Janesville's early history. ca. 1950s-1960s

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JANESVILLE'S EARLY HISTORY

compiled primarily by Janesville teachers and residents,

indexed by Laura Moss Gottlieb

Janesville's Early History

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STORY OF BLACKHAWK

by Lola Webb

Blackhawk is a very familiar name in Janesville. A long time ago there was an Indian named Blackhawk. This story about Blackhawk will help you to understand the life of the Indians who lived in the Janesville region.

See if you can find the answers to these questions:

1. Why is this region called "The Land of Blackhawk"?
2. How does Blackhawk fit into the story of early Janesville?
3. Why do we now honor Blackhawk?

Chapter I - Blackhawk, a Little Indian Boy

Blackhawk, a little Indian baby, was the son of the Chief of Chiefs of the tribe of Indians known as the Sacs. (Sometimes it is spelled and pronounced Sauks.) Like all the tribes in Wisconsin, they were known as Woodland Indians; for everything they ate, everything they wore, and everything they used came out of the woods or the streams.

Blackhawk's full name is Black Sparrow Hawk and in Indian language it is Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiah. Would you like to have as hard a name to write and to learn to spell?

Blackhawk was born in a wigwam in an Indian village near the place where the Rock River flows into the Mississippi River. The Indians called the Mississippi, "The Father of Waters". Can you think why?

This village was in a lovely place for Indians, and the Sacs thought they had the best spot along the whole river. I'll tell you why.

The land was level like a big garden. The soil was rich and black, and raised good crops of beans, corn (the Indians called it maize), squashes and pumpkins. Many wild fruits grew nearby that could be gathered. Wild strawberries, blackberries, plums, gooseberries, crabapples, and many kinds of nuts were easy to find.

The village was at the foot of some rapids in the river and this made it easy to catch fine fish. An Indian could catch them in his hands as they tumbled over the rocks in the river.

There were fine springs in a bluff nearby that poured out good, fresh water to drink.

It was easy for the Indians to reach good hunting grounds by paddling their canoes along the Rock or the Mississippi Rivers. Here they hunted elk, buffalo, deer, bears, rabbits, squirrels, game birds, and many other animals.

The children in Blackhawk's tribe never had to go to bed hungry, nor were their old people ever in want. Here the Sacs had been happy for a hundred years, and here were the graves of their ancestors.

How did this little son of this Indian chief receive the name of Black Sparrow Hawk? What do you know about hawks? What about their strength? Are they daring birds or cowardly?

Can you imagine this Indian father, who was Chief of the powerful Sacs, looking at his bright-eyed, black-haired, baby boy lying in his tree cradle and saying to himself, "I want my little son to grow to be as daring as the hawk. He must fear no danger. He must always be ready to fight to save his homeland and his people. Brave like the sparrow hawk I want him! I shall name him Blackhawk!"

His mother, Singing Bird, had made him a cradle from a narrow board covered with deerskin in a sort of pocket-like way. She had trimmed it with beads and colored bits of shells, for she was proud of her baby. During the day she strapped the cradle and baby on her back as she worked, or she hung it from a tree so he would always be safe and near her.

Chapter II - Blackhawk's Home

The home of the Sac Indian of Blackhawk's tribe was a little different and a little better than those of other tribes of Woodland Indians. Maybe this was because the Sacs didn't move from place to place like many other tribes. They were well-pleased with the spot they had chosen for their home and left their village only for short hunting periods, to gather maple sap, to gather wild rice at Lake Koshkonong, to pick up pieces of flint rock for arrowheads, or to go up north on the shores of Lake Michigan to fish for the sturgeon.

The pieces of flint rock are sometimes called chert. They are found abundantly in the Janesville area.

The sturgeon is a fish that furnished them with good glue. They fastened the feathers to their arrow shafts with this glue.

However, many Indians of the Sac tribe had both a winter and a summer home in their village. Both were round and dome-shaped. The summer home was light and airy. It had a large frame of light poles made from young trees or saplings. White oak made good poles because these saplings would bend without breaking. The ends were set firmly in the ground or were left growing and were bent over by a squaw to make an arch. Where the tips came together they were wound about each other and then tied with strips cut from the inner bark of basswood. Other saplings were wound in and out of this arched framework and tied to the frame. Over this frame was placed the covering. It was made by overlapping sheets of birch bark or of flattened pieces of elm bark. The summer home had two doorways. There were benches made of piled-up earth on each side, and skins were put on them for sleeping at night.

In Blackhawk's wigwam each one in the family had his own little platform for sleeping. This was quite different from many of the Indian lodges.

The winter home was harder to make, and Singing Bird and other squaws worked long to get it ready. They started it the same as their summer home. Then they went to the low spots along the river and gathered great armfuls of leaves from the cattail rushes. These leaves were dried and woven into mats. These mats made a waterproof covering over the bark and kept out the snow and cold winds. There was a spot in the center of the floor of each winter home where stones were piled, so a fire could be made. There was a smoke hole in the roof.

Because these wigwams were begun with a few poles that were really growing trees, they could stand hard windstorms and seldom blew down.

Chapter III - Blackhawk's Clothing

The Indians of the Sac tribe made their winter clothing out of deerskin sewed with thread of sinew. These suits were often beaded with porcupine quills or pieces of clam shells. These Sacs did not wear any unnecessary clothing for in this wooded, brushy country they had to dress for freedom of movement. A breechcloth and moccasins were enough for an Indian man on a hot day.

Each tribe of Indians had a little different fashion for moccasins. Any Indian meeting another Indian and looking at his feet could tell whether he belonged to his tribe or not. Blackhawk's moccasins, like all Sacs, had side flaps that were so long they nearly reached the ground. The squaws beaded their flaps with many beads, and their flaps were longer and fancier than those of the men and boys.

It was not easy to care for long hair in the wooded country. A hunter's life often depended on his moving swiftly, and long hair could be a bother as he moved through brush. The Sac Indian thought it best to cut his hair close to his head, but he always left a small piece of long hair on top. This was called a scalp lock. This scalp lock was a place for sticking a few feathers or some bone ornaments. The Sac Indians usually wore red bird feathers together with eagle feathers for decoration.

Chapter IV - Blackhawk's Childhood

Now we know where Blackhawk was born, how his summer and winter homes looked, about the way he dressed, and a little about the work of the Indians. Let's find out what Blackhawk, as a little boy, had to do to take his place in the life of the village.

Blackhawk had many hard things to learn. He had to learn what things to do to make him grow strong and keep him safe from enemies. Then he had to practice doing them. He had to learn very early to suffer pain, cold and hunger and never cry. He learned that even if he were very much afraid he must not show fear.

Blackhawk had no clock or calendar. He learned to tell time and directions by watching the rising and setting of the sun. He watched the changes in

the moon and the seasons to help him know the time of month or year. He remembered what he saw.

Blackhawk was taught to protect himself. He learned at an early age to swim, to run and to climb trees quickly. He learned that the actions of birds and animals could tell him when dangers like a prairie fire or sudden change of weather were near.

He learned to watch the things about him. He learned the habits of the birds, fish and animals. Every broken branch, new scratch on a rock, or imprint in the soft ground had a meaning for him.

Blackhawk, as a little boy, learned to shoot an arrow straight at a mark. He had a bow of his own as soon as he was able to handle one; although, he practiced with blunt-headed arrows for a long time. Arrowheads were so hard to make with an Indian's poor tools that he learned not to waste or lose them.

Blackhawk had to learn to make his own bow. He watched carefully the old arrow maker while he made arrowheads from pieces of flint rock or chert. Some arrows he tipped with the flint arrowheads, some with a point from a turtle's claw. He learned to make another arrow from the ankle bone of a deer. This kind was especially good for duck hunting, for it would skim over the top of the water.

Blackhawk had to watch very carefully to learn how to use the glue from the sturgeon. He learned to fasten feathers to the arrow shaft so they would be balanced more perfectly. He tried to make each new arrow so that it could travel farther, swifter, and more silently than the ones he had made before.

He learned to be a good hunter while very young. He could walk through the woods without making the slightest sound in order to sneak up on an animal or an enemy.

He had to watch the building of a canoe so he could build one.

Blackhawk learned to cut down trees with fire. Using an Indian's stone axe, it was a very hard job to cut down a forest tree. This is how Blackhawk was taught to cut down trees. An older Indian would choose the tree needed, then dry branches would be heaped around its base and lighted. Not far above, the trunk had been circled with wet clay or sod so that the flames could be controlled and the entire tree saved from burning. As the tree became charred from the fire, the blackened parts were hacked off with a stone axe. Finally the flames bit through the trunk and the tree fell.

Because Blackhawk someday would be the leader of the tribe when he grew up, he had to work very hard to make use of his powers of sight, hearing and smell, and to learn the ways of nature and of man.

Did Blackhawk ever play games or have fun you might ask?

Yes, he played games with the other boys in his tribe. Two or three of the games I can tell you about, although the first one was not named. Each boy

went to the woods and cut some branches from a tree, peeled off the bark, and pointed each stick at the end. Each boy had several sticks and all were marked by him in a certain way. Two or more boys could play. Each one, in his turn, held a stick between his thumb and second finger. Then away he sent it sliding over the grass in summer and over the ice in winter. The one whose stick went the farthest was the winner.

"Moccasin" is the name of another game. It is really a simple game, but the Sac boys seemed to like it. Each boy playing the game took off one moccasin and placed it upside down on the grass. Then all but one boy turned around and the one who was "it" put a stone or some other small thing inside one of the moccasins. The others had to guess in which moccasin it had been put, and the one guessing right first was "it" for the next game.

East of the Mississippi, "la crosse" was a favorite game. It was played with a very hard, stuffed, deerskin ball and long, limber racquets. There were no real rules as to how many players made a team. The idea was to bat the ball over the opposite team's goal line just as in football. The player could not touch the ball with his hands, but could run carrying it on his racquet.

Chapter V - The Sacs' Religion and Beliefs

The Sacs, like other Indians, believed in a Great Spirit who watched over them. Blackhawk was deeply religious. Maybe you have heard of the "Happy Hunting Grounds" to which all Indians hoped to go after death. The Happy Hunting Grounds were watched over by the Great Spirit.

The Indians believed in other spirits as well. In the Sac village near the Rock River was a cave where a spirit was supposed to live and watch over the Indians. The Sacs were very quiet when they approached this cave because they were afraid if they disturbed this spirit he would leave their tribe.

One of the reasons Blackhawk became bitter toward the Whites is because they built a fort right on this spot. Blackhawk thought that the noise of the soldiers' guns and of their voices in the fort drove away the good spirit and a bad spirit came instead to live in the cave. He thought his tribe's bad luck started when the fort was built and the good spirit was driven away.

Besides the Great Spirit, the Indians worshipped everything in nature--the stars, the moon, the sun, the wind, the water, and the rain. They thought everything in nature had a magic power and there was a god in each. For that reason they prayed to the rain god to send them rain in a dry time and to the sun god to send them warmth for their corn to ripen.

Of course they believed in evil spirits too, so they wore charms to keep away the bad spirits. Blackhawk's father's medicine bag was one kind of charm. Funny things were in this bag to be used as a magic charm--maybe dried berries, animal teeth, a piece of fur, even dried claws of a bird. When Blackhawk became Chief, this medicine bag was given to him. The Whites took it away during a war with the Sacs called the Blackhawk War. Blackhawk thought that is why he had bad luck during the war.

Chapter VI - Why Did Blackhawk Make War on the Early Settlers

Blackhawk's father was killed by an arrow shot from the bow of an enemy tribe. Blackhawk was twenty years old at the time. At once the Sacs made Blackhawk their War Chief. He also became the War Chief of the Fox tribe which was a cousin tribe to the Sacs. This was in about 1785.

Remember that at this time not one white person lived in the Janesville area. There had been French fur traders through here, trading goods for the furs the Indians had gathered, but no one had settled here. Near Beloit one French fur trader had married an Indian squaw and was living with her in the wigwam she had made, so we had one white person in Rock County but not anyone at Janesville.

In far-off Europe, people were paying high prices for furs. The Indians were good trappers and hunters and many white men saw an easy way to make money. By trading trinkets, tools, guns, gunpowder, hatchets, knives, iron kettles, tobacco, mirrors, combs and "firewater" with the Indians he could get many pelts to sell. These could be taken to the East and loaded on ships and sent to Europe. Quite a trade was worked up in this way. More and more white men were going into the business of fur trading. The white men's goods seemed wonderful to the Indians.

Now among these Whites who came to trade with the Indians were many good people who were fair and honest. From the Whites the Indians received horses, guns, steel fishhooks and worthwhile things for the furs the Indians had worked a year to get. Many friendships were made between the Indians and the Whites that lasted for years. Often these Indians brought food to the Whites. Again they warned them of danger from floods, prairie fires and of warring tribes of neighboring Indians.

But among these early settlers were a few who were not fair in trading with the Indians. These few made trouble for all. Blackhawk could see this and he grew very bitter.

Here are other things that happened that made him go to war against the pioneers. The trouble really started a few years before the time that the war broke out. A Sac Indian killed a fur trader, so the Whites made this Indian a prisoner and took him down the Mississippi to St. Louis. The Sac Indians held a council and decided to send four men to St. Louis to pay for the man they had killed and to bring their Indian friend back to his home. As Blackhawk said later in his life story, "The only way an Indian knows how to right a wrong is to pay for it." The party of four Indians loaded up furs with which to pay the white family for its loss. They started on their long trip under the leadership of an Indian named Quashquame. All the Sacs wished the party good luck and a speedy return home. But they didn't come back, and they didn't come back!

Finally one day some Indian scouts of Blackhawk's tribe saw the Indians camping outside the Sac village instead of returning to their homes. Several Indians, including Blackhawk, went out to see what was the matter.

This is the story Quashquame told: "We went to St. Louis with our furs for the white man's family. We hunted up the great American father in St. Louis." (The great American father, as the Indians called him, was a government agent sent out from Washington, D. C. He had charge of the Indian affairs in that region.) "We were told that the Whites did not want furs for pay but wanted land. They gave us much firewater to drink and then asked us to sign a paper. Then they let us start home with our prisoner friend."

Blackhawk took this paper to his good white friend, Colonel Davenport, who lived quite near to the Sac village and found that the four Indians had signed away all the land in the Sac village. The paper also promised that they would move their village west of the Mississippi into what now is the state of Iowa.

Blackhawk said, "We won't go! We have lived here for a long time! Here are our homes and here are the graves of our grandfathers! We will stay no matter what the white men want!"

A new leader sprang up in Blackhawk's tribe. His name was Keokuk. Keokuk means "Watchful Fox". Keokuk thought it might be better to move across the Mississippi and not fight. He could see better than Blackhawk that they were not strong enough to fight the Whites. Blackhawk went among his tribe and begged them not to move away. Some listened to him, while others followed Keokuk across the Mississippi. This weakened Blackhawk's numbers when his Indians became divided about the matter.

Then two or three more things happened that made Blackhawk very angry. One day some of Blackhawk's men found a bees' nest in a hollow tree. It was full of wild honey. The little maple sugar they made each spring and wild honey were about the only sweets Indians ever had, so they were delighted when they found a bee tree. The Indian took out all he could carry and started back to his lodge feeling well-pleased.

On the way home he met some white men who said, "Give us that honey. It belongs to us. You found it on the land that now belongs to the white men."

The poor Indian had to give it up. Was it any wonder he felt angry?

Some of the tribe, who had listened to Keokuk, heard about this and came to Blackhawk and said, "We will fight the white man with you."

Then autumn came and the Sacs made plans to go to their hunting grounds to get their winter's meat. It was in western Wisconsin and something very important was happening there. Lead had been discovered and hundreds of early settlers had rushed into this region to dig lead. Of course, this spoiled the hunting grounds. The Indians had bad luck getting animals that year, so they returned home with little meat for winter. They felt blue. They blamed all this bad luck on the white men. Were they right in this?

While Blackhawk was away the Whites had organized an army to drive the Sacs across the Mississippi. General Gaines was head of the white troops. He

was wise and sensible, and he tried to settle with the Indians without a war. Some of them listened and made ready to move. Some of them looked to Blackhawk to lead them into the fight.

Blackhawk put on his war bonnet, painted his face, and went right into General Gaines' camp. He told the General he would not leave his homeland. (He thought he could scare General Gaines by his bold talk.) General Gaines saw he couldn't reason with the old Chief, so he called his troops out. Blackhawk was surprised at the number of soldiers, so he waved a white flag. That meant he was willing to talk over the trouble again.

Later Blackhawk signed a paper saying he would move over across the Mississippi. The Whites said they would pay for the corn the Indians had planted and the war was put off for a time.

Blackhawk's people were homesick and discouraged as they crossed the river and planned to build a new village. They missed their 800 acres of corn land. Often they were hungry, and some Indians would cross the river and steal some corn from the settlers. This made trouble all the time.

Blackhawk grew very bitter and sent messengers out to all the tribes to join with him to drive the white men right into the ocean. Some of his messengers came to the Janesville region and talked to the Potawattomies on the east side of Rock River and to the Winnebagoes on the west side of the Rock River. Blackhawk gathered together a thousand warriors.

"The Indians are on the warpath," shouted the early settlers as they fled to Fort Armstrong for protection. Fort Armstrong had been built near where Rock River joins the Mississippi.

The Whites gathered three thousand soldiers to march against the Indians. Abraham Lincoln was a young captain in this war and he lead one troop to fight against Blackhawk.

Blackhawk's Indians were no match in a war against the Whites. Blackhawk made a big mistake when he went on the warpath. He took all the children, squaws and old folks along. They hid in swamps, in woods, and on islands. Then from time to time they would send out bands to attack the early settlers. They burned their homes, stole their cattle and horses, killed many families. They did so much damage that General Gaines sent for many more soldiers to come. The Indians now were frightened and ran for their lives.

Blackhawk's people followed the Rock River pretty closely and reached here. This was the country of the Potawattomies and Winnebagoes. A large band of Blackhawk's people crossed the river near Monterey Rock and made their way out to a woods that we know as Palmer Park. The squaws, the children, and old folks were tired and needed a rest. All were hungry. As they ran to escape the white soldiers they had had little time to make camp and cook food. The squaws were carrying heavy cooking pots and many had papooses strapped to their backs. This slowed them down in their flight. Acorns and soaked beans were their only food.

The United States' soldiers kept pretty close to the Rock River also on their chase. Blackhawk was able to fool them for several days while at Palmer Park. His people got a much-needed rest.

The Indians attacked several settlements of Whites, here and there, and murdered the settlers.

In Illinois, about ninety miles from here, three families were murdered and two girls, Sylvia and Rachel Hall, were made prisoners of the Indians. Sylvia was fifteen years old. Rachel was two years older.

The girls were brought to Janesville and taken out to Palmer Park where a band of the Sacs were in camp. Blackhawk knew nothing about this at the time.

When Blackhawk realized these girls were being held as prisoners, he insisted they be brought to his camp site. He and his squaw, Singing Bird, treated them kindly and the girls were given some food.

We wish we could pick out the exact site of Blackhawk's camp at Palmer Park. The girls said it was in a low marshy place, with many burr oak trees nearby, and it was beside a small creek. Try to find it next time you are there.

Blackhawk and his people started again on the march through Milton and toward Lake Koshkonong. There they hid on a swampy island for several weeks.

Food was scarce and the Indians didn't dare come out of hiding to hunt and fish. They lived largely on bark soup and clams. Even today one can see the large pile of clam shells left on this island. Anyone living at Koshkonong can show you Blackhawk's island and cave.

The Whites were able to trace the Indians. They looked for trees with the bark removed and the bones of the horses the Indians had used for food. Sometimes the Whites found the kettles and cooking pots the squaws had to leave behind because they were too weak to carry them further. They also found old Indians who dropped along the way.

When they could stand it no longer, the Sacs made their way to the Wisconsin River. Here Rachel and Sylvia Hall were released to the Winnebagoes who gave them to the Whites in return for horses. The girls were taken back to Galena, Illinois, where they found friends.

Blackhawk's Indians were sick, frightened, hungry, and only a few hundred were left. They were now willing to cross the Mississippi and stay forever.

Blackhawk went to a friendly tribe of Winnebagoes near Wisconsin Dells to hide. But he couldn't stay hidden. Every white soldier was trying to capture Blackhawk. Finally he went to a Winnebago chief and said, "I'll give up." How sorry the Winnebagoes felt for Blackhawk! The squaws made him a beautiful beaded suit of white deerskin to show their love for him. He wore it to the fort where he went with his warriors to give himself up.

