Early history of Omro. 1939

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From The Omro Herald issues beginning November 2, 1939

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Box IV

EARLY HISTORY OF OMRO
By an Early Settler

As the old saying goes; it is not what you were my lad, it is what you are today. But let us turn back the pages of history to the early days of Winnebago County. This county has as much history as any county can, and I guess more. We will not go back to the time of Father Marquette. Nor Jean Nicolet, but we will take each township in turn. See the first settlers and how they worked to make this today the finest land in the states. As I was born in the township of Omro, we will start with Omro. As I spent my barefoot boyhood days in Poygan, we will take that next.

But lets us start and come up the beautiful Fox River from Green Bay. As this was the starting place of this state or Fort Howard, now Depere. As we paddle along in our canoe from Green Bay, the first rapids hit was at Fort Howard, now Depere. Then on through beautiful country bordered on both sides by heavy timber, we come to Little Rapids. Then on here the river widens and is very swift and through now what is Wrightstown.

We next come to the Little Kaukaune, which means in Indian, Talking Waters and they do sound as if they talk and I have slept many a night on a boat near these rapids and heard them talk all night. It is now called Crush Lock. It is on the county line between Brown and Outagamie counties. As you travel north on 41 after you pass through Kaukauna turn to your right on the county line road, you will come to these rapids. Then we paddle on through a winding river lying between high hills and heavily wooded and soon come to the Big Kaukauna Rapids. This is Kaukauna, here we now have five locks and the Old Indian trading post of August Grignon.

Then on a short ways and we come to the Little Chute Rapids, now called Combined Locks and then on another short trip right on the Grand Chute Rapids, now called Little Chute. The old Leanon Flour Mills I guess still stand there, the first flour mills in the state. Then we go on a short ways and come to the Cedar Rapids, now Kimberly. Then we go on through beautiful banks and the river winding for a time and come to what now is called Appleton. Here we have a big drop and four locks are now here.

Then on into the beautiful lake of Little Butte des Morts. This lake is like a crescent and we pass the gold shores and are soon in Menasha and Doty Island, now is where Menasha and Neenah are located.

Then we come into a large lake called Lake Winnebago. The largest lake in any one state, and we have to paddle along its west banks, as it is pretty rough water and along its beautiful bays and islands and soon come to the mouth of the Fox River at what now is the City of Oshkosh, then on and soon enter into the Lake Butte des Morts proper. Then we pass the mouth of the Wolf River and on up the Fox and we find a beautiful spot now called Omro. Here we find the land on both sides rises to a handsome elevation, affording most delightful sites for residences.

Nov. 2, 1939.

Here we find our first settlers, one, Mr. David Humes. He embarked here in the spring of 1847. He came from Marquette in a skiff and selected as a residence a portion of section 16, later called Beckwithtown. This log house was the first structure in the village of Omro. This is situated in the central part of the county. It is one of the finest agricultural districts in the state. The face of the county is beautiful. The soil is very rich, mostly a dark loam and mixed with clay. There is some small amounts of waste lands, but these afford wonderful grass land. In 1875 the state census was 3,312.

Many flowing fountains are found. Now at this date between 1846 and 1880 we find our little town a busy place. The Milwaukee and St. Paul branch railroad connecting with main lines. In 1878 we have ten school houses in the township, and 1,011 children at school age. For some years before the white settlers came, a trading post was established on the present site of Omro by Charles Carron, Jed Smalley and Captain Wm. Powell. It was called Smalleys trading post.

In the spring of 1846 Edward West purchased some five hundred acres of land put up two log houses. One was located near Section 23. He marked and cut a wagon road from Rosendale in Fond du Lac county to his land in Butte des Morts, now Omro. He had to do this to move his family here. The nearest settlement at that time was Fond du Lac and the Fourierit. This had a block house and a few families. The Wrights, Gallopes, Stanleys and Fords in what is now Oshkosh. This country far to the south and a great distance north of the Fox River and west of Lake Winnebago was uninhabited except by Indians.

There were two or three wet seasons at that time and the country was low and wet. So after wading some distance through water and tall grass, he reached the south shore of Fox River at Oshkosh, now about where the Chicago and North Western freight station is now.

Then on, the land was higher and the journey was more easy. The country at that time had four powerful tribes of Indians, the Winnebagoes, Menominees, Chippeways and Pottawattomies. They held possession of all the country from the Wolf River on the east and to the Mississippi on the west.

The Fox River was their main hunting grounds, as it was alive with fowl. They shot great numbers to protect their grain fields and many were fed to the hogs as they could not eat them all.

The next settlers were Abram Quick, Hezekiah Gifford, John Munroe, R.M. Buck, John R. Paddleford and John S. Johnson.

These all came here in 1846. In the summer of 1846 also came Barna Haskell, Myron Howe, Leuman Scott, Walter Stewart, Nelson Olin, Frederick Tice, Gilman Lowd, Smith Jones and Musgrove.

In 1847 the town received the following accessions to its population. M.C. Bushnell, A.C. Pease, Nelson Beckwith, Richard Reed, James Reed, Thomas Palfrey, David Minkler, John Pingry, Isaac Hammers, James Hoaglin, F.B. Bunker, Austin Clark, William Remington, John I. Bidwell, John Perry, Sumner Wilson, Jude F. Rogers, William Thrall, Calvin Bigelow, Nathan Wolverton, Alvin Beals, Nelson Tice, N.J. Forbes, John Perry and Nathaniel Frank. These were all our first settlers.

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From the Nov( )er 9, 1939 issue of The Omro Herald.

By an act of the territorial Legislature approved on March 8th, 1839, the town was organized from townships 18 and 19 ranges 15 and 16 and some of 17. This included the present Towns of Omro, Winneconne, Algoma, Oshkosh, Vinland and part of Neenah. This was a part of Brown county. Winnebago was set off from Brown county by an act of the Legislature January 6, 1840.

At an election held in the house of Webster Stanley in Oshkosh on the 4th of April, 1842, offices were elected for the town of Butte des Morts. So by the act of the legislature April 11th 1843, the town of Butte des Morts, County of Winnebago, shall be known as Winnebago embracing all territory with in its limits and future elections shall be held at the house of Webster Stanley.

At an election held at the house of Edward West in the Town of Butte des Morts, now Omro, on the 6th day of April 1847, Nelson Olin was chosen moderator. N.W. Wolverton, secretary, and they were to raise the sum of Twenty Five Dollars to defray expences for the town.

From the records it appears that the highest number of votes at that election was 19, but this did not indicate the population at that time. Many residing there were not legal voters.

Also at this election the following persons were elected. Edward West, Chairman, John Monroe and Frederick Tice, Supervisors, Nelson Olin, Clerk, and Barna Haskell, Assessor. Isaac Germain, Justice and John Perry, Treasurer. Alvin Beals, Collector and Nelson Olin, Gilman Lowd and George Stokes, Commissioners of highways. Edward West and Barna Haskell and Nathan Wolverton, commissioners of schools, Alvin Beals, Constable and Abram Quick, Sealer. Isaac Hammers, N.J. Forbes and Myron Howe, Fence Viewers.

