Where the wild rice grows : a sesquicentennial portrait of Menomonie, 1846-1996. 1996

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WHERE the WILD RICE GROWS

1846 MENOMONIE 1996

Where the Wild Rice Grows

A Sesquicentennial Portrait of

Menomonie

1846 1996

Larry Lynch and John M. Russell
Editors

Menomonie Sesquicentennial Commission
1996

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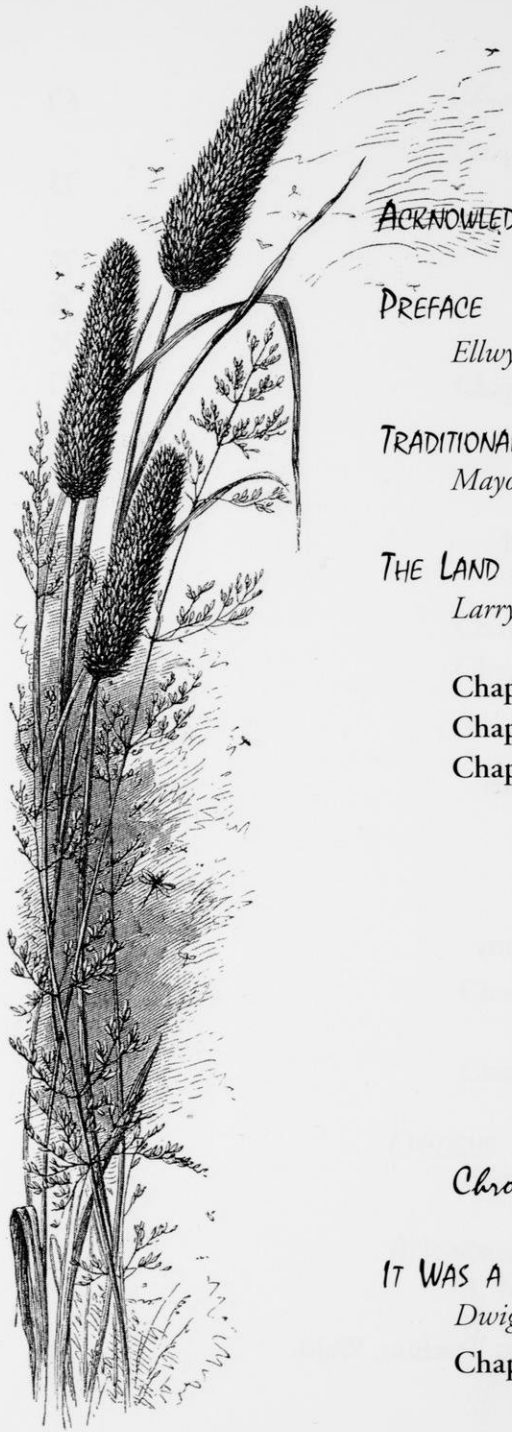
To
The People of the Valley



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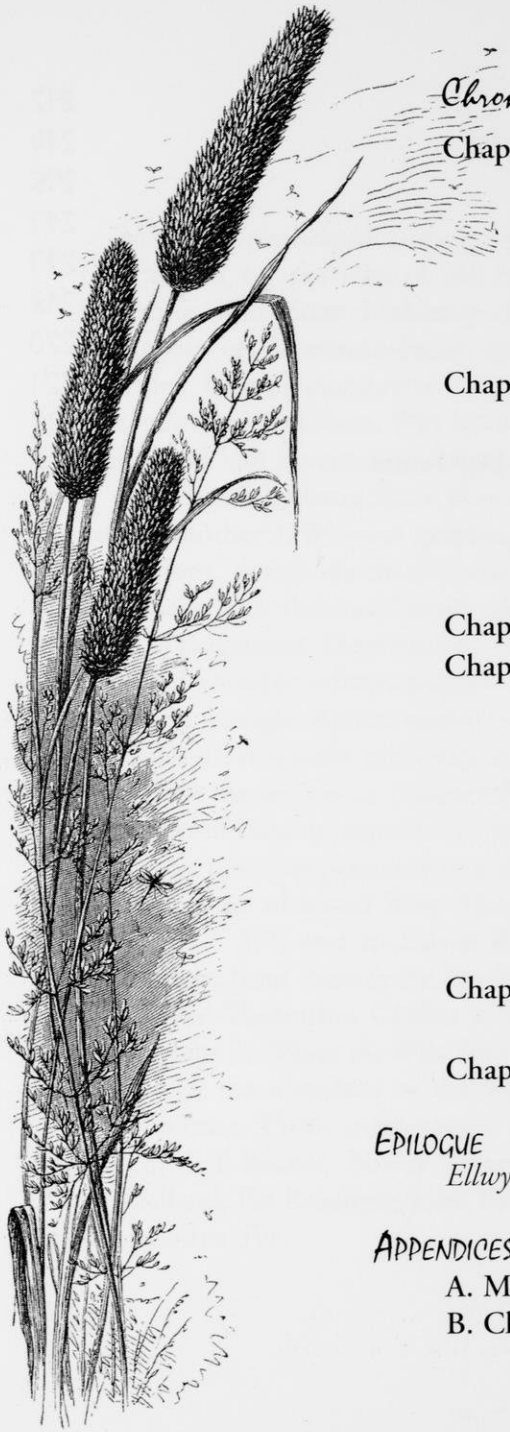

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UW-Stout students Sheri Witt and Doug Jenquin spent hours on the computer laying out the early part of the book. Another UW-Stout graphic arts student, Brenda Ferris, worked with the editors for untold weeks to make corrections, design the final layout, and import the hundreds of images. Without Brenda's effort, the project might *never* have been finished.Thanks also to "JT" (Jim Tenorio), Jerry Addie, and Ted Bensen of the UW-Stout Graphic Arts Management Department for their helpful support. Various departments of city and county government provided valuable information on the history of their units for inclusion in this book, as did many businesses and churches. Dwight Agnew agreed to update and allow us to include his study of the Menomonie "lumber barons" (Chapter 4), originally presented at the annual meeting of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1966. Dwight also wrote the section of Chapter 12 on James H. Stout's influence on education in Menomonie.

We would like to express our special appreciation to the heirs of Edwin Tunis and HarperCollins Publishers for graciously granting permission to reproduce several of Tunis's wonderful drawings from *Indians* and *Frontier Living,* which can be obtained from HarperCollins Order Dept., 1000 Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, PA 18512 (800/242-7737), and to David Ripplinger of Track of the Wolf, Inc., for permission to include a number of illustrations from *Toast to the Fur Trade,* available from Track of the Wolf, P. O. Box 6, Osseo, MN 55369 (612/424-2500). See Illustration Credits at the back of this book for specific bibliographic information on these and other illustrations in *Where the Wild Rice Grows.*

Finally, the members of the Menomonie Sesquicentennial Commission worked long and hard preparing for Menomonie's 150th celebration: Ellwyn Hendrickson and Laura Smalley Reisinger (co-chairpersons), Dwight Agnew, Jeff Becker, Nancy Doane, Tim Dotseth, Pat Eggert, Bob Evans, Karen Joyce, Larry Lynch, Verna McClelland, Pat Reisinger, John Russell, Lou Russell, Shirley Schulman, Jules Molenda, Wes Schultz, Chuck Stokke, and Marilyn Tye.

Larry Lynch *John M. Russell*

March 1996

Preface

People.

People...people...people...

Not THE people, that broad generic catch-all term, but just people, that endless cacophony of voices, talents, quirks, idiosyncrasies, and energy; at the same moment admirable and detestable, but always enduring. There are the slender, the skinny, the scrawny, the pudgy and the plump. They come in various sizes—tall, short, in-between—with straight hair, curly hair, or no hair. Brunette, red-head, blonde. And over time, their ways of varying multiply.

As there is diversity in people, so there is in land, water, and air. The sand of one area turns into the loam of another; rolling hills become prairies, plains; water rushes, falls, swirls, eddies, flows. What was once black night becomes broken by firelight, then candlelight; later, the occasional farmhouse light, the yard light; now the night air fairly undulates with waves of light from headlights, safety lights, street lights, windowlights; the list multiplies as the stars dim.

In approaching Menomonie's one hundred fiftieth anniversary, the 1996 Sesquicentennial Commission looked to encompass, directly or indirectly, as much as possible of the interrelationships of this vast variety of elements—elements which have created our present city and form the backdrop for its future. The commission believed that the celebration of 1996 should leave the community with a strong sense of itself, a sense which not only inspires its residents but enhances the image of Menomonie beyond its immediate boundaries. This goal is articulated in the *Mission Statement:*

> Out of an exploration and celebration of the historic and contemporary merging paths of land, rivers, economic forces and peoples, at a site now called Menomonie, will emerge a sense of place, a sense of community, alive to its past, engaged in its present, building into the future, as a connected, cohesive whole.

With this vision in mind, the commission has worked to involve as many as possible in this historic celebratory year: individuals, organizations, city government, schools, churches, civic groups. The list grows even as events begin. During the two-year planning process, specifics have changed and funding sources have undergone dramatic shifts, but the goal has remained constant.

This book is one of the visible examples of the goal in action; commission members John Russell and Larry Lynch volunteered to research and write the bulk of the book and to edit it; Dwight Agnew wrote the chapter on the lumber barons and a section on James Stout, and volunteered to act as a general historical resource. Other commission members, community organizations, and individuals have been involved in providing materials, proofreading, developing format—those detailed, time-consuming tasks which go into the process of creating and publishing a book. In that process, the *Mission Statement* again provided the overarching theme of interrelationships which, over time, have created the present community and lead toward the future. The riches which make Menomonie a unique city force inevitable choices for inclusion and exclusion in any book's inevitable space limitations. But if the adage that "a picture is worth a thousand words" is true, then perhaps this book is as inclusive as possible. Visual materials were gathered from

the wealth of community resources, such as the photo collections of John Russell, the Dunn County Historical Society, and the University Archives and Area Research Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. And as the *Sesquicentennial Calendar of Events* demonstrates, there is much to anticipate during the year. When Menomonie comes to mark its bicentennial and a future committee looks back to a baseline for its celebration, *Where the Wild Rice Grows* will be one of the tangible records of our Sesquicentennial celebration.

The title of this book provides an immediate example of the complex interplay of land and water, people, and forces which make up this community. **Land and Water:** what is now lake was once marsh and slow-moving river, an ideal combination for wild rice to grow. **People:** Menomonie comes from the Anishinabe word meaning "wild rice people." According to tradition, the community's first mayor, Captain William Wilson, proposed the city's name, honoring the original people of the area. Lake Menomin is a variant of the city name, suggested by James Stout sometime after 1901.[1] **Forces:** the needs of the lumber industry led to the building of a dam on the Red Cedar River where it exited the marsh, flooding out the wild rice and creating the company's mill pond as a power source and holding area for logs; the closing of the lumber mills in 1901 emptied the mill pond of its logs, leaving behind a body of water, recognizably a lake with recreational uses and requiring a new name. Wild rice may no longer grow in a swampy area along the river, but place names such as Menomonie and Lake Menomin inform the present and the future of their complex past.

Where the Wild Rice Grows, like the celebratory year 1996 itself, is a celebration of people and place and forces—from the past, of the present, for the future. It is out of these interrelationships that history is made and community memory maintained.

Ellwyn Hendrickson *Laura Smalley Reisinger*

Sesquicentennial Commission Co-chairpersons

Dedicating the new phone poles, c. 1890.

[1] *The Stout Annual*, 1917, p. 113. See pp. 3, 36-37, and 76-77 of this book for more on place names.

A Message from Menomonie Mayor Charles "Chuck" Stokke

MAYOR
Charles E. Stokke

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Ward 3, Ryan Moen
Ward 4, Wesley Sommers
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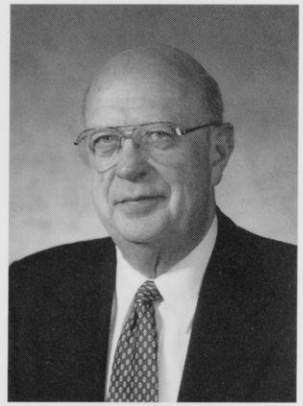
CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Lowell Prange

Traditional Yet Progressive



Charles Stokke, Mayor

150 YEARS YOUNG! What a story to tell! Yes, the city of Menomonie is celebrating 150 years of history with a great deal of pride. Our city and the area around it have seen a multitude of changes, yet we have kept our traditions in the face of change—from the time of prairies and Native Americans to the lumbering and agricultural eras to the era of diversity.

Our forebears, the pioneers of this great land, left us a rich heritage. We must not forget how fortunate we present-day "pioneers" are. Their sacrifices provided us a life of relative ease. Their hard work clearing the land and making it productive continued even during wars and times of poverty.

We enjoy an admirable quality of life and our people possess a strong work ethic, inherited from generations of immigrants from distant lands. With this book, we bring our fascinating history to modern readers. It is our wish to bequeath this story and this heritage to those who come after us.

Chuck Stokke
Mayor, city of Menomonie—1986 to the present

Ojibwe gathering wild rice.

The Land and The People

Cattail marsh, Muddy Creek Wildlife Area.

1

At the Edge of the Tension Zone

Look at any of several books on ecology, and you will notice that Dunn County lies at the confluence of several major life zones.[1] While agriculture, city-building, and other human uses of the land have greatly altered the "natural" vegetative patterns in Wisconsin, remnants of the "original vegetation" remain, scattered throughout the state along roadways and railroad corridors, on hilly land or in areas of poor soil unsuitable for farming, and in tracts set aside as parkland and trails.[2]

Bordering the county to the north is the **northern hardwood (or northern mesic) forest** which, intermixed with significant stands of **white and red pine (northern xeric forest)** and with **pine barrens** (jack pine and prairie grasses), dominates the northeastern half of the state (map, p. 4). The northern hardwood forest is characterized by sugar maple, hemlock, American beech, basswood, and yellow birch.[3]

The southwestern half of Wisconsin is an admixture of **oak savanna** (prairie grasses with less than 50 percent oak tree cover), **southern mesic forest** (sugar maple, basswood, and elm), **southern oak forest (or southern xeric forest)**, and **prairie** (a treeless grassy plain). Dunn County lies principally in this mixed zone, with southern mesic forest dominating the western half and oak savanna the eastern. A great white and red pine forest once occupied the north-central part of the county (bordering the western banks of the upper reaches of the Red Cedar River) and southern oak forests and conifer swamps existed in the central and eastern portions. There were also prairies--the Rusk Prairie just northeast of Menomonie, and an arch of prairieland in the southeast corner of the county, part of the vast prairie that once stretched away beyond the western horizon to the Rockies. These prairies proved to be some of the richest farmland in the county.[4]

In addition, Lake Menomin now occupies what seems to have once been a wild rice marsh flooded by the mid-19th century damming of the Red Cedar River to create a millpond/log reservoir. "Menomin" has been translated as "the place where the wild rice grows."[5] The title of this book honors the connection with wild rice and the American Indian inhabitants for whom it was a major source of sustenance, in the names of the lake, the city (Menomonie means "wild rice people"), and the river, often called the Menomonie or Folle Avoine in former times, both names referring to wild rice.[6]

John Curtis, in his pioneering ecological study, *The Vegetation of Wisconsin*, identified a 20- to 30-mile-wide **"tension zone"** meandering across central Wisconsin that both separates and joins the two great "floristic provinces" just described: the "northern hardwoods province" in the northeast half of Wisconsin and the "prairie-forest province" in the southwest half.[7] The tension zone, a transitional area containing a richly diverse mix of plant and animal species common to *both* major ecosystems, cuts a swath across northern Dunn County. As we shall see in Chapter 3, this zone

[1]E.g., Kricher and Morrison, *Ecology of Eastern Forests* (1988), p. 38. (See Bibliography for complete publication information on all sources cited in this book.)

[2]"Early Vegetation of Wisconsin," map, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (1965). See also the detailed map by Finlay, "Original Vegetation Cover of Wisconsin" (1976). Both available from Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Madison.

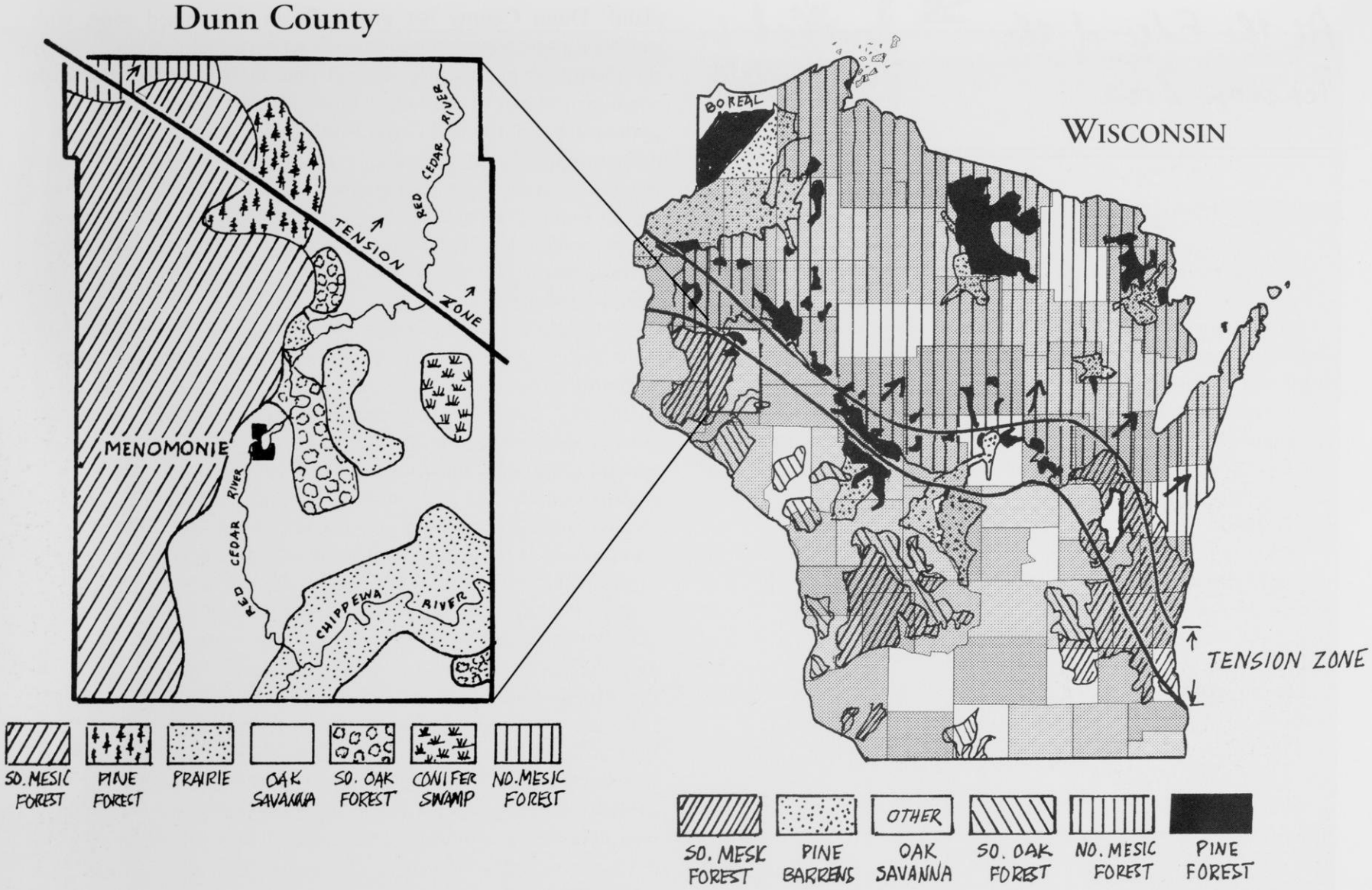
[3]"Early Vegetation of Wisconsin" map; John T. Curtis, *The Vegetation of Wisconsin* (1959), pp. 184-201, 533-35 (northern mesic forest); 202-20, 536-39 (pine or northern xeric forests); 339-44, 572-73 (pine barrens).

[4]"Early Vegetation of Wisconsin" map; Curtis, pp. 328-39, 566-71 (oak savanna); 103-131, 519-22 (southern mesic forest); 132-55, 522-26 (southern oak forest/southern xeric forest); 261-307, 552-62 (prairie).

[5]From "manomin," the Ojibwe word for wild rice. See Preface for further discussion.

[6]See also "A Confusion of Place Names," pp. 36-37.

[7]Curtis, pp. 15-20.



Wisconsin and Dunn County plant communities, showing the "tension zone" between the Northern Hardwoods Province and the Prairie-Forest Province.

helped shape the prehistoric Indian cultures of Wisconsin.

Curtis demonstrates that the reverse also was true: that prehistoric and historic Indians had a profound effect on the vegetation of Wisconsin through the use of fire.

> With this one tool, the Indians changed a very large portion of the entire vegetational complex of Wisconsin.... [O]ak openings, sand, oak, and pine barrens, bracken-grasslands, true prairies, brush prairies, fens, sedge meadows, shrub communities, and pine forests all owe their origin or maintenance to the repeated presence of fire.[8]

He notes that some fires were no doubt due to lightning, but "man-made fires were an important if not the sole cause of the fires." He hints that Indian-set fires may have been responsible for the great pineries that fueled the local economy from 1846 to 1901:

> There is no way to ascertain what the vegetation of Wisconsin would have been had there been no Indians. It is probable that the bulk of the land would have been occupied by hardwood forests, but such speculations are...idle...guessing.[9]

Regardless of what the climax forest might have been without human intervention, once established the pine stands could persist for several hundred years, making their replacement by hardwood succession difficult–except perhaps through logging.

Anthropologist Carol Mason provides some reasons why Indians may have deliberately set the fires, namely, "to help in hunting by driving game" or "to create conditions attractive to grazing animals by burning off the old plants and encouraging fresh green ones to spread." According to Mason, the most important effect of Indian fires probably was to maintain the prairies, which need fires for seed germination.[10]

Good places to see the diverse habitats in our area include the Red Cedar State Trail (between Menomonie and the Red Cedar's confluence with the Chippewa below Dunnville), Menomin Park on the east side of Lake Menomin, and, east of Menomonie, Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area and Muddy Creek Wildlife Area. In these beautiful preserves one can find rocky cliffs, rivers and streams, sandbars, marshes, remnant or restored prairies, savannas, and woodlands. Flowers, birds, amphibians, and mammals are abundant, and you might even see one of the several species of harmless but attractive snakes drawn to the warm rocks in the summertime.

[8]Curtis, p. 461.
[9]Curtis, pp. 461-62.
[10]Carol I. Mason, *Introduction to Wisconsin Indians* (1988), pp. 21-22.

Devil's Punchbowl west of Menomonie.

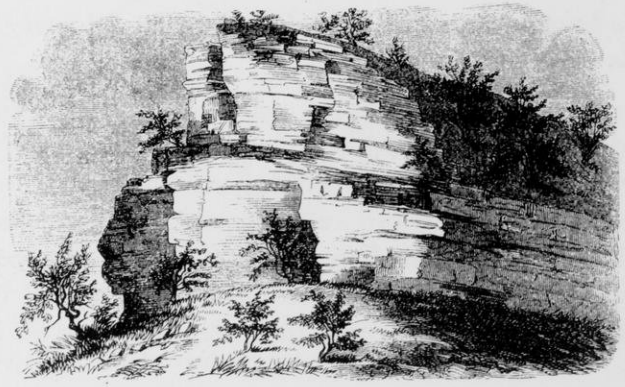
2
An Ancient Sea

Five hundred and fifteen million years ago, the area occupied by Menomonie was covered by a sea that extended over most of what is now the United States, excepting only parts of the Rocky Mountain West and Great Plains. The sea began to extend over the interior of the continent toward the end of the Cambrian Period (now dated at 543-510 million years ago), after the breakup of a global supercontinent along continental plate lines, lowering of the land by subsidence and erosion, and a rise in sea level. Sediments deposited in this sea over the deeply weathered surface of Precambrian (or Cryptozoic) igneous and metamorphic rocks became the bedrock sandstones and shales seen today.[1]

The rocks forming the cliffs along the Red Cedar Trail, in the Devil's Punchbowl, in Paradise Valley, at Sanna Park and other locations on Wilson Creek, and exposed elsewhere in the city date from the Late Cambrian Period (about 520 to 510 million years ago). The rock formations exposed in the immediate area are, from lowest to highest, the Eau Claire Formation (overlying the buried Mt. Simon Formation), the Wonewoc Formation, and the Lone Rock Formation. The Eau Claire and Lone Rock formations contain fine-grained, typically thin-bedded shales and sandstones, whereas the Mt. Simon and Wonewoc contain massive-bedded, medium- and coarse-grained sandstones.

According to preliminary reports from a continuing study coordinated by geologists at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire,[2] western Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and northwestern Illinois were situated in the Hollandale Embayment, a northern arm of the vast transcontinental sea, on whose sloping northernmost shore Menomonie lay. The sea encroaching from the south eventually rose to the level of Menomonie, creating a beach environment. As the sea rose further, it left the area on the "**shoreface**" in 15 to 45 feet of water, a "high-energy" wave-dominated zone in which only the heavier particles of sand were deposited, creating the **Mt. Simon Formation.**

After perhaps four or five million years, as Mt. Simon time was ending, the sea rose still higher and advanced the seashore further to the north and east, leaving Menomonie deeper under the surface of the shallow sea in the normally calmer "**offshore**" **zone.** It was, however, within the limits of what a particularly violent storm

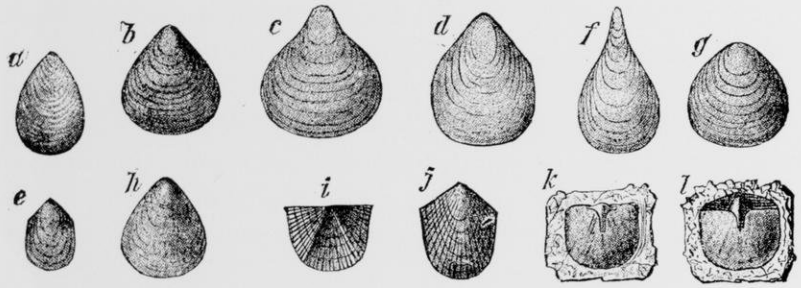


Sandstone and limestone cliff, western Wisconsin.

[1]Robert H. Dott., Jr., and Donald R. Prothero, *Evolution of the Earth* (1994), pp. 223-47; for revised Cambrian dates, see J. Madeleine Nash, "When Life Exploded," *Time,* 4 Dec. 1995, p. 70.

[2]The first two reports are "A New Look at the Sedimentology and Stratigraphy of the Eau Claire Formation, Tilden Area, Chippewa County, Wisconsin," poster session by Mark Kiessling, Karen Havholm, and Brian Mahoney (1995), and "The Sedimentology and Stratigraphy of the Eau Claire Formation, Tilden Area, WI," research paper by Mark Kiessling (1995).

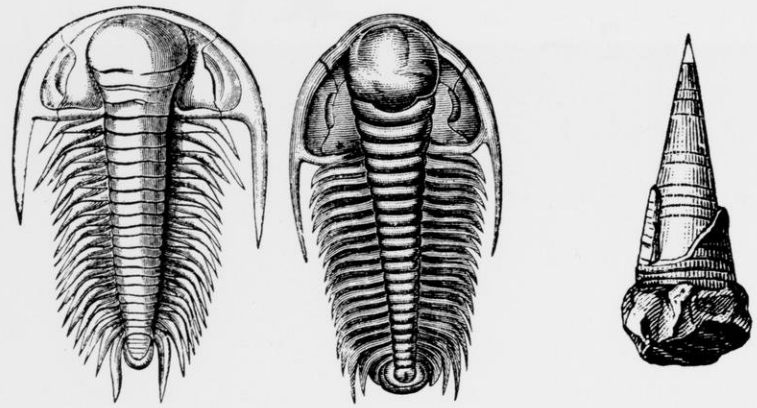
(perhaps one occurring only every five or six thousand years, the likes of which has not been seen in recorded history) could reach. Under normal conditions, the bottom would have been covered with mud inhabited by a variety of sea life, including some burrowers. During these tremendous storms, which came rarely but of which there would have been several hundred over the million and a half or so years of the **Eau Claire Formation,**[3] massive amounts of fine-grained sand would have been swept up from the shoreface zone and carried out to sea, to be deposited on top of the mud, preserving the creatures and their burrows. When quiet was restored once again, another "mud drape" would be deposited on



Cambrian brachiopods. a, c-e, Lingulella. b, lingula. f-g, Lingulepis. h, obolella. i-l, Orthis.

the surface of the sand and once again colonized by trilobites, brachiopods, hyoliths, a primitive mollusk *Palaeacmaea,* worms, and probably a multitude of other softbodied creatures that left no trace as body fossils but which helped leave the tracks, burrows, and other trace fossils so abundant in these rocks.[4] The result has been the sequence of fossiliferous, fine-grained sandstones topped by thin layers of shale we find from Pepin to Colfax and from St. Paul to La Crosse.

The Cambrian saw the first explosion of multicellular organisms



Cambrian trilobites. Paradoxides. *Hyolithes primordialis*

with shelly hard parts in the history of the earth. Although only a few of the creatures have been preserved as fossils in the rocks, sea life was probably much richer and more diverse than is evident. Among the rock units, the Eau Claire Formation contains the most variety of preserved life forms.

Toward the end of Eau Claire Formation time, the sea began to retreat temporarily, lowering the water depth. As Menomonie once more became a shoreface zone, mud disappeared and the fine-grained sands were replaced by coarser ones as the seashore was lashed again by continuous wave action. At this point, **Wonewoc Formation** sandstones (similar to those of the Mt. Simon) were laid down. When the sea once again flowed inland perhaps a million years later, the deepening sea began depositing mud and fine-grained sands, marking the beginning of the **Lone Rock Formation.** And so it went, with the sea advancing and retreating during the late Cambrian and Ordovician (510-439 million years ago) periods.[5]

Between the Cambrian and the Ice Age, no geological record was left in the immediate Menomonie area, but from evidence

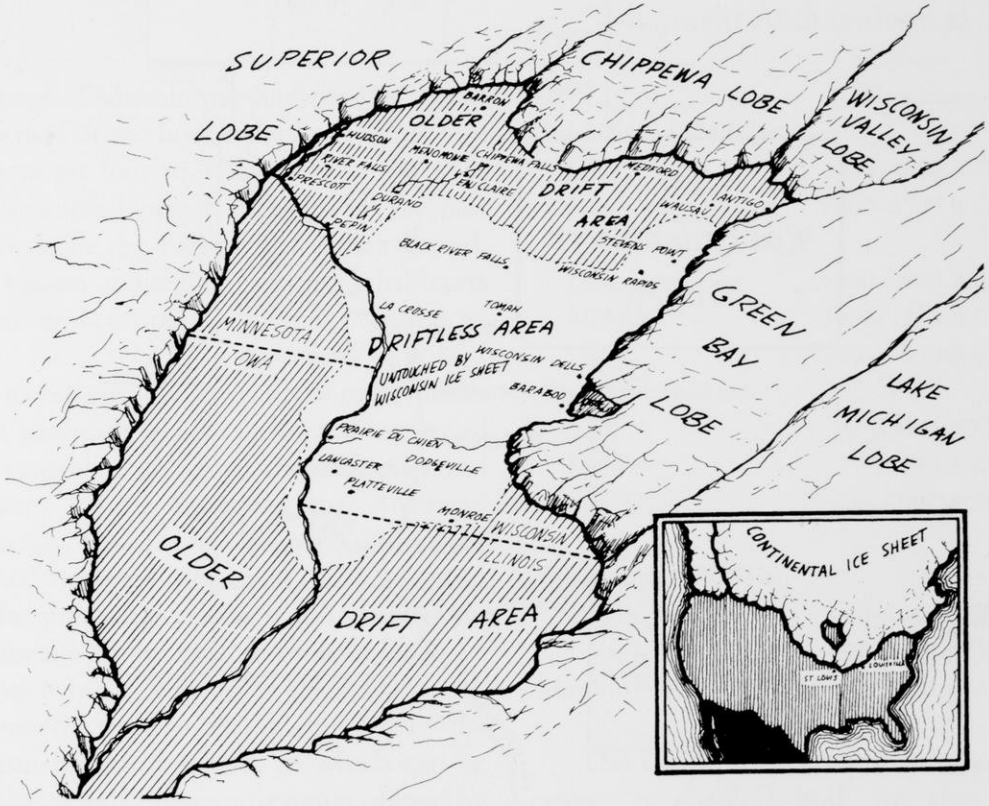
[3]My estimate of the duration of deposition of the various local formations is based on their relative local thicknesses compared to the total thickness of upper Cambrian formations (about 615') over some 10 million years.

[4]The incredible fossil beds of the Burgess Shale demonstrate that an abundance of amazing and often bizarre softbodied animals existed alongside the creatures with hard parts that constitute the usual Cambrian fossil record. See Stephen Jay Gould, *Wonderful Life* (1989); Nash, pp. 66-74; Rick Gore, "Explosion of Life," *National Geographic,* Oct. 1993, pp. 120-36. For a study of the effects of the monumental storms, see Roger G. Walker, "Shelf and Marine Sediments," in *Facies Models* (1986), esp. pp. 148-50.

[5]Gwen Schultz, *Wisconsin's Foundations* (1986), pp. 76-94.

elsewhere[6] it is known that dry land alternated with additional invasions of the sea until late in the Paleozoic Era. The Red Cedar Valley appears to have been dry land during most of the Mesozoic age of giant reptiles, so dinosaurs possibly roamed the area but any traces they may have left have been eroded away.

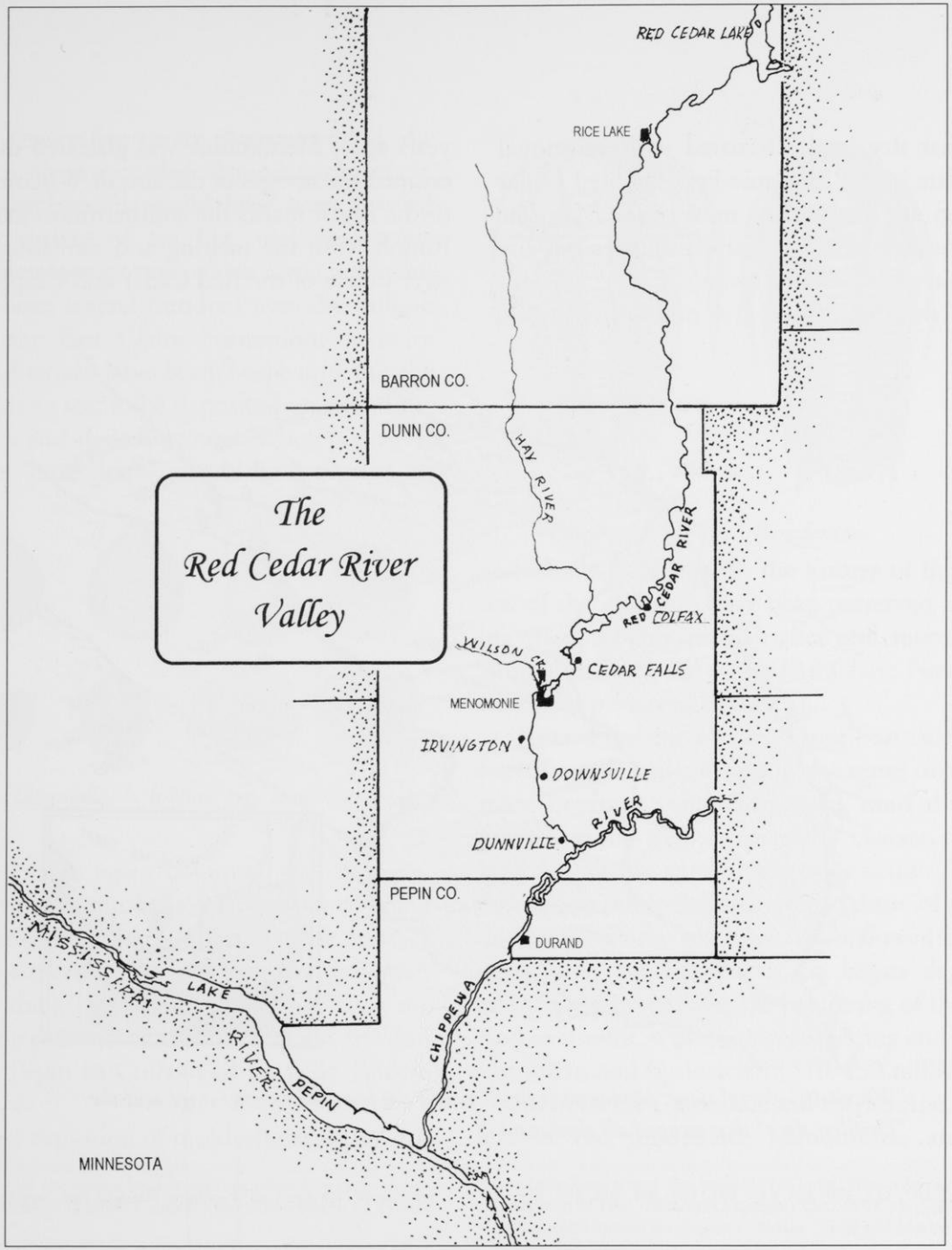
During the **Ice Age of the Pleistocene** (1.6 million to 11,000 years ago), Menomonie was glaciated during the earlier stages but escaped the ravages of the last, or Wisconsin Stage. The Ice Age Trail to the north marks the southernmost extent of the last glaciation.[7] Runoff from the melting and retreating glaciers helped shape the river valleys of the Red Cedar and Chippewa.



"Wisconsin" glacial stage. Menomonie lies between the last (Wisconsin) stage and the "Driftless Area" that escaped all glaciation.

[6]Dott and Prothero, maps pp. 233, 263, 297, 312, 329, 333, 343, 391, 393, 395, 406, 453, 512.

[7]See map in "Ice Age Trail" brochure, National Park Service (1985).



The Red Cedar Valley stretches from the headwaters of Red Cedar Lake in the north to the river's confluence with the Chippewa in the south.

3

People of the Valley from the Ice Age to 1839

Accounts tracing the heritage of Menomonie and the Red Cedar Valley often start with the arrival of the lumbermen, or perhaps go back to the first Europeans to set foot in Wisconsin in the 17th century. But there have been people living in this area for the past ten or eleven thousand years, since the Early Paleo-Indian Period. Unfortunately, very little is known about these ancient inhabitants of the valley. It is necessary to draw on many different resources to bring them back to life.

Naturally, archaeological investigations are of crucial importance. Pottery, mounds and burials, projectile points, tools, and camp and village sites provide us with tangible clues about their lifestyles and cultures. Historical documents left by European and American explorers, travelers, missionaries, traders, and pioneer settlers are helpful for the historical period starting in the early 1600s, but they provide only hints about the preceding century, and there is no written record of the centuries and millennia that came before.

Oral traditions of the tribes living in Wisconsin when Europeans arrived provide additional material to help fill the gaps left by the incomplete archaeological and historical record, to which can be added deductions by ethnologists and linguists, insights offered by historical geology, and the study of terrain, river systems, and the history of biotic zones. In order to reconstruct the past of the peoples of west-central Wisconsin, it is necessary to consider the wider picture of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes since data for specific regions of the state are likely to be sparse throughout the prehistoric and early historic periods.