Of course the white soldiers were glad to get Blackhawk. He made a long speech as he gave himself up, and here are some of his exact words.

"You have taken me prisoner with all my warriors. I am much grieved. I fought hard, but your bullets were well-aimed. Blackhawk's heart is dead. He is a prisoner of the white man. But he is not afraid of death. He can stand pain. He is no coward. He is an Indian. You know why we made a war. You ought to be ashamed. Goodbye my land. Blackhawk tried to save you. Now I am a prisoner. I can do no more."

Chapter VII - Blackhawk, a Brave Prisoner

The Blackhawk War was now over. Blackhawk was taken down the Mississippi to a place near St. Louis where a treaty was made and the large tract of Indian land, including some west of the Mississippi, was given to the United States.

Then the Whites got an idea that it would help to keep peace if they carried Blackhawk and a few prisoners on a trip around our country. They thought if the Indians could realize how strong the Whites had become they would never try to start another war.

So Blackhawk and his two sons and five other Indian chiefs were taken from city to city.

Here are some of Blackhawk's own words telling about the trip. A newspaper man, Mr. Patterson, wrote them down just as Blackhawk told them.

Your teacher will read this part to you.

Description of Country in Eyes of Blackhawk

"The Great Father (the President of the United States) sent an order to White Beaver (General Atkinson) to send me to Washington.

"I left Jefferson Barracks on board a steamboat, under charge of a young white war chief and one soldier whom the White Beaver sent as a guide to Washington. Some Indians, among them Keokuk, and our principal trader, Colonel Davenport, went too.

"We went up Ohio River, and the first stop was Louisville, a pretty village, then Cincinnati, which stands on the same river. The people gathered on banks, anxious to see us. Then on to Wheeling, where we were treated kindly, and from there we took a stage coach. I got tired riding this way and wished I were back in a canoe on our own Mississippi. It was astonishing to me to see the labor and pains the white people had taken to make a road, and even if mountainous, rocky, or in timber, it was easy to travel upon.

"Why were the Whites living along the roads and on the hills when there was timber farther back? I could see nothing to induce a

white man to live on a roadside and was astonished to find white men living on the hills.

"Then we came to a road that the people call a railroad (the Baltimore and Ohio). I examined it carefully, but could not understand it, but the Whites know all about it. It is the most astonishing sight I ever saw. It was even greater than the big road the Whites had made over the mountain. I was astonished that so much money and labor would be spent just to make traveling easy. They certainly deserve great praise for the trouble they took.

"Then we arrived in Washington and we called to see our Great Father, the president. He looked as if he had seen as many winters as I have, and seemed to be a great brave. I had a very little talk with him, as he appeared to be busy and did not seem to be much disposed to talk. He seems to be a good man, although he talked little. His wigwam was well furnished with everything good and pretty, and is very strongly built.

"In an interview the President said to me:

> 'You behaved very badly in going to war against the Whites. Your conduct compelled me to send my warriors against you and your people were defeated with great loss, and several of you surrendered. We have kept you until we are satisfied you will not try to do any more injury. I have inquired from your people whether they wish you to return among them. General Clark and General Atkinson, whom you know, have informed me that your people are anxious that you should return, and Keokuk has asked me to send you back. Major Garland, who is with you, will conduct you through some of the towns. You will see the strength of the White men. Let the red men hunt and take care of their families and never raise a tomahawk against their White brethren. Listen to Keokuk, bury the tomahawk and live in peace with the people along the frontier!'

"I was pleased with the Great Father's talk and thanked him. Told him that the tomahawk would be buried deep and my remaining days be in peace with all my white brethren. So I was about to start home but on my way would finish my circular trip.

"Then I went to Philadelphia where I saw men making money (the mint) and they gave each of us a handsome coin to keep. I saw soldiers training and they made a warlike appearance in their fine dress, although I must say I think our military parade far better than the Whites. (This was at West Point.)

"We went to New York, which is a large, large village with railroad, steam carriages, roads, ships, steamboats, and many things. But I was to witness a sight more surprising than any of the rest. I

saw a balloon go up into the air with a man in it. I wonder if he could see the Great Spirit up so high.

"Then I saw fire works, it was agreeable entertainment, but much less magnificent than a prairie on fire. The pale-faced squaws were very kind, very good, and very pretty.

"Being anxious to return to our people, our guide started with us for our own country. I was anxious to get to Detroit where I had visited and spent many pleasant moons and expected to find many friends; but in this I was disappointed. What could be the cause of this? Are they all dead? What has become of them? I wanted to see an old chief there who had always given me good friendship.

"I went on to Prairie du Chien where I went to see the agent of the Winnebagoes (General Street). I had surrendered to him after the battle at Bad Axe. He received me very friendly. I was anxious to get the medicine bag, that I had surrendered to him, so I might hand it down to my nation. He said it was safe and promised it back to me.

"Passing down the Mississippi, I discovered a large collection of people in the mining country on the west side of the river that had been given to Dubuque, a relation, a long time ago. Then we came to Rock Island, my old home, and Keokuk and the other chiefs were sent for. Tears gushed from my eyes for the lost relatives the year before because of war.

"Then I met old friend, Colonel William Davenport, whom I have known for eighteen years. He extended the hand of friendship to me, even if he had fought against my braves in the last war. He said he was glad to see me at all times and on all occasions would be happy to give me good advice.

"The tomahawk is buried forever! We will forget what is passed. The white man and Indian will camp as brothers. We will want the watchword between the Americans and the Sacs and Foxes to ever be friendship. May the Great Spirit keep us ever in peace."

Chapter VIII - Blackhawk Is Honored

Why do we honor Blackhawk? Why has a large statue, made by famous Lorado Taft, been placed along Rock River? Why are we proud to say we live in "The Land of Blackhawk"?

Why do we now honor Blackhawk by calling this region "The Land of Blackhawk"? Why have we named streets, buildings, and businesses after him?

Maybe some of the statements Blackhawk made and were taken down by Mr. Patterson of Oquawka, Illinois, in 1882 will help us answer those questions.

Blackhawk said, "I never thought it brave, but base and cowardly, to kill an unarmed or helpless foe. If I ever heard of my Indians doing it, I put a stop to it."

Blackhawk never harmed the white children. He said, "I always thought of my own children and would pass them by unnoticed."

Blackhawk said, "We must do good all our lives. If we have corn and meat, and know of someone who has none, we must share with them. If we have more blankets than we need, we must give to those who haven't enough."

Blackhawk said, "I never take a drink of water without thinking of the goodness of the Great Spirit. We are nothing compared with the Great Spirit and we know it."

Blackhawk believed that all land was given out by the Great Spirit. For that reason he thought his land could not be given away or ever sold. He firmly believed the only thing one could sell were the things that could be moved like furs, logs and fish. He tried to explain this to the white men, but he spoke English poorly and they did not understand his Indian language. You can see what a difference that made in understanding one another.

After Blackhawk was made a prisoner by General Atkinson, he was made to wear a large ball fastened to one leg by an iron chain. This was done to keep him from running away. Oh, how this hurt Blackhawk's feelings! This is what he said about it, "Was the white man afraid I would run away? If I had taken him a prisoner in the field of battle, I would not have wounded his feelings by any such treatment, knowing that a brave war chief prefers death to dishonor."

A third grade boy once said, "I think Blackhawk was a great Indian. He didn't do things to get ahead himself, but everything he did was done for his people. He loved the land, which he believed the Great Spirit had given his people. He loved his home and his people who were suffering and in want. He felt that he had to fight for them."

No white man has been more brave or honorable than Blackhawk. Is it any wonder that we honor Blackhawk so much today?

CARRIE JACOBS BOND

By Margaret Chenoweth, Grade Supervisor - 1955-56

Almost a hundred years ago a little girl was born in Janesville, Wisconsin. She was born on August 11, 1862, in a brick house located at the present corner of Pleasant Street and North Oakhill Avenue.

The little girl was named Carrie. Her father and mother were Dr. and Mrs. Hannibal Jacobs. Carrie has become one of Janesville's most famous citizens. We now know her as Carrie Jacobs Bond, the famous composer of songs.

At the time Carrie was born the brick house was really in the country. It was on a fifteen acre farm. The house was built of brick. It had been Carrie's Grandfather Davis' home. It had two cupolas and was called the Davis Mansion.

Carrie loved this old home very much. The old house was surrounded by beautiful trees, flowers, gardens, orchards and arbors. It was not torn down until 1944. Mrs. Bond was very, very sad to learn that the house was to be torn down. When it was torn down, she wrote and asked to have a brick from the old home sent to her in California for a keepsake.

By this time Mrs. Bond was very famous and the boys and girls of Janesville loved her songs. Some of the boys and girls of Grant School decided to preserve some of the bricks, too. They asked permission to get some of the bricks. Their teacher, Mrs. Lola Webb, helped them scratch the name "Bond" on the side of each brick. They gave one of the bricks to each of the third grades in the city. One of the bricks is now in the Tallman Museum. You may also find one of the bricks in the third grade rooms of your own school in Janesville.

In 1927 the Eastern Star Study Class erected a marker on Pleasant Street in front of the old house. The house was still standing at that time. The marker is placed on a big granite boulder. The marker says:

The Birthplace of
Carrie Jacobs Bond
Composer
August 11, 1862

Carrie always loved music when she was a tiny girl. Her father and mother were both musicians. Her father played a flute. Her aunt wrote waltzes, and her uncle invented a kind of guitar. Carrie began to play by ear when she was only four years old. By the time she was six years old, Carrie could play by ear anything she had once heard.

Carrie had her first tragedy when she was only seven years old. On a washday the hired girl was carrying a tub of steaming hot water. Carrie ran into her and was badly burned by the steaming water. She put her hands over her face and her face wasn't badly burned, but her body was. She was weeks recovering.

The accident was a terrible shock to Carrie. It affected her nervous system and she was always frail.

That very same year Carrie's father died. He had been the one who had believed that Carrie would go far with her music.

Carrie was now eight years old. She and her mother moved to the Davis House, a hotel built by her grandfather, George H. Davis.

The hotel stood on the corner of West Milwaukee and Academy Streets. It was built in 1870. It was a two-story frame building. Carrie lived in the hotel with her mother and her grandfather.

Carrie was given a little dog named Schneider by an actor, Joseph Jefferson, who stayed at the hotel when she was only eight. Joseph Jefferson was acting in the play, "Rip Van Winkle". The little dog was in the play, too.

Carrie played for the actor. He was so pleased he gave her the little dog. Carrie loved the dog. Many years later Carrie Jacobs Bond wrote some children's stories. She wrote stories about the little dog.

Carrie was invited to play at the Myers Theatre when she was only eight years old. She played during a concert given by Blind Tom.

Carrie was a very friendly person. She attended the Episcopal Parish School. She had a classmate there called Mary Fox.

When Carrie was ten years old she began taking piano lessons. She took lessons from Professor Titcomb and other local music teachers. She soon became an accomplished musician.

Carrie grew up to be a beautiful, tall, willowy girl. She loved beautiful clothes and was one of the most striking persons in her crowd.

Carrie Jacobs had two friends who lived at Johnstown Center near Janesville. One was Edward Smith and the other was Frank L. Bond. Frank went away to a medical school in Chicago. Soon after that Carrie married Edward Smith. She was married in December 1880. Edward Smith was a men's clothing clerk and later became a manager of a clothing store in Janesville.

Carrie Jacobs and Edward Smith had a son named Fred Jacobs Smith. Carrie wrote a song for the little baby called, "I Am the Captain of the Broomstick Cavalry". This song became famous when years later Carrie appeared on a program with the famous Caruso in Europe.

Meantime Carrie and little Fred had had several unhappy things happen. Carrie and her husband, Edward Smith, separated after seven years of marriage.

Carrie's old friend, Frank L. Bond, finished medical school in Chicago and came home. Carrie fell in love with Dr. Bond, and they were married when Carrie was twenty-five years old. Fred was still a tiny little boy.

Carrie was now Mrs. Carrie Jacobs Bond. We see this name on her many famous songs.

Dr. Bond took Carrie and little Fred to Iron River, Michigan, where the iron mines were being opened up. The Bonds lived right across the street from the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Bond began to sing in the church choir. Dr. Bond encouraged Mrs. Bond to develop her musical talent.

Dr. Bond was a country doctor. He doctored people along the railroad between Iron River, Michigan, and Florence, Wisconsin. He made money and invested it in the mines. The Bonds were very happy for seven years; although

the mines failed to make the money they expected.

In front of the house where the Bonds lived in Iron River, there is a sign in honor of Carrie Jacobs Bond. The sign reads, "Carrie Jacobs Bond Spent Her Happiest Years Here".

This short period of happiness came to a sudden end. A tragic accident caused the unexpected death of Dr. Bond. A friend gave him a playful push. He lost his balance and fell off a board sidewalk. He hit his head and had a skull fracture and died. He is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Janesville.

Mrs. Bond and little Fred were now proverty-stricken. The money invested in the mines was lost and there were many bills to pay. The four thousand dollars left in life insurance was used to help to pay the debts.

Mrs. Bond returned with Fred to Janesville. They lived in a simple little house on East Milwaukee Street. It was here that she wrote "I Love You Truly". The house was torn down in recent years. The Clark Oil Station now stands on the site.

A high school glee club, named "The Carrie Jacobs Glee Club of Janesville", was organized by Katherine Keating, a high school music teacher. This club honored Carrie Jacobs Bond at a tea in 1934. In 1935 the club erected a boulder with a bronze marker in front of the house in which she wrote "I Love You Truly". On the marker are the words:

The House in Which
Carrie Jacobs Bond
Wrote
"I Love You Truly."

Mrs. Bond and Fred lived in Janesville only a short time after she wrote "I Love You Truly". She was not yet famous. Instead she was very, very poor and she had to make money to support herself and little Fred. She knew that she must make a living. She decided she couldn't earn enough in a small town like Janesville.

Mrs. Bond sold everything but her piano. The piano had been a wedding present from Dr. Bond. Mrs. Bond and little Fred moved to Chicago.

Mrs. Bond moved into rented rooms over a restaurant. She paid fifteen dollars a month for the rooms. She tried to make a living by renting rooms but couldn't make expenses; she tried to paint china, but couldn't find anyone to buy it. She tried to sew, but couldn't earn enough. For six years Mrs. Bond and Fred lived on only one meal a day.

When Mrs. Bond wasn't working, she wrote songs on the piano. She wrote 32 songs and tried to sell them. She grew tired of trying to see publishers who didn't want to see her.

During this time she was so poor that she had a hard time to keep alive. She said to herself, "I'll have to be careful or I'll feel sorry for myself. There's only one thing to do. I must try to help someone who is even worse off than I am."

Not long after that a tramp asked her if she'd give him a dime to clean the snow off her steps. Mrs. Bond told him she couldn't afford to pay him ten cents, but she told him she had a little room at the back of the house. She told him if he were homeless he might live in the little room. The tramp moved in.

One day the tramp told Mrs. Bond that a woman and children who lived nearby had been evicted from their home. He offered to give them the little room if Mrs. Bond would let them move in instead of him. Mrs. Bond agreed to it and the woman and children moved in.

The very next day Mrs. Bond became very ill. She was ill for five weeks. The woman nursed Mrs. Bond until she was well again.

Mrs. Bond lived in the house for seven years. She continued to give the back room to someone that was worse off than she was.

Fred was now twelve years old. He got a job as a special delivery boy with the post office in Chicago. He earned twenty-five dollars a month. Every payday

he bought ten cents' worth of gumdrops and tucked them under her pillow with the rest of the money. Gumdrops were Mrs. Bond's favorite candy.

Mrs. Bond had real ability. Finally she made some money as an entertainer in homes. She played her own songs and "talked" them as she sang. She had a rather husky, plaintive voice and she developed skill in putting the songs over.

In February 1934, after Mrs. Bond had become famous, she gave a concert at the High School in Janesville. She "talked" "The End of a Perfect Day" as one of her numbers. Those of us who heard her will never forget her or her beautiful music. She visited Janesville several other times. She gave her first concert after she became famous at the Library Hall in 1908. She sang and played "An' I've Got Home" at that time.

Mrs. Bond's last visit to Janesville was in 1942. She visited friends here while on a motor trip with Mrs. Walgren, wife of the owner of the Walgren Drug Stores. In 1939 Mrs. Bond spent a few days in Janesville and appeared over WCLO in an interview.

Mrs. Bond found she couldn't get enough money to live on through her recitals. She kept on writing songs. She wrote some of her most beautiful songs by candlelight on wrapping paper. "I Love You Truly" and "Just a Wearyin' for You" were written on wrapping paper. She tried to sell them but couldn't find a publisher.

Mrs. Bond got the idea of trying to interest professional singers in her songs. She finally got the courage to make an appointment with Jessie Bartlett Davis, the prima donna of the Boston Opera.

By this time Mrs. Bond had seven of her songs written in manuscript form for publication. She illustrated the songs with wild roses which she painted. The manuscript had the inscription, "as unpretentious as a wild rose".

Mrs. Bond said that Jessie Bartlett Davis was "kind as an angel" to her.

Mrs. Bond had been very ill for some time and she thought Mrs. Davis was touched by the way she looked.

Mrs. Bond played the seven songs in the manuscript for Mrs. Davis. When she finished Mrs. Davis said, "You must have them published at once, and I will sing them."

Mrs. Bond told Mrs. Davis it would take $500 to publish the songs and she had only $250 saved up. Mrs. Davis didn't say a word. She crossed the room to her desk and wrote a check for the rest of the money.

Mrs. Bond went straight to a printer. She had the songs published in a little book called "Seven Songs". In that book were the songs, "I Love You Truly" and "Just a Wearyin' for You".

In a short time the songs had sold one million copies each. Famous people like Madame Schumann-Heink, Chauncey Olcott, Evan Williams and David Bispham were soon singing her songs.

In 1901 Mrs. Bond and her son, Fred, became publishers. They started their business when she had only $9.87. She stated it was through the encouragement of a friend called Elbert Hubbard. They used a back bedroom as a music shop, a closet for a storeroom, and living room table for a counter. They called their publishing business the Bond Publishing Company.

Mrs. Davis arranged to have Mrs. Bond give concerts to introduce her songs. Mrs. Bond during this period was still so poor she had no money to buy clothes in which to sing her songs. In her own story of her life, she tells of how she made a gown out of a lace curtain to wear to her concert at Steinway Hall. At another time a friend in Janesville loaned her a dress to wear.

Soon after the music shop was started, Mrs. Bond became so discouraged she thought she was defeated. The bill to the printer was $1500. When she found she owed that much money, it was more than she could bear. It was the only time she ever gave up.

She packed up her clothes and fled to a sanatorium that was run by a friend. She said, "I have come here to die. For the first time in my life I am utterly defeated."

The friend saw that Mrs. Bond was really ill from worry and grief. She called a successful business man and asked him to talk to Mrs. Bond.

He laughed at her worries and told her she was far from being a failure. He told her that her business was worth about $15,000. He asked her to let him buy a tenth interest at $1500.

Mrs. Bond sold him a tenth interest in the business. Her confidence in herself was restored and she went back to Chicago and went to work.

Within a year Mrs. Bond had been able to pay the man almost as much as he had invested in the business. Later this same man paid Mrs. Bond $8500 for another tenth share of the business.

Mrs. Bond worked very hard. For a period of time she wrote a song a day. Not all of them were published. Then she became ill. She went out to California to recuperate. Fred stayed at home in Chicago to care for the business.

One day while she was in California she took a beautiful drive around Riverside. She watched the sun set on Mount Rubidoux. That night when she returned to Mission Inn where she was staying she wrote the beautiful poem, "The End of a Perfect Day". She wrote the words quickly and without a change.

Three months later Mrs. Bond was crossing the Mojave Desert at night. The music for the beautiful words of the poem came to her. David Bispham sang it the first time it was sung in public.

The song was called "A Perfect Day". Over eight million copies of the song were sold. Mrs. Bond grew rich on the royalties. Mrs. Bond heard "A Perfect Day" sung so much she became tired of it. Then she heard it sung by soldiers in faraway places. She said, "I never tired of it after that. I was glad then I had written heart songs instead of being a great musician."

"A Perfect Day" and "I Love You Truly" became popular around the world. Mrs. Bond heard them sung in many languages as she made her world travels.

