



## **Memories and recollections: more about the Hammond clan. Monograph 57 1985**

Hammond, F. W.

Manitowoc, Wisconsin: Manitowoc County Historical Society, 1985

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### A Preface

At the time when Dr. F. W. Hammond decided to write his memoirs his health was such that he could not write them in long hand. He then asked Edward Ehlert, who was then the editor of the Manitowoc County Historical Society publication program to write them for him. He dictated his thoughts which then were transcribed and the typewritten copy edited by Dr. Hammond. Eight copies of his memoirs were prepared, carbon copies being the duplicating process available at that time. Dr. Hammond very kindly permitted the Historical Society to have a complete set of his memoirs. The remaining copies were given to "The Hammond Clan."

The first set of memoirs were published in November 1968. Two months later Dr. Hammond telephoned Edward Ehlert again and remarked "I forgot something that should have been included." He then asked that notes be taken for a second publication which had the title "The Hammond Clan." This was published in January 1969.

A third manuscript was received about six weeks before Dr. Hammond's death in 1969. This manuscript had the title "Memories and Recollections". The Manitowoc County Historical Society published an Occupational Monograph entitled, "A History of Medicine in the Early Years." This was monograph number six in the 1968 series. The last seven pages of the monograph told of Dr. Hammond's Experiences as a country doctor. The article had the title, "Seventy Years in the Practice of Medicine." Indeed, Dr. Hammond lived a rich and full life, and although the practicing physician of his era lacked many of the resources that present day specialists have, and although the voluminous amount of research had not revealed the secrets that are known by those engaging in the treatment of disease and the illnesses of people today, there are many who called him blessed. Dr. Hammond once said that when he began to practice medicine at Wyocena, Wisconsin, he took with him in his valise as he called on patients in their homes, every known drug at that time — all 40 of them. He was God's gift to them in their quest for better health.

Dr. Hammond began his medical practice in about 1899. This was the period in which the Manitowoc County Historical Society has been concentrating its efforts as it builds its Pine Crest Historical Village. In the Village there is a doctor's office. The memoirs of Dr. Hammond have been an invaluable source of information which has been very useful in the establishing of a doctor's office.

Edward Ehlert

NOV 16 1985

# Memories and Recollections More about the Hammond Clan

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By: Dr. F. W. Hammond

On one of our trips East about twenty-five years ago, Leona and I visited in the little city of Hammond located in the extreme western part of the State of New York.

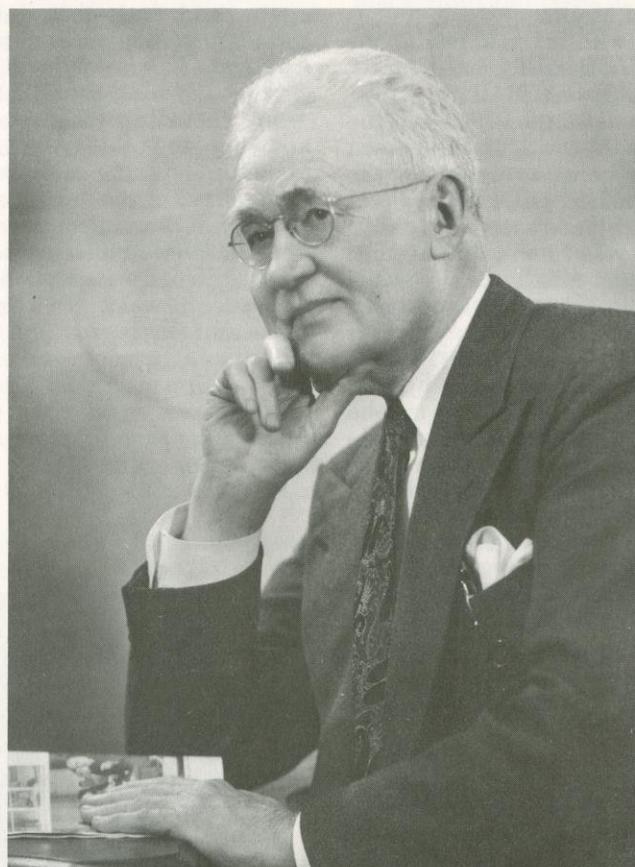
We found the tombs of many of the Hammonds in the cemetery, but upon inquiry we found the only living Hammond left was a widow who at the time was away visiting relatives. Thus we did not have an opportunity to interview her.

Before moving to Wisconsin Seneca Hammond and his three children, Fanny, Mary, and Preston (my father), lived in the village. Alonzo Cary, who married my Aunt Fanny, lived in a village about five miles from Hammond, where they were married. My grandfather and his family undoubtedly moved to Wisconsin at about the same time.

Aunt Mary married a man named Liscomb who failed to support her and their son, Arthur, and she spent the remaining years with Uncle Lont (Alonzo) and Aunt Fanny. Their son was adopted by Silas Smith and his wife who lived at Clarks Mills, Wisconsin. Arthur was given the adopted name of Smith, and when he grew up he moved to the State of New York where he acquired a farm which was located near Potsdam, New York.

Later, on one of our trips East, we visited Potsdam where, upon inquiry at the post office and bank, no one could give us any information regarding Arthur Smith.

Silas Smith and his wife had one daughter, Latitia, usually called Lattie. When she grew up she married Joseph Rappel who operated a cheese factory at Cato Falls. When he



Dr. F. W. Hammond

inherited a small fortune from an uncle, he sold his cheese factory and then bought a building located on the bank of Sherman Creek, just north of the present Mirro Aluminum Goods. He stored all kinds of goods, even pianos, in the basement of this building. During a heavy rain storm, Sherman Creek overflowed, and flooded the basement so that it destroyed most of the goods stored there. Mr. Rappel became insolvent as a result of this unfortunate happening, and was forced to go into bankruptcy. His father-in-law, Silas Smith, was an educated man from the East who professed a belief in occult phenomena. Mr. Burke visited him occasionally and was quite intrigued by these excursions into the spirit world. His wife was an accomplished pianist and gave singing lessons. One winter Frank, Alice, Lizzie and I engaged Mrs. Smith to act as our singing teacher. Frank sang bass, I was the tenor, and the girls sang something in between. All I learned was to be able to sing the scale. I could even sing it backwards.

Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Ira Clark, and Mrs. Noyes were the daughters of old Dr. Tucker. He built a long two-story house north of Clarks Mills. He must have come from the State of Maine as the family home and barn were all under one roof, to make it easier for the occupants to care for their cows and other animals, without going out of doors on cold winter days. This form of architecture was common, especially in the State of Maine.

Mr. Noyes, who married one of the daughters of Dr. Tucker, owned a farm about two miles west of Clarks Mills. He was also one of the officers of the school district. At the age of seventeen I went to his home to apply for the position of teacher. His reply was, "I have a daughter about two years younger than you. I don't think that it would be a good idea to give you the appointment." Later, when I was about twenty-one years old, my mother decided that she was the girl that I should marry. She was hoping that I would take over the family farm, and thought that having the Noyes girl as a wife would help in getting that to come to pass. Thus, my mother invited Miss Noyes to visit at our home, so that we could become better acquainted, but, unlike my distant relatives who fought in the Battle of Hastings, I had other plans. Although Miss Noyes was an estimable young lady, I felt that being encumbered with a wife and no means of supporting her, I regretfully declined taking my mother's advice.

Uncle Lont Carey, husband of Fanny Hammond, owned one of the best farms in that vicinity. It was located about four miles southwest of my old home. According to the standards of that day, he was a wealthy farmer. He was the father of

one son, Lewis. As I remember Uncle Lont, he was a jolly little man with a short gray beard, pink cheeks and a twinkle in his eyes. When he and his wife visited our home, I got out my tin bank which was in the form of a little house with a red chimney. Pennies and nickles could be deposited in this little bank. I would shake my bank in front of Uncle Lont, rattling the pennies and nickles inside of it, to attract his attention. I never knew him to refuse to deposit a coin in the chimney of that bank.

