the Wrong*" on the tablet. The colors adhere pretty much to qualified blues, gold and white; they harmonize with the Botticino marble that is extensively used in the surrounding architecture.

MEMORIAL HALL—This fine room, to be used as a meeting place for all War Veterans of the County—G. A. R., Spanish War Veterans, Sons of Veterans, American Legion, etc., with the adjacent room for Historical Records, is placed on the first floor. The proportions and scale of the room convey an impression of great dignity and character. Featuring the decorations is the mural portraying the early days of Southport, as Kenosha was then known. It is historically correct and was executed by Mr. William Peaco. Carved in low relief on the Commander's altar appear the Arms of the Service. The general decorations are based on similar motifs, conveying to the room a semi-military character.

THE GRAND STAIRWAY—Directly opposite the Entrance Hall in the central portion of the building, the architects have placed a monumental staircase executed in Botticino marble with handwrought orna-

Illustration at Left

Southeast corner Court House block as it appeared when purchased for the new building. The City bought this block for \$301,734.59 and exchanged it for the County's lot on which the new High School is built. At extreme right, the old Coliseum Building used for skating rink, prize fights, convention auditorium, auto shows, etc. Near corner, candy shop, last conducted by Manos Bros. Excavation in foreground on property purchased from Otis L. Trenary for Algonquin Hotel, which was never built; now (1925) Lockwood Filling Station.



JAIL AND EAST SIDE OF COURT HOUSE, VIEWED FROM NORTHEAST

mental iron balustrade; the latter is treated in black with judicious touches of polychrome inlaid with gold-leaf. Leading from the first landing is a marble doorway with a Tavernelle marble clock set into an ornamental frame of plastic material, richly decorated. This doorway gives access to a general rest room. At the head of the grand staircase on the third floor landing is placed the historical mural entitled "*In Memoriam.*" It is the work of Mr. Wm. De Leftwich-Dodge. The composition consists of a dominating central figure representing the State in mourning for her dead; a wounded soldier at the left side, the hand of central figure on young orphan boy. The figure at the extreme left represents an American soldier placing a wreath on a soldier's grave while holding an American flag to denote that the soldier died for his Country. The figure on the extreme right represents the Red Cross, mourning for the dead child in her lap. Gold palms on a blue-gray background signify that the palms were won for valor. The entire composition is one of great dramatic power and is executed in the rugged style for which the artist is noted. The secondary stairways at the east and the west end of the corridor axis are similar to the main stairs, but on a smaller scale.

GROUND FLOOR—The space on the ground or basement floor is assigned almost entirely to secondary record rooms with the exception that on the east side of the building, provision is made for general comfort and rest rooms. These are appreciated especially during the tourist season by tourists who pass the building over the Yellowstone Trail. The rooms are floored with tile. A tile wainscot reaches nearly to the ceiling, and is inlaid with Batchelder tiles in various designs.

GENERAL OFFICE SPACE—The spaces for the use of the various County officials have been designed with a view to comfort and roominess. The record rooms are all day-lighted and they are, therefore, available as work spaces as well as repositories of records. Labor-saving devices such as adding machines, automatic time stamps, etc., abound throughout the offices. A complete telephone system is centered in the County Clerk's department.

THE COURT ROOMS—Flanking the Main Entrance Hall on either side at the second floor level are the doorways that give access to the Municipal Court on the one side and to the Circuit Court on the other. The court rooms are two stories in height, with an abundance of soft daylight coming in through great art-glass windows placed in the south facade. These windows at once express the purpose of the building from the out-



DEDICATION DAY, AUGUST 25, 1925

side, and they mark a new departure by the fact that they are fashioned of art glass in well studied design and colors related to the general architecture of the rooms. A secondary source of daylight is provided by the introduction of art-glass ceiling panels equipped for flood lighting at night.

The Circuit Court is designed in Renaissance, while the Municipal Court is a Colonial design. The plastic ornamentations are executed in low relief; they reflect the skill and study of the architects in line and proportion. All court rooms are floored with cork tile. Excellent ventilation is provided, and the acoustic properties are worked out on a scientific basis.

In the frieze of the cornice in the Circuit Court there is placed the following quotation by Abraham Lincoln on "Law:"

"Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher to his posterity swear by the blood of the revolution never to violate in the least particular the laws of the country, and never to tolerate their violation by others."

In the corresponding space in the Municipal Court the following quotation occurs:

"Equal and exact justice to all men of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; that the commonwealth may have a government of laws and not of men."

COURT ROOM MURALS—The four murals in the court rooms were executed by Mr. Charles Holloway. In the Municipal Court the one over the judge's bench symbolizes the "*Spirit of the Law*." The figure at the left is the mother appealing to the law for protection, while the one at the right is the man guilty of the wrong.

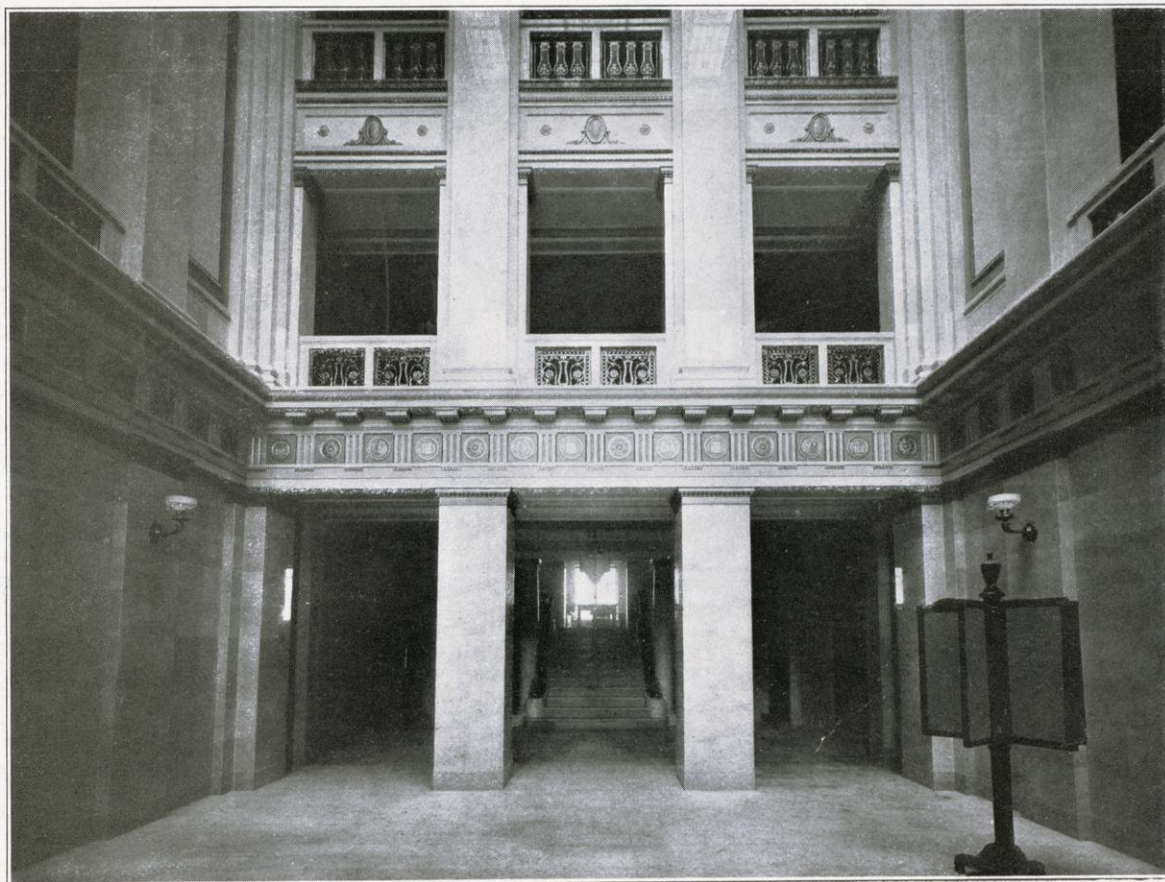
The mural over the doorway depicts the "*Spirit of Mercy*," who shows pity and compassion as the guardians of the natural law demand the penalty of the offenders.

In the Circuit Court above the judge's bench is shown the "*Spirit of Justice*." The figures on each side are those who have been tested and who have failed to balance the Scale of Justice.

Over the main doorway is "*Truth*," in whose mirror is reflected all that was, is, and will be.

The furniture in the court as well as in the other rooms is American walnut.

Connecting with the court rooms and accessible also from the corridor, are the hearing rooms and judges' chambers, while above the latter, and



MAIN LOBBY, SOUTH ENTRANCE; COUNTY BOARD TABLET AT RIGHT

accessible from private stairs only, are the jury quarters, with recreation rooms for both men and women adjoining the jury rooms. This arrangement is acclaimed an ideal one by all familiar with court procedure.

In case of a criminal trial the arrangement is such that a prisoner is brought into the building by subway, then by private stairs directly to the witness stand in a manner entirely isolated from outside contact. An ingenious signal system provides instant contact between the courts, hearing rooms, chambers and other officers whose quarters adjoin the court rooms.

BAR LIBRARY—This is a room of liberal dimensions, placed in close proximity to the courts and court officials. In it is housed a fine collection of books relating to law and to legal procedure.

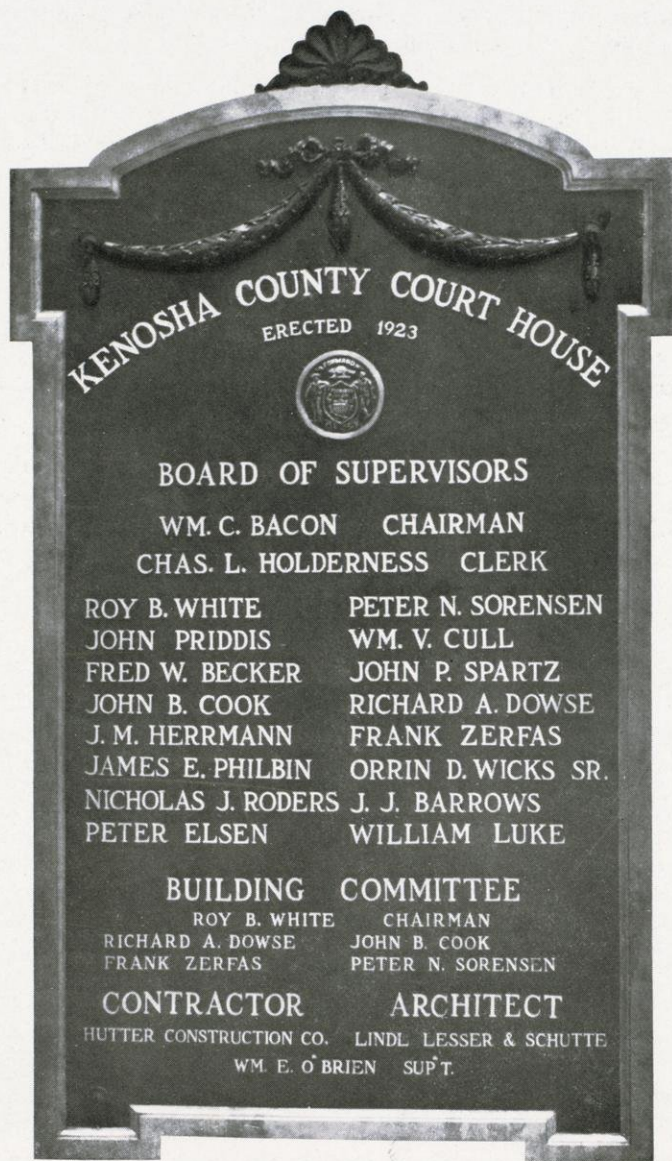
PROBATE COURT—Directly adjoining the law library and the principal corridor is the Probate Court. It is a room of good dimensions excellently lighted and ventilated, with a fine walnut wainscot carried up to the stool line of the windows.

COUNTY BOARD ROOM—This room is located on the third floor with adequate committee and consultation rooms in close connection. Over the chairman's rostrum appears the inscription: "*A Country's Character is the Sum of Its Splendid Deeds.*" Grouped around the rostrum in a semi-circle are the Commissioners' desks. The rest of the third floor is assigned to various county officers, and in part is undivided space to take care of future needs. For the same reason all departments throughout are designed with a generous assignment of space for expansion.

CORRIDOR—The main corridor runs east and west through the building and provides contact with the various departments on each floor. It is faced with Botticino marble wainscot which extends also around the doorways and casings. Marble pilasters provide a pleasing termination for the stairs at either end. The second story corridor has a marble pilaster treatment throughout its length, while the floor is marble throughout. Featuring the ceilings and walls are ornamental beams and cornice and plaster panel moulds.

GENERAL DECORATIONS—The general decorations are carried out in close relation to the architecture of the various spaces, in well-chosen colors and of a design that is pleasing, dignified and restrained.

This court house is more than an exquisitely fashioned monument of architecture. It is a temple of justice; the hope of the oppressed; the

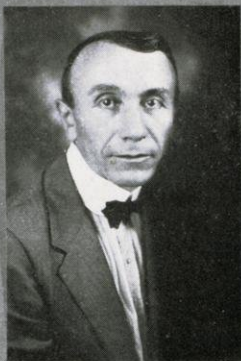


TABLET, FIRST FLOOR MAIN LOBBY

consummation of the ideals of American citizens based upon the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

THE JAIL BUILDING—The jail or safety building is placed at the rear or north end of the site. It, also, is a three story building connected by subway with the court house. The relation of the two buildings is such as to form an interlocking arrangement without visible connection. The design of this building is in a general way related to the court house, on a modified scale. It contains the central heating plant, arranged for oil-burning equipment. It contains a laundry, and a garage for eight cars. Entrance is had through a central corridor off from which are located, on the first floor, the sheriff, under sheriff, motorcycle officers and engineer. The second floor contains guard rooms, hospital rooms, witness rooms and two prison sections. The third floor contains the general kitchen, staff dining room, matrons' quarters, and two additional prison sections. The prison sections are protected with two separate lines of steel that are proof against attack by saw, file or hammer. The exterior presents the appearance of a fine administration building. The bars are not visible, as they are placed inside the glass line and then treated with colors to blend into the room treatment.

Souvenir Kenosha County Court House • 1925



ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, AND DECORATORS

The Architects and Artists

JOSEPH LINDL—Educated in public and private schools. Studied in largest offices of Chicago and Milwaukee. Won first prize in the National Competition for residence, conducted by "Carpentry and Building," 1906. Began practice in Kenosha, 1907. Designed City Hall, Willowbrook Sanatorium, Eagles' Club, and St. Paul's Church, all Kenosha, and other private buildings throughout the state.

CHARLES L. LESSER—Educated in Wisconsin. Has practiced forty years. Architect for Schlitz Brewing Company. Designed Merrill Building, Milwaukee, several school buildings for West Allis, hotels and other public buildings in the States and in Canada.

ALBERT J. SCHUTTE—Educated in Wisconsin. Trained at Armour Institute and large architectural offices in Chicago. Entered practice in Milwaukee, 1912. Designed many high-grade residences, Milwaukee, several schools, West Allis.

Interior Decoration

The entire interior decoration including the mural paintings was furnished by The William G. Andrews' Decorative Company, Chicago, and superintended by W. G. Andrews who personally designed the ornament and color schemes throughout. Mr. Andrews showed the keenest interest in all this work, resulting in a completed effect that has been the admiration of all visitors.

A. E. FORINGER—Designed panel in Supreme Court, Utah State Capitol; noted panels in large churches throughout the United States; decorative designs for governments of France, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia and Russia.

Illustration at Left

Top Row, Left to Right—Architects: Charles Lesser, Joseph Lindl, Albert Schutte.
Middle Row—Builders: E. A. Aman, Superintendent of Construction; George F. Hutter, Hutter Construction Company; William E. O'Brien, Superintendent for the County. *Bottom Row*—William G. Andrews of William G. Andrews Decorative Company; William DeLeftwich Dodge, Painter of "In Memoriam."



CIRCUIT COURT ROOM

WILLIAM DE LEFTWICH-DODGE—Designed murals in dome of Administration Building, World's Fair, Chicago. Decorations, Library of Congress, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. Received many medals as follows: New York—Gold Medal Prize Fund, American Artist, 1889. Paris—Third-Class Medal, Exposition 1889. Chicago—World's Fair Medal, 1893. Decorations—theatres, banks, hotels, educational buildings in several states.

CHARLES HOLLOWAY—Paris Exposition—Cartoons and sketches exhibited were bought by the French government. St. Louis Exposition—First prize for subject on Louisiana Purchase. Designed "*I Will*" figure of Chicago; murals and panels for court houses, theatres, and churches in several states.

WILLIAM PEACO—Panels in court houses, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio. Decorative panels for twenty-four historical panels of South Dakota Capitol.



MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM

Furniture and Equipment

WHEREVER possible all furniture and equipment used in the building is constructed of steel, finished in American walnut. Steel was selected chiefly because of its great durability, fire-resisting qualities, sanitary features and efficiency of operation.

Practically all desks and tables are of steel with a battleship linoleum top which not only affords an excellent writing surface but which is also restful to the eye as it has no glare. The drawer arrangement permits the person working at the desk to arrange his records and supplies for quick accessibility.

The counters, counter screens and partition work dividing the offices have been artistically worked out in steel with neat panelling and cornice effects which make them present an exceedingly handsome appearance.

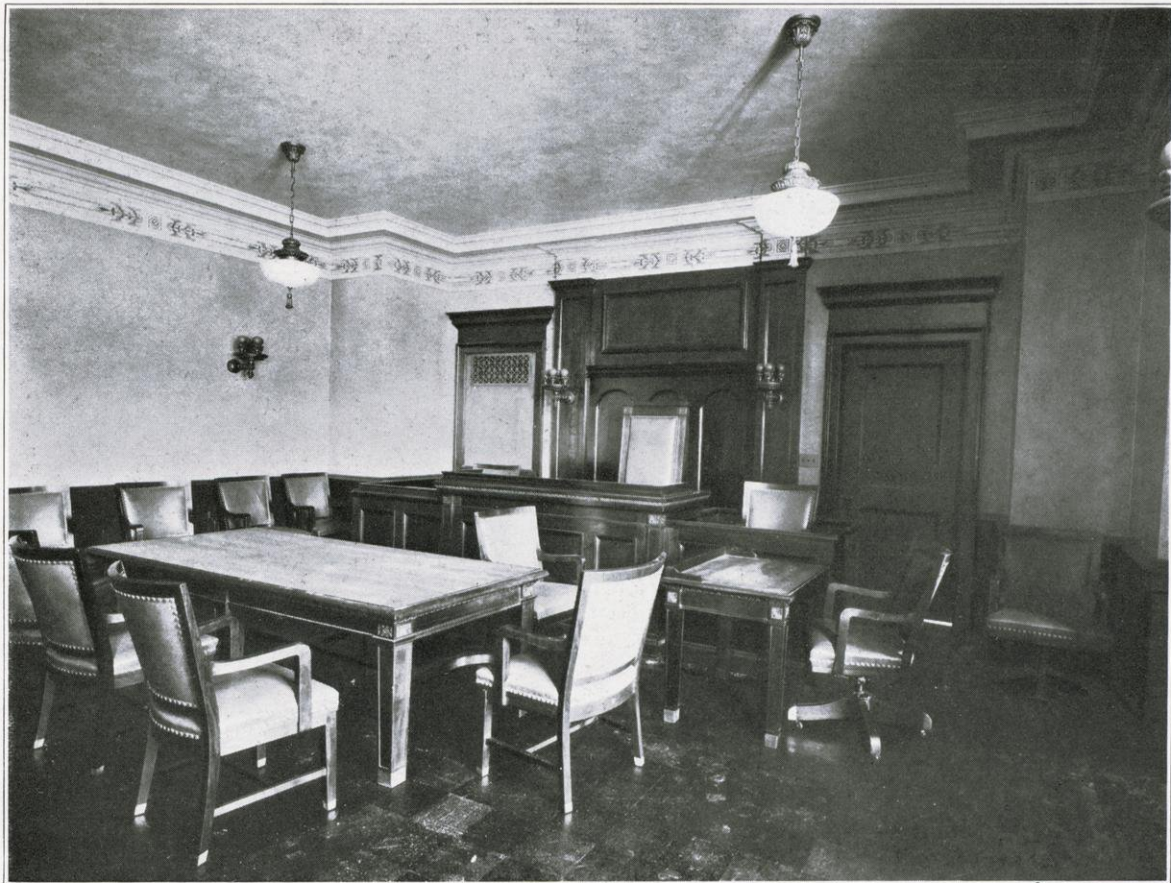
The practical features have not been overlooked. The tops of the counters are covered with battleship linoleum and on the working side underneath them is provided filing equipment and storage space for the accommodation of the records and forms which are required for the person working at the counter.