On March 11th, 1848 Winneconne was set off, taking from the town of Butte des Morts the fraction of the southeast corner of town 19. By act of March 15th, 1849, the name of Butte des Morts was changed to Bloomingdale.

Then at a meeting held April 3rd 1849, the following were elected for the town of Bloomingdale: Nelson Olin, Chairman, Jude F. Rogers and John Nelson, supervisors, J.M. Olin, clerk, John Paddleford, treasurer and C.C. Bigelow, Justice.

In 1852 the name of the Town of Bloomingdale was changed to Omro by act of the county board. They put a lot of letters in a hat and four men walked up and each drew a letter and there were two O's, one R and one M and they called it Omro.

In 1850, the south half of section 31 of the town was attached to Rushford and in 1856 the north half of the same attached. Then the section 1-12 and north half were attached to Omro leaving the Town of Omro with its present boundaries.

During this period of about 1847 and 1850, one of the first things to come to the attention of the settlement were schools for the education of their children.

In 1848, during the absence of Mr. Myron Howe from his home, his bachelor quarters were taken possession of, and a school opened with

Mrs. Abram Quick as teacher.

Also in the same year Mrs. George Beckwith taught school in her own house. Then a private school was taught by Hannah Olin in the Gilman Lowd neighborhood. The schoolhouse was built by subscription. These were the first schools opened in the township.

Elder Pillsbury built the first frame house in the Town of Omro in 1848. The second one was erected by George Beckwith the same year and was occupied by Crego near the Junction. The next was built by Milo C. Bushnell and it was the first house that was painted. This was painted by George Wrightson. The first frame barn was erected by David Minkler on the Richard Tanner place in 1849.

The first white child born in Omro was George Johnson, son of John S. Johnson, born June 2nd, 1846. The second white child born in this town was Maria Scott, daughter of Leuman Scott born in October of that year. The third was Jane A. Olin, daughter of Nelson Olin, born the 23rd of March in 1847.

The first marriage was that of Albert Hall to Miss Julia Jones in April, 1848. The next marriage was on the 4th of July 1848, that of Daniel Ingalls to Miss Elizabeth Jones and the same year Asa Kennedy and Mrs. Harriett Dinning were united. The writer remembers Mr. Albert Hall, he taught me to be a wagon painter. Mrs. Hall died the following July.

The second death was that of William Parker, May 10th, 1849. He was drowned in the Fox River.

Omro had and has many flowing Fountains and has the best water in the state. The first fountain was opened by Stephen Johnson in 1847 who was then keeping batch and digging a well. One night the water broke forth and the next morning he had the whole yard flooded. This was in Section 36.

Next is a kind of mysterious occurrence that happened on a piece of land on the bank of the Fox River just east of the village. This is now the farm of Chris Peterson. I can not give the name of the party but he was a Frenchman and in the fall of 1848, he went with his ox team to Waupun to get some produce. He returned at night and called his wife and asked for a pail to wash his feet in. Those days remember many drove their ox teams afoot and many went bare footed. She gave him the pail and he went to the river and they never could find him, but the next spring, some Indians found his body in the river.

The first services were held in the Richard Reeds House. This was a log house called the big house. As it was 18 x 22 feet, and the first sermon was preached by Elder Pillsbury.

Nelson Olin is a man that should be remembered. He was one of the first settlers of the state. He came to Milwaukee June 27, 1835. He helped to put up the first farm store. He dug the first cellar in that city. He also built the first dock and graded Wisconsin street from Spring street to the lake. Then he moved to Waukesha and later to Omro the 20th of November 1846. He settled then in section 27. He was our first town clerk and helped lay out the streets in this town.

Then Gilman Lowd settled in Section 33 in July 1846, and built a log house and kept batch. He helped lay out the section line and town line roads. The town voted Twenty-five dollars for town expenses for the first year.

The writer gets these dates from the valuable history of Omro, written by Richard J. Harney in 1880. Also Other dates I have picked up here and there through the years from the old settlers and their experiences. I also want to note that Mr. Edgar Hall was one of my teachers in the Omro High in the grammer room and Miss Nell Saxon was another, and both were wonderful teachers. Edgar Hall was the son of Albert Hall, about whom I just wrote.

Myron Howe one of our first settlers built a log house in July of 1846 in section 9, and kept batch. I guess women were scarce around here more than they are at present. As nearly all the men kept batch. Howe's nearest neighbor was two miles away or the nearest one lived in the village. In 1870 he built a frame house which did stand in the center of the farm now owned by William Miller, two miles east of Omro and the cross road at that time ran through the middle of this farm, and came out on the river road near the Harvey Loper farm now. The writer later bought these buildings and tore them down for the lumber.

In 1870 he built the fine brick house of Omro brick, that is now the Wm. Miller home on Highway 21, east of Omro. Mr. Howe came from the state of N. Y. here in 1844, and all he had to his name at that arrival was his clothes and a set of jointer tools. With these he came out one of our best settlers and helped to cut out the section line road.

Then Mr. R. Paddleford built a frame house on section 14 in February of 1847. He also helped in opening up the first roads.

Then in 1846, Mr. Milo Bushnell came from Vermont and settled in the northwestern section 27. In 1847, in company with A.H. Pease, he built a shanty and they also kept batch. In 1849 he built on his own place a frame building 16 x 24 which was the fourth frame house built here. Mr. Bushnell was elected chairman of the town in 1851. He also was assistant assessor from 1862 till 1868. Mr. Chas. Bushnell and Milo Bushnell were my bondmen after my folks died and until I was 21 years of age. Wonderful men and very good blacksmiths.

In the fall of 1847 Richard Reed and family consisting of wife and five sons and one daughter settled in section 22. In 1872 he moved into the village. Mr. Reed was justice of the peace for nine years. Uncle Dick as he was called by all, was noted for his kindness to all. On his 80th birthday the neighbors all gave him a surprise and gave him many presents and he was to kiss all the ladies present. He was pretty awkward at first, but soon got used to it. Then he went ahead in a spirited manner.

Then in 1847, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pew came from St. Lawrence, Co., N.Y. to Green Bay. They were some of the early settlers. Mrs. Pew at the age of nine years passed up the Fox river and down the Wisconsin in a birch bark canoe, paddled by Indians. One named We-au-we-ya, from Prairie du Chine, She went to New Orleans and from that place to Alexandria on the Red River. Her father connected with the troops stationed on the frontier.

Mr. Frank Pew drove the first wagon that ever passed down the west side of the River from Neenah to Oneida settlement.

Then in 1848, William O. Giddings settled on section 8 and built a

log house into which he moved with his family. Then in 1875 he moved into the village. He helped to organize the first district school in the village and helped build it.

In March 1849, S.D. Paddleford settled in section 10 and was prominent man. He was the father of the late Mrs. Ralph Darrow.