As their only son, Lewis, had everything that his heart might desire, including a beautiful blue velvet suit, with brass buttons and short trousers, he was the envy of many another boy of like age. My attire on account of my mother's difficulty in raising a large family, consisted of a well-worn suit of clothes usually with patches fore and aft. As Lewis Carey was several years older than I was, Aunt Fanny told me that when he had outgrown that beautiful suit, she would give it to me. I spent many days and months longingly waiting for that suit, but I never received it. Aunt Fanny evidently packed it away and kept it as a loving memory of her only child's boyhood.

After Uncle Lont and Aunt Fanny passed away, Lewis sold the farm and moved to Amherst, Wisconsin where a relative named Carey lived. He bought a farm not far from Amherst and after his wife had passed away, he married again, and from this union he had three boys. They all lived in and about Amherst. In his boyhood Lewis was given everything that his heart might desire, including a 22-caliber rifle. Not knowing that his Aunt Mary was inside a building not far from the house, he shot at a mark on the door. A splinter of wood penetrated her right eye, resulting in blindness in that eye. He also owned a shot gun and when he was older he was given a high stepping horse and carriage.

Many years later one Sunday in the summer a neighbor brought Lewis from Amherst for a short visit at the home of my sister, Alice Woodcock. Leona and I happened to be there that day, and he said to me, "Your mother did a wonderful job in bringing up her family. I don't know how she did it." He passed away about two months later at the age of eighty-five years.

About two years ago I asked a mechanic named Einberger, employed at the Hamachek Company, automobile dealer in Manitowoc, if his grandfather many years ago had bought a farm in the township of Cato. He said, "Yes, he bought a farm from a Yankee named Carey." I remembered that after he purchased the farm, he found the land so rich and productive that he named his residence "Lard Hill." As they ate lard on their bread instead of butter, which they sold, the name of "Lard Hill" indicated his appreciation of the richness of his newly acquired farm land.

#### THE VILLAGE OF CATO

The Village of Cato was called Harrisville or Nettle Hill for many years by the founders who came from the East. These founders were somewhat derisively called "Yankees" by their German neighbors. This is probably due to the fact that the socalled Yankee was a restless individual who moved frequently from place to place in his search for more congenial surroundings and an occupation that would produce more prosperity with less physical effort. His German friends were satisfied to stay on their farms or in their small business and by harder work and longer hours produce the same prosperity.

The name "Cato" received its name from Cato, Jefferson County, New York, which was the home of Alanson Hickok, one of the first residents of the town. The early history of Cato savors of romance. As early as 1845, a man



Barn raising. Cato, 1906; M. T. Cooney's; Ed Ledvina, Carpenter.

named Burns, who was a printer by trade penetrated the forests of Wisconsin Territory in order that he might manufacture counterfeit money with impunity. His "establishment" was located quite near the present Village of Cato where he plied his trade of making unlawful money. Occasionally he went forth to put his money into circulation. While upon one of these tours he was arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to a prison cell. This disreputable person erected the first building in the Town of Cato.

The first settlers in Cato were John Killen, King Weeman, the Davis family, the Palmers, and also the Harris family. Dr. O'Connell located there about 100 years ago after his graduation from Medical School. He remained there until he died.

Also living in Cato during those early years was a Mr. Strandy, a shoemaker of Norwegian extraction, who made my first boots. There were also two brothers named Reitmeyer who owned and operated a saloon across the street from the Killen store.

John Killen who operated a store and lumber yard, sold everything, from groceries to materials for women's dresses, hardware and coffins. His was the only store in or near that locality, thus he became very prosperous. When my father died my Uncle Lont Cary bought the coffin in which he was buried at the Killen store.

Mr. Killen employed two people to assist him in his store. These consisted of his son, Walter, and a young girl named Mary Wederman. As the post office was located in the store, she was also the post mistress.

Miss Wederman had an older sister and as John Killen had been a widower for many years, he married the sister. They had one son, Sherman. Several years later Walter Killen married Mary Wederman. I found it impossible to solve the riddle of the relationship of the Killen family, so I shall leave these details to the readers of these "Memoirs and Recollections."

The early settlers of Cato built a Presbyterian church where the Hammond's attended church services. The last minister of this parish was the Rev. Mr. Rederus. Since his departure about sixty years ago, there have been no services in the church. I believe that the building is no longer there. My sister, Florence, who died in Cato, is buried in the cemetery where the church formerly stood.

The Chicago and Northwestern railroad, built in 1872 passes immediately to the north of Cato. Also on this railroad were the villages of Whitelaw and Branch.

### THE VILLAGE OF WHITELAW

About two miles east of Cato the Village of Whitelaw is located. It was started many years ago when a

number of German families located there. Whitelaw was once known as Pine Grove. It was a Catholic community. At one time it had a flour mill, lumber yard, creamery, cigar factory, cement block factory and stores and shops of various descriptions. There has been a Catholic church and school in this village for many years.

### THE CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD

In the account concerning the Village of Cato, we mentioned that this railroad passed to the north of the village. This was a railroad that extended from Manitowoc to Appleton. In addition to Branch, Whitelaw and Cato, villages also sprang up at Grimms and Reedsville. The trains that operated on this line were called way freight lines. They carried package freight for the most part. Perhaps there was a car at the end of the train where passengers might ride, or passengers might even have been carried in the caboose. The train stopped at every station along the line. Occasionally there were "through freight trains." These carried freight to and from the larger cities. There was a station agent at each of the stations, and also a telegraph operator. Sometimes a man was employed who was responsible for handling of freight. Most of the freight carried on the railroad was forest products — logs, bark, lumber, etc. Farmers became quite excited when the railroad was built, for they felt that now they could get their farm produce to market. Farm prices had been going down gradually and it was felt that with the coming of the railroad this trend would be curbed.

The construction of a road bed for the railroad in those days represented quite a problem. There were bridges that needed to be built. It is reported that the "engineer" in charge of construction of the Appleton to Manitowoc line was one of the best and innovations were incorporated in this construction which were unique. Rails during the early days were light in weight as compared with those in use today. The weight of the rail in those days was about 60 pounds to a yard of rail.

During the winter of 1873 there was trouble with snow. One day it was announced that the road was tied up, and that an engine in trying to make its way into hard snow and ice had bent a wrist pin. As they had no way of repairing it, they had to send to Philadelphia for a new one. When it came they were obliged to drive it into its seat by an improvised driver made of a swinging log of heavy wood.

### GRIMMS STATION

The smallest village in Manitowoc County was called Grimms Station,

named after Mr. Grimm who was the first settler in the village. As I remember it eight years ago there was a small store, a railroad station, a blacksmith shop, and half a dozen or more houses owned by the people who lived there.

There was a perpendicular ridge about thirty feet in height and several hundred feet in length a short distance south of the village. This was evidently a moraine from an ancient glacier. The land sloped from the ledge eastward into a low valley where many limestone boulders were scattered about. This sleepy village awakened when a lime manufacturing company bought this property, erected four lime kilns, built several homes for the working men, and began to produce lime. As wood was burned in the operation of the kiln, the beautiful forest of oak, maple and beech trees for several miles about the village were cut down, and converted into cord wood. This was sold to the Lime Company for \$2.50 a cord. As dynamite was not in use at that time, black powder was used in blasting the rock from the ledge. These large boulders were broken into smaller fragments by workmen using iron sledges, before being put into the kiln for burning.

For some reason of which I am not acquainted the Lime Company abandoned its production of lime at Grimms about thirty years ago. People moved away from the village, the railroad station was closed, the blacksmith shop was no longer in use, and it became a "ghost town."

### THE REEDSVILLE CATTLE FAIRS

As long as I can remember Fairs were held in Reedsville where cattle were brought and sold. These fairs were held one day each month, and are still help up to the present time.

In the early years the men who assembled at these fairs were recent immigrants from Germany, Bohemia, Ireland and other countries of Europe. They brought with them the contempt and ill feeling toward people who came from other countries of Europe. After imbibing freely of their favorite drinks, beer and whiskey, many disputes arose between individuals which sometimes ended in fist fights. Occasionally a general melee arose, especially between the Germans and the Irish. The Irish had their shillelagh but these had to be discarded when the Germans started throwing stones. In recent years these fairs have been quiet and orderly. Through the years the different nationalities have intermarried and thus the earlier resentments and antagonisms were broken down. Perhaps also the schools had a part in the Americanization of these groups. Perhaps when people are able to communicate with each other with a common language there is less

occasion for misunderstanding.