One of the most important functions of a Court House is the housing of all the county's public records. Such records as wills, deeds, transfers, court records, tax records, etc., which have been accumulating for years and which are constantly being added to in great volume must not only be kept but must be housed in such a way that any particular record can be quickly located and referred to.

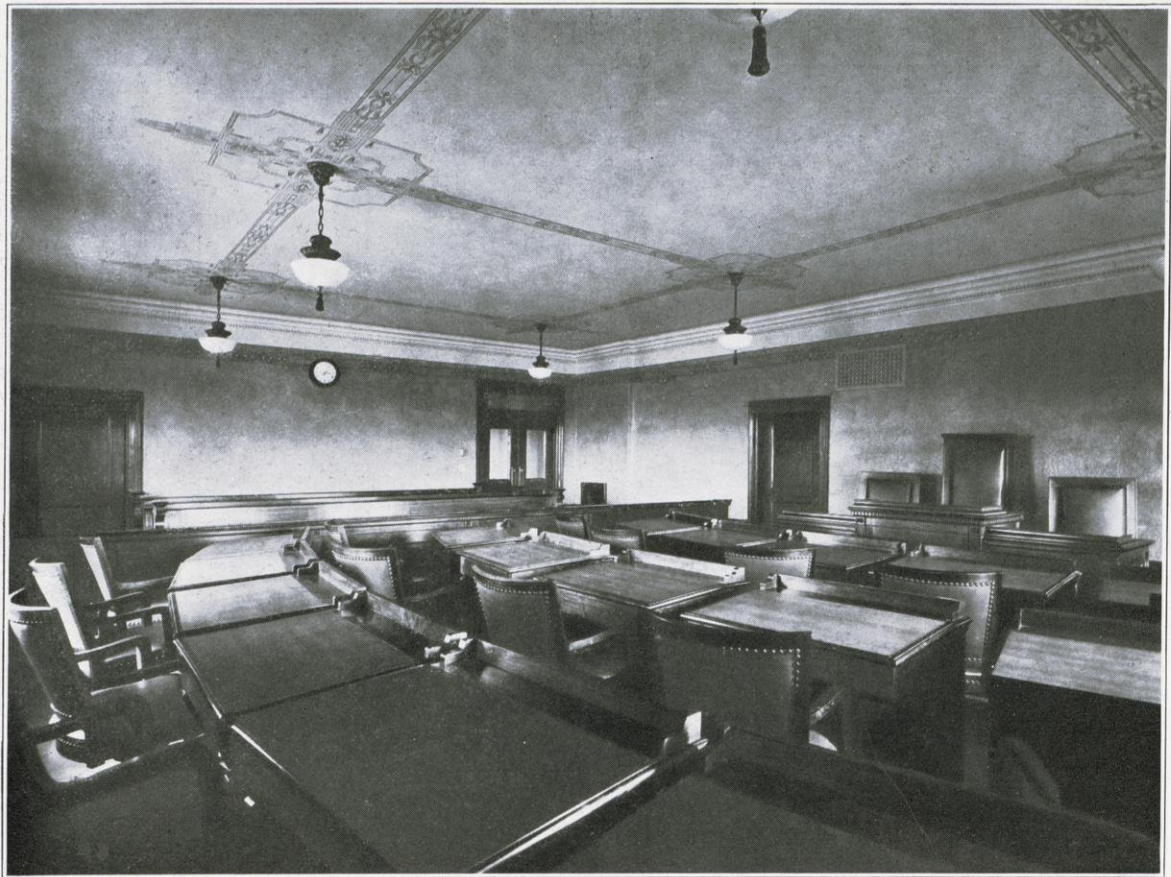
Thru the use of steel filing equipment it has been possible to house all records in a compact manner and also protect them from dampness, dust, rodent, vermin and fire. Where records are kept in books they are contained in steel cases provided with roller shelves which permit the books to be removed or replaced without injury to the binding.

Safes bearing the Underwriters' label, and which consequently offer a certified degree of protection are used for the filing of some records which are of exceptional importance.

A convenient arrangement is the personal filing cabinets which are provided in the offices of practically all officials for the filing of current correspondence and records which pertain particularly to his work. In



PROBATE JUDGE'S COURT ROOM



COUNTY SUPERVISORS' ROOM



COURT HOUSE LAW LIBRARY

some instances these cabinets are equipped with a bookcase section for the accommodation of reference books.

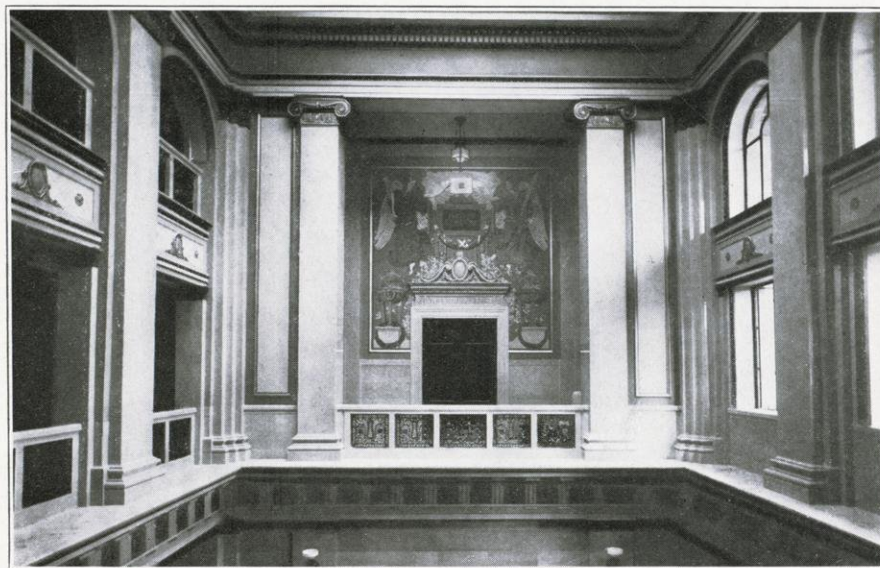
The Law Library provides steel shelving cases for the housing of the books. These cases which are of the same type as those used in the larger libraries thruout the country, make it a simple matter to keep the books in the proper order and also in good condition. For books of great value such as old editions which cannot be replaced, cases with glass doors are provided.

All display cases for flags, relics, etc., are a combination of steel and plate glass. The utmost care was exercised in the designing of them to make them absolutely dust and vermin proof to prevent injury to the articles in the cases.

The use of steel has been carried out even to such items as wastebaskets, desk trays, and wardrobes to insure the fire hazard's being as small as possible. These items are of the same design as the desks and filing equipment so that the appearance of all the furnishings is both harmonious and efficient.



MAIN LOBBY, SECOND FLOOR, WEST—ENTRANCE CIRCUIT COURT



MAIN LOBBY, SECOND FLOOR, EAST—ENTRANCE MUNICIPAL COURT

Court House Cost

—By SUPERINTENDENT WM. E. O'BRIEN

Hutter Construction Company, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Total Contract and Charges with Credits Allowed	\$ 722,132.44
E. J. Sullivan, Kenosha, Wisconsin, Plumbing	55,987.00
Thomas Heating Co., Racine, Wisconsin, Heating and Ven- tilating	57,077.00
Uihlein Ortman Electrical Co., 160 Ogden Avenue, Mil- waukee, Electrical Work, Total Contract and Charges . .	13,563.31
Herbert Thomey, Kenosha, Wisconsin, Hardware	6,806.00
Josephson & Zimmerman, Kenosha, Wisconsin, Electrical Fixtures	14,555.00
Monroe Benbrook & Co., Chicago, Illinois, and Bode Bros., Kenosha, Wisconsin, Wood Furniture, Total Contract and Charges	49,437.20
General Fireproofing Co., Youngstown, Ohio, and Bode Bros., Kenosha, Wisconsin, Steel Furniture	58,288.00
Higgins Screen Co., Louisville, Kentucky, Window Screens . .	2,935.00
Athey Co., 6035 W. 65th Street, Chicago, Illinois, Window Shades	2,561.91
Uihlein Ortman Electrical Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Automatic Clock System, Stromberge Electrical Co., Clocks	2,847.00
Reed Air Filter, Louisville, Kentucky, Air Filters for Court House and Jail	2,700.00
Wm. G. Andrews Decorative Co., Chicago, Illinois, Com- plete Decorations, Including Mural Paintings	45,000.00
Lindl, Lesser & Schutte, Architects, 82 Wisconsin Street, Milwaukee Wisconsin	34,478.94
Paving Between Buildings, Sidewalks, Landscaping, Tablet and Directory Panel, Superintendent's Salary, and In- cidental, Estimated Amount	17,000.00
Purchase of the Block Bounded by Sheridan Road, Park, Wisconsin and West Streets \$94,450.00	
Salvage from Above Block	10,860.00
Total Cost to Kenosha County	83,590.00
Estimated Expenditure on New Court House and Jail	\$1,168,958.80



THE BOARD WHICH LAUNCHED THE MOVEMENT, PURCHASING THE ORIGINAL SITE FOR THE BUILDING

Boards Concerned with Building of New Court House

NATURALLY, the tremendous task involved in a project so big as the building of the new Court House devolved upon a few County Boards. While all these Boards beginning with 1918 through to 1925 were responsible for some of the work, the great bulk of it fell upon two and, of course, the great part of this work upon the Court House Committees of these two. The duties of these Boards overlapped in time just a little, and it is not easy to show just when a particular set of men served. The heavy work fell upon the Boards indicated below as 1921, 1922, 1923 and that of 1924.

1918-19-20—James Martin, W. C. Bacon, Richard Price, Richard A. Dowse, Frank Zerfas, Thomas Fleming, J. J. Barrows, John M. Kersting, Fred Murdock, John Priddis, T. S. Scott, George Strangberg, Charles Kline, Michael Link, Nicholas J. Roders, Peter Elsen and Adrian W. De Guire.

1921-22-23—William V. Cull, W. C. Bacon, John P. Spartz, Richard A. Dowse, Frank Zerfas, Orrin D. Wicks, J. J. Barrows, William Luke, Roy B. White, John Priddis, Fred W. Becker, John B. Cook, Jacob M. Hermann, James Philben, N. J. Roders, Peter Elsen and Peter Sorensen.

1924—James Brooks, W. C. Bacon, John P. Spartz, Richard A. Dowse and Allen Turner, proxy, Frank Zerfas, Orrin D. Wicks, J. J. Barrows, John Kersting, Henry C. Anderson, John Priddis, Alfred Grosvenor, George Strangberg, Jacob M. Hermann, James Philben, N. J. Roders, Michael Duczak and Peter Sorensen.

1925—Alfred C. Grosvenor, John Priddis, George P. Rohr, Jake Van Bendegom, Fred B. Surerus, James F. Philben, Nicholas J. Roders, Peter

Illustration at Left

Front Row, Left to Right—Michael Link, Frank Zerfas, George Strangberg, James Martin, Adrian DeGuire, Fred Murdock, chairman, and Thomas S. Scott. *Middle Row*—Peter Elsen, Richard Dowse, Thomas Flemming, Miss Iva Russell, deputy clerk, Richard Price, Charles Kline, John Priddis. *Top Row*—N. J. Roders, J. J. Barrows, Russell H. Jones, county clerk, John Kersting, Peter Fisher, Jr., district attorney, William Bacon.



THE COUNTY BOARD WHICH LET THE CONTRACTS FOR THE NEW BUILDING

Elsen, Walter Berquist, James Brook, W. C. Bacon, John P. Spartz, Lafayette A. Robinson, Frank Zerfas, Orrin D. Wicks, Jay W. Rhodes and John Kersting.

The Building Committee that let the principal contracts consisted of Roy B. White, chairman; Richard A. Dowse, secretary; John B. Cook, Frank Zerfas and Peter N. Sorensen. This committee served from March 8, 1922, to April 15, 1924.

The second committee, that made minor contracts, consisted of Richard A. Dowse, chairman; Peter N. Sorensen, secretary; Frank Zerfas, John Priddis and John P. Spartz. This committee served from April 16, 1924, to May 6, 1925.

The committee of 1925 that had in charge the final completing work consisted of Frank Zerfas, chairman; John Priddis, secretary; John P. Spartz, James Philben and John M. Kersting.

To all the men of these several Boards is due the gratitude of this community; for they carried through to a successful conclusion their own convictions and those of a scattered public opinion, and the result is the *finest county court house* in Wisconsin.

Cut into the stone above the main entrance of the building, facing the sun, is this inscription:

ERECTED • BY • THE • PEOPLE • OF • KENOSHA • COUNTY • TO
THE • CAUSE • OF • JUST • AND • CAPABLE • GOVERNMENT

In one sense it is "the people of Kenosha County." It is our common, proud possession. However, all recognize the fact that these thirty-eight men, having carried the burdens of this wonderful project, are the real creators of this magnificent building. Long after all have passed on, this building will stand a monument to their pains-taking care, their clear vision, and to their courage and faithfulness in carrying the thousand details to which those not directly concerned have never given a thought. Better citizens are made by a clearer and better appreciation of the cost

Illustration at Left

Front Row, Left to Right—Fred W. Becker, William Bacon, N. J. Roders, chairman, Peter Elsen, James Philben. *Middle Row*—John Priddis, Richard Dowse, W. V. Cull, Jacob Herrmann, John Cook, William Luke. *Top Row*—Frank Zerfas, R. B. White, Orrin D. Wicks, J. J. Barrows, Peter N. Sorensen, John P. Spartz, Charles L. Holderness, county clerk.



THE BOARD WHICH CARRIED ON THE WORK AND LET CONTRACTS FOR EQUIPMENT, ETC.

of the civilization they enjoy. We cannot refrain from a wish that in some way, somehow, the full weight and significance of such projects could be brought home to the realization of the youth of our community. They have so much, seemingly free, in this wonderful period, that many times they do not seem to appreciate whence it all came. Could they but have an understanding of how such things are accomplished—and really know the cost in thought, in vision, in money and in sacrifice, their appreciation would be deepened, their tolerance and forbearance would be widened, and their patriotism would take on a real love and devotion to those who made the sacrifices and for the things created because of them.

Fellow Citizens, Members of These Boards, we have a common pride in the magnificent building you have made for us. It is our legacy, our possession. In it, too, you have erected a monument to yourselves that in the years to come will stand mute testimony to your faithfulness and to the services you have rendered your fellows.

—Illustration at Left—

Front Row, Left to Right—Fred W. Becker, William Bacon, chairman, W. V. Cull, John Priddis, William Luke, Henry Anderson, Alfred Grosvenor. Middle Row—John P. Spartz, Peter Elsen, Frank Zerfas, Orrin Wicks, Allen Turner, Jacob Herrmann, Michael Duczak. Top Row—John Kersting, N. J. Roders, James Brook, Peter N. Sorensen, James Philben, J. J. Barrows, Charles L. Holderness, county clerk.



THE BOARD WHICH HAS COMPLETED THE STRUCTURE AND TAKEN IT OVER

An Appreciation

ON THE completion of our splendid Kenosha County Court House and Jail, I must express my sincere appreciation of the confidence placed in me by the County Board of Supervisors and of the wonderful co-operation of the architects, contractors, and foremen in direct charge of the work. From the day the Hutter Construction Company began the excavating of the jail basement to the day the General Fire-proofing Company's men completed in record time their most competent erection of the steel furniture, I can not conceive of as large a construction job as this being put through with less friction than was shown in this undertaking. I shall long remember the building of these two fine structures as a most pleasing task, completed to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. May I ask that all who contributed to this lasting and general result accept my sincere appreciation of their conduct and of their splendid helpfulness.

Very sincerely,

Kenosha, Wisconsin
September 1, 1925

WILLIAM E. O'BRIEN,
Superintendent of Construction

Illustration at Left

Front Row, Left to Right—Jake Van Bendegom, William Bacon, John Priddis, chairman, Miss Iva Russell, county clerk, George Rohr, Roy Berquist, Alfred Grosvenor, Jay Rhodes. *Top Row*—John Kersting, Orrin Wicks, John Spartz, Lafayette Robinson, James Philben, Peter Elsen, Frank Zerfas, James Brook, N. J. Rodgers, Fred Surerus.

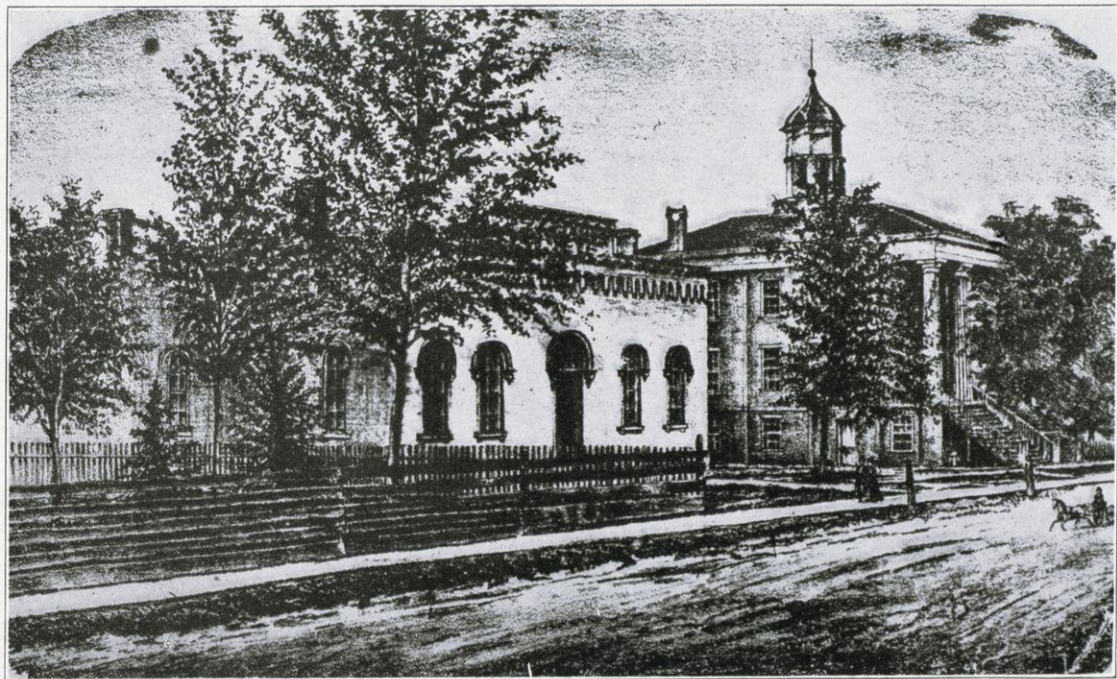


COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS WHO DID THE HEAVY WORK AS
"COURT HOUSE COMMITTEEMEN"

*Top Row, Left to Right—John B. Cook, Fred W. Becker, John Spartz, Thomas Fleming.
Middle Row—Peter N. Sorensen, Frank Zerfas, John Priddis, Roy B. White.
Bottom Row—James Philben, Richard A. Dowse, John M. Kersting, Thomas S. Scott.*



ENTRANCE TO CIRCUIT COURT ROOM



COURT HOUSE NO. 1, RIGHT; COURT HOUSE NO. 2, LEFT

Kenosha County Court Houses

THE following sketch was compiled by Miss Iva Russell and deposited in the corner-stone of the new Court House, November 14, 1923:

History of Kenosha County Court Houses

“On March 4, 1850, Kenosha and Racine Counties were divided and it was during this first year that our County Court House was built on the site of the present jail. It was a red brick building a story and a half high, the courtroom being on the main floor with a gallery around the room with a high railing in front. The jail was in the basement.

