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History of Janesville

History of Janesville

By

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Wisconsin History 55211

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May 1, 1969

SECTION I

Row IV SEAT IV

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History of Janesville

The United States began the surveys of this part of Rock County in the summer of 1833. The portion of the town of Janesville west of the river was first surveyed. The town lines were run by surveyors, Mullet and Brink in the third quarter of 1833, and the sections and subdivisions were surveyed later in the same year by George W. Harrison. These lands were opened for entry and sale at the land office, which was situated at Green Bay, in 1835, before any actual settlers arrived here, so that when they did come they settled on the east side of the river, which was not surveyed until 1836.

All land on the west of the river in range 12 were put on the market in the summer of 1835, and were entered by Thomas A. Holmes, G. P. Page, H. Pennoyer, Morgan L. Martain and other who had never been here.

On July 14, 1835, John Inman of Lucerne county, Pennsylvania, and William Holmes, of Ohio, started from Milwaukee, to prospect and find a location. They had heard there of the beauties of the Rock River valley, and so directed their steps in this direction. On July 16, they arrived at what is now Fort Atkinson, and following down around Lake Koshkonong, they encamped the next night, the 17th, about where Fulton now is, in Rock County. During the night their ponies escaped and wandered on down the river. The next morning, July 18, 1835, they took their stuff on their backs and tramped on down the river reaching the location or Janesville that afternoon. They must have forded the river somewhere, for they encamped that night on the bluff at the southern edge of the river on the east side of the river, from where they could see the remains of Black Hawk's camp. This must have been near where George Banthorn's

residence now is on Sharon street. The next morning they went over to where the Indian camp had been, and called it Black Hawk's Grove, which name it has ever since retained. Not having found their ponies, they kept on walking down the river as far as where Turtle creek enters the Rock river in Beloit. They saw no one; no settler had yet claimed any part of this virgin land for his own. Determining to retrace their steps, they found their ponies and returned to their Janesville camp. No place they had seen had so appealed to them as this, and the combination of forest and prairie, with the spring creeks and the river, the untouched forest trees in the oak openings, and the countless wild flowers of every shade and hue on the prairie, must indeed have been an alluring sight. Their minds were made up to look no farther, but that this point should be their future home; so they started back for Milwaukee to get their families on July 20, 1835. They were delayed in returning until November 15, but on that day John Inman, George Follner, William Holmes, Jr., and Joshua Holmes left Milwaukee to reside permanently at this place; they arrived opposit the big rock at Monterey, where the Indian ford was, on November 18, 1835, and proceeded to build a cabin at that place. This log cabin was the first house built within the limits of the city of Janesville, and stood about where the new Janesville & Southeastern railway passes before it crosses Eastern avenue, about thirty rods east of the Monterey bridge.

On December 18 of the same year, Samuel St. John, his wife and three children came from Vermont and joined the above named party, making nine people who lived all winter in this cabin.

In the fall of 1835, Thomas Holmes, of Milwaukee, who had entered and on the west side of the river, laid out the village of Rockport, which now constitutes a portion of the city of Janesville.

In the month of January of 1836, in the little log cabin spoken of before, the first child born in Janesville arrived in the family of Samual St. John; this child was named Seth B. St. John; he moved from Janesville to Columbia county, Wisconsin, and later farther west.

In January also, Henry F. Janes visited the location of Janesville, and also went on to Whitewater, and Sugar creek, coming from Racine with his cousin, John Janes. Janes, with others, had started twice before, but owing to the loss of their supplies and other reasons, they had turned back without seeing Rock river, though at one time they had reached within five or six miles of it. Janes made his claim of land on the east side of the river, and carved his name on a tree standing where the Myers house now stands, on February 15, 1836. He staked and marked off his claim and then hired two men to build him a cabin eighteen feet square on it. He started back for Racine, which he followed the section line on foot and alone, sixty-three miles without seeing a solitary individual, or a mark of civilization other than the surveyors' marks in surveying the line. He did not return with his family until May.

March 30, 1836, Judge William Holmes and family moved from Michigan City to Janesville, coming by way of Chicago. Judge Holmes and family lived for six months in a cabin near the Altimore quarry, and then they erected the first frame building within Janesville's limits, built of limber cut with whipsaw, by Robert and Daniel Stone, who had shortly before arrived here, and who staid in Janesville for a short time before taking up their land, which they afterwards did, near Indian Ford, ten miles north of Janesville. This house of Judge Holmes was erected about thirty-five rods south of the present North Ward park.