When Henry Hardgrave and I were about ten years of age Johnny Meany asked us to drive two cows to the Reedsville Fair, a distance of about six miles. These pesky cows had to be restrained from turning into every barnyard and crossroad on their way to Reedsville. This required a lot of running by Henry and me. However, we finally succeeded in driving them into an enclosure at the Fair. Johnny did not give us any assistance as we drove these cows to Reedsville, instead he followed behind with his team and wagon.

When we reached Reedsville he took us into a saloon, and asked us what we would have to drink. Henry, who had started drinking when he was very young, said, "I will take a whiskey." "I'll take the same," I said. Henry, with a grandiose flourish of his arm, swallowed the whiskey with one gulp. It almost choked me when I began to imbibe. I have never cared for whiskey since. This was our pay for two hours of hard work. Johnny took us home with his team and wagon.

### THE AGRICULTURAL FAIR AT CLARKS MILLS

It was in 1874 that the Central Agricultural Society was formed and for a number of years the county fairs were held by this Society. Although an effort had been made earlier to hold county fairs, these never were popular. However, when Ira Clark of Clarks Mills and his group organized the Society, it immediately became a going venture.

Ira Clark owned some land about a mile to the north of the village. The Society decided that this property was the most desirable for the location of the Fair, and after having purchased it they began to develop it into a "fair grounds." An old man told me the story so I shall relate the story in his words: "The group of men who formed the Society which was to put on a county fair had decided that the farmers should have an opportunity to exhibit the produce of their farms at an agricultural fair. The idea was not a new one, for a County Fair had been held in Washington Park in Manitowoc in 1859. As the farmers showed little interest another fair was not held until 1861 at what was called Northwest Hill. This was in the old seventh ward in Manitowoc. It was probably later called Gerphides Park, which later became the location of the present Holy Family Hospital. This fair met with the same indifference; thus no other fairs were held until 1874 when the Central Agricultural Society began to promote this venture. The promoters were prominent farmers in the Township of Cato. These men felt that if the fair was to be successful it had to be in the heartland of the agricultural industry. A meeting was

called at Clarks Mills and a County Fair board was appointed. The first president was William Perry; Secretary, P. Halloran; Treasurer, A. Amundsen, and Superintendent S. A. Newell. Mr. Newell was the owner of the flour mill at Cato Falls. This committee acquired the property from Ira Clark. Two buildings for exhibition purposes were built on the property.

When the Fair was held late in August there was a spontaneous response from the farmers. They brought their livestock, farm produce of wheat, corn, barley, apples, vegetables, etc. Their wives brought canned fruit and vegetables, patchwork quilts, and other articles of feminine handiwork. In order to stimulate rivalry small premiums were paid to those who had brought the best exhibits.

The first County Fair held at Clarks Mills was a big success. Each year a fair was held until 1884 when the County Board of Supervisors authorized the moving of the fair to Manitowoc. To obtain capital so that land for the fair site could be purchased, shares of stock were sold at twenty-five dollars a share. An organization known as the Manitowoc Industrial Association then took over the fair. This is the story of the fair as it developed at Clarks Mills as told to me by the old man.

I should like to relate an experience at the fair that I had when I was a boy of ten years of age. A battle was fought between soldiers wearing the blue uniforms of the Civil War and a tribe of Indians. The soldiers carried guns used in the Civil War. The guns were loaded with black powder. The Indians who really were white men, wore a feathered head dress, and had painted their faces with various colors. The Indians were armed with bows and arrows and also carried wooden hatchets. As the Indians advanced they shouted loud war whoops. The soldiers responded with blasts from their guns, and soon the air was filled with the pungent and acrid odor of black powder. It was an exciting scene. After the battle was over the only casualty was an Indian maiden (a man dressed in woman's clothes) who was captured and was carried away by the victorious army.

The exhausted soldiers lay down on the ground and went to sleep, all but the Indian maiden who remained alert and was awaiting rescue. Suddenly an Indian warrior on horseback rode into the camp; the Indian girl grabbed the horse by the tail, and they galloped away to safety.

### THE RELOCATION OF THE COUNTY FAIR IN MANITOWOC

As was stated in an earlier paragraph, the Manitowoc Industrial Association brought the County Fair to Manitowoc in 1884. It seems that

permission to do so was given the Association by the County Board of Supervisors.

The first order of business of the Association was to procure a site for the fair. Forty acres of land in the northwest part of the city just north of Evergreen Cemetery was available. The sum of \$5,300 was paid for this property. The remainder of the money received from the sale of stock was used to construct a grand stand, and a half mile race track. Buildings were also constructed for housing of the livestock, produce and household goods exhibits, and for exhibition of farm machinery.

The County Fair seems to have been a profitable venture from the start, for soon after Max Rahr purchased a substantial number of shares held by individual shareholders. He evidently felt that this was a good way to invest his money. It seems that some time in the future the County Fair was taken over by the County Agricultural committee, a board responsible to the County Board of Supervisors, which has had charge of the operation of the fair.

Just recently the City of Manitowoc purchased the forty acres on which the County Fair has been held since 1884 for the sum of \$180,000. The city needed the property for the construction of an underground water storage tank, a swimming pool, and for other outdoor recreation purposes. The matter of relocation of the County Fair is an unresolved issue now pending.

### USES MADE OF FAIR PROPERTY AT CLARKS MILLS

After the Fair was moved to Manitowoc from Clarks Mills, one of the buildings was used for recreation purposes, chiefly for the holding of parties and dances. When I was fourteen years old I attended one of these dances as a spectator. The musician sat on a raised platform at one end of the hall. He was a violinist whose name was Frank Manlick. He had a relative with him who played an instrument called a "doodle sack." It resembled a bag pipe. Manlick sought out very lively tunes on his violin and when the crowd got to dancing a hop waltz, he became excited and jumped around on the platform with great vigor, playing his violin with corresponding enthusiasm. The dance usually ended when the girls assisted by their partners would hop into the air, and as the girls were held aloft they all gave a loud and boisterous shout. The dance was attended by about forty or fifty couples who came from the vicinity for miles around.

The race track that was a part of this fair grounds was also kept in use for a number of years. Vestiges of this race track still can be seen today.

## THE MORGAN FAMILY

Just east of the Fair Grounds at Clarks Mills (about 1/2 mile) is a large brick house which was the former home of David Morgan. The Morgan family through four generations have exhibited registered Guernsey cattle at the Manitowoc County Fair. The original family may have exhibited his cattle at the Clarks Mills Fair.

## THE PALMER FAMILY

In the discussion concerning the early settlers in the Village of Cato we mentioned that the Palmer family was among these. Mr. Palmer had several children. He had two bad habits, namely, he was lazy, and when he had money to buy whiskey, he got drunk. Jack Warburton, a reformed drunkard, gave a lecture in the Presbyterian church in Cato on the evils of alcoholism. Mr. Palmer, who was short of money at the time, and sober, went forward at the request of Mr. Warburton, signed the pledge to "never again become the victim of the demon alcohol." About two weeks later, having earned a little money, he "fell off the water wagon." When Mr. Warburton visited Cato again about a year later, Mr. Palmer went forward and took the pledge again. I believe that this was repeated several times later.

## MY SCHOOL DAYS

When I completed the eighth grade in a rural school I enrolled in the 9th grade at the old Madison School on N. 7th and State Streets in Manitowoc. At the age of sixteen years and on completion of the tenth grade I wrote an examination which would qualify me to become a rural school teacher. Of course I passed the examination. I never completed grades 11 and 12 in the high school. After four years as a rural school teacher I concluded that "there is no future in being a teacher." He then was enrolled in the Marquette Medical School and in three years became a physician. I began my

practice at Wyocena, Wisconsin. The old Madison School counted me as one of its most distinguished alumnists.

## DR. O'CONNELL

The summer before I started my medical course at the Milwaukee Medical College, I spent with Dr. O'Connell at Cato. He was called to Clarks Mills to see a woman patient. After examining the woman, and prescribing what he considered the necessary treatment, the woman's husband said, "Doc, I have a sick horse. Will you go out to the barn with me and see if you can find out what is the matter with him?" At this gross insult to him and the medical profession, the doctor became angry, and replied. "I don't treat horses. I treat people and jackasses like you." After this reply the doctor seemed quite pleased over his staunch defense of the medical profession.