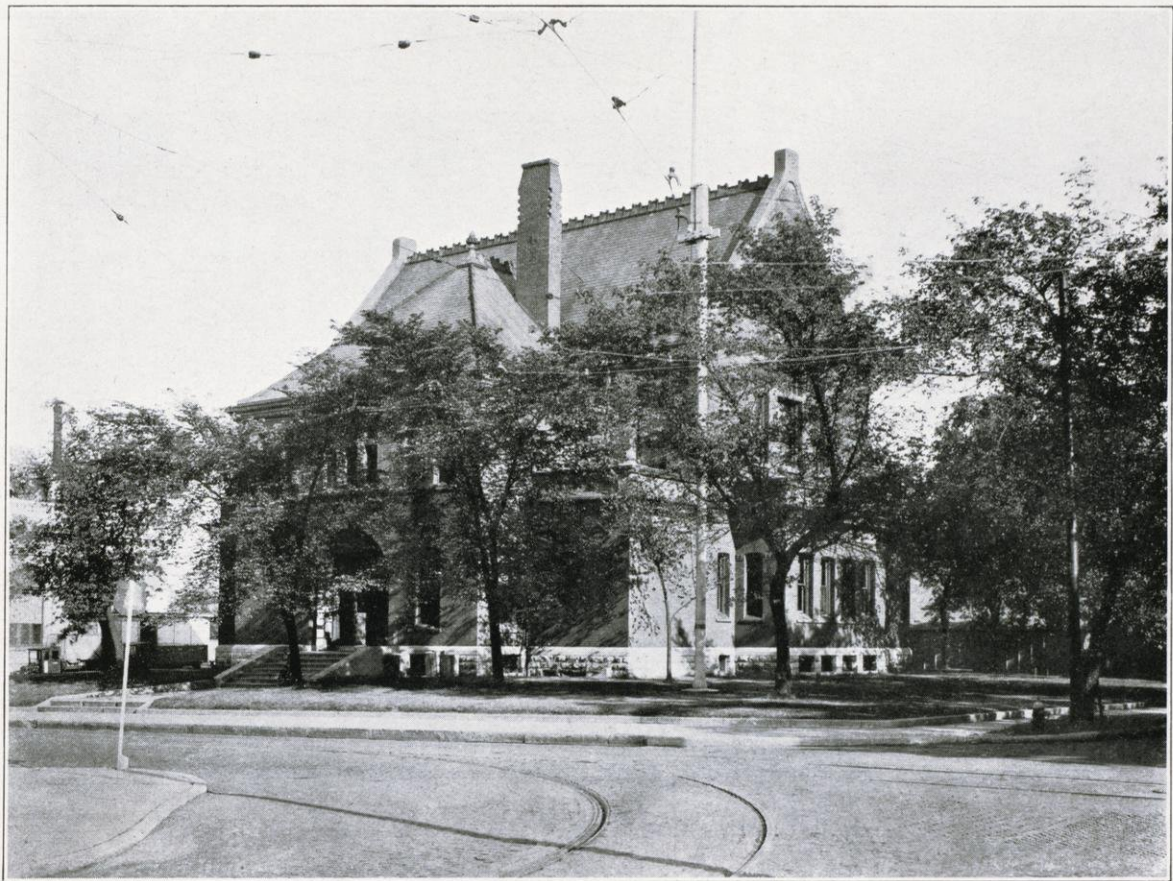
“Twenty years later, in 1870, Kenosha County outgrew its quarters and forty-five feet of land was purchased from Mr. Wm. Symes adjoining the property then owned on the west and a new building was built. The building is now known as the Municipal Court.

“In 1885 these quarters were found inadequate to meet the needs of Kenosha County and the late Z. G. Simmons offered to the Kenosha County Board the site for a Court House and the sum of \$20,000.00 with which to build, but they refused this offer as they needed a new jail. A Court House and Jail were finally built for the sum of \$31,000.00, the County paying \$23,000.00 and the City \$5,000.00. Mr. Simmons donated \$2,000.00 and Mr. Ed. Bain donated \$1,000.00. This building was completed and accepted on November 13, 1885.

“Kenosha County again outgrew its quarters and on November 19, 1918, a resolution was unanimously adopted by the County Board of Supervisors, setting aside from the general funds of the County \$100,000.00 as a fund, after the collection of taxes assessed for the year 1918, for the purchase of real estate and the erection of a Court House and Jail, and a Committee consisting of Supervisors Scott, Fleming and Dowse were elected by the County Board to act as a Site Committee. On November 29, 1918, a resolution was passed by the County Board author-

Illustration at Left

Right—Court House No. 1; built 1850; cost \$10,500; razed 1885 to make way for new jail and sheriff's residence. *Left*—Court House No. 2; built 1870; cost \$6,500; served as jail for No. 1 for a time, then became home of county officers and later of Municipal Court.



COURT HOUSE NO. 3; COMPLETED IN 1885; COST \$31,000; TO BE RAZED FOR THE WIDENING OF MARKET STREET

izing the County Clerk to draw County orders in payment of a Court House site. In the meantime, the Site Committee was seeking a desirable location and when the County Board met on January 16, 1919, it eliminated all sites selected for a Court House with the exception of the Pennfeather and English blocks. The Board finally selected the English block, which was purchased for the sum of \$94,450.00, but not without considerable difficulty as some of the property holders in the block valued their property far in excess of its true value at that time. Kenosha County collected from the sale of buildings on the block the sum of \$10,860.00; this would bring the cost of the building site down to \$83,590.00. At the session held on March 11, 1919, a building committee of five members was elected by the Board as follows: Supervisors Strangberg, Dowse, Kline, Scott and Fleming. On March 14, 1919, the architects submitted sketches and plans for the new Court House and Jail. The Board selected three architects out of the ten, one of which was to be chosen later. Architects Bell, White, White & White and Lindl were selected.

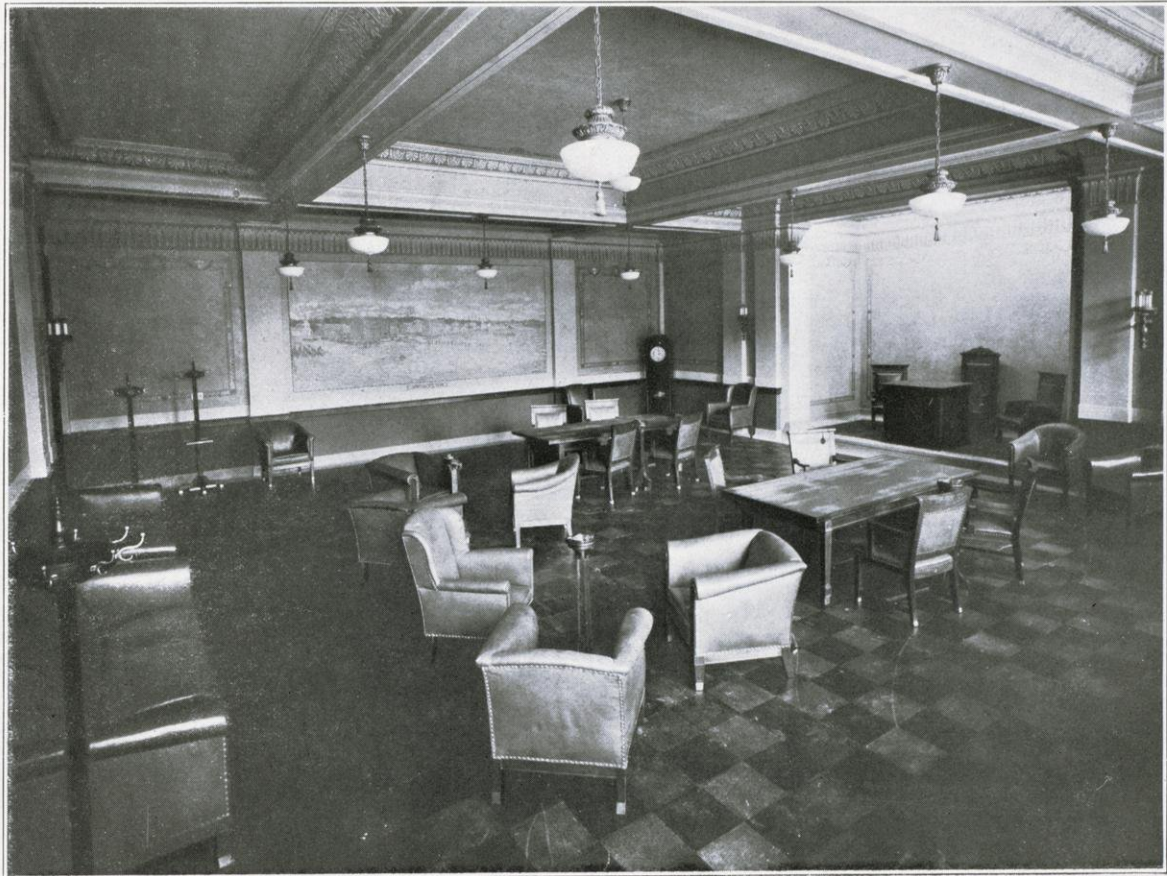
“On April 12, 1919, the Board convened for the purpose of considering a \$400,000.00 bond issue, and such was authorized by the Board.

“On April 19, 1919, White, White & White were selected as architects for the new Court House and Jail. Therefore, on April 19, 1919, sealed bids were received for the building of the County buildings, but were so excessive that the Board rejected all bids. The plans were finally submitted to Westinghouse Kerr Company to estimate the cost of said buildings and it was found that the Court House and Jail when completed would cost approximately \$2,000,000.00. This was too costly; so Architects White, White & White were paid \$10,000.00 for their plans and the contract with them was cancelled April 27, 1921. The Building Committee was discharged and action deferred.

“A resolution was passed on November 30, 1921, setting aside the income tax as a sinking fund for the purpose of paying toward the building of the new Court House and Jail and the Finance Committee was instructed to invest this money in U. S. Government Securities. This was done and there is now the sum of \$250,000.00 drawing interest.

“In March, 1922, the Court House project was again brought up and it was suggested that a \$500,000.00 bond issue to spread over a twenty year period be presented for passage.

“A new building committee was elected, which was composed of Supervisors White, Dowse, Zerfas, Cook and Sorensen.



MEMORIAL HALL

“On March 30, 1922, Architects again submitted sketches and Architects Lindl, Lesser and Schutte were chosen by the Board.

“At an adjourned session on May 3, 1922, a City Planning Committee conferred with the County Board relative to a civic center, which resulted in the following committee being elected to act in conjunction with the city: Supervisors Hermann, Becker, Priddis, Cull and Barrows. This Committee met with the City Planning Committee and were unanimously in favor of changing the site for the new proposed Court House and Jail to the block bounded by Market Street, Sheridan Road, Pearl Street and Congress Street, as being a much better and advantageous location. This proposition was finally accepted by the County Board as a whole, the city agreeing to buy and clear the above mentioned block and give a deed of same to Kenosha County in exchange for her giving the city a deed to block 39 to be used for a High School site.

“On December 28, 1922, sealed bids were received for the construction of the Court House and Jail and the following were the low bidders:

General Contract—Hutter Construction Company, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.....	\$695,400.00
Heating, Ventilating and Heat Control—Thomas Heating Company, Racine, Wisconsin.....	57,077.00
Plumbing—Ed. Sullivan, Kenosha, Wisconsin.....	55,000.00
Electric Wiring—Uihlein Ortman Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.....	10,997.00
Total.....	\$818,474.00

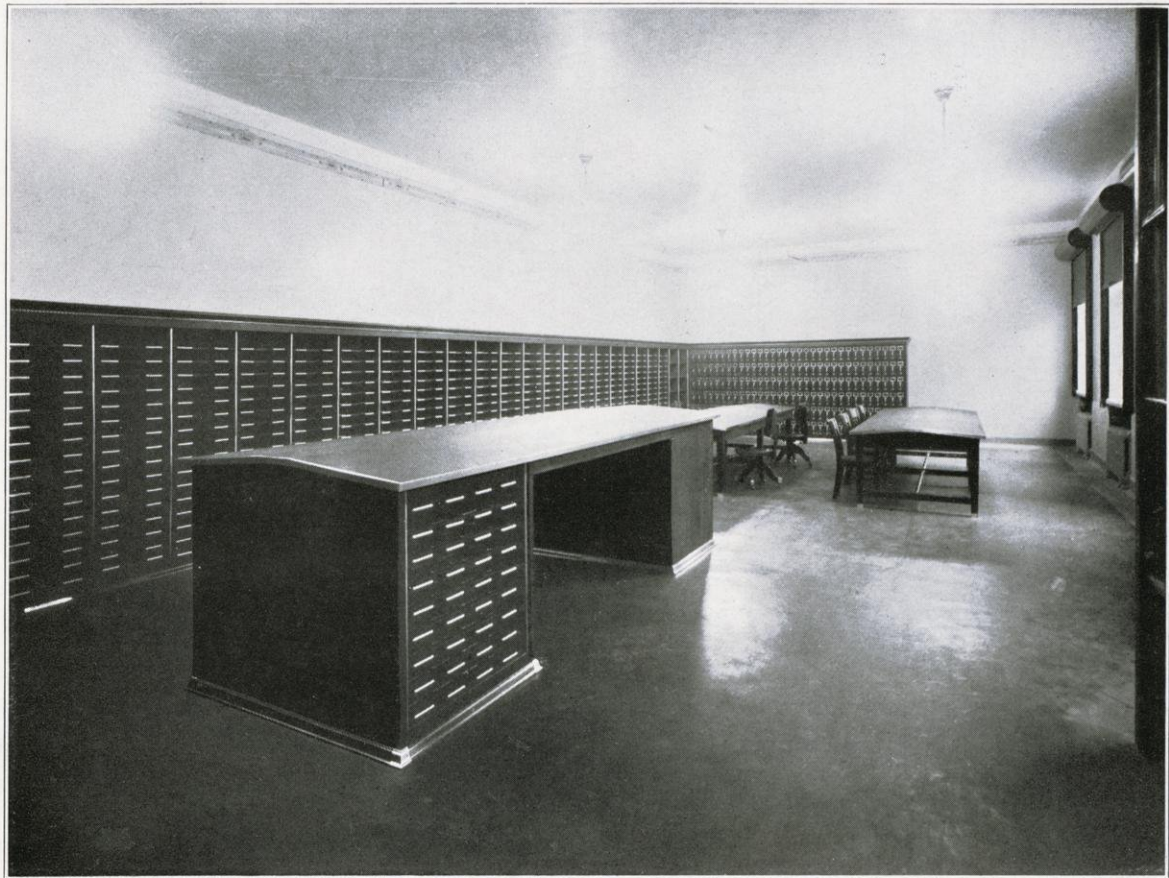
“On January 3, 1923, contracts were signed.

“According to contract with Hutter Construction Company, said buildings were to be completed by July 1, 1924, but the city had so much trouble in purchasing said block on account of property holders asking fabulous sums for their land, condemnation proceedings were threatened and the building probably will not be completed on date set.

“The \$500,000.00 bond issue was sold on October 1, 1923, to R. M. Grant Company, Chicago, Illinois, at a premium of \$7,075.00 which is considered a good price.

“The jail is now under roof and the Court House proper is under way. The site was entirely cleared of existing buildings October 1, 1923.

“The New Building Committee has made frequent trips to other cities in the state for the purpose of benefiting by the experience of



VAULT, OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS

others and is trying to make such selections in materials and furnishings that Kenosha County may have the finest and best Court House in the state.”

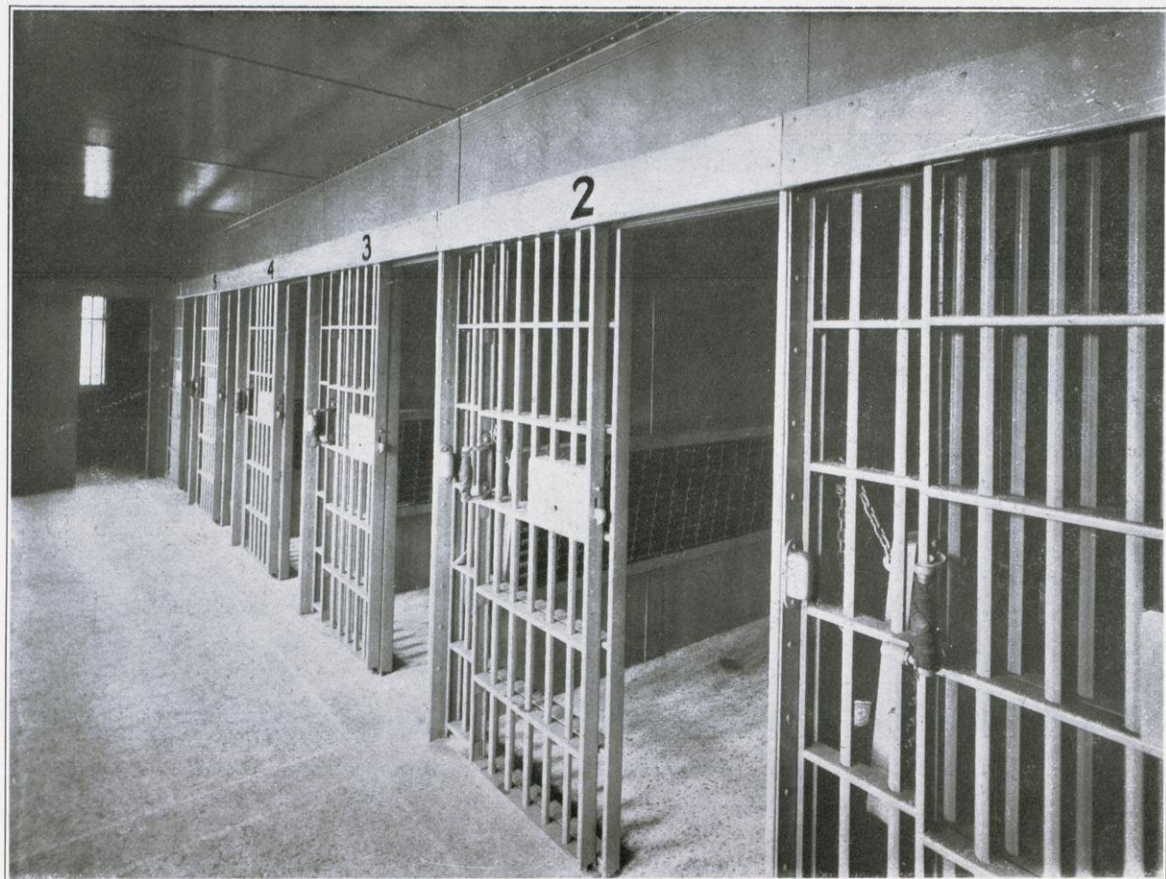
Our Progress in Court Houses

No. 1—Built 1850.....	\$ 10,000
No. 2—Built 1870.....	6,500
No. 3—Built 1885.....	31,000
No. 4—Built 1925.....	1,000,000

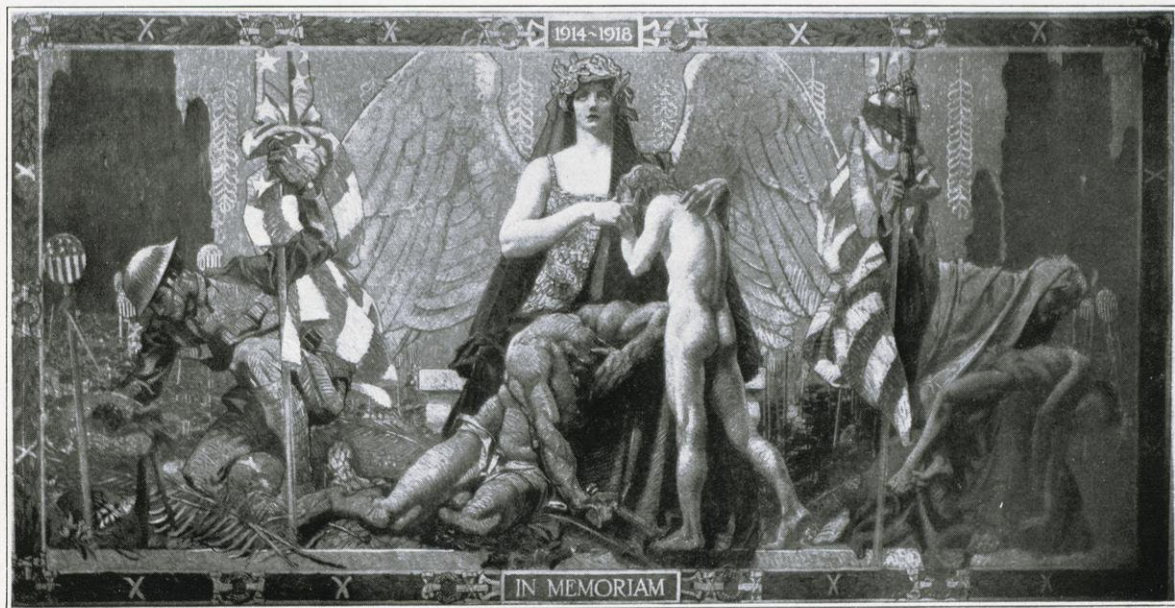
—O. L. T.



COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

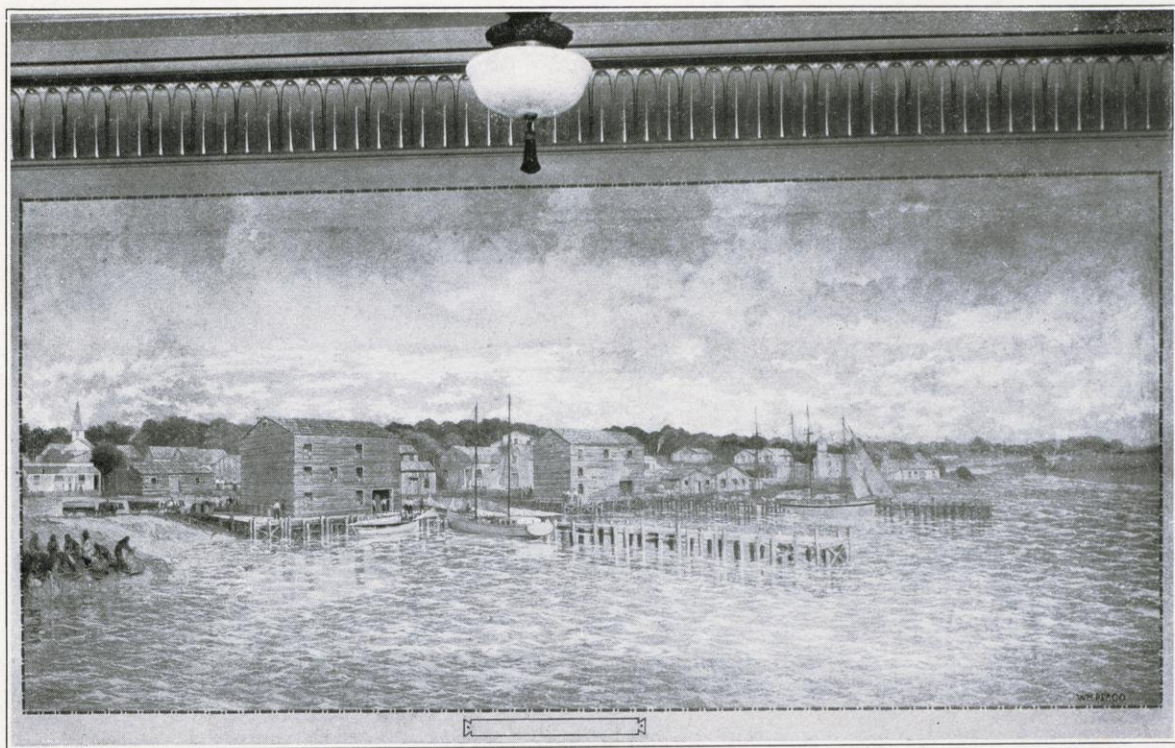


CELLS FOR MEN



MURAL PAINTING TO LATE WORLD WAR VETERANS. MAIN STAIRWAY BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS

Bits of Yesterday



EARLY SOUTHPORT ABOUT 1840—MURAL PAINTING, MEMORIAL HALL

Wisconsin and Kenosha County Become American

ALTHOUGH the territory embracing Wisconsin was ceded to the United States in 1783, the British refused to evacuate the Northwestern military posts until 1796, and Wisconsin remained in fact a dependency of Mackinac and the British military government at that place. The jurisdiction and boundaries during these early years were as follows:

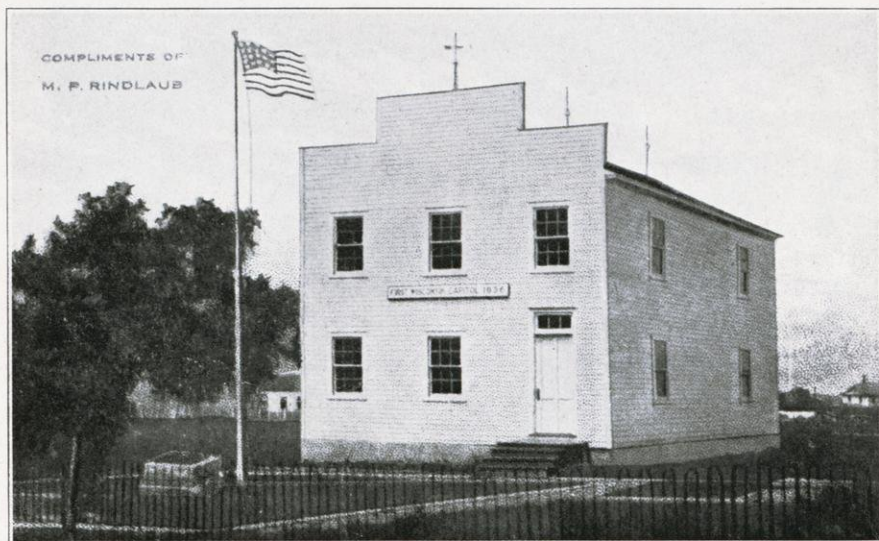
WISCONSIN A PART OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY—Owing to the vague and undefined westward bounds assured to the early English colonies in their respective charters, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia claimed territory within the present limits of Wisconsin. They ceded their Western claims to the federal government, to form a national domain, from which to create new states. The country “northwest of the River Ohio,” of which Wisconsin was a part, was by the Congressional Ordinance of 1787 erected into the Northwest Territory, whose governor was General Arthur St. Clair (1789-1802).

A PART OF INDIANA TERRITORY—May 7, 1800, the Northwest Territory was divided into two territories by a north and south line. All east of that line became Ohio, and the west of it, Indiana Territory. Wisconsin became a part of the latter, whose governor was Gen. William Henry Harrison (1800-11).

A PART OF ILLINOIS TERRITORY—February 3, 1809, Indiana Territory was reduced to the limits of the state of that name, the western and northern remainder being set off as Illinois Territory, the latter including what is now Wisconsin. Its governor was Ninian Edwards (1809-18).

Illustration at Left

Prominent buildings foreground—Baptist Church, Warehouse of Champion I. Hutchinson, Warehouse of Henry Elkins, Store of Cogswell and E. G. Ayers (P.O.), Congregational Church, warehouse and first store of Wm. Bullen & Company. *South side of harbor on present Simmons Company site.*



WISCONSIN'S FIRST CAPITOL, 1836
Three miles northwest of Belmont, Lafayette County, the meeting place
of first Territorial Legislature



OLDEST M. E. CHURCH IN SOMERS AND (IT IS THOUGHT) IN WISCONSIN.
BUILT AT KELLOGG'S CORNERS 1837

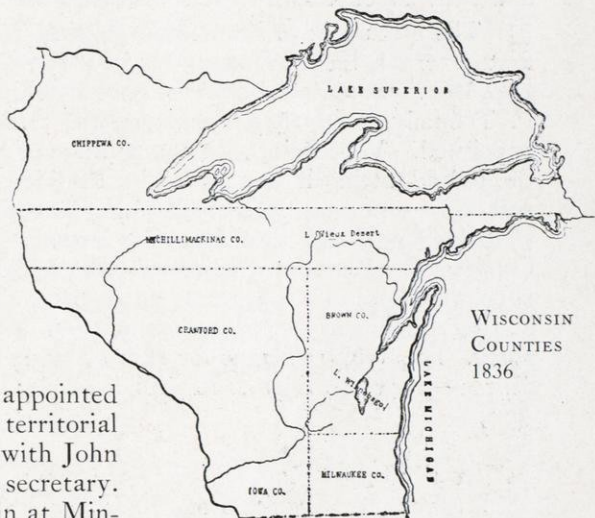
A PART OF MICHIGAN TERRITORY—April 18, 1818, the state of Illinois was created, with its existing boundaries: and all north of that state and west of Lake Michigan to Mississippi River was added to Michigan Territory. The governors of Michigan Territory, while Wisconsin was a part of it, were: Lewis Cass, 1813-31; George B. Porter, 1831-34; Stevens T. Mason, 1834-35; and John Scott Horner, 1835-36.

WISCONSIN TERRITORY—April 20, 1836, Wisconsin Territory was erected. It embraced all of what is now Wisconsin, and extended westward to Missouri River, thus including the present Minnesota and Iowa, and much of the two Dakotas.

June 12, 1838, the Territory of Iowa was erected out of that portion of Wisconsin lying west of Mississippi River. When Wisconsin was admitted into the Union (May 29, 1848), the portion lying between St. Croix river and the Mississippi was detached and given to the new territory of Minnesota. In this manner Wisconsin was restricted to its present boundaries. — *Blue Book, 1925.*

1836—The Territory of Wisconsin was organized April 20, by act of Congress. Henry Dodge was appointed governor, and on July 4 territorial organization was completed with John S. Horner of Virginia as secretary. The new officers were sworn in at Mineral Point, then the largest town in the Territory. The supreme court was constituted by the appointment of Charles Dunn, David Irvin, and William C. Frazier as justices. The first territorial assembly met at Old Belmont (now Leslie), October 25. On November 24, Madison, then merely a town on paper, was, against many competitors, chosen the capital through the influence of Judge Doty, owner of the site. George W. Jones was elected by this Legislature the first territorial delegate to Congress.

In this first Territorial Legislature Charles Durkee sat in the Lower House for Pike River (Kenosha). In this session, on the 3rd of December, the



great County of Milwaukee was divided, and out of its southern part was formed Racine County, comprising what is now Racine and Kenosha Counties. Pike River hoped for the County Seat but this was at last fixed at Racine with the understanding that the County Judge and the Sheriff should be taken from Pike River. In accordance with this understanding William Bullen was appointed Judge, and E. R. Hugunin, sheriff. Mr. Hugunin made such a good sheriff that he held the office for eight years.

In 1836 the territory had a total population of 11,683, practically all of this was in the southern half of the state. This half contained only four counties. Crawford County in the northwest with 850 people, Iowa County in the southwest with 5234, Brown County in the northeast with 2706 and Milwaukee County the southeast with a population of 2893.

There must have been some political trouble in the Territory. Its first governor, Henry Dodge, was in 1841 succeeded by James Doty. In 1844 Doty was removed from the governorship and succeeded by Nathaniel P. Talmadge. In 1845 Talmadge was removed and Henry Dodge re-appointed. Wisconsin, with a population of 250,000, became a state when the bill admitting it was signed by President Polk, May 29, 1848. Our first Governor was Nelson Dewey. The first United States Senators were Henry Dodge and Isaac P. Walter. The first representative in Congress for Kenosha district was Charles Durkee. Charles Durkee, in 1855, was chosen U. S. Senator, the first Republican to represent Wisconsin in that body and actually chosen *before* the *birth* of the Republican party. The Whig almanac for 1855 called him the *only* republican in the Senate—therefore, the *first* Republican United States Senator ever chosen.

Kenosha County

IN 1834 what is now Kenosha County had no white settlers. Explorers were traversing the region having come into the state through Indian trails. The most noted of these was the Jambau Trail from a French trader, Jacques Jambau, who had a cabin west of Racine. This trail between Chicago and Milwaukee entered Wisconsin near the present route of the St. Paul Railroad, and was trodden to an average depth of nearly a foot. This trail followed the line of the present Green Bay road. It seems that nearly the entire country was covered with heavy timber. The early settlers, especially those looking for places to build cities, were attracted to the mouths of the streams.

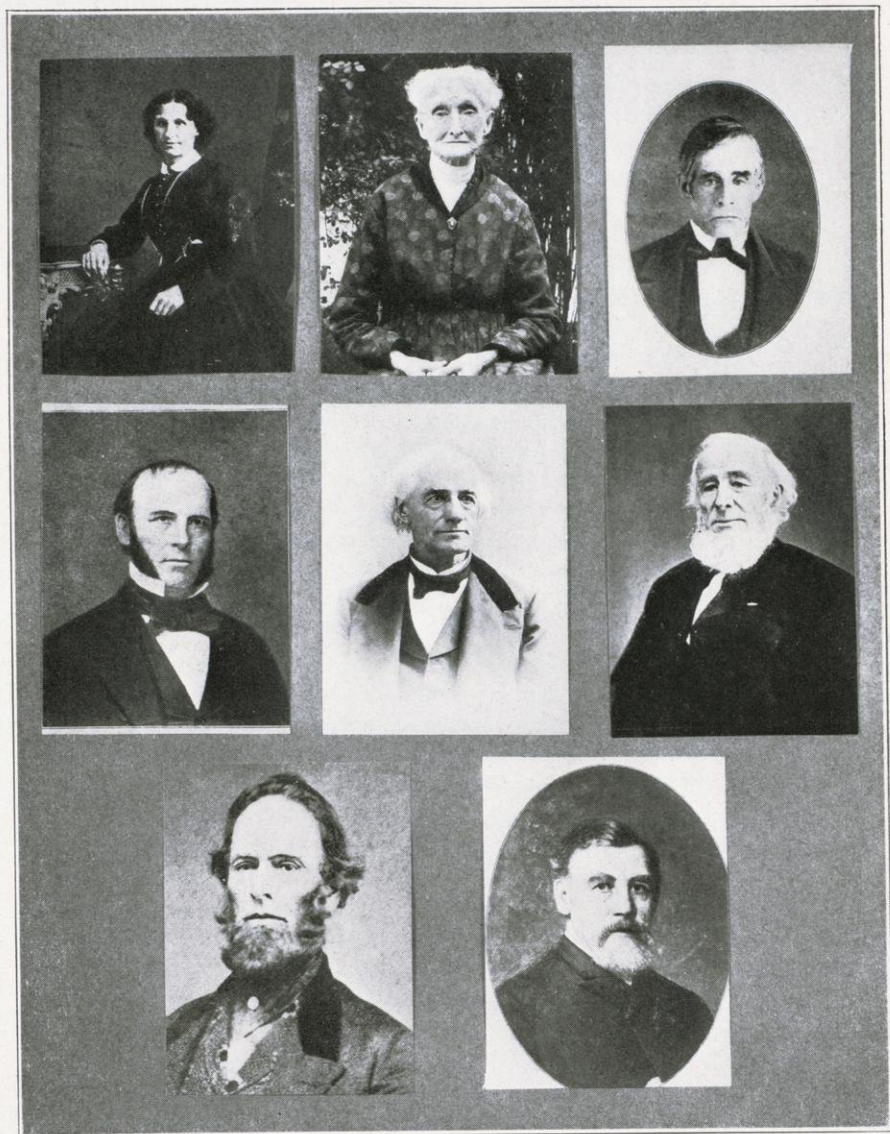
Among the very first settlers in the County was Jacob Montgomery and his two sons, who occupied a log cabin near Petrifying Springs, in Somers. This was in 1835. In this same year activities began in Pleasant Prairie and the foundation of the City of Kenosha was laid.

At this time what is now Kenosha County was included in Milwaukee County. This took in the entire southeast corner of the state, the north line running a few miles south of Lake Winnebago, and the west line divided the southern boundary of the state into two parts; the east being Milwaukee County and the west Iowa County.

Early in the year 1850 old Racine County was divided and the southern half became Kenosha County. The village of Southport (Pike River) had been incorporated by a special act of the Legislature in 1841. When the counties were divided in 1850 Southport was incorporated as a city and the name changed to Kenosha.

A special election for county officers was held April, 1850, with the following results: member general assembly, Obed P. Hale; sheriff, Leonard Crocker; clerk of circuit court, Oscar F. Dana; district attorney, J. B. Jilson; register of deeds, William L. Hinsdale; treasurer, George M. Robinson; clerk board of supervisors, Thomas J. Rand; surveyor, John M. Jones; coroner, Daniel C. Burgess; and judge, Isaac N. Stoddard.

The first city officers were mayor, Michael Frank; clerk, Charles C. Sholes; aldermen first ward, E. G. Runals, J. V. Ayer, and John English; second ward, J. W. Kittredge, J. P. Glover and George Bennett; third ward, J. Parker, Edward Bailey and J. V. Quarles; marshal, Jacob McKinney; treasurer, John Noble; superintendent of schools, Charles



EARLY KENOSHA COUNTY SETTLERS

Clement; justices of the peace, Hiram Tuttle, John L. Yates, John R. Sharpstein and George Bennett; constables, Hiram Holbrook, N. R. Allen and G. W. Cole; assessors, Dennis Casey and Thomas Wright.

Towns

BRIGHTON—In the early 40's a number of settlers bought government land at \$1.25 an acre in the town of Brighton—the Rhodeses, the Leaches, the O'Briens, the Tighes, the Rileys, the Shanleys, the Tobins, the McCormacks. Among the very first of these, after thirty-one days of sailing between Liverpool and New York, were Abraham and Thomas Rhodes, and Aaron and William Leach, with their families. The old "shanty tree" still stands on the farm now owned by James Brooks. Under this tree was built of green logs a hut that first sheltered the Rhodeses and the Leaches—some forty all told. Here a common kettle boiled the potatoes for all, the portion of each family being tied in a separate bag. Only one of this party is now living—Mrs. John North, of Missouri, a daughter of Aaron Leach. The Thomas Rhodes land is now being farmed by the fourth generation and the Abraham Rhodes tract is occupied by the third generation of Rhodeses.

Mr. George F. Shanley, still living and owner of the farm on which he was born, was the first white child born in the town—November 5, 1843.

Mr. Hugh Riley donated the site on which the St. Francis Church now stands. Among the first to arrive were the Irish, and the church organization was named St. Patrick's. Soon Germans came and mingled with them, and while both used the same church, the Germans insisted upon calling it St. Boniface Society. There was a good deal of "bickering"

Illustration at Left

Top Row, Left to Right—Maria Williams Sauber, born June, 1836; first white person born in Kenosha County to live to maturity. Mrs. Emily Foote White, still living, Kenosha, born September 8, 1837, Pleasant Prairie. Orrin Sholes father of C. L. and C. C. Sholes; prominent Southport Baptist. *Middle Row*—Hon. Charles Durkee, arrived 1836; represented this district in lower house of first Territorial Legislative session at Belmont; also our first representative in Congress; 1855 elected Republican United States Senator, the first and only Republican U. S. Senator at Washington. Eli Runals built "Runals House" on site of Schwartz building; extensive land owner in Somers. J. V. Quarles, father Charles Quarles and U. S. Senator J. V. *Lower Row*—John Bullen, Jr., the real founder of Kenosha. J. G. McMynn, pioneer Kenosha educator; later removed to Racine; became Regent of the University; State Superintendent of Public Instruction.



EARLY SETTLERS

to and fro between these two elements, and the Germans were often reminded that "the Irish had so many pews in the church and paid for them." However, a cyclone assisted towards harmony; for when a storm destroyed the church in 1883 all agreed to call it "St. Francis."

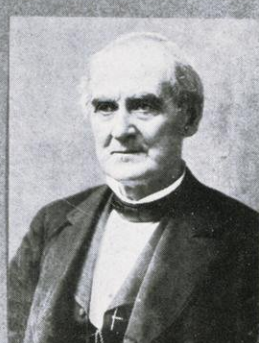
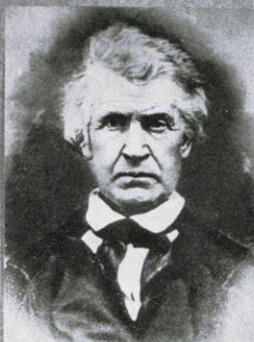
One of the most commendable memorials of the town is the Soldiers' Monument near the Brighton Church—"Erected by the Citizens of Brighton in Recognition of the Patriotism Shown by All Who Answered our Country's Call in the World War—1917—1919." Martin Hahn, killed in action October 15, 1918, is the gold-star soldier. On the west side of the monument are listed the civil war veterans (67); on the other side are the World War veterans (37).

BRISTOL—The first land claim in the town of Bristol was made by William R. Higgins in 1835. In the spring of 1836 the first farm was opened by Rollin Tuttle, who clinched his claim by plowing the prairie and planting. In this year, too, among many coming into the town were William Etheridge, Joel Walker, George Nixon, Salmon Upson. The next year the newcomers were Levi Grant, A. R. Wilbur, C. C. Cottings, Charles Jennings and others. William Tuttle was the first white child born in the township. The first death in the town was that of a daughter of Elisha Phelps, in 1837. The funeral sermon was the first sermon preached in the town. On October 5, 1837, about fifty people gathered at the house of A. B. Jackson to hear a sermon by Rev. Barlow. This was the first regular Sabbath service in Bristol. At this service arrangements were made for other religious meetings to be held at different homes. The first religious organization in the town was formed March 7, 1838.

July, 1837, Jason Lathrop surveyed the road running from Southport to Geneva, the first surveyed road west from Southport. In December of this year a meeting was held at Bristol to petition for a mail route from Southport to Geneva. At this meeting the town was named "Bristol."

Illustration at Left

Top Row, Left to Right—Volney French, pioneer attorney; A. D. Northway, early owner "lighters" for transferring from boats to shore. Enthusiastic advocate for harbor. S. R. McClellan, physician, 1843. *Middle Row*—J. M. Kellogg, early settler, founder Kellogg's Corners. Edward Bain, manufacturer. Bot Mitchell Wagon Works, 1852; founder Bain Wagon Co. Zalmon G. Simmons, Kenosha benefactor. *Bottom Row*—S. S. Derbyshire, one of first settlers Pleasant Prairie. James Dowse, preempted farm at Dexter's Corners still owned by Dowse family. J. B. Jilson, early Kenosha jurist.