Archaeologists studying Wisconsin, the Great Lakes area, and the northeastern United States have devised the following classification system in which to organize the study of prehistory and the early historic period:

Wisconsin Archaeological Traditions and Periods[1]

	Southern Wisconsin	Northern Wisconsin
Paleo-Indian Tradition		
Early	9500–8000 B.C.	residual ice cover
Late	8000–6500 B.C.	8000–6500 B.C.
Archaic Tradition		
Early	6500–3000 B.C.	6500–3000 B.C.
Middle	3000–1200 B.C.	3000–1200 B.C.
Late	1200–c. 550 B.C.	1200–c. 550 B.C.
Woodland Tradition		
Early	c. 550–1 B.C.	Early/Middle:
Middle	1–400 A.D.	c. 550 B.C.–400 A.D.
Late	400–1000 A.D.	400–1000 A.D or to 1600 A.D
Mississippian Tradition		
Middle (central)	1000–1200 A.D.	none
Upper/Oneota (north)	900–1600 A.D.	900–1600 A.D.
Historic Period	1600 A.D.–present	1600 A.D.–present

The distinction between "northern" and "southern" Wisconsin seems to depend both on the southernmost extent of late Pleistocene glaciation, which affected the availability of land for colonization in the Paleo-Indian Period, and on the location of the "tension zone" separating the two great biotic regions in the state that emerged as the ice retreated. Considering glaciation (see map,

[1]The terminology of prehistory—traditions, stages or periods, phases or cultures—and the dates assigned to them vary widely. I have used the classification system and dates adopted by the Wisconsin Archeological Society in their 1986 *Introduction to Wisconsin Archaeology* (inside front cover), a special issue of *The Wisconsin Archeologist* (67:3-4), updated by archaeologist Ronald Mason, personal communication (Oct. 1995).

p. 9), virtually all of the Red Cedar Valley should be considered "southern Wisconsin" in the earliest period since it largely escaped late Pleistocene glaciation. Later on, when the forest environment plays an important cultural role, the northern half of the valley (in Barron County) should be classified as "northern Wisconsin" since it is north of the tension zone (map p. 4).[2]

Several times during the last Ice Age (the Pleistocene), enough water was tied up in glaciers to lower the sea level sufficiently to expose a wide land bridge known as Beringia, where the Bering Strait is now, connecting Asia and North America and permitting plants, animals, and people to cross over. According to the best current knowledge as presented by archaeologist Brian Fagan, ancestral Americans probably entered Beringia in small hunting groups following Siberian game herds some time between 23,000 B.C. and 12,000 B.C., but verified archaeological evidence suggests they did not move on into Alaska and the Yukon until after 13,000 B.C.—and more likely not until after 12,000 B.C.—perhaps in response to the resubmerging of Beringia about 12,000 B.C.[3]

These **Paleo-Indians** were initially blocked from migrating south out of Alaska by the Cordilleran ice sheet, but some time after about 12,000 B.C. they began moving south, perhaps through an ice-free corridor that seems to have finally opened, allowing them to pass into what is now the United States. Archaeological evidence places them in southern South America by perhaps 10,000 B.C.[4]

By 9500 B.C. the Paleo-Indian **Clovis people** began leaving artifacts in numerous sites across North America, in particular their distinctive spear points with "fluted" (grooved) areas at the bases to facilitate attaching spear shafts. The Clovis culture ended five hundred years later, about 9000 B.C., approximately coinciding with the extinction of the great Ice Age mammals they hunted or competed with—mammoths, mastodons, giant bison, camels, horses, giant sloths, saber-toothed cats, jaguars, musk-oxen.[5]

[2]Mark J. Dudzik, *The PaleoIndian Tradition in Northwestern Wisconsin* (1993), p. 5; *Introduction to Wisconsin Archaeology*, pp. 250-51; John T. Curtis, *The Vegetation of Wisconsin* (1959), pp. 15, 20; "Ice Age Trail" (brochure, National Park Service, 1985).

[3]See Brian M. Fagan's detailed and persuasive analyses in *People of the Earth* (1989), pp. 198-214, and in *Ancient North America* (1991), pp. 67-76.

[4]Fagan, 1991, pp. 74-76.

Changing climate and overhunting probably hastened the demise of these large Ice Age animals, or "megafauna."[6]

Paleo-Indians in the Red Cedar Valley, 9500-6500 B.C.[7]

By about 10,000 B.C., the last glacier receded from Wisconsin,[8] and Paleo-Indians began moving up into Wisconsin from the south, following the retreating glaciers. Even though the glaciers were gone, ice persisted in the far northern part of the state until about 9000 B.C. The archaeological record indicates that humans began

Roughing out with a hammerstone.

living in the Red Cedar Valley during the **Early Paleo-Indian Period** (9500-8000 B.C. in Wisconsin), based on Clovis and other projectile points found in Barron and Dunn Counties. They may have hunted large game animals like mammoths, mastodons, musk-oxen, and barren ground caribou, but whether this was their main form of subsistence has been questioned by some writers, who assert that big-game hunting was only one part of "a large, diversified constellation of subsistence resources."[9]

Paleo-Indians hunted with spears (the bow and arrow would not be introduced into Wisconsin until the Late Woodland Period), probably in scattered bands of 25-30 people. They lived in caves or rockshelters or in portable housing constructed of bone or wood frames covered with animal skins. They probably dressed in animal skins and gathered plants in the conifer forests and swamps and also hunted smaller animals to supplement their big-game diet. They made a variety of stone or bone tools, including scrapers, knives, choppers, and perhaps needles, but did not make pottery, which in North America would not be invented for another 9,000 years.

Finishing with a bone flaking tool.

[5]Thomas Y. Canby, "The Search for the First Americans," *National Geographic Magazine* (Sept. 1979), p. 335.

[6]For discussions of these matters, see Fagan, 1989, pp. 214-17; Canby, pp. 336-42, 363; Peter Mehringer, Jr., "Clovis Cache Found: Weapons of Ancient Americans," *National Geographic Magazine* (Oct. 1988), pp. 500-03.

[7]The archaeological evidence of Red Cedar Valley prehistory presented here is based on Robert J. Barth's *An Archaeological Survey of the Red Cedar Valley* (July 1987), updated by Dr. Barth for this book (August 1995); and Dudzik (1993). The interpretations of lifestyles are derived primarily from Ritzenthaler and Goldstein, *Prehistoric Indians in Wisconsin* (1985), supplemented by *Introduction to Wisconsin Archaeology*, Fagan (1989), p. 214 ff, and various excellent *National Geographic* articles (see Bibliography).

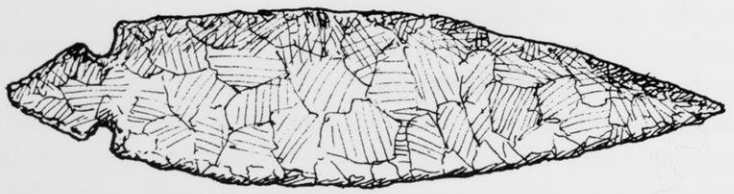
[8]The last glacial advance, the Wisconsin, covered only the northern half of the state (down to the modern Ice Age Trail), sparing most of Barron and all of Dunn counties. See map p. 9.

[9]Dudzik, p. 8.

There is also artifactual evidence of **Late Paleo-Indian** (in Wisconsin, 8000-6500 B.C.) occupation of the Red Cedar Valley. It may be that Late Paleo-Indians migrated north as the Archaic people who were to succeed them began moving in from the south or that the same group of people simply evolved into a new culture; if the former, there was at least interaction and mutual influence between the two cultures. With the extinction of the large Pleistocene mammals, Late Paleo-Indians continued to hunt bison and caribou, but increasingly turned their attention to smaller animals such as white-tailed deer, beaver, and turtles. Several new projectile point types emerged, with a de-emphasis on fluting.[10]

Archaic Tradition, 6500-550 B.C.

To date, no Early or Middle Archaic artifacts have been found in the Red Cedar Valley, but these people may well have been present. **Late Archaic** people (1200-c. 550 B.C.) are represented by sites in Dunn and Barron counties. One Dunn County find (Dn-23) has been identified with the Late Archaic (or possibly Early Woodland) Red Ocher culture or "complex," consisting of a reported cache of four "turkey-tail blades" found at Varney Creek along the Red Cedar Trail. A copper point found among copper artifacts at another site (Dn-22) indicates Late Archaic as well; the use of native copper in tools and weapons was an invention of the Middle Archaic Period (associated with the famous Old Copper culture/complex), and all of the Late Archaic cultures used copper.[11]



Turkey-tail point like those found at Varney Creek.

The Late Archaic people in the Red Cedar Valley probably hunted deer, moose, woodland caribou, beaver, hare, turtles, and shellfish, gathered nuts, berries, and seeds, fished the Red Cedar and lakes of the region, and lived in permanent villages. They also began constructing more elaborate communal burial facilities than before.

By midway through the Late Archaic, the climate had stabilized at a warmer level than it had been for a thousand years (and which would persist until the "Little Ice Age" which began about 1350 A.D.)[12] The environment in the Late Archaic was similar to that of today, but there was still no agriculture, and pottery and the bow and arrow were yet to be introduced, though a deadly spear-throwing device called an "atlatl" was probably used. Throughout the Archaic Period, hunting, gathering, and some fishing constituted the dominant livelihood.

Woodland Tradition, 550 B.C.-1000/1600 A.D.

The Woodland Tradition is defined as the first appearance of pottery in the local culture. By this definition, no Early Woodland (c. 550-1 B.C.) sites have been found in the Red Cedar Valley; Late Archaic tradition may simply have persisted to the Middle Woodland (there are few other characteristics to distinguish Early Woodland from Late Archaic).[13]

The earliest local sites are from the **Middle Woodland Period** (1-400 A.D.). People of the Woodland tradition continued to hunt and fish as in the Late Archaic, but plants became increasingly important in their lives until in the Late Woodland Period planting and agriculture developed. Burial mounds first appeared in the

[10]Dudzik, p. 8; *Introduction to Wisconsin Archaeology*, pp. 192-98; Ronald J. Mason, *Great Lakes Archaeology* (1981), pp. 114-15; anthropologist Beatrice Bigony, personal communication (Oct. 1995).

[11]Turkey-tail blades are pictured p. 232, *Introduction to Wisconsin Archaeology*; the Red Ocher culture is discussed pp. 228-35; the Old Copper culture/complex is discussed pp. 217-26.

[12]Samuel W. Matthews, "What's Happening to Our Climate?," *National Geographic Magazine* (Nov. 1976), historical climate charts pp. 614-15.

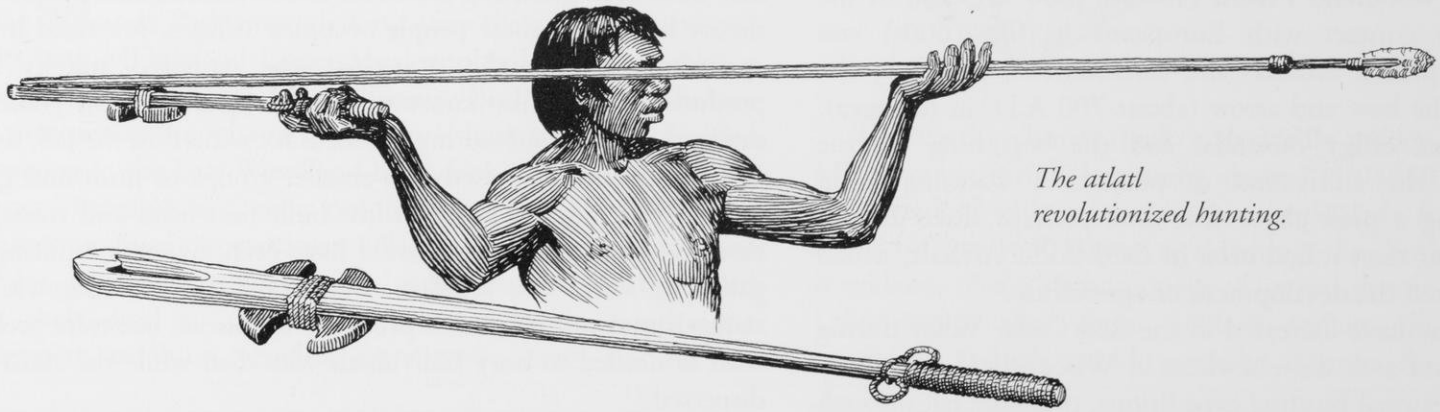
[13]*Introduction to Wisconsin Archaeology*, p. 241.

Woodland Period as well, though they were foreshadowed by the communal and increasingly ceremonial burial practices of Late Archaic cultures.[14] When pots began to be made, they were probably fashioned by coiling ropes of clay tempered with crushed stone or sand into a pot shape and then paddling it with a wooden paddle covered with fabric or cords, which gave the pot a distinctively marked surface.

The Middle Woodland Period marks the emergence of a distinctive phenomenon, the **Hopewell tradition.** With cultural centers in Ohio and Illinois, people of the Hopewell tradition engaged in a widespread trade network or "interaction sphere" that extended from the eastern seaboard to the western reaches of the Missouri River and from the Great Lakes to Florida. Trade goods included copper from Lake Superior, shells from the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, and obsidian from the Rockies.

The Wisconsin manifestation of the Hopewell, while marginal to the broader tradition, featured local variations ("foci") in burial practices, including the unusual **"Red Cedar Focus of the Wisconsin Hopewell"** associated with the Red Cedar Valley. First described in 1933 for a site at Rice Lake, the focus was also found in mound 7 of the Wakanda Mounds Group (Dn-1) in Wakanda Park, Menomonie, and possibly in Mound 11 of the Dunnville Mound Group (Dn-4).[15] The Red Cedar Focus is characterized by the presence on mound floors of an "altar" of cobblestones the size of grapefruit overlaid by charred wood and the remains of cremated skeletons fitted with clay masks. The bones were separated ("disarticulated") before burial and, in the case of mound 7 of the Wakanda group, knife marks suggest the flesh had been removed before cremation. At both Rice Lake and Wakanda Park, the fragmented death masks were found attached to the skulls or scattered with the bones. In mound 11 among the 24 mounds at Dunnville, cobblestones the size of coconuts topped by charcoal and ashes were found, but no skeletons or funerary masks. The significance of these practices is not understood.

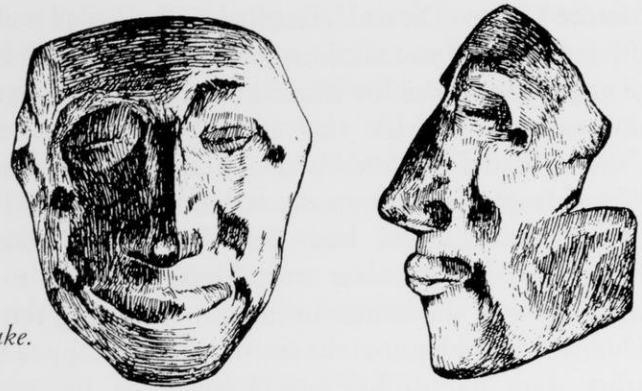
The Red Cedar Valley residents of the Middle Woodland Period seem to have lived in communities and depended heavily on seeds for subsistence, in addition to hunting and fishing in the rivers and lakes. Evidence from southern Wisconsin indicates they may have known weaving and worn cloth garments. It is thought that local Indians did not participate extensively in the Hopewell trade



The atlatl revolutionized hunting.

[14]Ritzenthaler and Goldstein, p. 40.

[15]L. R. Cooper, "The Red Cedar Variant of the Wisconsin Hopewell Culture," *Bulletin of the Public Museum of the City of Milwaukee* 16:2 (20 Dec. 1933), pp. 47-108; Warren L. Wittry, "The Wakanda Mound Group, Dn-1, Menomonie, Wisconsin" *Wisconsin Archeologist* 40:3 (Sept.1959), pp. 95-115; Charles E. Brown and H. L. Skavlem, "Notes on Some Archeological Features of Eau Claire, Chippewa, Rusk and Dunn Counties," *Wisconsin Archeologist* 13:1 (1914), p. 78.



Restored clay funerary mask found at Rice Lake.

network. Besides Wakanda Park and Dunnville Mounds, there are two other Middle Woodland sites in Dunn County. At a site in the northern part of the county (Dn-58) a projectile point was found and at an adjacent site pottery sherds were recovered.

The Hopewell tradition ceased to exist about 400 A.D. The succeeding **Late Woodland Period** (400 to 1000 A.D. or, in the north, until the contact with Europeans in the 1600s) was characterized by plainer artifacts and ceremonies, but also by the introduction of the bow and arrow (about 700 A.D. in this area), the appearance of **effigy mounds**, and the beginning of true agriculture (i.e., the cultivation of plants). A warming trend continued, hitting a peak about this time perhaps three degrees Fahrenheit warmer than it had been in the Middle Archaic, which probably stimulated the development of agriculture.[16]

Population may have increased in the Red Cedar Valley during the Late Woodland as it did elsewhere in Wisconsin.[17] It is likely that there were seasonal hunting expeditions, probably fall through spring so as not to interfere with agricultural activities. Many artifacts from the Late Woodland have been found in Dunn County, but they are largely triangular projectile points and potsherds. The mounds at Wakanda Park (other than the older mound 7) and Dunnville (except mound 11) have been assigned to the Effigy Mound culture of the Late Woodland, as has the Dunnville Bridge Site where County Y crosses the Red Cedar River. The Wakanda mounds yielded burials, an elk antler armband, a necklace of 58 copper beads, a stone knife and arrowhead, and diagnostic ceramics. Radiocarbon testing of charcoal from Mound 16 dated it at roughly 1208 A.D., plus or minus 200 years (1000-1400 A.D).[18]

While some effigy mounds are famous for panther, turtle, bird, bear, and other shapes, dome-shaped ("conical") mounds were actually most common throughout Wisconsin, generally accounting for over half of total mounds.[19] Those in Dunn County are virtually all conical or linear. Wisconsin is the center of the Effigy Mounds Tradition, which is associated with the Late Woodland Period but may have persisted until as late as the 17th century.

The mounds themselves may have represented clans or have marked territorial boundaries, as well as being used for burials. They may have been gathering places for these seminomadic people. One theory holds that these people occupied villages, practiced limited agriculture during the summers, and gathered starchy seed-producing plants like knotweed, lamb's quarters, and goosefoot, eating the greens and storing the seeds for winter. In the fall, winter, and spring they dispersed into smaller groups to hunt and gather food.[20] The mounds tended to be built near lakes and rivers with extensive wetlands, which would have been favorable hunting and gathering sites. The location of their villages is unknown. The mounds may not have been primarily for burial, but were probably used as needed to bury individuals who died while the clans were dispersed.[21]

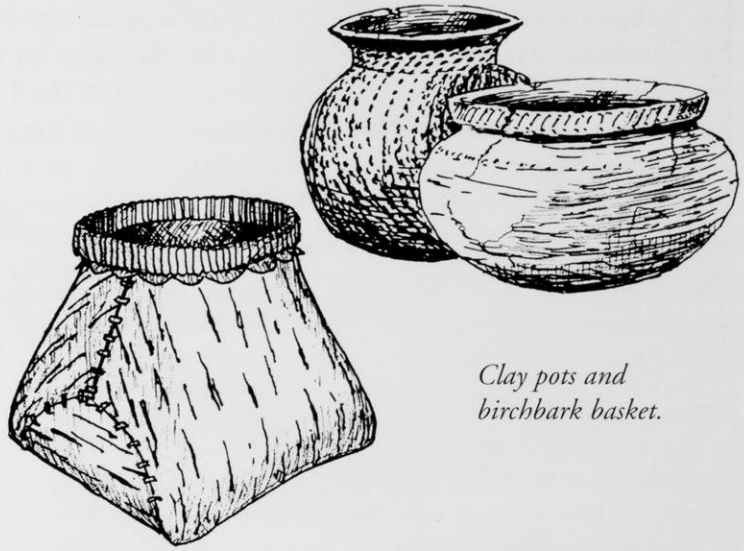
[16]Ritzenthaler and Goldstein, pp. 51, 54; Barth (1992); Matthews, pp. 614-15.
[17]Barth (1987).
[18]Wittry, p. 112.
[19]Chandler W. Rowe, *The Effigy Mound Culture of Wisconsin* (1956), figures presented in various tables.
[20]Ritzenthaler and Goldstein, p. 56, and Robert Barth, personal communication (Aug. 1995).
[21]Ritzenthaler and Goldstein, p. 56.

Regrettably, all of the 17 Wakanda Park mounds were destroyed late in 1957 when the level of Lake Menomin was raised. That fall, though, 14 of the mounds were excavated by archaeologist Warren L. Wittry with the help of community volunteers prior to being bulldozed.[22] Fortunately, three mounds constituting a mound group different from Dn-1 remain in Wakanda Park, high on the bluff overlooking Lake Menomin at the south end of the park; one is marked with a plaque. They apparently have not been studied.[23]

Mississippian Tradition, 900-1600 A.D.

The final period before the arrival of Europeans is the **Mississippian,** divided geographically (not chronologically) into **Middle** (central Mississippi Valley, including southern Wisconsin) and **Upper** (northern Mississippi Valley), also called **Oneota,** which may represent either a northern adaptation of the Middle Mississippian culture or a continuation of the Woodland culture. Very little is known about the residents of the Red Cedar Valley during that time. Although there are no documented Mississippian sites in the area, sites are known from the adjacent Chippewa Valley upstream from its confluence with the Red Cedar, and a pot inserted into the Wakanda Park mounds long after they were constructed exhibits both Middle and Upper Mississippian influence.[24] Also, a pot found in the Rice Lake Mound Group (Bn-90) seems to belong to the time period though not to the Mississippian culture, classified as belonging to the Late Woodland Blackduck culture.

Upper Mississippian Oneota people engaged in hunting, fishing, and gathering, lived in permanent villages on lakes and rivers, used triangular projectile points, made shell-tempered pottery, and buried their dead in cemeteries or low mounds. Besides the Mississippian tradition peoples, there were other "cultures" or "phases" present in the state just before the European contact, basically people who retained the **Woodland tradition,** which persisted into the historic era. In addition to the Blackduck complex just mentioned, centered northwest and northeast of Lake Superior, there were other nearby phases, including the Sandy Lake phase of northwest Wisconsin, the Clam River phase of west-central Wisconsin, and the Lakes phase of northern Wisconsin.[25]



Clay pots and birchbark basket.

The Earth's climate took a decidedly colder turn during the Mississippian Period, beginning about 1250-1350 A.D.: this lasted until the late 19th century, with a particularly frigid period from about 1400 to 1650 known worldwide as the "Little Ice Age." There is evidence of the abandonment of several sites in the upper Great Lakes region after about 1400,[26] perhaps due to the colder conditions, which could partially account for the difficulties

[22]Wittry, pp. 95-115; article in the Eau Claire *Leader* 10 Sept. 1957; and articles in the *Dunn County News* 11 Sept. 1957, 16 Oct. 1957, 7 May 1958, and 14 Jan. 1959.

[23]Barth, personal communication (Aug. 1995).

[24]Wittry, pp. 104-05.

[25]For a discussion of these late prehistoric developments, see *Handbook of North American Indians,* Vol. 15 (Northeast), pp. 569-82, and *Introduction to Wisconsin Archaeology*, pp. 302-11.

[26]C.f., *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 15, p. 577, and Claudia Gellman Mink, *Cahokia, City of the Sun* (1992), pp. 66, 68. Mink notes that a primary factor in the abandonment of the Mississippian capital of Cahokia in west-central Illinois in 1400 was climatic change starting c. 1250 A.D. that brought on cooler, drier summers. Archaeologist Robert Barth (1992) noted that about 1250 A.D. the Indian residents of west-central Wisconsin began withdrawing from the area because of the cooling conditions of the Little Ice Age.

encountered in relating the historic tribes present in Wisconsin at the time of European contact with their prehistoric forebears. Certain resident peoples may have left the state for a century or two and then re-entered or may have been replaced by wholly different groups.

Tribes and Travelers, 1600-1700

Most archaeologists now believe that Mississippian or Late Woodland Indians were the ancestors of (or even the same as) the tribes encountered by the Europeans when they arrived in the 17th century, but few solid data are available. Meager evidence suggests that prehistoric peoples coalesced into modern tribes, probably between 1300 and 1600 A.D.[27] Robert J. Salzer, in the *Introduction to Wisconsin Archaeology,* suggests some *possible* correlations:[28]

Prehistoric people	Historic tribe
Late prehistoric Oneota	Ho-Chunk* (Winnebago) and Ioway*
Lakes phase and other similar Late Woodland people in the Green Bay and Wolf River areas	Menominee†
Late Woodland Blackduck complex	Ojibwe† (Chippewa)
Late Clam River or Sandy Lake phase people of Late Woodland	Santee Dakota* (Sioux)

*Siouan-speaking
†Algonquian-speaking

We might speculate that the pre-contact occupants of the Red Cedar Valley were Clam River or Sandy Lake people of the Late Woodland tradition, who became the historic Santee Dakota present when the first French explorers, traders, and missionaries arrived in the 17th century.

When **Jean Nicolet,** the first European to explore Wisconsin,[29] landed at Green Bay in the summer of 1634, there were only three tribes present in the state, according to archaeologist/anthropologist Carol Mason: the **Menominee** in the northeast and Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the **Ho-Chunk** (Winnebago) on the Fox River and in the Lake Winnebago area, and the **Santee Dakota** (eastern Sioux) in northwestern Wisconsin.[30] At the time the Ojibwe (Chippewa) were northeast of Lake Superior, and the Illinois and Ioway lived to the southeast; all three tribes probably entered Wisconsin to hunt.

In twenty years, however, a flood of tribes would begin pouring into the state around the north and south ends of Lake Michigan fleeing the Iroquois Confederacy. The Iroquois raided the territory of the Huron east of Lake Huron in southern Ontario starting in 1641 and invaded and destroyed several Huron towns in 1648-49, launching a massive diaspora of tribes from Ontario, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. A large proportion of these tribes came to Wisconsin, including members of the Huron, Petun, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Sauk, Fox (also called Mesquakie or Outagamie), Mascoutin, Miami, Kickapoo, and Ojibwe tribes. The Iroquois pursued them, sending war parties out 600 to 800 miles into Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois and as far as Green Bay.[31] Many of the tribes settled in eastern Wisconsin around Green Bay, the Fox River valley, and Lake Winnebago and in the vicinity of Chequamegon Bay in northern Wisconsin.

[27]Barth, personal communication (Aug. 1995).

[28]*Introduction to Wisconsin Archaeology*, p. 311.

[29]French *voyageur* Etienne Brulé was the first European to actually see the Great Lakes (Lake Huron in 1611-12) and apparently the first to visit Wisconsin. In 1621 he traveled west through Lake Huron to Lake Superior and is thought to have skirted the north coast of Wisconsin perhaps as far as Duluth. See Frank Debenham, *Discovery and Exploration* (1960), pp. 108-09, 220.

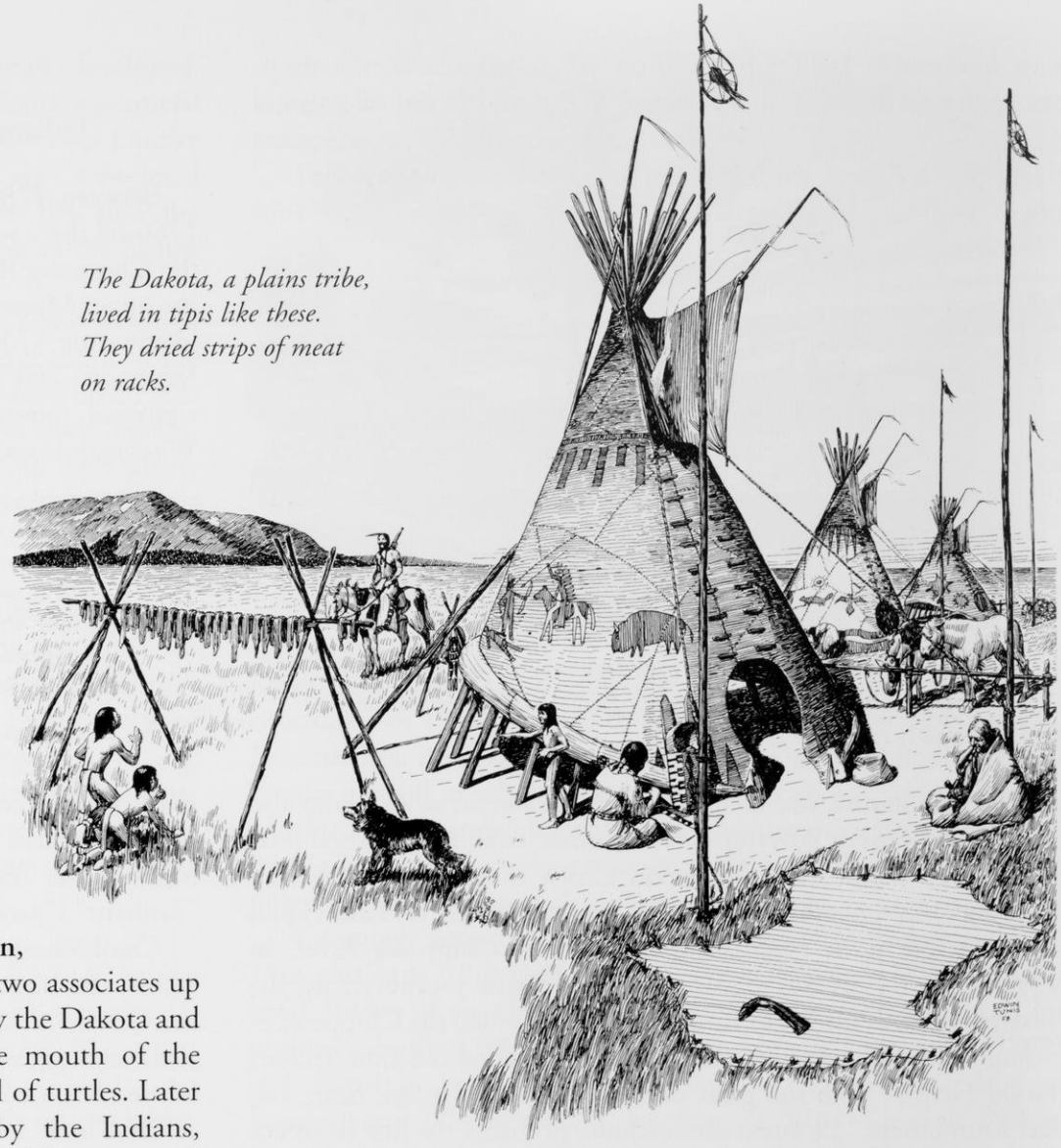
[30]Carol I. Mason, *Introduction to Wisconsin Indians* (1988), p. 2. John Boatman in *Wisconsin American Indian History and Culture* (1993) maintains, based on tribal traditions, that the **Menominee** are the descendants of the Middle Archaic Copper Culture people, that they "have been living in Wisconsin longer than any other human group," and that Wisconsin "has been the Menominee homeland since at least as early as 10,000 B.C., when the last remnants of the Pleistocene glaciers were retreating northward" (pp. vii, 37). Other sources (Ourada, p. 4; Keesing, pp. 6-7) grant the Menominee a very long history but do not necessarily claim a direct connection back to the Old Copper Culture or the Paleo-Indian period as does Boatman. "**Ho-Chunk**" is a shortened form of their original name for themselves, "Ho-chun-gra" (c.f., Boatman, p. 83). The **Dakota** were also called "Naudowessie" (a variation of "Nadowasieux" or "Nadiousioux," the origin of "Sioux") on early maps (Helen Hornbeck Tanner, *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History,* 1987, p. 4; C. Mason, p. 2). Carol Mason suggests the Clam Lake mounds (perhaps 1100-1400 A.D.), could have been built by ancestors of the Santee Dakota, but, as she notes (p. 53), "no one knows."

[31]Tanner, pp. 29-35.

By the early 1600s Wisconsin Indians were already participating in the **fur trade** and by the 1660s unlicenced, freelance French fur traders known as *coureurs de bois* ("runners of the forest"), such as Radisson and Groseilliers, had entered Wisconsin.[32] Officially sanctioned traders like La Salle came in the late 1670s. Trading interactions became centered at the lower end of Green Bay, Prairie du Chien, Chequamegon Bay, and La Pointe on Madeline Island where there were trading posts and sometimes missions and military forts. Trading posts were built along the Fox, Wisconsin, and Mississippi Rivers.

The 1925 *History of Dunn County* traces known and probable white visitors to the vicinity of the Red Cedar Valley in the 17th and early 18th centuries.[33] It is suggested that even before the first historically documented journey by Hennepin in 1680, there may well have been French traders and trappers, probably illicit, descending into Wisconsin from the headwaters of the Chippewa, Black, and Wisconsin rivers, and quite likely down the Red Cedar, which, with its tributaries, is known to have contained beaver.

In February 1680, La Salle sent **Louis Hennepin**, a priest of the Recollects of St. Francis order, and two associates up the Mississippi from Illinois. They were captured by the Dakota and taken up to Mille Lacs, Minnesota, passing the mouth of the Chippewa River, which Hennepin described as full of turtles. Later they were taken back down the Mississippi by the Indians, whereupon they hunted in the region between the Chippewa and the Wisconsin, perhaps including the southeast corner of Dunn County.



The Dakota, a plains tribe, lived in tipis like these. They dried strips of meat on racks.

[32]C. Mason, pp. 257-58; Grace Lee Nute, *The Voyageur* (1955 reprint of 1931 ed.), p. 7.

[33]Franklin Curtiss-Wedge et al., *History of Dunn County Wisconsin* (1925), pp. 1-5; c.f., George Forrester, *Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley* (1891-92), pp. 22-32.

La Pointe on Madeline Island, "the most favourite harbor on the lake" (Lake Superior), in an old engraving. La Pointe was one of the most important early centers of the fur trade.

Nicholas Perrot, one of the unlicensed *coureurs de bois* who also operated on various governmental missions, established several forts on the Mississippi from Prairie du Chien to Red Wing between 1685 and 1689, notably Fort St. Antoine somewhere on Lake Pepin, and therefore quite near the mouth of the Chippewa River. In September of 1700 fur trader **Pierre Le Sueur** journeyed up the Mississippi from the Wisconsin River; he described the Chippewa as a "large beautiful river," which he said was called the Bon Secours (Good Help), "from the great number of buffalo, stags, bears and deer found there." Le Sueur also includes probably the first reference to the Red Cedar, noting that ten leagues up the Chippewa is "another river of great length."[34]

[34]Forrester, p. 23; Curtiss-Wedge, pp. 3-4.
[35]Curtiss-Wedge et al., pp. 3-4.
[36]C. Mason, p. 84.

Indians, Europeans, and Americans, 1700-1800

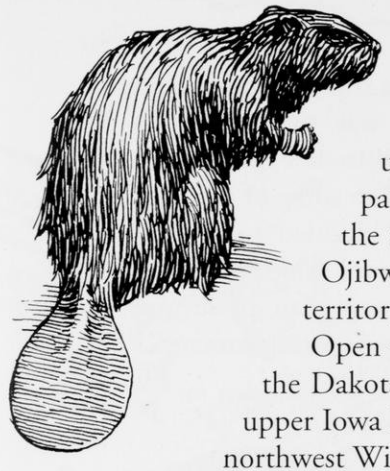
Between 1700 and Jonathan Carver's account of his travels of 1766-68 there seem to be no first-hand accounts relating directly to the Chippewa River region, though there is mention of traders on the upper Mississippi and French forts being built on Lake Pepin.[35] In the early 1700s, as in the 1600s, the **Santee Dakota** dominated Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin, acting as a barrier to the westward movement of the refugee tribes that had come into Wisconsin from the east. According to Carol Mason, the Dakota

> controlled the Mississippi and the access it gave to the heartland of North America. Many of the refugee groups tried to remove them by force, and almost all Wisconsin Indians were at one time or other involved in fighting with them or raiding their villages. Their major enemies came to be the Chippewa, who eventually were successful in expanding their lands at Santee expense.[36]

According to the **Ojibwe** themselves, they originated at the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They migrated westward, perhaps in the late 16th to early 17th centuries, said by some scholars to be fleeing epidemic disease. Because they lived for a time at the rapids (*sault*) of the St. Mary's River (now Sault Ste. Marie), the French called them the "Saulteur" ("people of the rapids"), later corrupted to Sauteux.[37]

Carol Mason says new pressure in the mid-17th century from the east by the Iroquois and other tribes was only part of the reason for the Ojibwe expansion into Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario. As their territory north and east of Lake Superior became increasingly hunted out, and as they were farmers as well as hunters, they looked to the Santee Dakota lands to the southwest for new hunting and agricultural prospects. As the Ojibwe encroached on Dakota territory and competed intensely with the latter for furs and other

[37]William W. Warren, *History of the Ojibway People* (1984 reprint of the 1885 ed.), pp. 78ff, 123; Boatman, p. 119. For another retelling of the origin account, see *The Mishomis* by Eddie Benton Benai. The Chippewa River was called by the French Rivière des Sauteux after the tribe. Perrault, to be discussed below, uses "Sauteux" for both the people and the river.



resources, hostilities naturally developed. A temporary truce and alliance was agreed upon in 1679, but a conflict over Ojibwe partnership with the French and Cree severed the agreement in 1736. For the first time the Ojibwe began to establish villages in the Santee territory west of Thunder Bay.[38]

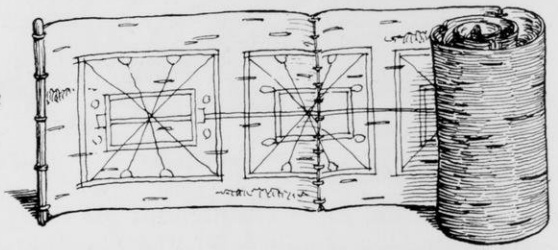
Open warfare soon followed. By 1766, although the Dakota had expanded their control south to the upper Iowa River, the Ojibwe were pushing down into northwest Wisconsin, threatening Dakota lands. Finally, at a decisive battle at St. Croix Falls in 1770, the Ojibwe, armed with European weapons, defeated the Santee. According to John Boatman, this battle "ended any further significant Santee and other Siouan presence in northwestern Wisconsin." Ultimately, by the last three decades of the 18th century, the Ojibwe came to dominate northeastern Minnesota as well. From the late 1700s on into the lumbering era, travelers, traders, lumbermen, and settlers commented on the continual warfare between the Dakota and the Ojibwe, which persisted until well into the 19th century.[39]

William Warren, himself some forty percent Ojibwe, documents the Ojibwe-Dakota blood feud in often gruesome detail in his history of the Ojibwe, basing his account on extensive oral histories he conducted with tribal elders. He comments that

> Almost every bend on Chippeway and Menominee [Red Cedar] rivers has been the scene of a fight, surprise, or bloody massacre, and one of their chiefs remarked with truth when asked to sell his lands, that "the country was strewn with the bones of their fathers, and enriched with their blood."[40]

The **Ho-Chunk,** while retaining their homelands on the upper Fox River and around Lake Winnebago, were now claiming southwest Wisconsin as far north as the Black River and even hunting for bison into the Chippewa and St. Croix River valleys and across the Mississippi into the plains.[41]

The Menomonie area became part of the so-called "debatable zone"[42] between the Dakota to the west and the Ojibwe to the north. Both tribes had largely retreated from the area, though they continued to hunt there and to conduct raids on one another. Nevertheless, early accounts, like those of Carver, Schoolcraft, and Fonda, are full of admiration for the tribes spread across the state and for specific individuals. Personal relationships between Indian people and white travelers were generally cordial and often warm, judging from early journals and other accounts.



Ojibwe Midewiwin society ceremonial scroll.

A uniquely authoritative source on Indian-White relations in the 18th and early 19th centuries is **William Whipple Warren** in his vivid *History of the Ojibway People*, written between 1851 and his untimely death at 28 in 1853. Warren, born at La Pointe in 1825 and fluent in both Ojibwe and English, was the grandson of Equaysayway ("Madeleine"), daughter of Waub-ij-e-jauk (White Crane), chief of the La Pointe Ojibwes, and her husband fur trader

[38]C. Mason, pp. 94-95; Boatman, p. 120; Tanner, pp. 42-43.
[39]Warren, pp. 83, 96, 126, 164-71, 304-14; C. Mason, pp. 83-84, 94-95; Boatman, p. 122; Tanner, pp. 42-43.
[40]Warren, p. 304.
[41]C. Mason, pp. 80-81.
[42]C. Mason, p. 95.

Pounding corn into meal.

Michel Cadotte, Sr.[43] Throughout his short life, Warren listened raptly to the stories and studied the traditions of the tribal elders; ultimately, after gaining their confidence by his maturity and seriousness, he persuaded many to allow him to interview them in detail and write down what they said.[44] He tried to trace Ojibwe history back into the mists of late prehistory, chronicled their early contacts with French explorers and conflicts with the Dakota and Fox, and supplied rich details of the fur trade era.