## ANOTHER CASE

After completing my first year in Medical School, I called on an old friend, who was a dissipated old Irishman. This man had sold his farm which was located near my old home, and had moved with his family to Clarks Mills. As he had no occupation he received the appointment to carry the mail from Cato to Clarks Mills. These trips were made daily in a two-wheeled cart drawn by a horse. One day on his return from Cato where he had spent some time in the saloon, he lost his balance and fell with his cheek resting against the wheel of the cart. The old horse kept plodding along, the iron-tire of the wheel cut through his right cheek before he awakened. Dr. O'Connell attended him. After the wound healed a clear fluid dropped through a small opening through the scar tissue on the outside of his face.

When I called at his home I found that he had a thick pad of cloth under his chin. The cloth was wound over his head and was tied at the top of his head. As I had finished my

examination in anatomy I decided that this fluid was saliva and was coming from the duct of the parotid gland. In explanation I wish to state that there are two parotid glands, each located in front of the lower half of each ear. The duct from these glands enter the mouth about midway through each cheek. The saliva secreted by these glands mixes with the food and aids digestion. He said that the fluid flowed more freely when he was eating. This fact confirmed my diagnosis.

A few days later when I saw Dr. O'Connell I asked him where in his opinion this fluid originated. He said, "from the lymphatic gland." I said that I believed the fluid came from the parotid gland. He slapped his knee and said, "I believe you are right." An operation could have been performed to correct his affliction but the old man died several years later without receiving the benefit of what surgery could have done for him.

## BRIAN MULLINS

Brian Mullins was a farmer and cattle buyer who lived in Maple Grove, Wisconsin. He bought our old home after my mother passed away in 1897, paying \$1800 for the property. Alice and Lizzie, my sisters, gave me their share of the proceeds of the sale to repay the loan that I had gotten from Mr. Burke. I had enough left of this money to finance me until my graduation from Medical College. I later repaid my sisters for their act of kindness to me at a time in my life when I was in great need of financial assistance.

As Mr. Mullins had little competition as a cattle buyer and there were no market reports that would enable the farmer to know the value of the stock that were for sale, Mr. Mullins must have made a handsome profit in almost every deal that he consummated. The fact that he was able to buy two or three other farms in the immediate vicinity was clear evidence that he was doing well in his business of marketing cattle.

Several years later Mr. Mullins moved our substantially built 8-room house to the Village of Reedsville.

## LIFE ON THE FARM ABOUT 120 YEARS AGO

When my father bought the home farm he must have been enthralled by the majesty of the pine forest that covered the land. Nearby on higher unoccupied land that he could have purchased were forests of maple, beech and oak trees. This land could have cleared more easily and would have been more productive in the growing of farm products. When I was a young boy the pine trees were gone but many stumps three to four feet in diameter remained which could have been removed only by the use of dynamite.

About four acres of the farm was



Madison School, 1872. (Northside Schoolhouse, Manitowoc, WI)

swamp land where large cedar, black ash and tamarack trees grew. The cedar trees were used for making rails for fences. They were cut into 8-foot lengths, split into halves by means of axes, wedges, and iron sledges. These had to be cut into suitable sizes for the construction of rail fences.

When settlers began to move in, each farmer had to fence one-half of the land that was adjacent to the land of the other farmer. These were called "line fences." In addition to this it was necessary to construct fences inclosing pasture land. Many "Lincoln rail splitters" were required in those days.

After the land was partially cleared, the main crops were corn, wheat and oats. Until the invention of the reaper, wheat and oats were cut with what was called a cradle. The cradle was swung by a man. There were two main parts of this harvesting tool, a part that was called a scythe, and the cradle on which the grain fell as it was cut. The scythe was made from a piece of black ash which was bent to conform to the needs of the cutting operation. On this was attached two handles. A steel curved cutting bar was fitted at the end of the scythe, and to this was also attached the cradle. A man could swing a cradle a distance of from four to five feet. As the grain was cut it was deposited on the ground in "swaths." It was later bound into bundles. The tieing was done with a small handful of the stems of the grain. The process was rather intricate, thus we shall not attempt to describe it. A skilled person could tie these bundles of grain so securely that they were held together as firmly as if binder twine had been used. After the bundles had been tied, the grain was set up into shocks and



Shocks of oats drying in the field.

were left to dry. A week or ten days was needed of good dry weather before the grain was sufficiently dry so that it could be taken to the barn and stored for threshing.

Haymaking was done in much the same way that the grain was cut. Perhaps the cradle on the scythe was not used, for there was no need for tieing up the hay into bundles as was necessary for grain. Rather it was necessary that the hay be left in



Loading a wagon full of hay to be stored in the barn.

swaths which were spread as evenly on the ground as possible. After the hay had dried for a day or so it was raked up with hand rakes and deposited in small cone-shaped piles called "stupes." Some people also called these "hay cocks." The hay was left in these hay cocks for three or four days when it likely was dry enough to be hauled into the barn. It was necessary that the hay be dry when hauled into the barn, for damp hay would cause molding, which would ruin its quality, and would also cause spontaneous combustion, which is the cause of many barn fires.

The tools and methods of harvesting we have described were appropriate at a time when the land had been newly cleared, and stumps had not yet been completely removed from the field. As stumps and stones were removed and fields were relatively free from these impediments, horse drawn machinery could then be used in the harvesting process. The reaper was used to harvest grain. This was nothing more than a machine that had a cutting bar which cut off the grain about five or six inches above ground. Some wooden bars revolved which then caused the cut grain to fall forward on a canvas apron. This apron carried the grain upward to a place where men could bind the grain into bundles, as previously described. It was in the 1870's that the first mechanical "knotter" was invented. The process of

tieing the binder twine into a knot is very similar to that which was used to tie grain into bundles with handfulls of straw sheaves.

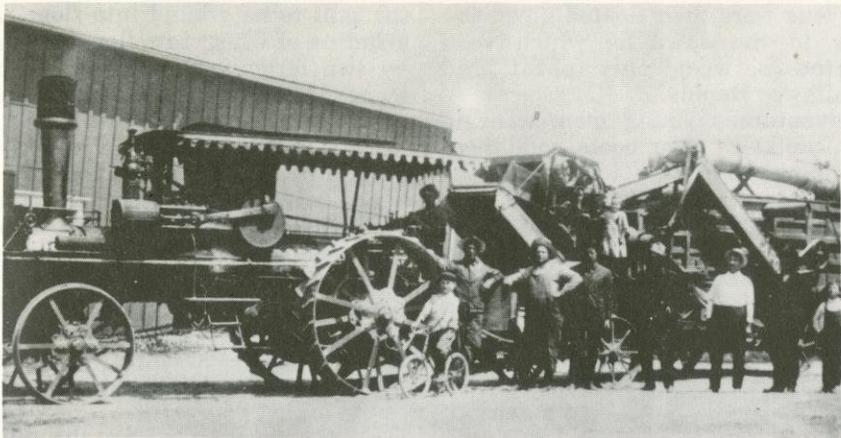
In the planting of corn a man would make a small depression in the soil with a hoe. The hole might be about two inches deep, into which four or five kernels of corn were dropped. It was then covered with soil. These hills of corn were planted in straight rows which were about three feet apart. The rows were made with a "marker". When the corn matured in the fall, the stalks were cut with a hand sickle and put in shocks. Later in the fall the corn was husked, and the remaining stalks then were fed to livestock. To make the corn more palatable a feed cutter was used to cut the stalks of corn into pieces about 1/2" in thickness or so. The first feed cutters were hand operated; later a "horse power" was invented which could furnish power for operation of these feed cutters.

In the beginning potatoes and beans were planted in much the same way that corn was planted. Potatoes were dug in early fall by means of a fork. They were then placed in piles in the field, and covered with straw and over this about 4 or 5 inches of soil. They were left in the field until after the first frost when they were removed to the basement of the house for storage through the winter.

Threshing time was perhaps the



Stacking bundles of grain.



