

The early history of the Madison area. 1960s

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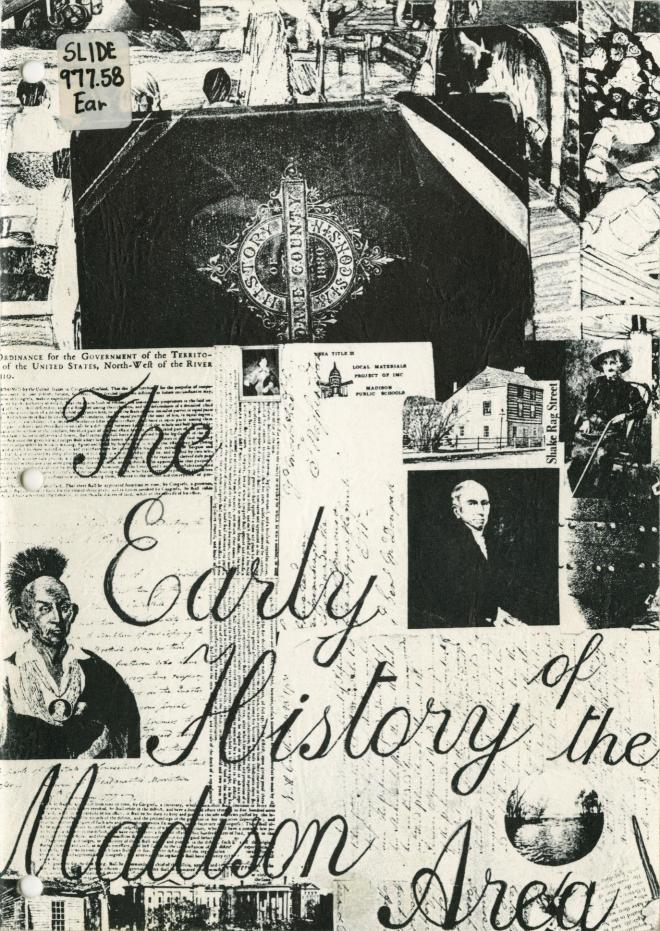
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Mary Lou Peterson, Coordinator Local Materials, ESEA — Title !!! 545 W. Dayton St. Madison, Wisconsin 53703

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"THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE MADISON AREA"

$P_{ m A_o}$	Objectives and Suggested Has of Materials	0
Λ_{\circ}	Objectives and Suggested Use of Materials Page	2
B.	Bibliography	3
C.	Teacher Source Material	
	1. "Lead Mining" Page	4
	2. "1761 Standard of Trade" Page	5
	3. "What Is A Town?" Page	6
	4. "Mrs. Peck's Letter"	7
	5. "Indian Mounds", Nancy D. Sachse Page	8-9
	6. History of Towns from History of Dane County 1880 Page	10-21
D.	Teacher Reference for Filmstrips	
	1. "The Early History of the Madison Area" Page	22-33
	2. "Reminders of Madison's History"	34-40

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OBJECTIVES

The set is designed to be supplementary to a unit on Wisconsin history. Some events in Wisconsin history are included to lend continuity and establish the setting for the local events, but it is expected that the students will have studied some of the excellent materials available on Wisconsin.

Ideas which may be gained through use of this set:

- 1. How events in the Madison area related in time to other happenings in the world.
- 2. The Indians who lived in this area; their relationship to the land; their relationship to the European newcomers.
- 3. Natural resources and events responsible for bringing the early settlers to Dane County and Madison.
- 4. The importance of written records in learning about people who lived long ago.
- 5. How things we see today are related to the early history of our community. (This objective can be evaluated by having the students complete sentences in the second filmstrip's script.)

SUGGESTED USES OF THE MATERIAL

- 1. Use the second filmstrip, "Reminders of Madison's Past", as a pretest and post test to evaluate ideas gained through the use of these materials.
- 2. Allow time for student discussion and questions when using the first filmstrip, "Early History of the Madison Area".
- 3. Have students prepare reports using the resource materials printed in this pamphlet and listed in the bibliography. Again view slides having the students narrate and give reports.

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LEAD MINING

OVERVIEW

Before 1812, most lead used in America came from Cornwall in England. After the war with England, however, the United States had to look elsewhere for the lead it needed to make bullets, pewterware, and other important implements.

Explorers of the midwest had heard of rich lead ore deposits, mined on the surface by the Winnebago Indians, in what is now southwestern Wisconsin and northwestern Illinois. As early as 1770, a Frenchman, Julien Dubuque, had moved into the area to mine. It was not until the 1820's, however, when the demand for lead increased, that people came into the area in great numbers. When the first miners reported the richness of the mines, people came in droves from other parts of the country and from Europe. These early miners were so eager to make their fortunes they did not stop to build houses but merely dug deep burrows in the ground to live in. This activity earned them the nickname of "Badgers". Later, many of these men sent for their families and established some of the first permanent settlements in the state. Mineral Point, New Diggings, Benton, Shullsburg, and Dodgeville are all towns that date back to the early mining days.

For a number of years the mining industry in Wisconsin grew and prospered despite the numerous Indian skirmishes in southern Wisconsin. An early champion of the miners, Henry Dodge, became the territory's first governor. A miner is one of the two men depicted on the state flag.

But the lead mining boom in Wisconsin petered out in the middle of the 19th century. Richer deposits of lead, discovered in other places, brought down the market price. Ore in Wisconsin shafts was becoming difficult to mine. But more important, gold was discovered in California. Miners left the state in large numbers to go West. Today, although some old mines are still in operation, it is another mineral, zinc, that is produced.

Our telecast takes us first to Galena, Illinois, once the thriving center of activity during the lead boom, then to a restored mine at Shullsburg, and finally to Mineral Point where we visit the buildings erected by the early Cornish settlers. The program also shows how lead was mined and smelted.



STANDARD OF TRADE

For a blanket 6 feet long2 good beaver or 3 buckskins
For a man's plain shirtl beaver or 1 buckskin
For gunpowder, per pound1 buckskin
For a small knife1 raccoon
For a brass kettle1 beaver
For a large silver armband4 beaver or 5 buckskins
For a large cross1 small beaver or 1 buckskin

Source⁻ ''Wisconsin Pioneers'' Badger History 1965

WHAT IS A TOWN?

The terms town and township are often misunderstood.

A <u>town</u> in Wisconsin is a political subdivision of a county. In theory, town government was designed to provide local government services in rural areas.

A township in Wisconsin is a government surveyor's unit consisting of 36 square miles or "sections". It is an area 6 miles square, thus containing 23,040 acres.

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

Standard numbering system of "sections" within any township.

The United States Congress, eager for revenue from the sale of lands in the Northwest Territory, adopted the Ordinance of 1785 providing for orderly rectangular surveys into mile-square units called "sections". These were to be sold at auction at a minimum of \$1 per acre.

The boundaries of towns and townships frequently coincided in early times. Even then, however, smaller odd shaped towns usually occurred along the state's boundaries, and much larger towns became standard in the northern part of the state where the countryside continues to be sparsely populated.

References to sections are used in Student Information sheets on towns of Blue Mounds, Deerfield and Dunn.

PART OF MRS. PECK'S LETTER THAT DESCRIBES TRIP TO MADISON AND THE FIRST DAYS THERE

We started from Brigham's place, at the Blue Mounds, on Thursday, the 13th of April, after dinner, with our teams. We traveled about seven miles, where some person had made a claim, and had laid about five rounds of logs towards a cabin. We camped therein that night with a tent over us. The next day, the 14th, we pushed on -- a more pleasant day I never wish to see; but I had a severe headache before night. We pitched our tent on a little rise of ground, within three miles of Madison; spread down our beds, and rested comfortably till near 3 o'clock on Saturday morning when we were awakened by a tremendous wind storm, and howling of wolves, and found snow five or six inches deep which continued to fall until after we arrived in Madison.