Mrs. Bond and Fred moved the music shop to Hollywood, California, in 1920. Fred had been only seventeen when he went into business with his mother. After the business grew they had opened a shop on Michigan Avenue in Chicago and after "A Perfect Day" had become so popular it had been moved to larger quarters in the Colonnade Building in Chicago. Now after nineteen years, the shop was moved to California. Fred continued to manage it.

Fred watched and worried over his mother all through the years. She became ill again in 1924 and went on an ocean voyage. Finally Fred himself became ill and his tragic death came in California in 1929.

After Fred's death Mrs. Bond declined in health. She had loved Fred very dearly. She wrote "Lovely Hour" in his memory. She had written "The Hand of You" when she was lonely for Fred while she was on the same trip in which she had written "A Perfect Day".

Mrs. Bond was a semi-invalid before she died. She lived during her last years in her beautiful home called "End of the Road". The home had been built before Hollywood had become a movie center. It is only five blocks from the heart of Hollywood.

When Mrs. Bond was 83 years old, a journalist went to her home to interview her. She found a very sweet, friendly lady who seemed surprisingly young and busy for her years, in spite of the fact that she had been very ill during the past year.

The journalist asked Mrs. Bond how she composed her songs. She said, "I just listen for them. When I hear them, I write them down as fast as I can. I never change a note."

Mrs. Bond told the journalist that she felt so ashamed of herself. She said, "Here it is a year and a half since my last song. This is the first year

in my life I haven't anything to show for it. Isn't that terrible?"

The last song which she referred to was "Because of the Light". Some of her other late compositions were "My Mother's Voice", "Somebody's Waiting for Me", and "The Flying Flag".

Soon after this Mrs. Bond died. She died December 28, 1946, in her comfortable Hollywood home. People in Janesville thought she would be brought back to Janesville to be buried but she was not. Instead she was buried in a tomb in the Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Glendale, California.

The Forest Lawn Memorial Park has a lovely mausoleum where famous people are buried. It is called the Forest Lawn Memorial Court of Honor. Mrs. Bond was the second person chosen to be honored by her burial there.

The court is beneath a stained glass window depicting Leonardo da Vinci's picture, "The Last Supper". The court is reserved for the burial place of Americans judged by the Regents of the Park to have achieved greatness in their lifetime.

The first person buried there was Gutzon Borglum, the famous sculptor of Mt. Rushmore memorial in the Black Hills.

A throng of people attended the memorial service. The memorial program lasted an hour, but more than an hour before the service, friends and admirers began to arrive. As they gathered the organist played selections from Mrs. Bond's own songs.

During the service three of Mrs. Bond's songs were sung. The Pasadena Boys' Choir sang "The Hand of You" and "A Perfect Day". John Charles Thomas sang "I Love You Truly".

A number of famous people took part in the service. A "Pronouncement of Immortality" was read at the close of the service, and a wreath of gold laurel leaves was placed on top of the casket as a tribute to her achievements.

As the many friends passed by the casket after the service, they walked

along a wall banked with lilies, white chrysanthemums and red roses. The organ was playing:

"When you come to the end of a perfect day,
Near the end of a journey too....."

Carrie Jacobs Bond has become one of Janesville's most famous citizens. Wouldn't it be nice if Janesville had done more to honor her during her life-time?

Mrs. Bond's songs and music will live in the hearts of people around the world. Janesville should be very proud to know that Mrs. Bond was one of her citizens. Boys and girls of Janesville can honor her by learning to love her beautiful music.

3.

HOW BLIND TOM HELPS TO MAKE CARRIE JACOBS BOND FAMOUS

(To be used with the Carrie Jacobs Bond story by Miss Chenoweth)

Courtesy of Mrs. Lola Webb - September 17, 1955

When Carrie Jacobs was eight years old something happened that made the people of Janesville know that they had a pretty wonderful little girl in their city. Blind Tom came to the Myers Opera House to give a concert. (Yes, it is the same place you go to see movies sometimes. We now call it the Myers Theater.)

Carrie was very excited for days before this concert, for her father had promised to take her there.

Blind Tom was known all over the United States for his piano playing and it is interesting to know how he became so famous.

Blind Tom was born to a colored mother who was a slave in Georgia. When Tom was born the man who owned his slave mother was real pleased, for it was a boy and he looked sturdy and well. As Tom grew older he too could work for him in his cotton fields, the man thought. Imagine his disappointment when he discovered the baby was born stone-blind.

So this slave master decided to sell the mother at the next slave auction and then he'd be rid of the blind baby too. The man who bid on the mother didn't know she had a baby boy, but after he had bought her the first master spoke up and said, "See I'm throwing in this baby boy free!"

The man who bought the mother and had gotten the baby free was Mr. Bethune. It so happened that he was a fine Christian man. Mr. Bethune from the first was very kind to the little blind boy.

From almost the time he was born Tom had been attracted to sounds. He'd sit for hours listening and listening to the rain dripping off the eaves into the rain barrel and the song of birds brought him much joy.

As Tom grew older Mr. Bethune gave him the run of the dooryard and once in awhile Mr. Bethune let him come into the big house for a little visit.

Mr. Bethune had two daughters who were taking piano lessons. Whenever the girls were practicing, little Tom would sit outside under the window and listen and listen.

Late one night when all the Bethune family were in bed upstairs sleeping, they were awakened by someone playing the piano in the parlor downstairs. Mr. Bethune lighted a candle and went down to investigate. There was little blind Tom sitting at the piano and playing beautiful music.

Mr. Bethune could tell that this boy was unusual. He decided to give him piano lessons. After the music teacher heard him play he said, "That boy can already play better than I. I couldn't teach him anything."

By the time he was fifteen Blind Tom had played concerts all over the country. He knew 5000 pieces by heart and could play pages and pages of music, without a mistake, after he had heard a piece played once.

Now Blind Tom was to come to Janesville to play at the Myers Opera House. Carrie Jacobs was so anxious to hear Blind Tom play.

The day of the concert came. That evening her father took her as he had planned. After Tom had finished his concert, a man who traveled with Tom stood up and said, "Has anyone in this audience ever made up a piece that has not been written down? If so, let him come forward and play it through once. Then I'll prove that Blind Tom after only hearing it can play it through without a mistake."

A man came forward to play. While the man was playing a boy standing near the piano played a trick on poor Blind Tom. While the man was playing, the boy nearby struck some notes way up at the top of the keyboard. Tom couldn't possibly reach those keys and keep up the melody that was being played nearer the center of the keyboard. Carrie thought it was a mean thing to do and it made her very angry. Carrie wondered what Blind Tom would do when he came to those

notes. He played right along and when he came to them he leaned over and struck them with his nose! Carrie thought he was wonderful. Oh how she clapped and clapped!

Then someone called out, "We have a little eight-year-old girl here in Janesville who can play anything she has heard once. Her name is Carrie Jacobs."

Next she knew she was being taken to the front of the opera house and she played piece after piece that someone had played only once just as Blind Tom had done.

How the audience clapped for her. Her father was much pleased. Janesville people who hadn't been to the concert that night heard about her, and more and more of our townspeople realized that here was a little girl with talent.

4. Do circulate +R Pam

JANESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
October 1956

CHRISTMAS A LONG TIME AGO

(Compiled by Mrs. Lola Webb from stories written by older people.)

Christmas When Mrs. O. E. O'Brien Was a Little Girl

Mrs. O. E. O'Brien's father always went into the woods and brought in a cedar tree and it was her job to string popcorn for decorations.

She always hung up her stocking and was so happy if there was an orange in the toe. That was a real treat! Sometimes there was striped peppermint stick candy in it too and a few nuts.

Mrs. O'Brien especially remembers the year she got a doll. In those days the dolls' heads were made of china as thin as one of your mother's best and fanciest teacups. She was sent outside to pick up chips to start the kitchen fire in the stove the next morning. She took her chip basket, and could not bear to leave her doll for even a minute. She sat the doll up in the corner of the chip basket. She turned her back and went a short distance away to pick up chips in her apron. A drayman came along in his wagon and ran over the basket and crushed her doll.

It was two years before she got another doll. I am sure she was a very sad little girl.

Mrs. Henry Hanson's Memories of Christmas

Years ago Mr. Hanson had a furniture factory in Janesville. Round dining room tables were his speciality. Some of the buildings are now used by the Ossit Church Furniture Company.

Mrs. Hanson told of her memories of Christmas. She remembers when her parents moved from Wisconsin to Iowa and built a little home from lumber sawed in Milwaukee. She was lonesome. So, her father cut a little tree from the hills and let her tie candy on it for decoration. She never had a whole apple at a time, but was given only half an apple, even at Christmas.

Her doll, too, had a china head and sawdust stuffing in its body. It seems as if her doll was always leaking sawdust.

Christmas in Miss Iva Hartman's Home

Miss Hartman recalls that their Christmas tree was in the church where all the neighborhood children gathered on Christmas eve. Few people had a tree at home if they had a church tree.

Each child had a piece to speak, and it was a long program.

The tree was covered with wax candles held in little tin holders which clipped on to the branches.

No candy ever tasted as good as that which came out of the mesh stockings hanging on the tree. There was one for each child who was there.

Her mother used to pull her on a sled to the church, bundled up with a pussy hood on her head and a blanket pinned over her coat.

The one Christmas that stands out more than any other is the one when she got a doll and a little doll's chair. Think of it, two presents in one year!

Miss Mary Ritchie Remembers Christmas in Scotland

Miss Ritchie has memories of her Christmas as a little girl in Scotland. She attended midnight services in church and there they received their gifts. On Christmas Day, each child set out with a big basket of food and distributed it to needy people. Her basket was heavy at first, but got lighter as she went along. The afternoon was spent in the theatre where the children had to share in giving fairy tales in pantomime.

Miss Ritchie said she asked her mother about Christmas cards and her mother said they were only letters. She thought she said "old" letters, so she gathered together all the old letters she could find and put them into the post office. After that her mother received a letter from the Postmaster General asking for an explanation. Her mother had to straighten that one out.

Miss Ritchie said there was no Thanksgiving in Scotland, but Christmas and New Year's were the loveliest days of the year.

Christmas in Iowa When Mrs. Frank Farnsworth Was Young

Mrs. Farnsworth lived in the country. There was no church in the community, but there was a little, white, one-room schoolhouse where Christmas exercises were held. She lived in a part of Iowa where there were few evergreen trees, so they used just a common, bare tree with presents tied to the branches. Trees were not shipped in and sold in stores and on street corners as they are now.

Names were called off and when your name was called you went up front and received your gift. Her name was called and oh my, it was a doll! Their hired man, Will, had bought it for her. She named it Willamina.

Her mother was afraid there would be no presents for her, so she had knitted her some wristlets. She made a pair for her best little girl friend, too. Mrs. Farnsworth had her name called out twice that night.

Miss Grace Spoon's Christmas Stocking

Miss Spoon remembers one Christmas in particular. Her mother told her to go to bed, but she didn't and finally Santa Claus came and my but she was scared! Her stocking had not been hung! The next night she hung it, but in the morning it was empty. The next night the same thing happened. The third time, she found a

potato in it in the morning. I'm sure she went to bed on time the next year when Christmas eve rolled around.

She recalls that her dolls' heads were made of wax. If they got cold, they cracked. Once she left hers too near the stove; it melted!

EARLY DAYS IN JANESVILLE

Courtesy of Olive Feirn

THE FIRST HOUSE IN JANESVILLE

The first house in Janesville was a log house. It was built by John Inman, George Follner, William Holmes Jr. and Joshua Holmes in November 1835. These young men cut down the trees, made them into logs, and built a strong house. They chinked the cracks with clay. They built a high chimney for the fireplace. They had built a place to keep them warm and dry.

The first log house was built across the river from Monterey Rock. It was built not far from where the Vet's Club now stands.

John Inman and William Holmes had picked out the site of their new home on their first trip to what is now Janesville. They thought the winding Rock River, the hills covered with trees and wild flowers were beautiful. John Inman and William Holmes had found fresh, cool spring water, too. No wonder they wanted to build their new home near Rock River.

THE FIRST FERRYBOAT AND FERRYBOAT LANDING

Other settlers started to come to this part of Wisconsin. So William Holmes fixed up an old scow as a ferryboat, to take early settlers across the river. He made a landing place, too. So the settlers did not need to walk through the water to get to his ferryboat. This was the first ferryboat and ferryboat landing in Janesville. This ferryboat landing was right near the new log house the four boys had built.

THE COMING OF THE ST. JOHNS

The four men: John Inman, George Follner, William Holmes and Joshua Holmes had not lived in their new log cabin very long when Mr. and Mrs. St. John and their three children came along in their covered wagon. It was on December 18, 1835. Mr. St. John was looking for a safe place to cross the river.

William Holmes was going to take the St. John family across the river in his ferryboat. Then he saw how cold and tired

Mrs. St. John and the three children looked. He said, "Why don't you stay in my log cabin tonight?" So the St. John family stayed in the log cabin that night with the four boys.

THE TERRIBLE BLIZZARD

That night there was a terrible blizzard. The snow was very deep. The St. John family could not go on their journey. Do you think the St. John children were glad?

THE FIRST WHITE CHILD IS BORN IN JANESVILLE

In January a little baby was born to Mrs. St. John. The baby's name was Seth St. John. He was the first white child to be born in Janesville. He grew up to be a fine doctor.

MRS. ST. JOHN'S WISH

After Seth St. John was born, Mrs. St. John was very ill. Soon after this Dr. and Mrs. Heath came and lived in the same log cabin with the four boys and the St. John family. Now there were twelve

people living in the cabin. Dr. Heath tried to help Mrs. St. John get well, but she became weaker and weaker. It was Mrs. St. John's wish that she should be buried on a high hill overlooking beautiful Rock River. Mrs. St. John died in June 1836. She had her wish as she was buried on a hill (near Beloit Avenue) overlooking Rock River. A coffin was made from the wagon-bed of the covered wagon. The baby, Seth St. John, was cared for by Mrs. Holmes and other women of the community, until his father remarried. He grew to manhood in this community.

The metal basin in which Seth St. John was bathed may be seen on the first floor of the Lincoln-Tallman Museum.

THE GRAVE IS MARKED

Mrs. St. John's grave was unmarked until 1921 when the D.A.R. erected a monument. In this grave is buried Mr. St. John and his two wives.

EARLY JANESVILLE

by

L. R. Creutz

Explanatory Note

The material which follows is quoted from the book, Southeastern Wisconsin - Old Milwaukee County (1932, Volume II). Mr. L. R. Creutz, former Superintendent of Janesville Public Schools, contributed the chapter on Rock County. John G. Clarke was Editor in Chief. The book was published by S. J. Clarke Publishing Company.

Margaret Chenoweth

ROCK COUNTY

by L. R. Creutz

SETTLEMENT AND EARLY GROWTH

"The Territory of Wisconsin was created by an act of the Congress of the United States in April, 1836. On July 4, of the same year, the Territorial government was instituted. The newly appointed territorial officers, including Henry Dodge of Dodgeville, who became the first territorial governor through his selection for that post by President Andrew Jackson, took their oaths of office at the village of Mineral Point. In that portion of the new Territory of Wisconsin which was embraced within the boundaries of the present State of Wisconsin lay six counties: Chippewa County; Michilimackinac County; Crawford County; Brown County; Iowa County; and Milwaukee County. The first census of the Territory, taken during the summer of 1836 under the provisions of the Congressional act which created the Territory of Wisconsin, indicated that the population of these counties was 11,683. Of these inhabitants about 2,900 were settled in the County of Milwaukee, which at that time included within its boundaries the present territory of Rock County.

"It was not long until the name of Rock was to be added to the roll of Wisconsin counties. On December 7, 1836, by an act of the first Territorial Legislature, which assembled at the town of Belmont, in Iowa County, the first steps looking forward to the creation of the new county were taken. This act made provision for a new governmental unit to be designated as Rock County. This new county was to be set up in lands comprised in townships one, two, three, and four, north, or ranged eleven, twelve, thirteen, and fourteen, east. For judicial purposes the county, together with Walworth County, remained a constituent part of Racine County, which was at this time also cut out of the territory that had originally constituted the county of Milwaukee. The name of the new county took its origin in the name of the 'Big Rock' which stood on the north side of the Rock River within the boundaries of the present city of Janesville, and which was at this time already well and favorably known to those occasional travelers who passed through the little settlement erected by John Inman and William Holmes on the south side of the river and opposite the Big Rock in the late days of the autumn of 1835. In 1837 the Territorial

Legislature went a step further in the development of the government of the new county of Rock. By a new enactment it gave the district known as Rock County its own judicial establishment. The territory of the county of Rock was made to coincide with the town of Rock. The seat of justice was established 'on the fraction of land on the east side of Rock River, it being a part of the northwest quarter of section 36, in town 3 north, of range 12 east.' This was within the site of the present city of Janesville. In June, 1838, the extent of the territory of Rock County was increased by a legislative enactment of the Territorial Legislature to include townships one, two, three, and four, north, of range ten, east. By this addition of territory at this time the boundaries of Rock County were extended to include all of the lands which ever since have been within the limits of Rock County.

"The final step in organizing the government of the new county of Rock took place in 1839. In February of that year a special enactment of the Territorial Legislature provided that 'the county of Rock shall be and remain, to all intents and purposes, an organized county of this territory, and shall have all the rights and privileges which organized counties, in the same, of right have.' In March, 1839, the first election for the offices of county commissioners was held. William S. Murray, William Spaulding, and E. J. Hazzard were elected county commissioners by the voters of the county. The newly elected commissioners at once proceeded to complete the organization of the county, appointing a county clerk and entering a parcel of land on the east bank of the Rock River as the seat of the county government. In 1841 there was begun the erection of the first county courthouse. This was located within the limits of the little village of Janesville, which had already begun its growth. Janesville had been platted in 1840. During 1839 the county commissioners divided the county into four election districts and two school districts. Early in 1840 they licensed David J. Bundy 'to keep a tavern at Beloit,' and Charles Stevens to 'keep a tavern at Janesville.' The first road and assessment districts were set up in the county in 1840.

"The first three years of the county's existence as an independent unit had been passed under government on the county government principle. In the year 1842 the scheme of county government was changed by the Territorial Legislature from the county system to the town system. In that year the legislative powers of the county government passed into the hands of the newly created 'County Board of Supervisors.' Six members made up the roster of the first county board, which elected Nathan Stross as its Chairman. The County Board of Supervisors which thus came into existence still remains the legislative and administrative body at the head of the county government.

"In the 1840s the organization of the county into the towns which continue to make up the divisions of Rock County was gradually taking place. In this period the Legislature of the Territory (and after 1848 of the state) of Wisconsin by special acts created the following towns: Avon, in 1847; Beloit, in 1842; Bradford, in 1846; Center, in 1842; Clinton, in 1842; Fulton, in 1843; Harmony, in 1848; Janesville, in 1843; Johnstown, in 1843; La Prairie, in 1849; Lima, in 1845; Magnolia, in 1846; Milton, in 1842; Newark, in 1846; Plymouth, in 1848; Porter, in 1847; Rock, in 1838; Spring Valley, in 1846; Turtle, in 1846; and Union, in 1842.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF ROCK COUNTY

"The beginnings of early permanent white settlement in that portion of Michigan Territory which later became Rock County in the Territory of Wisconsin were a part of that great westward movement which characterized the decades of the 1830s and 1840s in the history of the United States.

"Until the close of the so-called Black Hawk war in 1832 the entire Rock River valley lay under the control of the Indians. Upon the close of the movement against Indian control the Red Man of the Rock River valley was removed to distant reservations, and the fertile valleys and prairies of the region were laid open to the onward flow of the tide of white settlers from the eastward. The Black Hawk war exhibited to the volunteer soldiers who participated in its campaigns the fertility and accessibility of the lands over which they had marched and upon which they had camped. Immediately upon the close of the Black Hawk war the reports which went out of the region concerning its desirability set up for it a reputation which soon led to its rapid development by the ever growing rush of home-seekers from the East.

EARLY INDIAN TRADERS

"Two names of earlier white traders in the upper Rock River valley have become familiar to everyone who has perused the accounts concerning the region in that time before the eviction of the Indians. The first of these names is that of Stephen Mack. Mack apparently came from New England to the neighborhood of the present city of Beloit early in the 1820s. In this region he traded with the Indians and took as his wife the daughter of a Winnebago chieftain of the vicinity. From his trading post, located several miles east of the site of the present village of Rockton, Illinois, he made occasional journeys to the settlement at Chicago (Fort Dearborn). Here he traded his furs for merchandise with such early factors as John Kinzie and Solomon Juneau.