According to Warren,

> The Ojibways learned to love the French people, for the Frenchmen...easily assimilated themselves to the customs and mode of life of their red brethren. They respected their religious rites and ceremonies, and they "never laughed" at their superstitious beliefs and ignorance. They fully appreciated, and honored accordingly, the many noble traits and qualities possessed by these bold and wild hunters of the forest. It is an acknowledged fact, that no nation of whites have ever succeeded so well in gaining the love and confidence of the red men, as the Franks. It is probable that their character in many respects was more similar, and adapted to the character of the Indian, than any other European nation.[45]

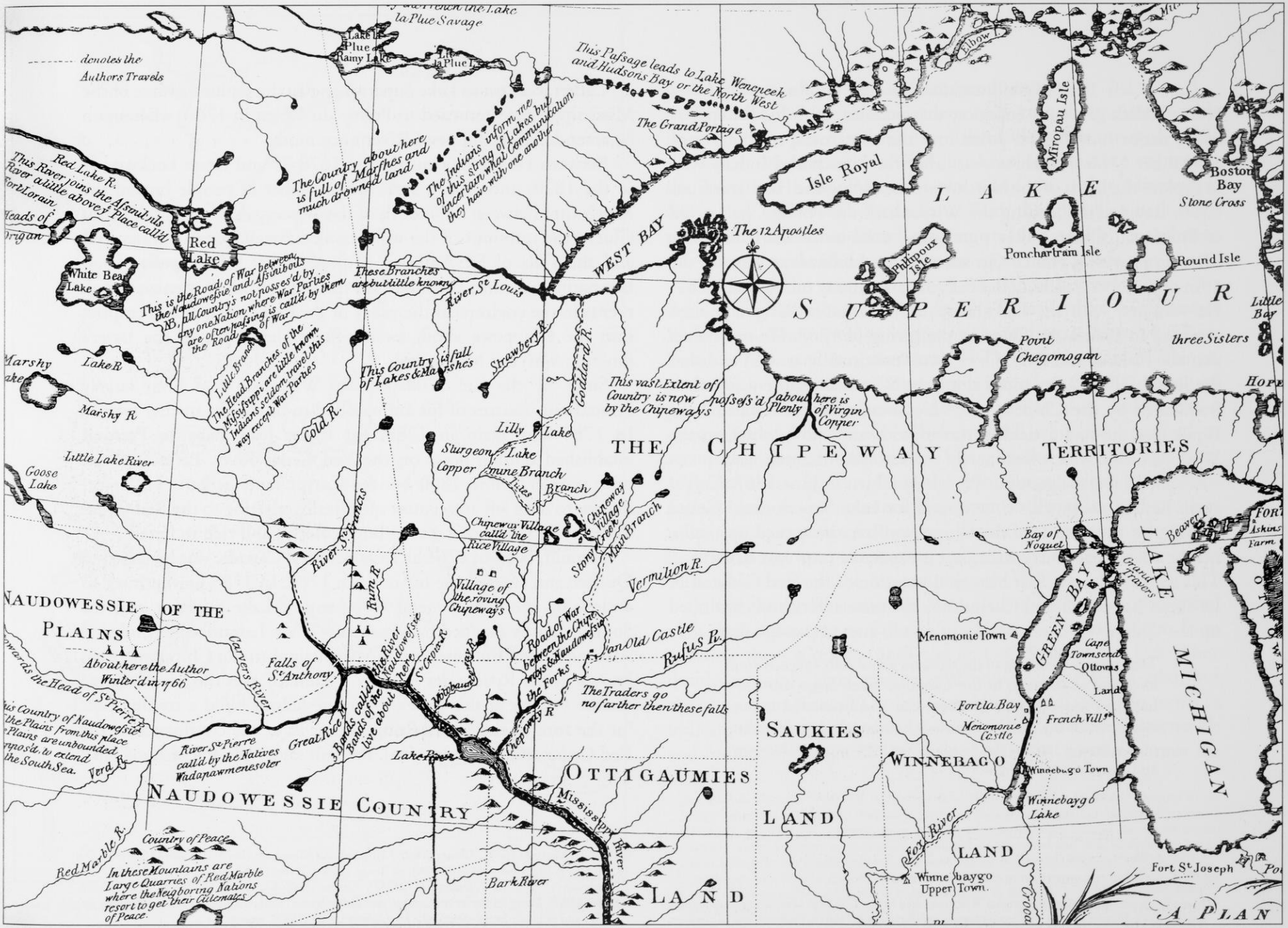
Other Europeans also found the Indians friendly and hospitable. Late in 1766, **Jonathan Carver**, on the way to the Falls of St. Anthony and deep in Dakota country, "overtook a young prince of the Winnebago Indians . . . on an embassy to some of the bands of the Naudowessies [Dakota]." The youth decided to accompany Carver the ten miles to the falls, having heard exciting accounts of this scenic wonder. At the falls, the young man performed an elaborate ritual to the Great Spirit, to Carver's astonishment.

> ...I looked on the prince with a greater degree of respect for these sincere proofs he gave of his piety; and I doubt not but that his offerings and prayers were as acceptable to the universal Parent of mankind, as if they had been made with greater pomp, or in a consecrated place.
>
> Indeed, the whole conduct of this young prince at once amazed and charmed me. During the few days we were together his attention seemed totally to be employed in yielding me every assistance in his power; and even in so short a time he gave me innumerable proofs of the most generous and disinterested friendship; so that on our return I parted from him with great reluctance.[46]

Capt.n JONATHAN CARVER

Carver, an English captain, was apparently the first Englishman to journey through the Northwest.[47] With the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, Great Britain had taken over French territories in North America and with it the fur trade. Later, with the American Revolution, the Old Northwest and its trade came under American control, though British traders continued to operate there for some time.

[43]Equaysayway's father renamed Madeline Island for her when she was given the name "Madeleine" upon her baptism at her marriage to Cadotte.
[44]"Memoir of William W. Warren" by J. Fletcher Williams in Warren, pp. 7-20.
[45]Warren, p. 132.
[46]Jonathan Carver, *Carver's Travels in Wisconsin* (1838 reprint of 1781 ed.), pp. 60-61.
[47]Curtiss-Wedge et al., p. 4.



Map of Jonathan Carver's travels in Wisconsin in 1766, 1767, and 1768.

Carver left Fort Michilimackinac, at the confluence of Lakes Huron, Michigan, and Superior, the outfitting hub for fur traders and a major jumping-off point into the wilderness, on the 3rd of September 1766, just three years after the French and Indian War, to explore the lands of the Northwest. Ascending the Fox River from Green Bay and descending the Wisconsin from Portage, he arrived at Prairie du Chien. After purchasing a canoe he started up the Mississippi with a French Canadian and a Mohawk servant on the 19th of October, reaching the Falls of St. Anthony on November 17. He wintered with the Dakota up the Minnesota River and then returned to Prairie du Chien in the spring of 1767. He comments that the Dakota and the Ojibwe were "continually at war" and that the stretch of the Mississippi along the Wisconsin shore was "much frequented by the Chipéways."[48] No sooner had he reached Lake Pepin than he had a ticklish run-in with an Ojibwe chief on the Wisconsin side which fortunately was resolved harmoniously.

Picking up trade goods at Prairie du Chien in June 1767, Carver again headed north, this time bound for Lake Superior and Grand Portage. At the mouth of the Chippewa River he turned upstream, noting that "near thirty miles up it separates into two branches." This seems to be the first historical mention of the Red Cedar after Le Sueur (see p. 20), but Carver took the eastern fork and continued up the Chippewa, commenting in an oft-quoted passage that:

> The country adjoining to the river, for about sixty miles, is very level, and on its banks lie fine meadows, where larger droves of buffaloes and elks were feeding, than I had observed in any other part of my travels. The track between the two branches of this river is termed the Road of War between the Chipéway and Naudowessié Indians.[49]

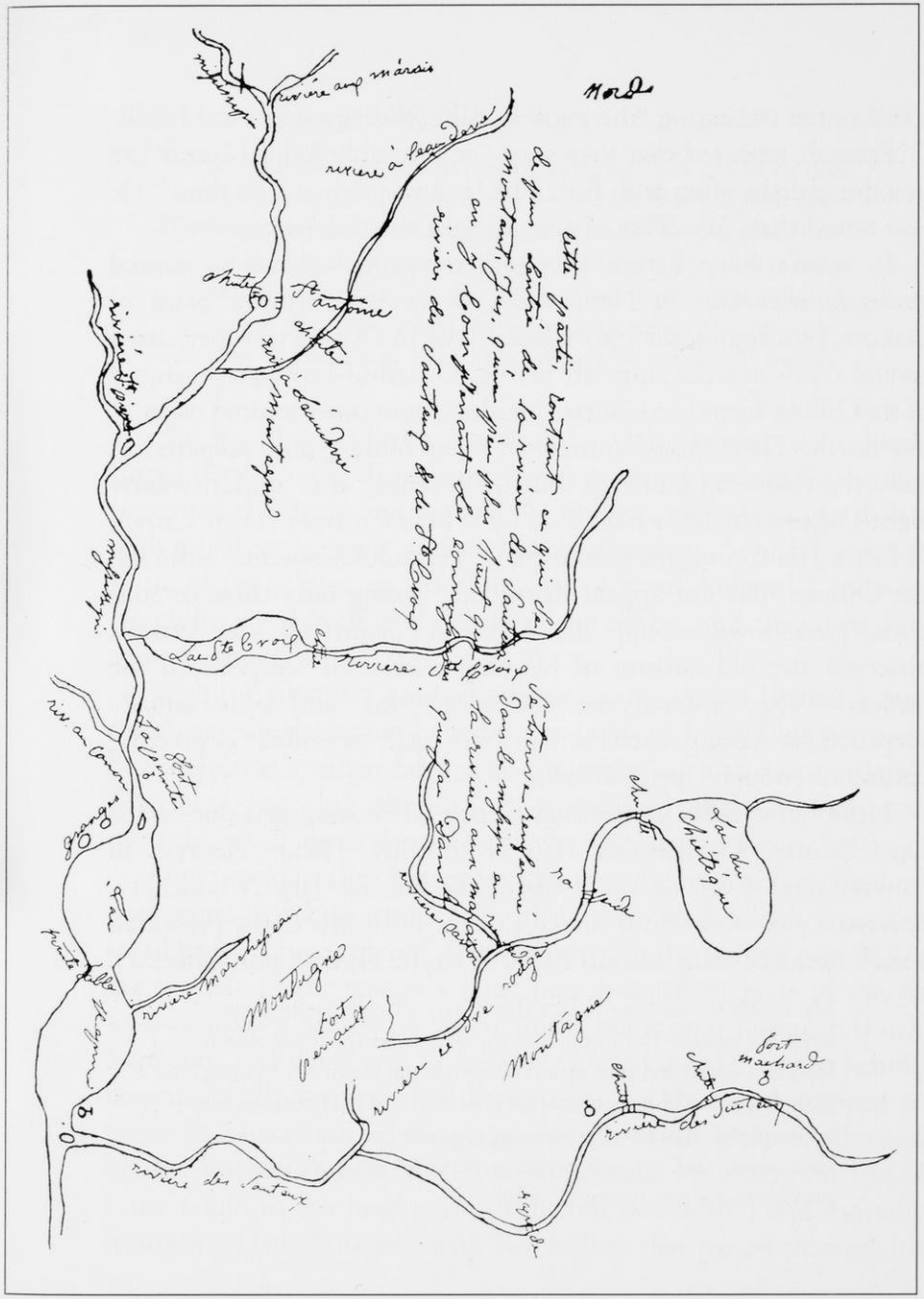
Carver went on to Lake Superior and to the reputed source of the Mississippi, then returned to Prairie du Chien in 1768, whereupon he ascended the Chippewa River once more.

Between Hennepin's journeys in 1678-79 and James Lockwood's in the 1820s and '30s, a surprising number of people boated the Mississippi between the mouth of the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Chien (the terminus of the well-traveled Fox-Wisconsin waterway) and the Falls of St. Anthony at present-day Minneapolis. Their fascinating accounts shed light on the sights, sounds, denizens, and events in the environs of the valley of the Red Cedar, which empties into the Chippewa about twenty-five miles north of the latter's junction with the Mississippi.

Since by the late 1700s eastern Wisconsin had been largely hunted out, sources of fur animals had to be sought further west.[50] In 1785 and again in 1788, fur trader **Jean Baptiste Perrault** established trading posts on the Red Cedar River. Perrault is the only traveler before 1800 besides Carver (and perhaps Le Sueur) known to have left an account specifically referring to the Red Cedar Valley.[51] Perrault's narrative is both colorful and rich in detail.

Perrault, born in 1761 at Trois Rivières, Canada, was educated in Quebec and entered the fur trade in 1783. In 1785 he was hired as a clerk by the new General Company of Lake Superior and the South. He was assigned to accompany a Mr. Laframboise (probably Alexander) and four men up the Mississippi to the Chippewa, then known as the Rivière des Sauteux ("Sauteux" was the French name for the Ojibwe at this time), where he helped build a trading post "at the fork of the Cedre Rouge" (that is, at the confluence of the Red Cedar and the Chippewa). Perrault says, "We reached our post;

[48]Carver, p. 76.
[49]Carver, p. 80.
[50]Carol Mason, p. 268.
[51]Many Europeans penetrated the general Wisconsin area in the 17th and 18th centuries, including Brulé (1621), Nicolet (1634), the Jesuits Jogues and Raymbault (1641), Radisson and Groseilliers (1658-62), Menard (1661), Allouez (1665-72), Joliet and Marquette (1673), La Salle (1678-80), Du Luth (1678-80), Hennepin (1679-80), de Tonty (1680), Perrot (1685-89), Le Sueur (1693-1700), Charlevoix (1721), La Vérendrye (1728-32), Carver (1766-68), Pond (1773-75), and Perrault (1783-1820). Many left written accounts. See Debenham (1960), map pp. 108-09; Forrester, pp. 11-32; and William Joseph Seno, ed., *Up Country* (1985, 1989), *passim*.



Jean Baptiste Perrault's hand-drawn map showing the Red Cedar and Chippewa rivers and the location of Fort Perrault (at lower center) in 1788.

we built there, and lived Well with good returns."[52]

Typically, the fur traders set out each year about August with trade goods acquired at Mackinac Island (where in the mid 1780s the fort at Michilimackinac had just been relocated) to winter on the rivers and bays of Lake Superior and the upper Mississippi, where they traded with the Indians. With the spring ice-melt, they returned to Mackinac Island, arriving in June or July, to exchange the winter's accumulation of pelts for more trade goods.

Following the winter of 1787-88, Perrault, then about 27, decided to go into business for himself in partnership with Thomas Richardson. They opted to winter on the Sauteux/Chippewa, where Perrault "had some Acquaintances."[53] They set out from Mackinac, probably in August, with one canoe loaded with £500 worth of goods and three hired men. At Green Bay they waited for a contingent of Menominees ("Fol-avoines") who had promised to accompany them for the winter hunt. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, hunters from the Menominee tribe, based since prehistory in far northeastern Wisconsin and later in the Fox River valley, began to range further and further into western Wisconsin, finally hunting between warring Ojibwe and Santee Dakota in the "debatable" lands of the Menomonie area.[54]

Joined by the Menominees, Perrault and Richardson proceeded with their entourage to Prairie du Chien. Delays kept them from reaching the Chippewa until the end of September 1788. They decided to build their trading post/house on the Red Cedar, but upstream from Perrault's earlier post. His hand-drawn map seems to indicate that they located it on the west bank between Downsville and Irvington, though Louise Kellogg places it "apparently near the

[52]Jean Baptiste Perrault, "Narrative of the Travels and Adventures of a Merchant Voyageur in the Savage Territories of Northern America," *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society Collections* 37 (1909-10), pp. 509, 538. Perrault's story is told here at some length because the details are not otherwise available except in the hard-to-obtain edition just cited and in a summary by Louise Phelps Kellogg in *The British Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest* (1935), pp. 199-200.

[53]Perrault, pp. 545-47. The rest of Perrault's harrowing tale of his stay on the Red Cedar is on pp. 546-54 (further specific page number citations are given in the text).

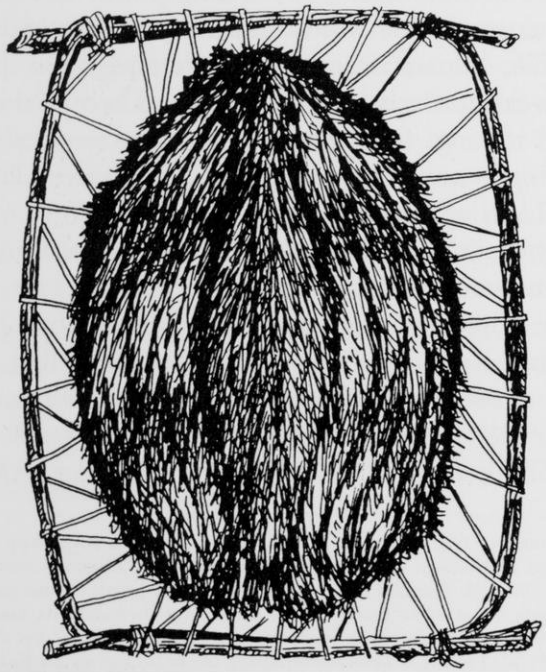
[54]Carol Mason, p. 82.

site of Menomonie, Dunn County."[55]

Their first move was to "send out our Indians" (p. 547). Then, on October 11, they began building a combination trading post and residence, without fortifications. That evening they sat outside their tent with an old Menominee man known as le Vieu Eturgeon, the Old Sturgeon, "remarking the weather and the beautiful season and looking at the heavens" when

> At that moment there appeared on The horizon in the east a Terrifying phenomenon in the form of a serpent, which moved, filling The air with a Blinding light as it advanced toward The west, where it Disappeared into The horizon. We were filled With terror at the sight.... It was at least 30 rods Long (p. 547).

It was probably a meteor. Old Sturgeon, when asked, pronounced it a bad omen indicating "the master of life Was vexed."



Perrault reported that they were "comfortably lodged," and "we saw the Indians often with furs. The land was rich at that time." He also noted that "We Were in the midst of the Indians" (p. 547).

It wasn't long before the serpent prognostication seemed strangely accurate. In November, the la Feille (Leaf) band of Dakota, hunting on the upper Red Cedar in Ojibwe territory, came several times to trade, but left before the arrival early one morning of six Ojibwe from Lac Courte Oreilles, about one hundred miles to the north. The Ojibwe completed their trading and prepared to leave the following morning. But that evening after sunset twenty-eight Dakota arrived, a band lead by le Petit Corbeau (Little Crow). "I Leave you to imagine our dismay," Perrault comments, although the Ojibwe "did not appear disturbed," seeing only three or four guns, plus bows, among the Dakota. Fortunately, the Dakota observed the old custom of handing over their weapons to the traders. "They entered then without arms, and were equally surprised at seeing each other, but each extended a greeting courteous enough" (pp. 547-48).

Little Crow, who understood some Ojibwe, engaged one of the Lac Courte Oreilles—le Coeur d'Ours (Bear Heart)—in conversation. One of the Dakota, la Becasse (the Woodcock), covered a pail with skin to make a drum and Little Crow presented a shell necklace from around his neck to the Ojibwe and spoke:

> My brothers, we have taken the liberty of approaching your lands for awhile. You know that the deer seeks the thick woods for The winter, and that upon it depends the life of our women and children. We hope therefore that you will bear with us for a Couple of months On the upper waters of that branch of your river, and we will retire as soon as we have acquired provisions for our spring (p. 548).

[55]Perrault, map between pp. 538 and 539; Kellogg, 1935, p. 199, n. 16. Perrault's map clearly shows the Hay River, which he calls "Riviere Castor" (Beaver River). To the southwest, a stream is shown that is probably Wilson Creek. The fort is marked on the western shore of the Red Cedar well south of the creek, at the widest bend, which would seem to be at a point south of Irvington. Notice that Perrault shows the old course of the Red Cedar in the vicinity of Menomonie as it was before the river was dammed to form Lake Menomin. The map is reproduced in this book, p.25.

Bear Heart rose with this reply:

> My brothers, we are well pleased to see you here and to be able to say to you in the presence of the French, that you need have no anxiety on our account. Hunt peaceably on our lands here till the month of march, when we beg of you to withdraw, and that your young men come not here and frighten our children at that time. The master of life has given to all the Indians the land to live on in peace, but unhappily, we are all foolish. (p. 548)

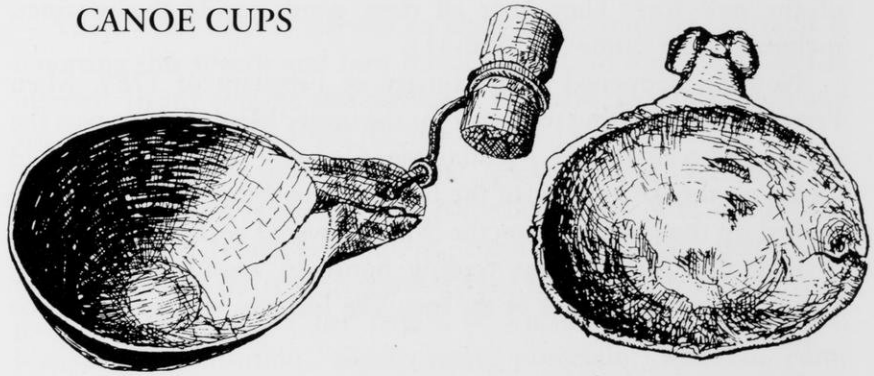
The Woodcock filled a pipe and the Dakota began the calumet (pipe) dance to the drumbeat. They recounted their exploits, then presented the drum and pipe to the Ojibwe, who also danced "but with much more grace" and told of their exploits, "which Surpassed those of the scioux, so that The first of them Aroused a jealousy, which betrayed itself in the faces of the others, and they even Said some ill-timed words" (pp. 548-49).

With the situation suddenly degenerating, one of Perrault's men took away the drum and halted the festivities. "Everything was over, but there was a sullen Silence all the night, so that no one slept." The next morning the Dakota conducted their trading and, retrieving their arms, departed the way they had come (p. 549).

After breakfast the Ojibwe got their belongings together, fired off their guns in salute, and left by their own road, which crossed a small brook "three arpents" (190 yards) from the trading post.[56] On the far side of the stream a large pine had fallen. Four of the six Ojibwe crossed the stream and went on, but le Petit Eturgeon (Little Sturgeon) and the son of Petite Bled (Little Grain)[57] lagged behind because Little Sturgeon had broken his necklace and stopped to fasten it. As they passed the great pine, six of the Dakota, who had hidden in ambush behind it, fired their guns, wounding the son of Little Grain in the head with a ball (but not fatally) and mortally wounding Little Sturgeon with two bullets that passed through his body. The Dakota disappeared, while the rest of the Ojibwe, hearing the shots, dropped their packs and rushed back to aid their fallen brethren. They carried Little Sturgeon in his blanket to the house, where Perrault and Richardson placed him on a bed in their own room (pp. 549-50).

The Ojibwe began drinking, giving Little Sturgeon liquor as well, who, "no sooner drunk, than he began to speak evil of us, saying:—'It is you French, who Are the Cause of my death. If you had not sent us away when our enemies Were so near, we would all have departed together. You do not trouble yourselves much about the Indians so long as you can get the packs'" (p. 550).

CANOE CUPS



Cups carved by hand from maple or birch carried on the belts of voyageurs.

Perrault continues,

> he weakened rapidly, as much from the drink as from the suffering from his Wounds, so that about nine o'clock in the evening, he was in his death agony. They demanded of me some vermillion, which I gave them. They painted him from head to foot and painted Themselves as well, and said to us,—to mr. Richardson and me:—"This is a fatal Blow for you others and for us. What our tribe will think, when we arrive,

[56]Although generally a measure of area more or less equivalent to an acre, an arpent in local usage in New France was a linear measure equal to one side of a square arpent—180 old French feet, or 11.5 rods (63.3 yards). Three arpents thus would have been 190 yards. Since the Ojibwe were returning to Lac Courte Oreilles, it seems that they would have left headed north, indicating that the brook was north of the fort. See "arpent" in *Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language*, unabridged, 2nd ed. (G & C Merriam Company, 1955), p. 152.

[57]While *bled* ordinarily means "village" or "out-of-the-way place," French fur traders used it as a variation of *ble*, meaning "wheat" or "grain." Trader François-Victoire Malhiot refers to "*les sacs de bled*," for example (thanks to Bonni Knight of Eau Claire for this information).

> not seeing all of us, and knowing that we all came here with the French we do not know what to think. Be sure that The Indians will come to see you,—and death also, for the others will not understand…(p. 550).

Two hours before daybreak the next morning, Little Sturgeon died. Perrault says, "we clothed him after the fashion of their dead, and buried Him, with them present; and as soon as the interment was completed, they set out, threatening us" (p. 550).

The Menominee warned the traders to fortify themselves against a surprise attack. Perrault and his men took their axes to the woods to cut logs to create a fort around the trading house. They added a stockade with two bastions to the trading house, which formed half of the new fort. They kept all their goods inside the precinct, including their canoe (pp. 550-51).

Nothing happened until January or February of 1789, when Perrault was preparing to depart for the upper Mississippi to pass the spring and wait for the Menominee. One day he crossed the Red Cedar on the ice in front of the house to get some wood. When he looked up the river, he "saw the Water Covered with people."[58]

Perrault rushed to the trading house to sound the warning, hastily shutting the door of the fort. The Indians, who proved to be Ojibwe from Lac Courte Oreilles there to avenge the death of Little Sturgeon, "came to the door, planted their tepees opposite it, and demanded entrance." The traders responded that there were too many of them. Then the leader of the Indians sailed a letter he was carrying through the air toward the door. Perrault, retrieving it, found it was a warning from fur trader Michel Cadotte, Sr., then wintering at Lac Courte Oreilles. It read:

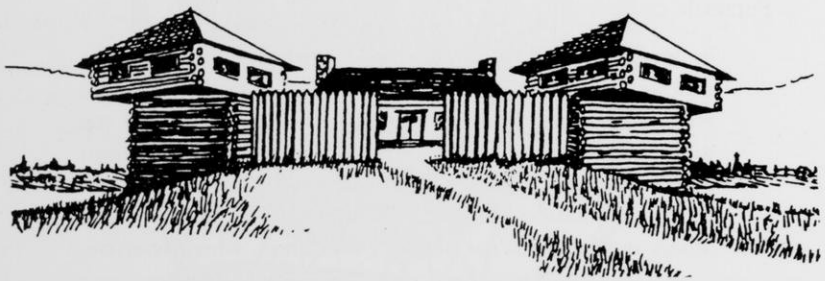
> Dear Sirs, having discovered the intentions of my Savages in visiting you, from the son of La merde D'aigle, the worst rogue of all, and yet my great friend, I have Entrusted to him my Letter, and he has promised to deliver it to you. You will know by this that the men have come in order to destroy you, If you do not yield to their demands. I Advise you then to try to Conciliate the bearer of this letter. If he has delivered it to you, do not Fear (p. 551).

Perrault hastened to invite the son of la Merde d'Aigle inside the fort, where he said to him:

> He who has given this Letter into your hands is my great Friend. You have promised him that all will go well here,—that is to say, that you will aid us. I believe you,—you who As I have heard, have always been relied on by the Whites (pp. 551-52).

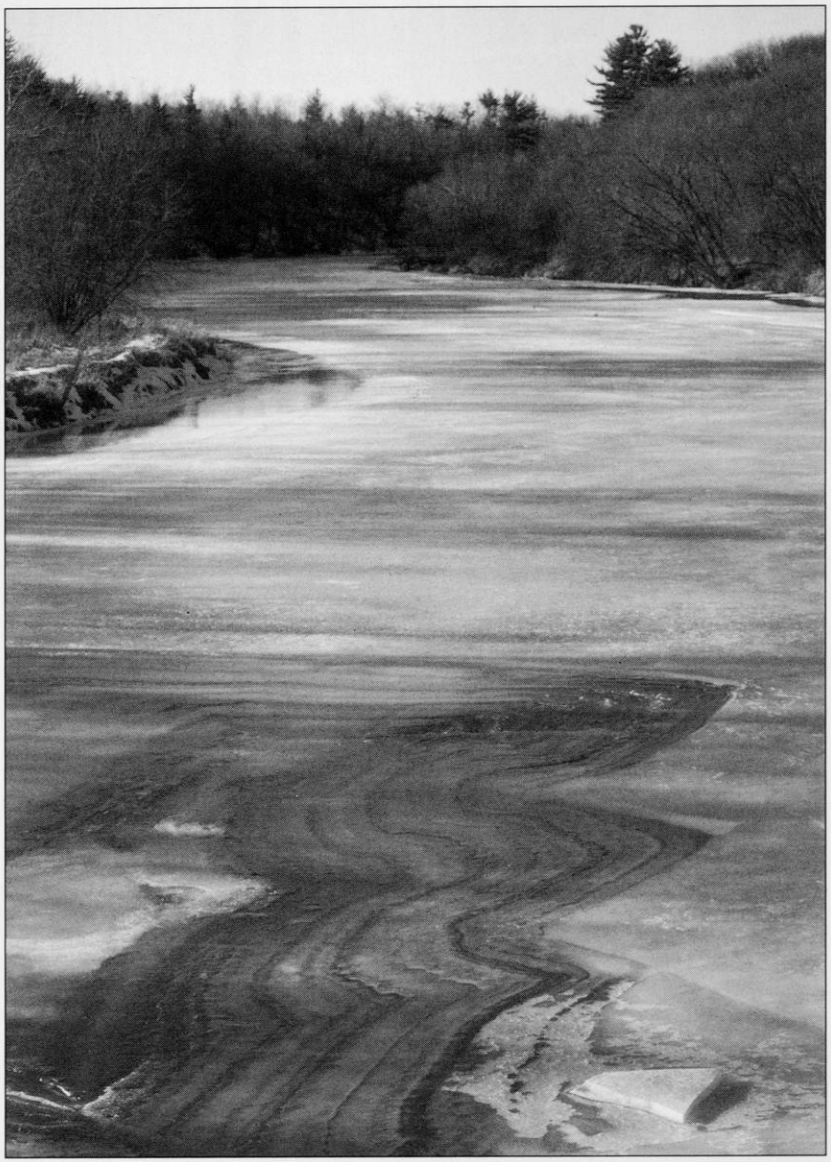
Perrault's aside to the reader was that "the contrary was true, but puffed up by such a Compliment, he plumed Himself on it." The son of la Merde d'Aigle replied,

> Yes, my Friend, fear nothing. I have sufficient influence with the young men to persuade them to behave Properly toward the Whites. I will stand by you, and my father has always recommended that.... My friend, I am yours; I will do what you tell me, but... you must let our people come in (p. 552).



Fort Perrault may have looked like this.

[58]Perrault, p. 551. Note that Perrault says he looked "up the river," confirming that the Ojibwe came from the north.



Perrault walked out on the frozen Red Cedar.

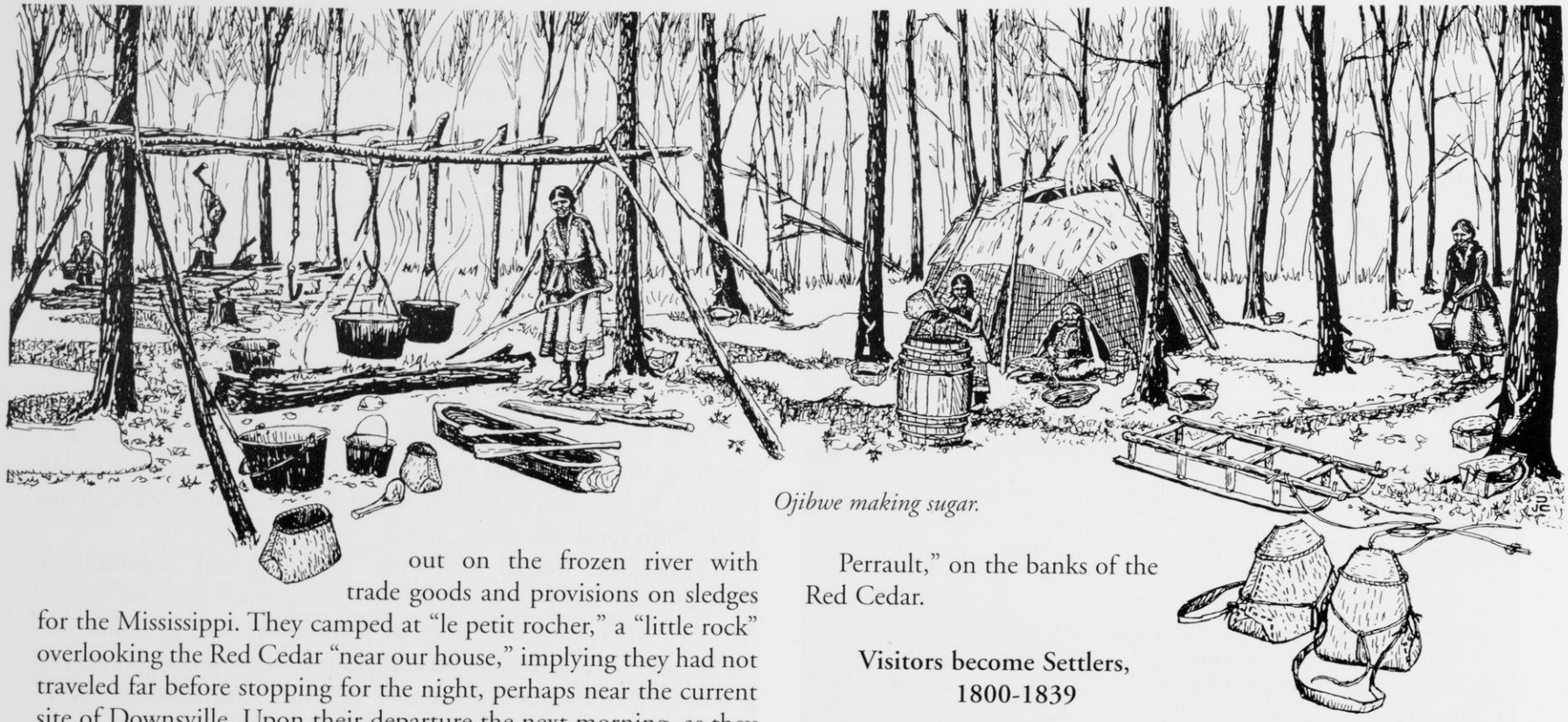
Perrault welcomed the Indians inside the stockade, whereupon the son of la Merde d'Aigle addressed his companions:

> My brothers, when we set out from home, we set out Like fools, Without thought. As for me, I have been thinking on the way; I have recalled what my father has always said to me,—always To show Deference to the whites. They Are the support of the Savages we could not live without Them. It is not necessary to have the French on our lands for us to die; we die every day without them; therefore, my brothers put out of your Hearts whatever of evil you have against them. As for me, I think the same. You said to me before we started, that you would do As I did. Do it then (p. 552).

There is, of course, no way to know how accurately Perrault is reporting this speech and how much of his own sentiments he has inserted. In any case, he says the rest of the band responded with one voice, "You speak the truth" (p. 552).

The Indians lodged within the stockade, and, according to Perrault, "did not hesitate to eat everything there Was, during the five days they remained with us, constantly making demands." Before they left, the traders presented the Indians with a quantity of goods in payment to the family of Little Sturgeon: overcoats, blankets, ammunition, silver items, porcelain, tobacco, rum, vermillion, knives, awls, axes, needles, and mirrors. In recompense for the fifteen deer the Ojibwe had eaten during their stay, the son of la Merde d'Aigle told them to send men two days hence along the trail on which they were headed, where they would find game the younger Indians would kill and leave for them. Three men sent at the appointed time came back with fourteen deer and a bear (pp. 552-53).

Thus was resolved perhaps the most dramatic episode ever to occur on the lower Red Cedar during historic times, but Perrault still has another good story to tell. On the 14th of February, 1789, he and one of the men, Denoyer, left Richardson at the fort and set



Ojibwe making sugar.

out on the frozen river with trade goods and provisions on sledges for the Mississippi. They camped at "le petit rocher," a "little rock" overlooking the Red Cedar "near our house," implying they had not traveled far before stopping for the night, perhaps near the current site of Downsville. Upon their departure the next morning, as they were passing the "rock," apparently a cliff, they witnessed a tragic spectacle: "By extra-ordinary chance a stag pursued by Wolves came up.... Unable to retreat, it hurled itself from the top to the bottom, and Broke Its legs on The ice." Perrault sent Denoyer back to the fort with a small load of meat. Denoyer returned with several men before nightfall. The next day, the men carried the rest of the stag to the fort while Perrault and Denoyer resumed their journey. They reached the Falls of St. Anthony three days later, having covered, according to Perrault, "80 leagues."[59]

Perrault seems not to have ever again returned to his fort, "Fort Perrault," on the banks of the Red Cedar.

Visitors become Settlers, 1800-1839

William Warren offers a memorable description of Ojibwe lands as they were in his time, the second quarter of the 19th century, just prior to the onslaught of the lumbermen:

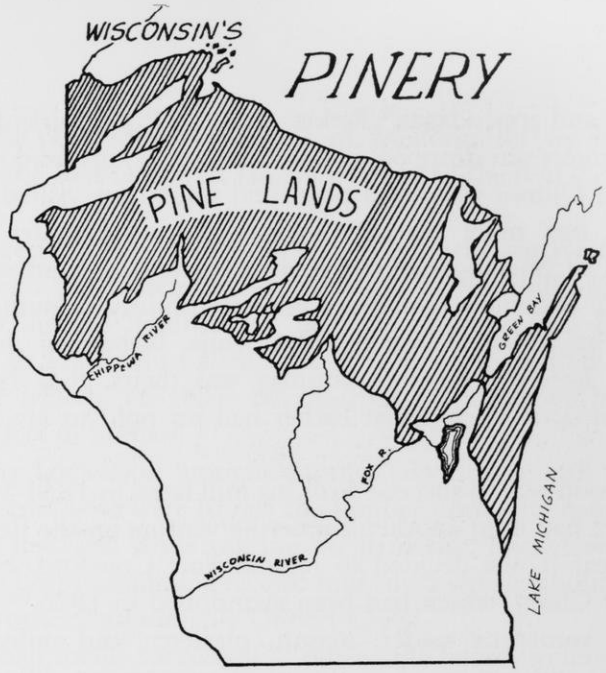
> The O-jib-ways reside almost exclusively in a wooded country; their lands are covered with deep and interminable forests, abounding in beautiful lakes and murmuring streams, whose banks are edged with trees of the sweet maple, the useful birch, the tall pine, fir balsam, cedar, spruce, tamarac, poplar, oak, ash, elm, basswood, and all the plants indigenous to the climate in which they reside.

[59]Perrault, pp. 553-54. A league could be anywhere from 2.4 to 4.6 miles; in France it is now 4 km, or 2.49 miles (see "league" in *Webster's New International Dictionary*, 1955, p. 1407). However, it is only about 113 river miles from Downsville to the Falls of St. Anthony in Minneapolis, not the 200 or so miles that 80 leagues would imply. At 113 miles, Perrault and Denoyer would have covered 38 miles per day pushing sledges—quite a pace.

> Their country is so interspersed with watercourses, that they travel about, up and down streams, from lake to lake, and along the shores of Lake Superior, in their light and ingeniously made birch-bark canoes. From the bark of this useful tree, and rushes, are made the light covering of their simple wigwams.[60]

Warren, writing in 1851-53, recognized the serious impact of change on the tribes:

> The red race of North America is fast disappearing before the onward resistless tread of the Anglo-Saxon. Once the vast tract of country lying between the Atlantic sea-board and the broad Mississippi, where a century since roamed numerous tribes of the wild sons of Nature, but a few—a very few, remnants now exist. Their former domains are now covered with the teeming towns and villages of the "pale face" and millions of happy freemen now enjoy the former home of these unhappy and fated people.
>
> The few tribes and remnants of tribes who still exist on our western frontiers, truly deserve the sympathy and attention of the American people.... Are not the bones of their ancestors sprinkled through the soil on which are now erected our happy homesteads?[61]



Wisconsin's pinery accounted for one-sixth of the nation's white pine stands in the 1880s.