*Steam Engine and Threshing Machine.*

most exciting time during the year. It was a time of year when neighbors had to help each other in order to perform this work. Threshing was done by means of a "threshing machine" which was operated in the beginning by means of horse power, but later gasoline engines, and steam engines were used. Wood was used for fuel to operate the steam engine.

The threshing machine was set up near the grain stack or next to the mow in the barn where the bundles of grain had been stored. Forks were used to "pitch" the bundles from the "mow" into the machine. The first operation was to cut open the bundles. This meant to cut the binder twine or grain sheaves with which the bundle had been tied. Then the grain passed over a drum which beat the kernels of grain out of the husks which had inclosed it on the stalks of grain. The straw then was taken by means of a canvas belt to the end of the machine where it was propelled into the straw stalk by means of a blower or some other device. The grain passed over a series of sieves, with weed seeds dropping out (they were smaller in size than the kernels of grain) and falling to the ground below the separator. The grain was then carried to a place where it was put into grain bags and men then carried away these bags to the granary where the grain was stored in bins preparatory for marketing, or for feeding to livestock.

While the men were busy with the work of threshing, the women of the family (or neighborhood) were busy in the kitchen preparing the meal for the men. These usually were samples of the culinary skill of the women, and just about every variety of food was served.

In addition to harvesting the crops, the farmer was kept busy during the summer months controlling the weeds. Hoes were used to remove the weeds that grew close to the plants. Horse drawn cultivators were used to kill the weeds between the rows. Such crops as corn, potatoes, and garden vegetables had to be hoed, in order to keep the soil relatively free from weeds.

As a half grown boy I assisted in

these operations. In addition, I fed the cows and horses and attended to their chamber work. I also tried my hand at using a scythe to cut grass and cradle to cut grain. It was hard work.

The growing of wheat was a main cash crop in the early years of farming. In addition, timothy hay, barley, oats, and corn were raised. There was no rotation of crops. Neither was clover raised during the early years. The crops that were raised were all of the soil depleting variety, that is, they had the tendency of removing soil nutrients from the soil, and did not in any way add soil properties that tended to improve its quality. Wheat was planted year after year in the same field, with the resulting outcome of yields per acre becoming less with each passing year. Finally the chintz bugs came along, and devoured what was left of a crop that had become unprofitable to grow. This put an end to the raising of wheat in this section of Wisconsin. It was also the beginning of a new era in farming. Agricultural experiment stations began to advocate rotation of crops, and diversified farming. Dairy farming was advocated as the answer to restoring the productiveness of soil through application of barnyard manure.

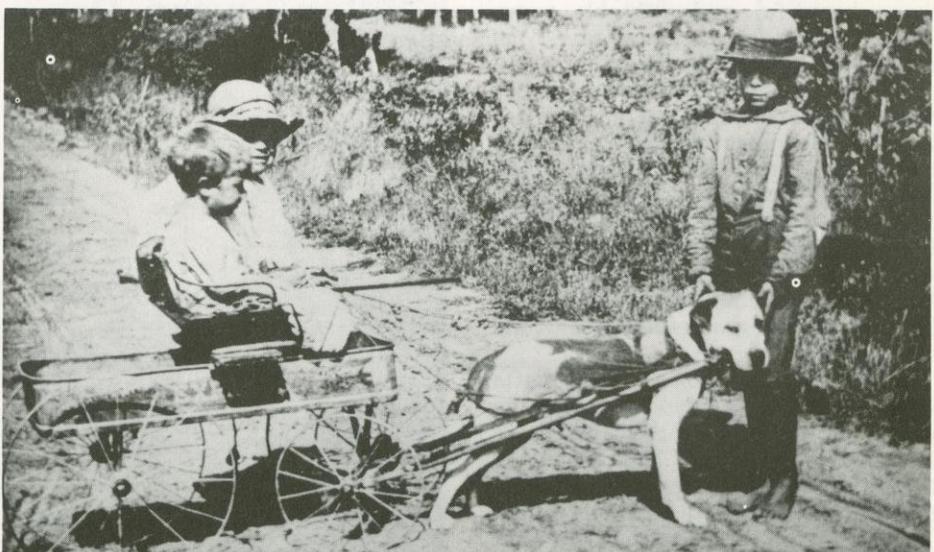
Before the introduction of coal into this area as fuel, wood was used in the stoves for cooking food, and for fuel in heating the various rooms of the house. This was true for the city people as well as those who lived in the country. The hardwood trees (beech, maple and oak) furnished the best wood for fuel. These trees were cut into four foot lengths. Two men using the cross cut saw cut the trees into these lengths. The logs were then split, either in half, or in quarters. These lengths of wood were then piled up to dry. It was given the name "cord wood." A pile of wood four feet wide, four feet high, and eight feet long was a cord of wood.

When the wood was thoroughly dry (this usually took most of a summer) it was placed on what was called a saw horse, and by means of a "buck saw" which was operated by one man, the sticks of wood were cut into 16" pieces. These were lengths that could be conveniently used in most stoves. One "super-man" in this vicinity was able to saw four cords of this hardwood in a day, for which he received two dollars.

The cook stoves had to have pieces of wood that were small, so the blocks of wood that had previously been "halved" and "quartered" had to be split into cook stove size.

The sale of wood in the city was a lucrative source of income for farmers. There was always a large pile of this wood adjacent to our home and as a young boy one of my duties was to carry this wood into the kitchen and fill the wood box, which usually was kept next to the kitchen stove.

I also fed the chickens and carried in water from the well. Wood was a poor substitute for coal in heating the home, as during the night the fire in the stove would go out and the temperature in the house would fall below the freezing point. By morning the water in the pail would be frozen solid, and often even the water in the "reservoir" of the stove would be frozen too. Those were what



*Dog power!*

we often call "the good old days."

My father and my brother died in their 40's and my mother at the age of 62. Most of the other people who lived in the vicinity died before they reached "three score years and ten." The fact that people died much earlier in those days than today probably was influenced by the fact that these people needed to endure many hardships. It perhaps also is indication of the great effect that advances in medical science has had on the life span of people.

About an eighth of a mile west of our home, which had been built on a hill, was what we called "the Swamp." The swamp was one to three miles in width and extended westward about twelve miles, and included what now is called "the Collins Marsh." This swamp contained a majestic grove of soft elms, black ash, and tamarack trees, also a tangle of vines and shrubs. As Wrigley had not yet invented chewing gum, we kids would go into the swamp and pry loose some of the resin that exuded from the boles of the tamarack trees. This is known as "tamarack gum." It was bitter, but as no other gum was obtainable, it served the purpose. Rock elm and white ash trees grew on the high ground. These were trees that were tall and straight and were sold to the shipyards where they were used as masts for sailing vessels. My brother, Frank, made a pair of white ash skis. The white ash has a very hard and durable wood, and skis are still made of this wood.

When I taught the Knapp school which was five miles distant from our home, I crossed many farmer's fields. I used skis as I traveled across the deep snow. This shortened the distance that I had to walk to school by about a mile. In making this short cut I crossed 34 rail fences.

In about the year 1889, in the fall of the year, following a hot, dry summer, the swamp caught fire and was completely burned, destroying all those beautiful and valuable trees. Wind blowing from the east saved our home from being destroyed by the fire.

In 1855, when my mother, Jane Smythe, was 20 years old, she left her home in New Brunswick to live with her sister, Nancy Tufts, in Wisconsin. Nancy's husband, Crozier Tufts, operated a logging camp on the Manitowoc River about two miles from what is now Collins, Wisconsin. The lumber camp and their home was located on high ground about 100 rods south of the river.

During the winter months, Mr. Tufts employed men to cut down the large pine trees that covered the area. These trees were sawed into logs that were loaded on the sleighs. Oxen pulled these loads of logs to the river bank. These huge piles of logs were then left until spring when the melting snow caused the water to rise in the river.

The logs were then floated down the river to the sawmills which were located between this point and Manitowoc Rapids.

Adventurous young men, wearing cork caulks in their boots, rode these logs down the river to prevent the occurrence of "log jams." These men were called "river drivers." As evidence that oxen were used in hauling these logs to the river I have in my possession several ox shoes that were given to me by a man who many years ago purchased the land where the old lumber camp stood. He had picked up these old ox shoes at various times.

When my mother was 22 years old, my father and she were married. (He was 23 years old). They started a new life together in Manitowoc County.