"A French-Canadian trader with the Indians, known as Thibault (or Thibeau) came across Wisconsin from Green Bay and made a settlement on the present site of the city of Beloit early in the 1820s. There was in this locality when Thibault reached it a large Indian village, known as The Turtle. In the year 1836 Caleb Blodgett, one of the earliest to begin the permanent white settlement at Beloit, is reported to have purchased Thibault's claims on the east side of the Rock River in this region for the sum of two hundred dollars. Thibault then settled on the shores of Lake Koshkonong in the northern part of Rock County and continued his activities as interpreter and trader among the Indians in that district until his unexplained and sudden disappearance during the winter of 1839-40.

THE BIG ROCK SETTLEMENT

"The first permanent settlement by white men in Rock County was made on the banks of the Rock River opposite the Big Rock, on lands which lie within the boundaries of the present city of Janesville. During the summer months of 1835 John Inman of Pennsylvania and William Holmes of Ohio set out from Milwaukee to visit the newly opened Rock River valley. They were deeply impressed with what

they saw and especially with the location opposite the Big Rock. So in November, 1835, they returned in company with George Follmer and Joshua Holmes. They erected a small cabin on the south bank of the Rock River, opposite the Big Rock, and in November, 1835, Samuel St. John of Vermont, together with his wife and three children, came to join these earlier settlers at this point. Other immigrants from the East arrived during the year 1836, and thus, in the course of a year, the permanence of this first nucleus of settlement in Rock County was firmly established. In January, 1836, there was born a son into the family of Samuel St. John. This boy was the first white child born in the new settlement in Rock County.

JANES' FERRY

"Among the names of the first white settlers at the little outpost opposite the Big Rock during the year 1836 there appears very prominently that of Henry F. Janes. Janes, originally from Virginia, reached the new settlement from Racine in June, 1836. He at once entered upon and made claim to approximately a half section of land, located upon the eastern bank of the Rock River some distance up-stream from the location of the first settlement opposite the Big Rock. Janes' lands included that quarter section upon which the county seat was a little later to be located by the Territorial Legislature. Upon the claim which he had made Janes erected a little cabin, some sixteen feet square. The location of this first settlement within the confines of what is now the central business district of the city of Janesville was described in 1856 as 'the spot where Lappins' Block now stands.' This location is today identified as the close vicinity of where the Milwaukee Street bridge spans the Rock River in Janesville. Janes' cabin became the first tavern in Rock County. It was the early stopping place of travelers who crossed the Rock River at this point upon the ferry which Janes set up there. 'Janes' Ferry' was maintained by Janes and Aaron Walker until the first bridge was erected at this point by Bailey, Stevens and Lappin, in 1842, at a cost of some $2,000. Before the operation of Janes' ferry the usual crossing of the Rock River lay at a point not far from the Big Rock where a fording was quite easily effected in times of low water. However, some months before Janes began the operation of his ferry, William Holmes had built a scow which he was operating as a ferry boat at a location a little distance above the Big Rock.

"In these very early years of the settlement which was to become the city of Janesville other rival settlements and potential city sites were projected in the immediate neighborhood, as everywhere throughout the West during the land speculation period just preceding the panic of 1837. The lands west of the Rock River had been placed upon the open market by the United States government in 1835. The lands east of the river, including those upon which Janes and his companions had entered and made their claims, were not offered for sale by the government until some four years later, in 1839. Much of the land west of the Rock River was being purchased for speculative purposes, often by persons who did not intend to become actual settlers and homeseekers. Upon the west side of the river, on lands which are today included in the city of Janesville, Thomas Holmes laid out the plat of the proposed city of Rockport. A mile down the river, on its west banks, John Inman, in company with Sidney Breese of Chicago and several others, laid out a town under the name of Wisconsin City. Part of the lands included with the plat of Wisconsin City is now within the southwest limits

of the city of Janesville. Wisconsin City made a somewhat pretentious bid for a glorious future and was one of the several towns which were more or less seriously considered as the location of the Territorial capital by the Legislature which ultimately fixed upon Madison at the Four Lakes as the recipient of that honor.

"The settlers upon the east side of the Rock River from the first protected themselves against the jumping of their claims, as did all the early 'squatters' in the days before the enactment of the national preemption act early in the 'forties. They were organized into settlers' associations for the purpose. The settlers who had made their homes on the east bank of the Rock River were able to substantiate their claims when these lands were finally thrown open for sale at Milwaukee in 1839, by the national government.

"Janes' settlement on the east side of the Rock River, made in 1836, was destined to become the nucleus of the center which was to develop into the village of Janesville. Janes surveyed and platted the town in 1837. The Territorial Legislature in 1836-37 fixed the location of the seat of government of Rock County upon the same fractional quarter section upon which Janes had located, and Janes' name was now perpetuated in that of the new town. In 1839 the Territorial Legislature finally constituted Rock County a completely independent county, and in 1840 the newly elected commissioners of the county replatted the village of Janesville, some eight months after the lands upon which the town was located had been brought into the open market by the United States government. The first county courthouse was begun at Janesville in 1841 and was ready for occupancy in 1842.

"The establishment of a United States post office at Janesville was brought about in the spring of 1837. The first settlers in the vicinity had been under the necessity of receiving their mail at the post offices in Milwaukee or Racine. This early settlement of postal facilities at Janesville was in a large measure due to the interest and the efforts of General William B. Sheldon, a member of the Territorial Legislature. General Sheldon made a journey to Washington for the purpose of obtaining the establishment of a post office and post routes centering at Janesville. The little settlement thus almost in its very first days became of some importance as a center of contact with the rest of the Territory of Wisconsin. One of the important early post routes centering at Janesville was that which ran from Mineral Point to Racine by way of Janesville. For some months a single cigar box, nailed to a log in the Janes bar, served as a depository for all of the outgoing and incoming mails of Rock County. Janes served as postmaster until 1838, when he was succeeded by D. F. Kimball.

"Janesville was apparently becoming too crowded for Janes, who seemed to long for the untrammeled life of the unopened frontier. In August, 1839, he moved farther westward, and in time his name was attached to two other new settlements, one in Minnesota and one in Iowa. He reached California in 1849, his westward migration checked only by the Pacific Ocean. Here he spent the remainder of his days.

EARLY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF JANESVILLE

"The first person to open a store at Janesville was H. F. Janes, the original settler on the east side of the Rock River. He maintained, for several months, a small stock of groceries and dry goods in the log tavern which he had erected in 1836. His stock, however, soon became reduced, and he abandoned the business. In the meantime the first regular merchant with a regular place of business which was maintained for a long continued period of time had begun a new venture. This new merchant was Thomas Lappin. In a small frame building, which he rented from Volney Atwood, another early settler, Lappin opened a regular merchandising business at a very early date. He had faith in the future development of trade in the new village, for he proceeded to the purchase of a lot and the erection of a building to house his business. He opened his store in 1838 with a stock of dry goods, groceries, and hardware which he had obtained from Chicago at a cost of one hundred and twenty-five dollars. Remitting his funds to Chicago or Galena by stage drivers or occasional travelers, he received in return such simple commodities as were available and desirable for sale in the new frontier community. The Lappin business, the first regular one in Janesville, grew and prospered. Daniel Richardson opened the second store in Janesville, the 'Commercial Block' of the 1850s being a monument to his successful development of the business.

"Janesville, it was soon apparent, was well located to become the center of a great field of industry, commerce, and agriculture. The first twenty years of its existence brought about a rapid development in all these lines. Writing of the city's development during the first two decades, Orin Guernsey, one of the early residents, said in 1856: 'The central position of Janesville, its immense waterpowers, its commercial advantages, the agricultural resources of the surrounding country, its situation upon several of the most important railroads at the northwest, all are marked by the stranger as well as by the citizen. There are some other points of great interest to the future growth and permanent prosperity of the town which may be noted. The varied and charming scenery surrounding the town, the noble river with its rapid current and clean banks, the beautiful spots for residences and parks, the ease with which building materials, such as stone, brick, lime, and lumber of all kinds, can be obtained; the excellent water which is found by digging, and above all, the healthfulness of the place, which is proverbial, make Janesville a most desirable place for those seeking a western home.'

"The very early years of Janesville's history had, however, been marked by rather a slow growth. The first census reported was taken in 1842. This placed the total population of the town at that time at 215. The figures for the next few succeeding years were as follows: In 1843, 333; in 1845, 817; in 1847, 1,458; in 1849, 1,812; in 1850, 3,100; in 1853, 4,800; in 1855, 7,018. The City of Janesville was incorporated under the provisions of a special charter granted by the Legislature of Wisconsin in the year 1853.

"The rather markedly rapid growth of the city after 1843 was connected with the rapid settlement of the rural districts of the county, with the development and utilization of the waterpowers in the Rock River adjacent to the city, and with the development of an early industrial interest among the citizens. Charles Stevens and several other early residents had obtained a charter for the erection of a waterpower dam at the rapids of the Rock River several years earlier.

H. S. Hanchett, however, built the first waterpower development in 1843. A sawmill was immediately erected and put into operation by Charles Stevens. A large flouring mill, under the proprietorship of Smith, Doe, and Walker, went into operation in 1845. In 1848 another flouring mill, built by Eli Jones and soon sold to Jackman and Smith, was put into use. About the same time the 'Excelsior Mills,' owned by Hamilton Richardson, went into operation. Thus one of the earliest industries of Janesville was flour-milling. The agricultural community surrounding the city was engaged very extensively in the growing of wheat at this time. In 1855 a statistical report of the industries of the city showed that the flouring mills of the city were capable of producing more than 700 barrels of flour per day. A great deal of custom grist work was also done in the mills of the city. The Whittaker Woolen Mill, built of stone in 1849, was manufacturing from 30,000 to 40,000 yards of cloth per year. Sawmills were cutting large quantities of both hard and soft wood lumber. Six carriage factories were employing seventy-five men in the aggregate. Cabinet and furniture factories were employing over eighty men. Three and a half million bricks were annually manufactured in the two brickyards of the city. Other factories were making farming implements and machinery of various kinds. The Janesville Iron Works made engines, boilers, threshing machinery, reapers, and castings of various kinds, and employed from seventy-five to a hundred men. The Janesville Sash, Door, and Blind Manufactory employed eighty men. Other smaller industries of various kinds, most of them developed during the late 'forties and early 'fifties, had by 1855 made Janesville a bustling and industrious little city.

"Besides all this the city was at this time an important retailing center for all kinds of products, and it was the center of a large produce business. During 1855 some 535,000 bushels of wheat were purchased by the buyers of the city at an average price of $1.25 per bushel.

"Thus before 1860 Janesville had become a thriving industrial and commercial center in the heart of a prosperous and growing agricultural district."
(pp. 609-617)

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DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE

AGRICULTURE

"Agriculture was the first important industry of Rock County. The men and women from the Eastern States who settled the new Northwest during the middle decades of the nineteenth century came as tillers of the soil into a region where farms and homes could be established on lands which the bounty of nature had prepared for them and which the liberal policy of the United States government placed in their hands almost for the asking. The initial development of agriculture in Rock County was rapid. The earliest settlers arrived in 1835. In less than twenty years the county had become a notably prosperous region with an extensive rural population. Agriculture gave Rock County its first impetus; agriculture has remained until our own day the most important of the county's industries. For three generations Rock County has been the home of a happy, prosperous and highly enlightened people, as felicitous in their surroundings as any in the world.

"The settlers who took up lands in the 'thirties, 'forties and 'fifties of the last century found here a beautiful and fertile area. Within the boundaries of the county are more than 450,000 acres of lands, half of which, when the pioneers first began to use them, consisted of gently rolling and arable prairies, the other half of oak openings or tracts heavily timbered. A few small streams, besides the larger Rock River, and a number of beautiful small lakes, dotted the surface of the county. Practically all the lands of Rock County were suitable for cultivation, and all were easily adaptable to wheat growing.

"The first staple crop in Rock County was wheat. The soil abounded in the phosphates and nitrogenous compounds essential to the successful cultivation of such crops. Most of the Eastern people coming to Southern Wisconsin had raised wheat in their former homes and expected to carry on that occupation here. It was not a complicated or difficult matter to break the prairie lands of Rock County and plant seed for the first harvest. Early yields of wheat proved so bountiful that there seemed no need for attention to diversified farming and no danger in concentrating on a single crop.

"Until 1848 the wheat crops in Rock County were generally profitable, and development of the county was remarkably rapid. Wheat raised here was easily disposed of when carted to the Great Lakes ports, largely to Milwaukee, for transportation to the East. The year in which the Territory of Wisconsin was made a part of the Union of States marked the beginning of a series of very bad years for the wheat-growing farmers of Rock County. For the time being agriculture was in a depressed state throughout the West. A series of crop failures, beginning with a widespread affliction of blight in 1848, together with an extremely low price for all kinds of produce, caused a tremendous amount of hardship. During four or five years wheat was sold for as little as twenty-five cents a bushel in Janesville, or was carted to Milwaukee, where it commanded no more than thirty-seven and one-half cents a bushel. Corn, of which a considerable amount was raised, was likewise unprofitable, for during this period of depression its price in the county fell to as low as twelve and one-half to fifteen cents a bushel, while oats sold in some years as low as eight or nine cents.

"In the midst of this depression there was founded the Rock County Agricultural Society and Mechanics' Institute. This organization, effected in 1851, aimed 'to encourage agriculture and the mechanic arts.' It was arranged that an annual fair should be held 'for the exhibition and sale of farm stock, field crops, garden products, products of the domestic arts, agricultural implements, and the products of the mechanic arts generally.' Herein was the origin of the Rock County Fair and the genesis of a concerted agricultural interest that was to be maintained year after year and to play an important part in making Rock County one of the leading agricultural counties of the Northwest. The society's first fair was held in the fall of 1851, at Janesville, with an attendance of more than 5,000 persons. In 1852 the fair was held at Beloit. It was in the latter year that the Association decided to purchase permanent fair grounds at Janesville. In 1855 ten acres of land for this purpose were acquired in the southern part of the city. From time to time the tract was enlarged by additional purchases, and the County Fair was held in Janesville for a number of years. The Wisconsin State Fair also was held in Janesville in 1851, 1857, 1864, 1866 and 1867. Agricultural fairs performed a continuous part in the development of Rock County until the final abandonment of the County Fair in 1929. In 1930 an all-county fair under the

auspices of the 4-H Clubs of Rock County was successfully held at Janesville, and this gave promise of revival in a new form of the agricultural fairs which had yielded important results through three-quarters of a century." (pp. 635-637)

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"The story of Wisconsin's rise to chief importance among the dairy states of the United States was exemplified in most of its details in Rock County. In many parts of the county cattle had always been raised. From the earliest days milk, butter and cheese had been produced for the local markets. Many of the pioneer families were from New York State, and were familiar with the background of the dairying industry of that state. In addition to this, Rock County's lands were particularly well adapted to the development of the dairy industry. Markets for milk were accessible in the large cities of the states of Wisconsin and Illinois. Thus Rock County entered upon its career as one of the centers of the dairy and livestock industry of Wisconsin." (p. 638)

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TRANSPORTATION

"The first roads into and in Rock County followed the course of older Indian trails. A map published at Galena, Illinois, in 1829, located the Winnebago village of Turtle at the present site of Beloit. Through the Turtle village was a trail running from Chicago to the southeast of the village, and on from the village toward the north and west into the lead mining district of Southwestern Wisconsin. In 1836, when Rock was made a separate county, contemporary maps indicated roads or trails from the head of Lake Geneva to Beloit, a road from Beloit to Janesville, and one from Beloit extending toward Monroe in Green County. Two trails came into Janesville from the east, one from Waukesha and one from Delavan. H. F. Janes, the founder of Janesville and one of the first settlers in Rock County, related that coming from Milwaukee through Waukesha toward the Rock River country in 1836 he followed the old Indian trail here referred to. Crossing the Rock River at the present site of Janesville, the trails from the eastward ran on to Madison and to Monroe. Another trail passed from Janesville and ran along the east side of Lake Koshkonong toward Fort Atkinson. All of the early roads, except the one through Janesville from Waukesha toward Monroe, were hardly more than traces in 1836. The first Territorial Legislature of Wisconsin, which met at Belmont in 1836, at once began consideration of the development of roads in the territory, and appointed a commission to consider the matter of a territorial road from Lake Michigan to Rock River, to terminate near Janesville. In 1837 Janesville was made the first post office in the new county of Rock, and the road running from Racine through Janesville on to Mineral Point was made a post-road and became one of the important arteries of early traffic." (pp. 640-643)

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"For the greater part of its first two decades of existence Rock County depended entirely upon crude pioneer highways for its connection with the rest of the state and with Illinois. It was during the year 1836 that Wisconsin City was settled and

platted about a mile and a half down the Rock River from the first settlement opposite the Big Rock in the present city of Janesville. In the same year a stage line was operated on regular trips between Wisconsin City and Racine by John Inman. In 1846 a line of stages owned by Frink & Walker was making three trips each week between Milwaukee and Janesville, which at that time was a settlement of close to a thousand people. One of the main routes of travel from the lead mines to Racine and Milwaukee was the road through Janesville from Mineral Point. Much wheat was hauled over this road in those days from Rock County to the lake ports at Racine and Milwaukee. Travel over the Chicago trail, through Beloit, was common.

"It is interesting to note that though the first settlements in Rock County were located on the Rock River, and though Beloit and Janesville grew to be the most important commercial and industrial centers of the county, no serious efforts were made to develop river navigation as a means of outlet for Rock County products. Pioneers of Rock County were concerned from the beginning in finding an outlet to the East for their surplus wheat, their natural and instinctive interests pointing in that direction. Development of navigation on the Rock River at best could have offered them only an outlet to the Southern markets and to the sea by the long and circuitous route of the Mississippi via St. Louis and New Orleans. Not far from Rock County, however, lay the Great Lakes, a highway of transportation into the East. The most natural and most logical outlet of Rock County's products undoubtedly was to be found in the development of transportation routes to the Great Lakes.

"The plat of 'Wisconsin City,' one of the early speculative townsite projects of Rock County, located 'the head of steamboat navigation' of the Rock River just above the site of that proposed city. The first steamboat to arrive at Wisconsin City was one which had made the trip from the Mississippi, up the Rock, into Rock County. This touched at Wisconsin City in 1836. Passing over the rapids at the site of Janesville, the steamboat proceeded up the river. After a short stay, it returned to the Mississippi. In 1839 another steamboat pushed up the Rock as far as Jefferson. In 1844 a St. Louis steamer 130 feet in length made its way to Jefferson. In 1845 another steamer from the Mississippi came up the Rock. It spent the Fourth of July of that year in taking an excursion party from Janesville up the river. This vessel is reported to have remained in the neighborhood of Janesville through the summer months, doing a more or less profitable business in transporting excursion and picnic parties up the river. In the autumn of 1844 it returned to the Mississippi, being the last steamboat to reach Rock County from the Father of Waters." (pp. 644-645)

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SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

CHURCHES

"The earliest settlers in Rock County were deeply concerned about their religious welfare. The history of the churches has ever been an important and integral part of the history of Rock County. Church organizations have been important factors in the advancement of the moral and social welfare of the Rock County citizens who have composed their membership. Religion and morality have

exerted a profound influence in shaping the attitudes and viewpoints of the people of Rock County through nearly a century of the county's development. In general the early arrivals in the new county came from those older strains of American population which had always envinced deep concern with, and unusual reverence for the higher things in man's existence. This characteristic the pioneers of Rock County brought with them into their western homes, and among the very early developments in the new county was the organization of groups of people for the purpose of regular religious worship. Among the first substantial buildings in the county were the houses of worship erected by these groups. A notable development of religious societies and an unusual interest in the erection of church buildings was evidenced in Beloit, in Janesville, and in the smaller communities of Rock County during the very first decade of settlement." (p. 667)

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"....The first sermon preached in the new settlement at Janesville was delivered by the Reverend Jesse Halstead, a Methodist Episcopal minister on the Aztalan circuit. This service was held in the bar-room of the Janes tavern in 1837. In 1838 another religious service was held by a Methodist minister in Janesville, this time in an oak grove east of the village." (p. 668)

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SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

"From the very early years the pioneers of Rock County gave evidence of their belief that education of the children was a fundamental duty they must not neglect. The first elementary school in Rock County was established and maintained in a rude log building on the property of Abram C. Bailey at the first settlement in the county, opposite the Big Rock, as early as 1838. The first teacher of this first Rock County school was Hiram Brown, who later migrated to Green County. After an existence of several years this schoolhouse was supplanted by a new one, built about half a mile east of the earlier building and jointly owned by the school districts of Rock and La Prairie. This building occupied a position on what is now Eastern Avenue, not far from the intersection of that avenue with South Jackson Street in Janesville. Being painted red, it was known among the early residents and pupils as 'The Little Red Schoolhouse.' Orrin Guernsey was the first teacher to direct the studies of Rock County pupils in this new school building. During the spring and summer of 1840 another school was in operation at the Janes settlement on the east side of the river above the Big Rock settlement. In 1845 a little brick school building was erected on what is now Division Street in Janesville. A few years later another brick schoolhouse was erected on North Franklin Street, on the west side of the river in Janesville, near the present railroad crossing. In the settlement at Beloit the first little log schoolhouse was erected in 1839, the cost of its construction being defrayed by voluntary contributions from the settlers." (p. 673-674)

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LIBRARIES

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"Until 1882 the library of the Young Men's Association circulated only among members of the association. Then the women's clubs of Janesville raised a fund to purchase its books for the city. In 1884 it became in fact a public circulating library. Contributing liberally to this project was Burr Robbins, who for a number of years made Janesville the winter headquarters for his circus. Robbins donated the receipts of a circus performance held at Janesville to the cause of the free library's development." (pp. 683-684)

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NOTABLE EVENTS AND NAMES

"Rock County's annals abound with interesting names and events besides those chronicled above. This brief account of outstanding developments in the first century of the county's history may therefore well be terminated by mention of some of the more notable of these events and names.