On May 19, 1836, H.F. Janes arrived with his family, and was also accompanied by Levi Harness, Richard Miller, Baesely and Isaac Smith, the two later returning shortly to Racine. Janes' cabin had been built, but, as it was minus a floor, and with a hole sawed out for a door. In June, 1836, the first death in the little settlement occurred, Mrs. Samuel St. John dying, and the second birth, Mary Catherine Holmes, daughter of John and Hannah Holmes. There was no other death until 1840.

In 1836, the county was detached from Milwaukee county and made a part of Racine county; it was not organized as a separate county until the spring of 1839, though the county seat was established at the legislative session of 1836, and 1837.

Early in 1837 or perhaps late in 1836, Henry F. Janes commenced running a ferry across the river about where the Milwaukee street bridge is now, in connection with his tavern where the Lappin or Hayes block is situated.

In April, 1837, through the agency of General W. B. Sheldon, a postoffice was established at Janesville, and Mr. Janes was appointed postmaster; the first mail, carried by Joseph Payne, arrived on April 22, 1837, starting from Mineral Point on the way to Racine, and Dr. B.B. Carey, postmaster of Racine, inducted Janes into office. A cigar box fastened on the end of the bar served to hold all the mail for quite a period of time.

The first religious service was held here in July or the first of August, 1837, by an itinerant Methodist minister, who came in on horseback and held service in the open air under a large oak tree.

In the fall of 1838 Charles Stevens erected a new hotel on the site of the present Myers house, called the Janesville Stage

house. Under his able management this tavern was long known as the best public house west of Lake Michigan.

In the winter of 1838 and 1839 Hiram Brown taught a few children in a log schoolhouse in the southeast part of the city, being the first school in Janesville.

February 15, 1839, a territorial act was passed organizing Rock county and separating it from Racine county, to which it had formerly been attached, and also reestablishing the county seat at Janesville. An election was held, in which Lucius G. Fisher was elected sheriff; W. H. H. Bailey, register of deeds; W. S. Murray, William Spaulding and E. J. Hassard county commissioners. There has been an informal election for justices of the peace before this, in which Daniel Smiley and Hiram Brown had been elected, and they had been serving for some time.

In the proceedings to locate the county seat, the little settlement had to be given "a local habitation and a name," and Generals Dodge and Sheldon and Knapp suggested the name of "Janesville," owing to the county seat being located upon the fractional quarter section which Mr. Janes had entered, and because of his tireless efforts in procuring the location of the county seat at this place, when it was opposed by all the other settlements in the county.

The first act establishing the county seat (act 12, laws 1837-8 approved December 27, 1837) did not mention the name of "Janesville," but simply provided "that the seat of justice in Rock county should be on part of the northwest quarter of section 36, town 3, range 12," being the tract claimed by Janes. The name had been mentioned in the laws a year previous, however. In act 33, laws of 1836, approved December 8, 1836, a commission was appointed to lay out a territorial

road from Lake Michigan to Rock River "to terminate at or near Janesville on said river." Mr. Janes, in a letter from California published in "History of Rock County," 1879, gives another account of the naming of Janesville, as follows: "I had first give it the name of "Black Hawk," it having been one of the old warrior's camping grounds, and sent up a petition to the postoffice department for a postoffice of that name, and recommended myself as postmaster. Amos Kendall, at that time postmaster general, refused to establish an office by that name. As their was one already bearing that name, in Iowa, but then a part of Wisconsin territory, and gave the name "Janesville' to the postoffice."¹

The first session of the Rock County district court was held in Janesville in 1839, using as a courthouse one of the rooms in the Janesville Stage house, and as a jury room a small frame building adjacent thereto. Judge Irving presided, and Dr. Guy Stoughton was appointed clerk of the court.

The first public school was opened during the summer of 1840, in a log building near north Main street near General Sheldon's residence, which was taught by Miss Cornelia Sheldon, his daughter.

February 17, 1842, township 3 and the north half of township 2 north, of ranges 13 and 14 east, and all of that part of east of Rock River, were organized into a town by the name of Janesville. On March 21, 1843, that part comprised in township 3 north of range 14 east and township 4 north, of range 12 east, was annexed to Janesville.²

¹Chapman Bros., Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County Wisconsin, Acme Publishing Company, Chicago, 1885, pp. 1021-1038.

²Joseph B. Doe, Revised Charter of the City of Janesville with Special Amendments, Janesville Signal Book and Job Printing, 1891.