Alfred Robinson located in section 16 in April of 1848, and Mr. George Hatch came to Omro in 1865. He purchased the farm of M.C. Bushnell

The town officers in the year of 1879 were as follows: J.M. Beals, chairman; G.W. Minkler and L.J. Silvethorn, supervisors; J.H. Caswell, clerk; Robert Webb, treasurer and S.D. Paddleford assessor.

The first two hotels were the Larrabee and the Northwestern.

The first weekly newspaper was the Omro Journal, published by Platt M. Wright.

The village officers at this date were as follows:
Board of trustees, W.H. Cain, Almond Grey, S.D. Gilman, J.E. Linsley; Treasurer, John D. Treleven; clerk, J.H. Caswell; Justice of the Peace, H. Frank, D.W. McLeod, A.B. Russell and D.W. Reed.

From the November 23, 1939 issue of The Omro Herald.

Nov 23 1939

Now we get back to the early times of the town. Mr. Humes ambition was to build a thriving town. He settled here on that purpose. He had a plan of his own and he proceeded to carry it out. Taking his axe he went to the north shore of the river, then called Indian land. Selected the best trees and cut them to build a grouser or upright anchor boat, for towing logs up the river. He says I am going to build a boat that will pull logs up stream of this river and then there will be saw mills and this town will grow. Swimming his oxen across the river he drew the timbers to the south bank and went to work with a crew. After it was built, it was propelled by horse power of four horses on a sweep and called Humes Horse Boat.

When the first fleet of logs were brought up the river, Mr. Nelson Beckwith, the son-in-law of Mr. Humes, took his skiff and paddled down the river to meet him and later Mr. Aaron Humes, son of David Humes, built the first steam grouser boat and named it the Swan.

Mr. Humes used this boat for a time then sold it to a firm in Neenah, then he started a store in Beckwith town. This is still standing, an old house near Mr. T.J. Thompson's. As soon as it was found logs could be brought up the river, steps were taken to build mills. Nelson Beckwith went to his father-in-law and asked for ten acres of land along the river bank, which was agreed to and he erected the first saw mill there. It stood on the south shore of the river just north of Mr. T.J. Thompsons place now and I think even now you can find the old angle irons that held it in place. At the same period, Elder Pillsbury who owned land just west of Beckwith town, with Mr. Nelson Beckwith, built a mill which stood where the old woolen mill stands or where Mr. Daggett is now and this land also included the old fair grounds. Going back again to Beckwith town we have a saw mill, store and hotel, this building is now where Mr. T.J. Thompson now resides and a boat factory on the property now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hubard, where Mr. Ernest Hellwig now lives. There stood a long low built house and surrounded by trees so you could hardly see the house. An old lady by the name of Mrs. Williams used to weave carpets there with an old fashioned loom and I remember when my mother went there to see her about some weaving and I was dressed in a white waist and while they were talking I had to crawl behind the old loom to see those shuttles work and when I came out, you can imagine what my mother did to me, as I was dirt and cob webs. But to get back to the mill, later it was sold to a man named Tours and he erected a slaughter house there and also built a large frame house on the river bank and I remember when evenings the kids all gathered around and we used to play games in front of the house under two big pine trees. I used to think it was the prettiest place in the world. That same house later was moved to where it now stands in the eastern part of your city and was where Mr. Reed Case did live. Another house that stood side of this was also moved to where it now stands and is where Mr. Harry Marshal now lives.

Beckwith town was layed out in the year of 1847, at that time there was the Col. Tuttle-Dr. McAllister. One of my teachers in the old red brick school was Cora McAllister. Then there was Andrew Wilson, L. Manning, A. Corfee, William Hammond, Mr. Beck and Humes, Beckwith and John Wilson.

Col. Tuttle purchased seventy acres west of Beckwith town, section 7, starting at lot 1 western addition extending west and south near the site of the Old Exchange Tavern. This was once an old Indian camping grounds. This plat was laid out in the year of 1849, by Joel V. Taylor, Elisha Dean, and Nelson Beckwith.

In 1852 Bloomingdale was started, this was just west of Beckwith town and had a ferry, and later a float bridge was put in. This was or now it would be back of where Mr. Banges daughter now lives. Her place at one time was an old Indian trading post. Later Mr. James Bartow built this up and filled in the old bayou and made a beautiful home there. This is today one of the most beautiful homes in the city. Also in 1850 there was quite an increase in population, for the village. In 1850 Col. Tuttle built a float bridge across the river, where later Thompson and Hayward's carriage works were.

We find by the records that N. Frank and C. Bigelow came up the river on the steamer Badger, the first real steamer up the Fox this far. At this time the bridge was not finished. The freight was unloaded at the end of the bridge in the north channel, the south channel at that time was very low water, a plank was laid down to get it across to the south shore. Mr. Frank and others later put a yoke of cattle to a scraper and dug it out. Later the current of the river made the main channel where it is now and they did a good job as it is straight.

Mr. C. Bigelow and Mr. Terwilliger built a store. This was the first store,as a rule business not so good at that time and a farmer came in with a load of wood and tried to sell it, but could not and was going to dump it in the river by the bridge. Mr. Terwilliger saw this and gave him a pint of whiskey for the load. Mr. C. Bigelow built the Goodwin House, lot 97 and 98 western addition. The same year the Larrabee house was built, that is now the Omro Hotel. Also the same year the old Exchange hotel was built, so we had three hotels at that period.

In 1851 Hiram Johnson built a mill on the north side of the river. This mill burned in the year 1866.

The first public school teacher in the village taught in the first school house built in the village, now about where the Carter barn stands, but this has been torn down a long time ago. This was in the year of 1850. Later a school was built on the north side about where Kitchen's Service Station is now. They held a school meeting, Mr. G.W. Beckwith was town Superintendent. They raised two hundred dollars for a new school at that meeting.

The year of 1851 was a poor year for the village, but they struggled along through it. Not many new ones came in, there was only L.O. Manning, the Wilsons, Wilcoxes, Lucas Andrews, J. Waterman and the Pattersons. Also N. Frank, Esq. In 1855 the Methodist Church was built and it still stands, the Baptist Church was built in 1854.

In 1855 the district voted to have another new school and raised $600.00 for the purpose. Mr. Matoon was to do the work, but he was released later and George Stokes agreed to build it of brick for $214.00. This was built in 1857. Also in 1856 a grist mill was

built by McLaren, also the same year Andrew Wilson built a mill on the north side of the river.

In the year of 1857 we had a few new comers, namely: Dr. McCall, W. Ames, Dr. Gibbs, Benj. Sadyu and W. Larrabee. The village expences that year were $234.21.

There was 457 rods of sidewalk built. Also at this period the project of a railroad was brought up and $900.00 was pledged in cash and bonds to be payed by the village.

In 1858 the old float bridge was purchased by the town, before it was kind of a toll bridge and the town put this in repair.

Also at this period Mr. G.W. Shafer came and started business, also at this period grading and putting in ties of the railroad started. The first depot was built by private subscriptions. Then track laying was started in 1860. That winter the steel was laid as far as Waukau. On a Sunday and on New Years in 1861 the rails were laid to the river bank in Omro.