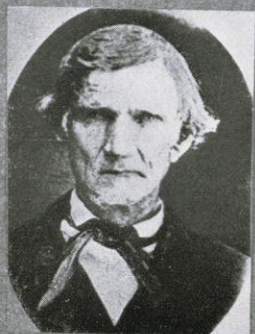
A. B. Jackson was appointed postmaster. The first town meeting was held at the home of A. R. Wilbur. The first meeting house in the town was known as "Wesley Chapel" on Walker's Prairie. The first district school house was at Nixon's Corners. At the first town meeting after organization Sereno Fowler, P. Judson and Ira Pierce were elected school commissioners; supervisors elected were John Benedict, chairman; Ira Pierce and Samuel Tarbell, assistants. Two assessors were elected each year up to 1860. The Town Hall was built in 1868. In 1843 the valuation of the town was \$54,681, in 1924, \$2,655,796; total town tax in 1843, \$164.80; in 1924, \$47,150.16. At the first town meeting it was decided to raise a tax of one mill on a dollar for the support of common schools.

A Select Private School—In June, 1837, there came into the county Sereno S. Fowler, a graduate of Harvard, and his wife, Lemira Tarbell Fowler, a graduate of a select young ladies' school in Southamton, Mass. Both were teachers and soon established a private school in a part of their house which they expected, eventually, to grow into an academical institution. Students were attracted from the neighboring towns and to take care of the growing business the Fowlers built for their school the first frame house in Bristol. This building still stands, on the north side of the Geneva road and is known as the old Tarbell place. Mrs. George S. Baldwin, Mrs. Simeon King, Mrs. Dr. Saunders and the Bullens were among their many students. Because of failing health Mr. Fowler was compelled to close down the school in 1847, to the regret and loss of the county. Mr. Fowler planted the first peach and apple orchard in the town, having brought the seed from his childhood home, Hartford, Connecticut.

Bristol Village—The land on which the village of Bristol is located originally belonged to Alfred Giddings, who laid it out into town lots. Asbury Chapel, built in 1842, Hosmer Chapel, built in 1857, and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, built in 1866, are among the first churches.

Illustration at Left

Top Row, Left to Right—John Rhodes, early Brighton settler—1842. Gen. John Bullen, father John Bullen founder Kenosha, arrived May, 1837; built tavern Bullen's Bridge over Fox River at Silverlake; had part in building plank roads. K. D. R. R. ruined him financially. Dr. Francis Paddock, pioneer Salem physician; owned land at Paddock's Lake. Lake named for him. *Middle Row*—Jonas Rhodes, pioneer Somers settler. Mrs. Levi Grant. Levi Grant, came 1836; preempted farm at corner Geneva and Bristol roads; later, built old Grant House, Kenosha. *Bottom Row*—L. C. Holt, pioneer Pleasant Prairie; large land owner. Fitch Higgins, early settler Pleasant Prairie. Salmon Upson, land owner, Bristol, 1837.



PARIS—When the town of Paris was first organized in 1842 it took in one tier of sections in town 3 and part of Somers, but the town records do not show the boundaries of the town. Some of the early settlers were S. B. Myrick, James Harris, Captain Lindsey, F. M. Weeks, Jacob Myers, James N. Marsh, Rufus Marstin, Z. P. Rich, E. D. Dunning, John Craney, H. A. Newbury, Patrick Murray, Frederick Chambers, Jake Miller and Francis Magin. The foregoing came in 1837-38. There were several farms opened in 1837. Myrick came first and named the town "Paris," after Paris, N. Y., from where he came. Elder Bristol preached the first sermon at the funeral of George Myrick in the fall of 1841, at the house of S. B. Myrick. The Congregational church was organized by Thomas Tenney in 1851, and the church built in 1853. Richard Jones opened the first store in town. George McCarty kept the first tavern in Jugville. The first officers of the town were elected at the house of Chauncey Kellogg, in April, 1842.

The Civil-War-Soldier's monument in Paris Town was dedicated early in the spring of 1866. This is the first monument to the soldiers of the Civil War paid for by an appropriation of a town board to be erected in the State of Wisconsin, and probably in the entire nation. Lieut. George Hale was chairman of the Board of Supervisors. His father, Obed J. Hale, canvassed the town to create public sentiment in favor of the expenditure. Following are the honored names on this monument at Paris Center: Capt. J. F. Lindsley, Sergt. W. H. Coburn, F. A. Tinkham, G. E. Montague, C. Northway, A. Rice, Wm. Gunther, I. Fredricks, Sérgt. J. Toner, B. Wagner, N. Gloss, M. Hansgen, B. S. Wood, F. B. Taylor, Corp. J. H. Ellsworth, S. Van Cott, J. Evans, N. Johnson, W. Lieber, A. Harris, G. Bohanan, Corp. B. W. Palmer, M. Bohanan, J. Dunkirk, M. W. Hale, P. Kreuzscher, J. Gray, Lieut. G. Hale, S. Terry.

Illustration at Left

Top Row, Left to Right—William Rhodes, one of Brighton's earliest settlers. George F. Shanley, thought to be first white child born in town of Brighton—1843; still living and owns farm on which he was born. Rev. John Gridley, early Congregational minister. *Second Row*—Rollin Tuttle, settled in Bristol 1836. Wallace Mygatt, pioneer settler Kenosha—1838; author "Early Settlement Kenosha." Jason Lathrop, came 1835; taught first school in Kenosha; first surveyor, surveying site of present city and Geneva road; laid out city near present site of Silverlake; owned second printing press in Wisconsin Territory; a learned preacher and brilliant scholar. *Bottom Row*—Cephas Weed, early settler of Somers—1835; built first saw mill on Pike Creek. David Crossit, arrived Pike Creek 1835; built first blacksmith shop on land now covered by Simmons factory. Mrs. Christopher Derbyshire, Pleasant Prairie.

PLEASANT PRAIRIE—Horace Woodbridge located the first farm in Pleasant Prairie in 1835. That same summer came R. B. Barnes, J. F. Cady, Orrin R. Stevens, J. Miller and Abner Barlow, the latter a revolutionary soldier who became a pioneer preacher in the new settlement. He preached the first sermon in the town and in the county shortly after his arrival. In 1837 a Congregational Society was organized, and in the same year a school was opened by Alfred Walker.

In the spring of 1835 a small store was opened in the east part of the town on the lake shore by Bouton and Robinson. The first tavern in the town was on the farm later owned by Jonathan Eastman. Later Daniel Stevens opened another tavern in a log building.

Mrs. Emma Foote White, now residing with her son, Ward White, on Bond Street, is, doubtless, the oldest living person born in Pleasant Prairie, her birth occurring September 8, 1837. Mrs. White is still hale and hearty.

Maria Williams, born June 8, 1836, was the first white child born in Pleasant Prairie, and, perhaps, in Kenosha County, to live to maturity. Miss Williams became the wife of John P. Sauber and died at Rockford, Illinois, February 17, 1912.

Among other early settlers were Fitch A. Higgins, Joshua Whitely, S. S. Derbyshire, L. C. Holt, James C. Dowse, Ora Larrabee, Parsons Taylor, A. G. French, Thomas Howland and Chauncey Hannahs.

The first post office in the county was established in the town of Pleasant Prairie in September, 1836. The first Sabbath school was organized at the home of S. S. Derbyshire; Superintendent, Fitch A. Higgins.

On the first Tuesday of April, 1842, a formal legal election was held for town officers at the farm of Daniel Stevens. The following were chosen: John Dexter, chairman, Frederick Bacon and Sidney S. Derbyshire, board of Supervisors; Oscar F. Dana, town clerk; Alvin G. French, John L. V. Yates and Daniel Harkin, assessors; William Stanley, treasurer; Philip J. Hooker, Thomas Howland and Alensom Bacon, commissioners of highways; Oscar F. Dana, Peter Bacon and Henry Lull, commissioners of common schools and school inspectors; James M. Bacon, Aleck W. Dimick and Henry G. Windsor, constables; Orrin R. Stevens, sealer of weights and measures; Daniel Stevens, Patrick McDonald and Henry Mibler, fence viewers.

It was voted that the town officers receive a compensation of seventy-five cents a day.

RANDALL—The early history of Randall is included in that of Wheatland, for Randall was a part of Wheatland until 1860. The first town officers for the town of Randall, 1860, were Oliver Reynolds, Joseph Stout and Almerion Herrick, supervisors; W. Brower, clerk; George Vinton following Reynolds as chairman in 1861. Among the items of interest is the appointment of pound master, whose duty it was to fine the owners of stock left running at large. A bounty of \$2.00 a head was paid for wolves killed.

The town meetings were held at different neighbors' homes decided by vote. One item gives the amount of \$200 raised for roads; \$100 for poor fund.

In 1860 a vote was lost on the establishment of two free High Schools, 207 against 61. In 1911 another vote was taken, 122 in favor and 68 against. The outcome is the Union High School of Wilmot, for the towns of Randall, Wheatland and Salem.

A certain piece of property thirty years ago paid \$25 tax. In 1924 the same property paid \$347 tax. 1849 school money raised \$200; 1924, \$24,662.

SALEM—As far as we have been able to find, Salem began with a political organization. These were the officers for 1842-44: Chairman, W. Benham; supervisors, Thomas Stockwell, and Francis Paddock; clerk, Horatio Train; assessors, H. V. Train and Milo S. Webster; treasurer, John Lease; collector, Milan G. Toby; commissioners of highways, Jesse Hooker, Peter Van Alstine, Charles Cooley; commissioners of schools, Jesse Hooker, Francis Paddock, Stephan Stockwell; constables, Spencer A. Pease, Milan G. Toby, Horatio N. Bundy; sealer of weights and measures, James Cooley; fence viewers, Peter Van Alstine, James Cooley and Joseph Hooker. \$2,000.00 was levied for town expenses. Supervisors drew \$1.00 a day for time actually spent in town business. Town clerk was paid \$.06 per folio except when employed by the day, then \$1.00 a day.

Until 1850 Brass Ball Corners on Geneva Road and Liberty Corners on Wilmot Road were the only places of importance. The coming of the railroad and the establishment of a depot at Salem, built up that village at the expense of its rivals.

In 1849 William Wagner built a house to be used as a house of entertainment. This house is still standing. The first store was built in 1867, by Alexander Bailey and occupied by S. W. Benson and D. V. Mayne as a

general store. Mr. Bailey was the first station agent. The village was first called Brooklyn, but was changed to "Salem" by act of the legislature. Mr. Z. G. Simmons gave the village \$150.00 as a nucleus for a public library and on December 26, 1876, this library with 700 volumes was opened in the Methodist Church building. For some reason this little library has entirely disappeared.

The first death in the town was that of Isaac Brown in 1870; the first birth was that of Charles Loescher in 1871; and the wedding of C. J. Foster and Frances Clark was the first to occur.

The Congregational Church of Salem was built in 1874.

WILMOT—Wilmot, in Salem township, received its first settler in 1844 when A. W. Benham built the first house, which is still standing on Mill Street. This had been christened "Gilead." Hugh McIntyre and J. M. Wilbur were among the first few settlers. In 1848 a meeting was called to find a name for the town and the "Wilmot Proviso" being under discussion at the time, Mr. Wilbur, by way of a joke, suggested the name "Wilmot." The joke was put into the form of a motion and carried. The first brick house was built by A. W. Benham in 1847, and in the same year the first store was opened by Mr. Benham.

A temperance hotel on the site of the present Wilmot Hotel was completed in 1850, and a grand Fourth of July dinner celebrated the event.

The first marriage in the village was that of J. M. Wilbur and Miss Maggie Carpenter, 1848.

A dam across the Fox River was built by Mr. Benham in 1846, and a mill was operated by him for many years. On the same site in 1864, J. W. Voak built a larger mill which burned. Another was built and is now owned by the Carey Electric Light and Milling Company.

The first school was a shanty of rough boards on Main Street built in 1850. There were seven pupils. This school has developed into the Union Free High School of the present time, which stands on land donated to the village by Mr. Benham.

A steamboat ran for two years, 1850 to 1852, from Wilmot to McHenry, and later an excursion boat owned by Mr. Voak used to carry the old settlers to their annual picnic at Fox Lake where their first picnic grounds were located.

The Roman Catholic Church was organized in 1856 with twenty members. The German Lutheran Church was organized in 1869 with a

membership of thirty. The Methodist Church was organized in 1876. The bell in the Methodist Church was on exhibition at the Centennial at Philadelphia. The ministers of these churches were, in order: Father Schroudenback, Rev. Fred Shug and the Rev. Mr. Blackburn.

SILVERLAKE—The land on which the village of Silverlake now stands, in 1885 was a farm owned by Schenning brothers. The Soo Line Railroad was completed in 1886 and the first residence was built by Mrs. Maud Gallagher. The depot, Schenning Hotel, Cumming's store were among the first business places built.

General John Bullen in the 30's thought this was to be the future great city; so he built Bullen's Bridge across the Fox River, and Bullen's Tavern. The spot earlier must have attracted many of the Indians; for skulls and relics have been found in this vicinity. There is every evidence that it was an Indian camping ground and burial place in the early days when this country abounded in all kinds of wild game and the lakes were full of fish.

SOMERS—Among the early settlers of Somers (1835) were Benjamin Felch, Hugh Longwell, Griffin and William Allen, Charles Leet and William Smith. Jacob Montgomery and his two sons built a log cabin near the present site of E. G. Ozanne's residence, the first in the town and in the county. In the southeast part of the town Cephus Weed began his farming and on Pike River Thomas Parsons built a sawmill. This early immigration followed the Indian Trail which later became the Green Bay Road. The plank road running from Racine and connecting with the plank road west out of Kenosha followed part of the old Green Bay Trail and ran near Petrifying Springs in Somers. A toll gate was placed near the present home of George Leet.

In 1836 a weekly stage began to run from Chicago to Milwaukee over this Green Bay Trail, and the first post office was established at Willis's. This tavern was located in the southwest corner of what is now the intersection of the Prairie Avenue road with the Green Bay Road, Maxwell's Corners. In this year, too, the first school taught by Miss Brizee was held in the Hugh Longwell house. In the spring of 1837 the Kelloggs—Chauncey, Seth H. and Thaddeus—with their families built their shanties and held promptly the first religious meetings. The result of this first Sunday School is shown when in 1860 a festival was held with an attendance of 300 children.

The Methodist Episcopal Church completed in 1840 was not only the first in the town of Somers but, we believe, the first in the state.



KENOSHA COUNTY MEMORIALS

A government observatory was built in 1860 on the William Robinson farm to a height of 72 feet. This is on the present John Salentine farm on the hill about one mile south of the Somers cemetery and Town Hall. It is the highest point between Chicago and Milwaukee on the Green Bay trail. A pile of stones shows today where the tower stood. It was said that the lake level was taken from the kitchen roof of the Robinson home before this tower was built.

The first frame barn built in the town was built for Rev. James Ozanne, and a part still stands. By act of the state legislature the town was named "Pike", April 15, 1843. In 1851 "Pike" was changed to "Somers."

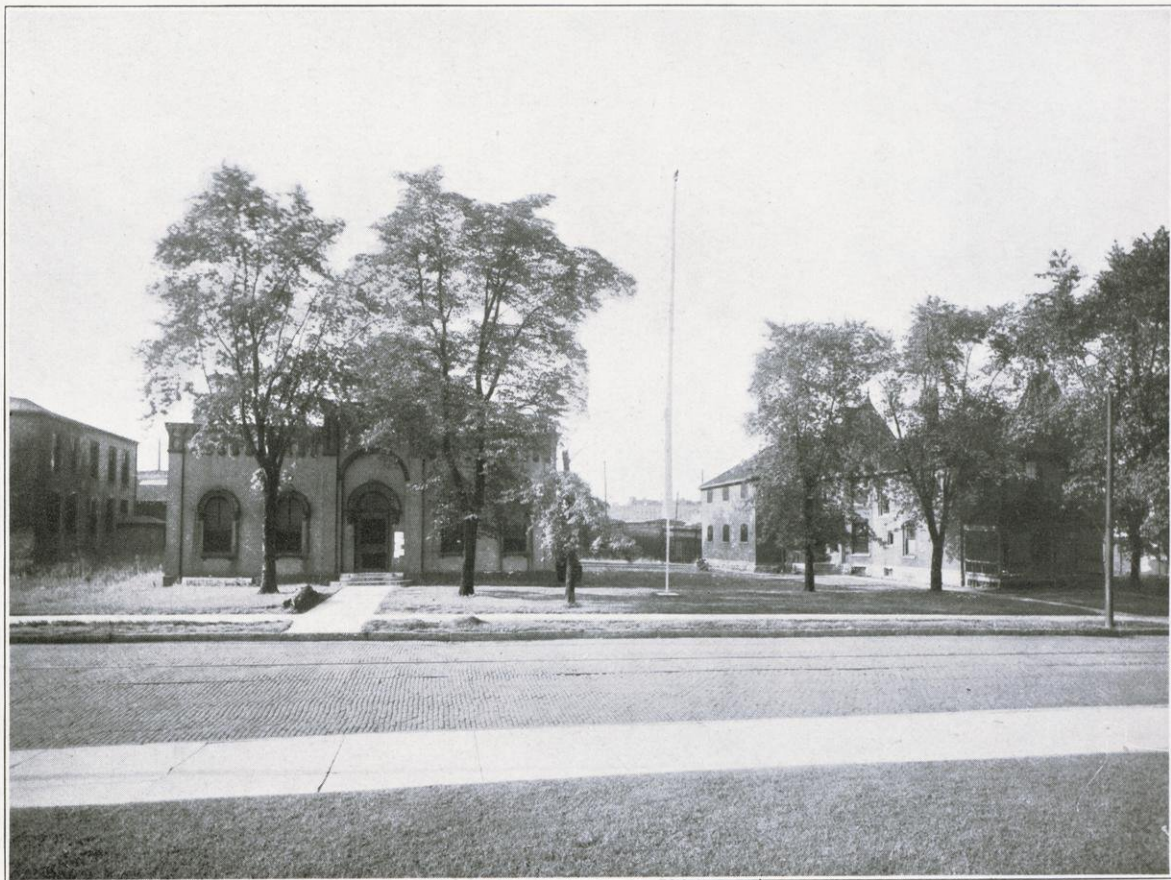
On May 1, 1843, the first town meeting was held in the house of Charles Leet. Joseph P. Hurlbut was chosen moderator of this meeting and Oscar Hurlbut, clerk. Tax raised in 1843—\$372.39; 1924, \$96,594. A farm of 88 acres in Somers in 1856 was valued at \$1040, the amount of taxes on this farm was \$10.79.—MRS. E. G. OZANNE.

WHEATLAND—The town of Wheatland under date of October 1st, 1842, contains this notation—the first in the Treasurer's book: "James B. Powers, collector, debtor to Town of Wheatland: To \$185, being the amount of town tax committed to said Powers for collection as per town clerk's certificate;—N. B. \$60 of the above tax to be retained by the treasurer for school purposes." Other interesting items appear in the Treasurer's book. "We raise a fund for the common schools to the amount of \$60." "\$125 shall be raised for defraying the expenses of the town for the ensuing year." "Resolved, That the sum of \$60 be raised for the building and repairing of bridges and highways." This resolution was lost.

The town of Wheatland included Randall until 1860. Among the early settlers were the Jenkins, the Dixons and Powerses.

Illustration at Left

Upper Left—Lincoln Monument, Library Park, the gift of Mr. Orla M. Calkins. Mr. Calkins never saw it; on the day of unveiling, the flags covering it were drawn just as the hearse bearing his body passed by. *Upper Right*—Soldiers' Monument, Library Park—another gift of Mr. Z. G. Simmons. *Lower Left*—Soldiers' Monument, Paris, the first in the state paid for by public donation. *Lower Right*—Soldiers' Monument, Brighton, in honor of Civil and World War Veterans.



RIGHT—SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE AND JAIL ON SITE OF OLD COURT HOUSE NO. 1, BUILT IN 1885. LEFT—COURT HOUSE NO. 2

Kenosha A and Z

Isn't it strange that princes and kings
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,
And humble folks like you and me
Are builders for eternity?
To each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass, and a book of rules;
And each must make ere life is done
A stumbling-block or a stepping-stone.

We quote the following paragraph from Mrs. Burr's "Reminiscences." She arrived at Pike Creek August 15, 1835.

"Kenosha has not grown up in a month. Her progress has been slow but sure. On the site of the log cabin has arisen the elegant dwelling. Comfort and luxuries abound. The faint trails are lost in the highways and the railways. Manufactories are multiplying; schools abound. Churches are standing invitations to step aside and worship the Great Father. Instead of the frightful savage yell, is heard the pastor's precious words of instruction. The screech of owls is exchanged for the shrill call of the chanticleer; the howling of wolves, for the bleating of sheep and lowing of kine. Thrift accompanies industry; prosperity walks hand in hand with temperance and truth. There is sufficient evidence that there are many worthy sons and grandsons of worthy sires and grandsires. You are building on their foundation, and it is hoped the structure may be symmetrical, embellished with the rare gems of peace and good will to men. They have gone to their long home but have left an enviable legacy. Surely hearts will throb with gratitude and benedictions arise when memory reverts to the self-denying pioneers of 1835."