In 1842 the first bridge over Rock river was built by Charles Stevens, Thomas Lappin and W. H. H. Bailey. It was a private enterprise with them, and was operated as a toll bridge for nearly ten years. It was erected where the Milwaukee street bridge now is, at a cost of two thousand dollars.

In the spring of 1843 the first permanent Methodist church was organized by Rev. Boyd Phillips; it had nine members, and Mr. John Winn was appointed leader.

In this year a census taken showed the population to be 333 persons. The year was 1843.

In 1843 the first lumber yard was established at Janesville by Elbridge G. Fifield, near the west end of where now the Court street bridge is situated.

The first brick block for business purposes was erected by Daniel A. Richardson; this was three stories high and known as the Commercial block, and was a portion of the block where J. M. Bostwick & Sons store now is on Main street. This was in the year of 1844.

February 11, 1845 the First Congregational church of Janesville was organized by Rev. C. H. Buckley, assisted by Rev. Stephen Peet, with sixteen members.

During the year 1844 a little one-story brick schoolhouse was erected by the village on Division street near East Milwaukee street. This was the first building erected by the public. Orrin Guernsey was the first teacher in charge of this school. In the fall another schoolhouse was built on Eastern avenue under contract by J. P. Wheeler; it was painted red and was known thereafter as the "little red schoolhouse."

The first newspaper in the county was started August 14, 1845, by Levi Alden, of New Hampshire, and E. A. Stoddard; it was a weekly called "The Janesville Gazette," and is still carried on under that name. The subscribers at the beginning numbered about 300. Today the subscribers number 47,235.

In August, 1846, a second newspaper, called the "Rock County Democrat," was established by General G. W. Crabb, and continued under his management until 1848. In 1849, it had passed into the hands of Charles S. Jordan, who issued a few numbers and then suspended publication until March 1, 1849, when its publication was resumed under the title of "Rock County Badger." In 1850, under different editors, the name was again changed to "Badger State," and in 1851 it was merged with a new paper called the "Democratic Standard." Under this name it continued until 1858, when it gave way to the "Janesville Daily and Weekly Times."

In December a census showed the population to be 1,458, nearly doubling the last census.

1847, the first secret society was organized at Janesville, being the Wisconsin Lodge No. 14 of the Odd Fellows, which was chartered February 11, 1847. This lodge is still in existence today.

The first Catholic church was also built in 1847, being a small brick building at the corner of Homes and Cherry streets, erected by St. Patrick's Society, and this building afterwards was enlarged and grew into the church.

The first lodge of Masons was chartered January 15, 1848, being the Western Star Lodge No. 14, F. and A. M. This lodge is still in existence in Janesville today.

On May 7, 1848, the first large fire occurred—the William Hodson

brewery on North Main street, was destroyed by fire, as was also Mr. Hodson's residence at the corner of North Bluff and Pease court. The loss was estimated at ten thousand dollars.

In June, 1848, the present Trinity church building was finished and dedicated. September 7, 1848, the Milwaukee and Galena Telegraph Company was organized, A. Hyatt Smith, of Janesville, Being president, and R. W. Wright, of Waukesha, vice-president. The building of the line was rushed, and on December 15, 1848, the line reached Janesville and was commenced to be operated, so that Janesville came into telegraphic communication with the outside world over this line to Milwaukee and from there to Chicago, and so on.

In March, 1848, a census showed the population of Janesville to be 1,812. There were 318 families, 113 of whom lived on the east side of the river and 205 on the west side. And it was shown that 116 houses on the west side of the river had been erected in the last eighteen months.

August 30, 1849, a public meeting was held to secure the location of the state asylum for the blind at Janesville, and it was soon after established here. Though at first by private parties, the first term of school was held in one of Ira Miltimore's buildings on Center avenue near the Monterey bridge. Later, in 1850, the school was transferred to the residence of Mrs. H. Hunter on Jackson street. In 1852, Captain Miltimore having donated ten acres where the site now is, a building was erected thereon, and in the fall the school commenced operation there. At about this time the state took charge of it.

In October, 1849, the postoffice department established a daily mail service between Milwaukee and Janesville. The mails were then all carried by stage, and there were nine mail routes crossing

Janesville, so that the arrival and departure of the stages furnished daily excitement and added to the lively appearance of the town.

In June, 1850, the count of the population was 3,100, showing that it had increased about 1,300 in a little over a year.

In 1850 the first regular pastor of the Catholic church took charge, being the Rev. Patrick Keenan; prior to this time the services had been held by outside priests.