Well, now, here we are at Madison, on the 15th, sitting in a wagon under a tree, with a bed-quilt thrown over my own and little boy's head, in a tremendous storm of snow and sleet, twenty-five miles from any inhabitants on one side (Blue Mounds), and nearly one hundred on the other (Milwaukee). What is to be done? Go into the buildings with no floors laid, and nothing but great sleepers laid across to walk on? No; I must have the buildings painted with lime, and floors laid first—only one saw-mill in the Territory, and that way up in the Wisconsin Pinery, and not completed, and of course no lumber; but there lies a pile of puncheons—just build me a pen under this tree, and move in my stove, and we will crawl in there. Sure enough, we soon had it completed, and a fire built.

Some two weeks from this time, or about the first of May, on a pleasant day, there were about fifteen men arrived from Milwaukee, to look a road through, and see Madison. Among the number were A. A. Bird, the two Pixley's merchants, and Col. Morton of the Land Office -- but I cannot enumerate names. Well, we had a spacious diningroom under the broad canopy of heaven--where I spread tables for them. A portion of the party, the hired men, set out on their return the next day. We immediately sent a team to the other side of Fourth Lake, where there had been some hay put up by a party of French and Indians, and got a load of it, with which we filled our bed-ticks; we then laid down puncheons in one end of one of the buildings, spread down our beds, built a fire of chips (hewn from the logs) at the other end between the sleepers, tacked three of four sheets of bedcurtains around the walls, and there they rested; and they staid with us three or four days, enjoying themselves hunting and fishing around the lakes, and looking at the country; and then left for Mineral Point, or perhaps Galena; and in eight or ten days Bird returned, accompanied by Judge Doty, Ebenezer Brigham and others.

Judge Doty observed, "Why do you not move into your house?" "Why, my dear sir," I replied, "I must have it plastered with lime first." Said he, "we do not know as there is a lime quarry within a hundred miles of you, and you need not expect to live in this pen until there is one found and burned. No, no, you must move in; we will help daub up the kitchen part on the outside with mud, and when the lime is found, you can finish the inside to suit you." So at it they went (only think, Governors, Esquires and Mayors, in prospective, daubing cabins!), and by night we were all comfortably situated in the kitchen.

INDIAN MOUNDS

By Nancy D. Sachse

Indian mounds are evidence of a culture peculiar to this part of midwestern North America. Travelers along the Ohio River speculated about them long ago, but nowhere are they as numerous as in Wisconsin. At least 15,000 mounds are estimated to be here, besides many more which have undoubtedly been leveled for farms and roads before anyone knew anything about them. Curiously enough, the early land travelers did not mention the mounds perhaps because they are not often over five feet high, no different from any other knoll upon the landscape. It is true that the great mounds which once rose upon the Dividing Ridge overlooking the east shore of Lake Wingra were higher, some of them ten feet, but this was Winnebago country untouched by the white man until a little over 130 years ago. Compared to an Indian Mound, that's yesterday, for although archaeologists and anthropologists cannot be exact, it is believed the linear and conical mounds (the oldest) may go back to the pre-Christian era. Effigy mounds are later, probably anywhere from 250 to 1300 A.D. The people who built them are still a mystery to us. We know only that they were hunters and food gatherers who used the rivers and lakes as a highway and never stayed long in one place. The effigy mound shapes probably represented tribal totems, a complicated belief for us to understand but as natural a part of Indian life as a family is to us. A totem was the symbol of an animal or natural object considered as being related by blood to a certain tribe. The Mound Builders used these mounds for ceremonial as well as burial purposes.

Once a year, very likely in spring or summer, the dead of the tribe — chiefs, warriors, women, and children — would be buried in a mound which all the living shared in building, with earth brought up from the river bank or lake shore in baskets, one load after another. A fire was built in the mound, sometimes

which would correspond to the head or the heart. Sometimes burial was in the flesh immediately after death, sometimes by cremation, or by reburial, or bones after exposure and decomposition. On the first floor of the Historical Society you can see a diorama of mound burial which gives a very clear picture of this. If it seems a bit gruesome to our so-called civilized society, remember these were people who had no written history. The ancestors buried in the effigy mound represented the past as well as the unknown to which the spirit of man returned after death. To stand on the mound of one's ancestors was to feel this.

Some years ago, Charles E. Brown (the Indian expert for whom the Arboretum Mounds have been named) told some of his Winnebago friends that there was a mound of their totem in Madison. Immediately they went to visit it, staying for several days, just to be close to this comforting and sacred evidence of their own past.

When the white men first saw the mounds they assumed there was treasure buried within so they dug, finding nothing but a few bones and primitive implements. Every one of the mounds in the Arboretum had been so violated before the University took over the land. The conical mounds were like miniature volcanoes. Badgers and gophers had made dens in them, trees had sprouted, brush had grown over so that it was difficult to tell where they were or what they represented. Charles E. Brown and G. William Longenecker restored the mounds with the help of crews from the Transient Camp of the Wisconsin Emergency Relief Association in 1934, back in the days of the Depression. They were obliged to build up the mounds carefully with fresh soil and seed them with grass. In no time the mounds began to look as they had for hundreds and hundreds of years here above the marsh lake. They are part of our Wisconsin history.

HISTORY OF DANE COUNTY 1880

by C. W. Butterfield

DEERFIELD (Pioneer tales from <u>History of Dane County</u>)
Travel — Reminicences of an early stage coach stop inn keeper

About the 1st of August, 1842, I commenced with a force of ten men to build a log house on Sec. 9, T. 7, R. 12E. (now Deerfield), for the purpose of keeping a tavern for the accommodation of travelers, who were daily increasing in numbers, and within three weeks completed a substantial building with six rooms. One night during our stay, we were much annoyed by wolves, who had caught a deer and devoured it within a few rods from our encampment, small remains of which were found scattered about in the morning. At another time, they made an attack on our cattle, that were feeding near by, and caused a great commotion among them; they bellowed and ran together, the same as they do when they smell the blood of any of their number slain. None were killed, but many of them showed the marks of the teeth and claws of the wolves.

Soon after completing my log house I removed therein, and was appointed postmaster, and the place was duly christened "Deerfield." I built my stables for the accommodation of forty or more horses, and made additions to my house as occasion required, until the ground floor covered a space of 44 by 74 feet, and could conveniently accommodate forty or more persons with lodging; and a dancing hall of 32 by 25 feet, where parties, often from a distance of twenty-five miles, came for recreation.

In addition to the mail route from Milwaukee to Madison, a new route was soon established from Janesville to Columbus, with two-horse coaches, via Deerfield. The staging on the Milwaukee and Madison line increased to two daily post coaches, and often two or three extras, and the demand for oats to feed teams, purchased and furnished by me, amounted to from 5,000 to 7,000 bushels annually for five years. The oats were all raised within a radius of ten miles of my house. This much was accomplished about fifteen years from the first survey through the wilderness.

CHRISTIANA (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County) The Land — Oak Openings

The surface, which is gently undulating, is diversified with prairie and oak-openings, and to the eye of a farmer, this is one of the most beautiful towns in the county. These oak openings were so named from the fact that the annual burning over of the county by Indian tribes kept the timber so entirely free from underbrush, that a team could be easily driven through it in any direction; it was this openness, contrasted with the denseness of forests of other states, that suggested the name "openings." As soon, however, as the annual fires ceased, and the original timber was cut off, there sprang up the dense second-growth which is now, though we think improperly, called oak-openings.