There were several sawmills and gristmills, called flour mills, which were located on the Manitowoc River. The place where these mills were built was at those points along the river where water power could be developed which could be used to operate the machinery necessary to run a flour mill. The first sawmill was located at Cato Falls. It was owned by a man named Newell. He lived at Cato Falls with his wife and daughter, Stella. Their home was located near the east end of the bridge which now crosses the river. A mill race, built by hand labor through gravel and shale, was constructed. The mill race was about eight feet deep, and was lined with planks, probably to prevent stones from being washed down and damaging the mill machinery. A crude dam was built of logs above the rapids.

After the pine was cleared off the surrounding country, this sawmill was converted into a gristmill.

When I was about six years old I accompanied my brother Frank to this mill. He was taking a load of wheat to

the mill to be ground into flour. The grinding of wheat into flour was done by two large flat stones called mill stones. These stones were corrugated on their proximal side and were laid one above the other. The wheat was ground by the rotation of these stones which moved in opposite directions. The flour was carried in sloops attached to a canvas belt, and was deposited in a bin. As there was little money in circulation at that time, Mr. Newell received his pay for the operation by keeping a certain percentage of the flour that was ground in his mill.

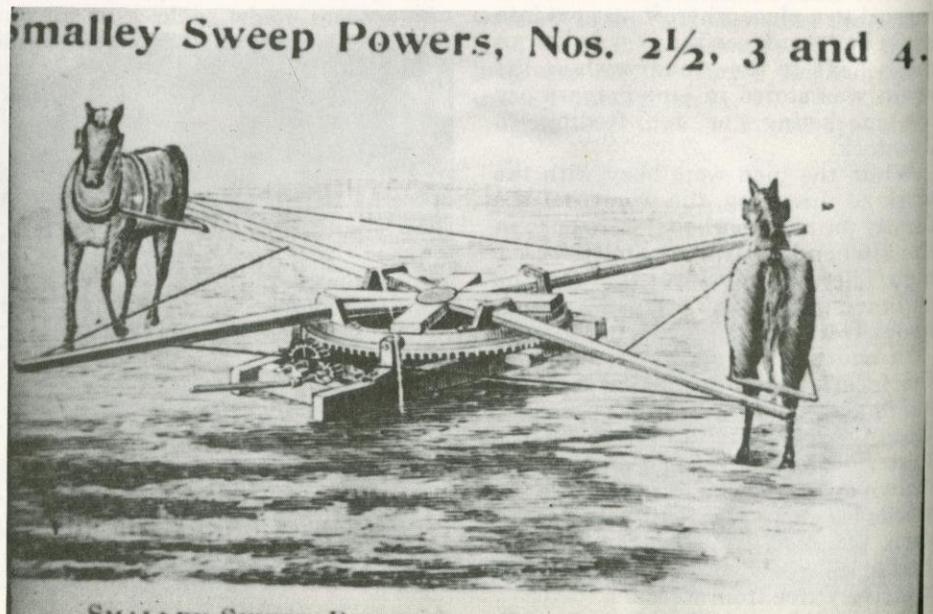
Frank and I remained at the mill for several hours until the wheat was ground. It was a big day for me as I watched the miracle of converting wheat into flour.

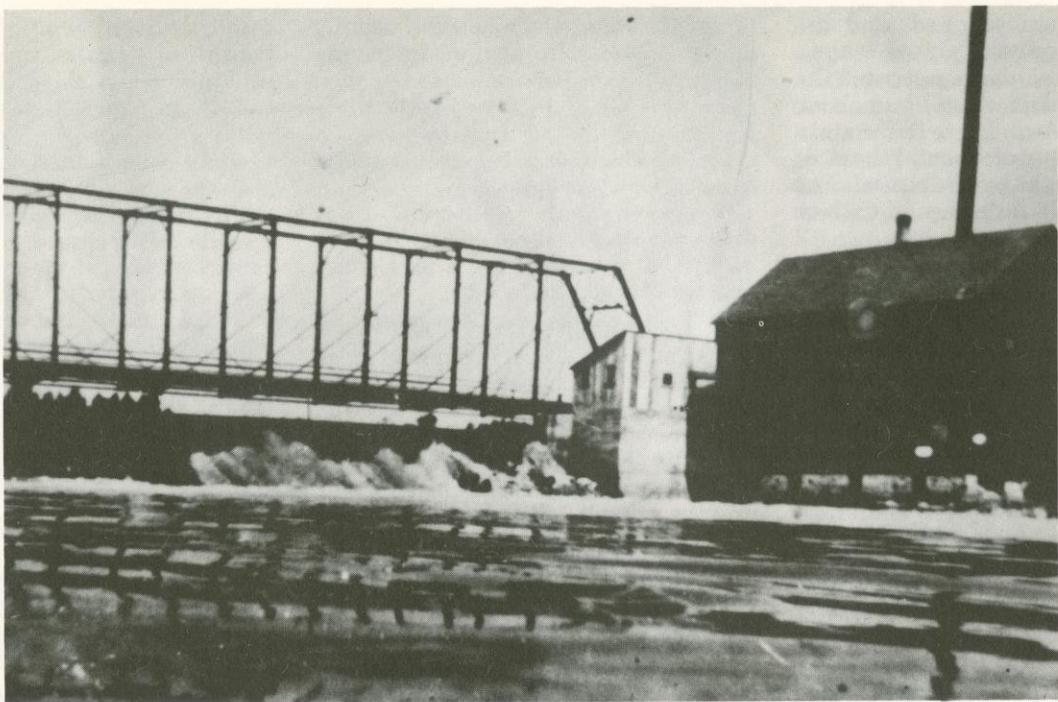
The next mill located on the river below Cato Falls was a flour mill located at Clarks Mills and was built and operated by Ira Clark. The next mill below Clarks Mills was located at Oslo which was owned by two brothers, one named Ole Stephenson and the other was known by the name Steven Oleson. This mill was changed from a flour mill into a mill for carding wool, which means changing the wool from the fleece into strips which could be spun into yarn in the home. An old fashioned spinning wheel was used to spin the wool into yarn.

As there was ample water power at the site, and the carding of wool was discontinued, an electric lighting plant was installed in the building. This is still in operation.

The next sawmill was installed on the river a half mile west of Five Corners located on Highway 10. This mill was abandoned after there was no more pine in the surrounding area to saw into lumber.

The two Hubbard brothers built a sawmill on the river adjacent to the





*Oslo Dam. Stephan's Woolen Mills.*

Henry Hubbard home. There is nothing left there now but a deep hole in the river below the site of the dam.

The next mill below the Hubbard mill was at Manitowoc Rapids. It may have been a sawmill at one time, but during my residence in Manitowoc it was a flour mill which was owned and operated by a man named Ourada. Upon Mr. Ourada's death the operation of this mill was discontinued. It was sold to a man who sold antiques.

#### BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IN THE EARLY DAYS

As the first settlers moved into this heavily wooded area the first homes and barns were built of logs. Cutting down the trees for building materials also helped to clear the land. As soon as a small area was cleared, wheat, the staff of life, was sown, and vegetables, corn and potatoes were planted. The process of planting was described earlier.

The rafters of these log houses were composed of small, slender trees. The roof was shingled with what was called "shakes." These "shakes" were made from cedar blocks, if obtainable, of suitable length. By means of a home made vise and what we call a "draw shave," of a "drawing knife" these "shakes" were shaved thin at one end. They were sold or traded to people who lived in the city in exchange for sugar, kerosene, and other necessities. As no coal was obtainable in the early days, stove wood and cord wood were also sold. These were used for cooking and for heating the homes.

#### MERCHANDISING IN THE EARLY DAYS

In those days everything was

obtained in bulk by the merchants — sugar, coffee, tea, spices, vinegar, kerosene, etc. The merchant did his own packaging. Sugar was put up in brown paper bags in 5, 10 and 25 pound lots. Every store had a scale for weighing this type of merchandise. In order to prevent cheating by the merchant, a man was appointed in Manitowoc to make periodic examination of these scales. If I remember rightly, Henry Mulholland was one of the first persons appointed to make these inspections. His title was

"City Sealer of Weights and Measures."