January 8, 1851, the Oak Hill Cemetery Association was organized and procured land where the Oak Hill Cemetery now is. Previous to this time, the block now occupied by the Jefferson school was used as a cemetery; but from this time on no more bodies were interred there, and in 1855 and 1856 those that had been buried there were taken up and reburied in Oak Hill and Mt. Olivet cemeteries.

On October 12, 1851, the first state fair was held in Janesville, and the Rock County Agricultural Society also held its fair in connection with it. This fair was held on the prairie east of the courthouse park. This fair was attended by at least 5,000 people, and the receipts, given as two hundred and fifty-four dollars divided equally between the state and the county associations.

The year 1853 was a famous year for Janesville, because then it was incorporated as a city by chapter 93 of the Private and Local Laws of 1853, which was approved by Governor Farwell on March 19, 1853.

The first election was fixed for the first Tuesday of April. A. Hyatt Smith was elected the first mayor of Janesville at that election.

The third newspaper was started on January 6, 1853, being the "Free Press," Rev. Joseph Baker, editor. This paper was Republican in politics and was issued until 1857, when it was bought by the

"Gazette" and merged with that paper.

The population according to the first census was 4,800.

On election night, the first Tuesday of April, 1853, the Stevens House was destroyed by fire during one of the most violent gales of wind ever experienced; it was a wonder that more of the city was not burned, as there was no fire department except a volunteer bucket brigade.

The burning of the Stevens House in 1853 started an agitation for adequate fire protection; the talk, however, did not materialize in procuring any engines until 1855, but before the engines were received two fire companies were organized, being the Rock River No. 1 and Water Witch No. 2.

On July 4, 1854, the first daily paper in Janesville was issued by the Janesville "Gazette," Levi Alden and Charles Holt, proprietors. Owing to insufficient patronage it was determined later in the year to suspend publication of the daily, and the paper was not issued as a daily from October 7, 1854, to March, 1857.

On June 25, 1855, the two hand fire engines previously ordered by the city arrived, and in the evening the first regular parade of the fire department took place. They paraded in full uniform, consisting of leather helmets, red shirts and black pants with red-top boots, so that they made an imposing appearance.

In October, 1855, two banks were started in the city of Janesville which have endured to the present time. There seems to be some question as to which one began business first. The Central Bank of Wisconsin, now the First National Bank, began business on October 19, 1855, and has continued in practically the same location ever since. Its first president was O. W. Norton and the cashier William A. Lawrence; it was organized as a national bank in September, 1863.

The Rock County Bank was organized as a state bank October 16, 1855; Timothy Jackman as president, Andrew Palmer vice-president and J. B. Crosby cashier. In January, 1865, it was organized as a national bank, and since that time has been known as the Rock County National Bank.

The city's population had increased so that the state census of 1855 showed a population of 7,081.

The Janesville Gas Company, chartered by the legislature during 1856, completed its plant and commenced the manufacture of gas.

In September the Chicago, St. Paul & Fond du Lac Railway Company, now the Chicago & North-Western, completed its tract as far as Janesville, and on September 15 the first passenger train arrived. The year was 1856.

The fire department was enlarged during 1856, by the organization of a hook and ladder company, with W. B. Britton as foreman; they did not procure their equipment, however, until the next year.

In March, 1857, Charles Holt purchased the Janesville "Free Press," united it with the Janesville "Gazette," and began publishing a daily paper again. It was published as a morning paper and called "The Daily Moring Gazette," being a seven-column paper. From that time untill the present ther has always been a daily "Gazette," though it was changed to an evening paper.

In May, 1858, the Young Men's Christian Association of Janesville was organized, Josiah T. Wright, being one of its organizers and first officers.

On May 22 the Rock county courthouse was totally destroyed by fire, leaving the county without an adequate home for its courts and records and no other courthouse was built until 1869.

October 1, 1859, has long been considered a red letter day in Janesville, as Abraham Lincoln visted us on that Saturday and made a political speech in Young American Hall. He was brought to Jan-

esville from Beloit by Hon. A. A. Jackson, afterward our mayor, and entertained while here by W. M. Tallman.

The churchers of the city were increased during 1859, by the organization of Christ Episcopal Church by the Rev. Thomas J. Ruger. They erected no church building, however, holding their services in Lappin's Hall until 1861.

The five years from 1860 to 1864, inclusive, were with Janesville, as with all the rest of the country, principally filled with the visible results of the war. There were two camps at Janesville, Camp Cameron, where the cavalry were located, being situated on the old fair grounds at Spring Book, and Camp Treadway for the infantry at the fair grounds on Milwaukee avenue.