"In 1859 Abraham Lincoln visited the county. He delivered a political address at Beloit and was then brought to Janesville by A. A. Jackman, who later served as the mayor of Janesville. On October 1, 1859, Lincoln delivered a political address in Young America Hall in Janesville. While visiting in the city he was entertained by W. M. Tallman, one of the leading business men at that time. The Tallman home in which Mr. Lincoln passed a night at Janesville still stands as one of the landmarks of earlier times." (p. 693)

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"Rock County has been the home of notable inventors. The twine binder was devised by John F. Appleby and perfected by him at Beloit in 1871 while he was in the employ of Parker and Stone of that city. In 1905 Appleby made another important contribution to the development of agricultural machinery when he obtained a patent on a cotton-picker. . . . . .The Parker pen, developed by George S. Parker of Janesville, became one of the standard fountain pens of the world, and continues in high favor at the present time." (p. 697)

* * *

"Rock County was either the birthplace or the early home of several famous women, including Frances E. Willard, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, and Carrie Jacobs Bond. Mrs. Bond was born in Janesville in 1863. Perhaps no production by an American composer has been more widely sung or more generally loved than Mrs. Bond's 'A Perfect Day.' She is still living and in recent years has made occasional visits to Rock County, where her old home still stands in Janesville. Ella Wheeler Wilcox, poet and journalist, was born at Johnstown Center in 1855. She was educated at the University of Wisconsin. Her writing began at an early age, attracting attention between 1875 and 1880. Her best known work, the collection

of 'Poems of Passion,' was published in 1883. Ella Wheeler Wilcox's birthplace and early Rock County home at Johnstown Center is still in existence. Probably the most noted name in Rock County history is that of Frances Elizabeth Willard, world-famous leader of the temperance cause during the decades of the 'eighties and the 'nineties. She was born at Churchville, New York, in 1839. At the age of about seven, in 1846, she came to Rock County with her family. Josiah F. Willard, who for a long time played a prominent part in the affairs of Rock County, settled on a farm three miles south of Janesville. The Willard home is still standing. Frances Willard attended the little rural school just below the Willard home for two years beginning with 1853, and later received instruction at a select school in the city of Janesville. In 1858 the Willard family moved to Evanston, Illinois, where Frances Willard made her home for the rest of her life. The little 'Frances Willard School,' scene of the great woman's earliest school days, has been preserved as a memorial of her life and work by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the State of Wisconsin." (pp. 697-698)

Teacher Source

JANESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
December 1954

BROTHER DUTTON

(Courtesy of Mrs. Webb--Grade III)

We in Janesville must be sure to honor Brother Dutton as one of our most famous citizens.

His real name was Ira B. Dutton and he moved here from Vermont when he was four years old. (This was in 1843 and Janesville was eight years old at that time.)

His father took up a large farm in the southeastern part of Janesville near the Sugar Beet Road, at the end of Sharon Street.

Ira attended the Janesville schools and later Milton Academy which is now called Milton College.

He worked in the old Sutherland Book Store on Main Street. This store was next to the Lappin Store and was the oldest book store in the whole state of Wisconsin. Ira was a bookbinder in the store and also had charge of the wallpaper department.

He was also a member of the Janesville Fire Department. In those days people offered their services to help whenever there was a fire. Because he was young and very strong, they gave him a job as a hand pumper. He had the honor of being able to pump a tank full of water quicker than any other fireman.

He loved books and children. He was made librarian to serve at a Sunday School here in Janesville.

When he was a young man, President Lincoln was calling for volunteers to fight in the war between the North and the South. Ira enlisted before he was twenty, and worked up to be a captain. After the war was over he worked for several years for the United States War Department. He was greatly liked and respected.

When Ira was forty years old a great change came over him. He entered a monastery in Kentucky and became a Trappist Monk. While at the monastery Ira heard about Father Damien and his work in the leper colony at Molokai.

Molokai is one of the Hawaiian Islands out in the Pacific Ocean. Father Damien was getting very old and needed help with the leper colony. Ira Dutton, now called Brother Dutton, decided to give his life and go live among the lepers. He paid his own fare for a one-way ticket, for he decided never to return. He sailed from San Francisco and he never left the island.

A leper is a very sick person with a terrible disease called leprosy. Until the last few years, no medicine had ever been discovered that was

a cure for it. In Brother Dutton's time a person with leprosy would linger in sickness from five to twenty years and then die a horrible death. Because it was so very catching, no hospital would take in the sick person, nor was he allowed to remain at home. He had to be kept entirely apart from all people. (In olden times a leper had to carry a bell so everyone could tell where he was and could stay far away. No one must touch anything that he had touched.)

Then the idea came to banish the ones ill with this disease to an island far from the mainland. While we do not have as many cases of this disease in the United States as they do in some countries, it was thought best at that time by our government to reserve part of the island, Molokai, for this purpose. Molokai is one of the chain of islands called the Hawaiians, as we mentioned before.

The leper colony on Molokai was on a tongue of land extending out into the sea and cut off from the rest of the island by a cliff two thousand to four thousand feet high. No visitors were allowed. However, a mail boat reached here once a week and threw off a mail bag and then sailed away.

When Father Damien died of the disease, after thirteen years of faithful work among the lepers, all the work fell on Brother Dutton. He had to be the carpenter and teacher, tend the sick, bury the dead, dress the sores of the lepers, and do many other jobs.

He would not accept one cent of pay from the government for his work. Once a newspaper sent him fifteen dollars because they had heard of his work. He turned it over for something special for his lepers.

Each morning there was a flag-raising ceremony and this was the enjoyable part of the day for Brother Dutton. Tenderly he unfolded the flag and all of the sick, who were able to move, came to the flagpole and watched him as he raised the colors to their height.

Brother Dutton's hair grew white. Hard work bent his slender form. He always dressed in a simple coverall suit and he lived in a small wooden shack. Inside was only a small bed with a chair beside it. A vine over the door kept out the hot sun.

But we are thankful that some honors did come to him.

When Theodore Roosevelt was President of the United States, he ordered the United States Navy to pass into the harbor and dip its flags to Brother Dutton. It was early morning and almost time for the flag raising. A young leper came running and as he ran he called, "Brother Dutton, many ships far off."

"Ships--ships," said Brother Dutton as he hastened out to see. Yes, he could see them, but he knew they wouldn't come to shore. They would pass his island as all other ships did, he was sure of that. But they were headed his way and they were coming nearer.

"Quick," he said, "we must put up the American flag." His hands trembled in his haste to unfold it and get it raised. Some of the lepers crowded around him. "I want you all to stand at attention while the Navy passes, out of respect to our government," he said. Still he couldn't believe his eyes!

Now the fleet was maneuvering into battle formation and then the ships' colors were dipped and the crew saluted.

Dutton, with tears in his eyes, frail, but standing very straight, returned the salute.

Another honor came his way. One month before his death in 1931, a Janesville and a Beloit priest sailed to give him the message that a new school had been built in Beloit and named for him. "We bring you the best wishes from the children in the Dutton School in Beloit," they called.

"Of all things, this is dearest to my heart," he said.

Brother Dutton died on the lonely island at the age of eighty-eight after giving forty-five years of the service to the lepers. He didn't do this for pay, nor for fame, but for the love of his fellow men.

Now this man who lived, attended school, and worked in Janesville is known by many as "The Saint of Molokai".

Mrs. J. P. Cullen of our city lived near the Dutton family in Janesville and she tells us that in the Lincoln-Tallman Museum there are two framed pictures of the old Dutton home and also the diary that Brother Dutton kept while serving in the Civil War. They were loaned to the museum by Mrs. Cullen.

We will be sure to hunt up these treasures when we visit there as a group next spring.

CONCERNING BROTHER DUTTON

To the Third Grade Teachers:

Mrs. J. P. Cullen wrote Mrs. Webb a letter concerning Brother Dutton. Mrs. Webb wished to share this information with the other third grades of the city. We give you the contents from Mrs. Cullen's letter below.

October 28, 1952

Dear Mrs. Webb:

To reach Brother Dutton's old home go south on Fremont Street to Sharon. Keep to the left--down the hill across the bridge, or where there was a bridge, the first house on the left is my old home where I was born 83 years ago. Go up a small hill on the right--the last house is the Dutton home. They owned the land on both sides of the road and across the Sugarbeet Road where all those little homes are. The Dutton home has been remodeled. A picture of the original home is in my collection in two framed pictures at the Museum. They are in the carriage house. You should see them. This summer my son borrowed the Civil War diary of Brother Dutton. It is there too. When I was born a twin 83 years ago, we were very poor. My mother jokingly said she would have to give one away. The Dutton family came with shawls and blankets for me. Of course they did not get me, but they always kept me when mother was gone--cut paper dolls, etc. There was one daughter, Abby, who passed away before Brother Dutton went away. I know he was very lonesome but always cheerful. Once he asked me to go to the cemetery and tell him just where and how they were all buried.

Now as always after one passes away you wish you had done more. He certainly earned a sweet resting place.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cullen

JANESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
October 1962

STORY OF DR. HEATH

(Written by Margaret Chenoweth)

Dr. Heath and his wife were early white settlers. William and Joshua Holmes, John Inman and George Follmer had come to Janesville in November of 1835. They built the first log cabin. In December, about a month later, the St. John family had arrived at the tiny cabin. On January 18, 1836, Dr. Heath and his wife also came.

Dr. Heath and his wife were also given shelter in that first log cabin until they could build their own cabin.

In September of 1836, Dr. Heath and his wife built a cabin on the east side of Rock River, about three-quarters of a mile below the site of Monterey bridge. The Heath cabin was right across the river from the cabin built on the west side by John Inman, one of the young men who had helped to build the first log cabin across from the Monterey Rock.

Dr. Heath's cabin was sixteen feet square. In that tiny cabin he opened up a store and a tavern or inn for travelers. Travelers slept on tiers of shelves along the walls.

Dr. Heath was a busy man. He was an innkeeper, a merchant, and a doctor. He also had to farm.

One very dark night in the spring of the year, Dr. Heath was asked to visit a sick patient on the west side of the river. He tried to ford the stream with his horse. The water was too deep and swift. The horse was soon swimming with the current. The doctor lost his balance and fell in. He floated in the water shouting for help.

The doctor's wife heard his cries. She rushed to the bank but could not get him out. She followed him along the bank for about two miles while he floated in the water. They finally got help and the doctor was rescued. He was very

exhausted and chilled from the experience.

The doctor's saddlebags and medicines floated down the river. Some years later the saddlebags were found down the river.

During this time, Judge Holmes had begun to sell lots for the town which he had planned and which he called Rockport. Dr. Heath and Mr. Inman decided to start towns, also. Mr. Inman's town was to be called Wisconsin City. Dr. Heath's town was to be called East Wisconsin City. These towns were called "paper towns" because they were never built.

Dr. Heath and his wife moved away. They spent the rest of their lives in California.

HISTORICAL DATA

I. Janesville Area Before the White Man Came--contd.

The Indians made trails through the Janesville area. They crossed the Rock River at shallow spots. They often crossed near the "Big Rock" near the present Monterey Bridge. Indian Ford above Janesville was also a favorite crossing spot. They also crossed at the spot where you find the Four Mile Bridge.

Several tribes of "Woods Indians" roved through the Rock River Valley. The Winnebago, the Pottowatomi, the Sauk and Fox Indians roamed through the fertile valley.

The Indians loved their fertile valley. They were happy as they followed their trails up and down the beautiful Rock River Valley to their gardens and hunting grounds. It was their home.

HISTORICAL DATA

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HISTORICAL DATA

I. Janesville Area Before the White Man Came--contd.

II. Coming of the White Men

The first white men who came to Rock River Valley were fur traders. They were brought into the area by Indian guides. They were French.

The fur traders were travelers. They were willing to let the Indians keep their hunting grounds. They came, they traded trinkets to the Indians for their furs and moved on.

Later on, English and American settlers began to come into Illinois and Wisconsin. They came to make their homes in the new land. They saw the fertile lands of the Indians. They wanted them, but they were unwilling to share the land with the Indians. They began to force the Indians to give up their fertile lands. The Indians were driven from the homes they had loved so long. This was very tragic for the Indians.

The white men began to set up areas of land for homes for Indians. They called these areas reservations.

The Indians could do one of three things: (1) They could move to some worthless infertile land the white men would not want; (2) they could move to the reservation picked by the white men and live cooped up on it; or (3) they could resist the white men and fight to keep their lands.

HISTORICAL DATA

II. Coming of the White Men--contd.

If the Indians tried to resist, the white men went to war. They were finally driven from their homes.

Black Hawk was the war chief of Sac and Fox tribes. Black Hawk was an Indian chief who tried to resist.

III. The Black Hawk War

Black Hawk was the name of a very famous Indian. He was a Sac Indian (Sac is sometimes spelled Sauk). His tribe lived in the southern part of the Rock River Valley, near where the Rock River flows into the Mississippi. Black Hawk was the son of the chief of the chiefs of the tribe of Indians called the Sacs. He was born near Kaskia, Illinois, in 1767.

Black Hawk led a happy life as a child in his Rock River Valley home. He spent much time learning how to become a leader of his people. He became the war chief of his own tribe after his father's death. He was also the war chief of the Fox tribe. This was about 1785.

Four men from Black Hawk's tribe signed a treaty with the government agent in charge of Indian affairs. This was in 1816. They agreed to give up all their land to the white men. They also promised to move to their village west of the Mississippi into what is now Iowa. Most of Black Hawk's people moved across the Mississippi in 1829.

Black Hawk was very angry when he learned about the treaty and he decided to resist. He said, "We won't go! Here we have lived for a long time. This is our home. We will stay no matter what the white man wants."

The white men soon organized an army to drive the Sacs across the Mississippi into Iowa (in 1831). Black Hawk finally signed a treaty agreeing to move across the Mississippi.

HISTORICAL DATA

III. The Black Hawk War

Black Hawk moved. His tribe almost starved. This led to troubles with the whites. A war known as the Black Hawk War followed.

Black Hawk decided to go to war with the white men and take the [illegible] back. He sent messengers to the Janesville area to ask the Winnebagoes and the Pottowatomies to join in the war. Black Hawk gathered a thousand warriors.

The whites gathered three thousand soldiers to march against Black Hawk. Black Hawk's warriors were no match for the white soldiers.

Black Hawk fled taking the women and children with him. He followed the Rock River and came to the spot near the "Big Rock". He forded the river and made his way to the woods that we now know as Palmyra Park. Here Blackhawk's people camped and rested before moving on ahead of the soldiers.

The soldiers pursued Black Hawk and finally Black Hawk gave himself up. He was taken as a prisoner to St. Louis where he made a treaty, and the large tract of Indian land was given to the United States for the use of the white settlers.

Black Hawk's war club is now at the Fort Howard Hospital Museum in Green Bay. The markings on the club were to give him good luck. He thought they had brought bad luck instead and he gave it away.

Black Hawk's Indian name was Ma-ka-tae-mish-kia. He died in 1838.

Black Hawk is honored in Janesville. This region is now called "The Land of Black Hawk". Black Hawk has streets, buildings and business places named for him. Why is he so honored?

Black Hawk said, "I love the Rock River Valley. I love her wooded hills and her fertile countryside. I fought for her and I would have died for her."

HISTORICAL DATA

IV. Soldiers Who Fought Black Hawk Advertise the Beauties of Rock River Valley

Wisconsin had volunteer soldiers who tried to catch Black Hawk. They marched along the Rock River trying to trap Black Hawk.

General Atkinson came up from Illinois to try to help the Wisconsin soldiers. He came in July of 1832. He tried to make camp at Cold Spring but bogged down. He then decided to build a fort to protect the provisions and to care for the sick.

The fort was built at what is now known as Fort Atkinson. They built a blockhouse. Log pickets were placed around the blockhouse. There were loopholes for muskets. A boulder is now inscribed at the site of the old fort.

On April 27 of 1832, Abraham Lincoln joined the expedition to hunt for Black Hawk. On June 20 he crossed from Illinois into Wisconsin. He came to a village called Turtle Valley. It was the present site of Beloit.

We are not sure whether or not Lincoln really came on to the Janesville area or not. He was mustered out of the army on July 10. However, he said later, "I fought and bled and came away."

"Bled?" queried his listeners. "You were in a battle?"

"Yes, sir," said Lincoln, "in a good many bloody struggles--with mosquitoes in Wisconsin."

As you know, Black Hawk was soon captured. The fort was abandoned after only two months of use. The soldiers went home.

The soldiers did not forget the beautiful Rock River Valley. They carried home tales of the beautiful river, the springs of cold water, the wide prairies, the beautiful trees, the luxuriant grass and the many colored flowers and birds.

HISTORICAL DATA

IV. Soldiers Who Fought Black Hawk Advertise the Beauties of Rock River Valley--contd.

Some of the soldiers later returned to the Rock River Valley to make their homes. Others told early settlers about the beautiful valley. They came to settle.

HISTORICAL DATA

Rock County Land for Sale by the Government

The Black Hawk War was over July 21, 1832, when Black Hawk was captured. The United States made a treaty on February 13, 1833, between the Winnebagoes and the United States which proclaimed that the Winnebagoes would give up their claim to their land. However, it was found that the description of the land did not cover all the land actually claimed by the Winnebagoes in an earlier treaty.

A second treaty was made in Chicago on September 26, 1833, which included all the territory in Rock County. This treaty included Pottowatomies and other Indian tribes who also claimed Rock County land.

To be sure that there would be no doubt as to ownership of the land, a final treaty was made in Washington on June 16, 1838, in which the Winnebagoes agreed to give up all their land east of the Mississippi.

This treaty made the United States the undisputed owner of all the land in present Rock County. You will remember, however, that Wisconsin had not yet become a state. The area of Wisconsin was then a part of the Northwest Territory.

The United States immediately began a survey of the land obtained from the Indians. By 1833, the lands in present Rock County west of Rock River had been surveyed. The land south and east of the river was not completely surveyed until 1837.

Federal Land Offices for sale of the land were opened up. An office was opened up in Green Bay and Mineral Point in 1834. The Rock County land was sold in Green Bay until 1838. At that time an office was opened in Milwaukee.

The government had a routine way of selling land. A survey was made, the land advertised, and a sale at auction was held, charging $1.25 per acre. As small a purchase as 80 acres might be made.

HISTORICAL DATA

V. Rock County Land for Sale by the Government--contd.

Speculators from the east bought much of the land, intending to resell to others later. Many of them never saw the land.

Meantime there were adventurous pioneers who were anxious to find homes for themselves. They were unwilling to wait and buy the land from speculators who had bought it to make money. By 1841 the United States passed what is now known as the preemption law which gave the settlers a chance to buy the choice lands ahead of the auction sales.