BLUE MOUNDS (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County)
Travel — Old Military Road and Stage Coach

In earlier times, and before the day of railroads in Wisconsin, the Blue Mounds road was one of the chief thoroughfares of the territory. The natural dividing ridge, which extends from near Madison almost due west to the Mississippi River, and separates the waters running northerly to the Wisconsin from those running in the opposite direction, finding their way to the Mississippi south of the Wisconsin boundary, passed close by the house. Along the natural grade of this dividing ridge was established the military road from Fort Winnebago (now Portage) to Fort Crawford (now Prairie du Chien). This was probably the first wagon road maintained within the limits of Wisconsin. At the date of the organization of the town, it was the stage route from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. The four-horse coaches of the United States mail, with nine passengers inside and more on top, passed each way daily. The old stage coach, now almost forgotten, was then in its glory. The driver's box was a throne, and the stage driver was a monarch. Among the best known of the good drivers of that day was Andrew Bishop, "The Elder", as he was respectfully termed by his brethren of the four-in-hand. Since that time. Mr. Bishop has acceptably filled the important offices of sheriff of Dane County and chief of police of the city of Madison, which last position he holds at the present time, but he can scarcely be a more important character, or better or more widely known in either of his later offices than he was in the days when he lustily wound the sounding horn along the echoing sides of the Blue Mounds, and, with a cheery flourish of his long silver-mounted whip, brought his load of happy passengers up to the door of the house for dinner. There were no second-class seats in the coach of those days, but it was a coveted privilege, and memorable to him who secured it, to ride on the box with "The Elder".

BELLEVILLE (Pioneer tale from History of Dane County)
Food — A Tall Wolf Tale

Mr. Ream was brother-in-law of Mrs. McFadden of Grand Springs, and in speaking of the trouble of wolves he relates that on one occasion when returning with a load of provisions from Green County, his sister put him up a good tin can of butter to carry home to Madison. The possessor of a good bucket of dairy butter was in those days a matter of envy by all who knew of it, and while passing over the rough roads and anticipating the pleasure he would have on reaching home and showing his prize, he unconsciously tipped out the basket and traveled four or five miles before he missed his treasure. Taking one of his horses out of the wagon, which he mounted, he started back, but only reached the place where his loss occurred in time to scare off a pack of wolves that had not only devoured the butter, but had gnawed the bucket in pieces.

BELLEVILLE (Pioneer tale from History of Dane County) Building — Housing

In two or three weeks after my arrival, I raised a balloon-frame house, the first in town. There being but one sawmill in the county near at hand, I had to take my turn in getting lumber from the mill, which was about once in two weeks, and then I would get a small load of clapboards to nail on. In the meantime, we had no roof over our heads, only a carpet, which did very well except when it rained, and it seemed as though that was every night. The only way we kept dry was for my wife and child to sleep under the umbrella, while I hung my camlet cload slanting on some chains. With all these inconveniences I enjoyed myself hugely, but my wife would get homesick once in a while, and we would often make tea five times a day to get rid of it. Tea is a good medicine for homesick people, and I can recommend it from experience. About three months after we came, we were able to keep dry in our own house, and, though small in size, we often had as many as eighteen living with us. Sometimes as many as three families of our friends would stay with us from five to six weeks, until they got located.

MAZOMANIE (Pioneer tale from <u>History of Dane County</u>) Indians — Moving the Indians

The early settlers had but little dealings with the Indians, although for many years they were passing up and down the Wisconsin for the purpose of hunting and trapping, and occasionally would camp in the near vicinity. They were always friendly and peaceably disposed. In 1851, a procession of from six to seven hundred of the following tribes, Chippewas, Pottawattamies, Winnebagoes, Stockbridges and Hurons, passed along, marshaled by the United States authorities, with a band of music and several banners of the stars and stripes floating to the breeze. They were being conducted to their several reservations west of the Mississippi, but before their arrival at their respective destinations, it was found that at least one-half of their numbers were missing, they having dropped off in the night time, preferring their Wisconsin homes to the comparatively unknown territory to which they were being removed.

CHRISTIANA (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County) Farming — Early farming methods

The early settlers endured many hardships, and often carried on their agricultural operations in the most primitive manner. The section of a large round tree, usually shod with iron, often formed the wheels of their carts or wagons and until the introduction of threshing machines in 1848, the prevailing mode of threshing was identical with that which has been practiced in Oriental countries for the last three thousand years. A large dry spot of ground was cleared off evenly, and packed as hard as possible. Upon this the grain was placed to the depth of a foot or more, with the heads in, and five or six yoke of oxen were driven over it until the grain was all trodden out. The straw was then thrown off with forks, and the grain separated from the chaff with fanning mills. The first threshing machines, introduced at the date mentioned, were without separators, and were an improvement upon the method described in little else than speed and cleanliness. To sell their grain, a trip to Milwaukee, which was then their only market, was necessary, and which usually occupied a week, the wheat bringing from thirty to fifty cents, and in some instances even less.

OREGON (Pioneer tales from <u>History of Dane County</u>) Building — Newspapers for wall covering

J. W. Scovill opened the first store in the township, in the fall of 1845, on section 21, or the "hollow." He chopped the logs, split the puncheons for the floor and rived the shakes himself. After it was raised and completed, he went to Racine for his stock. During his absence, Mrs. Scoville papered it throughout with Albany Evening Journals. How the heart of the venerable "T.W." would swell to know his paper had served so good a purpose! The enterprising young merchant, by thus surrounding his customers with sound Whig doctrines, insensibly led them to vote that ticket, and from its organization the town has been Whig or Republican by large and uninterrupted majorities. What might have been the result had the good lady used the Albany Argus?

OREGON (Pionner tales from History of Dane County) Travel — A Delayed Wedding

The first marriage solemnized in the township was in the first log house built therein; the happy parties being David Anthony and Jane Runey. A Rev. Mr. Miner, of Madison, performed the ceremony. On his way to Mr. Runey's, his horse got mired in the Nine Spring Creek. Unable to extricate him, he started on foot to fulfill his agreement. At Lake View he sent assistance to his horse, which was found dead. Wearily walking on, he reached Mr. Runey's about 11 o'clock at night, wet, muddy and exhausted. He performed his work so well, however, that David and Jane today enjoy a well-earned competence in peace and contentment.

DUNN (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County) Food — Wildlife

These lakes, with the exception of Hook Lake, teem with fishes of most every species adapted to fresh water, and during the early settlement of this town, were so abundant that they could be taken from the smaller streams by pitchforks. On the lakes, swans, pelicans, geese and ducks were numerous, and the woods abounded with bears, wolves, foxes and deer.

DUNN (Pioneer tales from <u>History of Dane County</u>)
Indians — Signs of Indians

On the west bank of First Lake, on sec. 14 and 23, there was at one time a village of Winnebago Indians, and numerous trails and relics are still found, as well as a number of Indian mounds, or cemeteries, where they buried their dead. These mounds are numerous on sec. 23, and also on the point that projects into the lake from the west. Here they have been opened, and remains of Indians found therein, two, three and four having been buried in the same grave. Lead ore is frequently found in sections 14 and 23, in bulks containing from three to fifteen pounds each. Where it came from, or whether mines of this valuable mineral exist undiscovered by civilization, we are unable to say. Abel Rasdall, an Indian fur trader, was told by the Indians that ore did exist in quantities near the lake. A few years since we discovered, on the south bank of the Catfish River, near the lake, a kiln, or place made of stone and clay under ground, where lead ore was smelted by the aborigines, and in the immediate vicinity seemed to be a great resort for tribes of savages, as Indian relics are frequently found, such as arrow heads, stone axes, etc.

WINDSOR (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County)
Travel — Two overnight stops

When Mr. Robert L. Ream, in 1839, made a journey from Madison to Fort Winnebago, he started on horse back, and took this trail. There were only two houses between the fort and Madison, those of William Lawrence, near Token Creek, and Wallis Rowan, near Poynette, on the military road. Mr. Ream put up at Rowan's, and after being bountifully supplied with the hoe cake and bacon by Mrs. Rowan, retired to rest. He was woke up early in the morning by several cocks crowing in close proximity to his bed, and discovered that the rail of his bed was the roost of Mr. Rowan's chickens. When he returned from the fort, he put up at the same place, and slept in the same bed, and says when he awoke, he thought he had a flock of sheep for his bedfellows, but they afterwards proved to be a number of Indians with new blankets, who had noiselessly taken possession of the floor during his slumbers, and the new white blankets were the results of a visit to some trading post.