The first cimpany recruited here left Janesville for Camp Randall at Madison on May 6, 1861. This was Company D, Second Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers.

Prior to the beginning of the war Janesville had listened to a political speech from Stephen A. Douglas, Democratic candidate for president, who visited the city October 12, 1860, and spoke to a large crowd in front of the Hyatt house.

In 1864 on May 17 the last regiment left Janesville for Madison. This was Company A, Fortieth Regiment Wisconsin Vounteers.

On November 12, 1863, the first draft took place, in Lappin's hall, for recruits for the United States Army. Janesville's quota under the call for 500,000 men was 125 persons.

During 1864 the present St Patrick's church was completed, it having been building for some time; the convent and school building to the east of the church were finished soon afterwards.

On January 12, 1867, occurred the Hyatt house fire. This was the first time for a life had been lost by fire in Janesville.

That fire started in the kitchen in the northwest corner of the hotel, and as the department was unable to check it, destroyed the whole building with a loss of \$140,000. Some of the occupants were fortunate enough to get their belongings out of the hotel, but for Miss Maggie Burns, an employee of the hotel, was caught by the flames on the fifth floor and burned to death.

In 1867 the Baptist Church Society erected the brick church on South Jackson street, which they occupied as a place of worship until it was burned, January 13, 1884, and the present church built the same year.

In 1874 a manufacturing enterprise was launched in Janesville, which gave employment to many persons for a number of years. This was the Janesville Cotton Manufacturing Company, incorporated August 4, 1874 with a capital of \$125,000, which was later increased to \$500,000.

In October, 1875 a third bank was established at Janesville, being the Merchants & Mechanics' Saving Bank, organized under state laws with a capital of \$50,000. This was the first savings bank in Janesville, and it has grown steadily since its establishment until now. The name of the bank has been changed to the Merchants & Savings Bank.

On March 11, 1878, a new daily newspaper was launched by Garrett Veeder and W. H. Leonard, who had been publishing a weekly since 1869, it was named the "Janesville Daily Recorder," Peter J. Mouat being the present owner and editor. This paper is the only Democratic daily in Rock County.

September 8, ex-President U. S. Grant visited Janesville and held a reception in the Myers house, shaking hands with an immense crowd of people who were presented to him.

In 1880 electric light was first introduced into Janesville by the Janesville Electric Light Company, which was incorporated March 8, 1880, by Dr. Henry Palmer, W. T. Vankird and others.

On October 5, 1881, the Janesville Machine Company was incorporated by Janes Harris, J. B. Crosby and others, with a capital of \$100,000, to take over the business of the Harris Manufacturing Company; this was done on the first day of January, 1882, and the Harris Manufacturing Company they ceased to do business as a corporation.

In March, 1880, the first telephone exchange was opened in Janesville by the Janesville Telephone Company with sixteen subscribers; the number of subscribers had grown to fifty-eight by January 1, 1881. This exchange became a part of the Bell telephone system, and the Wisconsin Telephone Company was granted a franchise by the city in 1892, and increased its equipment, having a large number of subscribers.

Beginning with the year 1880, and extending on for a considerable number of years, Janesville became the head of the draft horse importing industry. Thomas Bowles brought the first Norman horse to Janesville in 1865, and in 1873 began dealing in imported horses, though not making importations himself until about 1883, when the firm became Bowles & Hadden. Later the firm was changed to Hadden, Scott Mouat. They did a very large business in importing French horses.

Alexander Galbraith and his brothers, under the name of Galbraith Bros., began importing Clydesdale horses from Scotland in 1880; their importations of Clydesdales and Hackneys increased until they were probably the largest importers in the United States.

In 1881, a municipal court for the county of Rock was established in Janesville, taking the place of the police justices with a considerable increase of jurisdiction. L. F. Patten was elected as the first municipal judge and began holding court the last Monday of June, 1881.

In February, 1881, Janesville was cut off from the outside world by a snow blockade which lasted over three days; the streets of the city were so filled with snow that all travel was abandoned, and the country roads were impassable for more than a week.

On May 10, 1887, the city granted a franchise to Turner, Clark & Rawson of Boston, to construct and operate a system of waterworks in the city. A board of water commissioners had prior thereto been established by the laws of 1883 for the building of a waterworks system by the city. The board had adopted plans and purchased land and commenced the digging of artesian wells for the supply of water.