When the farmer had cleared his land sufficiently so that he could raise pigs, chickens and livestock on his farm, he brought the eggs and butter produced to the merchant. These products were bartered for the things which the farmer needed and could not produce on the farm. These merchants usually kept very careful ledgers. In a ledger of a merchant who operated a store in 1890 there was this transaction:

Credit for hides .....	\$2.27
Credit for eggs .....	.35
Credit for cheese .....	6.07
Credit for wood .....	1.00
	<u>\$9.69</u>
Bought 20 yds. sheeting .....	1.60
Bought 4 yds. vailing .....	1.20
Bought 9 yds. ticking .....	1.62
Bought 1 hat .....	1.50
Bought 1 "Kalendar" .....	.17
Bought 4 jars .....	.44
Bought 1 doz. buttons .....	.06
Bought 1 spool thread .....	.04
Bought 4 darning needles .....	.02
Bought "Coffee Essens" .....	.05
Bought yeast .....	.05
	<u>\$6.69</u>
Credit to account .....	<u>\$3.00</u>

The above transaction was from a ledger of Mr. Kusterman who operated the general store in St. Nazianz for many years.

When the farmers brought wheat for sale in their wagons, the principal merchants in Manitowoc were

Schuette's, the O. Torrison Company, and the Esch Company. Each had large scales in the streets outside of their establishments. The farmer would drive his loaded wagon on the scales. The weight was noted, and after the produce was unloaded, the empty

wagon was again weighed, and the difference between the empty wagon and the loaded wagon represented the weight of produce that had been brought into town. There were sixty pounds in a bushel of wheat. Wheat, of course, was bought by the bushel. The produce was paid for either in cash or merchandise or both.

### OUR OLD HOME

After clearing the land for the raising of wheat and other farm produce, my father planted about an acre of apple trees and other kinds of fruit trees. Among the apple trees planted were the Duchess of Oldenburg which my mother used for making pies, Golden Russets, Fall Stripes, Tallman Sweets, and Crab Apples. The latter were used for making jellies and for pickling. There were also cherry and wild plum trees, currant and gooseberry bushes.

There were many kinds of birds that built their nests in the apple trees. These birds fed upon the larvae and insects that menaced the fruit crops.

The birds that I knew as a boy were ground sparrows, (they built their nests on the ground) song sparrows that sang their sweet little songs, bobolinks, blue birds, (they built their nests each year in a hole in the gate post), whippoorwills, robins, and many others. If you have never heard of meadow lark sing while in flight you've missed something. Many of these birds were around our orchard to protect us from the larvae and insects so harmful to fruit today. I never saw an apple in my early years that harbored a worm.

Then there were the hoot owls in the nearby swamp. When I heard his weird "whoo, whoo," in the early evening a creepy feeling came over me. When a hawk flew over the old hen with her brood of chickens, she would give a loud squawk and the little chicks would hide under her protecting wings.

Wormy apples did not appear until orchards became so large that there were not enough birds to destroy the larvae which the worms produced. Then DDT came into use to aid in the control of insects. In the beginning one spraying was sufficient but later on the insect seemed to become immune to this chemical, and now six or eight sprayings are necessary each summer. The DDT killed the birds and now the realization has come that perhaps nature's way was the better way after all, and that it would be better to do everything possible to stimulate an increased bird population rather than to try to control insect damage by other means.

### UTENSILS IN THE FARM HOME

The utensils used in the farm home were pewterware, ironstone china made in England, steel knives and

forks. Cooking utensils were usually made of iron, also spiders for frying meat. Iron kettles were used to boil potatoes and other vegetables. Elongated iron pans were used to roast coffee and also for baking beans in the oven of the cook stove.

After roasting the green coffee it was ground in what was called a coffee mill. This was operated by a small crank and was turned by hand.

### GAMES WE PLAYED

We had a croquet set in our front yard and the neighborhood children and I spent many happy hours playing croquet. We also had what we called a whirligig. This was a plank with a hole in the center. A post had been driven into the ground, with about four feet of the post above ground. A wooden pin was driven through the hole in the plank into the post. An auger had been used to provide the opening in the post into which the peg was driven. There was a person at each end of the plank and we then whirled around...it was a dizzy kind of sport. Bystanders had to be on guard lest they be hit by the plank as it whirled around.

At school we played "three old cat," and town ball. The ball was made by winding yarn or twine around a small stone to give the ball weight. If the player at bat hit the ball he was safe if he could get to a base before the player retrieving the ball would hit him. The ball also might be caught by another player who touched the player hitting the ball while he was off base, or before he had gotten to first base. If a batter was "out" he then took his place in the field, while one of the fielders then took a turn as a batter.

Later, when I was about twelve years old, a baseball club was organized by a young man named Plantico from Two Rivers who was working for a farmer in the neighborhood. Baseball had originated in Two Rivers many years before. Senator Walsh, the United States Senator from Idaho, played on the team when he lived in Two Rivers as a boy. It was while playing on the team organized by Plantico that I ran into a patch of poison ivy which was growing in a fence corner. When I came home with swollen hands and face, my mother called Dr. Falge at Cato, who said that it was erysipelas and advised the application of hot compresses. It almost killed me. The remainder of this story is told in my "Seventy Years in the Practice of Medicine."

### THE BASEMENT OF OUR HOUSE

The basement wall was made out of field stone which was mortered together. The wall was about two feet thick and was about 7-1/2 feet high. The house was built on top of this wall. The floor of the "cellar" was packed clay. In the center of the basement there was a long elongated platform

upon which we placed crocks containing milk from each day's milking. When the cream rose to the top of the crock, it was skimmed off with a "skimmer." This cream was then put into a dash churn.

There was a hole in the cover of the churn through which a small wooden rod about the size of a broom handle projected. On the lower end of this rod were two wooden cross pieces. This was called a "dash" and the churning was done by lifting it up and pushing it down. I was occasionally assigned the job of doing the churning, which task I found very tiresome for my small arms to perform. Perhaps also there was a bit of boredom in the task. When the butter formed it was removed and placed in what we called a "butter bowl." This was a homemade device which had been skillfully carved from a block of hardwood. My mother kneaded the butter with a homemade wooden paddle until all the moisture was removed and nothing but butter remained. After removing what was needed for table use, the remainder was packed in earthen jars and taken to the store to be bartered for goods not produced on the farm. My mother was a very good cook. In addition to preparing the nourishing foods necessary for healthy development of our bodies, she made wonderful pies of apple, mince, cherry and others. When the pies were served they had been cut into six wedges one for each member of the family. I remember watching jealously to see that my piece of pie was as large as that received by others in the family.

Another of my tasks which I found very tiring was turning the crank of the grind stone for my brother when he sharpened sickles and scythes.

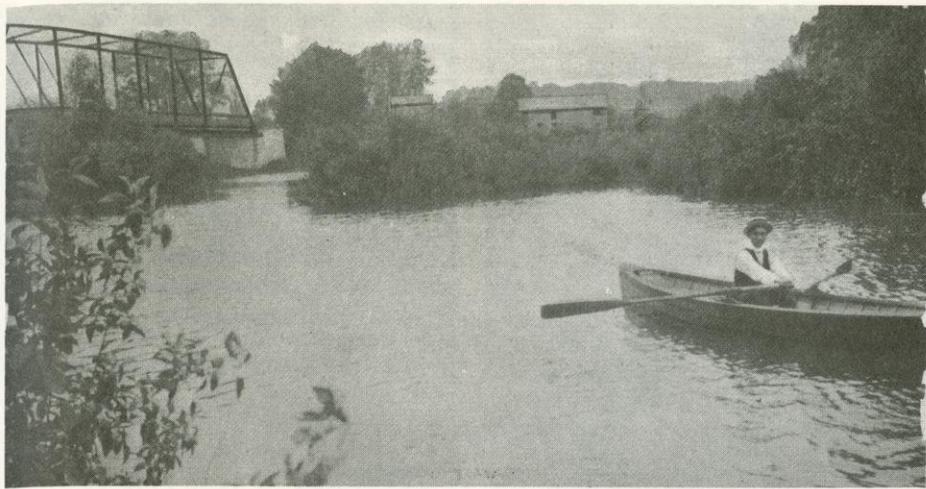
This long and rambling story was written by my dear wife as I dictated to her. Tomorrow, March 17, will be my 96th birthday and our friends have kindly invited Leona and I as guests at a dinner at the Supper Club. I'll bring this to a close with these friendly German words.