In 1861 the news of war was heard and Company C. of the 14th Infantry was recruited in Omro and mustered into the U.S. service. David Hinman, a son of J.L. Hinman, was the first soldier killed from Omro. The 14th was under fire and also Comapny A mostly all from Omro from the time they reached the front till they were mustered out. The 18th Regiment was mostly from this place.

In 1863 Mr. George Challoner built a shingle mill of his own invention. In 1865 the first Paper was printed, called the Omro Union. In 1866 Omro started forth with a boom. Peaceful feelings and business hummed, plenty of work and good wages and prompt pay. People flocked in from other places. The Wilson and Johnson saw mills were run both day and night, and when they closed down in the fall there was not much lumber left in their yards.

George Challoner put up a shop now where the Scott Park is, Lewis and Thompson's shingle mill was running day and night. No. 1 shingles selling at $5100 a thousand. A man named (continued next week).

(Goodenough)

Utter and I cannot get the name of his pardner, started a spoke and hub mill near where our Omro Lumber Co. is now and Sheldon and Allen started a broom handle factory. Then Scott built a shingle mill near where the wollen mill is now. This burned and was never built up again. The first brick store was put up this period and built by L.B. Lewis and Ellis Thompson where the present Lumber Co. is now. The Catholic Church was also erected. Mr. Drew and Hicks put up a carriage shop also.

It was not so booming in 1886 for the place, but the Putnam block was built and Pelton Brick Store on the north side about where the Kitchen's Station is now. The fair grounds were laid out and a fair held that fall. This is where the present Fairmont Heights are now. Mr. G.W. Shafer built a fine brick block on Water and Division streets. In 1869 David Blish put up a planing mill on the north side of the river. This was where the G.A.R. hall is now and in 1870 the Christian Church was built. now Am. Legion Hall.

In 1871 the George Challoner shop was destroyed by fire loss of $20,000, but was soon built up again. On the 14th of September that year, some workmen digging a cellar drain for the residence of John Wilson found the bones of a mastadon. This was near the old Wadell place or south up Mill street from the old woolen mill.

Each tooth of this mastadon weighed eight pounds. Then later W.W. Race built, also Andrew Wilson and Treleven and J. Orchard. Mr. Andrew Wilson and H.W. Webster were the leading men of the village at that time. Mr. Webster was a heavy lumber manufacturer and represented this district in the state Legislature. Also C.C. Morton ran a sash and door factory and Almond Grey a barrel factory.

Mr. M.G. Bradt was our express agent, W.W. Race was dealer in hardware, S.N. Bridge of musical instruments. J.T. Russell had a harness shop. C.C. Covey, a dealer in groceries, Mr. Charles Chase a Jewelery store, A.B. Tice, a meat market, Alexander Gadbaw, farm machinery, Frank Bunker, groceries, and Robert Webb was also a grocer.

Before we go on with the rest may I recall a few happenings that occurred which may interest the readers. Also if any old timers can recall any matters of interest, just write them to your editor and I am sure he will be glad to print them along with this work. Also want to thank Mrs. Frank Stanley for her very interesting writtings of the old school days.

First I will recall the old Indian scrimmage that happened at Omro years ago. This was in the summer of 1844, so they tell me. Captain William Powell in his trading post in Omro that I related a time back. This is how the story goes: The Winnebago Indians--two hundred strong under Old Yellow Thunder were camped near the outlet of Rush Lake. Yellow Thunder's son with eleven other bucks, came to Omro to Powells to rob him of his whisky and just have a spree. At the time Jed Smalley, Leb Dickerson and Charley Carson, a Menominee half breed, were in the place and they helped Powell.

The struggle started with fists and clubs. Captain Powell had his arm broken and as it was getting rather rough, just then Doctor Linde came in from Eureka, the doctor threw down his pack, cocked both barrels of his gun and went into the fight. They proceeded very vigorously and the doctor had no time to think, till he revealed that twelve Indians had been laid out. Then those hurt were attended to, Powell's arm was set by the doctor and the rest of the bucks given one drink of fire water and they that were alive journeyed home and when old Yellow Thunder heard their story and saw their plight, he laughed at them. After that Doctor Linde was a great friend among most of the Indians. Later Doctor Linde bought 280 acres where the Northern Hospital now stands.

I remember Mr. E.P. Ferris. He was a Justice of the Peace and also had a store on the south side of the bridge. He was a lovely man and they say he moved here in his sail boat up the river and used to live west of the old C.G. Thompson property in the eastern part of the village and he used to have many hotbeds for garden produce and I remember one day when a bad wind came up in the north and those canvas frames went up in the air so far they looked like white leaves and they found most of them later way south of the village in different farmers fields.

Also I remember when us boys used to gather sweet corn and potatoes, and night paddle down the river to what was called "Baby Island," as some Indians once found a white dead baby that floated ashore there, Well, we would build a fire and roast these and eat them and put on an Indian dance and so on. But I remember one morning when my aunt showed me my pillow cases the way they looked, as that night late, when I came home I forgot to wash my face, I was told some things.

Also I remember Mr. J.V. Bartow, he let us swim in the river back of his residence and also gave us a long cedar plank for a spring board and the girls also used to swim there and they held his beautiful boat house for their dressing tent and in the winter we iced the hill just west of his house and used to slide there evenings till late and you could hear the merry voices ringing through the cold air almost every evening all winter. Also I remember the first Christmas tree I ever saw and that was in the new house built by Harley Wilson, now where Weingarten's live. It was in the front window and that also was the first large window I ever saw put in a house and it was all lighted up with candles and the snow on the ground and the ice hanging on the eaves, it was a beautiful sight and the first lighted tree in the town.

Also I can remember the town cleaned the snow off from the north channel in the winter just east of the bridge and we used to build a fire there and skate, play pull-a-way and snap the whip and at that time, T.J. Thompson was classed the best trick skater and Bonny Hoover and Georgia Larrabee the best lady skaters, but since Sonja Henie came to this country we can look back and see where we all can start all over again.

I remember in the summer when that channel was so full of logs, that you could walk across on them. Also the sturgeon fishing, they used to do on the old bridge and I have a picture of the largest one caught, taken by H.H. Sheldon. I remember the first pair of boots I had with red tops and brass toes, bought from Mr. Demming and our stairs were so steep that in the morning I made some racket coming down and falling against the door. Also A.B. Russell that used to get the mail each night from the depot to the old post office, which used to stand near where your printing office now is and how we boys used to run off with the wheel barrow and at times the mail was late. And the Old Chinese that ran the laundry. We used to pick on him and he used to chase us through the streets till the sheriff Mr. Sheldon put a stop to that. At one time I lived in the new house just built by Mr. Pettingill in the eastern addition, now where Mrs. H.J. Miller lives and I went to the East Side School, and now as I see my name carved by the door of the A. Austria feed mill, as this was the old East Side School. I think of the days I had to stay in for that fancy job of carving. I also attended at a time the North Side School, these were twin school houses. At that time I lived on the north side of the river, or what we kids called Canada on Poygan Ave. Also I remember when I lived in the western addition where Mr. Cal Root used to live and we used to go swimming in the old brick pond. I think you will find those ponds still there, just back of where Mr. Henry Winslow now lives.