On January 20, 1887, the well at the waterworks station commenced flowing, being at that time drilled to a depth of 1,060 feet, with an eight-inch bore. That well gave about 500 gallons per minute, and was turned over to Turner, Clark & Lawson under their contract. Other wells have been drilled since as more water was needed to supply the city.

In 1887 the service of the fire department was made much more efficient by the construction of a fire alarm telegraph by the Hamwell company; the contract being entered into the city in November and the alarm system completed, tested and accepted in December, 1887.

There is an industry established in Janesville, which has probably made its name known in more sections of the country and the world than any other industry has, that is, the Parker Pen Company, which was incorporated by George S. Parker and others in 1891.

The year 1895 saw the completion of the Y. M. C. A. home, which was finished in August, 1895. This building was erected at the northeast corner of West Milwaukee and High street at a cost of over 30,000.

The year 1895 saw the beginning of golf in Janesville. The credit of introducing the game belongs to Alexander Galbraith, who bought a set of clubs over from Scotland in 1893; he tried during that year and the next to get people interested in the game, but was successful until the fall of 1894, when he succeeded in persuading C. C. McLean, William Proudfoot and a few others with Scotch blood in their veins to go out on his farm east of the city and "try the clubs." They became enthusiastic, and in the spring of 1895 grounds were leased from H. S. Woodruff at the western edge of the city limits. The club's growth was steady and it was incorporated October 27, 1896, under the name of the Sinnissippi Golf Club, "Sinnissippi" being the old Indian name for Rock river. In 1898 the grounds, consisting of ninety-three acres, were bought from the Woodruff estate by another corporation formed for that purpose, called the Janesville Country Club. A commodious club house was erected, and since that time the grounds have been improved until they are now spoken of by experts as the best nine-hole course in the northwest. The state tournaments were first inaugurated at the Janesville Club, and have been held there ever since.

On January 23, 1900, the new county jail was completed and accepted by the county; the new building is built in the same block to the north of the old jail and presents a much better appearance, being constructed of red brick and according to modern designs. The county appropriated \$25,000 for its construction, and it was built with the appropriation.

In 1901 the county added to the city's appearance by the erection of a soldier's monument in the court house park, raising for this purpose the sum of \$10,000. This monument of gray granite surmounted by the carved figure of soldier, stands in the park in

front of the court house, in the middle of where Parker Drive South could be were it continued through the park.

The public library dates back to 1865, when a company of the business men of the city formed the Young Men's Association, to furnish entertainment and education. They commenced the acquisition of a library, which was circulated among members at a small cost per year. This library grew slowly until it had accumulated about 500 volumes. The library was located in the Lappin building, called the postoffice building, at the east end of Milwaukee street bridge. Mrs. L. S. Best was the librarian for a number of years prior to 1882; in that year the Women's Clubs of Janesville started out to make it a free library, and succeeded in raising money enough, partially through the agency of Colonel Burr Robins, who donated the receipts of his circus at Janesville, to buy the library; it was moved to the Bennett block on West Milwaukee street and opened as a free library in February, 1883. In January, 1884, the city adopted it as a city library and undertook its support. Mrs Best continued as librarian. After the city took over the library it grew steadily in use and value.

March 9, 1901, a letter was received stating that Mr. Andrew Carnegie would give to the city \$30,000 for the erection of a library, providing the city would furnish the site, and a fund for \$5,000 annually. The library board finally selected a site on Main street just opposite the courthouse park.

On the land purchased for a library, the library board erected a building about 100 by 60 feet in size, two stories and basement; it is built of gray pressed brick with Bedford stone trimmings. After the reception of Mr. Carnegie's gift, the death of F. S. Aldred, long a leading merchant in Janesville, revealed the fact that he had willed to the city the sum of \$10,000 to be used for

library building; this sum was used in connection with the \$30,000 given by Mr. Carnegie and especially devoted to the construction of children's room with an art room in the second story, in the north part of the building as a memorial to Mr. Eldred's daughter, Ada Eldred Sayre.

The site of the postoffice was bought by the government at the corner of Franklin and Dodge streets a couple of years prior to the erection of the building. The building, however, was begun during the time of the erection of the library and the city hall, and was finished in 1903. This building is all gray pressed brick with stone trimmings, two stories high and costing about \$75,000, and will furnish sufficient accommodations for the post office even though the city grows as expected.

In December, 1886, Janesville was given free delivery and the use of boxes and general delivery decreased accordingly. The introduction of rural free delivery about 1900 caused a considerable increase of the work of the Janesville office, a large number of routes starting from this point.