Sunday, June 14, 1835, John Bullen, Jr., representing the Western Immigration Company and acknowledged founder of the city of Kenosha, together with his brother William, C. W. Turner and E. C. Hart, all of Hannibal, New York, arrived at Pike Creek, now Kenosha, and encamped near the shore on the north side of what is now Kenosha Harbor. With a knife they dug a trench in a fallen tree trunk, and from this tree trench they ate the meat and other foods as they were brought from the open fire. They were joined the next day by Hudson Bacon, Gardner Wilson and Cephus Weed. Two of these were associated with Mr. Bullen in

locating a settlement. Mr. Bullen and men determined that this should be the point of location and the next day marked off their claims on the trees.

Several Indian villages at that time were located within a radius of three miles of the place. The principal one was on land now bounded by Quince Street, Congress Street, Orange Street and the Chicago Northwestern Railway. They found on the Island (Washington) some fifteen Indian graves, in two of which the Indians had been buried in a standing position and all that part of the body from the waist up protruded above the ground.

The second Sunday, June 21, there arrived two wagons, one drawn by a span of horses and the other by a yoke of oxen. These were the first teams to arrive in Kenosha. With the teams came Mrs. Gardner Wilson, Jonathan Pierce, Orrin Stevens, and Nelson Gatliff. Mrs. Wilson was the pioneer white woman of Kenosha. For two weeks the open wagon was her sleeping room, and with an old-fashioned tin oven and a kettle hung on a pole, she set up her kitchen in the open road, and loyally serving twelve hungry men, remained for five weeks the only woman here.

The pioneers began at once to build homes. The first house, a mere shack, was built by Hudson Bacon where N. Main Street unites with Union Street. Wilson's house was built on the lake shore opposite the north end of the Island. On the shore at the east end of present Howe Street, John Bullen built his home, while C. W. Turner built his on the bluff opposite St. Catherine's Hospital.

Imagine, if you can, these first homes. No floor except the earth, four walls of hewn logs, no water-proof covering, each window a 7x9 pane of glass, a battered door with a string attached to a wooden latch, and a large square hole left in the roof through which the smoke found its way out. In a corner of the room branches cut from trees were thickly piled, covered with bedding. There the sturdy pioneers were glad and thankful for so comfortable a place to rest.

Others came. Orrin Jerome settled on old Jerome Creek. Also came David Crosit, the Caldwells, Chauncey Davis, Jesse Sherwood, and Nathan Allen, Sr., who had walked all the way from Chicago to Pike Creek. The population of Kenosha at the end of 1835 was eight families and thirty-two people.

The first cargo to land at Kenosha arrived that summer and consisted of 50,000 feet of lumber, bought at Sheboygan for John Bullen and N. R.

Allen. A northeaster appeared at the same time the lumber arrived, and the boards were pitched loosely into the lake. Mr. Allen declared that men were stationed along the shore to catch the lumber and "every board was saved." Dirt floors now gave way to board floors, and the first frame building, a small store on the northeast corner of the Simmons Factory site, was built—the first in the County. Here, Bullen and Allen commenced the commerce of Kenosha.

Other notables arrived that first summer—Dr. B. B. Cady, the first physician of the County, and Jason Lathrop. Mr. Lathrop was the first minister to land in Kenosha. He soon built a home near the present site of the central engine house and opened the first school of the County. He also did some other noteworthy work. With a few type and crude printing materials which he had brought with him, mounted on a stump, and using home-made ink, he printed the proceedings of the "Claimant's Union"—an organization formed to protect settlers from "claim jumpers." Mr. Lathrop was also a surveyor and a little later surveyed the Geneva Road and laid out the town of Wilmot.

Protection from the "claim jumpers" was surely necessary, for these were alert and resourceful as is shown by the following incident:

An early settler held a claim to land now in the Third Ward of Kenosha. He was astonished one morning to find a piece of his land enclosed with a fence, and corn, some four inches high, growing within the enclosure. He was saddened by visions of losing his claim to a more successful squatter. He immediately notified the "Committee of Arbitration" of the state. The Arbitrators came, and sure enough there was the fence, the cultivated ground, and the corn. The claimant stated that he had walked over this very ground a week before and saw no fence or corn. The Arbitrators were perplexed and could arrive at no conclusion. Suddenly an idea came to one of them. He pulled down the fence to the last rail and found the grass under the bottom one green! That rail had been laid within the past twenty-four hours! A closer examination showed clearly that the corn, too, had been transplanted to its present location. A decision was quickly rendered, and the claimant hurried home to break the happy news to his wife.

In 1835 what is now Kenosha was known as "Pike." The stream running into our present harbor, was known as "Pike Creek," and the little river just north of St. Catherine's Hospital, "Pike River." The mouth of Pike Creek then was somewhat like the mouth of Pike River is



EARLY SOUTHPORT SETTLERS

now. A sandbar so dry and hard that teams could cross afforded the driveway from the "south side" to the "north side" of the town. Another means of crossing was an Indian dug-out which plied to and fro across the stream where our present viaduct is. The surroundings of Pike Creek gave very little promise of a city. Timber covered the shore half a mile inland, and the land where our Main Street is now was almost a swamp.

For years the land on the south side of the stream was not thought desirable, and most of the buildings were located on the north side. Washington Island was regarded as the most valuable portion of the town site and, it was thought, destined to become the chief commercial point of business. (A Chicago capitalist offered \$7,500 for this Island, some twenty-five acres, as early as 1836.) Next to the Island the portion of land lying north of the present harbor was thought to be the most valuable.

In 1839 the principal mercantile establishments were transferred from the south to the north side. The postoffice was also removed to the north side and a tavern "The Wisconsin House" opened there. For some reasons misunderstandings arose among the north-siders, and in 1841-42, business houses crossed over to the south side and settled on our present Main Street. Pike Creek and not Pike River was to be the location of the future city. However, it must not be forgotten that there was once a town at the mouth of Pike River, which has long since ceased to exist. Not a vestige remains to mark the place where this boastful little town once stood. Pike River had dwellings, stores, mechanics' shops, warehouses, etc., and one building erected by W. N. Seymour was 120 feet long and was used as a tavern. In 1842 this building was torn down and removed to the south side of the harbor where its materials were used in the construction of several buildings.

By 1836 the little village had grown to sixteen families and eighty-four people. New settlers arrived including Charles Durkee, Harvey

Illustration at Left

Top Row, Left to Right—Mrs. George Kimball. George Kimball, reached Pike Creek in 1836; first owner of a large part of land on which the business part of Kenosha is built; enthusiastic "light house man." Mrs. David Crossit. *Middle Row*—Col. Michael Frank father free schools—Kenosha and Wisconsin owes more to him for present school system than to any other man. First president incorporated Southport, 1840; first mayor City of Kenosha, 1850; member Territorial Council early forties. Mrs. Michael Frank. S. Y. Brande, pioneer official, realtor. *Bottom Row*—Mrs. N. R. Allen. N. R. Allen, pioneer manufacturer, arrived 1835; with Levi Grant founded N. R. Allen tannery 1856; first Sheriff Kenosha County. Dr. Asahel Farr, pioneer physician, 1853-1889.



MEDIEVAL KENOSHANS—PALS

Durkee, R. H. Deming, Samuel Hale, Orlando Foster and others. Charles Durkee and his wife were on their way to Milwaukee; a severe storm stopped them at "Pike." Because of the value of this splendid man to the community, the storm was called "the fortunate storm." Mr. Harvey Durkee, brother of Charles, built his log cabin in the southwest corner of what is now our Library Park. The land of this park was his gift to the city. His log cabin later gave way to the brick dwelling lately razed to give place to the new Masonic Temple. Charles Durkee gave part of the land where Green Ridge Cemetery is now located. His first wife was the first person to be laid to rest on this beautiful knoll at the north end of Green Ridge Cemetery.

And what a gathering on this knoll there has been since! Walking through the north part of Green Ridge, the citizen familiar with the names of the founders feels that here the old neighbors live again. Gathered within a few yards are so many of these old familiar names—the Bullens, the Durkees, the Demings, the Hales, the Strykers, the Seymours, the Crosits, the Kelloggs, the Maxwells, the Gridleys, the Allens, the Quarleses, the Kimballs, the Lakes, the Mygatts, and, oh, so many others, resting side by side, still members of the same community.

There being no highways or railroads, nearly all freight and passengers for the thriving little settlement came by lake, and there being no piers nor harbor, the landing of passengers and merchandise was a perplexing problem. A vessel would weigh anchor some little distance from shore, and then the loud voice of Samuel Hale could be heard marshaling the men of the town to float the "Lighter." This boat was kept on land, of course, until needed. Mishaps occurred, and it is said "many a corpulent dame and dainty miss were carried to shore by men wading waist deep through the water."

In 1840 the construction of an outside pier was begun, and finished in 1842. The first boat landed at this pier April 20, 1842.

A harbor and wharfs became more and more a necessity. In 1836 steamers anchored a half mile from the mouth of the Creek. From a record kept by A. D. Northway, in the season of 1837 there arrived 61

—*Illustration at Left*—

Upper Row, Left to Right—W. W. Baker, James Stebbins, Hosea Barnes. *Lower Row*
—J. L. Stevens, Henry Williams, A. B. Truesdell, Jason Lathrop, J. H. Kimball.

steamboats, 80 schooners, and 2 brigs; in 1838, 72 steamboats, 88 schooners; in 1839, 102 steamboats, 47 schooners, 3 brigs and 1 ship.

In 1839 a vigorous effort was made by the inhabitants to induce Congress to make an appropriation for the harbor. Charles Durkee was sent to Washington on this mission. The project moved slowly and it was August 26, 1844, when news arrived by steamboat "Indiana" that a bill had passed appropriating \$12,500 for the construction of the harbor. Bells were rung, inhabitants paraded the streets, and a big dinner was arranged in celebration of the event. Work started on the harbor September, 1847.

In the fall of 1836 a weekly stage began to run between Milwaukee and Chicago on the Milwaukee road, and a few post offices were established along the route. At Pike Creek the name of the post office was "Pike". Waters Towslee was appointed first postmaster. The business was small and irregular. "Anybody seems to have brought the mail from anywhere and left it anywhere." At best, there was not much to bring with postage at 25 cents the letter.

By 1837 the little village of "Pike" had outgrown its swaddling clothes, and at a public meeting it was resolved to change the name to "Southport." So, from 1837 to 1850, when it was incorporated as the city of Kenosha, "Pike" was Southport. Some of the arrivals of 1837 were G. H. Kimball, J. M. Stryker, Deacon Bennett, Gen. John Bullen, Fred S. Lovell, the Dana Family, Jared Lake, Francis Quarles, and Judge Newell. Southport grew. Deacon Hollis Whitney built a log tavern on the present site of the First National Bank building. This was the first building on Main Street and was afterwards called the City Hotel. Jared Lake that year built a house where the Allis apartments now stand. The first house on Market Street was built by Orlando Foster, just across the street from the Union Dye Works. The most notable of the buildings of 1837 was the "Block School House." It was the second structure to be built on Main Street and stood where the Commercial Exchange Bank is now located. The house served not alone for a school; there the sermons and debates were heard; and elections, caucuses and communions were held. It was the general gathering place for many a year.

Postoffice

When the first settlement was made at "Pike" the mail was a thing rarely enjoyed except at long intervals. Then the settler had to send an order of delivery to the postoffice of Chicago, accompanying the same with

50 cents to pay the expense of transporting the letter from its source to Fort Dearborn. In 1836 the mail was carried between Chicago and Milwaukee on an average of three times a week by the old prairie route, and letters for "Pike" were left at the tavern of George Willis, now Maxwell's Corners, at the intersection of the Green Bay and Prairie Avenue Roads. This caused great inconvenience to residents along the lake. In 1840 Waters Towslee was appointed postmaster and the postoffice was removed to a point on the lake shore, long since washed into the lake. In time, when the business section of the city moved, the office was located in the building which stood on the corner of Main and Market Streets. Afterwards it was removed to a building at the corner of Park and Main Streets, where it remained for several years, when it was again moved to the building on Market Street, the present Bell Clothing House.

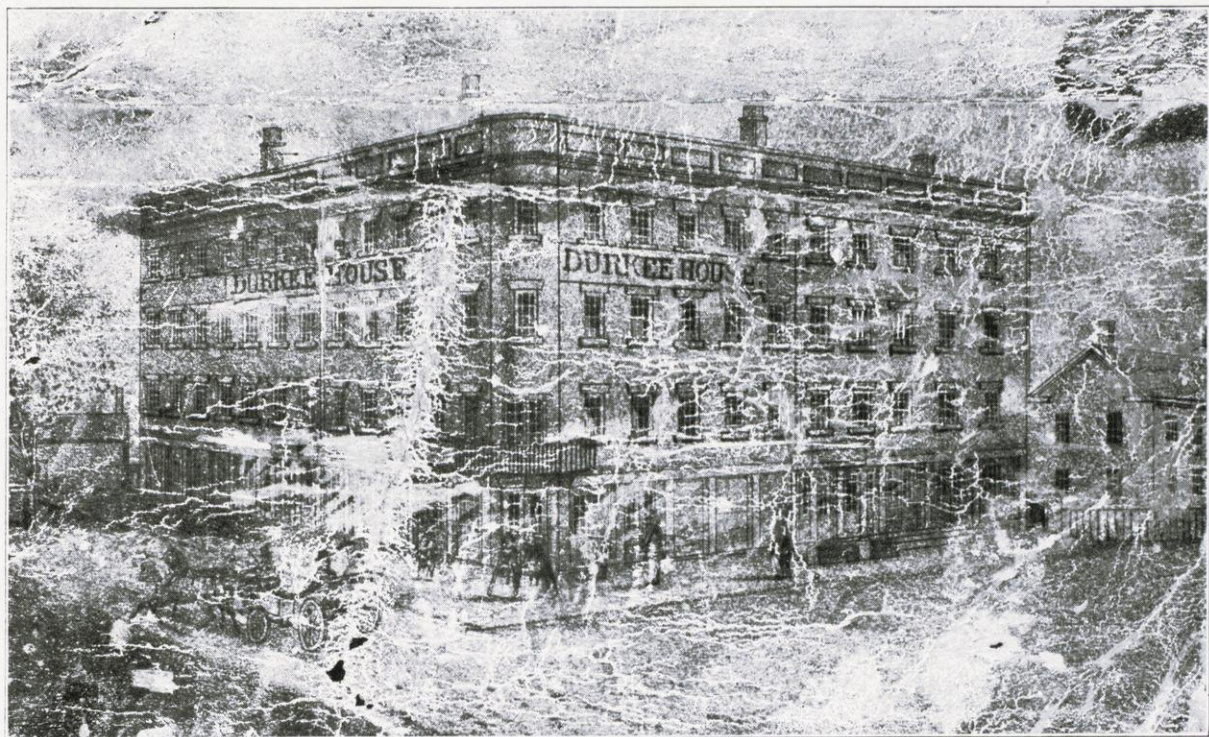
Roads

Early Kenosha had the fertile soil, and Lake Michigan and its tributaries afforded easy conveyance for agricultural products, principally wheat, to Buffalo where the Erie Canal and the Hudson River gave access to tide water and to the markets of the world. Farm wagons drawn by horses and frequently by the slow, plodding oxen brought grain to our warehouses from thirty to forty miles away.

The roads averaged from indifferent to very poor. From less remote points an early morning start was made so that market was reached and grain sold by daylight. In the evening the winter's supply of groceries, drygoods, boots and shoes was purchased from the Southport merchants, and early the following morning the pioneer started on his "weary homeward way," to arrive at early candle-light if fortunate enough not to get stuck in the mud that in many instances was hub-deep.

When the rural abode was more remote from Southport the pilgrimage "to town" occupied four days. This fact made possible the maintenance of the numerous taverns which dotted the entire country. The charge for supper, lodging and breakfast for a man and beast ranged from fifty to sixty cents.

The first road in the county that was improved with culverts and bridges was built in the early 30's by the general government. It ran from Chicago to Milwaukee along the highway now known as No. 57, that passes Dexter's, Stanley's and Maxwell's. The culverts were made of heavy oak timbers. Next came the era of plank roads, the one from Kenosha to Fox River at Sliverlake having been built about 1850. Toll



THE OLD DURKEE HOUSE

gates at frequent intervals broke the monotony of travel and extorted the diminutive silver five-cent piece from the wayfarer. After wear and decay had put the plank road out of service there seems to have been no public or concerted movement for skillful road-building until the present era of concrete roads.

When winter closed navigation, Chicago, Milwaukee and other points were reached and mails, baggage and merchandise were carried by the stage coach. This condition made it necessary for the merchants to lay in large stocks of goods to escape exorbitant freight charges by stage, after navigation closed.

The first through railroad train from Chicago to Milwaukee was run in 1855. The first train from Kenosha to Rockford on the western road that was generally patronized was a Fourth of July excursion in 1861. The train was made up of flat cars with seats of plank arranged along the sides, shade being afforded by leafy oak branches from the trees.

This indicates the first few years of the little settlement that was to grow into the hustling city of today. At the end of 1837 there were 200 humble people here—poor in money, but rich in that courage that knows no defeat and in that vision that grows from year to year and that means so much to them and to their posterity.

We have traced year by year the high spots of this growing community elsewhere in this little review. We should like to say more of these early builders—and later ones—and to trace in detail the growth of this city through the hundreds of triumphs and disappointments that are inevitable in the building of a community. The writer well remembers that the building was far from a complete job when he arrived, in 1893.

The only paved street in the city was Main Street from the intersection of Park Avenue to within forty feet of the old bridge at Bode's.

Illustration at Left

Durkee House, built by Hon. C. C. Durkee in 1843 on site of present Bode Furniture Company store. First brick building in Southport. At its completion it was the largest and finest hotel in Wisconsin. The brick was made by Thomas Howland. The so-called ponds of Anderson Park are pits from which the clay to make these bricks was dug. The structure burned on the night of January 31, 1871. Seven people were burned to death. Others saved themselves by jumping into the huge snow drifts. Mr. C. C. Brown, as a youth and member of the fire department, helped fight this fire.

(The money had given out.) Mud on Market Street by the postoffice stuck many a team. Eddie Griffin's old white team did the double duty of hauling the bus to and from the depot and serving on the fire engine. Frequently traveling men were left high and dry by the way-side in the old bus while the team deserted to look after a fire. Few inadequate sewers; poor water, but 105 saloons.

Where the electric railway station is now was a slough over which a plank walk on stakes two or three feet high afforded a way.

The county officers were huddled together in the present Municipal Court building. The postoffice was in the Joe Pitts' building next to the new Commercial Bank. There wasn't a restaurant or hospital in the city. One almost needed matches to ascertain whether or not the street lights were going. Harry Kupfer ran a livery barn on the site of the Orpheum Theater, and "Ted" Meyers rendered a like service on the site of the Public Service Building.

Only one public school building of the city was of brick—the present High School building. Emory L. Grant was superintendent. Anthony Van Wyke was the polite county judge, and Frank Fish the circuit judge. Eibe Weyhe was sheriff. O. M. Petit was mayor and Jim—"Hinky Dink"—O'Brien, political boss. The population was a little more than 6,000.

However, there were signs of returning life. In 1860 there were 13,900 people in the county; in 1880 there were 13,550—a loss of 350. In the next five years it added 580. The city of Kenosha in 1850, when incorporated, had about 3,800. Twenty-five years later it had gained 1,100. From 1875 to 1885 it gained 140 people. With 1900 it began to grow—1900, 11,606; 1910, 21,370; 1920, 40,472; 1925, more than 52,000.

So, the real builders are still building, and the growth of our splendid little city is due very largely to the far-visionsed manufacturers and to their unabating interest in everything that touches the development of the city and the welfare of its citizens.

It is then, with pride and gratitude, that we add a very brief abstract of the *modern Kenosha*—a city which in our opinion is just beginning to hit her proper stride—our home city, which can be made almost anything that we *will* it to be, if we, its citizens, altogether, in season and out, will each do *his share of the building*.

Statistical Facts About Kenosha

Altitude 580 feet above sea level.

Third city of state in population.

Population, 1910, 21,371; 1920, 40,472; 1922, 46,662; 1925, 52,720.

Population of County 1910, 32,829; 1920, 51,284; 1925, 62,000; area 274 square miles.

City area, 4176 acres, 6½ square miles. It has 58 miles of paved streets, 85 miles of water mains, 79 miles of gas mains, 82 miles of sewers, parks totaling 205 acres, 11 graded schools, 8 parochial schools, 1 High School, 35 churches, 40 lodges and societies.