Also when I lived near the church on the hill where Mr. Arthur Marble now resides and Leslie Leighton and Mark Gummer and I used to in the summer sail little boats along down the side of the road past the Grossman butter factory, then east and then south and come out by the river at the west end of the park now or at that time the Foundry.

Omro had a wonderful glass factory and this used to stand just west and on the south bank of the river, west of where the Omro Creamery is now and a tannery along the north bank where Mrs. Oatman now resides.

Then our band, which was the best in the state for many a year and our old boats that played the river. The first Humes House boat, then the Swan, then the Badger the first outside owned boat, then the Steamer Huchington, the steamer Evelyn, the Crawford, later the Thistle, the Steamer Fashion, the Tug Boscobel, Tug Garrow, and also the Tugs D.A. Cady and H.C. Scott, both of Omro.

Now we will go back and give the Directory of the village at the year of 1880:

Attorney -- F.F. Wheeler
Agriculture Machinery -- Alexander Gadbaw.
Barrel Factory -- Almond Grey.
Boots and Shoes -- C.C. Covey & Co., Leighton & Gillman, Peter Samphier, Whitman.
Books and Stationary -- Platt Wright.
Blacksmiths -- C.W. Bushnell, C.A. Coe, William Cundy and E.T. Sheldon.
Collecting Agent -- Alex Gadbaw.
Clothing -- Treleven and Orchard.
Commercial School -- S.R. Manning.
Dry Goods -- Brockman & Co., Peter Cole and Pelton & Kutchins.
Drug Stores -- George W. Shafer, C.S. Douty and Henry & Charlesworth.

Dentist -- I.H. Sheerar.
Express Agent -- M.G. Bradt.
Foundry & Machine Shop -- George Challoner.
Flour Mill -- E.C. Woodworth.
Furniture -- George H. Charlesworth.
Groceries -- Richard Reed, Leighton & Gilman, C.C. Covey & Co., Robert Webb, H.L. Waite, John W. Rice, Thompson & Hayward, Mrs. Garrity.
Hardware -- W.W. Race and F. Bunker.
Harness Shops -- J.T. Russell and W.B. Chapman.
Hotels -- Larrabee house and Northwestern.
Insurance Agent -- J.H. Caswell.
Lumber Products -- H.W. Webster.
Lawyers -- D.W. McLeod, A.K. Brush and J.A. Banks.
Livery Stables -- Andrew Lansing, Joseph Lyons and A.B. Larrabee.
Meat Markets -- Aaron B. Tice and W.E. Wheeler.
Millinery -- Mrs. C.W. Jones.
News Paper -- Omro Journal, Platt Wright.
Physicians -- J. Gibbs, R.L. Cook, P.H. Patten and G.C. Green.
Music Store -- S.N. & R.W. Bridge.
Postmaster -- E. D. Henry.
Photograph Gallery -- Ellis Thompson.
Depot Agent -- C.W. Jones.
Restaurants -- Mrs. Ann Martin and W.A. Clifford.
Sash & Door Factory -- Morton & Small.
Shoemakers -- E. Gummer, Demmond Bros., W.H. Shattuck, and W.R. Pettingill.
Saloons -- George Mitchler, H.L. Jasscen and Baxter Logan.
Wagon and Carriage Shops -- Thompson & Hayward, G.W. Drew, J.E. Linsey and A.B. Hall.
Watches, Clocks and Jewelry -- Charles Chase.
Variety Store -- Fanny McAllister.

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I will now mention a few of the oldtimers later on, I may miss a few, but I will do the best I can. There was Mr. Wakeman of the bank, Mr. Hatch that ran the flour mill, W.E. Hurbert our lawyer and Frank Stanley and Asa Wiles our wagon makers, C.D. Bowman our drug store Prop., Mr. Shelp and W.P. Bussey, Dr. Daniels, Fred Charlesworth, Ed. Leaman, Dan Clark & Sons, C.G. Thompson the ice dealers. William Russel the cigar shop, E.A. Earle, Edward Reed, James White, Lynn Percy, George Pratt, George Brooks, Henry Winslow, Fred Root, George Davidson and Charles Jones. Also Percy Broth's father. Mr. Broth was the champion checker player of the world and his father is one that gave me maps of the early Fox River valley and many of the early dates. Also our band was the best in the state for many years. The G.A.R. post was named after Mr. Sawyer the first one to pass away after the post started and my father passed away just a few days later. Also Frank Mahar was our postmaster at the time and we have many others that live in our city today that can recall the old times and have helped to build this town up to one of the best little cities in this state today.

Herald - Nov 30, 1939

The first school district organized was a meeting of school commissioners of the town of Butte des Morts and Rushford, held October 22nd, at which two school districts were organized in the southwestern part of the town. One was the West School District No. 1.

The first school superintendent was Mr. George Beckwith. The first male school teacher was George Herrick, who lived in section 9.

In the year 1846, in March a big flood came. Mr. John S. Johnson had just settled in the town and had built a shanty on section 30. On the 14th of that month a heavy snow continued for four days and nights. Then it cleared up a short time and it started to rain. This lasted for 48 hours and converted the snow into water and the streams ran in torrent. The country was so flooded that half of its surface was covered with water. Large portions of Omro, Rushford, Algoma, Oshkosh, Nekimi and Black Wolf was under water. Old Chief Oshkosh said he never saw anything like it, and an old squaw, Mother Rabbit, over 80 years of age, who had lived near Omro, said she never remembered anything like that. A number of settlers abandoned their claims, but in a short time the water disappeared except on the low land and the marshes and the settlers returned to their shanties.

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Going on from last week I have a few more of the old boys in town, some are with us yet. They are as follows: Mr. Arthur Marble, Robert Chase, James Everts, the Oatman brothers, Charles Fowler, Edward Cronk, A. Shepard, George Stearns and son, Herb Challoner and many more that I cannot now recall.

But I remember Mr. E.A. Earle had the first gas buggy in town and at these times one did not have to watch out for road hogs, as all or most of the horses turned out clear in the ditch. I also remember my uncle that had the ice business. One ice house on a part of the new addition of Scott's Park and the other house west of the Omro Lumber yard and he had one large horse that pulled one large wagon alone and tended to the saloon's and the butter factory's. He used to drink a large pail of beer each day.

A. Austria later bought out the flour mill and is still here in business and C. Peterson, an old timer, our blacksmith,and Leon Shelp in the bank and so on. All these men helped to build this city up to now and let us join hands with them in the good work and build it still better and the ladies of the city must not be forgotten, they started it and built up Scott Park to one of the most beautiful parks in the state and we also have one of the best little theaters in the state and so many things we all can be so proud of and can always say I am for Omro.

Now we look into the old residence of the town. The first settlers and where they first lived.