In 1902 a magnificent new church building was erected by St. Mary's Catholic church congregation at the corner of Wisconsin and North First streets. This church is built of red pressed brick and has an extremely lofty spire which supplants the old high school dome as the highest point in Janesville.

In 1904 an enterprise was started in Janesville that meant much to the whole county of Rock as well as to the citizens of Janesville. This was the erection of a beet sugar factory by Captain James Davidson, of Bay City, Mich.; this was incorporated as the Rock County Sugar Company in March 1904, with a capital of \$300,000. A site was purchased out of the old Paul farm adjoining the eastern limits of the city on the Emerald Grove road. Immense

rick buildings were erected and the machinery installed therein during 1904 at a cost of nearly a million dollars. The farmers throughout the county began the raising of beets, and contracts were also made for the raising of the beets in other counties, the beets being shipped in here by rail.

Another industry which has grown to a large extent during the years since 1900 in Janesville is the baking industry. Messrs. Bennisson & Lane purchased ground, a part of the old Doe homestead at the corner of High and Wall streets, in 1902, and erected a large brick bakery building thereon. They make very large daily shipment of bread and other bakery good in all directions from Janesville within a radius of sixty to seventy miles. The Colvin Baking Company has been engaged in the baking business in Janesville for many years. This company does a large outside as well as local business, but has worked up the shipping of bread more since 1900.

A private hospital known as the Palmer Memorial Hospital was a successful operation under the auspices of the physicians of the city for a number of years, having been opened about the time of the death of Dr. Henry Palmer by his son, Dr. William . Palmer, and others associated with him. They occupied a house originally built by D. P. Smith as a residence on Washington street near the bank of Rock river. The need for a public hospital where charity cases might be treated was so great that a committee of the Twilight Club raised a fund towards the purchase of the Palmer Hospital, and the Catholic Sister of Mercy bought the property from the Palmer association with the aid of the fund thus raised and began its operation as a public hospital on April 1, 1907.³

³ History of Rock County Wisconsin, by William Brown, C. F.

A horse railway was established here in 1886, and the line was rebuilt and finally electrified in 1892. The last of the streetcars ran in 1930 and motor buses were substituted. Automobiles, which began to make their appearance about 1905, constantly increased in number, and finally captured public fancy completely. The for-hire cabs, the black-smiths, the carriage factories, the harness shops all went out as the city and nation turned to automobiles. The Janesville-Beloit-Rockford interurban line, founded in 1902 and for years a popular and thriving business, came and went.

Finally even commercial bus service became so unprofitable that the city government, following a referendum election, purchased bus lines in 1952.

Since the year of the city's incorporation it has operated under three forms of government: Aldermanic from 1853-1912; commission form, 1912-1918; aldermanic, 1918-1923; and city manager-council, 1923 to the present.

In 1918 General Motors bought property from the Janesville Machine Company. This purchase eventually led to the establishment of Chevrolet and Fisher Body locally in 1923. Few things have meant so much to the financial growth of the community as the presence of General Motors in Janesville. In 1920 Parker Pen Company built a factory at the corner of Court and Division Streets. In 1926 Riverside Park was annexed to the city.⁴

In 1923 Riverside Park development planned and started. Police, Fire and Public Works departments motorized.

The year 1924 concrete street paving program instituted. Health Department centralized and strengthened. Fire Department consolidated in one station. Police and Firemen's hour reduced.

⁴ "100 Years of Progress", pamphlet put out by the First National

1925 snow removal program inaugurated. Dental inspection of school children begun.

In 1926 systematic inspection of dairy farms started. Old High school remodeled for Vocational School. Full time welfare worker added in Health Department. Club House built at Municipal Golf course.

The year 1927 supervised recreation program commenced at five playgrounds. Time limits established for parking in downtown area. Riverside Park development continued. Eight million gallon storage reservoir designed.

1928, Jeffris Park given to City by M. G. Jeffris. Goose Island park donated by Lions Club. Mechanical cleaning of sewers commenced. zoning ordinance completely revised.

The year 1929, Child Welfare Clinic started. Detention hospital opened. Buses substituted for streetcars. Palmer Park site donated by W. F. Palmer.

In 1930 bathhouse built at Goose Island. Five tennis courts built at Riverside Park. Palmer Park development commenced.

1931, Monterey Park size increased by land purchases. Memorial Armory dedicated. Football field and track constructed at Monterey park. Palmer Park opened for public enjoyment.