It was not far into the 19th century when lumbering came to the Red Cedar. The first sawmill in Wisconsin was built on the Black River in 1819, but it was burned by the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), who claimed the area, and was never rebuilt. The first attempt on the Red Cedar was in 1822. In that year, Kentuckian **Hardin Perkins**, newly arrived in Prairie du Chien, persuaded **James H. Lockwood**, a 29-year-old clerk in the Indian trade and recently appointed Justice of the Peace, and **Joseph Rolette,** a leading citizen and old fur trader, to back him in erecting a sawmill on a tributary of the Chippewa River.[62] Perkins had secured permission from Major Lawrence Taliaferro, Indian agent at the St. Peters Agency at Fort Snelling, to seek consent from the Dakota to erect the sawmill on Dakota land in "the Indian country," as the unsettled area to the west was termed. Perkins had neither capital nor "sufficient influence" with the Indians for the project, so Rolette and Lockwood contracted with Chief Wabashaw's band of Dakota, who claimed the area,[63] to pay the tribe $1,000 per year in goods. Rolette and Lockwood would provide Perkins with equipment, supplies, and men.

Perkins proceeded to the "Menomonee River" (the Red Cedar) and ascended it to Wilson Creek at the present site of Menomonie, where he erected a dam and sawmill on the creek. It was almost completed when a "freshet" (flood) of the stream "swept away the

[60]Warren, pp. 39-40.
[61]Warren, p. 23.
[62]The information for this episode comes directly from Lockwood, who left a compelling memoir of his years on the Wisconsin frontier (James H. Lockwood, "Early Times and Events in Wisconsin" *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, Vol. 2 [1903 reprint of 1856 ed.], pp. 117-18, 132-33).

dam, mill and appendages." Perkins went back to Prairie du Chien and the project was dropped, in part because Perkins lived in mortal fear of the Ojibwe who lived near "and sometimes visited the mill builders," but more directly because the commander of Fort Snelling, Col. Snelling, had repeatedly threatened to destroy the mill because he contended Taliaferro lacked authority to authorize the mill in the Indian Country. Meanwhile Wabashaw demanded payment, asserting that the country was theirs, they had given permission, and "their Great Father had no right to say anything about it."

Lockwood was to succeed with his mill later, in 1830-31, but in 1829 there had been another lumbering venture on the Red Cedar. In that year it was decided to rebuild Fort Crawford, located at Prairie du Chien, which had been abandoned in 1826.[64] **John H. Fonda**, a sometime trader, mason, plasterer, and military mail carrier, was engaged by a Col. Taylor to pilot an expedition to "the pineries on Monomonee River, there to cut logs, hew square timber, make plank and shingles to be used in the construction of the Fort and its defenses."[65] In seven Mackinaw boats, 70 men and four officers ascended the Mississippi in a frosty late fall to the Chippewa, then up the "very crooked stream" and "worse" channel. Two of the boats ran aground on a sandbar fifteen miles below the Red Cedar. Two days later, ice had closed the Chippewa, forcing the men to make sleds for transport up the Chippewa and into the Red Cedar to where they intended to cut wood, apparently just above the mouth of the Red Cedar.[66] One of the officers, Lt. Gale, ran into an Ojibwe war party near this site in search of Dakota and, though the Indians did not prove to be hostile, Gale, panicking, went running off "through the wooded bottoms at the top of his speed." He was finally discovered three days later in a deranged state with frozen legs and feet. His legs were subsequently saved, thanks to the attentions of Chief Wabashaw as Gale was being taken back to Prairie du Chien.

Meanwhile, the men built a log cabin at the Red Cedar River camp for the supplies and a small blockhouse for arms and ammunition. They were divided into two gangs of thirty and one gang of ten to fell trees, cut them into square timber and shingles, and build a flatboat. With the spring thaw of 1830, the timber was joined into two rafts and the shingles loaded onto the flatboat. The men got down the Red Cedar and into the Chippewa safely, but then lost control of one raft, which banged back and forth from shore to shore, "bumping along as though it was intoxicated," and was then sucked into Boeuf (Buffalo) Slough. Suffice it to say a long series of misadventures followed.

Back in Prairie du Chien, Lockwood and Rolette once again obtained permission, through the Secretary of War, to build a sawmill on the Red Cedar, provided they contracted with the Indians through the Prairie du Chien Indian agent. In May of 1830, probably just after Fonda's raft went careering down the Chippewa, they sent a millwright, who was also a partner in the enterprise, a superintendent named Armstrong, a carpenter, and a blacksmith with "laborers, provisions, teams, and tools" to build a mill "on the Chippewa River or its tributaries."[67]

The millwright chose to rebuild the dam on the site of Perkins's 1822 dam on Wilson Creek near its juncture with the Red Cedar and built the mill on the river. He dug a canal from Wilson Creek across to the mill. Armstrong, however, proved an incompetent manager of the Canadian *voyageurs* hired as hands and by August

[63]It is worth noting that in Perrault's account and in the time of Schoolcraft's journey down the Red Cedar in 1831 it was thought that the Ojibwe controlled the Menomonie area; note also that Schoolcraft encountered Wabashaw's band subsequently on the Mississippi. Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, *Personal Memoirs of a Residence of Thirty Years with the Indian Tribes on the American Frontier* (1975 reprint of 1851 ed.), pp. 388-90.

[64]Lockwood, pp. 154, 172.

[65]This and the following episode are from John H. Fonda, "Early Wisconsin," *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, Vol. 4, pp. 144-54.

[66]Fonda says that the sandbar incident occurred fifteen miles below the Red Cedar, then later says they went fifteen miles farther to cut timber. Curtiss-Wedge concludes the site was near present-day Dunnville but continues, "there is a tradition also that one camp of this expedition was located on the west bank of the Menomonee [Red Cedar] as far up as one mile below Irvine [Irving] Creek" (Curtiss-Wedge et al., p. 14).

[67]Lockwood, pp. 133-41, describes the events of 1830-31 on the Red Cedar.

they were close to mutiny. About the same time several Ojibwe came to Armstrong and informed him "that if they did not leave there they would kill them all." That same night, Armstrong and an equally frightened Frenchman fled by canoe, negotiating the difficult rapids in the dark. He left orders for the rest of the men to load what they could into the boat and leave in the morning for Prairie du Chien.

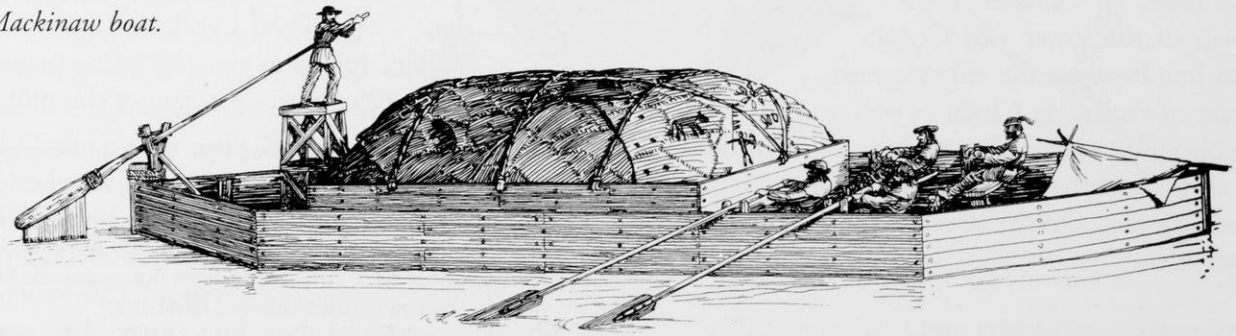
Upon receiving this news, Lockwood realized he would personally have to take charge of the mill and so with Armstrong, the Frenchman, and a mixed blood Ho-Chunk, Lockwood headed up-river, still in the heat of August. As he proceeded up the Mississippi, Lockwood retrieved various other members of the crew (including the Canadian contingent), who subsequently tried and failed more than once to escape or hoodwink him into turning back. At length they entered the Chippewa River, came upon a Menominee lodge where there was venison cooking, of which they partook, and found the boat and three Americans abandoned earlier by Armstrong. These men refused to return to the mill with Armstrong, and Lockwood, concluding Armstrong was a liability rather than an asset, decided to buy him out on the spot. Then, to further pacify the men, who continued to be terrified of the Ojibwe, Lockwood persuaded two bands of Menominees to accompany them up the Red Cedar. At last they ascended the Red Cedar to the mill.

Lockwood contracted with a carpenter in the party named Isaac Saunders to superintend the completion of the mill and another carpenter named Holmes to do the construction. Lockwood returned to Prairie du Chien. The mill was not finished until the following March, of 1831; by the first of June they had sawed 100,000 feet of lumber.

In May Lockwood brought another crew to the mill to replace the first crew, who were to raft the lumber down the river. But the river was low, and while waiting for it to rise, Lockwood had the new crew begin building a second mill "on a stream about one mile from the other," presumably Gilbert Creek.

They had finally succeeded in rafting the boards in loose cribs to the mouth of the Red Cedar when it began to rain. It rained steadily throughout the first three weeks of June. Both Wilson Creek and the Red Cedar rose twelve feet in twelve hours, according to Lockwood, washing away the dam and scattering the cribs of lumber all over the Red Cedar and Chippewa bottoms.

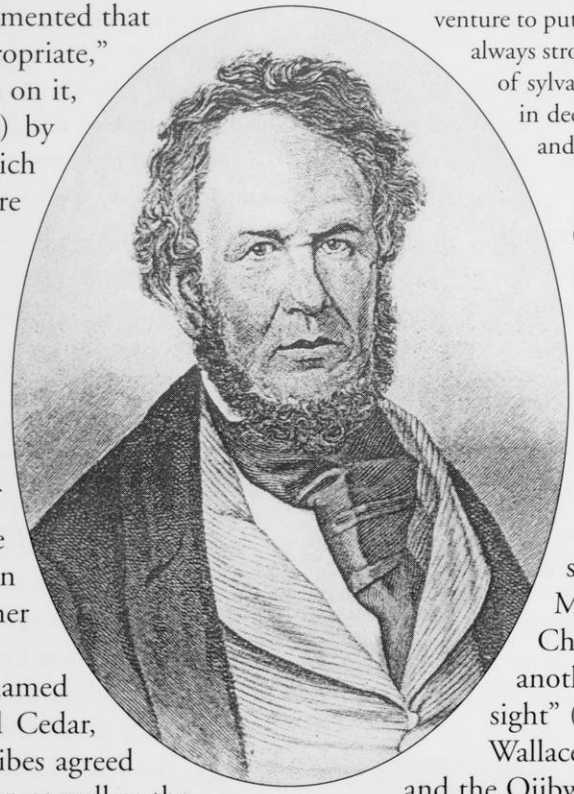
Mackinaw boat.



Interestingly, less than two months later, geologist, ethnologist, and explorer **Henry Rowe Schoolcraft** (pictured this page) descended the Red Cedar by canoe from Red Cedar Lake through Rice Lake and on south, arriving at Lockwood's mill at the mouth of Wilson Creek on the 11th of August that same year of 1831.[68]

Leaving Red Cedar Lake, Schoolcraft commented that the name "Red Cedar" was "quite inappropriate," presumably since there weren't any red cedars on it, and that the name "Folleavoine" (wild rice) by which it was known at its lower end and which characterized it above Rice Lake, was far more suitable. He goes on to say that

> The lower part of the stream appears to be not only more plenteous in the class of resources on which an Indian population rely, but far better adapted to the purposes of agriculture, grazing, and hydraulics.



Schoolcraft met numerous Ojibwe bands throughout his trip until some point north of Cedar Falls, then he saw no Indians until he reached Lake Pepin, where he began encountering Dakota and members of other tribes on the Mississippi.

While he was at Rice Lake, an Ojibwe named Neenaba drew him a map of the lower Red Cedar, showing the demarcation line between the tribes agreed upon in 1825 at the Treaty of Prairie du Chien as well as the sites of sawmills, which Neenaba indicated were "erected, without leave, by squatters." His account of the voyage down the Red Cedar is highly entertaining and colorful. On the second day out of Rice Lake (10 August) he noted that:

> We had now entered a prairie country, of a pleasing and picturesque aspect. We observed a red deer during the morning; we passed many hunting encampments of the Indians, and the horns and bones of slaughtered deers, and other evidences of our being in a valuable game country. . . . The river had now increased in volume . . . and the men could venture to put out their strength in following down a current, always strong, and often rapid. We were passing a country of sylvan attractions, of great fertility, and abounding in deer, elk, and other animals. We also saw a mink, and a flock of brant.

They spent the night at "Kakabika Falls" (Cedar Falls according to Curtiss-Wedge),[69] 70 miles below Rice Lake. The next morning, the 11th of August, they broke camp at six a.m., and canoed fifteen miles (apparently an exaggeration) on "strong and rapid waters" to "the site of a saw mill." He encountered a Mr. Wallace (actually Capt. George Wales)[70] supervising ten men who were "reconstructing a dam that had been carried off by the last spring freshet." He says Wales "represented Messrs. Rolette and Lockwood of Prairie du Chien" and quotes him as saying there was another mill "on a creek just below, and out of sight" (the Gilbert Creek mill).

Wallace told him the 1825 line between the Dakota and the Ojibwe crossed upstream of the mill, but that he

> had no doubt, however, but that the land belonged to the Chippewas. He said that no Sioux had been here for seven years. At that time a mill was built here, and Sioux came and encamped at it, but they were attacked by the Chippewas and several killed, since which they have not appeared. He told us that this stream is called the FOLLEAVOINE.

[68]Schoolcraft (1975), pp. 384-89.

[69]Curtiss-Wedge et al., p. 15. Schoolcraft says the distance from Kakabika Falls to Lockwood's mill was fifteen miles, which is about the distance from Colfax; Cedar Falls is only five miles by boat from Menomonie. On the other hand, the water distance from Rice Lake to Cedar Falls is only 62 miles, not the 70 miles estimated by Schoolcraft, so he may have routinely overestimated distances.

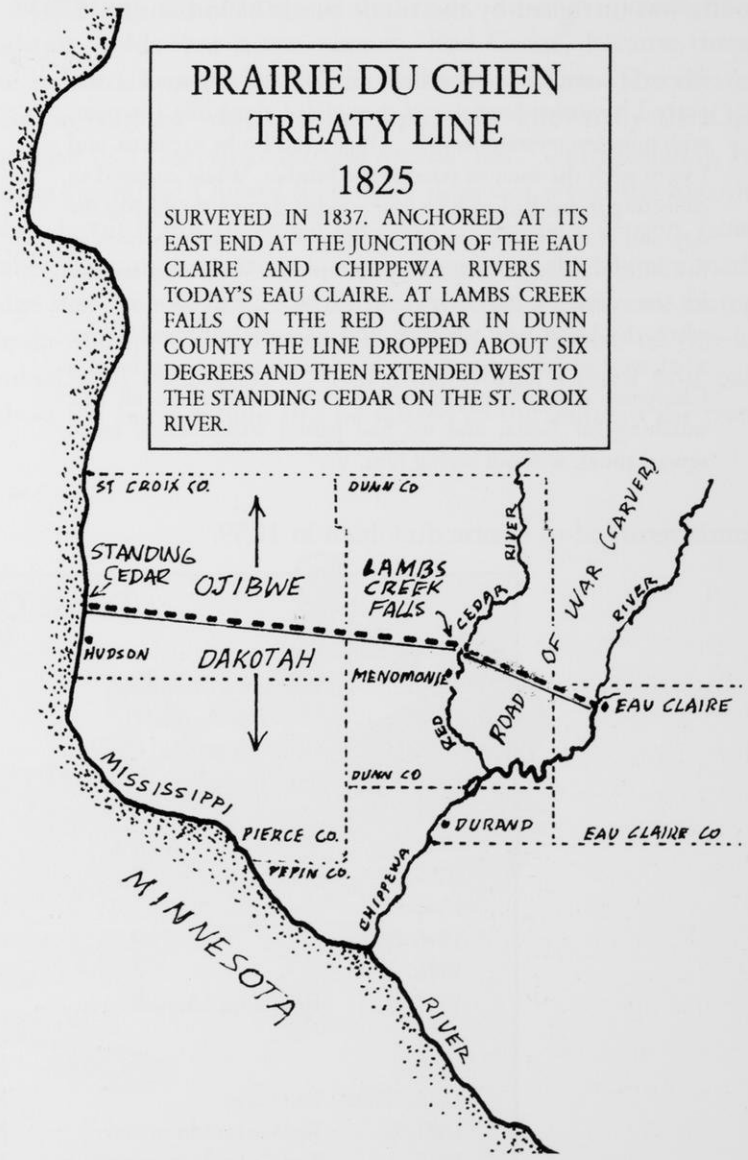
[70]Curtiss-Wedge et al., p. 15: see also Chronology p. 41.

This is curious since Lockwood always refers to the river as the "Menomonee River," not the Folleavoine. The episode of the Dakota attacked by the Ojibwe at the millsite, apparently in connection with the 1822 mill, was not mentioned by Lockwood. Schoolcraft goes on to say that "the country near the mills is not, in fact, occupied by either Chippewa or Sioux, in consequence of which game is abundant on it."

Schoolcraft mentions that the next morning before leaving they saw a wolf at a dense point of woods and then saw nine deer and two more wolves after leaving the mills. Continuing down the Red Cedar they reached the Chippewa at noon, "a noble mass of water, flowing with a wide sweeping majesty to the Mississippi.... Wide plains, and the most sylvan and picturesque hills bound the view."

Lockwood continued operating his mills at Menomonie for several years, though he sold the Gilbert Creek mill to Hiram S. Allen in 1835, who also built a mill that year on Irving Creek and soon bought a part interest in Lockwood's Wilson Creek mill.[71] John Fonda found himself working at Lockwood's mill in 1837, this time going up the Mississippi with his family on the steamboat *Science*.[72] At Lake Pepin he witnessed "a fierce battle...between the Sioux and Chippewas, which resulted in the defeat of the latter. I passed the scene of the fight, and saw the mutilated bodies of the dead Indians."

After this not very auspicious beginning, Fonda and entourage continued up the Chippewa in Mackinaw boats, commenting that "the water of the Chippewa is as red as wine," which he attributed to deposits of iron ore through which the river channel runs, and then up the Red Cedar to the mills "situated on the Monomonee River, in a tract of neutral ground between the Chippewa and Sioux Indians." There Fonda again became a lumberman. He says he "had frequent opportunities to see war parties of both tribes." He also says that "there were some Chippewas living near the mills, who sold game, maple sugar, wild fruits and such like articles to the mill hands."



1825 Prairie du Chien Treaty line—Ojibwe territory to the north, Dakota lands to the south.

[71]Curtiss-Wedge et al., 1925, pp. 16-17.

[72]Fonda, pp. 268-69, 272-74.

Fonda was intrigued by the silent bands of Indians (p. 274):

> There is something mysterious in the appearance of a war party. I have seen several, and they glided along like a serpent, with noiseless, even motion.... Once a raft broke to pieces, and I went with the men to recover the lumber. While engaged in collecting it, we had to pass over a ridge frequently during the day, and at night when we were going over on our way back to the mills, we heard a laugh close by our side. We looked around for the cause, but not finding it, we were about to move on, when the laugh was repeated, and we were surprised to see what we had taken for a pine stump, assume the form of a Chippewa scout. It appears he had been hid there all day, watching for Sioux, and we had passed within arms' reach several times, without seeing him.

Fonda returned to Prairie du Chien in 1839.

A Confusion of Place Names

Before leaving this section, we might recapitulate the various names under which the city of Menomonie and Red Cedar River have been known, as shown in the chart below.

The names "Menomonie" for the city and "Menomin" for the lake were probably adopted from Ojibwe words, although the words are similar in any of the Algonquian languages. It is possible that local Indians used these words to describe both the river and the marsh that later became the mill pond when lumbermen dammed the Red Cedar. "Manomin," from which "Menomin" seems to be derived, is simply the Algonquian word meaning "wild rice," and "Menomonie" (or "Menominee") means "wild rice people."[76] It seems likely that the long-term association of the river with wild rice

Those Changing Names

Date	River	Community	Source
1600s	Folleavoine (Wild Rice)		Russell, *Footprints*, #106
1700s?	Miskwagokag (Red ?)[73]		Russell, *Footprints*, #106
1780s	Cèdre Rouge (Red Cedar)		Perrault, 1909-10, pp .538-39
1822-31	Menomonee		Lockwood, pp. 132-34
1829	Monomonee		Fonda, p. 244ff
1831	Red Cedar, Folleavoine		Schoolcraft, 1853, pp. 386-88
1837-39	Monomonee	mills on Monomonee R.	Fonda, 1867, pp. 268-75
1844-53		Menomonie Mills	This book, pp. 40-41
1846-47		Menominee Mills	Letter William Wilson to wife[74]
1846		Black & Knapp Mill	This book, p. 40
1851-53	Red Cedar, Me-nom-in-ee		Warren, p. 309
1855		Menomonie (or -ee) Mills	This book, p. 77
1859		Menomonee	This book pp. 77
1875, 1880s	Red Cedar	Menomonie	French, *passim:* this book, p. 77
1891-92	Red Cedar, Menomonie[75]	Menomonie	Forrester, note p. 37
1925	Red Cedar, Menomonee, -ie	Menomonie	Curtiss-Wedge et al, *passim*
1996	Red Cedar	Menomonie	

[73]Presumably an Ojibwe word: *miskwa*=red, *gokag*=?
[74]Collection of Wilson Place Museum, Menomonie.
[75]Forrester (1891-92) says "Red Cedar" was used in the north, "Menomonie" in the south.
[76]Boatman, p. 37, and telephone conversations with Professors John Boatman, University of

and the probable presence of wild rice in the marsh led to the lake being named "Menomin."

The city probably became "Menomonie" (or "Menomonee" or "Monomonie") because the river was commonly called by that name during the lumbering era and the community came to be referred to as the "mills on the Monomonee River" or "Menomonie Mills," then just Menomonie. According to local tradition, the name of the river was changed to avoid confusion with the Menominee River which forms the Wisconsin-Michigan border, and the "-ie" at the end of the city name was adopted by the Post Office in the 1880s to distinguish the community from other "Menomonees" like Menominee, Michigan, or Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin (see p. 77).

Regarding the name of the river, another persistent local tradition holds that it was named "Red Cedar" because there was one red cedar on its Red Cedar Lake headwaters. The mysterious *Miskwagokag,* by which it was reportedly known by the Ojibwe, may give us a clue, since *miskwa* means "red." Unfortunately, Father Baraga's standard Ojibwe dictionary does not reveal the meaning of *gokag*, but it is not the word for cedar.[77] William Warren, however, makes the tantalizing statement in discussing the Ojibwe medicine lodge that "the novice…sat in the centre on a clean mat facing the Me-da-wautig, a cedar post planted in the centre of the lodge, daubed with vermilion…."[78] In other words, a cedar post painted red—a red cedar. Could this be related to the name of the river?

Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Menominee and Ojibwe heritage), and Richard St. Germaine, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (Ojibwe heritage), June 1995. Lake Menomin was not so named until after 1901 when the mills were closed and the former mill pond became a recognizable lake. James Huff Stout proposed the lake's name. See Preface (p. xii) for more information.

[77]Red cedar is *miskwawak*, according to Frances Densmore in *How Indians Use Wild Plants for Food, Medicine & Crafts* (1974 reprint of 1928 ed.), p. 298.

[78]Warren, p. 77.

Chronology, 9500 B. C. to 1871

9500-8000 B.C.
Paleo-Indians are first occupants of Red Cedar Valley.

c. 1200 A.D.
Prehistoric Indians construct burial mounds in Wakanda Park.

Jonathan Carver made a claim of ownership of much of northwest Wisconsin. Menomonie was within Carver's claim.

1767-68
Explorer Jonathan Carver passes the Red Cedar on his travels up the Chippewa River.

1788
Jean Baptiste Perrault establishes trading post/fort on the Red Cedar River in the vicinity of Menomonie.

1822
Hardin Perkins, backed by James Lockwood & Joseph Rolette, receives permission to build a dam and mill on the Chippewa River or its tributaries. Lockwood, working with General Street, an army officer and Indian Agent at Ft. Crawford in Prairie du Chien, obtained the permit from Chief Wabashaw, of Wabashaw's band of Dakota Indians, and from Ojibwe chiefs "to cut pine lumber, to occupy a certain tract of land, and to build a sawmill thereon, in consideration of certain articles of merchandise, blankets, beads, whiskey, etc.," to be paid annually in July to Wabashaw and to the Ojibwe chiefs. The U. S. Government sanctioned the agreement. Perkins built his dam and mill on the stream now known as Wilson Creek but a sudden flood carried away both before the mill become operational. There were about 20 men working on the project. Perkins abandoned the site.

1829-30
John Fonda takes an expedition of 74 men to the lower end of the Red Cedar to cut wood for the rebuilding of Fort Crawford.

1830-31
James Lockwood sends another crew to the Wilson Creek site in May 1830 to rebuild the dam and mill. This time the crew included a mixed blood Menominee woman who served as a cook and acted as interpreter with the Ojibwe. The mill was not finished until March 1831. This was the first operational mill in the Chippewa/Red Cedar valleys. Lockwood moved his family to the site creating the first year-round settlement in the future Menomonie. Lockwood erected a second mill on Gilbert Creek in May. After about 100,000 feet of lumber had been sawed at the Wilson Creek mill, another flood took out the dam but left the mill intact. By August Lockwood was reconstructing the dam on Wilson Creek with George Wales, an ex-army lieutenant who supervised construction of the Gilbert Creek mill, in charge.

1831
Henry Schoolcraft, surveying the length of the Red Cedar River for the U. S. Government, spends the night of August 10 sleeping at Kakabika Falls (Cedar Falls) and the next day continues on to observe the work going on at the Wilson Creek mill.

1835
Lockwood sells the Gilbert Creek mill and a part-interest in the Wilson Creek mill to H. S. Allen, a man from Vermont who had come to the valley the year before to cut square timber. Allen agrees to fulfill the obligations with the Dakota and Ojibwe. Wales moves on to Eau Galle to build a mill.

1837
John H. Fonda moves with his family to the Wilson Creek mill site to work for Lockwood. He stayed there until 1839.

1839
H. S. Allen constructs a new "lower" mill on Spring (Irvine) Creek and runs it along with the upper mill (Wilson Creek) and the middle mill (Gilbert Creek). He sells the lower mill to Stephen C. McCann in the same year.

1841
Lockwood and Allen sell the Wilson Creek mill to James Green.

Unsuccessful attempt to build a first dam across the Menomonee (Red Cedar) River by a Mr. Pearson.

1842
James Green turns over deed to Wilson Creek mill to William Black.

1844
William Black dies while delivering a raft of lumber at Keokuk, Iowa. A relative, David Black, is appointed administrator of the estate and acquires title to the mill.

First murder in the Chippewa Valley occurs when a man is shot in Menomonie Mills.

1846
On June 10 David Black conveys a half-interest in the mill to John Holly Knapp for $2,000. This new operation would be known as Black & Knapp Mill. David Black dies within weeks of the transaction. William Wilson becomes a co-owner and establishes his home here with his family. Others moving their families here include Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Bullard, Mr. and Mrs. John Vale, and Mr. and Mrs. Jason Ball.

1849
Territorial road extending from Prairie du Chien to Hudson reaches Menomonie Mills.

First post office in the area established at the Gilbert Creek mill, Samuel Gilbert appointed postmaster. Prior to this date the post office serving the area was located at Prairie du Chien. Gilbert's mill also served as a stagecoach stop on the route from Black River Falls to St. Anthony Falls (Minnesota).

1850
John Holly Knapp acquires David Black's interest for $2,600. Wilson is a joint and equal owner.

Andrew Tainter purchases one-third interest in the Black & Knapp mill, which is renamed "Knapp & Tainter."

Population of the settlement 150.

Knapp and Tainter build a new mill for the company complex on the Red Cedar.

1851
First successful dam constructed across the Red Cedar River at Menomonie Mills.

1852
First school established for company employees' children in a building near the mill site. A Dr. Rogers, hired as the first teacher, conducts classes during the winter months of 1852 and 1853.

First Methodist service held in Menomonie Mills in the summer.

1853
Menomonie Mills and Dunnville designated as election precincts.

On August 20 Henry Stout joins the firm as a member of the partnership. Name of the business becomes "Knapp, Stout & Company." Gang saw installed in the 1850 mill.

1854
In February Dunn County created out of Chippewa County with county seat at Dunnville.

Company builds grist mill on the south side of the river.

Rev. Joshua Pittman, a Baptist, hired to teach school during the winter months of 1854, 1855, and 1856. Although also required to preach on Sundays and pack shingles in the mill when not teaching or preaching, he evidently did not object too strongly to the conditions.

1855
Post office moved from Gilbert's Mill and reestablished in the office of the Knapp, Stout & Company.

William Wilson appointed postmaster.

Population of Dunn County 1,796. Menomonie Mills precinct population 1,083, with 358 females and 725 males.

Seriah Stevens selected first county superintendent of schools.

1856
Water mill, constructed in 1850, destroyed by fire on December 26. New company store and office building constructed.

A regularly organized school district is formed; Jesse B. Taylor first village school superintendent.

1858
First bridge built across the Red Cedar River at the mill site.

County courthouse at Dunnville burns down.

1859
The village is platted as Menomonie.

William Wilson elected first mayor.

New one-room frame school building to accomodate 40 students constructed in the village.

1860
Menomonie's first newspaper, the *Dunn County Lumberman,* founded by Knapp, Stout with C. S. Bundy as first editor. It eventually becomes the *Dunn County News.*

German Evangelical Church comes to the area.

1861
County seat moved to Menomonie.

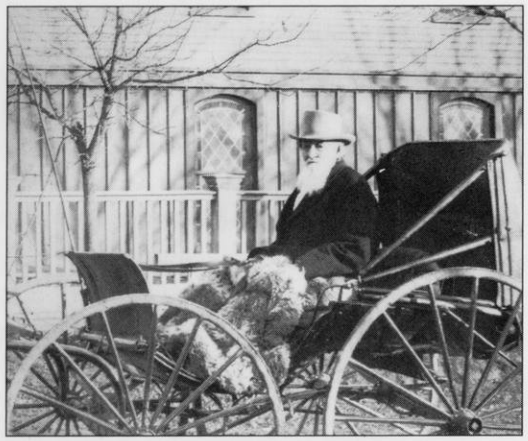
Civil War breaks out. One hundred local men enlist in Co. K, the "Dunn County Pinery Rifles" of the 5th Wisconsin Infantry

Regiment. Eliza Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, volunteers and accompanies the unit as a nurse.

On February 17 Congregational Church organized in Newman Hall, a community building constructed by Knapp, Stout & Company.

First Baptist congregation meetings held late in the year.

Roman Catholic services begin in a small frame church on land donated by Knapp, Stout & Company.



Captain Wilson next to the First Baptist Church, whose construction he financed.

1862
Indian "scare" panics the paranoid residents of the city who fear the worst while their young men who protect them are off to war. This was the scare that brought rumors of a massacre to the Dunnville area, a story that was the central theme in Carol Ryrie Brink's *Caddie Woodlawn.*

1863
Menomonie celebrates Independence Day for the first time.

Nathan Eytcheson builds the village's first hotel, the Menomonie House, on Crescent Street.

German Methodist Episcopal congregation erects church building on the corner of Sixth Avenue and West Second Street.

1865
Knapp, Stout & Company sells the *Dunn County Lumberman* to Dr. E. G. Benjamin.

1866
On Saturday, April 8, the *Dunn County Lumberman* renamed the *Dunn County News.* Its office is a frame home located in the 100 block of Main Street (site of present Lee Building).

1867
Samuel B. French opens the first bank in town in his place of business on Main Street.

The first Methodist Church dedicated in the spring. The Congregationalists share the facility.

1868
Fire destroys the 1859 schoolhouse in the village.

1869
Grob's Hall, a popular spot for dances and entertainment and the largest commercial building at the time, opens on south Broadway.

P. Hansen opens the Central House.

The newspaper *Lean Wolf* moves its operations from Durand to Menomonie in October.

1870

The *Lean Wolf* merges with *Dunn County News* in July, retaining the name of the latter.

Anglo-Catholic (Episcopal) services held in Menomonie.

A new four-classroom public school building built in block 76, original plat.

1871

Rails of the West Wisconsin Railroad reach Menomonie at Menomonie Junction.

After 13 years of temporary locations in downtown Menomonie, a new courthouse opens on a city block where Wilson Park is now located. The Italianate Victorian building is a gift of Thomas B. Wilson.

George Hanneymer builds the Merchant's Hotel in the 500 block of Broadway.

A new courthouse was built in 1871 on the present site of Wilson Park.

It Was A Company Town

The Knapp, Stout & Company in the 1870s. The water mill is in right foreground, the company store at right rear. Note the "seven holer" privy attached to the rafting platform at left foreground and extending over the Red Cedar River—probably the first outhouse with "running water" in the village.

4

The Lumber Barons of the Red Cedar Valley

The Knapp, Stout Board of Directors, c. 1896. Left to right: W. W. Cassidy, J. H. Stout, P. E. Wilson, J. H. Douglas, J. H. Knapp, H. E. Knapp, T. B. Wilson, L. S. Tainter, F. D. Stout, H. L. Stout.

This is the story of four men and a river and its valley. In a sense the four men once owned the valley and changed it irrevocably. They moved in along the river to the edge of the great pine forest of northern Wisconsin and, like the other great lumbermen of their time, cut and slashed with abandon. They cut the top from the Red Cedar Valley and sent it down the Chippewa and on down the Mississippi to feed the needs of the trans-Mississippi West. The men of Knapp, Stout & Co. Company, in 60 years of operation, cut over 2 billion board feet of pine. During the 1880s the company was said to be the largest lumber firm in the world.

The size of the company, however, gives it very little distinction. There were other great companies sending rafts of lumber, lath, and shingles down the rivers of northern Wisconsin. The story is unusual because these men controlled a whole river basin from source to mouth—the river flowage, the timber, the land, and to a degree the people of the valley.

The Red Cedar River, often called the Menomonie River in the early days of settlement, has its source in the chain of lakes just northeast of Rice Lake. It passes through Rice Lake and meanders southward and eastward through Barron County to the northeast corner of Dunn County, continues south to Colfax, then south and west to artificial lakes impounded by dams at Cedar Falls and Menomonie. South of Menomonie the river becomes more rapid as it passes through the upper Cambrian sandstone cliffs on its way to the Chippewa River. Along its eighty-mile length, the river is joined by the Yellow River, the Chetek River, and the Hay River, by Sioux Creek and Wilson Creek, by Lower Pine Creek and Sand Creek, by Lambs Creek and Wilson Creek, by Gilbert Creek and Irvine (Irving) Creek. Every stream, from river to rivulet, played its part in the lumbering operation.

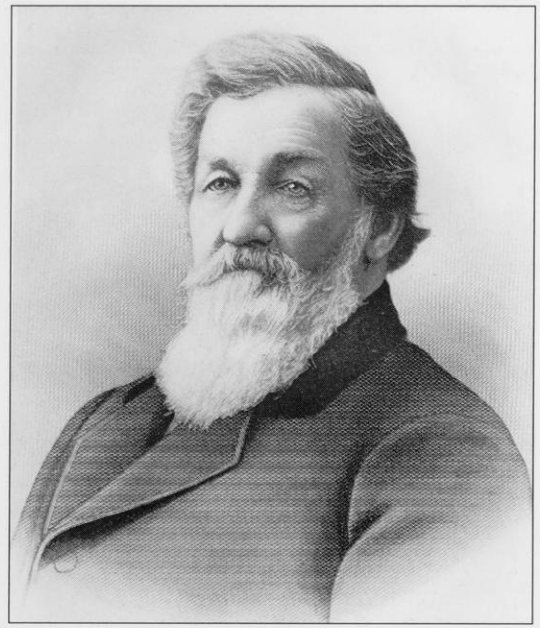
The men of Knapp, Stout, and Co. Company, so intimately associated with the river, had come up the river at various times and for various reasons. Of the four men who formed the pillars of the Company, **William Wilson** was the first to arrive. Of English parentage, he had been a farmer and river pilot in Pennsylvania, moved west by covered wagon with his family in 1836, and settled in Fort Madison, Iowa. There his various business enterprises foundered on a Mississippi steamboat venture. Burdened with debt

he sought a new location for a new start. Following up tales of the vast resources in timber in western Wisconsin he went up the Mississippi by steamboat to Nelson's Landing, near the mouth of the Chippewa River, then journeyed on foot along the Chippewa and Red Cedar Rivers to the present site of Menomonie. There he found a sawmill operating at a dam across what was to become Wilson Creek. A trip up the Red Cedar with an Indian guide convinced this young man of 28 that a fortune could be made here in pine. David Black, owner of the mill at Menomonie, was willing to sell a half interest in the mill. Wilson hastened back to Iowa to secure some capital. There he talked to 21-year-old John Holly Knapp who had a little money and a lot of ambition.[1]

John Holly Knapp was born in New York, where his father had been a successful businessman. After some financial reverses, the family moved to the site of what became Ft. Madison, Iowa. Knapp was 10 when the family moved west. At 21, after a year at school back east, he was ready to listen to Captain Wilson's glowing accounts of the great pine forest to the north.[2]

In June 1846, Wilson and Knapp negotiated an interest in the mill at Menomonie. Black sold half of the mill for $2,000 but died soon after the sale, and Knapp bought the other half for $2,600. Wilson and Knapp were already in secret partnership, secret because Wilson was heavily in debt and did not wish to risk liens against the partnership. In fact, Wilson's name never appeared as part of the firm. This little business costing $4,600 grew in forty years to be a multimillion dollar company.

The third member of the firm was a rugged steamboat captain and logger by the name of **Andrew Tainter.** When Tainter was 10, his father moved the family from Salina, New York, to Prairie du Chien. A few years later Tainter moved north to the pineries, and in



CAPTAIN WILLIAM WILSON

He was born in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, in 1809, and in 1836 went to Fort Madison, Iowa. He came to Menomonie in 1846. He was the first mayor of Menomonie and served his fellow citizens in other places of trust.

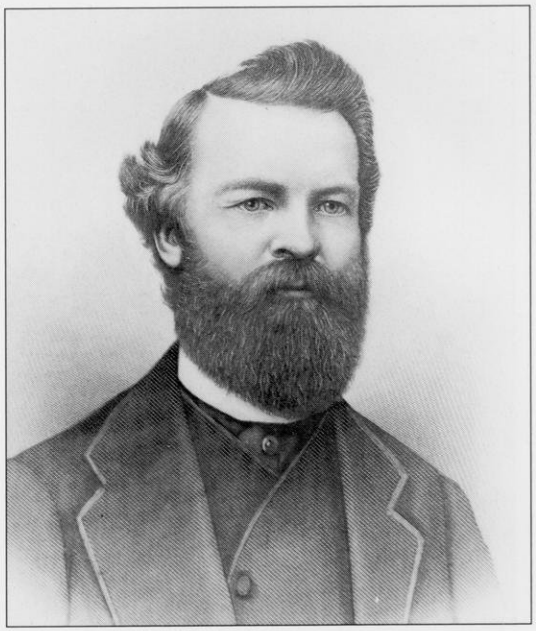
He was an energetic and public spirited man, and was gifted with rare foresight.

He died in this city in 1892, at the age of eighty-five years. He was the oldest of the four founders.

—From *Souvenir of Menomonie, Wis., Spring, 1897*

[1]Biographical material on William Wilson is contained in F. Curtiss-Wedge et al. *History of Dunn County* (1925), pp. 832-34; *Wisconsin Magazine of History* (June, 1920), pp. 469-71; George W. Hotchkiss, *Lumber and Forest Industry* (1898), p. 491; files available in the Mabel Tainter Memorial Library, Menomonie, contain information on the Wilson, Knapp, Tainter, and Stout families.

[2]For material on John H. Knapp see Curtiss-Wedge et al., p. 835; Hotchkiss, p. 490; John Holly Knapp's diary (State Historical Society of Wisconsin archives) covers various years from 1848-81. A partial copy is in the Dunn County Historical Society collections.