Arnold & Morton, sec. 8, 120 acres;
Abner Brush, sec. 7, 40 acres;
J. Abernethy, sec. 14, 160 acres;
F. Brandt, sec. 24, 80 acres;
George Bunker, sec. 12, 80 acres;
S. Atwood, sec. 28, 80 acres;
O. Babcock, sec. 18, 40 acres;
L.C. Booth, sec. 15, 209 acres;
J.S. Baker, sec. 26, 40 acres;
George Booth, sec. 28, 80 acres;
Henry Baker, sec. 28, 80 acres;
Albert Bornschien, sec. 3, 125 acres;
J. Banks, sec. 17, 50 acres;
Trangott Bornschien, sec. 2, 100 acres;
T.J. Bartow, sec. 9, 50 acres;
F.B. Bunker, sec. 18, 45 acres;
Thomas Baily, sec. 18, 12 acres;
N. Busam, sec. 35, 40 acres;
J.F. Barnett, sec. 22, 110 acres;
R.M. Buck, sec. 25, 80 acres;
Warren Bates, sec. 35, 60 acres;
J.B. Cain, sec. 34, 80 acres;
S.D. Bartlett, sec. 30, 36 acres;
Mason Campbell, sec. 26, 160 acres;
S.T. Barnard, sec. 18, 40 acres;
T.H. Cheeny, sec. 23, 160 acres;
E.R. Bennett, sec. 6 9, 124 acres;
Dennis Childs, sec. 17, 51 acres;
Albert Bennett, sec. 36, acres;

H. Chamberlain, sec. 1, 51 acres;
G.W. Beckwith, sec. 7, 80 "
Sam Challoner, sec. 13, 48 "
Mrs. E. Betts, sec. 27, 80 "
L.S. Chase, sec. 12, 80 acres;
Philo Beals, sec. 24, 80 acres;
W.H. Chase, sec. 36, 80 acres;
O.F. Berkley, sec. 8, 40 acres;
Mrs. A. Charion, sec. 1, 80 "
Mrs. S.C. Bills, sec. 29, 100 "
Hiram Cooley, sec. 36, 60 acres;
Austin Clark, sec. 1, 80 acres;
Wm. Blackburn, sec. 20, 80 "
J.G. Bloomer, sec. 20, 80 acres;
John Crozier, sec. 25, 80 acres;
J.L. Bloomer, sec. 16, 40 acres;
A.A. Cross, sec. 24, 90 acres;
Isaac Bradley, sec. 1, 90 acres;
A.W. Cross, sec. 3, 82 acres;
A.K. Brush, sec. 4 & 9, 185 "
C. Cope, sec. 17, 15 acres;
D. Culver, sec. 21, 10 acres;
C. Cussick, sec. 5, 56 acres;
E.C. Dake, sec. 30, 60 acres;
J.W. Dake, sec. 30, 25 acres;
J.C. Dake, sec. 30, 45 acres;
O.A. Day, sec. 14, 89 acres;
H.J. Davis, sec. 12, 160 acres;
G. Darby, sec. 13, 100 acres;

W. Drake, sec. 6, 160 acres;
Pat Dunn, sec. 7, 60 acres;
Charles Ehlert, sec. 86, 40 acres;
Joe Elliot, sec. 18, 40 acres;
Peter Fisher, sec. 12, 80 acres;
G.W. Forbes, sec. 11, 70 acres;
D. Feller, sec. 26, 5 acres;
Mrs. W. Gardinier, sec. 19, 77 acres;
Joe Gards, sec. 33, 80 acres;
G.W. Goodwin, sec. 35, 40 acres;
James Goggins, sec. 6, 209 acres;
John Goggins, sec. 6, 90 acres;
C.W. Goss, sec. 10, 40 acres;
James Grier, sec. 33, 39 acres;
H.C. Gustavus, sec. 24, 40 acres;
Polly Griswold, sec. 10, 80 acres;
C.A. Hale, sec. 18, 158 acres;
James Hallen, sec. 17, 50 acres;
J.P. Hallen, sec. 17, 10 acres;
Sam David, sec. 20, 99 acres;
G.H. Hatch, sec. 27, 119 acres;
James Hayward, sec. 29, 40 acres;
J.D. Haigh, sec. 32, 40 acres;
J. Haigh, sec. 32, 240 acres;
Isaac Hedges, sec. 16, 60 acres;
S.V. Hennes, sec. 19, 100 acres;
H. Hinchliff, sec. 29, 120 acres;
Hildebrant, sec. 27, 41 acres;
J.N. Hoaglin, sec. 13, 137 acres;
Myron Howe, sec. 9, 100 acres;
Joe Hotchkiss, sec. 9, 64 acres;
L. Hough, sec. 5, 40 acres;
J. Houston, sec. 4, 88 acres;
M. Huntington, sec. 1, 27 acres;
Sam Hubbel, sec. 7, 31 acres;
Albert Humphrey, sec. 26, 135 acres;
E. Humphrey, sec. 23, 135 acres;
B. Jackson, sec. 30, 20 acres;
August Joachiem, sec. 12, 80 acres;
Sam Johnson, sec. 7, 66 acres;
Luther Johnson, sec. 7, 40 acres;
Mrs. S. Johnson, sec. 18, 40 acres;
J.S. Johnson, sec. 20, 40 acres;
H.C. Johnson, sec. 20, 40 acres;
H.C. Johnson, sec. 36, 80 acres;
Joe Johnson, sec. 34, 35 acres;
Smith Jones, sec. 14, 2 acres;
C. Judson, sec. 32, 130 acres;
Hiram Kanoff, sec. 16, 80 acres;
Gordon Kanoff, sec. 17, 78 acres;
E.D. Knapp, sec. 22, 180 acres;
John King, sec. 1, 59 acres;
Wm. Knight, sec. 30, 76 acres;
B. Koberstein, sec. 12, 40 acres;
Martin Korlaskie, sec. 1, 46 acres;
Joe Kopletz, sec. 11, 40 acres;
Mrs. A. Leiton, sec. 20, 90 acres;
L. Leiton, sec. 20, 42 acres;
Z.D. Lewis, sec. 15, 160 acres;
L.B. Lewis, sec. 20, 80 acres;
J.E. Lewis, sec. 12, 79 acres;
P. Lindenstruth, sec. 12, 80 "
D.W. Loop, sec. 29, 60 acres;
Wm. Lowd, sec. 24, 80 acres;
Ed. Marhar, sec. 30, 17 acres;
Pat Mahoney, sec. 30, 75 acres;
C.H. Marshall, sec. 19, 59 acres;
Ed. Marshall, sec. 10, 53 acres;
E.R. Martin, sec. 10, 70 acres;
Jay Martin, sec. 12, 160 acres;
Pat McMahaon, sec. 7, 8 acres;
John McCabe, sec. 30, 20 acres;
D. McGuire, sec. 18, 60 acres;
Tom McNeary, sec. 10, 80 acres;
G.McKean, sec. 33, 40 acres;
L. McKenzie, sec. 8, 40 acres;
John McLean, sec. 1, 80 acres;
James McLean, sec. 1, 119 acres;
Wm. McQuay, sec. 1, 72 acres;
W.W. & P.H. Merrill, sec. 11, 160 "
George Miller, sec. 1, 1 acre;
Wm. Miller, sec. 3, 99 acres;
G.W. Minkler, sec. 25, 161 acres;
David Minkler, sec. 36, 157 acres;
M. Morris, sec. 24, 40 acres;
Henry Murphy, sec. 11, 80 acres;
C. Murphy, sec. 5, 80 acres;
E.R. Nelson, sec. 30, 180 acres;
N. Olin, sec. 19, 77 acres;
Mrs. Z. Olin, sec. 19, 3 acres;
M. Parks, sec. 34, 160 acres;
S.D. Paddleford, sec. 10, 240 acres;
Wm. Parker, sec. 18, 124 acres;
J.R. Paddleford, sec. 14, 240 acres;
Sam Payton, sec. 19, 34 acres;
Tom Palfrey, sec. 34, acres;
W.M. Peaslee, sec. 9, 99 acres;
George Pingry, sec. 21, 145 acres;
John Pingry, sec. 21, 50 acres;
D.E. Pingry, sec. 16, 40 acres;
F.W. Place, sec. 16, 40 acres;
Francis Pew, sec. 35, 240 acres;
Peter Price, sec. 1, 49 acres;
H.M. Rice, sec. 27, 40 acres;
John Reynolds, sec. 27, 160 acres;
D.W. Reed, sec. 20, 40 acres;
Sam Robbins, sec. 11, 40 acres;
Wm. Robbins, sec. 11, 80 acres;
Alfred Robbins, sec. 16, 100 acres;
A. Rogers, sec. 24, 40 acres;
Jude Rogers, sec. 35, 100 acres;
F.T. Rogers, sec. 25, 80 acres;
John Ross, sec. 19, 58 acres;
A. & H. Ross, sec. 28, 80 acres;