*Auf wiedersehen.*

### SOME INTERESTING PLACES TO SEE ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON DRIVE

On a sunny afternoon in June "when the sun dries the earth if it be in tune," crank up the old gas wagon and take your family for a ride over one of the most scenic roads in Wisconsin. Drive westward on what used to be called the "River Road."

After passing over the railroad tracks at the end of Meadow Lane in Manitowoc, drive carefully as you are approaching the "Horse Shoe Curve," and the lone one-way iron bridge that crosses the Manitowoc River. You are now in the historic Village of



Rapids Bridge, Manitowoc, Wis. 1911.

Manitowoc Rapids, early county seat of Manitowoc County.

In addition to other buildings there was a court house and a jail, a store where Gunder Torrison first started a mercantile business which afterwards became the O. Torrison Co. of Manitowoc. In this village was where my mother started her long trip by birch bark canoe up the winding Manitowoc River to the home of her sister, Mrs. Crozier Tufts, who lived on the river bank about two miles from what is now Collins. As you drive up the hill westward out of the village, you will note to the left of the road a granite monument placed at the grave of Chief Mexico. (The location of this grave is very much in doubt. Many feel that he actually was buried about 1000 feet from the site of this monument). A friend of the white man when there were more Indians than white people in this area.

A short distance ahead is a long steep hill. About half way down this hill if you will look to the left, you will see a beautiful valley with a white farm house located on the bank of the river. At the foot of this hill to the left is the home of the former Harvey Hubbard. One of the first sawmills was built at this location. About a quarter of a mile to the north, you cross the river, and ascend another long steep hill. Farther to the west is the location of a cheese factory, long since abandoned.

As you follow the course of the river westward, you will come to a beautiful glacial lake. Some distance ahead is the Vetting home, formerly the home of one of the early pioneers of this section. A short distance to the right on this road is another abandoned cheese factory.

About a mile ahead to the left is a large spring where the early travelers over this road used to stop and get a drink. The water that issued from this spring was always clear, cold, and very refreshing.

Farther ahead is the site of another abandoned cheese factory. To the right a short distance ahead was located the

Oslo dam and mill. There is a bridge crossing the river at this point. This is where in recent years the starting point of the White Water Races was placed. These races are held in early spring soon after the ice has left the river and the waters are perhaps at their greatest height.

As you drive westward you come to the home of M. G. Madsen who was the founder of the Madsen Seed Company. You will recognize this home by the two rows of balsam trees, one on each side of the driveway, leading up to this home. Across the road is the home of Cornelius Madsen, whose daughter was the wife of Hugo Vits.

Follow the river road westward and you come to another large farmhouse. If you leave your automobile in the farmer's yard and walk a short distance to the north, you will come to the Lower Cato Falls. The property at this point has recently been purchased by Manitowoc County to be used as a park for recreational purposes. About a mile to the west is the unincorporated Village of Clarks Mills.

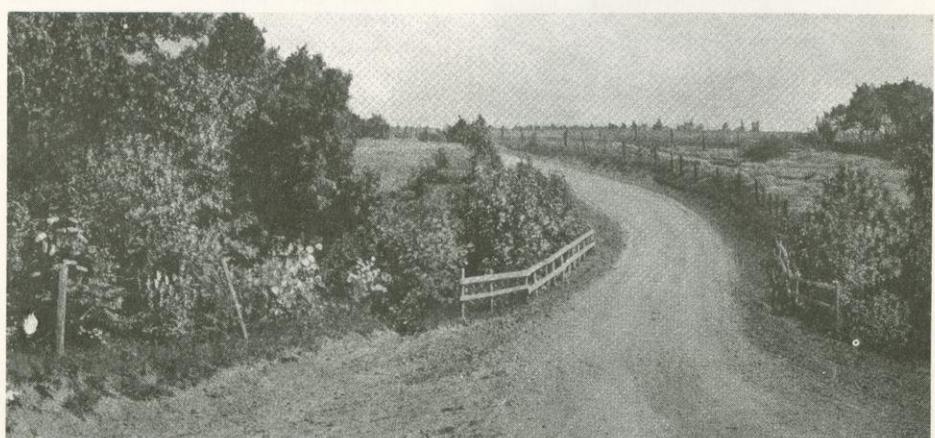
As you have taken your children out into the country with you for a day of pleasure, I know that you are not the kind of an individual who will employ a baby sitter to take care of the children while you go to a road house, drink a

few mixed drinks, spend a week's wages for a big dinner, and wake up the next morning with indigestion and a headache. I know that you who have just arrived at Clarks Mills have taken along a picnic basket lunch. As you drive north across the bridge, stop at the old mill, and ask our friend Ruhl Kluczinski, for permission to drive down the river to the vicinity of the old paint mine. There you will find a grassy bank where you can enjoy your picnic dinner. Leona and I have enjoyed several pleasant afternoon picnics at this location.

After you have finished your repast and have had a brief rest start driving north on the main road toward Cato. About a mile north of Clarks Mills you will notice a row of maple trees growing on the fence line, along the left side of the road. These trees were planted by Ira Clark about 90 years ago. He owned the land to the west. It was the land where the first Agricultural Fair was located. We remarked earlier about this project.

Along the highway toward Cato, to Highway 10, and then eastward on Highway 10 to Manitowoc, is some of the finest farming land in Wisconsin. There are abundant evidences of industrious farmers who have managed well, and who have gotten the good earth to produce bountifully and well. As you end your Sunday afternoon drive you will have that feeling of contentment and peace and you will feel that "all's well with the world." You'll be ready to attack the problems of the week with new vigor and enthusiasm. It is a good way to prepare for the time when you must spend your energies to advance a new project in your day to day endeavors. You will be physically and mentally ready for anything that may come.

Although I had expected to close these "Memories and Recollections" with this description of "Scenic Manitowoc," perhaps another observation may be in order. It was called to attention as we observed the many abandoned cheese factories.



One of the Country Drives near Manitowoc, Wis.



These suggested a development that began in the 1880's when farmers no longer were able to grow wheat with profit. They realized that something needed to be done to restore the soil to its former productive capacity. It was then that dairy farming began and diversified farming became the recommended way.

When greater quantities of milk were produced it became impractical to convert milk into cheese and butter in the home, and cheese factories began to dot the country side. Since the milk was hauled to the factories by the individual farmers in the area, these factories had to be located within easy driving distance of these farms. At one time there must have been between 35 or 40 cheese factories in Manitowoc County. There may also have been several creameries and also several factories where dairy products were sold. Fischl's and Sorge's in Manitowoc were examples of this operation.

You may be interested to know that milk men in the early days delivered milk to the homes in quite a different way than is done today. They carried

the milk in large milk cans. As they came to the home of a customer, the lady of the house would provide the milk container into which milk was dipped from these large cans. Since there was no refrigeration such as we have today, only enough milk would be bought as was needed for a day. Some families may have had ice boxes in which chunks of ice were the cooling medium.

As for the cheese factories, they remained the place where milk was delivered through about five decades or so. The day of the larger milk cooperatives then came, with demands for other dairy products other than milk and cheese which had to be met. Powdered milk was one of these "other products," and White House Milk Company in Manitowoc became an outlet for the milk of many Manitowoc farmers. It was the day when milk trucks began to arrive at the farmer's yard to get the milk. This marked the end of another era in Wisconsin agriculture, and with it memories of how life changed as new ways developed.

When we think back to the days of our youth there were many pleasant memories and recollections that come to mind. Some call these "the good old days." However, life as it is lived today can have its pleasant memories too. Surely the need for sacrifice and self-denial is not present today as it was in the days of my youth. That life is easier is reflected in the mortality statistics of our day. People have an average life span of three score years and ten and longer. To such may the eventide of life be one of pleasant memories and with an absence of nostalgia.

## MANITOWOC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Address of Communications To:

**NEWSLETTER**  
Ruth Beyer, Sec.  
P.O. Box 574  
Manitowoc, WI 54220-0574

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**PERMIT No. 388**



*Delivering milk to cheese factory, 1885.*