WINDSOR (Pioneer tales from <u>History of Dane County</u>) Settlers — Comments on early settlers

Our space will not allow us to record but little of the characteristics of these early settlers, and perhaps we shall weary the readers of this volume with our lengthy history. We must beg indulgence simply to say this much, that all of them had the true spirit of pioneers. They enjoyed frontier life. It was "Hale fellows well met," in those days. Neighbor received neighbor at his cabin with cordiality, and travelers were made welcome to their hospitality. The small log cabin with already two or three families in it, would be found large enough for another family when some others came to make a home among them. There was no ambition then to see who could wear the finest clothes, drive the fastest horse, ride in the finest carriage, or live in the highest style; but they were ambitious to see who could break the largest number of acres of the prairie and opening lands. There was a competition to see who could grow the most wheat and other products of the soil.

CHRISTIANA (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County)
Travel — Lead Miners Stop

Wm. M. Mayhew was the first settler of this town where he built a log house on what is now the land of Geo. Odell, at the foot of quite a steep bluff, where for many years he kept a tavern. This was one of the regular stopping places of the teamsters drawing lead from the mines near the Blue Mounds to Milwaukee. Old settlers, entirely unaccustomed to the handling of lead, tell us, that to them, their wagons appeared almost empty. But, nevertheless, three or four yoke of oxen were required to draw the wagons over the rough roads, and the shouts and curses of the teamsters as they urged their oxen up the steep ascent the other side of Mayhew's could be heard for three-quarters of a mile around.

CHRISTIANA (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County)
Settlers — Norwegian Settlers

In 1842 a number of settlers arrived, most of them being emigrants from Norway. Prominent among these were Hellik Gunderson, Jul Gisleson, Nils Olsen Smithback, and Thosten Levorson, all of whom except the latter, are now living. This was almost the beginning of Norwegian emigration to the United States, and was induced by the glowing descriptions of the mildness of the climate, the beauty of the prairies, and the fertility of the soil, given by members of a small colony from Norway, which, a few years before, had settled in Walworth county, near the state line. This report was printed in pamphlet form, and being quite extensively circulated in Norway, was largely instrumental in giving an impetus to emigration to this country. The arrivals spoken of were only the beginning of a more extensive emigration of Norwegians to this section, and in the five years following, the greater portion of the town was settled by them.

Accustomed, in their native country, only to timbered land, these early settlers shunned the prairie, which seemed desolate and cheerless to them, but which is now considered as the more desirable land, and settled in the

edges of the openings, and along the marshes.

WESTPORT (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County)
Building — Wolves at the Door

In the fall of 1845, Louis Montandon, a Frenchman, and Edward Boyles, an Irishman, built a log cabin on section twenty, and during that winter engaged themselves in splitting rails. They endured great privation during the first year or two, and were necessitated to travel on foot about eighteen miles, through creeks and swamps, to get their corn and flour gristed, and on many occasions were obliged to barricade the door of their cabin to keep out the wolves, who would surround them in the night on all occasions when they were provided with a good supply of pork and flour, making the night hideous with their howling and efforts to obtain an entrance.

MAZOMANIE (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County)
Farming — Problems of Getting Wheat Ground

As will be inferred from the manner in which they secured their homesteads. being by weekly installments of about twenty-five cents, they were generally men of limited means, understood but little of agriculture -- having principally been mechanics, tradesmen and professional men in their native land -- and in opening up and improving their farms the strictest economy was required to procure the necessaries of life. When short of provisions it was the usual custom to borrow from each other until such times as the larder could again be replenished. In some instances, resort was had to the coffee mill to grind "flour" enough for bread. One such mill, owned by Dr. Wallace, of Iowa County, and brought by him from "the old country," was kept running for days together for this purpose. In one instance a settler by the name of Joseph Rogerson "backed" fifty pounds of flour from "Badger State Mills" on Sugar River. Francis Wilson, during the summer of 1844, accompanied by another settler, went to the old "Hickox Mill" in Iowa County for flour, a distance of eighteen miles. They took two yoke of oxen, and, after an absence of four days, returned with only one hundred pounds; this amount, when divided among the entire settlers, furnished a very small allowance for each family. Only by waiting for the toll from grists brought to the mill during their stay were they enabled to procure even this small amount. For a long time this was the nearest flour mill, and settlers were obliged to make two, and sometimes three, trips before getting their grists. At one time, while this mill was being repaired, Mr. Wrigglesworth and Reuben Royston started in search of some other mill, and were gone over a week before they could find one to grind their wheat.

MAZOMANIE (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County)
Farming — Taking Wheat to Milwaukee

In 1848, there began to be a surplus of wheat, a portion of which was traded off for groceries and other necessaries. About this time they commenced hauling to Milwaukee. The manner of making trips to this city was, for three or four farmers to start together, each having not less than two pair of oxen-horses then being almost unknown in the settlement—they would take their supplies from home and, camping out nights, would cook their provisions by the heat of their camp fires. Thirty bushels was considered a fair load, for which they obtained from forty to fifty cents per bushel. On their return they would sometimes load up with salt or merchandise for Madison and other places, as they could find the opportunity. The round trip was usually made in about two weeks. Many times, from delays caused by bad weather and roads, or some accident to team or wagon, their expenses would use up nearly the entire proceeds of their wheat.

MEDINA (Pioneer tales from <u>History of Dane County</u>) Building — Town Buildings

The town contains two villages: Marshall, the oldest and principal one, which is beautifully situated near the center of the town, on a level plateau, on the south bank of Waterloo creek; it contains over three hundred inhabitants, and is compactly and neatly built, containing many tasty white brick residences, a fine academy building, three stories high, built of white Watertown brick; two churches, Methodist and Baptist; one of the largest town halls in the county; an excellent school house, built of white brick; a large brick hotel; a first class flouring mill; two wagon and carriage shops; several stores; two harness shops; two boot and shoe shops; together with warehouses and depot buildings, lumber yard, cheese factory, livery stables, and the customary saloon accompaniments. Deanville, situated one and a half miles west of Marshall, is a neat little prairie town of about one hundred inhabitants, and is an excellent grain market, being the center of a large and fertile wheat producing district. It contains some very tasty residences, warehouses, lumber yards, one store, a blacksmith shop, boot and shoe shop, etc.

MEDINA (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County) Building — How "Birds Ruins" got its Name

These men entered into the following mutual contract; Zenas H. Bird, the younger brother, bought eighty acres of land, where the village of Marshall now stands, upon which he was to erect a "frame building" of suitable dimensions for a public house. In consideration of his erecting this house, A. A. Bird and Petrie were to improve the water power in the Maunesha creek, which flowed close by, and build thereon a saw mill, which they were to have completed and running within one year. This was in June, 1837. Zenas Bird went on and erected the public house according to contract. Meanwhile the other parties had got out the lumber for building the mill, and had drawn the most of it upon the ground where it was to be used. Zenas Bird and his "hands" went to the city of Madison for supplies, and while gone, the prairie caught fire and burned house, lumber and all. This occurred about the last of October, 1839. The frame of the house was not entirely consumed, but remained standing until 1845, when it fell to the ground, from which event the place derived the name of Bird's Ruins.

CHRISTIANA (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County) Food — Deer Hunting by Sleigh

Previous to its settlement, this was a favorite hunting ground with the settlers in adjoining towns. Deer were then very plentiful, and one of the favorite methods of hunting them in winter, was to get what was called a "drive" on them. Taking advantage of their curiosity, and knowing they could be easily approached with a team, several men in a sleigh followed their trail until within rifle shot, when the team was turned and driven around the deer, the men jumping out behind trees at convenient intervals. As soon as they were well surrounded the firing commenced, and the deer were driven from one side of the circle to the other, a large number frequently being killed before the herd succeeded in making its escape.