On 1932 the tax rate of twenty dollars lowest since 1918 and lowest in state. Library remodeled, auditorium provided. Dredging of river to improve Goose Island and Monterey Park started. Eighteen shuffleboard courts built at Riverside and Palmer Parks. Water rates cut ten percent.

1933, the Fire department adds boat for water rescues. Sewage disposal plant designed. Health Department begins eye examinations.

The year 1934 and indoor pistol range completed for police. Public Works program of \$300,000 completed in cooperation with Civil

arks Administration and Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

1935, Center Avenue widened. City celebrates centennial of settlement. Sewage disposal plant begins operations.

On the year 1936, the Fire and Police commission organized. 220 new street name signs installed.

The year 1937 seven additional police employed as department parts on three eight hour shifts. Health Officer placed on full time basis. New well drilled at Eastern Avenue and Putnam Avenue for additional water supply. Wading pools constructed at Riverside and Palmer Parks.

1938, grade A Milk ordinance passed. Diamond ball field built at Monterey Park. Lions Park of 27 acres acquired. Bicycle licenses issued for first time. Janesville rated one of 14 best governed cities under 50,000 population in United States.

The year 1939 Lions Beach opened. Police provided with two way radio and three wheel motorcycle. Riverwall constructed between Court Street and Racine Street. Boat landing built at Riverside Park. Adams and Washington Schools built for elementary level.

1940, eighty-eight acres purchased for second nine holes at Municipal Golf Course. New Vocational School machine shop built. Two-way radio installed on fire trucks. Lions beach enlarged by edging.

In 1941, parking meters installed. Dental hygienist added to Health Department staff.

1942, Civil Defense organization started. Shrine of Honor erected at Court House Park.

The year 1943 saw the complete 18 hole golf course opened for use. Engineering plans commenced for postwar improvements.

1944 plans for city garage and shop, for new well and larger

ater mains and for Lions' Beach bath-house completed.

1945, Janesville awarded third place in nation for traffic safety record.

The year 1946 43 acres purchased for pistol range and future development of Blackhawk Valley park system. City secured 36 temporary housing units for veterans. Additional land secured for Wall Street parking lot and for lot on west river bank.

In 1947 East river bank parking lot site purchased. Wall Street parking lot opened for 120 cars.

1948 Health Department starts fogging to control flies. Fluorine to be added to water as dental health measure. Library establishes monograph record lending service.

The year 1949 site for new high school purchased. Tallman Mansion given to city for historical museum.

1950, East river bank parking lot opened. Mercury vapor street lights installed in business district. Additional settling tanks built at sewage disposal plant. La Prairie Park trapshooting, pistol and rifle range opened.

In 1951, the library installs modern method of book charging. Lions' Beach bathhouse completed. Henry Traxler retires after 27½ years as City Manager. Additional land bought near south entrance to Riverside Park.

1952 milk and water analysis laboratory provided. Voting machines approved by voters after trial use. City takes over ownership and operation of bus lines.

In 1954 police purchase of radar equipment for traffic speed control, in order to implement the fight against traffic accidents. General Motors makes 4,000,000 car.⁵

⁵ Janesville Daily Gazette-Friday, April 2, 1954, Section two,

Janesville's gas and electricity is furnished by the Wisconsin Power and Light Company, an investor-owned corporation. Earlier gas and electric utilities had been sold and merged with the Wisconsin & L. Co., in 1927 and 1924 respectively, it, in turn, entered into a power pool agreement with the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation in 1962. Making reserve generating capacity of either company available to the other as needed. This tends to level out the financial burden of new plant construction and is a help in the effort to hold the line against rising cost.

A new era of gas service came to Janesville in 1950 with the introduction of natural gas from Texas, followed by a pipeline from Canada in 1961, making gas available in Janesville and some outlying areas.

From 1950-1960, Janesville doubled its area to 15 square miles. Its population jumped from 24,899 to 35,164. The Court House completed in 1874, to replace the one which had burned, cost \$75,000. The new Court House, Completed and occupied in 1957, cost \$1,750,000.

The Library completed in 1903 at a cost of \$40,000, a gift of \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie Foundation and \$10,000 bequest from S. Eldred, to be the first public library building. In 1968, a new building was completed at a cost of \$932,000.

Today, the three major local industries are the Fisher Body and Chevrolet, both divisions of General Motors Corporation, who merged January 1, 1969, and the Parker Pen Company. These firms employ nearly half of the total workers in the city.⁶

⁶ League of Women Voters Janesville, "Janesville", 1963, pp.8-37.

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