Reubin Ross, sec. 29, 80 acres;
Elisha Root, sec. 32, 160 acres;
J.P. Rumsey, sec. 13, 60 acres;
George Rumsey, sec. 5, 60 acres;
Richard Rumsey, sec. 5, 95 acres;
Mrs. O. Rumsey, sec. 8, 25 acres;
J.T. Russel, sec. 7, 49 acres;
James Rush, sec. 33, 79 acres;
H.E. Stanton, sec. 19, 55 acres;

Now we will leave off on these pioneer's and go on with a little early history to make it more interesting to our readers, but this list as we go on is very valuable today to the property holders, as they can look back and see who was first owner of the property they now own and live on, or the ones that homesteaded this property in early years.

But we will go back now again to the village of Omro, old timers can remember Pat Smith, the dray man, the one that always was ready with a song and a dance.When he was an old man and Scott's mules that hauled lumber in this city he drove them until they were very old. John LeRoy the other dray man, who used to be head sawer at Scott's mill during the summer months. He later sold out to Percy Cope, who followed the dray business on till he finally used a gas truck of the four wheel type.

Next week we will take up the rest of the old pioneer's and also of the old Grignon Reservation and Robert Grignon and his wife Mary that are buried here on the old Reservation.

Now we will go back and finish up with the old settlers of the Town of Omro.

J. Stanton, sec. 20, 40 acres;
John Starr, sec. 32, 80 acres;
Joseph Starr, sec. 32, 80 acres;
Sam Stancliff, sec. 20, 60 acres;
Frank Seeber, sec. 11, 10 acres;
W.W. Simpson, sec. 21, 110 acres;
L.J. Silverthorne, sec. 19, 78 acres;
J. Stever, sec. 36, 40 acres;
Wm. Stevens, sec. 34, 160 acres;
Henry Stearns, sec. 9, 86 acres;
F. Stipp, sec. 4, 5 acres;
E.T. Sheldon, sec. 17, 49 acres;
R. Slocum, sec. 27, 60 acres;
P.O. Sullivan, sec. 6, 80 acres;
Tradden Stone, sec. 34, 80 acres;
T. Spaulding, sec. 10, 120 acres;
J.R. Taylor, sec. 19, 79 acres;
S.R. Taylor, sec. 21, 70 acres;
R. Tanner, sec. 22, 70 acres;
J.K. Terrell, sec. 12, 90 acres;
N. Thorpe, sec. 7, 20 acres;
T.J. Thompson, sec. 9 & 10, 110acres;
Wm. Thrall, sec. 15, 80 acres;
Hiram Tritt, sec. 5, 67 acres;
Joe Treleven, sec. 16, 160 acres;
Robert Vessey sec. 22, 160 acres;
S.M. Wagstaff, sec. 16, 80 acres;
O. Williams, sec. 32, 80 acres;
J.D. Williams, sec. 27, 140 "
W. Wilmarth, sec. 33, 20 acres;
Mrs. E. Wilmarth, sec. 33, 80 acres;
A. Wilson, sec. 7, 110 acres;
E. Winchester, sec. 12, 80 acres;
Frank Wells, sec. 34, 80 acres;
Joe Whitehead, sec. 28, 80 acres;
A. Whitemarsh, sec. 14, 50 acres;
Levi Whitemarsh, sec. 13, 160 "
H.S. Wright, sec. 17, 15 acres;
H. Young, sec. 5, 67 acres;
M. Whitemarsh, sec. 23, 140 acres;
Tom Thomas, sec. 26, 89 acres;

Many can recall the old Grignon Reservation, later called "Black-Bird Island" and now called Rivermore.

The road that leads from Highway 21 to Rivermore has a history. It is still the same old Indian Trail, that is why it is so crooked. Grignon was the government overseer of this and also Robert Grignon lived here at one time. He married Grignon's sister Mary.

His wife when very old always smoked her pipe and some boys for a joke, put powder in her pipe and she lit this one day and caught her clothes afire and burned to death. Later her husband while trapping froze to death. They found him along the bank of the river below what was called Preacher's bend. They are both buried there and so is the Grignon's. Also old Chief Kity-Wa-Poo, who lived his later years with the Grignon's, is buried there. At that time it was a reservation, later after Grignon died they sent the rest of the Indians up on the reservation at Keshena. Years ago, the river was loaded with Indian canoes going back and forth from this reservation to Omro. Also along the road you would see them on their ponies and some early morning you might find one or two that had fallen off their ponies laying side of the road, too much fire-water.

The Grignon girls were very proud and good-looking. They used to walk to Omro some times and they would carry their slippers and stockings in their hand until they reached the first sidewalk in Omro, which at that time was in the far eastern part of the village, then they would sit down, put them on and come to town in style. Then when returning they took them off at the end of the sidewalk and go home bare-footed.

I remember the old plank sidewalks in town in the logging days, chewed up with spiked shoes.

My grandfather took up land in sec. 9 and 10. I was born on the farm in sec. 9. Then my folks moved to Poygan and later on to the Village of Omro.

Now we have met the first settlers in Omro and have seen a lot of its first history. Now we will wander up a trail to the northwest into the township of Poygan. We will meet the first settlers and see the first history of this beautiful township. So now be sure to subscribe for your paper. Do not miss this, it is also a grand gift for father, mother, or sister or brother. Use this paper for your ads, they bring quick results. It is your paper, boost it and boost your township. The old settlers did and made what it is today.