Many of the early settlers had troubles because they had settled and built a house and found after surveys that their boundaries conflicted with boundaries of other people or land given to the state for school lands, county seats, etc.

Thomas Holmes, son of Judge Holmes, and the brother of one of our first settlers, bought land west of the river as a speculator. He never lived here, but came to see about his land sales in 1836 after his family had settled here.

VI. The First White Settlers - November 15, 1835

Three brothers, William, Thomas and Joshua Holmes, had left their home in Marion, Ohio, and had gone to Milwaukee in 1834. They were the sons of Judge and Mrs. William Holmes. There were four other children in the family of Judge Holmes. Judge Holmes was the judge of the County Court in Marion, Ohio.

When the three brothers got to Milwaukee, they began to hear the glowing tales the soldiers were telling about Rock River Valley.

One of the brothers, William Holmes, and his friend, John Inman, decided to go to the Rock River Valley to see the wonderful place they had been hearing about. The two boys started out from Milwaukee on Indian ponies. They travelled west through Fort

HISTORICAL DATA

VII. The First White Settlers - November 15, 1835--contd.

Allanson. They forded the river at Indian Ford. They camped on the banks of the Rock River opposite the Big Rock.

The Big Rock is located to the east of the north end of Monterey Bridge. When the boys saw the rock it rose thirty-five feet above the water and was covered with seventy-five foot cedar trees. Since that time, dams have been built which have raised the water level.

The boys were very much impressed with the spot. They decided to go back to Milwaukee and file a claim for the land and make it their home.

On November 15, 1835, William Holmes and John Inman returned to the spot near the Big Rock. This time William's brother, Joshua Holmes, and a young man, named George Follner, came with them. They were Janesville's first white settlers. They had come to build a home near the Big Rock. (Thomas Holmes remained in Milwaukee. See Section V, p. 9.)

The four young men began at once to build a log cabin. The cabin was built on the south side of the river across from the Big Rock. This cabin became the first shelter for the first white family (the St. John's family) who came a month later. Before spring it housed nineteen people at one time for a few days.

John Inman eventually built himself a cabin on the west side of Rock River a mile below the Big Rock and with others tried to start a city there called Wisconsin City. Wisconsin City was a very pretentious city as laid out. It contained 209 blocks with reserved spaces for six churches, a market place, a college, an academy, and three common schools.

John Inman had expected many settlers to come by water. He thought his site for Wisconsin City would be a logical place for

HISTORICAL DATA

VI. The First White Settlers - November 15, 1835--contd.

them to land. In reality few came by water because the railroad bridges soon put a stop to navigation by steamers.

John Inman also started a stage line from the site of Wisconsin City to Racine. Wisconsin City did not grow; however, John Inman was able to sell part of his land holdings, but eventually the holdings became good farm land. Wisconsin City became one of the many forgotten "cities on paper".

VII. The St. John's Family, the First White Family, Arrives--- December 1835

In December a family came by wagon from Vermont in search of a home. Mr. St. John, his wife, and three children, Levi, Milton and Imogene, had come to settle in Janesville. This was the first white family to settle here.

It was late in the winter to start a cabin by the time the St. John's family arrived. The four young men invited them to their little log cabin until spring came.

In January a baby boy was born to the St. John's family. He was the first white baby born in the Janesville area. The baby was named Seth E. St. John.

HISTORICAL DATA

Mr. St. John's Family, the First White Family, Arrives--December 1835--contd.

When the baby was only about six months old, Mrs. St. John died. She died in June of 1836. She was buried on the east side of Beloit Avenue road (known as the Prairie Road).

Mrs. St. John must have known she was not going to live. It is said that she asked to be buried up on the top of the hill south of the Rock River. The family had to use boards from the old wagon bed for her coffin.

Later Mr. St. John married again. Both he and his second wife are also buried on the top of the hill on Belcit Avenue. A huge boulder with the three names inscribed on it was erected in 1921 by the D.A.R. The marker says:

Samuel W. St. John
1795-1842
Sophia Griffin, his wife
1800-1836
Ann Foster, his wife
1818-1842
First White Family on Rock River in Wisconsin Territory--1835

A few years ago a gravel company threatened to destroy the historic grave. Protests from many people were heard. It was learned at that time that a grandson of Mrs. St. John was still living. He was 80 years old at the time. When the marker was erected in 1921 by the D.A.R. a letter was read from Imogene, the only one of the children still living. She was 89 years old at the time.

Mr. St. John eventually built a cabin near the Pottowatomi gardens near the Pure Milk Station on Eastern Avenue. In the fall of 1836 his brother, Levi, came with his family and moved in with his brother, Samuel, since Samuel's wife had died and he had no one to care for his home.

HISTORICAL DATA

VII. [illegible] Family, the First White Family, Arrives--December 11th--cont'd.

That fall, October 10, 1836, the first election in Janesville was held at Samuel St. John's home.

Later Mr. St. John remarried. His second wife is also buried on Beloit Avenue road. Mr. St. John was buried between his first two wives when he died in 1842 (leaving his third wife a widow). That accounts for the three names on the granite marker at Mrs. St. John's grave site.

VIII. Arrival of Dr. Heath and His Wife--January 15, 1836

On January 15, 1836, Dr. James Heath and his wife arrived at the little log cabin. They also are reported to have wintered at "the first log cabin". Dr. Heath eventually built a cabin on the east side of the river directly across from John Inman's site for his Wisconsin City. Dr. Heath's family was the second white family to settle in Janesville.

In the spring of 1837, Dr. Heath started E. Wisconsin City directly across the river from John Inman's site for a city called Wisconsin City. There was not even a plat made of this proposed city. It merely consisted of Dr. Heath's own small house. Dr. Heath was another person who speculated but his investment did not prosper.

Dr. Heath's house was only sixteen feet square, however it served as an office for the Doctor, a home, a store, and a tavern for travellers who came by boat or by stage. Heath merely built shelves around the walls of his tiny cabin and his overnight guests were stowed away like packages on a shelf, according to a report from an early settler.

Dr. Heath had brought a few supplies with him and early settlers were often able to buy things from him.

10:13

HISTORICAL DATA

Burial of Dr. Heath and His Wife--January 15, 1836--contd.

Dr. Heath moved on to California when E. Wisconsin City failed to grow. However, there are some interesting stories about him in the letters and reminiscences of the early settlers, one of which is the account of his near drowning in trying to cross the river horseback to get to a patient on the west side of the river. He was eventually rescued two miles down the stream by his wife who frantically followed him through the undergrowth along the river. His medicine bags were found years later farther down the river.

10.14

HISTORICAL DATA

III. Arrival of the Holmes Family--March 30, 1836

A short while before Mrs. St. John died, Judge William Holmes and his wife, Rachel, came with their other children to join their sons, William and Joshua. They brought with them their other children, Lydia, George, John, Lucinda and Catherine. The wife of John Holmes and a Joshua Clark came with the Holmes family from Ohio.

Judge Holmes and his family party from Ohio moved into the log house with their sons, the other young men and the St. John's family. Mrs. Holmes took care of Mrs. St. John during her last illness.

In May of 1836, two months after his arrival in Janesville, Judge Holmes went to Green Bay and made claim to five eighty-acre tracts of land west and north of the river which had not been claimed. The site of Fourth Ward Park just north of the Wilson School was centered in this tract.

Judge Holmes and his sons immediately built a rude ferryboat. Next they built a house on the land across the river which Mr. Holmes had bought.

Mr. Holmes owned a whipsaw. Two brothers, Robert and Daniel Stone, used the whipsaw to make lumber for a frame house for Mr. Holmes, before settling on their own land near Indian Ford.

Mr. Holmes' house was built at the corner of Park and Western Avenue across from Wilson School. Recently the old well pump at that house was removed from the yard.

Judge Holmes was the first one to foresee the possibilities of investment in "platting a city" and selling lots to newcomers. He therefore in January of 1836 legally recorded in the names of his sons the description of the planned city. The city was to be called Rockport. The Fourth Ward Park is the site of the town square laid out by Mr. Holmes. Thomas, the son from Milwaukee, came during that summer and located near Eastern Avenue and tried

HISTORICAL DATA

IX. Arrival of the Holmes Family--March 30, 1836--contd.

to promote sales of lots. Many lots were sold at handsome prices to Easterners, but the mortgages which he accepted were almost all foreclosed afterward.

Rockport as a city did not grow, because a new city started by Mr. Janes was destined by circumstances to become the present city of Janesville. (See Section X.)

Wisconsin City and E. Wisconsin mentioned in Sections VI and VIII were started after Rockport was begun by Mr. Holmes.

The Holmes remained in their new home. Descendants of the family are to be found here at the present time.

Lucinda Holmes grew up and married Volney Atwood in 1847. She was the maternal grandmother of Miss Abbie Atwood, late principal of the Wilson School. Mr. Starr Atwood, her brother, still resides in Janesville.

Miss Abbie Atwood has contributed much valuable information and family history to be used as source materials. Mr. Don Holloway is the great grandson of Mrs. Volney Atwood. Mrs. Holloway has contributed the names and dates of birth of the Judge Holmes family.

The andirons from the first log cabin were in the possession of Miss Abbie Atwood. After her death, her family donated them to the Lincoln-Tallman Museum.

Mrs. Starr Atwood and others helped to preserve the grave site of Mrs. St. John.

HISTORICAL DATA

X. Mr. Janes, Founder of Janesville, Arrives in 1836

On May 19, 1836, Mr. Henry Janes and his family arrived from Racine County. Mr. Janes had been in Rock County three times before.

He had come on foot once as far as Rock Prairie and ran into bad weather. He had returned with his companion to Racine. Next time he came in December, 1835, with some other men on horseback. He reached the log cabin of the Holmes boys and Mr. St. John near Big Rock. Snow was several inches deep and the horses could not find food. Therefore he explored the land on foot around Fort Atkinson and Lake Koshkonong. He picked land and staked a claim at the outlet of the river. He returned home and made the trip to Green Bay to buy the land. He found the land he had staked had all been sold to someone else.

Mr. Janes made a third trip to Janesville in February of 1836 in the company of his cousin, John Janes. Mr. Janes arrived at the present corner of Main and Milwaukee Streets on February 15. Mr. Janes carved his name on a tree where the Myers hotel now stands and staked off a claim on the east side of the river. Of course the land was not yet surveyed and open for sale.

Mr. Janes had become snow-blind from the trip and could not see to travel. He remained over for ten days at the log cabin near the Big Rock. His cousin, John Janes, worked for Mr. St. John while Mr. Janes rested his eyes.

Before returning home, Mr. Janes hired Mr. St. John to build him a cabin on the river where the Hayes building now stands. A plaque on the building now marks the spot.

On May 19, 1836, Mr. Janes arrived about four o'clock in the afternoon with his family. He had had a very difficult five-day journey from Racine. They had come through rain, hail and wind.

HISTORICAL DATA

I. Mr. Janes, Founder of Janesville, Arrives in 1836--contd.

The oxen had had difficulty in fording a stream, a horse mired down in a marsh, and the load had to be taken across by hand. They ran out of water and a hog gave out with fatigue and thirst. The cattle barely escaped drowning when they plunged into holes of water at Spring Brook upon their arrival.

The family stopped at the house of Mr. St. John. He gave the family dinner and fed the teams. Mr. St. John then helped them to find a place to cross Spring Brook. He led them to the cabin he had built for Mr. Janes.

The cabin was described by the Mr. Smith whom Mr. Janes hired to help him move to his new home on Rock River. The cabin was made of logs, not very straight and not chinked. It had no door and did not keep out the heavy rain which fell during a severe thunder storm which came in a few hours. They held a blanket at the door and put the wagon boards down to keep out the rain.

The Janes family was the fourth family to arrive in Janesville. Mr. Janes was soon using his small eighteen foot square house as a tavern. Travellers slept on the floor. He had soon opened up a track and all the travel followed over the track to Rock River.

When travellers reached Rock River, it was necessary to swim the horses and wagons alongside a canoe. The travellers urged Mr. Janes to start a ferry. Mr. Janes built the ferry where Milwaukee Street bridge now stands. He then went to Belmont, where the first sessions of the Wisconsin territorial legislature were held and got a charter to run the ferry.

Mr. Janes then decided to lay out a town. Mr. Janes surveyed and platted the land in the spring of 1837. Mr. Janes' town and ferry were now in real competition with the towns and ferries of Mr. Holmes and Mr. Inman. Mr. Holmes had, however, loaned Mr. Janes his whipsaw to make his ferry.

HISTORICAL DATA

X. Mr. Janes, Founder of Janesville, Arrives in 1836--contd.

Mr. Janes' town was located directly on the routes between the cities of Mineral Point and Galena and the cities of Racine and Milwaukee. Rockport and Wisconsin City soon faded out and Mr. Janes' city grew rapidly.

Mr. Janes rented his tavern in 1837 to Charles Stevens and built himself a shanty on the spot where the Parker Pen building now is.

XI. Janesville Gets Its Name--April 1837

Mr. Janes first named his town Black Hawk. He then sent a petition to the Post Office Department for a post office by that name. The Postmaster General refused to name Mr. Janes' town Black Hawk because there was already a post office called Black Hawk in what is now Iowa but then a part of the Wisconsin territory. The post office was instead named Janesville for Mr. Janes and Mr. Janes became postmaster in April 1837.

Mr. Janes stuck a cigar box on the end of his bar which served to hold the mail. The first mail arrived in Janesville from Mineral Point on April 22, 1837. A man called Joseph Payne carried the first mail into Janesville.

XII. Janesville Becomes a County Seat in 1839

Mr. Janes had attended the legislature and had gotten roads, mail routes and other legislation. His tavern had become quite popular. He had built a two-story house.

The County of Rock was organized in 1839. The men responsible for the proceedings suggested that Janesville be the name of the new county seat. Mr. Janes had worked hard to have the county seat on

HISTORICAL DATA

XII. Janesville Becomes a County Seat in 1839--contd.

the site of his land and had selected a block to put it on at the top of the hill.

Strangely enough when Janesville became the county seat Mr. Janes found that the county now had a preemption on the land Mr. Janes thought he owned. The law gave the county commissioners the right of preemption to any quarter-section of land on which a county seat was located.

Mr. Janes suddenly found himself and the people to whom he had sold tenants of the county commissioners who had the right to enter the land for the county when the land was eventually placed on the market. You will recall that Mr. Janes had been a "squatter" who staked his claim before the survey and auction of the land.

To avoid friction, some of the land was returned to the tenants. The part they occupied was given back.

Mr. Janes, now having in his own words "become strapped" in trying to build up and improve the place, moved westward finally arriving in California in 1849 ahead of trains and telegraph services. He wrote several letters to the "Gazette" which are to be found in Butterfield's "History of Wisconsin".

A town named Janesville is to be found in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. These towns have been left to perpetuate the name of Mr. Janes, the founder of Janesville.

XIII. Period of Rapid Growth

Ten years after the white settlers came there were 817 people in Janesville. Five years later there were over 3000 people in Janesville.

10:20

THE HOLMES FAMILY SETTLE IN JANESVILLE

Written by

Abbie Atwood, May 1924

Mrs. Volney Atwood, whose maiden name was Catherine Ann Holmes, was born in Newark, Ohio, on August 9, 1819. She was educated at Marion, Ohio, where her father was judge of the county court.

With her father and mother -- Judge and Mrs. William Holmes, her sister, Lucinda, and brothers, John and George, she started at the age of sixteen for Wisconsin early in the year 1836.

Three brothers -- William, Thomas and Joshua had gone to Milwaukee the summer before. There they heard such glowing accounts of the Rock River Valley and prairies from those who had been over the ground during the Blackhawk War, that they decided to see this wonderful place. They went on horseback along the Indian trails to the banks of the Rock River opposite the Big Rock at Janesville. Here they camped with no one for miles around, and nothing to break the night's stillness but the howling of wolves.

The Holmes boys were so deeply impressed with this spot that they decided to persuade their family to come and take up a claim here. They built a log cabin just across the river from the "Big Rock" in which William stayed while Thomas and Joshua went back to Ohio to interest their folks. It was agreed that the family would start for Wisconsin early in the spring (previous to their starting the boys took six loads of household goods, furniture, provisions, and a rowboat to Wisconsin).

The Holmes boys shared their log cabin that winter with the St. John family who came in November.

During the winter, Judge Holmes and family came from Ohio to La Porte, Indiana. The first of March, the party of nine passed through Chicago. They had three two-horse wagons, one yoke of oxen, two saddle horses, six cows, some calves, pigs and fowls.

Friends tried to persuade them to remain in Chicago, but the Holmes brothers felt that the Rock River Valley was a much more inviting place than Chicago which was swampy and low with mud in the streets, knee deep. They stopped overnight three times between Chicago and their destination at the only houses on their route.

They travelled over prairies and had to ford all the streams as there were no bridges. They stopped at the present site of Beloit to get warm in the cabin at Teabo, the Frenchman, and his three squaw wives. (He was the only white person there in the midst of a camp of Winnebago Indians.)

The last day of the journey was cold and raw. The snow was falling so heavily that the party lost the trail after they left Beloit. While the men were searching for the trail, they kept blowing their horns in order to keep in touch with one another.

William Holmes, who was waiting and watching daily for them, heard these horns. He fastened a lantern to a long pole, climed up on the roof of his cabin, and all evening held it aloft and waved it whenever he heard the horns. At nine o'clock, March the ninth, 1836, the party reached the cabin traveling through snow eighteen inches deep.

Nineteen people stayed in this log cabin of one room (18 or 20 feet) for five days. For the next six months, the Holmes family lived in a cabin built by William on the Bluff where the railroad crosses Rock River at Monterey.

That summer Judge Holmes built the first frame house, the logs being sawed with a whipsaw, on the opposite side of the river east of the Big Rock at what is now the corner of South High and Wilson Avenue. His claim ran west to the rapids beyond the Big Rock. He named this section Rockport.

The Holmes boys went to Chicago at least once a month; in this way they brought the windows, doors and material needed for the new frame house when they were bringing supplies. Flour was $21.00 a barrel and all other groceries accordingly.

Mrs. Atwood loved to talk to her grandchildren and friends of this pioneer life. She never enlarged upon the hardships and vicissitudes which we know a frontier life subjected one to, but always was ready to tell interesting tales of those days. She would talk of her wonderful flower garden -- the wide expanse of prairie covered with beautiful flowers of many kinds. To her the river was fascinating. She loved to watch the teams and wagons ford the river above the Big Rock. Later her father established a ferry at this point. One can imagine her great excitement when in June 1836 a steamboat from the Mississippi came up the River. All the settlers were given a ride. In 1839 another steamboat went up the river as far as Jefferson.

Mrs. Holmes taught her daughters to be kind and polite to the Indians at all times. A large fog horn hung over the door so that a signal of distress could at any time be given to the men if hostile Indians should approach. But it never had to be used in their home. Many times those in the house have looked up to find an Indian's face staring at them through the window. The door was never kept locked in the daytime for this angered the Indians. They did not want to be shut out.

Mrs. Atwood's grandchildren would beg her again and again to tell the story of the Indian who helped himself. They could easily imagine her amazement when one day shortly after her mother had baked several delicious pumpkin and berry pies, a big, ugly Indian Chief walked into their house -- went straight to the pantry and helped himself to the fresh pies. She watched him devour first one pie, then another and another until all were gone. He came from the pantry, gave a satisfied grunt and left the house. She looked at her mother in horror, but Mrs. Holmes smiled and said it was much better to keep his friendship than to save the pies. This old chief was very fond of both Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. St. John. He called them "the good squaws".

Mrs. Atwood's jolly laugh always pleased her grandchildren when she told them that for quite a while she was the belle of the Rock River Valley for miles around. And why? Because she was the only young lady here. Her sister had married and gone to Michigan to live.

Volney Atwood came here in 1837. His older brothers -- bankers in St. Albans, Vermont -- sent him to make a survey of this western country in the interest of their bank. He went first to Missouri, then came up to Chicago and Milwaukee. He came with a surveying party to the Rock River Valley. Here he decided to remain. There were five houses here when he came.

Mr. Janes established a ferry across the river where the Milwaukee Street bridge is now built. A Post Office was established at this point and the town named Janesville. From then on the town grew rapidly, the first public school was opened in 1840.

In 1844 the Episcopal Church was formed with six communicants, one of which was Catherine Ann Holmes. In 1843 the population was 333.

In 1848 Catherine Ann Holmes was married to Volney Atwood. Their homestead is the red brick house at the corner of Franklin and Dodge Streets, across from the post office.