JOHN HOLLY KNAPP

He was born in Elmira, New York, in 1825; went to Fort Madison, Iowa, with his parents when eight years of age. In 1846 he came to Menomonie and went into the lumber business. He was the youngest of the four original members of the firm, was the first president of the Company, and was for many years the active manager of the firm's large mercantile business.

Mr. Knapp was public spirited and a liberal supporter of educational and charitable institutions.

He died [of cancer] in 1888.

—From *Souvenir of Menomonie, Wis., Spring, 1897*

1846 when Knapp and Wilson bought their mill, he was working with a mill partner on Irvine Creek near Menomonie. At 23 he was strong, ambitious and experienced, and Wilson and Knapp invited him to join the company. Legend has it that they owed him $300, and lacking cash offered him a one-fourth interest in the partnership. Whatever the circumstances, the new firm was known as Knapp and Tainter.[3]

The fourth member of the group was brought into the partnership for financial backing. **Henry L. Stout** was born in New Jersey and as a young man moved to Dubuque, Iowa, where he became a prominent citizen and a successful businessman. His entrance into the firm contributed a large measure of financial stability.[4] When he joined the partnership in 1853, the holdings of the firm, now known as Knapp, Stout & Co., were inventoried at $70,000. Other men were involved in the firm at various times, but Wilson, Knapp, Tainter, and Stout were the backbone of the concern. When the partnership was dissolved in 1878 in favor of the corporate form, the new firm became Knapp, Stout & Co. Company.[5]

It is not the purpose of this chapter to give the entire history of the Knapp, Stout and Co. Company, but rather to give a general picture of how it operated: land acquisition, logging and milling operations, sale of lumber, and auxiliary enterprises such as banking, company stores, and company farms. All these activities were amalgamated into one giant business venture so that the economic life of the whole Red Cedar Valley was to a large extent controlled.

When Wilson and Knapp began sawing logs at Menomonie in 1846 the whole region was still a wilderness. The Dakota (Sioux) in 1837 and the Ojibwe (Chippewa) in 1842 had ceded their lands to the United States Government but were still in the area. Surveys

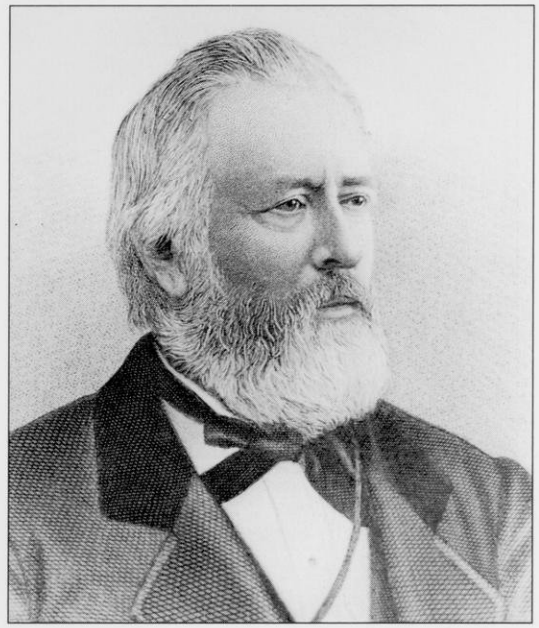
[3]For material on Andrew Tainter see Curtiss-Wedge et al., pp. 252-54, and Hotchkiss, p. 491.
[4]George Forrester, *History of the Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin* (1892) pp. 405-06.
[5]See article by Charles Freeman in the *Dunn County News*, 16 Nov. 1911.

were just being run. Thomas (T. B.) Wilson, young son of Captain Wilson, joined the surveyors in 1848 and thus acquired an intimate knowledge of the great pinery.[6] The first cutting was done by permit on government lands, but as soon as land was open for settlement, members of the firm began to preempt and purchase holdings that in the Red Cedar Valley alone amounted in aggregate to nearly half a million acres.

Timberland was acquired from a variety of sources. Some was bought directly from the federal government and from the state of Wisconsin. Some was acquired from private owners like C. C. Washburn, who sold 10,000 acres to Knapp, Stout in 1863. Some pine land was bought from the large granted holdings of the railroads. But perhaps the most significant purchase was that made in 1880 from Cornell University, which had acquired a vast domain in the pine lands of Wisconsin as a result of the Agricultural College Act. Much of the holdings in Barron, Washburn, Sawyer, and eastern Dunn counties were adjacent to lands already held by Knapp, Stout. Threat of sale of the Cornell lands to the Weyerhauser interests, along with the rapid depletion of their own reserves may have caused members of the Knapp, Stout firm to negotiate for purchase. "Knapp-Stout agreed to purchase 28,279 acres of land, estimated to contain 216,476,000 feet of pine, for $16.31 an acre. In addition, 2720 acres of farm land were bought for $6 an acre. The total sum involved was $477,550."[7]

Like other large operators, Knapp, Stout & Company was often accused of "buying forty acres and logging a section." There is little evidence of that. In nine townships where the company had its greatest concentration of lumber camps, over half of the land was owned by the firm. One might expect that connected with such a large an operation over a period of 60 years there would normally be much litigation having to do with trespass, but such is not the case

[6]Curtiss-Wedge et al., p. 834; *Dunn County News*, 16 Nov. 1911.
[7]Hotchkiss, p. 489; Curtiss-Wedge et al., p. 67; Paul W. Gates, *Wisconsin Pine Lands of Cornell University* (1943), pp. 230-33.



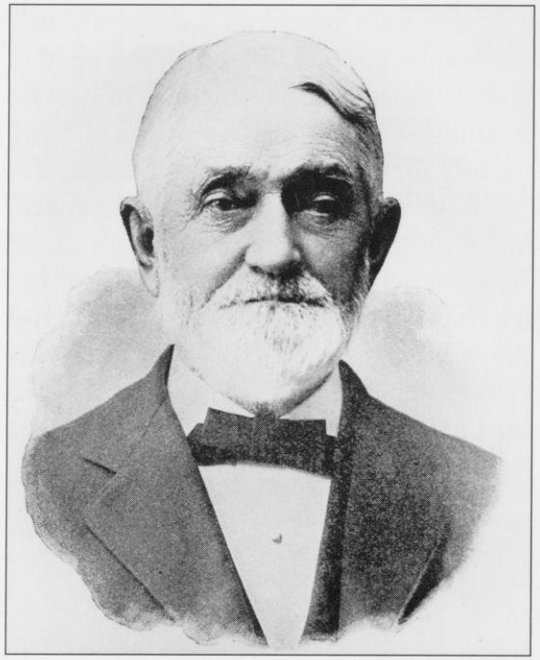
CAPTAIN ANDREW TAINTER

Tainter, vice president of the Company [in 1897], was born in Salina, New York, in 1823. In 1832 he came west with his parents and located at Prairie du Chien. In 1845 he came to the Chippewa Valley, where, in 1847 in company with Blois Hurd, operated a saw mill at Irvine Creek.

In 1850 he came to Menomonie and became a partner in the firm of Knapp, Tainter & Co. For many years he attended to cutting and running the logs to the mills.

He is a public spirited man, the donor of the Mabel Tainter Memorial. He owns the Oaklawn Stock Farm and is engaged in the banking business with his son, Louis. He owns a fine winter residence in Florida.

—From *Souvenir of Menomonie, Wis., Spring, 1897*



HENRY L. STOUT

Mr. Stout is the president of the Company [1897]. He resides in Dubuque, Iowa. He was born at Ringoes, New York, in 1814, and went to Dubuque in 1836.

He came into the firm in 1853, and gave his attention principally to the financial part of the business, securing the sinews of war with which to make the early investments in pine lands.

Although he has never lived in Menomonie, he naturally feels a very friendly interest in the city. His son, the Hon. James H. Stout, resides here.

—From *Souvenir of Menomonie, Wis., Spring, 1897*

with Knapp, Stout & Company. In all, the company owned in excess of one-half million acres of pine land, most of it in the Red Cedar Valley. To put it another way, the Knapp, Stout & Company lands amounted in aggregate to more than 23 townships.

In 60 years of operation the company cut and milled over 2 billion board feet of lumber. If the estimates by Hotchkiss of the original stand of pine in northern Wisconsin are correct, the company harvest represented about one-fourth of the total yield of the Red Cedar River basin.[8] In the early years Knapp and Wilson contracted with jobbers above Menomonie to get out most of the timber. Later, company camps were established under company foremen. During the winter months, logs were hauled to the bank or on the ice of every Red Cedar tributary capable of carrying the harvest. Dams were built across the streams, and in the spring when the ice broke and the water level rose, the logs were released for the drive to the various millponds. By controlling the whole river basin, the company was able to run logs at times when they could be most conveniently handled at the mills.

In July 1900, for example, the *Cumberland Advocate* noted that Knapp, Stout & Co. Company had started a drive of 7 million board feet of logs from Bear Lake. "They will also," said the news item, "make a clean drive of the river from here to Menomonie."[9]

The log drive from the mill pond at Rice Lake to the big mill pond at Menomonie took about two weeks. The rivermen who urged the logs down the river with pike pole, jam pike, and peavey had the most dangerous job in the lumber business. They courted death on every current and backwater of the river.[10] The accumulation of a great pine harvest in what is now Lake Menomin must have been an impressive sight. Early pictures show a mass of logs jammed together from shore to shore. The *Minneapolis Tribune* reported in 1875 that the pond had a boomage of 250 million board feet of logs.[11]

[8]Hotchkiss, p. 727.
[9]*Cumberland Advocate*, 19 July 1900.
[10]Interview with Hans Berg, riverman.

The principal mills of Knapp, Stout were located at Rice Lake, Chetek, Prairie Farm, Cedar Falls, Menomonie, Downsville, and Waubeek. Water power was usually the motive force, but the mill at Chetek was operated by steam, and the water power mill at Menomonie was supplemented by a steam mill. Since Menomonie was the center of the company operations, the big mill was located there. One part of the "L"-shaped building was 201 x 60 feet, the other 41 x 60 feet. "In this mill," said a newspaper account, "are one gang with nine saws, one with 16, one with 18, one with 24, one with 32, and one with 38 saws, a muly, rotary, five 4-saw edgers, single edger, three slab grinders, nine button saws, nine trimmers, picket machine, boring machine and grub machine."[12] The total output of the water-power mill, the steam mill and the shingle mill at Menomonie was 625,000 board feet per day.[13] At the peak of operation the company was sawing in all of its mills from 80 million to 100 million board feet per year.[14]

There was obviously no local market for the tremendous output of the mills. Success in the lumber business depended on how efficiently the lumber output could be marketed in the Mississippi River towns feeding the westward movement. In this the company had a great initial advantage since members of the firm had business connections all the way from Reads Landing on Lake Pepin to St. Louis, Missouri. Smaller rafts of lumber were made up at Menomonie, floated down the river and sluiced through the dam at

A sleeping shanty and cook shanty in a Knapp, Stout & Company camp. A "dingle," the snow-covered entryway, gave access to both shanties and provided space to store firewood and frozen foodstuffs.

Sleeping shanty interior. On Sunday the men napped, washed clothes, played games, or exchanged stories while seated on the "deacon's seat" in front of the "muzzle loader" bunks.

[11] *Minneapolis Tribune*, 16 May 1875.
[12] *Minneapolis Tribune*, 16 May 1875.
[13] A. T. Andreas, compiler, *History of Northern Wisconsin* (1881) p. 281.
[14] Hotchkiss, p. 478.

Downsville. For down-river sales, the great rafts, containing over 100 cribs each, in aggregate well over one million board feet of lumber, shingles, and lath, were made up on the Chippewa or Mississippi. The first raft went down in April, and from then on into late fall the raft crews kept the lumber moving. John Holly Knapp kept track of the progress of the rafts by contacts with steamboats. At any and all points on the Mississippi, such as Dubuque, Rock Island, Davenport, Muscatine, Ft. Madison, Hamilton, Keokuk, Quincy, Hannibal, and St. Louis, lumber was contracted for and delivered as the rafts arrived. When contracts called for other than standard cuts, the company mills at Ft. Madison and St. Louis sawed to specification.

Thus the Knapp, Stout firm controlled the whole process of lumber manufacture from the standing timber to the end product, as for example, when lumber was sold to build a bridge or a horse-drawn railway in St. Louis.[15]

One of the most interesting features of the firm's operations was the whole group of auxiliary enterprises, which included retail and wholesale merchandising, banking, farming, and steamboat operations. The hub was the company store at Menomonie through which other stores were supplied at Reads Landing, Dunnville, Downsville, Waubeek, Prairie Farm, and Rice Lake.

"The company store at Menomonie," commented a Minneapolis newspaper in 1875, "is perhaps the largest retail store of any in the

A typical logging camp crew. Sunday was their day off when they could pose for pictures, play games, and perhaps wash clothes and tell tall stories.

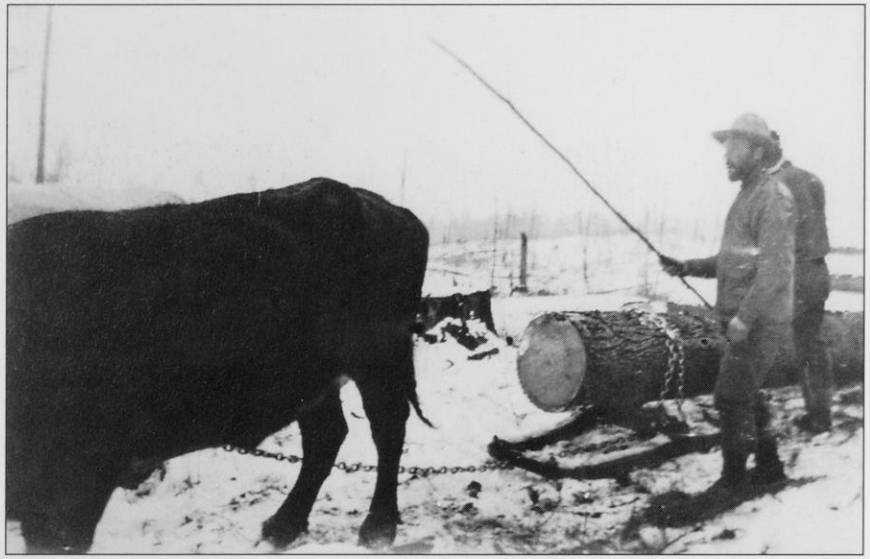
Sawyers at work with the "Swedish fiddle," the crosscut saw. They started work as soon as it was light enough to see and didn't stop until the noon meal was brought to the site, then back to work until dark.

[15]John Holly Knapp diary, *passim.*

West."[16] The stores were supplied in a variety of ways. Goods were bought in Mississippi River towns and shipped by steamboat as far as Reads Landing or Dunnville and then by small boat or wagon to the various stores. Much of the purchasing, however, was done in the East (Pennsylvania and New York) and shipped down the Ohio or by way of New Orleans. Later, of course, shipping was by rail through Chicago. The store at Menomonie had on its shelves every product conceivably needed by a pioneer community except liquor, which the company consistently refused to sell. Departments of clothing and dry goods, jewelry, drugs, and hardware kept the communities of the Red Cedar Valley well supplied, but always in debt to the company store.

One could buy flour and salt, eggs and pork, vinegar and starch, tobacco and rat killer, needles and hay rakes, stamps and matches, shoes and yard goods, jewelry and fish poles, shot and gunpowder, sarsaparilla and saffron, and hundreds of other items.[17]

The company's own farms supplied much of the food products for the stores, the camps, and the boarding house. At least six farms were operated in Dunn and Barron counties, taking up six or seven thousand acres. The Moore farm on what is now Upper Tainter Lake and the farm at Prairie Farm were well over a thousand acres each. Meat was supplied from the farms, but also from other sources. In



A "Bull Skinner" using a "goad" stick to move his ox along the trail. A butt of a log was placed on a "go devil," a crotch of a tree with a crossbar, and pulled along the "skid road" to the rollway or a sleigh.

A noon lunch in the pinery. A "cookee," a cook's assistant, would bring a lunch sled to the work area so there would be no time lost by the men going to and from the cook shanty to eat.

[16] *Minneapolis Tribune*, 16 May, 1875.

[17] Books of the company store are in the possession of the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Stout.

the early years hunters contracted to supply venison. Cattle, sheep, and hogs were bought at points on the Mississippi, and a drover was hired to take the livestock upriver.

John Holly Knapp, for example, bought 81 head of cattle at Ft. Madison and hired four men, supplied with a wagon and a horse, to take the cattle by steamboat to Reads Landing, transferred to a Company steamboat such as the *Annie Girdon* and thence overland to Menomonie. The extent of the company's meat-supplying operation is demonstrated in a notation in the *Dunn County Lumberman* of 1863 that Knapp, Stout had slaughtered 500 hogs for processing.

Ledgers of the company store in Menomonie reveal a variety of functions performed. Goods and services were bartered, or goods were charged. Until a bank was established on the south side of the river, banking was done at the company store. The company even served as agent for the collection of taxes.[18]

In many respects the complex of buildings and activities at the millsite resembled a medieval barony. The main mills, consisting of the sprawling water mill and its rafting platform, the shingle mill that straddled Wilson Creek, and the steam mill on the mill pond, and the company store were flanked by a flour mill, warehouse, machine shop, foundry, blacksmith shop, iron horse, "sleeping

Skilled men, "River Pigs," kept the logs moving on the river drive. If the floating logs were allowed to snag on sandbars or river banks the result could be a dangerous log jam that would stop the drive.

A company kitchen on the river drive at the junction with Hay River. Drivers were fed five times a day at this site and also from "wanigans," floating kitchens on flatboats that followed the drive downstream.

[18]William H. Bartlett, *History, Tradition, and Adventure in the Chippewa Valley* (1929), pp. 173-76; Curtiss-Wedge et al., Chapter 10; John Holly Knapp diary, *passim; Dunn County Lumberman,* 19 Dec. 1863.

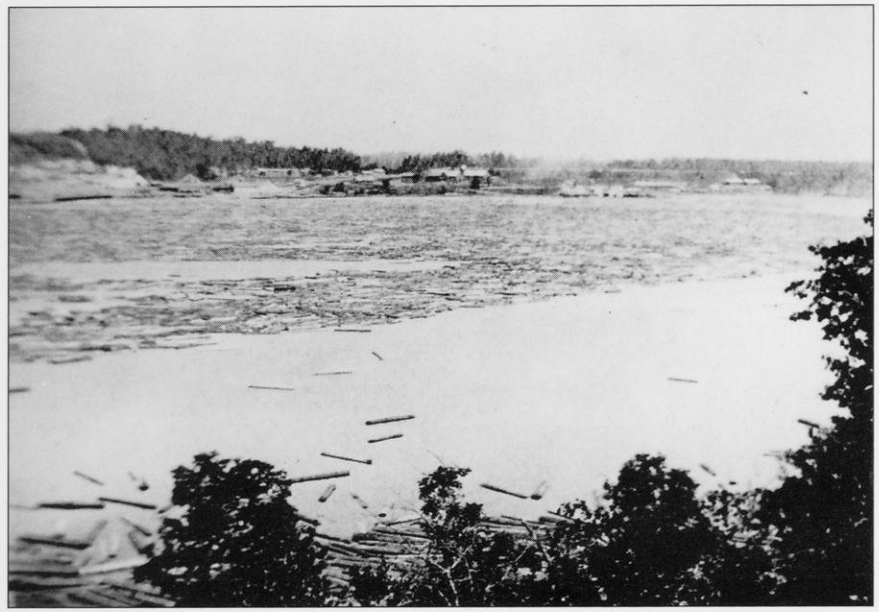
house built in the style of a fort," company kitchen, and Bullard's Tavern owned by the company on the hill back of the store. In the 1880s the company built a hydroelectric plant to provide electricity to run the saws and light their homes and buildings.

Near the company headquarters the Wilsons, Knapps and Tainters built rather pretentious baronial estates.[19]

The stability of the whole enterprise in its half-century of operation was made possible in large measure by the integrity of the partnership, not only toward the public but toward each other. The partners worked out a viable division of labor not marred by any visible antagonism. William Wilson stayed pretty much in Menomonie, looking after the company business and taking care of local political problems. John Holly Knapp was on the road or the river much of the time, selling lumber, buying supplies in St. Louis, Philadelphia, or New York, and looking after financial arrangements. He was the contact with Henry L. Stout, who continued to live in Dubuque, Iowa, and rarely came to Menomonie but continued to lend financial assistance and help with downriver business.

Andrew Tainter was the key to the whole pinery activity. In the early years he apparently had a very good working relationship with the Indians of the region, as witnessed by the fact that he married

Steam provided the power for this Knapp, Stout mill in Menomonie, located on the mill pond east of the mouth of Wilson Creek.



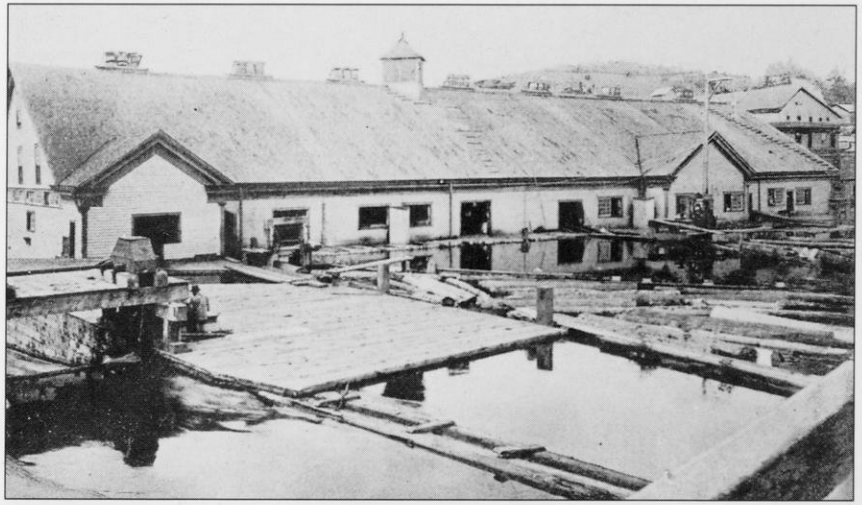
The mill pond (log reservoir) at Menomonie, now known as Lake Menomin. Logs from the river drive were stored here until needed by any of the three mills, the steam mill, the shingle mill, or the water mill.

[19]Charles S. Bundy, *Early Days in the Chippewa Valley* (1916), pp. 6-9; *Minneapolis Tribune*, 16 May, 1875.

the daughter of an Ojibwe chief. His marriage to Mary Poskin is never mentioned in Tainter's official biography, although a lake and a town where she lived with her people in Barron County were named after her. Tainter's greatest asset to the company was his ability to handle the rough woodsmen who understood the use of force better than anything else. A host of witnesses attest to Tainter's ability to straighten out a camp with strong language and bare fists.

The working relationship established by Wilson, Knapp, Tainter, Stout and their associates effected an organization whose keynote was control—control not only of the business itself but of every factor involved in the operation. In the business this meant control of the capital from land to raw material to finished product. River transport was controlled from the source of the Red Cedar to its very mouth at Dunnville and on to its wholesale and retail yards in Missouri and Iowa. Through franchises obtained from the state legislature the company could dam the river and its tributaries at any point deemed necessary.[20]

Below the Red Cedar, at various times during its 60 years of operation the company owned and operated as many as ten steamboats on the Chippewa and on the Mississippi. It also maintained a steamboat on Red Cedar Lake in Barron County. The company also operated a stage line from Menomonie to Dunnville



The company's water mill, the largest in Menomonie. Logs from the mill pond entered the mill at the second level of the structure. Note the barrels of water on the ridgepole to use in case of fire on the roof.

The shingle mill that straddled Wilson Creek. A dam upstream of the mill provided the water power to run this mill that, as the name implies, was devoted to the manufacture of shingles.

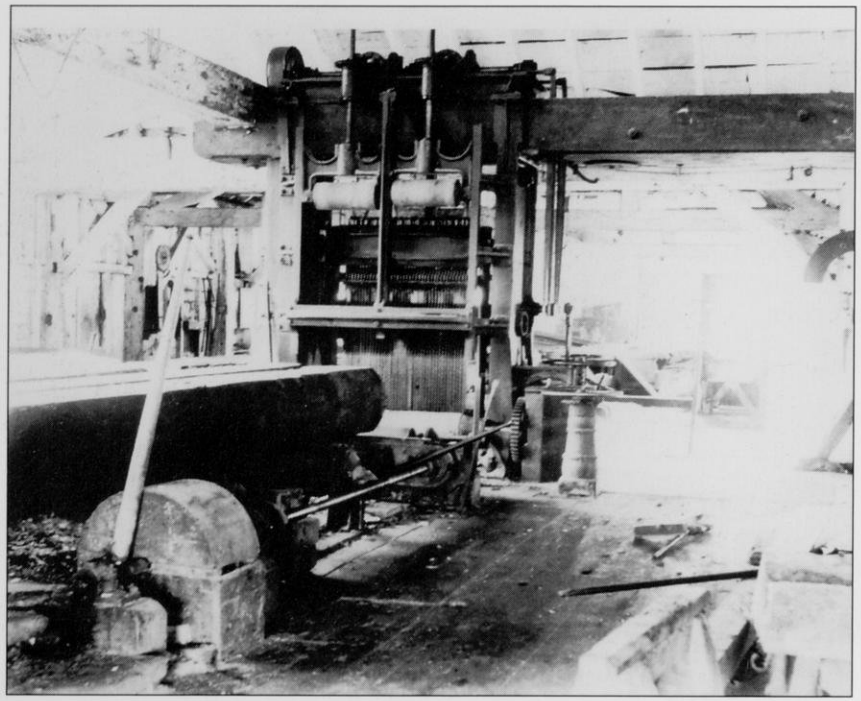
[20] *Private and Local Laws of Wisconsin,* 1866, C. 99.

and the men of Knapp, Stout were influential in the building and control of more than one railroad.[21]

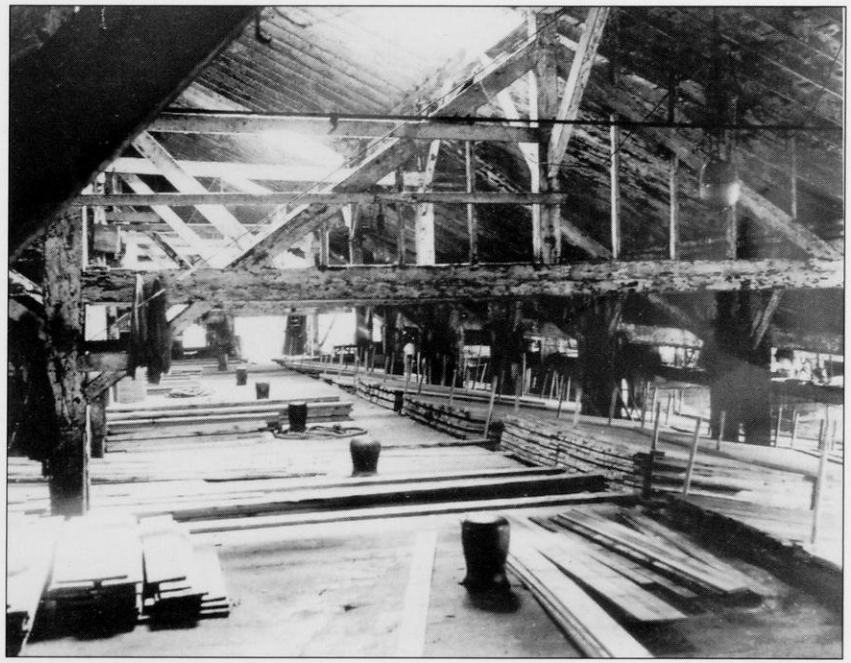
Another element of control is illustrated in the operation of the several company stores. By buying in quantities from advantageous sources and by furnishing much farm produce from its own farms, the company could supply its camps economically and also set prices on commodities for the entire valley.

Perhaps the most disturbing part of the whole scheme was the control of the people of the valley. Villagers, farmers, and woodsmen were in one way or another dependent on the company. In the early years there was no place to buy goods except at the company store. There was no place to borrow money except through the company. There was no place to hire out for wages except with the company. For a time the firm issued scrip for wages at Menomonie, Prairie Farm, and Rice Lake, redeemable only at the company store specified on the face of the scrip. Later the state of Wisconsin forced the company to accept the firm's currency at any of their stores.

The line "I owe my soul to the company store" from the song, "Sixteen Tons" could have been written by one of the Knapp, Stout workers. The labor contract drawn up by the company in the eighties contained, "in addition to a statement of the monthly wage of the employee and the exact period for which he was hired, the



This is one of the six gang saws that were installed in the company's water mill. There were thirty-two saws in this particular rig.



Attached to the downstream side of the water mill was the rafting platform where the "cribs" of lumber, several courses of lumber held together by wooden "grub pins" and heavy planks were assembled.

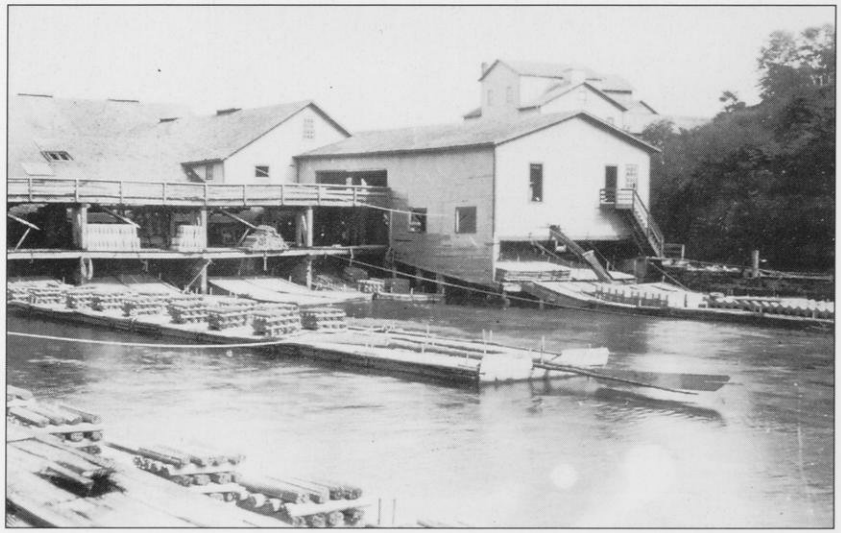
[21]Andreas, p. 281; John Holly Knapp diary, 25 January, 23 March, 19 May 1865.

stipulation that he would not be paid until the 'end of the time hired for,' and if he quit earlier he would receive twenty percent cent less than the sum agreed upon, and not that until the end of the term. When a Norwegian lumberjack was killed in the woods while on his job, his wages were docked twenty per cent because he failed to complete his term."[22]

The editors of the *History of Barron County* were perhaps not exaggerating when they said:

> The county was in the early logging days under the domination of an absolute autocracy. The lumber company, its superintendents and its foremen reigned supreme. They ruled with great power of the influence behind them, and they ruled with fists as well. When an order was given it had to be obeyed. A man in disfavor with the boss, superintendent or company official was bad off indeed. He could obtain no work in the entire region, he could get no provisions at the company stores, and even the hospitable bunkhouse and meal, usually given free to any journeying logger, was refused him. A peremptory discharge left a man in the woods without money or food, with no means of obtaining transportation, and facing a long foodless tramp through the winter woods before he was out of the company's territory.[23]

Political influence represents another facet of control. Members of the firm were very active in the political arena on the local, county, and state levels. William Wilson was instrumental in getting



Launching a "Red Cedar string" made of seven cribs. Each string consisted of seven cribs joined end to end. Other wood products, such as shingles, lath, and pickets, were piled on top and carried to market.

A favorite pastime for local groups was a day's outing riding a "Red Cedar River string" from Menomonie to Downsville or from Downsville to Dunnville and then return home by train.

[22]Robert F. Fries, *Empire In Pine,* (1951), pp. 209-10; Report of the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics, 1887-88, pp. 111-13.

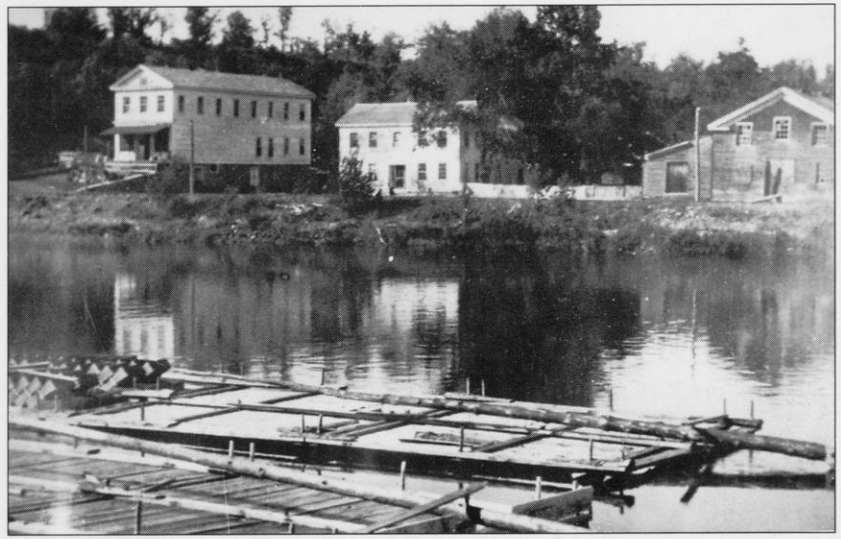
[23]Newton S. Gordon and Franklin Curtiss-Wedge, *History of Barron County* (1922), p. 62.

the county seat of Dunn County moved from Dunnville to Menomonie. He was elected state senator in 1856 in order to work for a railroad route through Eau Claire instead of Chippewa Falls. Later, the company men worked for or against the formation of new counties according to the probable effect on the taxation of pine lands. In the 1870s, "the Dunn County delegates to a state senatorial nominating convention were dubbed 'Knapp, Stout and Company's hogs,' and a local politician, openly boasting of his influence with that company, boldly proclaimed in Chippewa Falls that Barron County voted as he wanted it to vote." Menomonie's first newspaper, the *Dunn County Lumberman,* (now the *Dunn County News*) was published by Knapp, Stout with attorney Charles S. Bundy as editor.[24]

The almost total control exercised by the firm enabled it to weather the various panics and depressions and also to resist the numerous attempts to monopolize the whole pine industry of western Wisconsin. One of Knapp, Stout's rival lumbermen stated during one period of depressed prices that the company "could manufacture lumber at the then general market prices and make a profit, while lumbermen on other rivers could not at the same prices get back the cost of production."[25]

By 1887 Knapp, Stout was the only important independent lumber firm in the Chippewa Valley. Weyerhauser and his associates

Raft party on a "Red Cedar string." It was a leisurely trip on a raft propelled by the river's current and steered by two to three men handling "sweeps" or oars. Next stop: Dunnville.



At Dunnville (shown here) four or five strings were placed side by side to form a "Chippewa River Piece" and then pushed downstream by the Phil Scheckel *steamboat.*

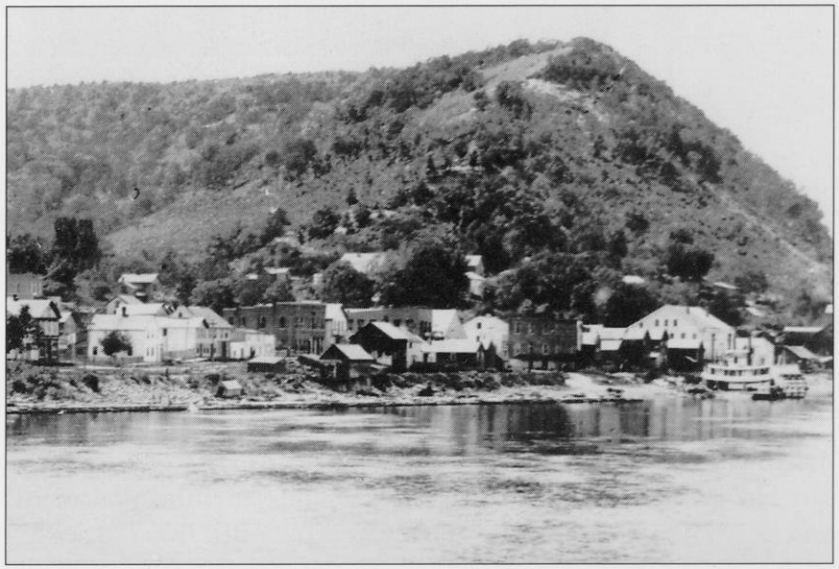
[24]Bundy, pp. 6-9; Gates, p. 146; Fries, p. 223.

[25]Curtiss-Wedge, et al. p. 67.

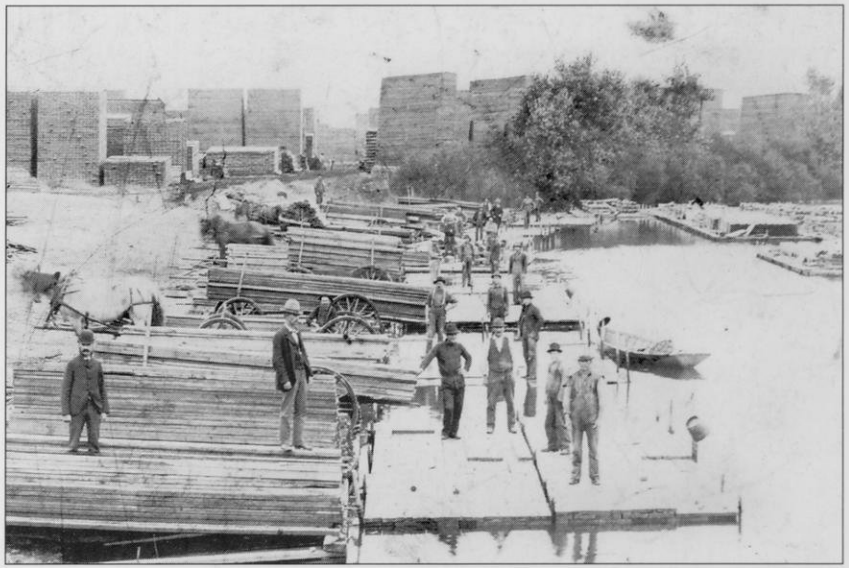
reportedly attempted to buy out the company for $7.5 million.[26] By the end of the century the state's choice pine lands were rapidly evaporating. Knapp, Stout sold out what remained and shifted its lumber operation to the pineries of Arkansas and Missouri. Cutover land was sold through a land office in Menomonie. Between 1883 and 1900 the company sold nearly 275,000 acres.[27]

In retrospect, what should be said of the exploitation of natural resources represented by the Knapp, Stout lumber business? That the country paid heavily for this kind of operation is obvious, but it is also obvious that the men of Knapp, Stout aided in community development in a paternalistic way. They established the first schools in Dunn and Barron counties. Wilson and Knapp were heavy contributors to churches. Captain Tainter built and endowed the civic center which bears the name of his daughter, Mabel. Senator James H. Stout, son of one of the founders of the firm, contributed a substantial fortune to what has become the University of Wisconsin-Stout and to other projects of civic improvement. As for exploitation, very few of their contemporaries really blamed these men for taking the trees. The public really got what it wanted: quick development of farms and towns.

As an epilogue of interest, it should be noted that Senator James H. Stout, whose fortune was based on exploitation of the forest, served in the Wisconsin legislature as a member of the joint committee on forestry and lumber which proposed the 1903 bill "to



Reads Landing, Minnesota, was the site of the Knapp, Stout & Co. Mississippi River steamboat operations. Offices were maintained in the American House on the river's edge.



At the company's St. Louis, Missouri, Ft. Madison, Iowa, and Dubuque, Iowa, retail and wholesale yards, the rafts were dismantled and the lumber stacked to season before it was sold. This is the St. Louis yard.

[26] Gates, p. 133.