Large beautiful public library with 51,378 volumes. (Building given by Mr. Z. G. Simmons, one of the most munificent private gifts to public use in the history of Wisconsin.)

Owens its water plant; 65% of its people own their own homes.

Assessed valuation of city \$58,156,660. Tax rate 31 mills per \$100.

It has four banks and one trust company with total deposits of over \$14,045,000; over 20,000 savings accounts amounting to over \$4,500,000.

135 passenger trains (steam and electric) in and out of the city every day.

It has City Manager form of government, the first in Wisconsin.

Kenosha is one of the leading industrial cities of Wisconsin, employing 15,000 in factories. Monthly payroll more than \$2,000,000.



KENOSHA AND WISCONSIN'S FIRST CITY MANAGER OFFICIALS

Council elected from the city at large April, 1922. *Top Row, Left to Right*—Otto Scholer, Walter H. Alford, president of council, Robert Nicoll. *Lower Row*—Hugh E. Barden, City Manager C. M. Osborn, John Burns.

City Manager Form of Government

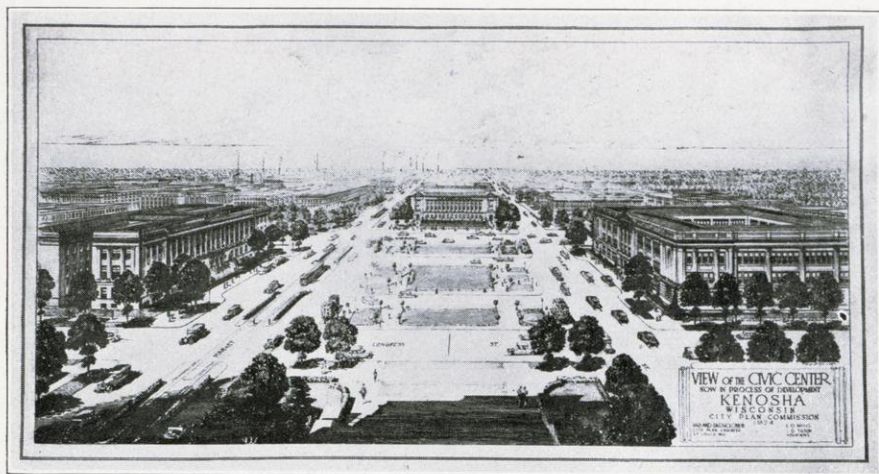
ON JANUARY 24, 1922, a special election was held in the City of Kenosha voting on the question "Shall the City of Kenosha be organized under Chapter 64 of the Statutes providing for a City Manager Plan with a Council composed of five members to be elected from the City at large for a term of two years without compensation?" A canvass of the vote showed that the City Manager Plan was adopted by a vote of 3,779 votes for and 2,897 votes against.

A new Council of five members was elected April 4, 1922, consisting of Robert Nicoll, Otto J. Scholer, John Burns, Hugh E. Barden and Walter H. Alford. These new officers took over their duties April 18, 1922. This new Council under the City Manager Plan of Government conducted all of the City business without a City Manager from April 18, 1922, until September 18, 1922, when Council by unanimous choice elected C. M. Osborn, of East Cleveland, Ohio, as City Manager.

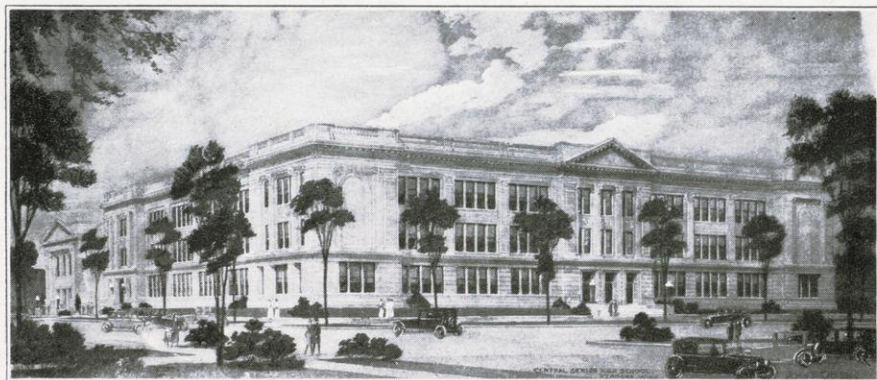
Mr. Osborn arrived in Kenosha and took over the active Managership of the City on October 9, 1922. A study was made of the organization of the City Government under its several officers, commissions, and boards, and on December 18, 1922, the Council by resolution adopted an organization plan whereby the City business was to be conducted under eight different departments with a director at the head of each department. The resignation of the members of all the former boards and commissions was accepted, with the exception of the library board, and the duties of these several boards were then assumed by the City Manager and the heads of the departments in the operation of the City's work.

Among the outstanding features of the accomplishments of the City Manager Plan have been the adoption of a City Plan, a Civic Center Plan, and a renewed activity of the City in general in improvements, especially the improvements of street pavement and construction of sewer and water mains. One outstanding feature is the reduction in per capita costs of the operation of the City Government. The per capita cost of the general cost of maintenance for the City in 1921 was \$25. This same maintenance cost per capita in 1924 was \$16.41.

Under this plan of government the citizens of Kenosha have been able to elect a very fine group of men as councilmen. These men in the conduct of the City business have renewed the faith of the citizens in the City, and a better and greater Kenosha spirit is being rapidly developed, which is boosting our good City to better and greater activities.



KENOSHA'S CIVIC CENTER LOOKING EAST FROM CONGRESS STREET. HIGH SCHOOL AT RIGHT, COURT HOUSE, LEFT. PROSPECTIVE POSTOFFICE, FRONT



KENOSHA'S NEW HIGH SCHOOL, FINEST IN WISCONSIN. COST \$1,250,000

The Kenosha Civic Center

ONE of the first studies undertaken by the City Planner in the development of a comprehensive city plan for Kenosha was the Civic Center. In the summer of 1922 when these studies were undertaken a peculiarly fortunate combination of circumstances made the development of this idea feasible. The County had acquired a whole city block for the erection of a much-needed Court House and a report of a citizens' committee recommended the erection of a new Central High School somewhere in the vicinity of the present building. After some intensive study by the City Planner, he recommended that the opportunity presented by the existing circumstances be utilized for the development of the Civic Center feature of the city plan. To accomplish this it was necessary to secure the co-operation of the county authorities and also of the Board of Education. Both of these bodies joined with the City Council and an arrangement was made whereby the High School would be built upon the then owned county property and the city undertook to acquire the block bounded by Market, Congress and Pearl Streets and Sheridan Road for a new court house.

The Civic Center plan as then developed comprehended a High School on the block east of the present High School, the Court House on the block above mentioned and these buildings were to face upon a plaza to be built upon the square between them. Further, a new postoffice was to be placed on the whole block at present occupied by the postoffice, the Court House and other buildings. This would also face the plaza and opposite the postoffice was space for another building. A conference with the Federal authorities assured the city of their support and co-operation and the necessary arrangements between County, City and the Board of Education was completed.

It was but a short time after this that land was acquired and the Court House was started. Then followed the letting of contracts for the new High School and these two buildings were soon under construction. In the mean time the City set about the acquisition of the block required for the Plaza.

Since that time operations upon Kenosha's monumental work have gone steadily forward until to-day the Court House is ready for occupancy, the High School well on its way to completion, nearly all of the Plaza has been acquired and part of the postoffice site.

It was the idea of those fostering this plan that the government buildings of City, County and Nation be grouped in a harmonious unit and that by this arrangement a feature not only of great beauty but also of convenience and efficiency would be developed.

It is safe to say that few cities in the country will have a finer Civic Center than Kenosha, nor have they been favored with more fortunate conditions to aid in furthering the project and that in a few years the city will have completed a labor which will enhance its beauty, add much to its convenience and be a great credit to the community which has accomplished it.

Churches

THE Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in January, 1837, and was the chief religious organization in the place. The first church in the town was built for this organization, and dedicated in January, 1843. It was built in the middle of Main Street just west of the Dayton Hotel, and faced north. This blocked the extension of Main Street south, and a deal was made in the interest of the city to exchange the lot for land where the First M. E. Church now stands, and in 1855 the building was moved to this lot. This Methodist Church affair might account for the branching off of Park Avenue from Main Street.

The Congregational Church Society was organized in 1838 with nineteen members. At this time the wealth of the city was equally balanced between the north and south sides. A plan was proposed in 1842 that \$4,000 be raised for a new church which was to be located on the side of the creek which gave the larger proportion of the sum. The north side won, and the church was built on that side. However, in 1853, it was moved across the harbor on the ice and located on present northwest corner of Park Street and Sheridan Road.

The Baptist Church was organized by Jason Lathrop in September, 1838. Services were for many years held in the log schoolhouse on Main Street. In 1848 a church was built on the corner where the present church is now located. The bell in this church was the first church bell installed south of Milwaukee.

On April 17, 1840, was held an organization meeting for Southport Episcopalians with twenty-six members. In 1844 a church was built on what is now the southeast corner of Market Street and Sheridan Road. G. H. Kimball presented the lot, and the men of the congregation assembled in the woods and cut and hewed the necessary timber for the building.

The first Catholic Church to be organized was the St. Mark's Catholic Church (1846) located on the corner of Sheridan Road and Wisconsin Street, where the St. James' Rectory now stands. In 1883 the present St. James' Church on the corner of Congress and Wisconsin Streets was dedicated under the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Cleary.

Banks

THE City Bank of Kenosha on the southeast corner of Main and Park Streets was organized December, 1852, with a capital of \$100,000. Henry B. Towslee was the first president; Edward G. Durant the first Cashier. The first Board of Directors—Samuel Hale, H. W. Hubbard, Seth Doan, Alonzo Campbell, John V. Ayer, H. B. Towslee and G. C. Davidson. By nationalizing, this became The First National Bank in 1864, No. 212. Only 37 of these 212 are now doing business.

The other bank was The Kenosha County Bank, located on the northwest corner of Main and Park Streets. Incorporated March 1, 1855. John C. Coleman was President, J.H. Kimball, Cashier; liquidated sometime between 1856 and 1857. The building was known as the Kimball Block; afterwards, Lentz and Funck's store and now occupied by Johnson and Hansen.

Fires

April 4, 1846. First big fire in Southport; six buildings burned.

July 5, 1859. Fire on Main Street; three houses and three barns burned.

Feb. 1, 1850. Great fire at the corner of Exchange and Pearl Streets; seven buildings burned.

March 31, 1860. Twenty-six buildings burned; loss estimated at \$50,000.

April 22, 1860. Between forty and fifty buildings burned, including between thirty and forty business places. Some of the best buildings in town were burned, including Odd Fellows' Hall, the ornament of the city, which was situated on the southeast corner of present Main and Wisconsin Streets. Loss estimated to be about \$150,000. Main street buildings nearly all destroyed.

January 31, 1871, the Durkee House. First business building built of brick in Southport. Located where the Bode Furniture Store now stands. The brick was made by Thomas Howland and his sons, at the old Howland Avenue brick kilns. The ponds at Anderson's Park are the pits from which the clay was dug. Seven lives were lost in this fire; many others were saved by jumping into huge snowbanks. Mr. Charles C. Brown was one of the firemen that fought this fire.



OLD HIGH SCHOOL BUILT IN 1849

Education

IN RETROSPECT, how often there appears here and there along the way some happenings of good fortune that seem to change our conditions entirely. One of these of marked significance to Kenosha County, to Wisconsin, and to the entire Middle States, was the coming of Colonel Frank and his wife from New York, to settle down among the people at Southport. This was in October, 1839.

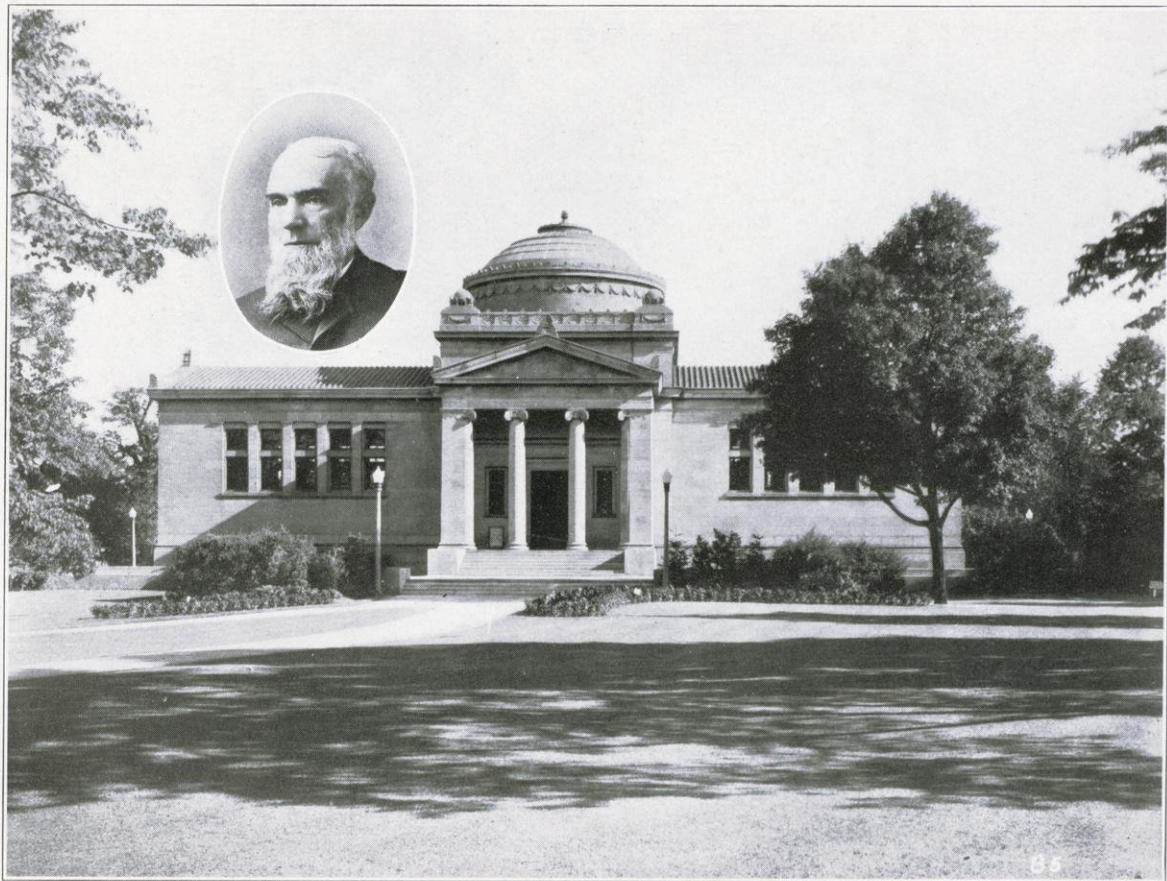
Up to 1836 the pioneers were so busy finding something to eat and to wear that they thought little of education. That this was to be free and supported by general taxation hadn't entered their heads. With the sweep of immigration from the East—men bent on making homes, building a permanent community, and creating a state—came the growing ideas of education and ultimately of free schools.

The statutes of 1837, Wisconsin Territory, devoted two pages to schools and *twenty-two* to the state militia. In 1836 there were no schools in Wisconsin Territory except private ones, and only eight of these, all small. Pike Creek (Kenosha) had more than its share of these. We find a school in the first frame house built in the place. Here were thirty pupils taught by Rev. Jason Lathrop.

The Wisconsin Blue Book for 1923 contains this paragraph: "The year 1845 marks the most important step yet taken in the establishment of a public school system in Wisconsin. This took place at Kenosha, then called Southport. The people were largely from New England and the Middle States. Many of them were educated, and the village was a most promising field in which to make an educational experiment. Colonel Frank, editor, member of the territorial legislature, and one of the framers of the Constitution of Wisconsin, is entitled to the credit of establishing the *First Free Public School of Wisconsin*. Colonel Frank believed thoroughly in a free school system supported by public taxation. With that object in mind, he introduced a bill in the legislature of 1843, but it was defeated because of the lack of vision among the members."

—Illustration at Left—

Old High School building, built in 1849 on site of our present High School building. Here was the first free public school west of New England, the first result of Colonel Frank's fight for publicly-supported schools. Boulder bearing tablet marks exact spot on which building stood.



THE GILBERT M. SIMMONS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
The munificent gift of Mr. Z. G. Simmons (insert) to the people of Kenosha, in memory of his son

In 1845, the idea of a free school experiment in Southport was brought (by Colonel Frank) before the legislature, and the privilege of making it was conceded to district No. 1. (Section of Southport south of harbor.) The voters were authorized to raise by taxation not to exceed \$2,000 in any one year to erect a schoolhouse, pay teachers, purchase apparatus, and provide for incidental expenses. The tax was levied on both real and personal property. Finally, the act was not to be operative until adopted by the voters of the district. It met opposition but was finally adopted in the fall of 1845, and went into successful operation at once. Its success gave strong support to the friends of a state system of free schools in the convention which framed the Constitution of Wisconsin.

March 27, 1845, a public meeting was called to vote on the acceptance of the school law as passed. At this meeting the injustice of taxing those who had no children to educate those of their neighbors was strongly pressed. Poor men (and nearly all were poor) unable to pay to educate their own children thought it entirely unreasonable, and the meeting broke up in a row. A month later, however, the law was ratified by a vote of 90 for and 79 against. Colonel Frank was chairman of the meeting.

Thus under the leadership of our pioneer townsman, it is ours to have had a part in establishing the greatest asset of any free civilization—education. Colonel Michael Frank sleeps with scores of other pioneers in our beautiful “Silent City,” Green Ridge. He had wished that he might live until he had passed his ninetieth birthday. This wish was granted. His birthday was on the 12th of December and on Wednesday night, December 26, 1894, he passed into that permanent country where improvement is perpetual. As long as this community shall live and grow, the memory of Michael Frank will be cherished. Blessed indeed is the privilege of living a life like his. Such men really never die, for their work and their influence go on and on in the lives of others.

October 21, 1847, \$2,000 was voted to build a free school on the south side of the river. The southwest corner of the present High School block site was chosen, and the free schoolhouse was dedicated July 30, 1849. The house proper cost \$4,500, the lot having been given by Sereno Fisk. The beautiful elm trees now growing in this lot were planted by Josiah Bond. On Tuesday July 31, 1849, the school opened with an enrollment of 400 students. For some little time it remained ungraded, but a little later, in 1859, under Thomas J. Connatty, a most efficient schoolman, it became a High School, and in 1861 the first graduation class received their diplomas. The members were Joseph V. Quarles,

Jr., Rebecca Jones, Chauncey Baldwin, Sereno Fisk, Jr., James P. Nixon, Susie Veazie, Filmore Starkweather, William E. Smith and Emory L. Grant.

The old graded school building gave way in 1890 to make room for the new High School building which, with various additions and improvements, stands today as costing the city of Kenosha about \$81,000. In the shadow of this High School building that has served its time is the new High School building, now almost completed, (See description below) the finest of its kind in the State. The building proper is estimated to cost \$1,250,000.

There was raised for the maintenance only of the free schools of the city of Kenosha, for the school year ending December 31, 1925, almost \$708,000. This—simply for salaries, general upkeep, etc.

Yes, a community *does* really grow, and it is your great privilege and mine to help build it.

Kenosha Central High School

The new High School building occupies the whole of the block bounded by Sheridan Road, Wisconsin, Congress and Park Streets, 230x267 feet, is of classic design, constructed of Indiana limestone, and faces the new Court House across the central plaza which provides the setting for both and ties them together as the central unit of the Civic Center.

The building is composed of an academic unit with full complement of laboratories, class and special department rooms, health suite, office suite and a finely appointed library on the second floor. The main unit also contains the girls' gymnasium, 36x66 ft., the swimming pool unit 49x97 consisting of pool, 25x75, passageway and bleachers for 400, and the complete outfit of baths and lockers to care for the full quota of boys and girls.

The unit on the Wisconsin Street side consists of an auditorium 76x89 with stage 20x60 and a seating capacity of 1600 together with the main gymnasium 76x111 with permanent bleachers on three sides to accommodate 800 spectators. The playing floor is 66x100 ft., in the clear.

Both the auditorium and the gymnasium are located on two streets, may be cut off from the rest of the building and are intended to serve both the school and the community and be a center for all legitimate activities of the city.

All manual work will be done temporarily in the old High School building on the block to the west, where the heating plant for both buildings and any future building to be constructed on the old High School site will be located.

The building will be known as the Central High School, will house fifteen hundred students with an overload of 1800, and while classic in its design and built for use in every inch of its space, will be one of the very finest school buildings in the Northwest.

Kenosha Pioneer Press

THE first printing press ever operated in this region, and one of the first in Wisconsin, was a home-made affair, constructed by Rev. Jason Lathrop, and employed in miscellaneous work in 1836.