The "Big Rock" whose first owner was Judge William Holmes, after having been sold several times, is now owned by his great-grandchildren -- the Atwood sisters and brothers.

This article was written for the local chapter of the D. A. R. They are compiling a book of reminiscences of the early settlers.

JANESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INDIANS AND THE EARLY SETTLERS IN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

(Through Courtesy of Mrs. Webb's Third Grade of 1953-54)

The grandparents of Mrs. H. Spencer, on Ruger Avenue, and the great grandparents of Don Spencer, a pupil in the Roosevelt School, homesteaded here in Southern Wisconsin in the early days. Don's grandmother, Mrs. E. P. Fitze, now 85 years old, has written a letter to Don about the Indians in the early days. She says:

> "I was pleased to hear how interested you are in keeping the children awake to the early history of that section. It is good to trace the development of the Winnebagos for they were a peaceful tribe, not like the Sioux and some others. However they were 'Indians' and Mother was sufficiently afraid of them, when Father was not around, to give them most anything they asked for. They asked by pointing and grunting. But one day they made known their requests until they came to some bars of white soap she had just made and put up to dry, and then she thought they didn't know what they were asking for and she screwed up her courage and said 'No.' One day after that when she had company for dinner they came and wanted most everything in sight. They saw the meat on the platter. They had refused some things but the big Indian pointed to the meat and wanted that. Mother took a piece of it with her fork and offered it to him and he just took it and dropped it in her lap. (He wanted the platter full of meat.) She had on her best dress and it made her angry. She jumped up and grabbed the broom and showed him the door (Father was there) and he went. He told Father afterward that she was 'heap bad squaw'. But by the time I was old enough to remember they were just constant folks passing through with their bright red Indian blankets, and padding along in their moccasins. Our porch was built so high they used to go in there to sit and rest."

A GUIDE FOR THE

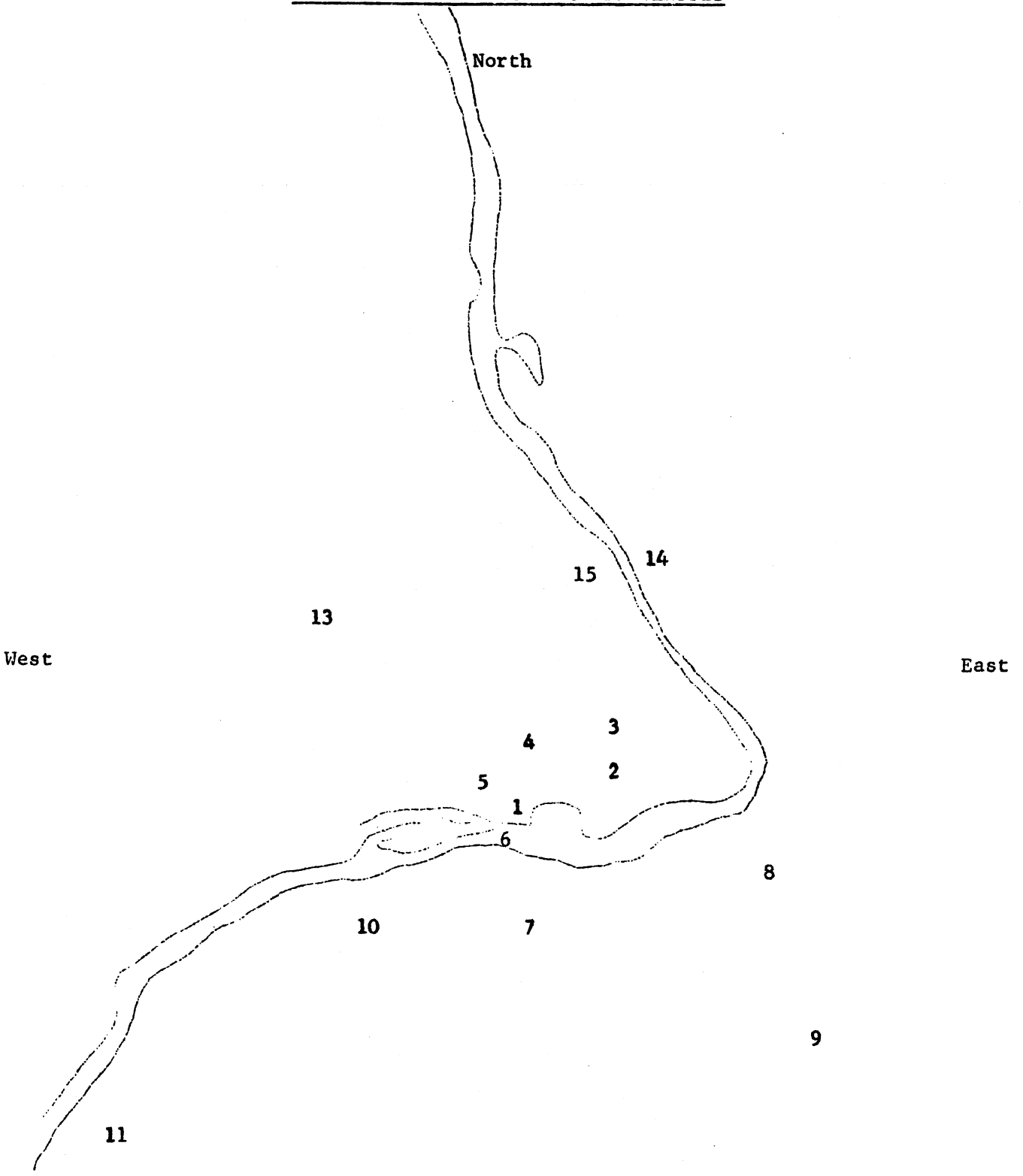
THIRD GRADE LANDMARK

STUDY AND TOUR

Third Grade Committee
1962-1963

TOUR MAP SHOWING ROCK RIVER AND THE LANDMARK SITES

TO BE VISITED BY THIRD GRADE CLASSES



PLAN FOR TOUR FOR THIRD GRADE

LANDMARKS TO BE VISITED	ROUTES TO FOLLOW
1. Marker for the Site of the First Log Cabin in Janesville - Monterey Park	1. Located on the top of the Big Rock in Monterey Park. Stop facing east on Riverside Street north of the Big Rock for safety.
2. First Frame House - 621 Park Avenue	2. Follow Riverside to Wilson School. Turn right on Rockport Road. Go down Rockport Road to Park Avenue. Turn left. House is on the corner of Park Avenue and Rockport Road.
3. Site for Town (Rockport) - planned by Mr. Holmes--Fourth Ward Park	3. Fourth Ward Park. Go down Park Avenue to Fourth Ward Park. Stop at corner. Turn left on East Racine Street.
4. Early Stone House - 820 Wilson Avenue	4. Follow East Racine Street to Lincoln Street. Go south one block to Wilson Avenue. Turn right. Go to 820 Wilson Avenue.
5. Location of Mr. Ira Miltimore's home - 814 Center Avenue	5. Go to Center Avenue. Turn left. Stop at north end of Monterey Bridge. House is on right - 814 Center Avenue.
6. Location of Ferry Crossing and Dam - at Monterey Bridge	6. Cross Monterey Bridge. View the present dam.
7. Mr. Miltimore's Rock Quarry - back of Vet's Club	7. Turn left on West Delavan Drive. Turn right on South Academy Street. Miltimore quarry is west of the Highway Department buildings. Go to Gateway Transportation building. Circle right to the limestone quarry.
8. Early Trails Used by the St. John Family - along Delavan Drive. Site of First Fairgrounds. Site of Winter Quarters for Burr Robbins Circus.	8. Go back to West Delavan Drive. Turn east. Stop at 116 West Delavan Drive in front of old house east of the Cronin Restaurant.

LANDMARKS TO BE VISITED	ROUTES TO FOLLOW
9. Graves of the First White Family - on Prairie Road	9. Go to the 1200 block on Beloit Avenue (Prairie Road). Stop in front of 1244 Beloit Avenue to view the boulder which marks the grave sites. Graves on the hill on east side of the road on the Hughes farm. Drive to top of hill. Use circle drive on Hughes farm to turn around.
10. School for the Visually Handicapped - West State Street	10. Return to Center Avenue. Turn left. Go to West State Street to School for the Visually Handicapped. Stop in front of school to view the bell.
11. Frances Willard's Home - on the River Road	11. Go to South River Road. Continue south to the marker in front of the Munn farm.
12. Frances Willard School - on the River Road	12. Continue on to the Frances Willard School.
13. Site of the Birthplace of Carrie Jacobs Bond - corner of Court Street and Oakhill Avenue	13. Return to Center Avenue. Continue to West Court Street and Oakhill Avenue.
14. Site of the Janes' Cabin, Tavern and Post Office - Hayes Block	14. Return to Center Avenue. Continue on Centerway to South Main Street. Turn right on East Milwaukee.
15. Corn Exchange	15. Continue west to Corn Exchange.

LANDMARKS

I. MARKER FOR SITE OF THE FIRST LOG CABIN IN JANESVILLE

The marker for the site of the first log cabin is placed on the Big Rock on the west bank of Rock River, near the north end of Monterey Bridge on Center Avenue.

The Big Rock, for which Rock County was named, was nature's landmark for Indians and Whites. The first log cabin was built on the opposite side of the Rock River. The first log cabin was built in November 1835 by William and Joshua Holmes, John Inman and George Follmer.

Three brothers, William, Thomas and Joshua Holmes, had left their home in Marion, Ohio, and had gone to Milwaukee in 1834. They were the sons of Judge and Mrs. William Holmes. There were four other children in the family of Judge Holmes.

When the three brothers got to Milwaukee, they began to hear the glowing tales the soldiers were telling about Rock River Valley. One of the brothers, William Holmes, and his friend, John Inman, decided to go to the Rock River Valley to see the wonderful place they had been hearing about. The two boys started out from Milwaukee on Indian ponies. The ponies wandered away at night. While searching for the ponies, they found and selected the site for the first log cabin.

When the boys first saw the Big Rock on which the marker is placed, it rose 35 feet above the water and was covered with seventy-five foot cedar trees. Since that time, dams have been built which have raised the water level. The boys were very much impressed with this spot. They decided to go back to Milwaukee and file a claim for the land and make it their home.

On November 15, 1835, William Holmes and John Inman returned to the spot near the Big Rock upon which they had filed a claim. This time William's brother, Joshua Holmes, and a young man named George Follmer came with them.

The four young men began at once to build a log cabin. They became Janesville's first white settlers.

The cabin was built on the east side of Rock River opposite the Big Rock. This cabin became the first shelter for the first white family who came a month later.

In December, the St. John family came by wagon from Vermont in search of a home. Mr. Samuel St. John, his wife, and three children, Levi, Milton and Imogene, came and settled. This was the first white family to settle in Janesville.

It was too late in the winter to start a cabin by the time the St. John family arrived. The four young men invited them to their little log cabin until spring came.

In January, a baby boy was born to the St. John family. He was the first white baby born in the Janesville area. The baby was named Seth B. St. John.

On January 18, 1836, Dr. James Heath and his wife arrived at the little log cabin. They are reported to have wintered at the first log cabin, also. Later they built their own log cabin down the Rock River beyond the present School for the Visually Handicapped. (Read the story about Dr. Heath.)

On March 30, 1836, Judge William Holmes and his wife, Rachel, came with their other children to join their sons, William and Joshua. They brought with them their other children, Lydia, George, John, Lucinda and Catherine. The wife of John Holmes and a Joshua Clark also came with the Holmes family from Ohio. This made a total of 19 people who temporarily found shelter in the first log cabin for five days.

The cabin was very small--18 by 20 feet. The andirons from the first log cabin were in the possession of Miss Abbie Atwood, a descendant of the Holmes family. After her death, her family donated them to the Lincoln-Tallman Museum.

Be sure to read: References #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

II. FIRST FRAME HOUSE BUILT IN JANESVILLE

In May of 1836, two months after his arrival in Janesville, Judge Holmes went to Green Bay and made claim to five tracts of land west and north of the river. Each tract of land was 80 acres.

Judge Holmes and his sons immediately built a rude ferryboat. Next they built a log house on the land across the river, which Mr. Holmes had bought.

Mr. Holmes owned a whipsaw. Two brothers, Robert and Daniel Stone, who also came as early settlers, used the whipsaw to make lumber for a frame house for Mr. Holmes before settling on their own land near Indian Ford.

Mr. Holmes' house was built at the corner of Park and Rockport, across from Wilson School. Recently the old well pump at that house was removed from the yard. The house is still in use as a home.

Read: References #1, 4

III. SITE FOR TOWN (ROCKPORT) PLANNED BY MR. HOLMES

Judge Holmes was the first settler to see the possibility of making money by planning a town and selling lots to other new settlers. The Fourth Ward Park is the site of the town square laid out by Mr. Holmes. The town was to be called Rockport.

Thomas, the son from Milwaukee, came during that summer and located near Delavan Drive and tried to promote sales of lots. Many lots were sold at handsome prices to Easterners who never paid for them.

Rockport as a city did not grow because a new city started by Mr. Janes was destined by circumstances to become the present city of Janesville.

Read: Reference #1

IV. EARLY STONE HOUSE

Mr. Ira Miltimore settled on Rock River and started a stone quarry from

which he cut stones to build homes. Ten or twelve homes were built, several are still standing. The house at 820 Wilson Avenue was built from this stone.

Read: Reference #9

V. LOCATION OF MR. IRA MILTIMORE'S HOME

Mr. Ira Miltimore built his own home which later became the early School for the Blind. The home has been remodeled and it is now hard to see the stone part in the back.

Read: Reference #9

VI. LOCATION OF FERRY CROSSING AND DAM AT MONTEREY BRIDGE

Mr. Miltimore started the first bridge in 1849. It took him a year to build it. Mr. Miltimore also built a dam for water power about the same time.

Read: Reference #9

VII. ROCK QUARRY

Mr. Miltimore had one of the best quarries in the state at that time. It was blue limestone, which is hard and durable. He employed 30 men.

Read: Reference #9

VIII. EARLY TRAILS USED BY THE ST. JOHN FAMILY

The St. John family used a wagon trail to the spot near Spring Brook where they built their cabin on the flat land near the bend of the Rock River. On this flat land along the river the Potawatomi Indians had had their gardens. In 1851 the First State Fair was held on October 1 and 2. This site became the winter quarters for the Burr Robbins Circus in 1874. Mr. Robbins lived at the home at 116 West Delavan Drive. Mr. Robbins selected this site because he could get good clean water for his animals and because Janesville had good railroad connections by that time.

Read: References #1, 2, 3, 5

IX. GRAVES OF THE FIRST WHITE FAMILY

When the St. John baby was only about six months old, Mrs. St. John died. She died in June of 1836. She was buried on the east side of Beloit Avenue (known as the Prairie Road).

Mrs. St. John must have known she was not going to live. It is said that she asked to be buried up on the top of the hill south of the Rock River. The family had to use boards from the old wagon bed for her coffin.

In the fall of 1836, Mr. Samuel St. John's brother, Levi, came with his family. Levi St. John moved in with his brother, Samuel, since Samuel's wife had died and Samuel had no one to care for his home.

Later Mr. St. John married again. Samuel St. John and his second wife are also buried on top of the hill on Beloit Avenue. A huge boulder with the three names inscribed on it was erected in 1921 by the D.A.R. The marker says:

Samuel W. St. John
1795-1842
Sophia Griffin, his wife
1800-1836
Ann Foster, his wife
1818-1842
First White Family on Rock River in Wisconsin Territory--1835

A few years ago a gravel company threatened to destroy the historic grave. Protests from many people were heard. It was learned at that time that a grandson of Mrs. St. John was still living. He was 80 years old at the time. When the marker was erected in 1921 by the D.A.R., a letter was read from Imogene, the only one of the children still living. She was 89 years old at the time.

X. SCHOOL FOR THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

Mr. Miltimore donated ten acres of land in 1852 for the site of the present School for the Visually Handicapped. A small building was erected.

His neighbor, Mr. Josiah Willard, was in the state legislature and

helped him to make it a state school.

The bell in front of the present school was saved when the old building burned. It is now a relic.

Read: Reference #9

XI. FRANCES WILLARD'S HOME

The Willard family arrived in 1846 from Oberlin, Ohio, where her parents had attended college. Mr. Willard bought a large piece of land along Rock River. Frances was seven years old on September 28 of the year she came to Janesville. They celebrated her birthday at her new home. Frances named the new home Forest Home. She lived in Forest Home for twelve years.

Frances loved the outdoors and found it hard to have to do the tasks expected of pioneer girls.

Read: Reference #10

XII. FRANCES WILLARD SCHOOL

In 1853, a small school was built on the lower end of the Willard farm. Up to this time the children had been taught at home. The Inman children had also been allowed to come to the Willard home for lessons. This small school is now called the Frances Willard School, in honor of Frances who became famous.

Read: Reference #10

XIII. SITE OF THE BIRTHPLACE OF CARRIE JACOBS BOND

Carrie Jacobs Bond was born on August 11, 1862, at her Grandfather Davis' farm home, located at what is now West Court and North Oakhill Avenue.

The large brick house was surrounded by trees, flowers, gardens, orchards and arbors. The marker is placed among the three oak trees left standing.

The house was torn down in 1944.

After Carrie Jacobs Bond's husband died, she lived with her little boy in a rented house on the corner of East Milwaukee and Wisconsin Street. There is a marker at that corner because it marks the site of the house where she wrote "I Love You Truly".

Read: References #2, 11, 12

XIV. SITE OF THE JANES' CABIN, TAVERN AND POST OFFICE

Mr. Janes' family was the fourth family to settle in Janesville. Mr. Janes had made three previous trips to this area. On his third trip, Mr. Janes had carved his name and the date, February 15, 1836, on a tree which stood where the Rock County Bank now stands.

Mr. Janes had hired Mr. St. John to build an eighteen-foot square log cabin on the east bank of the river where the Hayes Building now stands. Mr. Janes build a ferry where the Milwaukee Street bridge now stands. Mr. Janes' log cabin became an inn for the travelers who crossed the Rock River on his ferry.

Mr. Janes put out a cigar box for mail. Mr. Janes became the first postmaster. Janesville was named for Mr. Janes.

Read: References #1, 2, 3, 13

XV. CORN EXCHANGE

This triangular piece in the heart of our city was a busy spot in the early days. Around the outside were wooden hitching posts with iron rings in the top or with a hole bored into the posts. Here the farmers tied their horses and wagons waiting for buyers to come to buy their produce. They sold cordwood, hay, grain, freshly sheared wool, potatoes, etc.

There was a pump in the center with the familiar community tin cup hanging to it. Outside were large scales for weighing. Across the street were draymen, all shouting to tell you they would dray your purchase to your home for ten or fifteen cents. If they had to unload a cord of wood it

would be twenty-five cents. Here in the 1840's and 1850's came many "drovers" who brought cattle and horses from Illinois and Ohio to this spot where they found a ready market among the early settlers.

REFERENCES TO READ

Teacher Use (only)

1. The Outline of Factual Data and Teaching Suggestions for Third Grade Teachers on "How Has Janesville Changed" - compiled by Margaret Chenoweth
2. Early Janesville by L. R. Creutz
3. "Extract from the Journal of I. T. Smith Esq." from the History of Rock County Etc. - Guernsey and Willard, Ed., 1856, pp. 35 ff.

Pupil and Teacher Use

4. The Holmes Family Settle in Janesville by Abbie Atwood (a descendant of the Holmes family)
5. Early Days in Janesville by Olive Feirn
6. Reprint from Badger History, "Marking the Site of Janesville's First Log Cabin: A Memorial Tribute to a Teacher" by Jane Matheson
7. Story of Dr. Heath - compiled by Margaret Chenoweth
8. Burr Robbins Circus - compiled by Clarice Bergerson
9. Mr. Ira Miltimore - compiled by Myrtle Rich
10. Frances Willard--A Pioneer Girl - compiled by Cynthia Keene
11. Carrie Jacobs Bond - compiled by Margaret Chenoweth
12. How Blind Tom Helps to Make Carrie Jacobs Bond Famous - compiled by Lola Webb
13. How Janesville Got Its Name--Story of Mr. Janes - compiled by Margaret Chenoweth

JANESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
December 9, 1953

MRS. FRANCES M. FORD

AUTHOR OF "THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD"

Mrs. Frances M. Ford is a native of Rock County. She is a cousin of Mrs. Frank Spoon of Janesville. Many of us were very much interested when some articles came out recently concerning Mrs. Ford. It appears that she was the one that wrote THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD. She is now 99 years old; however, she has been recognized as the author of the story. The following quotations give you some facts concerning Mrs. Ford. The material is taken from TIME magazine for October 5, 1953. I quote directly:

COUSIN FRANKIE GETS HER DUE

"Puff, puff, chug, chug, went the little blue engine. 'I think I can--I think I can--I think I can...'" Over the mountain at last, with its load of Christmas toys for the children on the other side, the engine puffed happily: "'I thought I could--I thought I could--I thought I could.'"