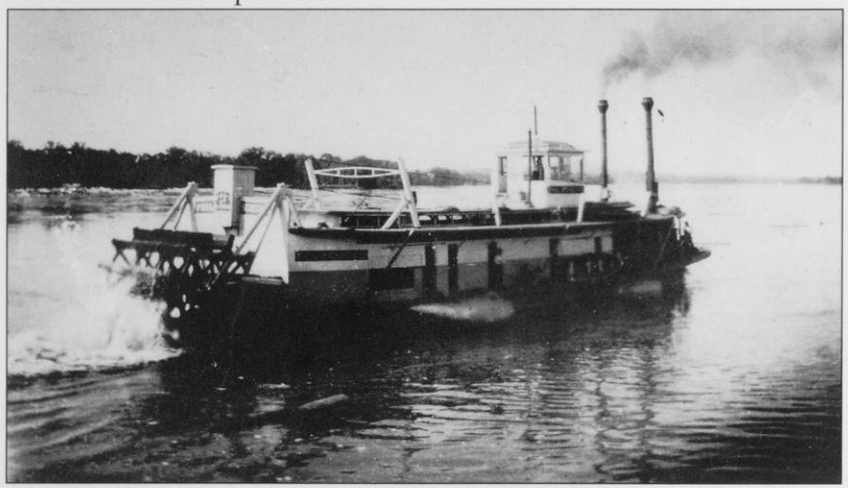
[27] *Dunn County News,* 15 March 1901.

establish a system of state forests and promote improved methods of forestry."[28] To some, this action on his part might seem a rather feeble attempt to atone for past sins, but anyone familiar with the public career of Senator Stout can scarcely doubt his sincerity.

The Red Cedar is still a river of beauty, but perhaps in their declining years even the lumber barons, as they looked down from their mansions high above the stream, may have longed nostalgically for earlier days when the Red Cedar was a wild river, its valley teeming with game in the shelter of tall pines.

Knapp, Stout & Company Steamboats

A little known fact about the Knapp, Stout & Company is that it operated perhaps the largest fleet of steamboats of any lumber company in Wisconsin and possibly in the nation. At various times during its nearly 60 years of operation it owned and operated at least ten steamboats. It made sense that the world's largest lumber firm in the 1870s and '80s should control all facets of its operation and distribution of its products.



The Knapp, Stout steamboat Phil Scheckel.

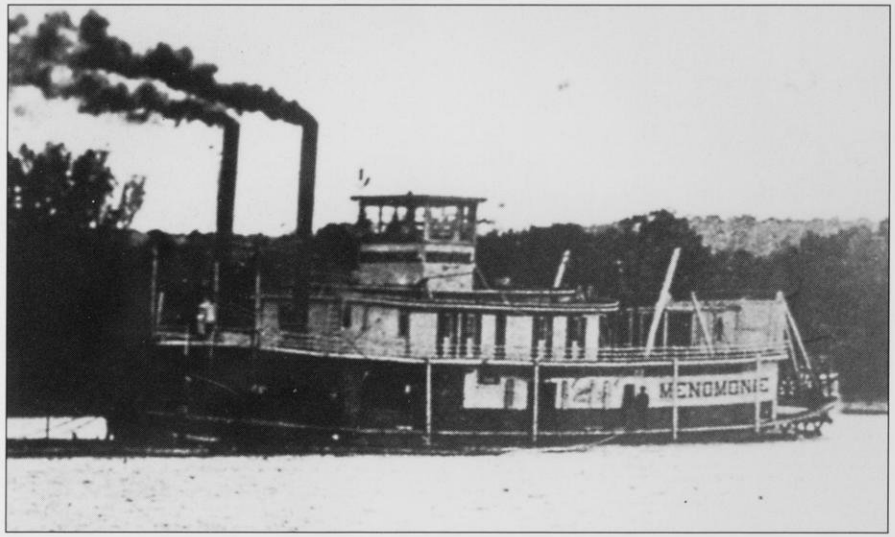
A 1905 flood demolished the old water mill and dam that had served the Knapp, Stout & Company until the mill cut its last log in 1901.

Records show that the first steamboat operated by the company was the *Pete Wilson,* a small sidewheeler built in Menomonie in 1864. Its size was 70 feet long, 12 feet wide, and a draft of 3 feet. Originally it pushed "strings" of lumber from Dunnville down the Chippewa River to the company's river operation headquarters at Reads Landing, Minnesota. In its last years of operation it served as a "bow boat," secured at the front end of a Mississippi raft of lumber that was pushed by a larger, more powerful "rafter" steamboat. As a bow boat its duties were simply to help steer the raft by steaming forward or in reverse and therefore changing the direction of the unwieldy raft. This little steamboat was dismantled in 1888.

A second sidewheeler, the *Champion*, was purchased for $6,000 by the company in 1868 and converted into a rafter in Durand. For a while it shuttled lumber and freight up and down the Chippewa River but it was soon pressed into action on the Mississippi River towing rafts from Reads Landing, Minnesota, to St. Louis, Missouri.

[28] *Senate Journal,* 1903.

Next to join the little fleet was the *Phil Scheckel,* a 98-foot-long sternwheeled towboat that was built in Waubeek in 1878. It was named for Captain Phil Scheckel, a Knapp, Stout employee who commanded the sturdy craft for fifteen years. When the boat was sold in 1883, Captain Scheckel continued to pilot it for the new owner. It ended years of service shuttling crews and supplies for the construction of the Overseas Railway to Key West, Florida.



The sternwheeler Menomonie, *built in 1880 in Madison, Indiana for Knapp, Stout, was 119 feet long, 25 feet wide, and had a draft of 4 feet.*

In 1879 Knapp, Stout acquired the *Annie Girdon,* measuring 83 feet long, 14.2 feet wide, with a draft of 2.5 feet. Built in 1866 at Burlington, Iowa, the company initially used the sidewheeler for rafting the the Red Cedar and Chippewa Rivers. It began pushing Mississippi rafts from Reads Landing to the company retail/wholesale yards in Dubuque, Iowa, Fort Madison, Iowa, and St. Louis, Missouri, in 1882.

Rafting was hard on the steamboats. Their powerful steam engines usually outlived the wooden crafts they propelled. When the *Annie Girdon* was taken out of service in 1884 and dismantled, its engine, like others removed from other boats, may have been still functional and installed in a new vessel.

Other steamboats and their length of service in the Knapp, Stout fleet were the *Louisville* (1879-94), *Menomonie* (1880-86), *Helen Mar* (1880-90), *Bart E. Linehan* (1883-90) and the *Saturn #2* (1904-06?). They were all sternwheelers. There is some evidence that the Company also owned and operated the *Johnny Schmoker,* a sidewheeler built at Waubeek in 1866, for a short time, but there are few details. Knapp, Stout also operated the steamboat *Lou Tainter* on landlocked Red Cedar Lake in Barron County during their peak years of logging in that area. Unfortunately few details of the *Lou Tainter* are on record.

In May 1883, Captain Stephen B. Withrow, pilot of the *Menomonie,* challenged the *Louisville*, captained by Andrew Larkin, to a race from Reads Landing to St. Louis. Both vessels, owned by Knapp, Stout, had nearly identical rafts measuring about 600 feet long and 200 feet wide. It is not in the records but the legend persists that the *Menomonie* won the race of 645 river miles.

Edward Mueller, in his book *Upper Mississippi River Rafting Steamboats* (Ohio University Press, 1995), relates that in 1883:

> The *MENOMONIE* took a 192 foot x 576 foot lumber raft from Reads Landing to Alton, Illinois [a distance of 622 miles] in six days, four hours, non-stop. Captain D. Dorrance, a LeClaire rapids pilot, took her through the Davenport bridge without double-tripping.[29] He had about four feet on each side to spare, never touched a bridge pier. It was one of the great raft exploits of all times.

[29]Double-tripping was a procedure that most rafters carried out when approaching a bridge on the Mississippi. To avoid hitting the bridge piers each huge ponderous raft was tied up to the river bank upstream, split into two or more "pieces," and then each "piece" was pushed in succession under the bridge and then re-assembled below the bridge. This could be very time consuming since there were 27 bridges on the Mississippi between Reads Landing, Minnesota, and St. Louis, Missouri, so there were some captains who risked the rafts and pushed them past potential obstructions without "double-tripping."

Mueller, incidentally, credits John Holly Knapp as piloting the first steamboat on the Chippewa River in about 1848 or 1849. Capt. William Wilson had piloted boats at Ft. Madison and Capt. Andrew Tainter had had experiences piloting in his early years.

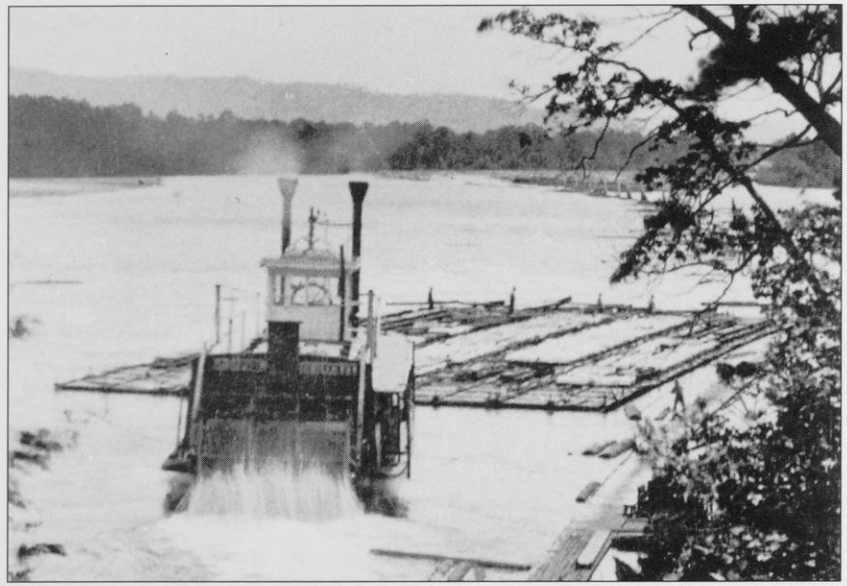
A River Rafters Glossary

CRIB: Virtually a "sandwich" of lumber constructed on the rafting platform at the downstream end of the mill. It usually measure 16 feet long and 16 or 12 feet wide, and consisted of up to 28 courses of sawn lumber held together by "grub pins," 3-foot-long hardwood "pins" and a framework of planks.

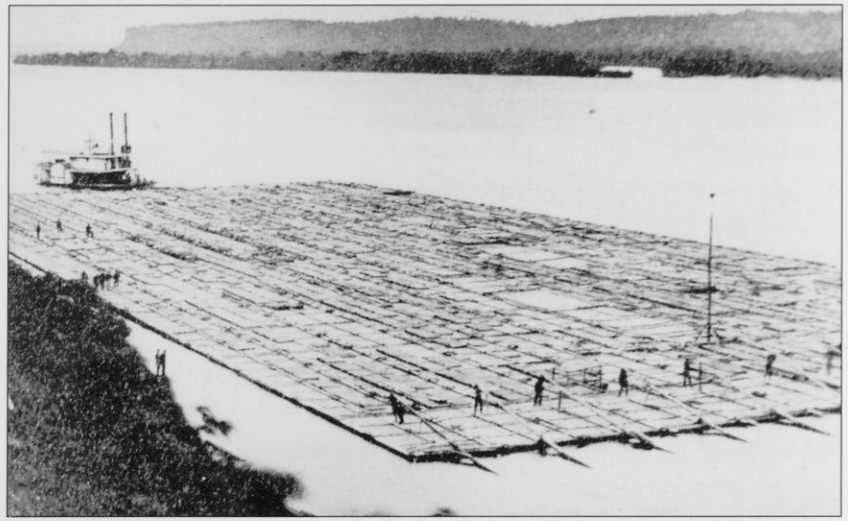
RED CEDAR RIVER STRING: Seven cribs bound end to end formed a river string. Bundles of shingles, lath and pickets were carried on each string and two to three men, handling long oars (sweeps), helped to steer the unit propelled by the current of the river. The destination was Dunnville.

CHIPPEWA RIVER PIECE: At Dunnville three to five Red Cedar River Strings were bound side to side to form a Chippewa River Piece which was then pushed down the Chippewa River by a Knapp, Stout steamboat to Reads Landing.

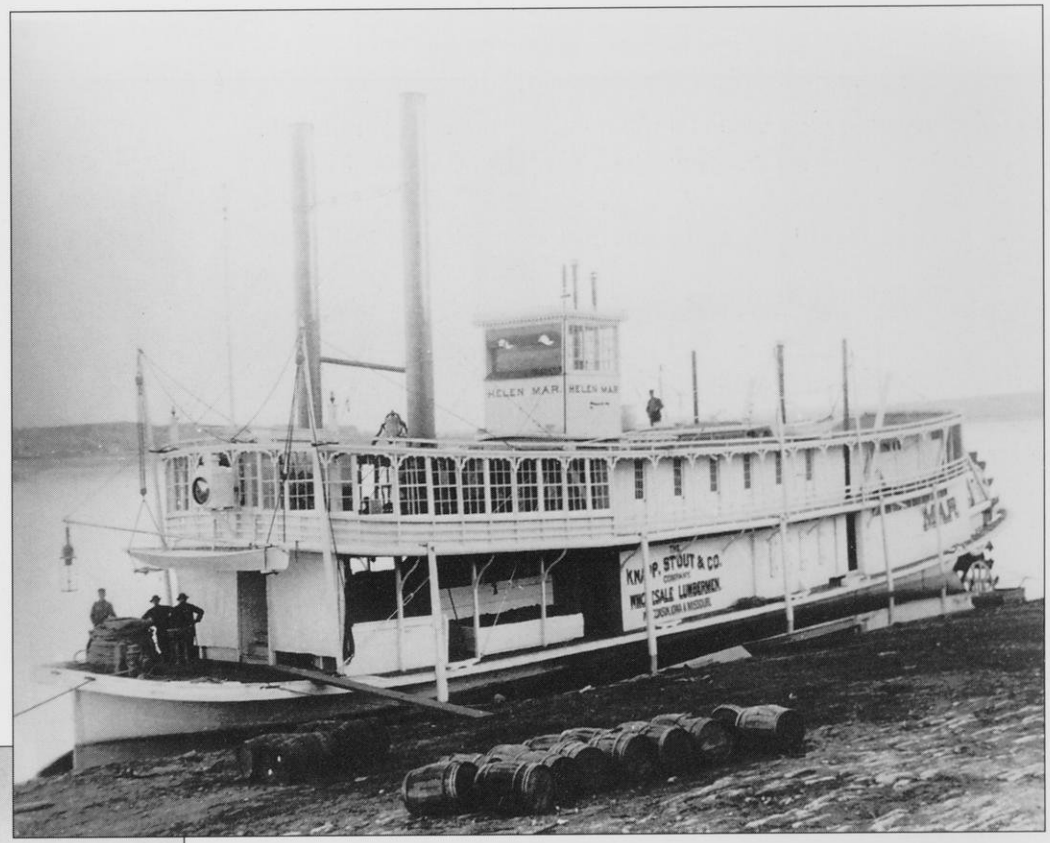
MISSISSIPPI RAFT: In 1884 the *Menomonie* pushed a Mississippi raft consisting of 3,152 cribs and 26 layers of lumber, a total of about 3 million feet of pine lumber. This true raft measured 512 feet wide, 1,972 feet long.



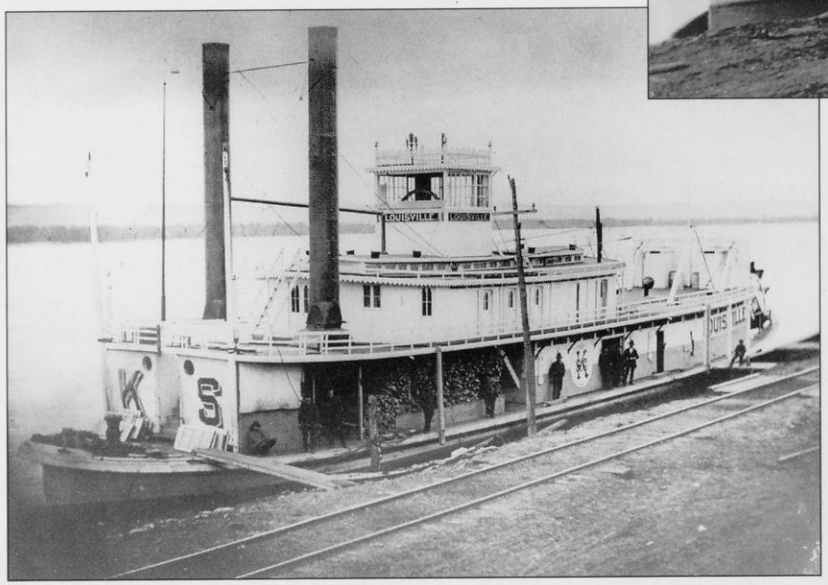
The Phil Scheckel *pushing a "Chippewa River Piece" enroute from Dunnville and heading for Reads Landing, Minnesota.*



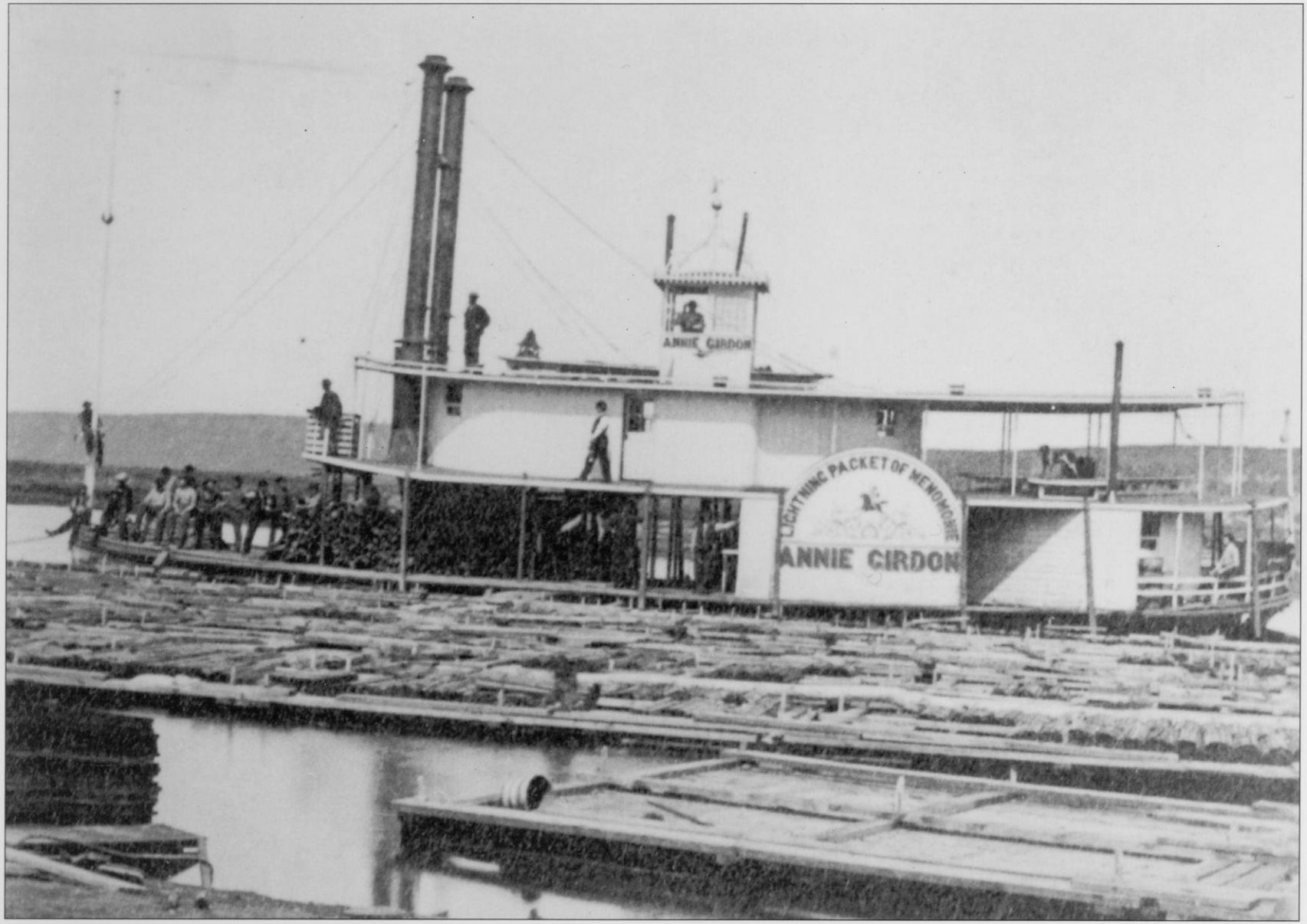
The Annie Girdon *with a raft 14 strings wide and 16 strings long, about ready to leave Reads Landing for St. Louis in June, 1869.*



The Helen Mar *and its sister steamboats were "rafters" that also carried passengers and freight bound to and from the company's operations.*



The Louisville, *one of the eight "rafter" steamboats operated by the Company on the Mississippi between Reads Landing and St. Louis.*



The Pete Wilson, Champion, and Annie Girdon *were all involved in pushing the "Chippewa River pieces," small rafts of up to five "strings" of lumber, from Dunnville to Reads Landing. This is the* Annie Girdon.

Chronology, 1872 to 1900

1872
Dunn County Agricultural Society holds its first fair. It would be 14 years before another fair would take place.

Telegraph line extended to Menomonie.

Although Jesse Hughes operated a brickyard earlier, the first on record was the Kelly & Drowley yard on Hudson Road west of town.

1873
Merchant's Hotel opens next to Grob's Hall.

William Schutte, Sr., and Albert Quilling open a bank at the rear of their general store on Broadway, primarily because it was the only business in town that had a large, secure, walk-in safe.

1874
Public library established by women after saloon licenses voted down.

1875
A new weekly newspaper, the *Menomonie Times*, begins to publish.

Grace Episcopal Church dedicated on October 10.

German Methodist Episcopal Church relocates to a new facility on the southeast corner of Tenth Avenue and Eighth Street.

Union High School established, and John B. Ingalls replaces Jesse Thayer as city school superintendent.

1876
City of Menomonie takes over operation of public library.

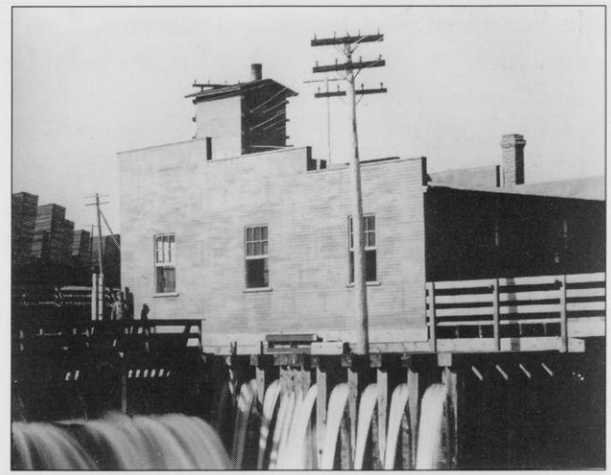
Ludington Guard military cavalry unit, named after the governor of the state, organizes a band.

Water reservoir to serve the Knapp, Stout & Company completed on Meadow Hill.

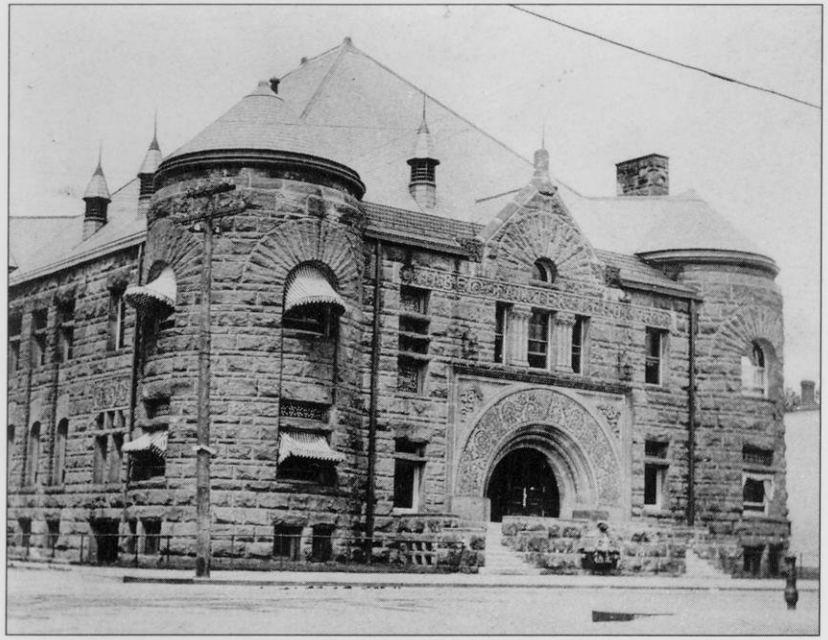
Zion Evangelical Church (German) dedicates building on corner of Seventh Street and Eleventh on November 26.

1877
On January 16 Ludington Guard formed as a cavalry company with Thomas J. George as captain.

"Old Abe," famed Civil War eagle, paraded in Menomonie by his



The first hydroelectric plant, built by Knapp, Stout & Company on Wilson Creek in the 1880s.



Mabel Tainter Memorial.

handler in the war, town of Dunn resident David McLain, during the Fourth of July reunion of veterans. This was the last public appearance of the eagle before his death by fire in the Wisconsin State Capitol.

1878

The Knapp, Stout & Company incorporated as the "Knapp, Stout & Co. Company" with a capital stock value of $2 million.

First telephones come to Menomonie.

Yale lock boxes installed in post office.

On June 23 Ludington Guard cavalry unit called to duty because of "Indian troubles" in Burnett County.

1879

F. J. McLean opens a state bank on the southeast corner of Main and Second Streets.

1880

Omaha Railroad, successor to the West Wisconsin line, completes spur line from the Junction to a depot on West Wilson Avenue.

Addition built onto the Union/Central School. There are now 100 students in the high school and 600 students enrolled in the four elementary schools.

First major fire destroys the S. B. French block in the 300 block on south side of Main Street.

Major flood in early June carries away the dam on Wilson Creek and threatens the Knapp, Stout booms on the log reservoir.

First services held in the new First Congregational Church building on southwest corner of Fifth Street and Wilson Avenue.

1881

After fire destroys store and bank, Samuel French builds brick bank building on southeast corner of Main and Third Streets. Financial reverses force him to sell his bank to Andrew Tainter and his son, Louis. After Andrew Tainter's death in 1899, Louis continued to run the bank until 1903.

Population of the village now 3,500.

1882

City of Menomonie incorporated.

O. K. Ranum opens telephone company system for the city in his drug store on Main Street.

Kelly & Drowley Brickyard incorporated as the Dunn County Pressed Brick Company.

1883
First electric arc lights installed in the mills.

F. J. Mclean's bank becomes First National Bank.

Ludington Guard cavalry unit becomes Company H, an infantry unit of the Wisconsin National Guard.

William Evans Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (Civil War veterans) organized on January 6.

1884
Fire demolishes Grob's Hall, the city's first "theater," and the adjacent Merchant's Hotel.

1885
City water works extended, 110 fire hydrants installed.

Volunteer fire department organized, Thomas A. McNevin fire chief.

The Wisconsin Red Pressed Brick Co is incorporated.

Royal Hotel (the Marion Hotel in later years) built by the Menomonie Hotel Company.

New Roman Catholic Church dedicated.

1886
First fair of a revitalized Agricultural Society held on its 50-acre fair grounds on the city's east side.

Mabel Tainter dies at age 19 on June 10.

Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church opens its parochial school.

1887
In December a weekly German language newspaper, the *Menomonie Nordstern,* begins publication.


Mabel Tainter

1888
John Holly Knapp dies.

On January 21 the temperature drops to 54 degrees below zero to become the coldest day on record.

The Standard Pressed Brick Company is organized.

A temperance newspaper, the *Dunn County Herald,* begins publication.

1889
James H. Stout, son of Henry, comes to join the Knapp, Stout and Co. Company in Menomonie.

1890
The Mabel Tainter Memorial building opens.

Cora Farnum appointed librarian at the Mabel Tainter Memorial.

1891
Stout inaugurates his two-story frame Manual Arts and Domestic Science building and the Stout Manual Training School opens.

The Dunn County Asylum for the Chronic Insane, 1892.

The Wisconsin Signal, a new populist weekly, begins publication.

1892
Captain William Wilson dies at age 85.

The Dunn County Asylum for the Chronic Insane opens in February.

1893
James H. Stout builds new, larger Manual Training and Domestic Science building.

1894
Wisconsin Telephone Company acquires O. K. Ranum's telephone company.
Menomonie Pressed Brick Company takes over the yard operated by the Standard Pressed Brick Company.

Cora Farnum resigns as librarian; Stella Lucas replaces her at the Memorial.

1895
Mr. J. D. Hills and Sandford Heafield open another telephone company to compete with the Wisconsin Telephone Company.

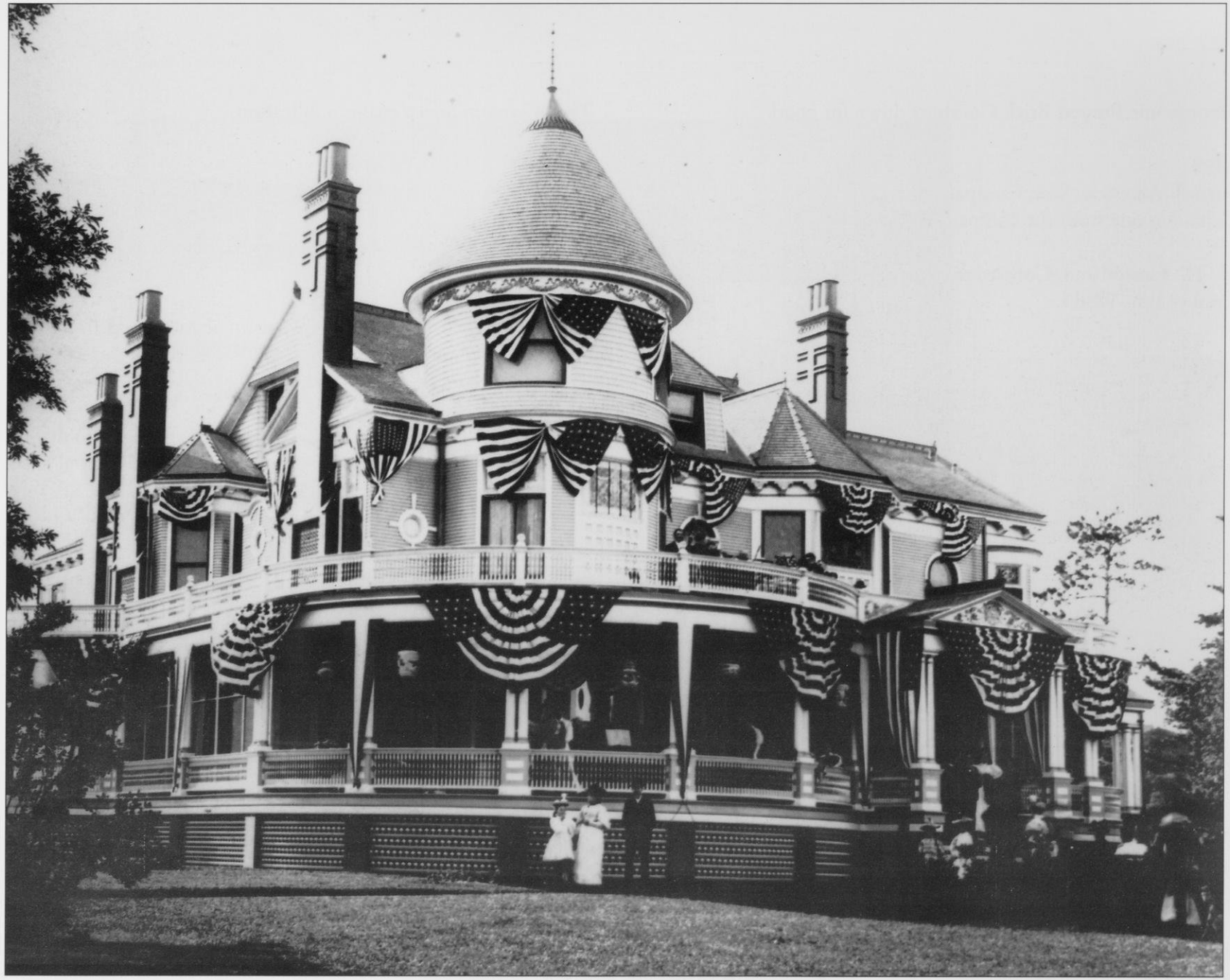
H. H. Forster, C. J. Anderson, and Fred Kempe establish the Menomonie Iron Works.

1896
Fifty years of operation celebrated by the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company in a day-long event at the home of James H. Stout on August 12th.

Wilson Creek dam washed out.

1897
Fire levels Stout's Manual Training/Domestic Science and Central School.

Knapp, Stout & Co. Company organizes the Menomonie Electric Light and Power Company to provide electrical power and lights for city residents.



The James H. Stout home. Knapp, Stout & Co. Company 50th Anniversary celebration in 1896.

Menomonie Pressed Brick Co. shuts down for good.

1898

Spanish-American War; Company H is called into action at Coamo, Cuba. No one from the company killed or wounded in the battle.

H. H. Forster and Gotfried Kruger open business as the Dunn County Iron Works.

Knapp Stout & Co. Company 50th Anniversary celebration in 1896 on the grounds of the Stout home featured Indian lumber workers from Lac Courte Oreilles and their wives. Included are Johnny Coady and Alec Moose. The tipi and canoe no doubt attracted attention.

The *Wisconsin Signal* ceases publication.

1899

Captain Andrew Tainter dies on October 18.

Dunn County Normal School organized, takes temporary quarters in Stout's building.

Menomonie Telephone Company acquires Hills-Heafield telephone operation, then merges with the Wisconsin Telephone Company.

Senator Stout builds kindergarten buildings at North and Coddington Schools and equips rooms at Central for the training of kindergarten teachers.

Fire destroys Roman Catholic Church.

1900

City library moved from the second floor of the 1st National Bank to the Mabel Tainter Memorial.

Henry Stout dies at his home in Dubuque, Iowa, July 17.

Rural Free Delivery begins on two, then four, and eventually ten routes out of Menomonie.

Excelsior Brick Co. organizes to manage the Wisconsin Red Pressed Brick Co and Excelsior Brick Company under one management.

A quarterly newspaper, *Facts and Figures,* issued by the Wisconsin Anti-Saloon League, begins publication in April.

Strolling down Main Street, c. 1895.

It Grew Like Topsy

The Menomonie City Hall, Police Station, and main Fire Station from the 1890s to the 1950s.

5

A City Called Menomonie

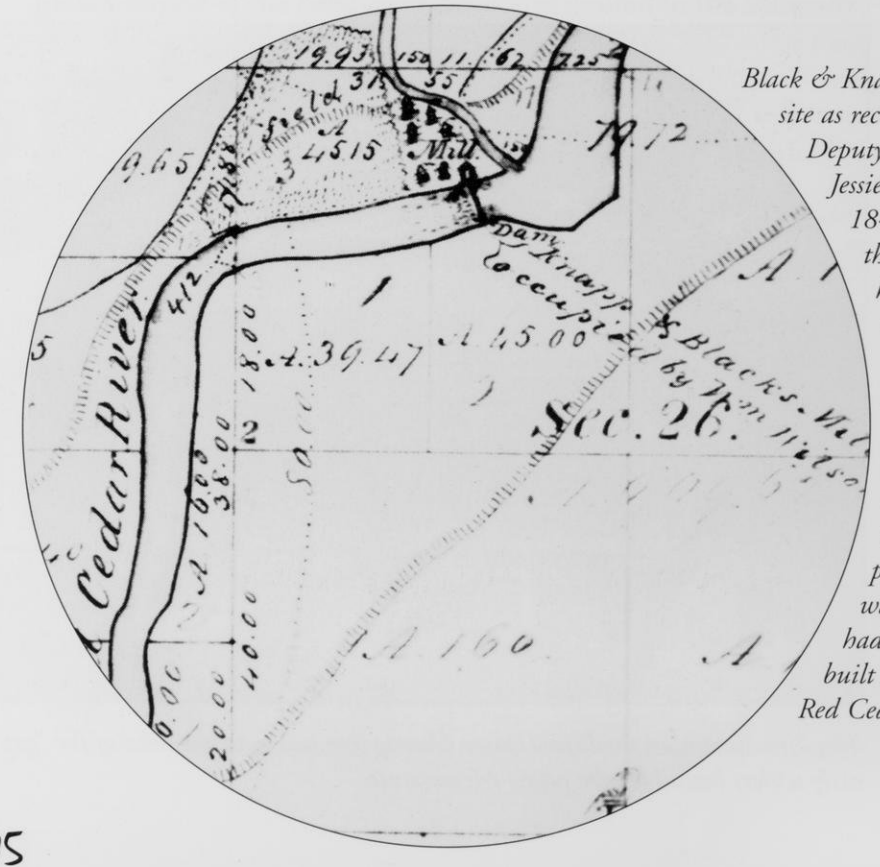
Early Arrivals

It appears that **Jean Baptiste Perrault** was the first white man to establish a residence in the Menomonie area, in 1788. Just where his trading post/fort was located is still a mystery. Perrault's map that he drew decades after his experience on the Red Cedar River is hardly a reliable one (see map and discussion pp. 25-27). He indicates that the fort was on the river's west side downstream from a creek entering the river from the west. That stream could have been Lamb's Creek, Wilson Creek, Gilbert Creek, Irvine Creek or Varney Creek, but unless evidence in the form of period artifacts or signs of foundations are found, the exact location may never be known.

In the early 1930s when artist Cal Peters painted his view of the Perrault fort he placed it near the mouth of Wilson Creek in Menomonie. There is no record of how Peters arrived at his decision to place the site near the mouth of Wilson Creek. He may have had some knowledge of artifacts found on the site before the logging era began but it is more likely that he accepted without question the words of historian Louise Phelps Kellogg, who wrote in her book, *The British Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest* (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1935) that the location of the fort was "apparently near the site of Menomonie."

You could say that Menomonie grew "like Topsy." It all began when the first permanent settlement of the future village occurred in 1830 (pp. 33-34) which suggests that the city's sesquicentennial could have been celebrated in 1980. Settlers were drawn to the area because of the relatively easy access to the dense white pine forest that stretched northward along the Red Cedar River and the ideal mill site at its junction with today's Wilson Creek.

Although there had been other efforts to harvest the timber in the area beginning in 1822 (pp. 31-32), it was not until 1830 that a mill was established. It was the first of a succession of small mills on the site that either failed or had limited success during the next 15 years. That all changed when **Captain William Wilson** came on the scene, found that an ailing David Black was interested in selling



Black & Knapp mill site as recorded by Deputy Surveyor Jessie Garrett in 1849. Note that the mill had been moved away from Wilson Creek, and a dam to provide water power had been built across the Red Cedar River.

a half interest in his mill and saw the great potential in its future. With **John Holly Knapp's** money for a down payment (p. 48) a deal was made with Black who died a short time after the transaction. Wilson's vision and management talent, along with Knapp's business acumen, brought success to the new firm that was able to make the final payment to the Black estate by 1850. In August of that year they sold a third interest in the business to **Captain Andrew Tainter** who brought with him his great knowledge of the pinery and his astute handling of the men who worked in the woods.

In 1849, a crew consisting of Alexander Anderson, Jessie Garrett, and George R. Huntz surveyed the territory that was to become Dunn County. Natural landmarks, trails, ridges, marshes, and other land features were duly noted. The map on this page is a detail of the plat for Township 28 N., Range 13 W., 4th Meridian, the original of which is in the archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Two of the six log cabins indicated on the map were the residences of Capt. William Wilson and Lorenzo Bullard. Meadow Hill is labeled "field."