Source: History of Madison, Dane County and Surroundings, 1877

SUN PRAIRIE
Travel — Naming of Sun Prairie

In pursuance of an act of the first, or Belmont, legislative assembly, which located the seat of government at Madison, Mr. Augustus A. Bird had been elected acting commissioner for the erection of suitable buildings for the accommodation of the assembly and other officers of the territorial government. On the 26th day of May, 1837, the acting commissioner, accompanied by his brother, Mr. C. H. Bird, and a company of forty-five men, started from Milwaukee for the town of Madison. At that time nearly all of the Wisconsin westward from Milwaukee was an unbroken wilderness. One solitary settler at Summit, about twenty miles west of the lake, three at Watertown, on Rock River, one at Fort Atkinson, twenty miles down the river, and one at Janesville. These bold pioneers, with their wives and children, stood sentinels upon the outmost borders of civilization. With these exceptions, all was in the condition in which it left the fashioning hand of the Creator. Wild beasts roamed at will over its forests and prairies, and their dominion was disputed only by the scarcely less wild and savage Winnebagoes. On the fifth day of June, the company above mentioned, tired, footsore and depressed, plodded their weary way through the wild scenery of this then unexplored wilderness. Nine days had elapsed since they started on their weary march, and they had been drenched with rains and oppressed with continuous cloudy and lowering weather--the sun had not once gladdened them with its beams since the day on which they left Milwaukee. At length, as they emerged upon the borders of the beautiful prairie, about two miles east of where the village of Sun Prairie now stands, the sun shone forth in all its brightness, and illuminated the scene before them as with a halo of glory. The contrast which this beautiful vision presented to the gloom with which they had been surrounded was so great, that they greeted it with a shout, and almost involuntarily bivouacked upon its borders, christening the locality "Sun Prairie", which name they carved into the bark of an oak tree which stood near by; and for many years this tree bore upon its breast, in rude letters, the inscription "Sun Prairie." Hence originated the name of the locality which is the subject of this sketch.

SUN PRAIRIE (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County)
Travel — Hardships of Travel

That the pathway of these early pioneers was not always strewn with flowers will be readily believed. Their lot was no more exempt from toil, privation and hardship than is that of all who brave the perils of frontier life. The following incident, selected from a large number of similar anecdotes, is mentioned as illustrative of this: In the fall of 1837, C. H. Bird, Zenas Bird, Norman Pratt, and Mr. Parker were sent to Milwaukee by their employer, the acting commissioner above mentioned, and having accomplished the object of their mission, were on their return journey. In the act of crossing Rock River their canoe capsized, and all their provisions and accountrements were lost. During the remaining four days of their homeward journey, their only food consisted of oak apples — little excrescences caused by the sting of an insect upon the leaves of oak trees. But for the timely meeting with two brave fellows, sent from Madison, with food for their relief, they must have perished from fatigue and hunger.

WESTPORT (Pioneer tale from <u>History of Dane County</u>)
Farming — Hunting for Hogs

Early settlers tell of the exquisite beauty of the whole surroundings of Westport when they first settled in it, and it has never lost a single charm either in its native landscapes or what art and the hand of man has bestowed. Game, of all kinds, was abundant, and was consequently much resorted to by the Indians. In the spring the settlers were accustomed to turn their hogs out to run at large until fall, and when in need of fresh pork would proceed with guns and dogs in search of some fat pigs, shoot and carry home for use. When the weather became colder the hogs would return with their broods for winter quarters.

BLUE MOUNDS (Pioneer tale from History of Dane County) Indians — Indian conflicts

A fort was erected here in 1832, on section 7, called the Blue Mounds fort, for the protection of the miners and inhabitants of the surrounding country. In 1831 or 1832, Mr. Brigham had occasion to send two men to his residence on section 6, to repair some fences, when a number of Indians, who lay in ambush, rose up and fired on them, killing one and then capturing both of their horses; the other man made his escape to the fort, about a mile distant. It was also about this time that Lieut. Force and Capt. Green of the fort (the latter's family residing in the fort), rode out about two miles in a northeast direction on to the Madison and Mineral Point road, on section 9, and were attacked by Indians that lay in ambush among some hazel brush. Firing on them, they killed Lieutenant Force dead and wounded Captain Green in the arm, breaking it; he undertook to make his escape to the fort on horseback, but the Indians being also mounted, and being in large numbers, succeeded in surrounding him in a grove on section 16, where they killed and scalped him. Their bodies lay on the ground for about three days, until Gen. Dodge, from Dodgeville, came out with the rangers or volunteers and buried them just where they were killed. Their remains were afterwards taken up and buried near the fort.

BLUE MOUNDS (Pioneer tale from History of Dane County) Food — Wildlife

Game, such as deer, wolves, bears, prairie chicken, partridges, quails, etc., were abundant in those days. In the spring of the year it was nothing uncommon to see from twenty to thirty deer in a drove, and thousands of prairie chickens, partridges and quails, could be shot quite easy from a wagon. The wolves were also plenty, but very shy, seldom ever seen in the day time, and did not attempt to attack any human beings.

$\begin{array}{ll} \text{MAZOMANIE} & \text{(Pioneer tale from } \underline{\text{History of Dane County}}\text{)} \\ \text{Farming } - \text{Wages} \end{array}$

The times were very hard for several years after the first settlements, and very little money was to be had. Fifty cents per day was considered a good price for a day's work; usually paid for in flour, meat or other provisions. The usual price paid for harvest help was one bushel of wheat per day.

It might, perhaps, be interesting to the reader to mention some of the inconveniences which were experienced by the early settlers in this locality. There were no roads in the town, with the exception of a wagon track cleared through the timber. And when we say "cleared," we do not use the term with its modern significance, for the road still bristled with stumps, and the wagons, as they rolled slowly along, tumbled over huge rocks, which had never been moved from their resting places. There were no bridges over the streams, and the routes were often lengthened in reaching a practicable fording place, while over some of the low and otherwise impassible places, they had constructed the time honored "corduroy," so well known and much used in all new timber districts. Over such roads, by means of ox teams, the settlers were obliged to draw their products to Milwaukee to market, some seventy miles distant, while their groceries and other necessary articles of merchandise had to be transported back by the same tedious method. For many years there was no blacksmith shop nearer than Lake Mills. ten miles east of Bird's Ruins, and the settlers used to put their log chains into a bag, and slinging it upon their back, carry them over the rough and muddy roads to that place to get them mended. H. S. Clark has been known to take the "shear" of his breaking plow upon his shoulders (and none but those who have seen one of the primitive breaking plows used in those times can appreciate this feat), and carry it to Madison, nearly twenty miles distant, get it sharpened, and return with it the same day. The first anvil and pair of bellows were brought into the town by Louis Stone, and the first blacksmith shop was opened by his nephew, Jesse Stone and J. Thompson, under a large burroak in Bird's Ruins, where they held forth for some time in the open air.

MEDINA (Pioneer tales from <u>History of Dane County</u>) Food — Wisconsin Gravy

There are persons still living in the village of Marshall, who can well remember when the unvarying bill of fare was Johnny cake for breakfast, Johnny cake for dinner, and Johnny cake for supper, with its usual concomitant, "Wisconsin gravy." This was manufactured by taking a little flour or meal and stirring it in water, making a thin paste, which they spread on the corn bread. As civilization advanced, however, and times became more prosperous, some enterprising Yankee introduced sweetening into the locality in the form of cheap molasses, and then the better classes indulged in sweet corn bread once a week (Sundays). This was considered a luxury indeed, and was eaten with great relish, without sauce or gravy, butter being a "minus quantity" in those days.