For some 40 years, small boys and girls all over the U. S. have enjoyed the triumph of THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD. The tale has appeared in many versions, sold millions of copies--apparently one of those anonymously written classics that are part of a nation's folklore.

First Royalties. Last week the author of THE LITTLE ENGINE was no longer anonymous. Grosset & Dunlap signed a contract with Mrs. Frances M. Ford of Philadelphia, recognizing her as the author of the tale. The recognition came late: Author Ford is looking forward to celebrating her 100th birthday in March. Grosset & Dunlap will publish a new edition of THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD with Mrs. Ford's name on the cover, and she will receive the first royalties she ever got for her famed story.

Behind last week's contract lay a long struggle on the part of Mrs. Ford's friends to get her recognized as author of a story she dashed off sometime between 1910 and 1914, then all but forgot. In 1949 Mrs. Ford's cousin, Mrs. Frank S. Chmiel of Tucson, Ariz., began pestering publishers with the claim that "Cousin Frankie" was THE LITTLE ENGINE'S creator. A firm that had always credited the story to an ex-teacher named Mabel Bragg looked back in its records to find that Miss Bragg hadnever claimed to be doing anything more than retelling another author's story. But publishers were reluctant to take sides; they continued to turn out authorless LITTLE ENGINES. Months of literary detective work convinced Grosset & Dunlap that Mrs. Ford's claim was valid.

(over)

Uncle Nat. Author Ford, though appreciative of her cousin's efforts, has always been modest about THE LITTLE ENGINE. She wrote the story while working for a publisher of children's books in Philadelphia, writing advice to parents under the name "Uncle Nat." As she recalls, she wrote the tale in a letter "in answer to some questions about a child who wouldn't try." Years later a friend told her about hearing a wonderful children's story in church. "I just looked at him in amazement," says Cousin Frankie. "It was my LITTLE ENGINE."

As the years passed, the little engine that refused to give up captured the imagination of two generations. A Boston mother once wrote a publisher to say that her little boy would not eat his breakfast until he learned to say "I think I can"; a university student credited the little engine's example with getting him through exams; a torpedoed sailor in the South Pacific said he owed his life to the story: about to give up his fight against the sea, the sailor kept saying "I think I can."

Frances Ford lives a quiet life in her granddaughter's home, rises at 7:30 every morning, sits up watching television until all hours of the night. Says she: "I'm fine, except for too many birthdays...I'm just happy that so many children enjoyed my LITTLE ENGINE."

JANESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
December 1954

STORY OF "THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD"

(Through courtesy of Mrs. Webb--Grade Three)

I am sure that the story of "The Little Engine That Could" has been a favorite with you children for years. But did you know that the author of this story, Frances Wiggins Ford, once lived in Janesville?

Frances Wiggins came to the Janesville area when she was six months old. She came with her parents in a covered wagon. This was in 1854. It had been nineteen years since Mr. Holmes had settled here and Janesville was quite a growing little city when they arrived from New York State.

She lived on a farm out past the Janesville Country Club until she was old enough to go to High School. Then she came to Janesville to live with a sister to be near school. During her high school years, she played the organ on Sunday mornings at the Methodist Church.

She married Mr. Ford and went to live in a little house across from the First Trinity Church which is now used by the Helgeson Implement Company. Her husband became ill, so she went to work as a newspaper reporter. She worked in Omaha and Chicago.

Some years later, while living and working in Chicago, she wrote "The Little Engine That Could" for a child who wouldn't try. It was used by schoolteachers and storytellers and found its way into many books for children. But still the public did not know who wrote it!

In 1953 the real author was located. Now she is getting the money she should have had for the use of her story.

Mrs. Ford was one hundred years old last March. She lives with her daughter in Philadelphia. She enjoys television and says she is fine except for too many birthdays. She is glad that boys and girls like her story and still read it.

Mrs. Frances Ford died June 15, 1956 at the age of 102.

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Teacher Source

JANESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
December 1954

DR. WILLIAM PITTS

(Courtesy of Mrs. Webb--Grade III)

There is one hymn that almost everyone knows. It is called either "The Little Brown Church in the Vale" or "The Church in the Wildwood".

Many people know that in Iowa there is a little church in the wildwood near the town of Nashua. So many people from nearby states go to this little brown church to be married that it has become famous. But many people do not know that the song, that made this little church famous, was written in Rock County, Wisconsin.

William Pitts came to a little village, named Union, a year before Wisconsin became a state. This was in 1847. If you travel to Madison by way of Evansville you will pass through Union. You will pass a schoolhouse, a church, and a general store, and in the summertime right at the bend of the road you will see a large farmer's vegetable market. It was near here that William Pitt's little home used to stand. There is no landmark there as yet, but some of the people in Union are interested in getting one placed there. Let's hope it will be done. Wouldn't it be fine if this marker could be in the shape of a little brown church?

William Pitts lived here in Rock County for fifteen years. It was during these years that he wrote both the words and music to this lovely old song. He put the song down under some things in his writing desk. Soon after that he went away to medical school in Chicago. He forgot all about the song.

A few years later he finished his schooling in Chicago and went to Iowa to become a doctor. There he discovered that a church was being built in a spot exactly like the one he had imagined in his song. This was in 1859. The only thing different was that this church was painted white.

He hunted up his song and taught it to a male quartette and had it sung at church service. Everyone loved it at once. Before the evening was over, all the congregation were joining in on the chorus. They decided that very night that their church must be painted brown, so the little brown church in the vale became real.

The song spread throughout the nation. It has appeared in many hymn books. It is included in the Army and Navy hymn books issued for troops. It is in many church hymnals abroad.

If you travel through Bradford County in Iowa, stop in at the Little Brown Church in the Vale near Nashua. There on the wall, under glass, you will see the original song which is now wrinkled and yellowed with age. It mentions on it that it was written in Rock County, Wisconsin. Hanging beside it is a large photograph of its composer, Dr. William Pitts.

If you stay there long enough, very likely you will see a wedding for there are several there almost every day. At each wedding Dr. Pitt's song is always played on an old hand-pumped organ, and usually someone sings it.

After the ceremony is over, the happy couple always pull the rope that rings the old church bell. This bell was the first one to be placed in any church in the county. It was given by some wealthy men in the East because of the song that had made this church so famous.

This song, which millions of people love, written in Rock County a hundred years ago, is destined to live on as one of America's great songs.

The first two stanzas and chorus of Dr. Pitt's song, "The Church in the Wildwood", are included here to help you become acquainted with the song. Maybe you can find it in some songbook.

THE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

There's a church in the valley by the wildwood,
No lovelier place in the dale;
No spot is so dear to my childhood,
As the little brown church in the vale.

Chorus:
Come to the church in the wildwood,
Oh, come to the church in the dale;
No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.

How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning,
To list to the clear ringing bell;
Its tones so sweetly are calling
"Oh, come to the church in the vale."

JANESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1950 - 1951

ROCK RIVER AND ROCK RIVER CAMP SITES

(Research Data Compiled by Lola Webb)

This information about Rock River Camp Sites was obtained by studying The Wisconsin Archeologest of October 1929, Vol. 9, No. II. The article is entitled "Camp Sites of the Lower Rock River" and was loaned by the Milwaukee Public Library.

The old Winnebago name for Rock River was E-neen-ne shun nuck meaning "the river of big stones". Early whites in this region first called it Stoney River, then Rocky River, and later Rock River.

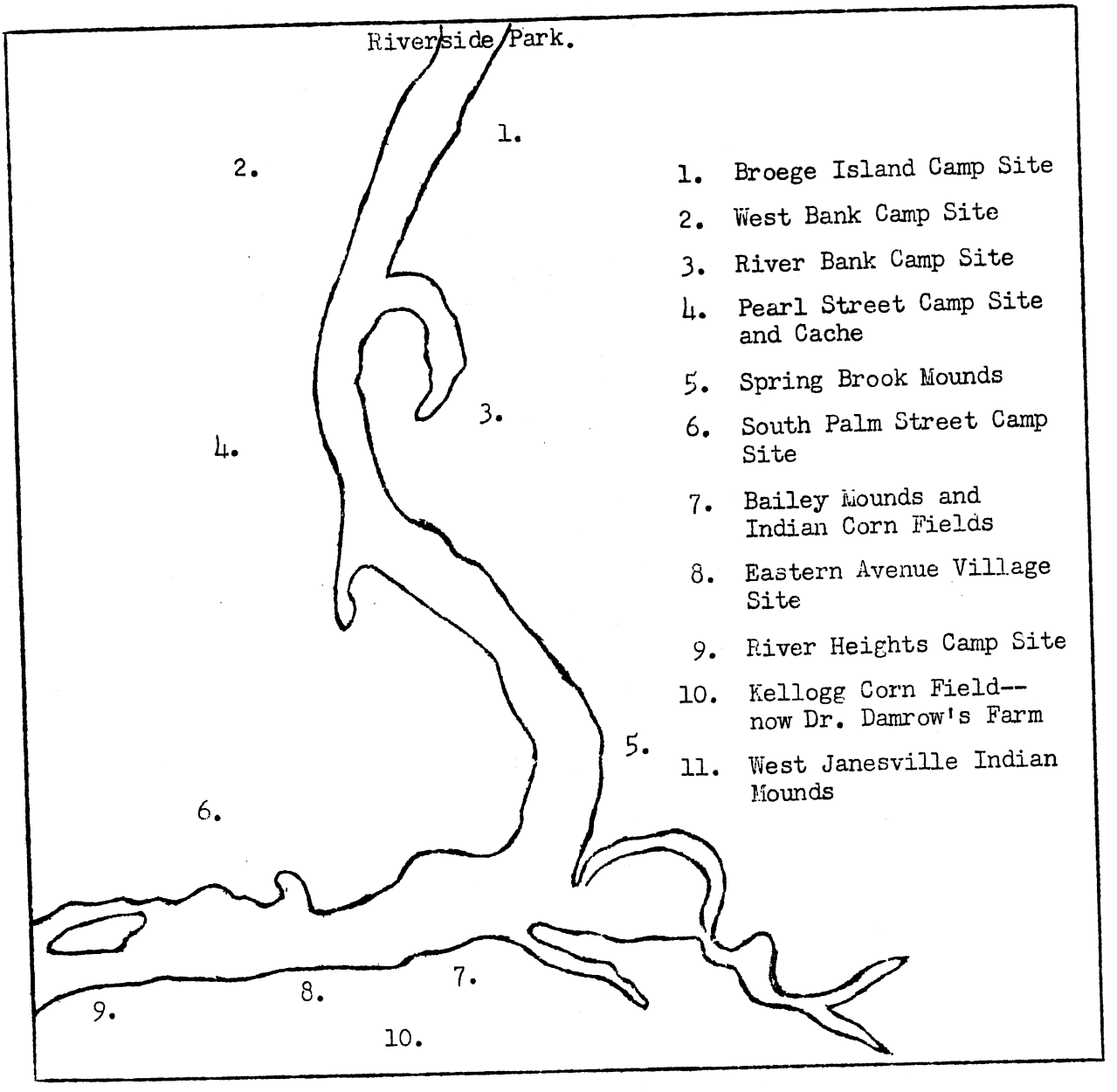
There were a number of marked Indian trails on both sides of this river in the Janesville area and these trails connected the Indian camp sites and villages of this area. These ancient trails were of two kinds, those which followed the stream north and south and those which approached the river from various directions. The Wisconsin Historical Society has old maps showing these trails.

In the "Milwaukee Sentinel" on February 25, 1900, a large map of these trails and camp sites was published. There were three places near here where the Indians forded the river: at the Four Mile Bridge near the County Farm, one at Indian Ford, and one named for the Big Rock at Monterey was well-known. It was called Rock Ford for quite a number of years.

The one at Indian Ford was a very important crossing. Pioneers and old settlers remember numbers of both Winnebago and Potawattomi Indians crossing the river on the rocks at the shallows in this place, the women oftentimes heavily laden with bundles on their backs and shoulders. The early ford was just above the present highway bridge. Even today the river is shallow below the dam and may be crossed by means of sand and gravel bars.

The Sauks, the Foxes, the Potawattomies claimed with the Winnebagoes the ownership of this Rock River country, but the Potawattomies disputed the ownership with the Winnebagoes. There was a treaty made with our government in 1832 which settled that the Winnebagoes should lay claim to the western side of the river and the Potawattomies all the eastern side.

Here is a small, crude map of Rock River as it flows through Janesville. The numbers along the river correspond with the numbers of the names of the Indian camp sites within the limits of what is now Janesville.



Riverside Park was an important camp site. It was on the west bank right where the river bends. It was where the baseball diamond and tennis courts are now located and opposite the Parker estate of Stonehenge. In the river at this point was a water plant belonging to the lily family that had a bulb called water potatoes. The Indians were very fond of these potatoes and gathered great baskets of them. They were boiled or roasted in their camp fires. Some of these water potatoes are still growing in the river at Riverside Park. You can see them in the spot where the fishermen and their boats are often seen.

Many Indian stone hammers, stone balls, axes, celts, and flint instruments have been picked up here. Many hearth stones and a flint packing

hammer were picked up here within the last few years. Two Indian graves have been found across the park on the Crystal Springs' side of the river. In olden days these springs were known as Pope's Springs and an old bottling building was built here. Water was bottled and shipped to nearby and distant cities. It was supposed to have medicinal value.

Near the Four Mile Bridge, where there was an Indian crossing, there was a camp site on what is now one of the Shoemaker farms. Hundreds of flint pointed arrowheads, axes, etc. have been picked up here.

On Eastern Avenue on the bottom lands between the avenue and the C.M.&S.P. R.R. tracks there used to be three large Indian mounds. One was about twenty-five feet in diameter and was five or six feet high. The largest one was opened up and many Indian tools were here.

Another camp site extended from Monterey Bridge eastward along the river bank and as far as where Spring Brook flows into Rock River in the proposed Jeffris Park. This was an Indian camp till in the 1830's.

Another camp site was where Western Avenue and South Palm Street now meet and extended up the Afton Road. Many hearth stones and arrowheads have been picked up here.

On the first farm past the Palmer Park entrance, for years in the Sutherland possession, two Indian graves have been located. In them were found stone axes, a stone celt, and many arrow points.

On Pearl Street, at the corner of Pearl and Elizabeth Streets, a very interesting cache was discovered when some men were digging a trench. This was in 1903. There were some rare hornstone knives buried there. Five were found and three were in perfect condition. They were about four feet underground. An old settler said that at this point there had once been a round Indian mound, but it was leveled off when a Mr. Kenyon built his home here. This mound contained sume wampum as well as Indian tools.

Where Black Hawk camped near the foot of Lake Koshkonong many interesting things have been found. Black Hawk's tribe must have hidden here for several weeks living largely on clams, fish, and wild rice. Men have dug up clam shells in solid piles three or four feet across and a foot deep. This camp must have covered about two acres. In 1856 the tent poles to some of their Indian homes were still standing. Many graves and mounds are near here. Stone implements, shell tools, grinding stones, flint arrows, grooved axes, spear points, hammers, stone balls, knives, scrapers, bone awls, bone tubes, rubbing stones, pottery pipes, wooden bowls, etc. have been found. Many burned hearth stones were scattered over the site. Many of these things are in the hands of Milton collectors and some are at Milton College.

One of the biggest collectors in Janesville was Mr. Horace McElroy of Janesville. After he died people came from far and near to buy from his

wife some of the valuable things he had found. Luckily they were not all sold and in 1916 what remained of his collection was given to the Janesville Public Library. If accompanied by an adult some of these relics may be seen in the library museum upstairs. Most of these are mounted in frames. Especially look at the frame that is labeled "Rock River". It holds more than fifty articles.

From an old diary of Mr. Levi St. John, who was one of Janesville's first settlers (he came here a few months after the Holmes' log cabin was built at Monterey), this paragraph was taken:

> "At that early day the Indians were numerous in this part of Wisconsin. I have frequently visited their camps, gone into their wigwams and bought wild honey and maple sugar from them. At times many as a dozen Indians have ridden up to my cabin armed with tomahawks, knives, and loaded guns; and I have at such times thought how easy a matter it would be to butcher my family were they so disposed. It was reported from time to time they intended to have a general uprising. But they were always friendly to me and I have traded with them a great deal. They learned to be crafty traders too and picked their wares with caution."

JANESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
October 1962

FRANCES E. WILLARD

(Written by Cynthia Keene)

Frances Elizabeth Willard came with her family to live on a farm near Janesville, Wisconsin, when she was seven years old. Frances had an older brother, Oliver, and a younger sister, Mary. Frances was born in Churchville, New York, on September 28, 1839. When she was just two years, Mr. and Mrs. Willard moved to Oberlin, Ohio. Both her mother and father attended Oberlin College. Her mother had taught school in New York State before her marriage to Josiah Willard. Mr. Willard became ill while they lived in Ohio. His doctor thought that outdoor life would help him to recover. This was their reason for coming to Wisconsin to live.

The family had relatives living in Janesville.

Mr. Willard was a great scholar. When they moved to Wisconsin, he brought all of his books with him. Frances' brother, Oliver, grew tired of unloading and reloading books when the wagons became stuck in mud holes. His father always replied, "We could do without almost anything--but books."

Mr. Willard bought nearly 1000 acres of land along the banks of Rock River. He, Oliver, and relatives built the home among large oak trees. Frances named it "Forest Home". The whole family loved this beautiful wooded land along the river. Mr. Willard later gave some land on which a school was built. This was the first real school Mary, Frances and Oliver attended. Before the school was built, the children had had lessons in their own home. Mrs. Willard taught them. Later, Miss Burdick was hired to teach them and neighbor children were invited to come, too.

The school, built on the Willard land, still stands. It is now a memorial to Frances Willard. In her efforts to improve family living, she became the

founder of World's W.C.T.U. The little school building is cared for by the Janesville W.C.T.U.

Frances was most eager to help people. She became famous because of her efforts in working to improve family living. She was the first woman who was represented in the Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol at Washington, D.C.

Janesville Gazette
July 23, 1969 pg. 10A

Perfume Business Once Flourished in Janesville

During the mid-1800s and for a span of 25 years, perfume was a flourishing business in Janesville. This was due, in part, to the eldest Tallman son, William Henry. He started in the drug business first in 1851 with George Kemp as his partner.

He sold this business a few years later, but it still continues today as McCue and Buss Drug Co.

After the sale of the drugstore, in 1859, Tallman formed a partnership with a Mr. Collins and established the Tallman & Collins Perfume business. They purchased the former Baptist Church, now occupied by Hulick Bros. Printing and Photo Engraving, to use as their factory. For 10 years perfume, toothpaste, scented oils and numerous related items were sold under this label. In 1869, Tallman became sole owner of the firm, and all merchanidse from then on carried the William Henry Tallman perfume labels.

About 1882, the perfume business was discontinued and Tallman went to New York where he worked for the firm Lanman and Kemp, which dealt in spices, perfumes and related merchandise. It is the oldes existing business of this type i the United States. The Tallma perfume firm remained close for 20 years with the buildin standing idle.

William Henry died in 190 and after his death, his son George Kemp Tallman, sold the business to Willson-Monarch Laboratory in Edgerton — a firm in existence until recently.

Numerous items, including perfume bottles, are still in existence in the Janesville area, either in the hands of collectors or displayed at the Tallman Restorations. Perfume bottles bearing the William Henry Tallman labels are on dressers in Augusta's room, Mr. Tallman's room and the Lincoln bedroom in the Tallman House. These bottles have all been pressed and are a clear glass rather than colored. The lines are graceful, some designed to look like cut glass.

More items, with the Tallman & Collins label, are displayed upstairs at the carriage house. A sample case, labels, advertising books, a bottle mold, and advertising posters are just a few of the numerous articles on display.

Janesville Gazette July 23, 1969

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by Laura Moss Gottlieb