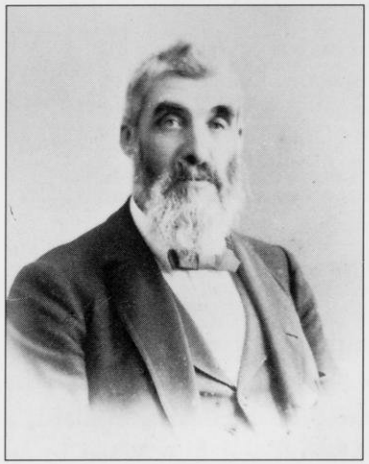
Most early settlers coming to the area arrived via the Mississippi and Chippewa Rivers on keelboats in the beginning, steamboats in the later years. Some disembarked at Dunnville, a small river port at the mouth of the Red Cedar River, and then followed a trail on the east side of the river to the mill site. Others stopped at Waubeek, another small port on the Chippewa River a few hundred yards south of the present Pepin-Dunn County line. Three miles west of Waubeek, near the village of Eau Galle, was the Pine Tavern, a two-story structure that housed the family of the proprietor and a tavern on the ground floor and a dance floor on the second level.

The Pine Tavern on the Pepin/Dunn County line was near the head of the "gap route" used by early settlers bound for the future Menomonie.

For a few cents, travelers were served meals at the Pine Tavern and were provided space on the dance floor for the bedrolls they carried with them for their overnight accomodations. If there happened to be a dance or other festivities in progress, bedtime for the weary guests was often delayed. After a night of rest those heading for the Wilson Creek mill site walked the "gap route" from Eau Galle to Menomonie.

Names and Such

In the meantime, more workers and their families began to settle in the community that was rapidly becoming a "company town." During the 36 years following the purchase of the mill by Wilson and Knapp there was no village organization, and in fact there never has been any. There was no formal government. Decisions were made in the offices of the company, very likely by Captain Wilson, since Tainter spent most of his time in the woods and



Samuel B. French picked the name "Menomonee."

Knapp continued to maintain his residence in Fort Madison, Iowa, until 1863. Wilson became postmaster when the post office was moved from Gilbert's Mill, known as Middle Mills, to Menomonie (or Menomonee) Mills in 1855.

Two years later, the township of Menomonie was established on April 7, 1857, and Wilson was elected town chairman. Even after Wilson had established the name and the original plat for the future city in 1859, there was no effort to incorporate it as a village...it was still a "company town." Wilson and Knapp asked several people for suggestions for a name of the unincorporated village. It was **Samuel B. French,** a banker and merchant who operated a store in the 300 block of Main Street, who proposed the name "Menomonee" and it was accepted. In the mid 1880s national post office officials asked that the city modify the spelling of Menomonee to avoid confusing it with other localities of the same name in the state. City officials adopted "Menomonie," the version of the name that appeared on explorer Jonathan Carver's 1767 map of the Wisconsin area.

Dunn County was created in 1854 but the seat of the government was in Dunnville, 15 stagecoach miles south of Menomonie, which could be regarded as a remote outpost at the time. Until 1858 Dunn County included all of Pepin County so many of those early county officers were from that area. It took an act of the state legislature in 1860 to approve the 1858 separation and the establishment of Pepin County and finally, on January 1, 1861, the county seat was newly established in the unincorporated village of Menomonie. There still was no formal government agency for the village but the presence of the county seat in town provided some of the basic services close at hand.

County officers in that first year in Menomonie included William Cady, county judge; Dr. Walter Crocker (of rural Dunnville), coroner; W. R. Culbertson, sheriff; Seriah Stevens, superintendent of schools; Francis Breck, county clerk; Milton E. Jones, clerk of court and surveyor; F. R. Church, treasurer; and Samuel W. Hunt, district attorney.

Almost every company town had a company store. The Knapp, Stout & Co. Company complex included one in a two-story frame building located on the mill site that enclosed the company's headquarters and a store that offered a large range of foodstuffs, hardware, fabrics, and much more. Flour produced from wheat grown on one of the company's farms and ground in the company's grist mill was always available and fresh meat usually came from livestock raised on the 700-acre main farm located on the village's east side. Today the location of the main farm includes the sites of the Myrtle Werth Medical Center, the Dunn County Health Care Center, and the 3M plant.

Bella French's Menomonie

One of the chroniclers of early Menomonie was Bella French, who wrote and published the *American Sketch Book, Menomonie and Dunn County, Wisconsin,* a short treatise on the village in 1875. She wrote that the American Indians in the area had special names for some of the community leaders. Captain Wilson was called "Chah-no," (Big Nose); Thomas Wilson was known as "Chah-ness" (Little Nose); John Holly Knapp was tabbed with the name "Ne-pos-ke" (Great Sleeper), and Lorenzo Bullard, who had moved from Fort Madison with Captain Wilson and ran the company's boarding house, was called "Che-puck-wah-nin-ny," which is a long word for "cook."

French tells of an incident when the Ojibwe chief Nain-ne-aun-

gabe, known by whites as Little Chief, called on Bullard at the boarding house and asked for a meal.

> Bullard put a half bushel of fried cakes on the table and told Little Chief to help himself. The hungry native devoured five or six, then, spreading his blanket on the table, deliberately emptied all of the cakes into it, and made off with them, giving a grunt of satisfaction as he passed through the door.

Bullard, according to French, was too surprised to stop him.

The Biled Shirt

James Wilson, a brother of Captain Wilson, was the subject of another anecdote recorded by French. She told of the time that James Wilson came to visit the captain by keelboat to Dunnville and proceeded to walk the 15 miles to Menomonie. In a few hours he had reached Gilbert's mill on Gilbert Creek, about 2 miles south of the Knapp, Stout mills. French continues:

> It being a warm day, he had removed his coat to facilitate his walking, and thus disclosed to the wondering Gilberts the fact that he was a man who wore a white shirt. Unconscious, however, that he was a subject of wonderment, he continued his way, and arrived, in the course of time, at his brother's place of residence.

He had noticed that a number of the local citizens he had met, especially the Gilbert family, had begun to follow him at some distance but he saw nothing unusual in that, perhaps assuming they were heading for the company store. James was tired when he arrived at Captain Wilson's home, where he met Mrs. Bullard, a friend who was visiting the Wilsons. She offered him a bed in an extra bedroom at her home to allow him to relax after his long and strenuous journey on such a warm day.

He had hardly settled down when the Gilbert entourage knocked at the Bullard home. When Mrs. Bullard answered the door Mrs. Gilbert said, "We didn't come visiting...the truth is, we saw a man pass our house with a biled [boiled] shirt...we started after him to see what he is here for." They had become intrigued by Wilson's white shirt, believing that any man wearing one must be very important since no man in this neck of the woods, regardless of his status, would do so.

That elegant gentleman from Fort Madison, Iowa, John Holly Knapp, for instance, according to French, "...laid aside his dress clothes for the more popular one of the backwoods men."

Middle Mills on Gilbert Creek was the first post office, established in 1849. Prior to that date Prairie du Chien was the area's post office.

Going Visiting

Whatever manners were dictated in polite society very likely were modified somewhat in the often primitive surroundings of living in the 1840s in the back woods of the Wisconsin wilderness. French provides an example of one of the problems facing homeowners living in a two-room log cabin that was handled with admirable

skill. In a chapter entitled "Going Visiting in Early Days," French writes that:

> The houses of the early settlers were log cabins, containing not more than one or two rooms, and, in most cases, supplied with homemade furniture, barely sufficient to meet the wants of the inmates. A spare bed was a luxury which few, if any, had; and, when people went a visiting, it was as necessary for them to carry their beds with them as it was to take their clothing. Mr. Bullard tells of how he was once visited by a party during his residence on Hay River; and a description of the arrangements for sleeping is quite amusing.
>
> The party consisted of Capt. Wilson and wife, Oliver Gilbert and wife, and Blois Hurd and wife. As usual, they all brought their beds with them. But the cabin was small, and could not afford room on the floor for three separate beds; so one large bed was made up, and Mr. Bullard had to puzzle his wits to arrange the party in them so that one man would not be placed by the side of another man's wife. This is the way he arranged them, and it proved perfectly satisfactory to all.

A Marital Mixup

Bella French recalls another story about the Bullards when they were living in a small cabin near Irvington. This cabin had two bedrooms, one occupied by their two children and the other by Mr. and Mrs. Bullard. On one occasion Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert came to visit and stayed too late to return to their home that evening.

> Mrs. Bullard decided to have her son Eugene sleep with her and her husband and to put their daughter on a lounge in the main part of the cabin, thus giving up one bedroom for the Gilberts. Now it happened that Mrs. Gilbert was suffering with a sick headache and in consequence retired before dark. After dark, but before bed time, Mr. Bullard complained of being tired, and asked where he was to sleep. His wife answered, "In our bed with Eugene." He misunderstood her to say, "In Eugene's bed." He went into the room, purposely without a light, and got into the children's bed. The lady, supposing him to be her husband, did not speak. She noticed that he nudged her rather roughly with his elbow, but her head ached so hard that she crept off to the far side, and made no complaint.
>
> After a while Mr. Gilbert asked to be shown to bed, and Mrs. Bullard, taking a light, led him to the chamber, where they found the pair asleep, and apparently totally unconscious of their close proximity to each other. The consternation of all parties cannot be described. Bullard's greatest trouble, however, was in getting to his own bed. His wife says that when he did go, he bore a flag of truce along with him.

First Marriages, Birth, and Funeral

Bella French wrote of the first marriages that took place in 1847 in Menomonie:

> The parties were a Mr. Whitcomb and Mrs. Clair. The Circuit Justice of the Peace, J. W. Bass, happened to be at Chippewa Falls and he came over and performed the ceremony. The marriage took place at the Knapp, Stout Company's kitchen, and Mrs. Wilson provided the supper. But it happened that when the second couple, Margaret Scott and Thomas

Captain Wilson
Mrs. Wm. Wilson
Mrs. Oliver Gilbert
Mr. Oliver Gilbert
Mr. Blois Hurd
Mrs. Blois Hurd

Sleeping arrangements for three couples at the Bullard's home.

Piercewell, wished to be united, there was no one near who had power to tie the knot. This difficulty was obviated by a marriage contract which was drawn up and signed in presence of witnesses. After the signing was over, the parties invited their friends to the wedding feast, which consisted of pork and beans, and whisky, which were the staple articles of food at that time. A dance ended the festivities. This singular marriage occurred in 1850, and proved satisfactory to both parties.

On December 13, 1847, Mary A. Wilson, the daughter of Captain William and Angeline Wilson, was the first white child to be born in future Menomonie.

French notes that the first death and burial of a white woman in the area occurred in 1850 and was that of Mrs. Fannie Vale, described having "...lived a hard life, and in the matter of civilization, she was but little in advance of her companions, the Indians." Mrs. Vale and her husband, John, lived about four miles south of Menomonie. Fannie was supposedly buried on a hill on the east bank of the Red Cedar River opposite the mouth of Varney Creek.

French reports that John, distraught over the loss of his wife, drowned his sadness in liquor on the day of the funeral. When the funeral procession began, poor John was nowhere to be found, but all the neighbors and Fannie's friends were there.

> It was a bright, winter morning. The snow was knee-deep where it was unbroken, and it was covered by a crust that made traveling irksome. The burial ground was about two miles and a half distant...and was on top of quite a steep hill. Up this hill the drivers found it impossible to draw the loaded trains [wagons]...this left the coffin...liable to slide off, unless great care was observed.
>
> But the horse...found it no easy task to ascend the hill and the driver was obliged most vigorously to apply the whip in order to start the animal. The result of such treatment was a sudden jerk that shook the coffin off, and as box, corpse and all went rolling down the hill, John Vale appeared...upon the scene. Seeing that the driver was evidently unconscious of the accident, John began hellooing, gesturing and slapping his hands together in the wildest...manner. 'Stop! stop! stop! I say. Damn you, don't you know you've left Fannie behind? You've left Fannie I say.'

They say that for many years that funeral always brought smiles to those who had attended the last rites.

The original Wilson home, built in 1859.

Police Chief Ludwig Tilleson headed this group of mounted men serving on Menomonie's police force (date uncertain).

6

Keeping the Peace

Crime apparently was not a major problem in the early years of settlement in the Menomonie area. Bella French, early chronicler of the times, wrote in her *American Sketchbook, Menomonie and Dunn County, Wisconsin:*

> Very few whites suffered from Indian depredation in this section of the country, other than by petty thefts and like annoyances. There seems to have been but few murders.

Keep in mind that French had little love for the Indian. She neglected to comment about any "petty thefts and like annoyances" by whites even though there most certainly must have been such instances. However it is clear that most settlers were honest, hardworking, and self-sufficient people seeking a new life in a new world.

Since the little community growing up around the mill on Wilson Creek was largely a "company town" occupied by men who worked together, any discipline problems were probably handled by a foreman in the mill or even Captain Wilson, who was constantly on the site. It is well known that Captain Andrew Tainter was a strict disciplinarian who would resort to using his fists if necessary.

By 1855 the county elected its first sheriff, William Holbrook, but the courthouse and jail were in Dunnville, a bit inconvenient for the punishment of any miscreants in Menomonie. That all changed when the county seat was moved to Menomonie in 1861, a move that brought the sheriff's office to the larger community and provided law enforcement in the immediate area.

And then there was the U. S. Marshall, Mr. W. W. Winterbotham, who was active during the early years of the Civil War seeking out those trying to evade conscription into the Union forces. It must have given local residents some feeling of security to have both the sheriff and the marshall in town.

In 1874 a "liquor war" erupted when the ladies of the town successfully pushed through a law forbidding the sale of liquor in the city. As expected, many of the men were surprised and horrified by the vote. Bella French recalls that one old settler remarked,

> The last great social spasm in Menomonie was the anti-liquor vote of last spring; and the anties, or, as some wags put it, the "aunties," carried the day. The ladies are now prosecuting the saloon-men, with unflagging zeal, and with average success. But the end is not yet. The coming election promises to be ardent, spirits or no spirits.

French went on,

> Since the commencement of the liquor war of this place, the vexed problem of whether or not lager-beer is intoxicating has been decided in the negative. A brewer was arrested for selling a keg of beer to one of the citizens. He was fined, but appealed his case to a higher court. Great excitement prevailed when it was brought before Judge Humphrey. Several men swore that beer can intoxicate, and several men that it can not.
>
> The judge seemed to be slightly prejudiced in favor of the beer, for he demanded to know of the temperance men how they knew beer to be intoxicating, and if it had ever intoxicated them.
>
> They, of course, did not like to own to such a weakness, and cited what they had seen. But he waived such evidence telling them that they must be able to speak from experience or not at all. He said, moreover, that he had nothing to do with any beer except the contents of that particular keg in question, which had been seized and brought to court as evidence. What

he wished to decide was whether that keg contained any intoxicating beverage.

By an order given, the contents were tasted, but as it had been two days tapped, and the beer was really "flat," the decision was that that particular keg contained nothing that could intoxicate any one.

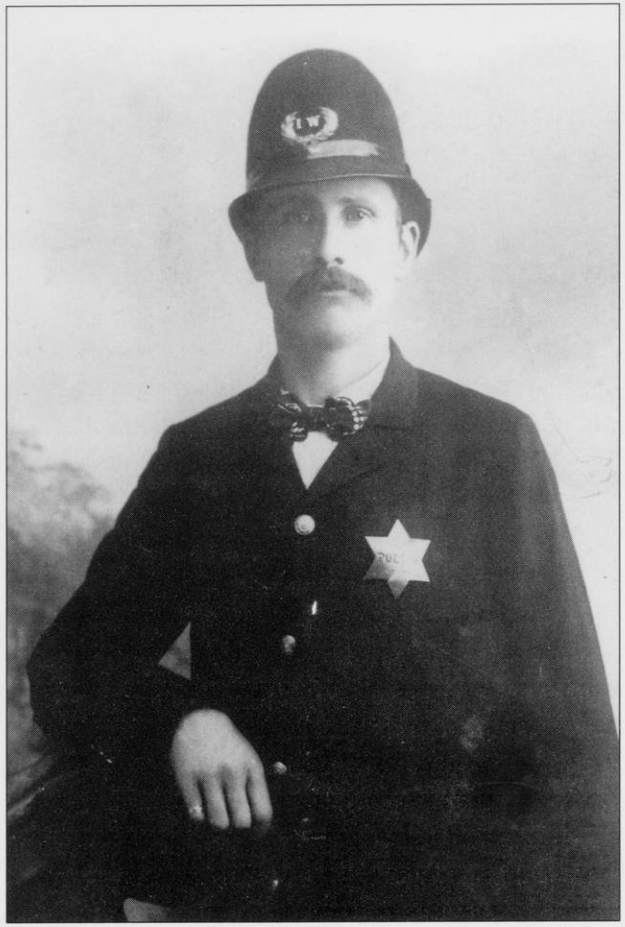
The city of Menomonie was incorporated in 1882 but law enforcement still was not a major item. George Vogel became a policeman in 1884, but two years later he had become the city's "cow police officer." Evidently fences were in short supply and area bovines had the wanderlust to see the city lights. In 1888 Vogel became the pound master.

In the late 1920s officer Russell Harding, investigating reports of a prowler on the second floor of the Teare Building, was shot in the leg, a wound serious enough to cause amputation of the limb. Fitted with an artificial leg and motorcycle with a sidecar, Harding became the city's health officer, a job that required him to post quarantine cards on the homes where there was a contagious disease such as scarlet fever, measles, chicken pox, or whooping cough.

As the population grew so did the number of robberies and petty thefts, which meant a need for an increase in the number of officers in the police department. Motorcycles were the principal mode of travel by the 1930s but there was still the man on the beat, walking the streets. When a complaint was phoned in to the police station the chief would flip a switch that lit up a light suspended in front of the police station on Crescent Street and another hanging over the intersection of Main and Crescent. When the man on the beat saw the light he found a public phone and called in to learn his assignment.

There were six or seven patrolmen in the late 1930s. Their motorized equipment included a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and a 1935 Dodge that would never start when the temperature hovered around zero. Later, officer Floyd Manthei decided that the black uniforms the men wore were a bit dull so he purchased a white uniform which really set him apart from the others. He changed his mind some weeks later when his cycle spun out on fresh tar on the street at the corner of Thirteenth Avenue and West Fifth Street. His uniform was now white with a healthy touch of tar.

And then there is the story of the "Taxicab Gang." They were a couple of thugs from Eau Claire who gained the name because they typically called for a cab, overpowered the driver whom they usually tied to a tree, and then went on to pull off a burglary or holdup.



One of Menomonie's finest, Gundar Hovind.

They were captured when they unwittingly parked their stolen auto near the police station on Crescent while they stopped in at a cafe next door. When the night shift of the police reported for duty on this hot summer night they stood talking outside the police station until it was time to go to work.

One of the men inadvertently leaned against the stolen auto and found that it had a fresh coat of paint. Suspicious, they checked the plates and make and model and found that it was reported stolen. They retreated into the station and waited until the suspects came out of the restaurant. When the police confronted them, both men bolted the scene and ran down the lake bank. One attempted to swim but after a few yards surrendered. The other raced westward at the base of the bluff and came up behind the Tainter Annex women's dormitory. He entered the building in an attempt to hide but was arrested.

Violent crimes have been a rarity over the years. On September 29, 1979, the Menomonie police interrupted a burglary at the Red Cedar Clinic that resulted in the death of one of the intruders and the capture of seven gang members who had long criminal records and had been active for some time throughout a seven-state area.

Eight years later, in 1987, the first murder in the city in over 30 years occurred when Timothy Hayden was shot by Alvin Taylor. Taylor was tracked down and arrested six days later. In the fall of 1995 police were led to the body of a young Saudi Arabian boy who, according to unofficial information, was tortured until he died. A trial of his older companions was scheduled for 1996.

The Kraft State Bank Robbery

At 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 1931, a large black, high-powered Lincoln automobile, heading east, came to a stop in front of the Frank Hintzman Funeral Parlor in the 400 block of Main Street. While the driver, a small time hoodlum named Frank Webber, stayed at the wheel and kept the motor running, three men jumped out of the car. No passersby took note of the bulges under their coats as they briskly walked the half block to the Kraft State Bank, which had just opened for business.

When they reached the front entrance they drew their guns and rushed into the lobby of the bank and for three terrifying minutes forced patrons and employees to lie on the floor. While two robbers kept their guns trained on the victims the other scooped over $90,000 in cash and securities from the open vault.

Bank guard Vernon Townsend, following orders not to open fire in the bank if there was an armed robbery, tripped the alarm and found his way to the roof of the building, where he hoped to be able to get a chance to shoot.

At the sound of the alarm Webber pulled away from the curb in front of the funeral parlor and rushed to the middle of the street. Putting the car into neutral he stepped out on the street. With his back to the lake and facing the bank, he swept his machine gun back and forth to discourage armed vigilantes and threaten anyone who felt like a hero. A moment later the bank's door flew open and the three robbers exited using a young James Kraft and very frightened Mrs. A. W. Schafer as hostages and shields. As they emerged, Mrs. Schafer stumbled and fell to the sidewalk, which probably saved her life because the frantic men did not stop to pick her up as they rushed to the waiting getaway car.

The car sped off with a roar under a hail of bullets coming from the guns of Winfield Kern, owner of a restaurant in the block, who became so excited he shot through his plate glass window at the fleeing men. Townsend shot from the roof of the bank and Ed Grutt, a clerk in the nearby Farmers Store, plugged away at the bandits from a second-story window. Grutt's shots were answered by an ineffectual blast from Webber's machine gun. In the melee Webber was hit in the eye by a bullet fired by one of the citizens.

Streaking eastward on U.S. 12, the fleeing men turned on

County Trunk B. Armed vigilantes, stalwart Menomonie citizens drawn to the site at the sound of the alarm, took off in pursuit along with Dunn County sheriff "Ike" Harmon. Back at the bank all attention was paid to the wounded bank cashier, William F. Kraft.

As the getaway car raced north on B, the robbers paused to throw a handful of flat-headed nails in the roadway in the hopes of causing flat tires in the cars of their pursuers. Webber, suffering terribly from his wound, died on the highway. It is believed by some that the men turned on their hostage, James Kraft, and in revenge shot him in the back of the head. The car headed east on old Suckow Road, then stopped briefly at the entrance drive to the Ranney farm and pushed the bodies of Kraft and Webber out onto the side of the road.

The three thugs drove on, with the sheriff and others in hot pursuit. But they had a good lead and were never seriously challenged although they continued to spread nails on the roadway.

They had planned the robbery well. Days before they had traveled their escape route, stopping at secluded and abandoned farms where they stashed five-gallon cans of gasoline so that they could avoid going through any village or stopping for gas at a station.

Charles Preston Harmon, one of the bandits, had also been hit at the bank. It is believed that shots from Ed Grutt's gun pierced

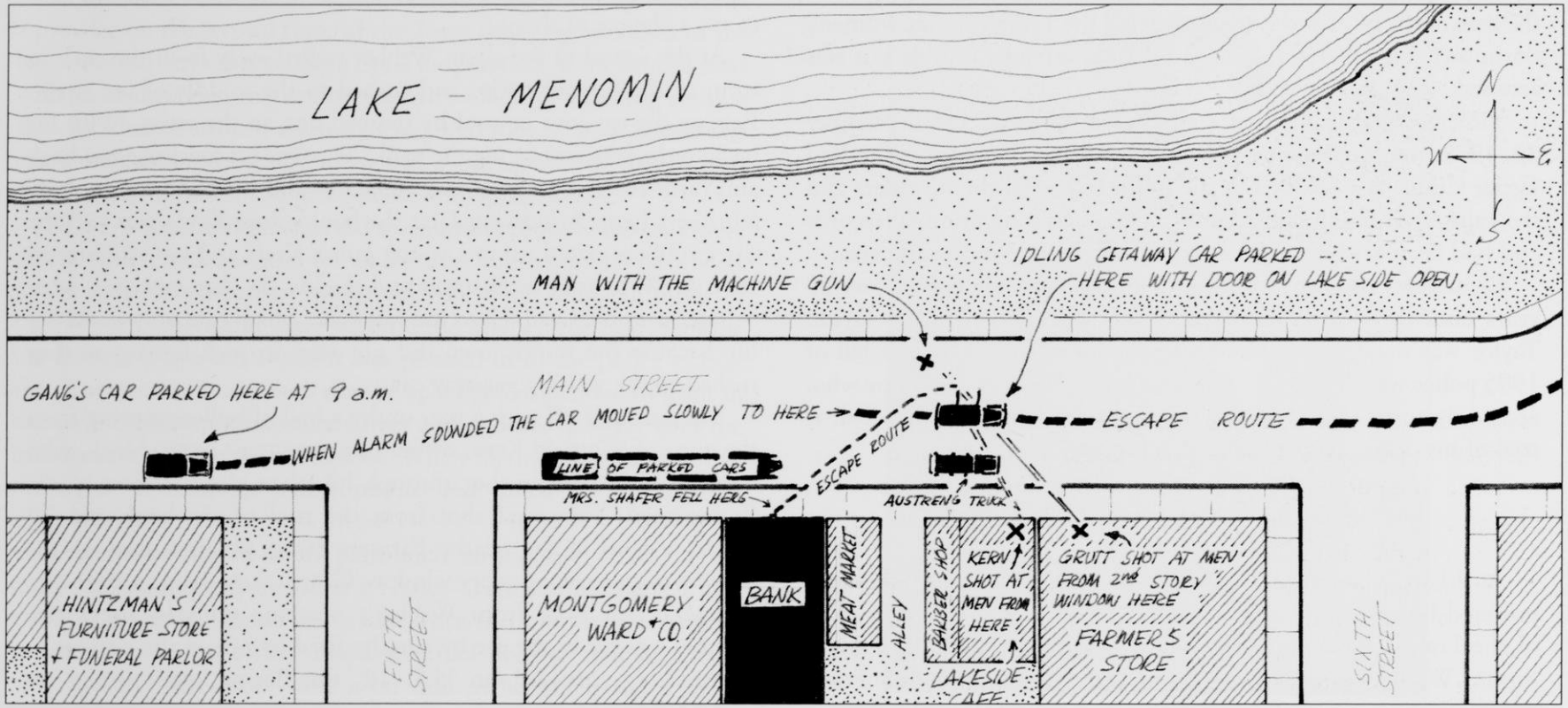


Diagram of the Kraft State Bank robbery.

A curious crowd gathers outside the Kraft State Bank shortly after the robbery and kidnapping of bank teller James Kraft.

Harmon's neck and damaged his knee. As the trio sped north Harmon was in agony. They stopped the car at an abandoned farm, stretched him out on the ground, threw him a handful of securities in case he managed to survive and then drove off. He died on the spot a short time later.

Harmon's death left two members of the gang unhurt, unknown by authorities, and free. They simply disappeared. Posses formed in Menomonie and took off in various directions hoping to find some clues to the whereabouts of the men, but it was all for naught. No one outside Dunn County reported a car of that description.

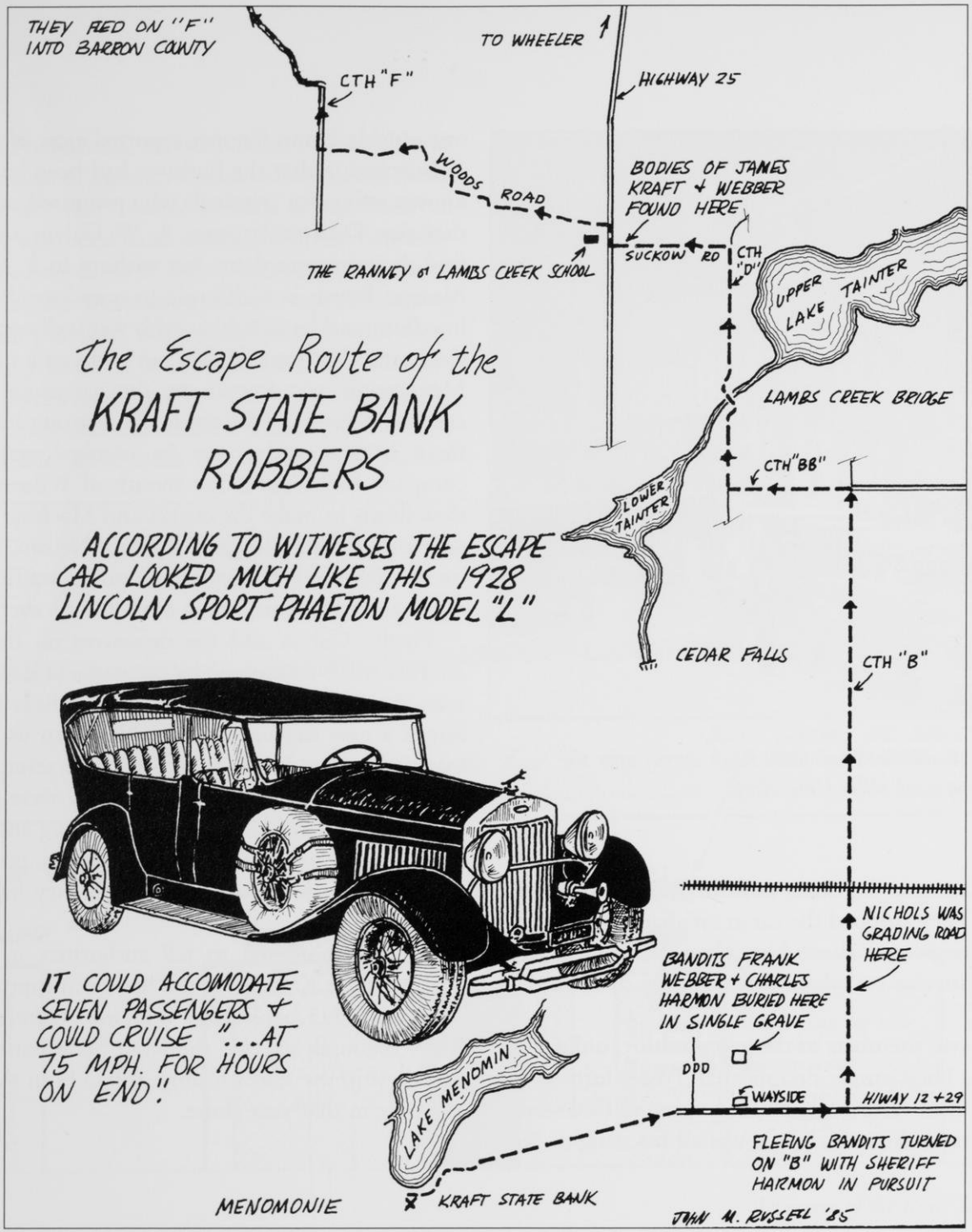
Suspecting that the fugitives had been based in St. Paul, a well-known refuge for criminals who promised not to commit crimes in that city, District Attorney A. W. Galvin and detectives sought to find their answers there, but without luck. Galvin even traveled to Alcatraz Prison in California to question Alvin Karpis, a notorious hoodlum and bank robber who was well acquainted with others in the game. He gave Galvin no satisfaction but did tell him that Menomonie was known by the gangsters as the "city with the crooked bridges," referring to the twisting Highway 12 as it crossed three bridges and made its crooked way around the milling company buildings at the mouth of Wilson Creek. Traffic had to slow down to make the curves and Machine Gun Kelly, Ma Barker and sons, John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson, and Karpis were always on the lookout for Menomonie police waiting to nab them as they negotiated the turns. None of them was ever stopped.

Finally Galvin and the detectives on the case concluded that another small-time crook by the name of Robert Newburn was their man. A trial in Menomonie some months later ended in a hung jury but at a new trial in Hudson, Newburn was found innocent. The investigation and trials took place over several months.

Meanwhile, the two who got away were captured eight months after the Kraft Bank job. Francis Keating and Tommy Holden were apprehended on a Kansas City, Missouri, golf course and sent back to Leavenworth Prison from which they had escaped in February 1930.

No one bothered to tell authorities in Menomonie that the leaders of the Kraft Bank job had been captured!

In his 1993 book *More Wisconsin Crimes of the Century,* author Marv Balousek selected the Kraft State Bank robbery as one of the bloodiest in the state's history. It had been the 34th bank holdup in the state in that year alone.


THEY FLED ON "F" INTO BARRON COUNTY
TO WHEELER
CTH "F"
HIGHWAY 25
WOODS ROAD
BODIES OF JAMES KRAFT + WEBBER FOUND HERE
THE RANNEY OF LAMBS CREEK SCHOOL
SUCKOW RD
CTH "D"
UPPER TAINTER LAKE
LAMBS CREEK BRIDGE
The Escape Route of the
KRAFT STATE BANK
ROBBERS
CTH "BB"
LOWER TAINTER
ACCORDING TO WITNESSES THE ESCAPE CAR LOOKED MUCH LIKE THIS 1928 LINCOLN SPORT PHAETON MODEL "L"
CEDAR FALLS
CTH "B"
NICHOLS WAS GRADING ROAD HERE
BANDITS FRANK WEBBER + CHARLES HARMON BURIED HERE IN SINGLE GRAVE
IT COULD ACCOMODATE SEVEN PASSENGERS + COULD CRUISE "...AT 75 MPH. FOR HOURS ON END!"
LAKE MENOMIN
WAYSIDE
HIWAY 12 + 29
FLEEING BANDITS TURNED ON "B" WITH SHERIFF HARMON IN PURSUIT
MENOMONIE
KRAFT STATE BANK
JOHN M. RUSSELL '85

7

Fire!

Fire prevention in the early years of the village was haphazard at best. It was pretty much up to the individual homeowner and his immediate neighbors to do the best they could in quelling a fire that threatened to destroy property. Fire was a constant danger at the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company mill sites where friction from the water-powered saws and the belts that ran them could cause overheating that could start a blaze in the wooden structures.

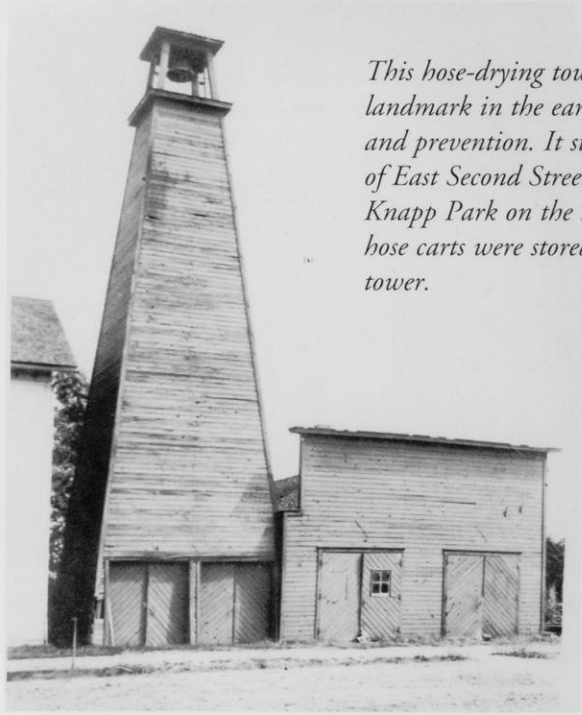
At first the company made some effort to prevent the spread of fire by installing a series of water-filled barrels on the ridge poles of their mills (see photo p. 57). Eventually a water reservoir was dug at the top of Meadow Hill overlooking the mill site and a gravity system of wooden pipes brought a ready flow of water to the complex.

The hopelessness of the situation was reflected in the September 13, 1862, issue of the *Dunn County Lumberman:*

> The principal part of our town is most sadly destitute of any preparation to subdue fires should they occur. A few little draw wells, widely scattered, is the only means we have to meet and overcome such danger. How futile would have been the efforts on Tuesday to have checked the fire, had it got ten minutes more headway, with the few buckets of water that could be drawn from the two or three little wells in the neighborhood. It should be a leading consideration with every citizen when he puts up a dwelling, to construct at the same time a good cistern, and every part of his house well spouted, so that all the water that falls on the building during a rain will be carried into the cistern.

On May 12, 1866, the *Lumberman* reported that the city's Main Street—the street itself—caught on fire.

> A few days ago, our sawdust pavement took fire in front of the Livery Stable [editor's note: it was the city livery owned by Tainter, on the site of the Mabel Tainter Memorial Building] and for a time, that building and Menomonie House were in imminent danger. The only thing that prevented a general conflagration was that the wind was blowing exactly on the street line, and by the fresh use of water the fire was subdued. In the meantime our private opinion is that the sawdust pavement is a nuisance, and should be abated. Sand is safer than fire and if those boys who are so anxious to learn to smoke could have the prudence to empty their tobacco cinders away from the sawdust, it might save the village from a general fire.



This hose-drying tower was a familiar landmark in the early days of fire control and prevention. It stood at the north end of East Second Street and across from Knapp Park on the lake bank. The three hose carts were stored in the base of the tower.

After a big fire near the depot destroyed nearly 700 cords of wood, threatening the depot, the nearby Brewer's Hotel and several other buildings, there was a growing demand for organizing a fire department. An editorial in the May 31, 1873, issue of the *Dunn County News* stated:

> There is some talk of organizing a fire company. That is a proper thing to do, and the proper time to do it is now, before the fire, not wait 'till half the town is laid in ashes. The expense of equipping a hook and ladder company would not be very great, and such an organization might be of great value in case of fire.

In 1880 a major fire destroyed the Samuel B. French block on the south side of Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets. That prompted, in March of 1883, the authorization of $150 to erect a shed to house a hook and ladder rig and to organize "a sufficient number of men" to form a volunteer force. A year and a half later, on November 28, 1884, fire wiped out Grob's Hall, a frame building that served as the city's first "theater," and its neighbor the Merchant's Hotel on the west side of Broadway in the 500 block.

In celebration of the opening of the new fire station in 1906 the entire volunteer and paid crew and all the fire rigs were there to pose for this picture.

This combination of disasters in the growing business district forced the organization of a volunteer fire department in 1885 with Thomas A. McNevin, chief; William Fricke, assistant chief; Frank Carter, secretary; and William Schutte, treasurer. Under this arrangement the men were paid for actual time in service. The young department had two hose carts with 1,500 feet of hose, a chemical engine, and a hook and ladder truck. A fire bell was installed in a hose tower erected on the southwest corner of Main and East Second Streets on the Central School property.

In June of that year the city council voted to install water mains and fire hydrants. By December 12, 1885, water was put into the new system, which consisted of six miles of mains installed throughout the original plat, supplied by a standpipe that rose eighty feet above the top of a hill on the city's east side.

On January 2, 1886, the volunteer fire department, anxious to test the hydrants but with no fire in sight, dragged their hose carts to the 600 block of Broadway and sprayed the Schutte-Quilling building with generous amounts of water. If it was a normal January day, the building and the boardwalk must have had a nice coat of ice after the testing of the hydrants.

An article in the July 17, 1886, issue of the *Dunn County News* informed the citizens of the city, and more importantly, the volunteers, of the meaning of the official fire bell signals :

> The fire bell will be tapped quickly ten strokes, then the ward in which the fire may be located in will be struck. This is to be repeated at short intervals. The wards will be struck as follows: one tap for the First Ward, two taps for Second Ward, three

> taps for Third Ward, four taps for Fourth Ward. In case of false alarms, as soon as possible the Fire Bell will be struck once at intervals of one half minute apart. This signal will be considered a sufficient notice that the fire is extinquished or that the alarm was false and members may return to their respective headquarters. To call members of the Fire Department out to a drill, the bell will be struck twice at intervals of two minutes apart. For a meeting, the fire bell will be struck three times at two minutes apart.

In 1897 the Menomonie volunteer fire department was made up of 45 members headed by Chief H. A Schmidt, himself a volunteer who ran a carousel and carriage factory in the city.

Volunteer firemen in 1897 included:

> **Hook and Ladder Company**—J. Blosmoe, foreman; O. Martinson, assistant foreman; F. Stickel, R. H. Quinn, J. Schaar, G. Quilling, M. Matthiason, N. Lahr, N. Fladten, N. Hugdahl, A. B. Bonnell, Charles Schabacker, and G. Krueger, secretary.
>
> **Hose Company No. 1.**—B. Steiding, foreman; M. Doolittle, assistant foreman; C. J. Olson, S. Pirscher, P. Peterson, J. Geisert, J. Holstein, Thomas McBreen, L. Wyman, F. Gradler.
>
> **Hose Company No. 2.**—O. G. Anderson, foreman; H. Tietz, assistant foreman; J. Josephson, William Hunt, A. Heintz, H. Hall, J. Heintz, G. Hellum, E. Schmidt, and L. Berger.
>
> **Hose Company No. 3.**—O. Strand, foreman; A. Setter, assistant foreman; E. Fonaas, S. Eberhartson, H. Foss, A. Hind, O. H. Hoyem, P. Haugen, A. Alseth, and M. Haugen.