MEDINA (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County) Farming — Economic Problems of Farmers

As soon as the settlers could get a piece of land broken up, and procure seed with which to sow it, they raised excellent crops of winter wheat, ranging from thirty-five to forty bushels per acre; but on account of their restricted market advantages for a great many years, they realized only an insignificant price for their produce, barely sufficient to pay their taxes and purchase a few necessary articles of wearing apparel, together with their indispensable farm implements. In 1852, Charles Wakeman purchased a wagon for \$90, and sold No. 1 winter wheat at thirty cents per bushel to pay for it.

MEDINA (Pioneer tales from <u>History of Dane County</u>)
Building — Lumber

In 1852, A. M. Hanchett erected the first grist mill at Bird's Ruins. He also built a new mill dam, about twenty rods below the old one, and moved the saw mill down along side of the grist mill. The saw mill, after having accomplished its mission of converting thousands of feet of the primitive oaks into lumber, to the incalculable benefit of the early settlers, at last rotted and fell to the ground, the necessity for its labors being superseded by the increasing facilities of transportation, which enabled the people to procure pine lumber from the northern part of the state.

DEERFIELD (Pioneer tales from History of Dane County)
Travel — Boots for Buckets

In the fall of 1837, Capt. Stansbury, with Lieuts. J. D. Webster and Charles Hagner, of the U.S. Engineer Department, came to Milwaukee for the purpose of expending an appropriation by the government in making a road from Milwaukee to Madison, on the most direct and practicable route. They being unacquainted with the country, Capt. Stansbury sent for me, then residing at Aztalan, to come and pilot them through, which I did. On arriving at Aztalan and finding comfortable accommodations at the house of Thomas Brayton, Esq., who had recently arrived, and discovering it to be very impracticable to ride through on the route to Madison, on account of the impassable marshes, I was employed to make the survey through, which I did, but not without some suffering, as there was some nine miles of the way so surrounded with marsh that it was impossible to get on with team or pack horse, so we had to take on our backs the tent, camp equipage, provisions, etc. The day was cold, and we had to wade streams and marshes, and, before reaching the point selected for camping, my pantaloons became frozen to my boots, my boots to my stockings, and stockings to my feet, and my feet, as a matter of course, became somewhat cold, but the sensation was rather that of pain than cold. We soon had a rousing fire; I cut the boots from my feet, and spent most of the night in making moccasins for use the next day. My assistants did not appear to suffer so much. We soon found ourselves tolerably comfortable, and after partaking of a hearty meal, hastily cooked, began to feel quite well again, and turned in for the night, but soon the sensation of thirst came upon us, when we realized the fact that we had not with us a pail or bucket to get water from the stream (Koshkonong Creek) which was near by. One offered to go and get the water, if he had anything to bring it in; another offered his boots for buckets; this being the best we could do under the circumstances, was adopted, and we were thus enabled to quench our thirst. The next day we succeeded in reaching Madison.

DEERFIELD (Pioneer tales from <u>History of Dane County</u>) Travel — Corduroy Road

The bridges or causeways were built for the purpose of facilitating the travel across the marshes by the several stages, whose route lay through the town, and was done by the filling up of the marsh with every kind of brush and waste materials found near by, and then large logs felled and laid across. In the wet season it frequently happened that the stages would drive over these causeways, with the water nearly up to the wheel hubs.



Colophon (Musical Background)

SPECIAL NOTE:

Please do not judge the quality of the beautiful full-color pictures in the Filmstrip by the appearance of the black-and-white photos in this Guide! Obviously, there is no comparison between full-color and black and white pictures.



2
Title Slide
(Musical Background)

Prepared by
Virginia Kline in cooperation with
The Local Materials Project, ESEA
Title III, Madison Public Schools

Mary Lou Peterson, Director

Ron Austin, Photography

Dona Friedman, Graphic Artist

Credit Frame (Musical Background)



4

Four lakes lay in the interior of a great wilderness continent. Many years later the continent would be known throughout the world as North America, but at the time our story begins it was unnamed, and unknown except to the people who made their homes in its vast wilderness.

"Four lakes" refer to Mendota, Monona, Kegonsa, and Waubesa.



5

The people who lived near the lakes were building a monument. Slowly, basket by basket, earth was being carried from the marshland below to be piled according to a carefully planned shape. Nearby stood other mounds which had been built by their ancestors.

This slide and the two following are photographs of a diorama at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin building in Madison. The setting is actually along a Wisconsin river.





Some, but not all, of the mounds were used for burials. Often ceremonial fires were burned during the construction. Their children and grandchildren would continue the tradition until over a thousand mounds would stand silently on the ridges overlooking the four lakes — the first lasting evidence that human beings lived in this place.

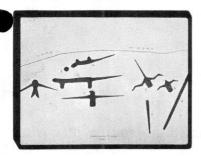
Mounds such as these are unique. They are found only in southern Wisconsin and in limited areas close to Wisconsin — Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. The sites chosen were usually high and overlooking a river or lake.



7

The earliest mounds were shaped like circles or lines; later generations of these Indian people made mounds shaped like animals or "spirits". Perhaps these represented special tribal totems.

For further information on the mounds see page 8 and the bibliography.



8

The men who built these monuments little imagined that hundreds of years later men would come from many parts of the world to study the strange mounds and to wonder about the builders. Because there would be no written record, many questions would remain unanswered.

Diagram by Charles E. Brown of a group of mounds found near Lake Wingra. The few facts about these people were pieced together from clues found in the mounds, such as bones, bits of charcoal, and a few utensils. The class may wish to discuss the ways in which we learn about people who lived long ago.



9

Nor did the mound builders know about what other men had been building in other parts of the world. Far to the south other Indian people were building temples of stone.





Across the sea in Africa the remarkable pyramids had been built three thousand years before.



11

The people of a great European civilization centering in Greece and Rome had been building roads, aqueducts and buildings of stone. We know a lot about the people who built these structures because they left written records about events that happened, about their ideas, and about their customs. They were part of a civilization which centuries later would spread across the sea to the land of the mound builders.

The period of the mound builders coincided with the declining years of the Roman Empire.



12

Some mounds were still being constructed near the four lakes when hundreds of miles away, the first explorers from across the sea set foot on the wilderness continent.



13

By the time Columbus made his exciting discovery a thousand miles to the southeast, the Indian people living near the four lakes no longer constructed the remarkable mounds.

Explain that the lakes shown in frames 13, 15, and 26 are the GREAT LAKES, not to be confused with the FOUR MADISON LAKES which are too small to show on these maps.



14

A little over a century or 100 years after Columbus, the first European families arrived to settle along the eastern coast, bringing to this "New World" the customs and ideas of the civilization across the sea. This "beach head" of that civilization would spread in a few generations across the whole continent to the western coast, engulfing the Indian cultures as it advanced.



15

It was probably about two centuries after Columbus when the first Europeans laid eyes upon the four beautiful lakes far in the interior of the continent. These newcomers were French fur traders who followed water routes through the Great Lakes and river systems, portaging overland when necessary.



16

Such adventurous men endured the hardships of wilderness travel and life to become the first "business men" in the areas they reached. The Indians they found by the four lakes were Winnebagos, a woodland tribe. The Winnebagos called the land around the lakes "Taychoperah". For them it was a land of great abundance.

Taychoperah was the Winnebago word for the four lakes and the general area surrounding the lakes. It is spoken in a smooth flowing manner. Tā kō per ah.



17

Vast rich prairies, sometimes with widely spaced oak trees, stretched over most of their land.



18

Elk, deer and buffalo were hunted as well as smaller animals.



19

Often the prairies blazed with fires started by natural causes or deliberately by the Indians. A prairie fire can burn an acre a minute. We don't know all the reasons the Indians burned the prairies, but it is thought that the fires aided their hunting.





Some forests grew near the lakes, especially on the eastern shores, providing such products as forest game, firewood, and maple syrup. Perhaps you know of plants or animals of the forest which the Indians used.