So I will be with you again in next week's paper. Do not fail me.

Poygan

In one instant, he is stripped of everything that could hide a dime, and each of his captors taking an amount to satisfy his notion, the victim is then released and left to gather up his scanty clothing and depart with a small amount, if anything he has left.

In the mean time another debtor has been turned loose from the pay-house, to run the gauntlet, and another set of traders are ready to strip him. It is true an Indian trader is a man the Indians are always indebted to. This constitutes the main difference between that class and merchants, or peddlers having escaped this debtor's court from which there is no appeal. He is now beset by all the temptations that a poor Indian can be tempted, with blankets, broadcloths, calicoes, saddles, fancy bridles, beads, brass buttons, ear rings, and above all, pint bottles of Whisky, two thirds water at a price you would pay for a gallon of this stuff.

At last the payment is over, the eating houses come next, not only for the Indian as he is about swamped, but for the traders and some of the soldiers and gamblers that have reaped a rich harvest. The spectators have also had a show and great amusement for the past three or four days of the pay grounds.

After this is all over and they figure up their gains and losses and finds he must have money and traps and so on to support his family, maybe some old and helpless, and some young babies that need assistance, so he goes out and borrows money and all he needs again from the traders and promises to pay them the next fall at the pay grounds. At this same site, was the Indian village, the headquarters of the Chief Grizzly Bear and his band. A Catholic mission was built there for these Indians in the year of 1844, by Father Bonduel and a trading post by George Coustaugh or some called him Cowen.

Also I have an Indian legend, told to me by the Indians that happened long before white man came to this part of the country. It runs like this: A tribe of Indians was then camped on this land called the Chippewas and this chief had a beautiful daughter. At the same time a powerful tribe of Fox Indians was camped on the north shore of Fox River just across from where now is Delhi. This Chief of the foxes had then many wives, but got acquainted with this Indian princess of the Chippewas of the south shore of Lake Poygan. He tried to get her to marry him, but she would not and told him that she hated him. Then he took some braves and tried to drive the Chippewas out of the country. He did not succeed. So on the day he went again to the camp of his loved one, his flower he called her, that was a day when all the Indians happened to be out along the marshes of the Willow and Punkinseed Creeks gathering rice for winter.

This was in their Indian summer days, an Indian never stores up for the winter till it comes Indian summer, then he works each day gathering rice and foods for the winter, as long as it keeps Indian summer. The longer they work, the better off they were, because they know, a long Indian summer means a long winter.

Well, to get back to our story, they were all away that day, but just the old Indian that could not work and the little princess she stayed to care for the aged and to keep the campfires burning. Her name was Wa-No-Ne-Na.

Then this chief from the Foxes, seeing how lucky he was to find her alone tried to make love to her, but he did not succeed. He finally got mad and killed her.

When her father and the Indians came home at night the old Indians told him and when he saw her dead, he buried her and I can show you where the Indian princess grave now is.

As he was laying her to rest, a terrible storm arose, the lightening played in the sky and one bolt of lightening struck the earth and made a large hole in the ground, later a spring of water came from that and that was called pay spring and at the same time a rock of fire came through the sky and landed there. Later this was called the pay rock, or thunder rock and the old chief said the great spirit has spoken and he will drive the Foxes off from the earth. That same terrible storm followed by a tidal wave swept down the Fox River and drowned many of the Foxes and what were not drowned, died with a terrible fever, and this chief of the Foxes was one of them.

Poygan

EARLY HISTORY OF POYGAN

From then on and to this day some Indians come to those grounds and leave tokens to the little Indian Princess Wa-No-Ne-Na and as the Pay Spring has been dredged out for all the Indian trinkets that were left for her they now leave their tokens either at her grave, or at the Pay Rock. In the museum in Oshkosh, you will find one room filled with the trinkets. Everything in that room came out of this spring and if they should dig around the Pay Rock or the Princess grave they perhaps would find another room full. The Indians believe, if you leave a token to the little princess that some good luck will come to you before the year is out and to do this, either leave it at her grave, Pay Springs, or at the Pay Rock.

Now we will go back to some of the early settlers. In the fall of 1849, Thomas Mettam, George Rawson and brother, Jerry Caulkins and Thomas Robbins came. Then soon after came Mr. Thomas Brogden, Henry Cole, Richard Barron, George Burlingame, Joe Felton, Johathan and David Maxon and Reed Case.

In the year of 1850 came Phil Hall, James Heffron, James Barron, Wm. Johnson, G. and S. Wiseman, H. Scofield, William Tritt, and E.B. Wood. In the spring came Michael O'Reiley.

The town was set off and organized as a seperate town by action of the county board, Nov. 11th, 1852, comprising town 19, north range 14, east. The first meeting was held at the J. Maxon home, April 5, 1853. William Hammond, Chairman; B. Wilkinson, clerk; William Tritt and William Johnson, inspectors. There were 40 votes polled, resulting in the election of Thomas Brogden, chairman; Edmond Cain and David Safford, supervisors; C.B. Wilkinson, clerk; William Tritt, treasurer; Benedict Hamilton, William Johnson, J. Maxon and James Broderick, justices; Michael O'Reilly, Orson Cass and Thomas Kenney, assessors.

Then in the year of 1879, the town officers were, namely, William Tritt, chairman; James Heffron and Fred Te t yre, supervisors; David Blish, clerk; Michael Broderick, treasurer; Barnard Mongan, assessor and A.B. Blackburn and G.K. Whitney, justices.

I remember the beautiful woods in Poygan. The butternuts and hickory nuts. I have seen the ground just covered with them and I attended at one time what was called the Knolls school. My teacher there was Miss Marble, also attended the Scofield district, now called the Heffron school and my teachers there were Carrie Wilber and Miss Baster. I also remember the winter of 1884, when we had a big snow and the snow was as high as the rail fences. Then it started to rain and it rained a day and two nights and then turned terribly cold and the crust was so thick you could drive horses anywhere. All the older people turned out with the children and used to slide down hill and the most fun was on a scoop shovel. To stand up in this and slide, and I and the Carter boys I guess wore out our mothers wash tubs also sliding that winter, we could go over the fences and all.

Poygan

My father's farm was just west of the Oak Hill cemetery and now part of this cemetery is in our old orchard. My folks are all buried there. This is in section 35. Also can give you many names of other old settlers, like Al Baster, Philo Birch, Amos Carter, Hiram Birch, Erastus Disbrow, L.O. Freleigh, Matthew and Michael Killilea, Joe Muscovitch, Dan Jones, Jr., Schufelt, David Safford and George Hartson and George Wiseman.

Now at any time, any parties living in the town of Poygan that should wish the names of the first settlers that homesteaded there and how many acres and on what sections, please write the editor of this paper and I will gladly give them to you.

Next week we will journey into the township of Rushford and meet the first settlers there and see the early history of that place. So all living in that township now, please subscribe now for your paper. Tell your friends to be aure to follow the early history of Winnebago county or Winnebagoland.