The Southport Telegraph was the first newspaper issued in what is now Kenosha County. On the 16th day of June, 1840, the first number of the journal was sent out. The editorial labor was performed jointly by C. Latham Sholes and M. Frank. They were both men of high tone, of moral character, good education and abilities, and the *Telegraph* soon occupied a respectable position among Western papers.

The Southport American was established September 23, 1841, by J. B. Jilson and N. P. Dowst, editors, and under H. Rudd, printer. It was Whig in politics. The columns were filled with political editorials, miscellaneous selections and a few advertisements. During the first week of June, 1849, the *American* began the publishing of a daily paper, called the *Daily Ledger* to be delivered to subscribers for 12½ cents a week, or \$5.00 a year. At this time the city had a population of 3,800 and the County of 12,000.

The Kenosha Democrat, edited by J. T. Hildreth, first made its appearance with an assurance that the paper would fearlessly support the "rights of the several states of the Union and a strict construction of the American Constitution." The paper was filled with legal, local, legislative and telegraphic news. On June 20, 1851, the *Democrat* came out in a new dress, declaring its "independence in everything—neutral in nothing." George H. Paul, was the new editor. The *Democrat* went out of business November 26, 1856.

The Times, a democrat paper, made its first appearance on the 2nd day of July, 1857, the journalistic firm being composed of D. Cassius McVean and Isaac D. George.

The Kenosha Union was established and the initial number issued June 28, 1866, by I. W. Webster and George Hutchinson, proprietors. This was a democratic paper, having for its object the restoration of the Republic to her "former unity, prosperity and happiness, indulging in no malice or venom to further the feelings of those who have not been converted by the force of arms or the logic of abuse." November, 1875, the *Union* was purchased by J. A. Killeen. It died with Mr. Killeen in 1909.

Notes

Geologists assign Wisconsin to a geological age of about 15,000,000 years.

The first newspaper to advocate a system of free schools for Wisconsin was the *Southport American*.

1833

The Indians ceded their title to Southwestern Wisconsin.

1834

First public land sale in Wisconsin, held at Mineral Point. It seems there was not a white settler in Kenosha County.

1835

Pike Creek—Population eight families, thirty-two people.

Pike Creek (Kenosha) founded by John Bullen, Jr. Pike Creek was visited by about three hundred Indians. Samuel Resique opened a tavern in a log house on Washington Island, which for a number of years was the leading tavern of the village. Provisions were brought on horseback from Chicago.

1836

Population sixteen families, sixty-four people.

Survey of public lands of the country was completed about February the first.

Arrivals at Pike Creek: R. H. Deming, Harvey Durkee, Charles Durkee and wife, A. D. Northway, George H. Kimball, E. R. Hugunin, Samuel Hale, Orlando Foster, Dr. David Walker, Dr. D. W. Stryker and others.

During this year Charles Durkee and R. H. Deming built a store on the present location of the Baldwin coal yards. Durkee lived in the building and Orlando Foster opened a shoe shop in the basement.

William Bullen built a two-story residence on the Island, the finest house in Wisconsin at the time.

Nelson Lay and Marietta Towslee married—first marriage in the county.

Mr. Bullen's new schooner arrived with provisions and seed for the settlers.

The county celebrated Independence Day in a glorious fashion. The Pleasant Prairie settlers came in a wagon drawn by twenty-six yoke of oxen.

David Crosit built a blacksmith shop on the site of the Simmon's Factory. Later built a house nearby where he kept boarders, as most householders did. The sleeping chamber was so low that a hole was cut through the roof through which the boarders put their heads to get room to "don their pantaloons."

Business is centered on the south bank of "Pike Creek."

First Territorial Legislature met at Belmont, Wisconsin; Charles Durkee sat in the lower house for Pike River.

To supply a "lighthouse" for boats off Pike Creek, a large oak tree near the harbor was cut so as to leave a stump about ten feet high. On the top of this stump was put a layer of stones, and on this a fire was kindled every night at sundown, during the season of navigation. Citizens performed the duty of lighthouse keeper, alternately, one week each, George Kimball being the most faithful. This served until 1840 when a lantern three feet square placed on posts twenty feet high replaced it.

Hiram Towslee, a son of Waters Towslee, was drowned in the harbor (July). This was the first death within the settlement of Kenosha.

The First Birth and Death in the County

On April 5, 1836, the first white native of the County was born in the wretched, floorless shanty of Garret Post, near the present Washington Park. The mother, Gertrude A. Post, died May 5th, the first death in the county. Little Gertrude lived till September 27, 1836, then went to join her mother. They were buried in a little cemetery located just west of Milwaukee Avenue near North Street.

1837

Population twenty-six families, 144 people. In May, Thomas Marr for the Western Immigration Company surveyed the village of Pike Creek into lots, blocks and streets. On the plat of this survey a liberal number of localities were designated for public buildings, squares and market places. A new survey of the village was made in 1839, directly after the lands were sold by the United States Government.

This last survey was under different auspices and a less liberal policy prevailed in the widths of streets and appropriations of ground for public use. The survey last mentioned is the now legally recorded one, governing the boundaries of lots at the present time. The Territorial Legislature met this year at Burlington (Iowa) and Charles Durkee went again as representative of Southport. "Pike Creek" changed to "Southport."

1838

Population thirty-three families, 186 people.

Wallace Mygatt and Volney French arrived.

Harvey Durkee and Mr. Bennett built the first stores on the north side of Pike Creek. Mr. Dana built the large house facing Library Park, next to the Congregational Church.

Hon. Samuel Hale, Justice of the Peace, appointed by the Governor.

A Fourth of July celebration was held at the Cepee House, located where the Simmons employment building stands.

During this winter all the business of the village was centered on Pearl and South Lake Streets.

1839

Population forty-three families, 246 people.

William Bullen was a member of the Territorial Council in 1839, and in '40 and '41.

A large frame building called the "Academy" was built north of the harbor on Grand Avenue, facing the north. This was used as a community house, later accommodating the culinary department of the National Hotel, which adjoined it.

This year the north side took a boom and nearly all the business of the village moved across the Creek. However, by the end of 1844, practically all the business had moved back to the south side.

1840

Population fifty-six families, 337 people.

C. L. Sholes arrived at Southport, and issued the first newspaper, the *Southport Telegraph*. Mr. Sholes is the inventor of the first typewriter.

Jared Lake built the present Bell Clothing Building. Charles Durkee used the second story for a warehouse. It held 1,500 bushels of wheat.

B. F. Cahoon commenced the construction of an outside pier which was finished in 1842. This was the first pier of the kind built on the lakes and the project was ridiculed by most people, both here and in other places. Newspapers along the Lake generally ridiculed it in a most extravagant manner.

The practicing attorneys were Fred S. Lovell, Volney French, and Mr. Devine.

1841

Population 642.

General Dodge, Governor of Wisconsin Territory, visited Southport, July 13. As the General was to come from Racine and the road being unfit for carriages the Racine people procured a lighter boat in which the General and a few citizens from that place were towed by two horses along the beach of the lake. All of the available vehicles of the place were brought into requisition to enable the people to go out to meet him. This consisted of three lumber wagons, one open carriage on wooden springs, besides five indifferent horses for single riders. The Southport procession, with the wagons and horses proceeded to the north end of Washington Island and awaited the arrival of the famed warrior. As soon as the boat hove in sight a speckled handkerchief was raised on a stick—this was the signal of patriotic welcome and was followed by three hearty cheers. The General was assisted into Deacon Whitney's wooden-spring carriage, which was considered the best vehicle in the neighborhood, and the General was driven to Whitney's "Temperance House," situated on Main Street.

1842

Population 875.

Col. Michael Frank in his diary of this date says: "The times are excessively hard and business has never been so dull in Southport as it has been for the last four weeks, since my residence in the West."

Flour selling for 12 shillings per hundred, and wheat $4\frac{1}{2}$ shillings cash.

Great excitement over road work. The commissioners were determined to make the southsiders work on the north side of the Creek, and Durkee and Kimball prosecuted for refusing to do so. Jury acquitted them.

Population in June was 875; but from 1842, Southport made rapid advances in her business and population. Between November, 1842, and

November, 1843, 165 buildings were erected; and by November, 1843, the population had increased to 1820.

1843

Population 1820.

Methodists dedicated their new chapel.

C. C. and C. L. Sholes began publishing a new monthly magazine "The Garland of the West."

Colonel Frank says: "The business prosperity of the town and county is very flattering. An immense crop of wheat is almost certain. Merchants are doing a big business. Improvements on Main Street were never more rapidly in progress than now. The grading and paving of Main Street is fairly commenced. The "second hill" is partly taken down and several new stores are in progress of construction."

71,500 bushels of wheat were shipped from the port of Southport in the fall.

During these years there were many taverns, for traveling was slow and distances great. Farmers "paid from 50 cents to 56 cents for supper, breakfast, and lodging, and horses to hay over night."

1844

Population 1850.

General Scott visited Southport.

Wheat selling for 63 to 70 cents per bushel.

Meeting in the new Congregational Church for the first time.

1845

Congress appropriated \$15,000 for Southport harbor.

Trustees levied a tax of \$250 to grade and improve Main Street from Market Street to the bridge.

First circus.

Harbor dredging machine working on the sand-bar.

1846

Population 2,671.

Southport Masonic Lodge No. 7 organized.

Trade and all kinds of business quite dull in town. Produce and provisions low. Money extremely scarce and great complaint of hard times. Wheat 50-55c; corn 18-25c; oats 16-20c; pork 12-20c. Prospects for building tolerably fair.

1847

Great political meeting in favor of the Constitution. Largest ever held in the town. Address by E. G. Ryan of Racine.

Fierce storm. Schooner "Samuel Hale" driven from her fastenings. Load of 11,000 bushels of grain lost.

"The prospects of the village of Southport during the past year have been less flattering than any year since its settlement. The population has not increased, while the neighboring villages on the lake shore have advanced in population. The business reputation of the place is bad. Our citizens haven't any confidence in the place, and while this state of suspicion exists there will be no advancement."

1848

First communication by magnetic telegraph to this place today. (March 2).

News received by telegraph of the nomination of Van Buren and Adams.

Durkee House (on present site of the Bode Furniture Company) opened.

First number of a new paper called "The Tri-weekly Experiment" by C. C. Sholes.

1849

The first free school building in the state built—brick, costing \$4500; the ground donated by Sereno Fisk. This for several years was the best school building in the state and its cost and dimensions were heralded by newspapers of the state. It contained two rooms 40x50 feet, and four recitation rooms.

A new plank walk completed from Main Street to West Main Street.

"Business in town is dull. Wheat mostly carried to Racine, the latter having the advantage of a plank road completed to Fox River, and Southport having a plank road only some four miles west, besides better prices are paid at Racine. From present appearances several of our merchants must fail before spring." (Later, one plank road was extended a little beyond Fox River at Bullen's Bridge, Silverlake).

1850

Population 3,360.

Bill for separating Racine County passed both houses of the Legislature. Great exultation in Southport.

Name of Southport changed to "Kenosha" and village incorporated as a city.

"Business in town continues very dull. The business prospects in this part of the country were never more gloomy than now. The great mass of the farming community are deeply in debt and have nothing with which to pay; money commands from 25% to 75%. The reputation of Kenosha is bad in the country, owing to recent heavy failures among us. Farmers are conspiring to have trade withheld from the city and have succeeded to considerable extent. Our morals are reputed bad; there is but little confidence in our business men."

M. Frank elected mayor over D. Crosit by fifteen majority—April 2.

First regular "police court" held. "Making noise and disturbance in the Street," was the official charge.

First murder. John McCaffrey drowned his wife in a well.

Cholera epidemic. 39 deaths.

"Bought hind quarter of beef for 3½ cents a pound."

1851

"The prospect of the city was probably never more gloomy than now. Business is almost entirely prostrate and real estate cannot be sold. A great many of the inhabitants would doubtless leave if they could dispose of their property, but being unable to sell they are obliged to remain. The people of the city seem to be fully aware of their situation, and hence there is an unusual effort now being made to restore confidence and business by going largely into public improvements, such as building the harbor and plank road. The inhabitants seem now ready to undertake almost any expenditure to save the place."

John McCaffrey received his sentence to be hanged. (May 25).

Terrific storm. All the bridges over the creek washed away. Damage amounted to not less than \$4000.

August 2—An eventful night last night. The city hall was moved from its place on Market Square by the citizens. The business of removing it was begun about 11 o'clock P.M. and completed at 3:30 A.M. The

reason for this was that the lot on which the building stood was about to be forfeited on a lease given by Kimball to Fisk, hence the building was removed to save it from falling into the hands of Kimball. This step seems to meet with the entire concurrence of the people of the city. A large number of people were present, either to look on or to assist, and the hall was moved with shouts and ringing of bells. Kimball endeavored to get an injunction to stop the proceedings, but could not find the necessary officers to execute it before the hall was out of danger. (Our best estimate as to the location of this hall was on the present site of the Tarbell building, and it was moved into Market Square—O.L.T.)

Execution of McCaffrey

August 21—John McCaffrey hanged. About two or three thousand spectators present. The gibbet was erected on an elevation in the center of a large area of uninhabited suburb on the bank of Jerome Creek near what is now known as 423 Strong Street. People from all parts of Kenosha and adjacent counties, some driving as far as fifty miles, came to see the public execution. The almost continuous line of lumber wagons, democrat wagons, buggies, carry-alls that filed along Ann Street, (now Sheridan Road) was strongly suggestive of a circus day. The law sanctioning capital punishment was repealed at a subsequent session of the Legislature, and this morbid manifestation certainly justified the legislative repeal. N. R. Allen was sheriff and in charge of the execution. George McNeil of Pleasant Prairie and W. C. Dowse of Dexter's Corners, both still living (1925) stood within a few feet of the gibbet. The handcuffs that McCaffrey wore are among the relics in the history room of the new Court House. This was the only execution by hanging in the state of Wisconsin.

December 31—"The past year has been one of the most embarrassing to business of all kinds since my residence in this place. Prosperity has run down and business greatly diminished since January 1851. There have probably not been to exceed a dozen buildings erected in this place during the past year; public improvements have been neglected, except the harbor and the new bridge on Main Street; dwellings are beginning to look old and rusty; very little pains have been taken to paint any houses or fences or to improve sidewalks or streets. Public confidence is very much extinguished in the city, hated abroad and very little respect for ourselves. Times are regarded as exceedingly hard in the country and throughout the state. The price of real estate has greatly fallen in this and adjoining counties.

“There are only about ten regular dry goods stores in the city. The Durkee House was opened again a few days ago, by Mr. Pitkin, after having been closed for several months, but its success is doubtful. The churches generally are not so well attended as they were a year ago. The public school was never more prosperous than now nor did it ever have a stronger hold on public opinion in this place. The Catholics have established a separate school consisting of about sixty scholars. There are not far from sixteen to eighteen stores unoccupied on Main Street between the Durkee House (Bode’s Furniture Store) and Methodist Episcopal Chapel (near Dayton Hotel). There is no dry goods store on Market Street, nor has there been for over a year.

“The harbor tax of \$10,000 has been mostly expended and tolerably judiciously. The contract for the new bridge on Main Street was let for \$1,400, and is now nearly completed. There are said to be one hundred vacant houses in the city, but this estimate is doubtless too large; fifty or sixty is perhaps right. There is now no enterprise in contemplation that I am aware of. There is an effort about to be made to get an act passed by the Legislature to allow the city to borrow \$50,000 to be expended in such manner as the people may hereafter determine by vote.”

Population Kenosha County, 1850—10730; 1860—13,900; 1865—12,676.

1852

John Bullen, one of the oldest merchants, has sent off his goods and quit business. A whig paper has been started, called *The Kenosha Tribune*. The *Kenosha Democrat* is now published semi-weekly. The Lake Shore (C. & N. W.) Railroad is exciting considerable interest. Preliminary steps have been taken for the establishment of a bank in Kenosha. C. L. Sholes purchased the *Kenosha Telegraph* for \$1,300.

1853

February 24—Railroad meeting this morning to consider the Kenosha and Beloit road and to take stock. The Court House was full. Another meeting in the evening. Fifteen delegates from Geneva present. Over \$90,000 worth of stock subscribed in the city for the road. My own opinion is that the railroad west to Rock River will not be built, notwithstanding the general expectation here that it will.

1854

There have been six cases and deaths of cholera, five of which were in one house.

December 31—Business is somewhat better. The population of the city has increased some during the year and there are now very few houses to rent. Three-fourths of the grading is now finished on the Western Railroad between Kenosha and Fox River. The Lake Shore Road is finished to Waukegan, and it is said it will reach here by February 15.

1855

May 19—The ceremony of laying the last rail on the Lake Shore Road was performed this morning at 10:30 o'clock. A short speech was made by the mayor of Chicago, also by the mayor of Milwaukee. Flags were raised, cannon fired, and bells were rung. A large crowd in attendance. At 11:00 A.M. seven passenger cars from Chicago containing a large number of citizens from Chicago and Waukegan started for Milwaukee. Over one hundred went from Kenosha, myself among them. The ride was a free one. The excursion returned from Milwaukee at 6:00 P.M. without accident.

August 28—Election to determine the question of levying a tax of \$150,000 for the Western Railroad. Subscription of \$84,000 now unpaid to apply on payment, leaving \$66,000 to be raised by tax in three years with interest at 10%. Script to be issued for the \$66,000; \$22,000 to be payable annually. The vote in the city was 212 for the tax and 22 against.

September 8—The Kenosha City Bank has commenced a bank building on the corner of Main and Park Streets. People stand in crowds to see the cellar dug.

All kinds of eatables have been higher than ever before since I have lived in this county. Oak wood is worth from \$3.00 to \$4.00 a cord; flour, \$4.25 a sack; butter 20 cents; pork \$6.00 per cwt: chickens 5 cents a pound; hay \$6.00 to \$8.00 a ton.

1856

The Railroad Company commenced building a dock at the harbor about two weeks ago. The Kenosha Western Railroad has at last managed to secure the iron and in other respects insure the building of some twelve miles of the road. To accomplish this, some thirty or

forty men in the city gave their individual notes for \$30,000 payable in six months. Fred Douglas (negro) made a speech at the Court House last night. Large crowd attended.

November 27—The first engine put on the Kenosha Western Railroad today.

Taxes in the city are enormously high, vastly higher than ever before. My tax last year was a little over \$18.00 and this year it is \$57.00. The moral and religious interests have evidently been on the decline for some time past. There is now no temperance organization in the city; the tipping places are numerous and thronged day and night; billiard rooms and bowling alleys are in full blast; drunkards, gambling, and profanity abound. Infidelity seems in the ascendant.

1857

Property sales have been made in greatly advanced prices.

Foundation is being laid for a new brick block on the corner of Main and Park Streets. Kimball is the proprietor of the new building.

September 15—A census of the city has just been completed by N. R. Allen. Total number of inhabitants—4065. It has been concluded not to publish the census as it falls so far below expectation.

December 31—The past year has been one of unprecedented money pressure; never before has there been so long continued scarcity. Hardly any sales of real estate. Added to this is the failure of crops last season. Notwithstanding the hard times there has been more buildings than usual erected in this city. It is difficult to account for this increase of building in the face of the money market and other business prospects.

The Western Railroad from this place is now completed to within about four miles of Geneva. Here it now stops for the want of iron. The whole state is more or less involved in railroad indebtedness and the discussion now before the people is, What can be done for relief?

1859

Carl Shurz delivered a lecture on the political issues of the times at the Odd Fellows' Hall last night.

The information in our "Notes" has been taken largely from Colonel Frank's Diary and those of several others of the early settlers. From the beginning of the war the history of the county, state, and nation seems much better known. For this reason we have made 1860 our stopping place in this interesting narrative.—O.L.T.

Conclusion

NO ONE realizes more than we who have compiled this little review that it is incomplete, unconnected, perhaps inconsistent. The object steadily held in view was that of creating interest. If discussion regarding it is aroused, then the mistakes that we have made by quoting the mistakes of others will be corrected, a better knowledge of our community will be obtained. If these come, then appreciation will have come to our younger generation, who are to be the builders of a community far surpassing anything we have yet thought of. If all this should come to pass, then the full object of this pamphlet will have been attained.

Shall we not, all of us, see more clearly than ever before that we are building, ever building, one generation after another—wiser, bigger, better? Perhaps this is the big dominating reason for our living. This being true, the daily task that you are performing, that I am performing, that our neighbor is performing, takes on a new significance and makes of each of us a more important and better citizen.

There are no more worlds to conquer.
Gone is the wild frontier
And the creaking grind of the wagon train
Of the sturdy pioneer.
But his memory lives as a thing divine,
Treasured in Heaven above;
For the trail that led to the Golden West
Was the wonderful Trail of Love.