21

Lakes and marshland supplied fish, turtles, muskrats, and water fowl, in addition to wild rice and other edible plants. This combination of prairie, forest, and wetland provided the Indians of Taychoperah with a wide variety of plants and animals.



22

Indian villages, many of them summer camps, dotted the shores of the lakes. Often the Indians moved farther north where the winter hunting was best and returned to the four lakes area for the summer fishing and hunting. They also grew corn in the clearings — perhaps the first cultivated crop in the four lakes area.

Corn is thought to have originated in America. Is it an important crop in Dane County today? Squash and pumpkins were also raised by the Indians. For further information see bibliography.



23

But the strange pale newcomers to the Indian world put a new value on one particular Indian activity: trapping of fur bearing animals. Taychoperah, like the rest of the wilderness reached by the traders, was caught up in the booming fur market, with all its effects on the life and economy of the Indians.

Pictures from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



24

Fur was needed for the fashions of new empires across the sea.

The beaver pelts were made into a fur felt. See "1761 Standard of Trade" page 5.



Although the French who came had a written language, little was written about the four lakes during this period. Perhaps the location of this rich area was a "trade secret". The fur trade continued as first France, then England, and finally the brand new United States claimed ownership of the wilderness lands of which Taychoperah was a part.



26

When the United States set aside its lands north and west of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi as the Northwest Territory, these boundaries included the land of the four lakes. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 which governed the new territory provided steps by which states would be formed from the area as the population increased. There were important

provisions in this ordinance: Not less than three nor more than five states would be formed from the territory. The new states would have equal rights with the original states. Slavery was prohibited. Trial by jury and freedom of worship were guaranteed.



27

Nathan Dane was one of the men who helped write this important ordinance. The capital of the last state to be formed from the Northwest Territory would be located in a county named after Nathan Dane. At the time the Ordinance of 1787 was written many men, including Nathan Dane, thought that population growth in the new Territory would be so slow that only the

most Eastern district would qualify for statehood within the foreseeable future. Yet within 31 years, three states were formed from the Territory: Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The land that was left, including Taychoperah, was called the Michigan Territory.



28

Early in the 1800's, in the hilly country 70 miles south and west of the four lakes another resource began to attract newcomers. Like the furs, it was first used by the Indians. It was mined by Indian women. The resource was galena, a mineral containing lead.





While the fur traders for the most part had come by the waterways from the north, the lead miners came by more southern routes, using the Ohio River and rough overland trails. The town of Galena, named for the mineral in which the lead was found, became a center of lead mining activity. Today you can locate this town in northwestern Illinois.

For further information see "Lead Mining" page 4 and bibliography.



30

Ebenezer Brigham was one of those attracted by the lead deposits. He came northeast from Galena and discovered deposits near the Blue Mounds. Here he built a cabin.



31

The Blue Mounds, highest point for miles around, had long been a landmark and lookout point for the Indians and for the European explorers who followed the Indian trails. The earliest maps always showed the location of the two mounds, which at first were called the East Blue Mound and West Blue Mound. The arrival of lead miners angered the Indians,

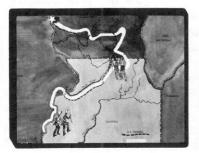
who naturally protested at having such competition for the lead. A block house was built near the Mounds, to protect the miners and their families. By this time, however, most of the Indian resistance in the midwest had ended. The defense of their ancestral lands had proved to be only a delaying action; the civilization from across the sea continued its march across the continent.

Early settlers heading west from Milwaukee watched for the appearance of the Mounds on the horizon to guide their way. Because of this a road leading west from Milwaukee is called "Blue Mound Road". View is of West Blue Mound.



In the midwest, the last of the Indian battles was fought the same year the block house was built. It was called the Black Hawk War. Black Hawk was a leader of the Sauk tribe. The Sauks had signed a treaty giving up their lands in Illinois and had been moved west across the Mississippi River. Black Hawk felt that the treaty had not been fair, and that his

people should not have been forced to move from their lands. Encouraged by reports that other tribes would come to his aid, Black Hawk led his people back across the Mississippi River into Illinois in hope of reclaiming some of the land on which they had lived. After several battles, the American troops forced Black Hawk and his people to retreat. The other tribes gave the Sauks no aid.



33

Black Hawk chose a retreat route which led north and west to the four lakes area, then between two of the four lakes and west to the Mississippi River. The soldiers who pursued Black Hawk were seeing this land for the first time. One of them wrote a letter describing the four lakes as the most beautiful bodies of water he had ever seen.



34

He stated, "If these lakes were anywhere else except in the country they are, they would be considered among the wonders of the world. But the country they are situated in, is not fit for any civilized nation of people to inhabit. It appears that the Almighty intended it for the children of the forest." This letter was one of the first written descriptions of the area.

After the war, the returning soldiers told their friends and families "back east" about the land north of Illinois. Many felt there were great opportunities there. Books and pamphlets were written and sale of public lands began.



35

Four years after the Black Hawk War, Taychoperah became part of the new Wisconsin Territory. The settlers in the new territory numbered twelve thousand, but none had yet settled near the four lakes. In the fall the men elected to the Legislature of the new Wisconsin Territory met at the town of Belmont in the more populated lead mining region. The Legislature set off twelve counties. Taychoperah became part of the county named after Nathan Dane.





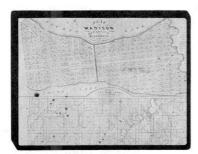


Mr. Brigham's cabin was just inside the western boundary of that county, which went between the two Blue Mounds.

This view is toward the south with the mound on the right in Iowa County; that on the left in Dane County.

37

A month of skirmishing went on as the Legislature debated where the capitol of the new territory should be located. James Duane Doty who later became governor of Wisconsin, successfully promoted the selection of a "city" on the narrow strip of land or isthmus between the two largest of the four lakes. He named the site Madison, in honor of the fourth president of the United States. Doty had bought the site for \$1500.



38

The "city" existed only on paper. Here you see the plan of what was referred to as Doty's "paper city". It looked impressive, but the streets were yet to be built and the <u>actual</u> inhabitants of the area were the Indians and three fur traders. Doty had stayed with one of the traders when he went with a surveyor to lay out the new city.



39

Living with Ebenezer Brigham at Blue Mounds the year the capital site was chosen was the Peck family — Eben Peck, his wife Rosaline, and their small son. Mrs. Peck provided meals for Squire Brigham and his family and mining hands. They also took in travelers since the house was located near one of the few roads in the Territory, the Military Road running

from Green Bay to Galena. The Legislators, stopping on their way home from Belmont, told the Pecks about the selection of Madison as the new capital. The Pecks decided to build a home there which would serve as an inn for travelers, and for the workers who would be needed to build the new capital. Later there would be legislators to feed and house. They made arrangements for a log cabin to be built near "Third Lake" (Lake Monona) and thought about the supplies they would need. What would you buy to equip an inn in the wilderness?

The Military Road was built to connect forts Howard (at Green Bay), Winnebago (at Portage), and Crawford (at Prairie du Chien). In Dane County it passed in the vicinity of present Cross Plains, Pine Bluff, Mount Horeb and Blue Mounds.





Here is Mrs. Peck's shopping list. The nearest place to buy these things was the town of Mineral Point, a trading center for the lead miners about twenty-five miles away.



41

Early in spring in 1837, they set out for Madison with all their possessions in a wagon. Along with the supplies bought in Mineral Point, there was food prepared by Mrs. Peck: half a barrel of pickles, a tub of butter, and jars of plums and berries collected from Blue Mounds thickets. Also in the wagon were potatoes, four feather beds and six bed ticks to be filled with grass or hay.



42

They decided to camp for the night in what is now the Nakoma area of Madison, but awoke during the night to find snow and sleet. Fearing it might get worse, they moved on to their not yet finished house — near the corner of Butler and King streets. And so Madison's first family of settlers arrived at their new but unfinished home on a snowy April day.

Mrs. Peck and her son spent the rest of the night sitting in the wagon under a tree with a quilt over their heads.



43

An Indian village on the shores of Lake Monona could be seen from their front doorstep.



44

The nearby hill on which the capitol would be built was described as a smooth prairie crossed by Indian trails, and containing a very thin growth of oaks. Besides Squire Brigham at Blue Mounds 25 miles away, the only other family of settlers in all of Dane County was the Berry Haney family near the Military Road at what is now Cross Plains. Three or four families arrived to join the Pecks before fall.



The month after the Pecks arrived, workmen came from Milwaukee to start work on the new capitol. There was no road between Milwaukee and Madison. They had to make one as they came, cutting trees in the forested areas, making crossings through the many marshes and bogs. Miserable wet weather plagued them for nine days. Finally just as they

reached a large prairie, the sun broke through the clouds. The sight of the beautiful sunlit prairie after so many dark days so inspired them that they named the spot Sun Prairie and camped there that night. The expedition took ten days from Milwaukee to Madison. The crude road allowed supplies for the new capitol to be brought from Milwaukee rather than by the roundabout route through Galena and Blue Mounds.



46

The opening up of new roads, and the activity associated with the building of the capitol made the cluster of families dream of a bright future for Madison, but it would be many years before they would feel confident that the community would continue to grow. New families were welcomed joyfully and urged to stay. There was at first always the fear

that the capitol might be moved elsewhere to a more populous area. The Pecks' log cabin served that first year as home, inn, ballroom, post office, and polling place for the new community. Here the first pioneer child in Madison was born. The baby was named Victoria Wisconsiana Peck.



47

In the spring a school was taught in the front part of one of the new cabins. A dozen or so children sat on the benches made of oak slabs. Only the teacher had a chair. She was paid two dollars a week, half of which she paid for her board. There were no textbooks. New roads, log cabins, schoolteachers—all were signs that the civilization which began across the sea was beginning to claim the land the Indians called Taychoperah.



48

We can read a letter written by Mrs. Peck herself telling about her first days in Madison. Mrs. Peck is said to have sailed the first pleasure craft on the lakes. It was a large Indian dugout canoe which she outfitted with a sail!

See Mrs. Peck's letter page 7.





Clusters of cabins began to appear in other parts of the county, usually where a stream could provide power for a flour mill. Written records help us to learn about the experiences of Dane County's early settlers. Life on the frontier was not a life for the frail or lazy or timid. We can read the tales about wolves at the door, about boots used for buckets,

about the prairie fire which destroyed a new house and a pile of valuable lumber, about wagon tracks bristling with stumps, about going deer hunting with sleighs. A section of a huge round tree formed a wheel for a cart, oxen served as threshing "machines", news journals as wallpaper for a store. Names such as "Wisconsin Gravy", "Bird Ruins", "Oak Opening", "Corduroy Bridge", "Prairie Chicken" were easily understood by pioneer children.

Pioneer tales from History of Dane County by C. W. Butterfield are printed to be used by individual students for reports. "Windsor", "Medina", etc. refer to towns of Dane County. See "What Is A Town?" page 6



50
The End
(Musical Conclusion)



Colophon



2 Title

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Prepared by Virginia Kline in cooperation with
the Local Materials Project, ESEA — Title III
Madison Public Schools

Mary Lou Peterson, Director

Ron Austin, Photographer

Dona Friedman, Graphic Artist

3

Prepared by Virginia Kline in cooperation with the Local Materials Project, ESEA Title III, Madison Public Schools; Mary Lou Peterson, Director; Ron Austin, Photographer; Dona Friedman, Graphic Artist



4

From mound builders to pioneers — these are the earliest chapters in the story of Madison and Dane County. What can we see today which will remind us of those first beginnings?

The beautiful lekes which lay in the wilderness can be seen today in Dane County. We call them Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa, but the early settlers called them Fourth, Third, Second, and First Lakes.



5

The oldest records of men living in this area are the media which can still be seen today in the Arboretum, on the University of Wisconsin campus, at Mendota Hospital, at this park on Lakeland Avenue, and other places in and near Madison. Farther away one of the best places to see Indian mounds is at Lizard Mound State Park near West Bend, Wisconsin

mounds



A street on the south side of Madison is named for these southern part of Wisconsin and in small areas of Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota close to the Wisconsin border.



The Indians living near the Four Lakes when the first Europeans arrived were members of the tribe.

Winnebego



The University of Wisconsin Arboretum has areas which show what the land was like in Indian times.

There are _____...

prairies



9

... and _____...

maple syrup



10

...and

at the Arboretum.

marshland





The State Historical Society in Madison and the Milwaukee Public Museum are good places to go to see dioramas and relics showing the way of life of the

Nature American



12 early prou

. . . and _____ who were the first Europeans seen by the Indians.



***13**

Indiano Mich, Ill, obsorves

Wisconsin was part of the Northwest Territory. A man named helped to write the laws which governed that territory. Today a county is named after him.

Term could become states

Not less when a now

wore when so atales

= rights

no slavery

trial by sury



14

Some of the first newcomers to the Indian lands in southern Wisconsin came to find a wineral - balence containing lead. This road goes west from Madison toward a town which began as a mining settlement.



15

Today in Mineral Point some of the homes of the miners have been restored so that people can see how such early settlers lived.



16 Blue Maunds

The highest point in southwestern Wisconsin is _____, still a landmark today. There is now a state park on top of the larger mound.

block house built protect numers resistance & D. A end.



17 Brigham Ebenezer Brigham

One of the men who came looking for lead to mine was _____, who settled near the Blue Mounds. He is considered the first permanent settler in Dane County. His descendants gave the land for the park which bears his name and is located on the smaller mound to the east.



18

There were many conflicts as the European newcomers began to take over the land of the Indians. An Indian named who was a leader...

> Blackhauk war leader of Sauk hoped to reclaim land



9

... of the ______ tribe led his tribe in a tragic attempt to win back their tribal lands in Illinois.



20

After several battles, the tribe retreated toward the Mississippi. On the way, they traveled across the isthmus where the city of ______ is today. The United States troops followed.



A marker on the U.W. campus marks the route of this retreat. The soldiers who pursued Black Hawk told their friends and families about the wilderness land they had seen north of Illinois. This publicity plus the end of Indian resistance encouraged more settlers to come. Wisconsin became a separate territory four years after Black Hawk's defeat.



22

When the legislators of the new territory met for the first time, it was at Belmont, a town in the lead mining area. Visitors today can see a restoration of the original building in which the legislators met. It is the building on the right in this picture.



23

And this is the meeting room inside.



24

One of the legislators, named had bought land near the Four Lakes and persuaded the others to choose this location for the capital of

Wisconsin Territory.

bought for \$1500 named 44h pres.

paper city - streets not built

paper habitants Indians + 3 feet

traders > stayed

with



25

When this first meeting ended, some of the legislators stopped at the Brigham cabin near Blue Mounds on their way home. The family was renting Brigham's home and providing rooms and meals for Mr. Brigham and his mining hands. Mr. and Mrs. decided to start an inn in Madison after they heard that this was to be the site of the to buy show m. P new capital.



26

Today there is a marker at the place where the combination inn and home once stood. The Pecks were soon joined by other pioneer families in this wild land.



27

There was great excitement over the building of the first capitol in Madison. A saw mill was built at the foot of Butler Street to saw the lumber. Stone was rafted across Lake Mendota from Maple Bluff.



28

The first capitol lasted only twenty years . . .



29

. . . and was replaced by a second one, which later burned down.



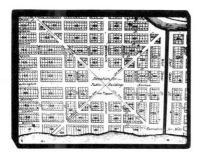
30

So today when we go downtown, we see the third capitol building to stand on that spot. Around it a busy city thrives.



31

The plan of the downtown streets of this busy city follows closely . . .



32

. . . the plan of Judge Doty's "paper city", which once was just a vision in the wilderness.



33

The End.

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