Housed in the frame fire station located on the lake bank near the intersections of Crescent Street, East Second Street, and Sixth Avenue, opposite tiny Knapp Park, were a horse-drawn chemical engine, one hook and ladder truck, and three hose carts. A wooden hose-drying tower, complete with a fire bell at its peak, included a storage area for the hose carts at its base.

In December 1906, a two-story brick fire station was constructed on the site of the former frame station and in 1911, after years of a succession of chiefs serving for little more than a year or two, J. E. Johnson became chief and continued to serve in that position until the 1940s.

The headline of the September 27, 1917, issue of the *Dunn County News* read, "FIRE TEAM SOLD." The article told of the sale of the faithful team of horses that had served so well answering the fire bell over the years. But times were changing and the department had purchased its first motorized truck.

> The old city team, which answered fire alarms and performed other work faithfully in this city for the past dozen years, was sold yesterday by Commissioner J. E. Johnson, pursuant to a resolution by the council, for $250.00. The buyer was John Robelia, living west of the city, who has promised to give the horses a home and take good care of them as long as they live.
>
> One of the horses some time ago went lame and was put out to pasture during the summer, in the hope it would recover; the expectation did not materialize. Its mate still has much work left in it. The team was a striking pair of blacks and was a familiar sight on the city streets.

The arrival of the motorized fire engine supplanted much of the fire department's earlier equipment, including the two-horse American Lafrance combination truck. At the time there were four paid, full-time men on staff—the chief and three drivers. There were also ten volunteers working out of a hose company in north Menomonie, but the new fire engine gave the department a faster response time and the North Menomonie Hose Company, which had been established in 1885, was found to be unnecessary since the new truck could respond to a call before the hose company. It was closed in 1925 after Mayor Carl Peterson pointed out that it would be a saving of $200 or $300 a year.

The Knapp, Stout & Company's Menomonie (shown here in the early 1880s) and Red Cedar Valley operations closed down in 1901.

Chronology 1901 to 1945

1901
Last log sawed in the water mill at Menomonie (August), the end of an era. Knapp, Stout & Co. Company closes its operations in the Red Cedar River valley.

Dunn County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy founded, the first agricultural high school in the United States.

Senator Stout builds the School of Physical Training, containing a gymnasium and natatorium.

Knapp, Stout & Co. Company sells its grist mill to the Wisconsin Power Company.

Submerged Electric Motor Co. acquires a former Knapp, Stout building to house the first outboard motor factory in the world.

St. Joseph's Parochial School, a Roman Catholic elementary school, opens its new building.

After one year, in April, the *Facts and Figures* newspaper closes down.

1902
Dunn County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy and Normal School move into new building on November 10.

The Wilson-Weber Lumber Company takes over retail operations of the former Knapp, Stout & Co. Company.
Hydraulic Pressed Brick Company of St. Louis, purchases the former St. Paul and Minneapolis Pressed Brick Co. yards.

1903
Dr. Lorenzo Dow Harvey arrives to assume the superintendency of the Stout Training Schools for the purpose of training teachers in manual training, domestic science, and kindergarten work.

A weekly juvenile newspaper, *The Menomonie Badger,* founded in October.

1904
Menomonie High School graduate, Frank Waller wins silver medals in the 400 meter race (.07 seconds behind the winner) and the 400 meter hurdles (.03 seconds behind) in the 1904 Olympics held in St. Louis.

City mail service inaugurated.

Globe Iron Works moves to Menomonie from Minneapolis.

Gas plant completed.

Heintz Bros.' Oscillating Sleigh Co., manufacturer of fine wagons and sleighs, opens for business.

The *Menomonie Badger* ceases publication in May.

1905
Water mill destroyed by flood.

1906
Fire sweeps through and destroys most businesses in the triangle block formed by Main and Crescent Streets.

The Wisconsin Milling Company, headquartered in the city, purchases the grist mill for the Wisconsin Power Company.

1908
Chippewa Valley Railway Light & Power Company purchases the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company water franchises.

The Stout Manual Training School is incorporated as Stout Institute.

1909
The Grand and the Majestic movie theaters open.

1910
James Huff Stout dies

The *Menomonie Times* ceases publication.

1911
Stout Institute becomes a state school.

Chippewa Valley Railway Light & Power Company purchases the operations of the Menomonie Electric Light & Power Company.

The LaPointe Lumber Company, George LaPointe, Jr., manager, purchases the retail yards of the Wilson-Weber Lumber Company.

Stella Lucas, librarian at the Mabel Tainter Memorial, dies; Essie Nickerson hired to serve in her place.

1912
City government changed from alderman to commission form.

Segerstrom Piano Factory established.

1913
Building Trades Building (Ray Hall) at Stout Institute erected.

Another new Roman Catholic parochial school opened.

New post office building completed.

1914
Phillip Kraft and three sons, John, William, and Samuel, organize Kraft State Bank.
Segerstrom Piano Co. bankrupt, George P. Norris is appointed receiver. He reorganizes firm as Holland Piano Company.

Kraft State Bank interior, scene of famous robbery in 1931.

1915
City hospital opens.

1916
O & N Lumber Company incorporates and opens general office in Menomonie with George LaPointe, Jr., as its secretary and general manager. By 1925 it was running 33 yards in nine Wisconsin counties.

1917
A milk condensary built by John Wildi Evaporated Milk Company.

First World War begins on March 26. Company H called to guard bridges and docks at Superior and main line railroad bridge over the Red Cedar River.

Dunn County Chapter of the American Red Cross organized on March 19.

1918
A new brick Coddington School opens on the site of the former wooden school building.

Company H arrives in France on March 10.

1919
Litnum Bronze Co. organized, establishes plant in former Globe Iron Works Building.

Hosford-Chase Post No. 32, American Legion, organized on October 9.

1922 fire on Main Street.

1920
American Legion Auxiliary Unit of the Hosford-Chase Post No. 32 organized in May.

1922
Fire destroys Teare Building and Stori's New Concert Hall located across from the post office.

Burton E. Nelson became president of Stout Institute upon Lorenzo Dow Harvey's death in June.

On January 1 the Forster Foundry Co. (former Dunn County Iron Works) incorporated.

1923
Wildi Condensary sold to Nestle Food Company.

1924
Bowman Model School, a teacher training facility named for G. L. Bowman, principal of Dunn County Normal School, opens on the Normal School lot.

Albert Quilling organizes Security Loan & Trust Co. and operates it from the former offices of the Schutte & Quilling Bank at 630 Broadway.

1927
Addition built onto the 1915 hospital.

1930
Tornado hits west outskirts of Menomonie.

1931
Kraft State Bank robbed, bank teller James Kraft shot and killed.

1937
Aluminite Products Company formed and housed in former Globe Iron Works building.

1938
Lakeside Aluminum Company, maker of pressure cookers, acquires Aluminite Products.

1941
December 7, attack on Pearl Harbor triggers America's entrance into WWII. More than 2,500 men and 80 women from Dunn County serve in the nation's armed forces.

1942
New Broadway Street bridge over the Red Cedar River dedicated.

1944
Lakeside Aluminum Company becomes subsidiary of National Pressure Cooker Co. of Eau Claire.

Co-op soybean reduction plant built.

1945
Verne C. Fryklund becomes president of Stout Institute.

Menomonie Housing Authority established to provide homes for returning veterans.

Menomonie Junction train station.

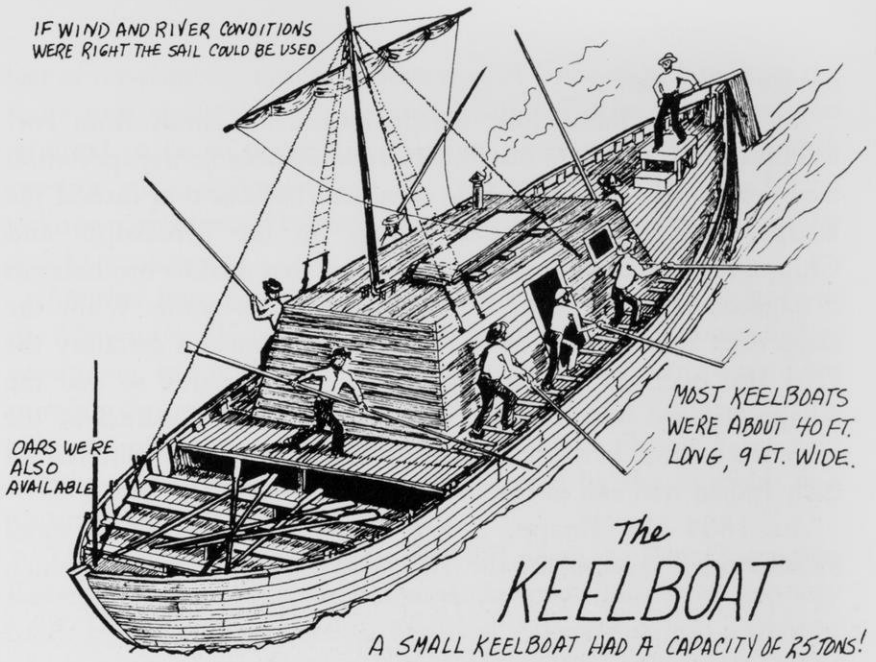
8

Getting From One Place to Another

Indians first established a system of **trails** in and around Menomonie during the centuries they occupied the area. When federal surveyors platted the land mass that is now Dunn County in 1848-49 they indicated obvious trails on their maps. Most trails in the area followed the high ground on both sides of the river. Faint traces of those trails can still be found in undisturbed wilderness areas. There were even "highway signs" in the form of trail marker trees, young hardwood saplings bent over to indicate the direction of the trail and tied down to retain the tree's position. There was such a tree, a mature elm, that remained in this contorted shape adjacent to Tiffany Creek between Downing and Boyceville until recently.

Joseph Nicolet's map of 1829 indicates a major Indian trail that crossed the western half of Wisconsin from Plover, near Wisconsin Rapids, to Hudson. This trail was also used by white settlers coming into the area. Many of the diaries of early pioneers in this area tell of traveling in horse-drawn covered wagons to Dunn County.

This trail marker tree, an elm, indicated the direction of a turn in the trail that ran adjacent to Tiffany Creek in Tiffany Township.



The keelboat was used by Capt. Wilson's family and other early settlers to come to the area.

When Captain William Wilson and his family left their home in Fort Madison, Iowa, in 1846, to relocate in the wilds of western Wisconsin they traveled by **keelboat** up the Mississippi, Chippewa, and the navigable lower portion of the Red Cedar River. There was a point where the draft of the boat hit bottom and the family had to disembark and travel, perhaps by wagon, to their future home of logs near the mouth of what is now called Wilson Creek.

A keelboat was a sturdy craft capable of carrying tons of freight and propelled either by sail or by the steady poling of the boat with a trail of husky men pushing their poles against the bottom of the stream. Such a boat was a luxury compared to what the Indian, early fur traders, and explorers used in the area: the simple **canoe.** Birch bark was the popular choice but there were dugout canoes also in

service in the area.

By the time John Holly Knapp moved his family from Fort Madison in 1863 there was much improvement in transportation facilities. It was the **paddleboat steamer** *Pembina* that carried the Knapp family and their belongings up the Mississippi and Chippewa rivers to Dunnville. It was there that the Orr brothers ran a **stagecoach** service from that village to Menomonie. While the stagecoach gave comfort to the family it is almost a certainty the Orrs also operated **freight wagons** on the same trail so that the Knapp luggage would soon arrive in Menomonie. Much of the stagecoach route between Dunnville and Menomonie followed an early Indian trail east of the river.

In 1864 the Knapp, Stout & Co. constructed a small **sternwheeled steamboat,** the *Pete Wilson,* in Menomonie which gave the firm more flexibility in providing their own passenger and freight service between Dunnville and the company's Mississippi River headquarters in Reads Landing, Minnesota. Although the *Pete Wilson* was built in Menomonie, its draft was too deep for the relatively shallow waters of the Red Cedar. There are no known records of it operating out of Menomonie. Very likely the *Pete Wilson* was "the Little Steamer" that brought the millwright John V. Woodhouse and his family to Dunnville. One of the Woodhouse daughters, Caroline Augusta, became the heroine "Caddie" in the Newbery Award winning book, *Caddie Woodlawn,* written by her granddaughter, Carol Ryrie Brink, in 1935.

It was sometime in the late 1840s or early 1850s that a statewide stagecoach system was established. Operating out of Milwaukee, the **Burbank stages** maintained 19 Concord stagecoaches, eight

The Burbank Stage Coach Co. served Menomonie, traveling about 100 miles a day and changing horses every 15 to 20 miles.

Concord sleighs, and stables housing 160 "high grade" horses along the route. It was the largest stage line in the state, running from Milwaukee to St. Paul, Minnesota, a total of 400 miles. Eventually, the rugged Concord stages and sleighs reached the Menomonie area on a regular schedule. In those early years, the local stage stop was at Gilbert's mill on Gilbert Creek. There is some evidence that the Menomonie House also served as a stop in Menomonie.

There must have been a ferry on the Red Cedar that served local residents and the stage coach line that was located somewhere within the present city limits. Travelers on the stage often expressed fear of traveling the next few miles west of Gilbert's mill because the route took them through a narrow band of pine forest that was reported to be so dense that the sun never reached the ground, causing such darkness that the passengers feared attacks by unknown assailants. However, there appears to be no record of any attacks occurring.

A West Wisconsin Railway train crossing the Red Cedar in the mid-1870s.

Another line, the **North West Stage Co.**, made regular stops at the Menomonie House, where the company changed horses before moving on. In addition, there were a number of local area stage lines running shorter routes to and from Menomonie, connecting the village to other communities such as Dunnville, Prairie Farm, and Lochiel that were off the main lines served by the Burbank and North West stage lines.

Things got better for travelers in 1871 when the **West Wisconsin Railway** reached Menomonie from the east. This gave two-way traffic by rail to such places as Madison, Milwaukee, and dozens of other growing communities. Spur lines ran from the main line at Menomonie Junction to the Knapp, Stout mills in Cedar Falls and Menomonie.

Ten years later, the **Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway** pushed a spur from its main line at Red Cedar Junction in the township of Peru to Menomonie. Both rail lines had hoped to provide the Knapp, Stout, & Company another option for shipping lumber products the firm produced. Boxcars were hardly adequate to handle the massive output of the company in the 1870s and 1880s, but the rail companies were used to making small shipments of material to areas not easily served by the company's preferred river route of transporting lumber to market.

There were other rail users, however, that were able to take advantage of shipping by rail. Most notably were the five brickyards located within easy access to both railways on the west side of the Red Cedar, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line gained business from the Coffin Box Factory in Irvington, which shipped

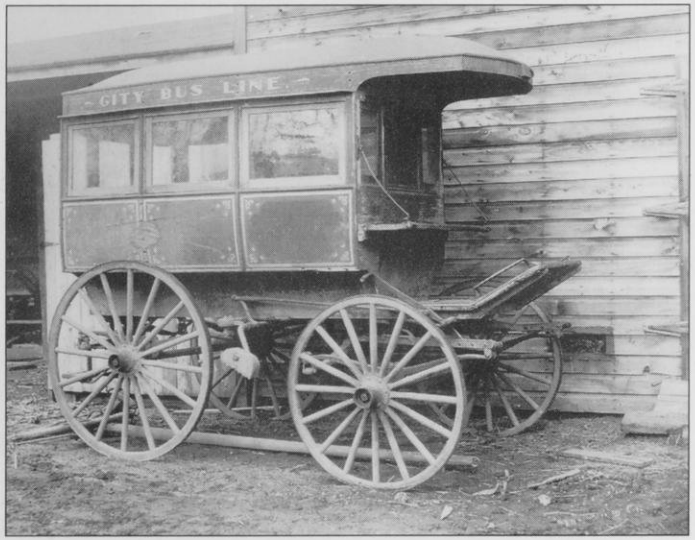
baskets and delivery boxes manufactured in the village, and from the multiple sandstone quarries in the Dunnville/Downsville area.

When Knapp, Stout closed its operations in Menomonie in 1901, both rail companies pulled up their spur lines that ran to Cedar Falls. For years the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul line, better known as the **Milwaukee Road,** continued to operate the Red Cedar River line to Menomonie. Each weekday, the train running on that line would leave Menomonie in the morning and head for Wabasha, Minnesota, and then return in the early evening. In the early 1970s, the Milwaukee Road pulled up its tracks to Menomonie and eventually the old right of way of the Red Cedar spur was turned into the beautiful Red Cedar State Trail, now in constant use year round.

For years after the establishment of the spur line, the West Wisconsin and it successor, the **Omaha line,** ran a train affectionately called "the Stump Dodger" or "the Dinky" that shuttled passengers and freight to and from Menomonie Junction to the depot in Menomonie (at the foot of depot hill). City housewives, especially wives of the men operating the "Dinky," started supper when they heard the mid-afternoon whistle blast that sounded as the train returned to the depot. At 5 p.m., the "potato whistle" from the Hudson Road Creamery was the signal to put the potatoes on the stove. Finally, the Nestle condensary "supper whistle" sounded at 6 p.m.

Passenger service was ended shortly before passenger service on the main line was discontinued. However, local residents could ride in the bus operated by the Taufman family to and from the Junction. The Taufmans also ran the only taxi service in town. Before the advent of the motor car, the **Palace Livery Stable** and most of the other liveries in town ran their horse-drawn omnibuses to meet each train.

At the turn of the century there was some talk of connecting Menomonie with Eau Claire via an electric rail line. Eau Claire had



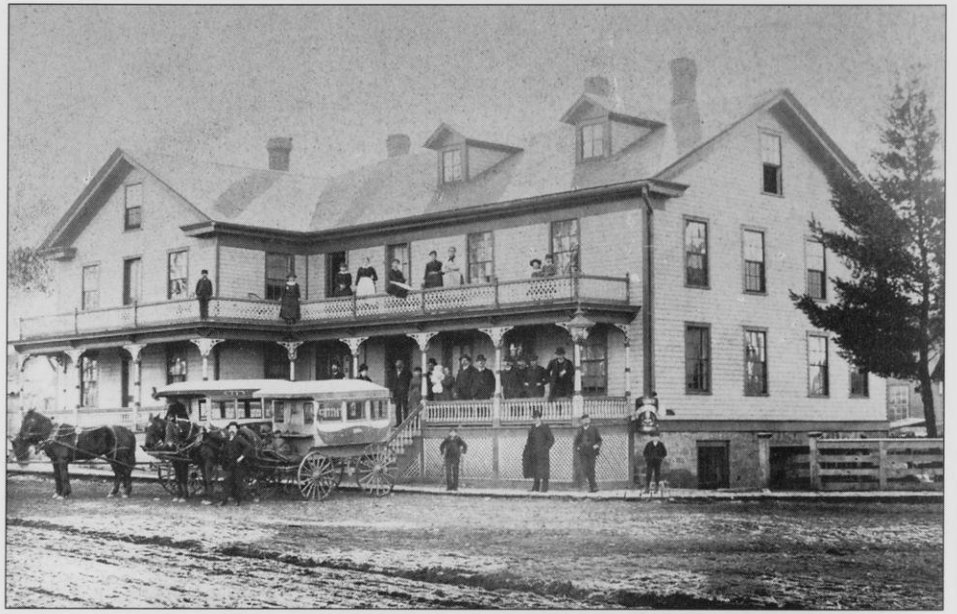
In the early years the Taufman omnibus met the trains at Menomonie Junction, transporting passengers to and from the station.

Sometime after the turn of the century the Taufman Company began using motorized buses such as this one at the intersection of Main & Crescent Sts.

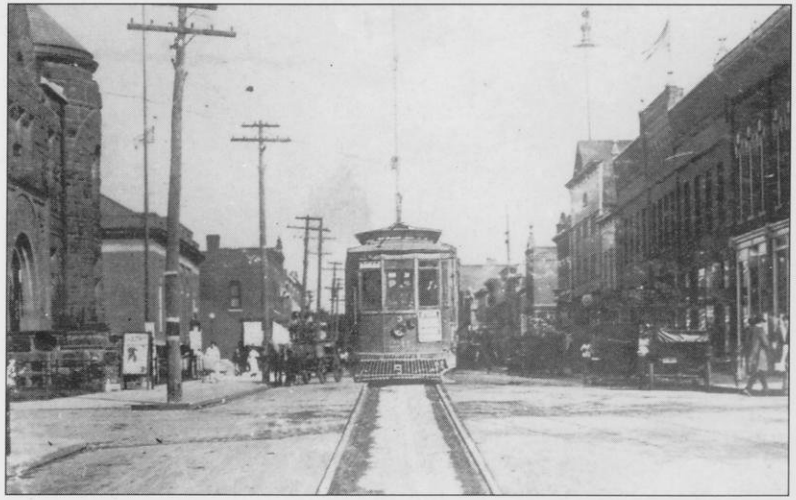
such a system as early as 1889 and ran it successfully for many years. In 1904 the Chippewa Valley Electric Railway merged with the Eau Claire Light and Power Company, but the rail line to Menomonie never materialized. That didn't deter Tonnars Drug Store from producing a postcard showing an electric street car running down Menomonie's Main Street. A pure hoax, but the store that had scores of customers for the cleverly executed card.

Soon after the **automobile** became a familiar sight on streets and area roads, the **Greyhound Bus** began regular service that called for frequent stops in Menomonie to pick up passengers. In those early years, the main highway east of town followed County Highway E, the "Yellowstone Trail," later supplanted by U. S. Highway 12, to become the main artery from Chicago to Minneapolis and St. Paul.

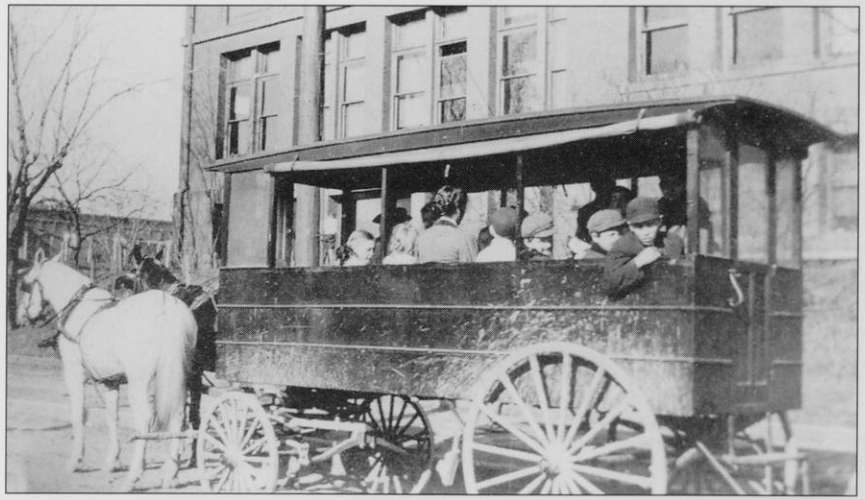
In 1958 work began on the **Interstate system** in Dunn County following a route that touched Menomonie's north limits. When it opened it relieved Menomonie of the constantly increasing through traffic that had been crowding the narrow roadways of U. S. Highway 12 and State Highway 29. In 1996 Interstate 94 still provides "easy on, easy off" access to the rest of the nation.



The Menomonie House was a stop on the North West Stage Co. route.



Menomonie druggist George Tonnar sold this popular card in his drugstore and many recipients believed that the streetcar really existed.



A Menomonie horse-drawn school bus on the west side of Menomonie High and Central Elementary School in 1897.

Workers stacking a kiln with raw bricks in one of the Hydraulic Pressed Brick Company's yards.

9

Early Industries and Commerce

Lumbering was a somewhat seasonal occupation. Lumberjacks spent the winter months in the pinery and in the summer months joined gangs of "river pigs" running the logs to the mills downstream on the river drives, worked in the mills, or farmed.

Many of the lumberjacks were immigrants who had come from such places as Norway, Germany, and Sweden seeking the American dream and had no plans to be loggers all their lives. As lumbering began to wind down in the late 1880s, they increasingly established farms, started businesses, or found employment in another growing industry in Dunn County. Brickmaking, the perfect companion to the lumber industry, was in the early stages of spectacular growth and was positioned to take center stage as a major force in the community.

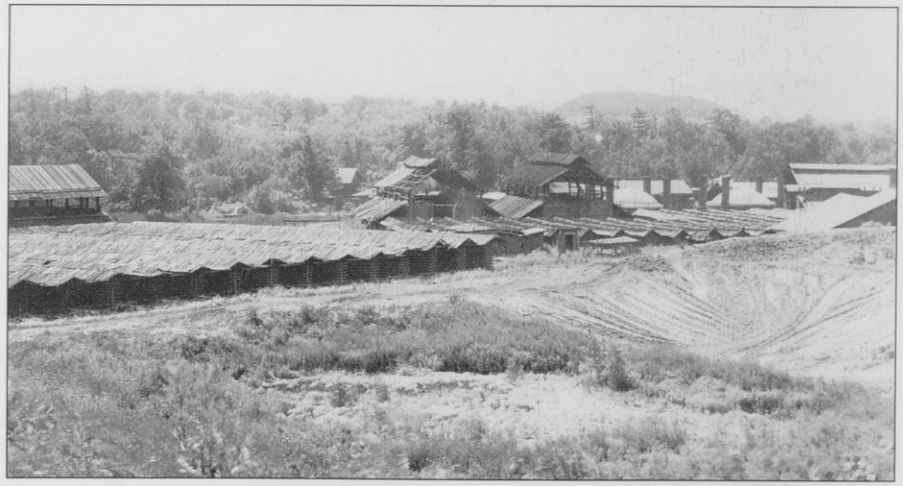
Brickmaking

Just when **Jesse Hughes** discovered the extensive layer of fine clay on his property just west of town is unknown. Apparently it was sometime in the 1860s or early 1870s when he saw the potential of the raw material and began to manufacture brick in a small plant located in the Midway area. He remained in business until at least 1888 but little is known about his modest operation.

Hughes's efforts did not go unnoticed. In 1872 John and Frank Kelly, with W. A. Drowley, entered the brickmaking business in a small yard located on the north side of the Hudson Road. Known as the **Kelly & Drowley Yard** the business continued to grow over the next ten years when it was reorganized and incorporated as the **Dunn County Pressed Brick Co.** Officers of the renewed concern were J. G. Thorpe, an Eau Claire lumberman and former state senator, president; J. T. Gilbert, Milwaukee, secretary; and John Holly Knapp, of the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company, treasurer. Stockholders in the yard included John Hopwood, a future mayor of Menomonie (1891), and Judge John Kelly.

In 1886 the Dunn County Pressed Brick Co. name was changed to the **Menomonie Pressed Brick Co.** and Frank Kelly, one of the original founders, was superintendent. Two years later, in 1888, W. A. Drowley left the firm to become superintendent in a new yard, the **Standard Pressed Brick Co.** The Menomonie Pressed Brick Co. continued to operate until 1897 when the yard was purchased by the **Hydraulic Pressed Brick Co.** of St. Louis, a firm founded in 1868 by Henry Eliot, the father of famed poet T. S. Eliot. Eliot's firm, which had offices in Minneapolis, closed this plant in 1907.

Drowley's new firm, the Standard Pressed Brick Co., was



There were five brickyards operating in 1888 on Menomonie's west limits. This is the Menomonie Brick Company.

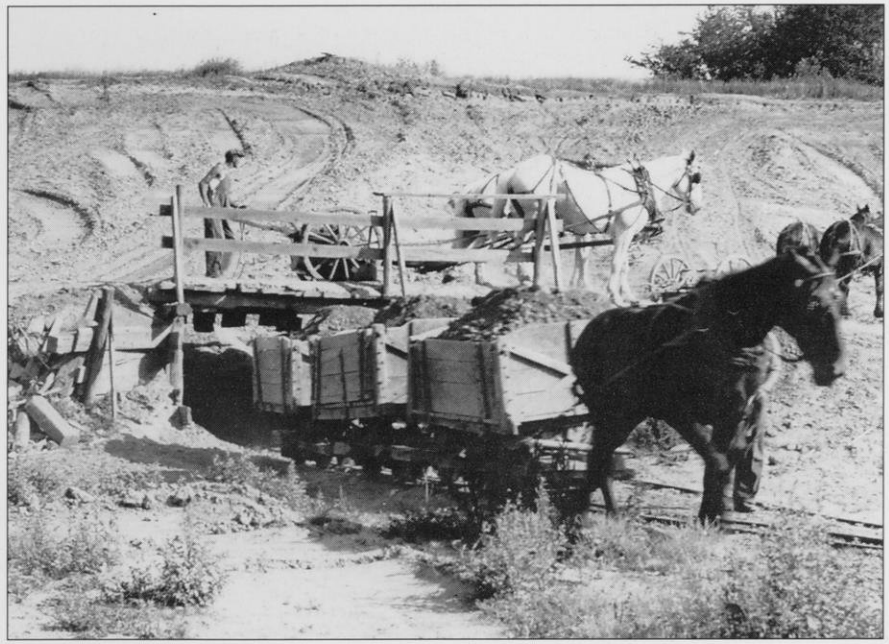
founded in 1888 and situated on the site of a one-man brickmaking enterprise run by a Mr. Maltby. Minneapolis was the home base of the Standard Company headed by a Mr. Byers. F. W. Cook was secretary of the firm. Standard's existence was short lived. It sold its operations in 1894 to the Menomonie Pressed Brick Co., which continued to do business there for three years before closing down the yard for good. It was closed primarily because it had to import clay to its works since there was very little of it on the property.

Sometime in the 1880s another concern, the **St. Paul & Minneapolis Pressed Brick Co.**, began operating a yard on 80 acres across the road and to the southwest of the Standard yard. President and manager was J. K. Caldwell, who had come to Menomonie from Galesburg, Illinois, to run the local plant. It was still operating in 1888 but soon after, Caldwell, saddled with bad decisions in the purchase of machinery that was never installed and poor financial management, closed the yard and returned to Galesburg. After years of idleness the yard was purchased and revitalized by Eliot's Hydraulic Pressed Brick Co. in 1902, a company that continued to operate it at least until 1925 or later.

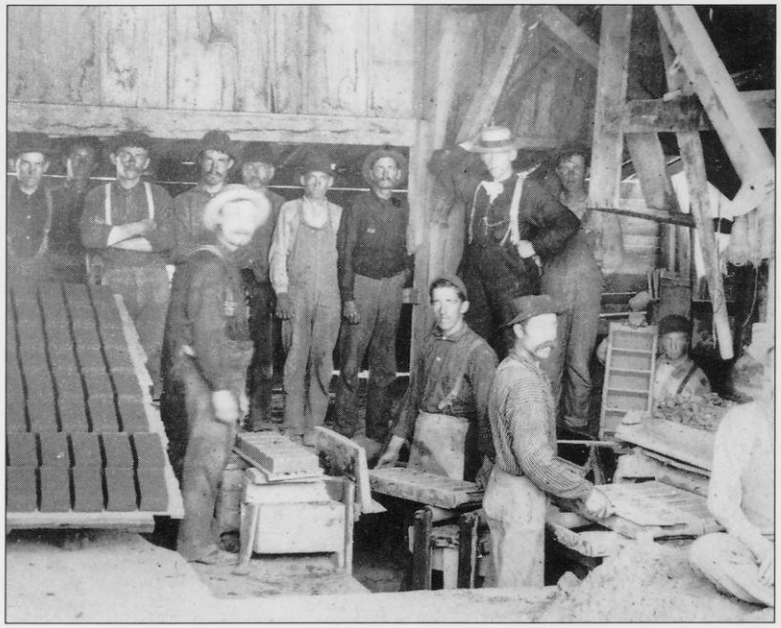
Another yard, the **Wisconsin Red Pressed Brick Co.**, opened in 1885 on 28 acres of land that hugged the west bank of the Red Cedar River and along the north side of present-day State Highway 29. President of the new company was J. W. Kendrick of Minneapolis. A. McMullen, also of Minneapolis, served as secretary and treasurer. Superintendent of the yard was S. L. Alexander of Menomonie. Part of the Wisconsin Red Pressed Brick Co. property, a low wooded area that lined the river, became a popular picnic grounds known as Alexander's Grove. Today it goes by the name of Riverside Park.

By 1921 the Wisconsin Red Pressed Brick Co. was still thriving, but control was assumed by the **Excelsior Brick Co.**, founded in 1900 by F. J. McLean, S. L. Alexander, and James Huff Stout on a clay-rich plot of land along the north shoreline of Gilbert Creek directly opposite the Gilbert/Hofland mill. O. E. Carlson was the superintendent of the Excelsior yard in the 1920s. The two yards produced rough-texture, wire-cut-faced, red sand mold, veneer, colonial, sewer, chimney, and common brick. They combined to produce over 12 million bricks per year in the mid-1920s. By the 1930s, there were only two active yards still operating in the area, the **Menomonie Brick Company** and the Excelsior Brick Co.

Raging flood waters roaring down Gilbert Creek in about 1938 inflicted major damage to the Excelsior yard. It closed down later, leaving the Menomonie Brick Company as the only operating yard in the once-bustling brick manufacturing center. It continued to operate until the mid-1960s.

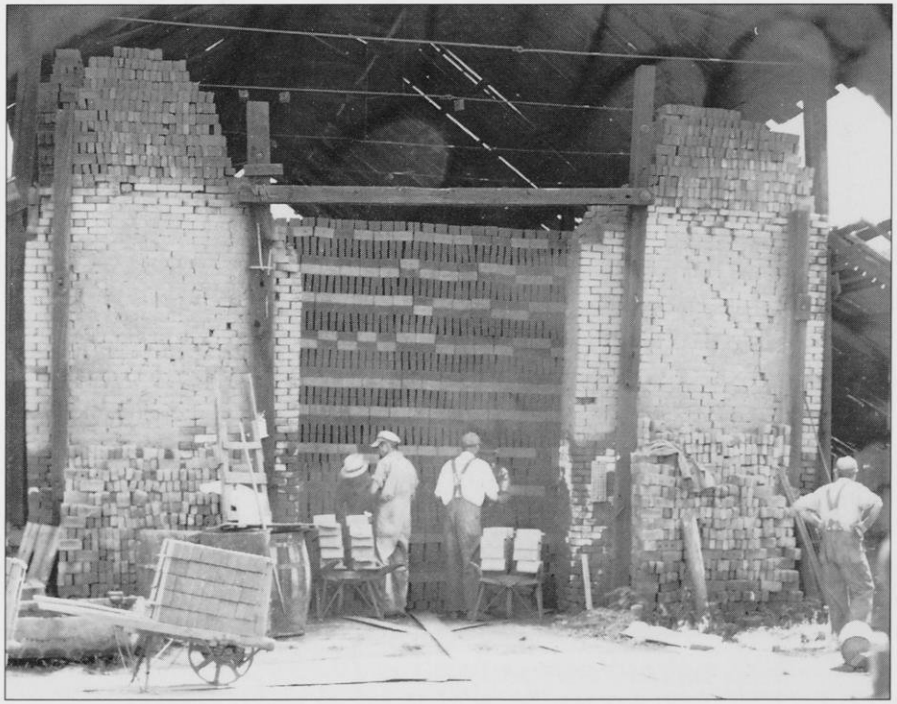


Horses pulling heavy steel scoops carved the raw clay from the rich deposits.



Huge machines pressed the clay into molds to make the bricks.

Raw brick bats were placed in long, open-air drying racks.



The dried brick bats were carefully spaced and stacked in the kiln to allow even heat to reach all bricks.

Firing of the kiln took about two weeks. The pile was then allowed to cool slowly during another two- or three-week period.

Menomonie brick was top quality and sold well throughout the midwest. A popular radio serial in the 1930s called "Myrt and Marge" was broadcast nationwide from Chicago. One day, a huge limousine drove up to the business office of one of the brickyards and the chauffeur escorted out two ladies: Myrt and Marge.

They were in the city to get enough bricks to build a backyard barbeque to match their home. Myrt and Marge had brought a single Menomonie-made brick with them left over when the house was built. A brickyard worker, sample brick in hand, carefully selected sufficient matching bricks and loaded them into the spacious limousine trunk. Myrt and Marge were soon happily on their way back to Chicago.

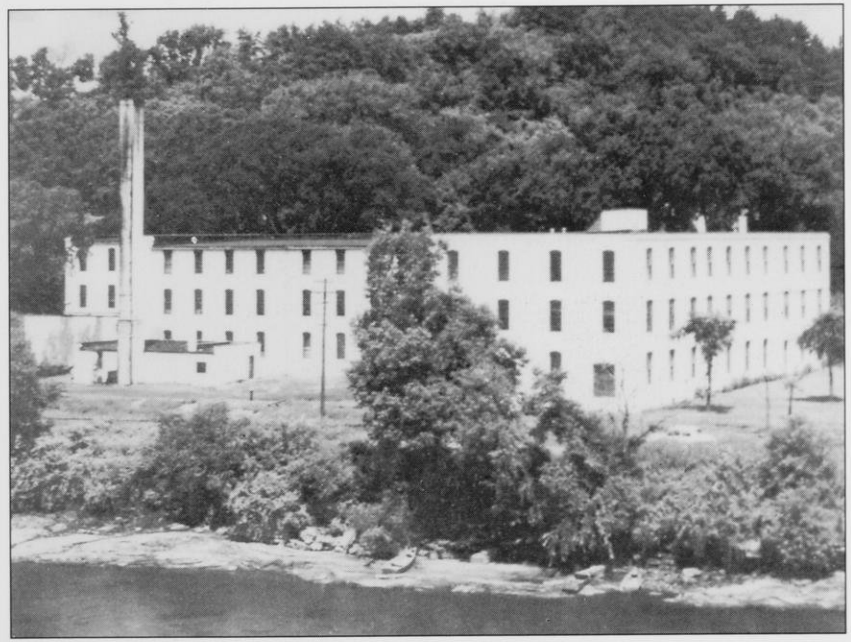
After World War II there was a national building boom, but brick was losing the battle to the larger, less-labor-intensive concrete blocks.

Excelsior Brick Company.

Holland Piano Factory

In 1912 the **Segerstrom Piano Mfg. Co.** of Minneapolis approached local citizens and members of the Commercial Club to ask them to provide a site for a piano factory. The following year the company moved their operations to Menomonie and into a plant located just downstream from the hydroelectric dam on the Red Cedar River in the city.

The new Segerstrom Piano Co. plant produced 1,300 Segerstrom pianos in 1913 and 1,500 in 1914. But the company lacked proper management and filed for bankruptcy. George P. Norris of Minneapolis was appointed receiver, took control of the management, and reorganized the firm as the **Holland Piano Company.** During 1915 the firm under Norris produced 2,500 Holland, Norland, and George P. Norris pianos. From its beginning



This solid building, made of Menomonie brick, served as the piano factory from 1913 to 1927. Later occupants included a wholesale grocery company, the Parker Pen Company, and the Wisconsin Milling Company.

in 1913 until it closed operations in late 1927, the company produced 29,300 upright and player pianos in the Menomonie plant.

Norris, incidentally, was also operating a Holland Piano Co. factory in Holland, Michigan concurrently with the Menomonie firm, producing 24,100 pianos from 1916 to 1927. In 1925, J. M. Sleeper was appointed plant manager, replacing Henry M. Johnson. In peak years the company employed about 100 men.

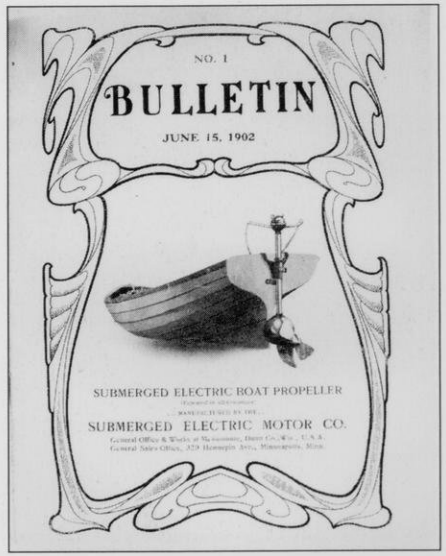
In 1994 a saloon in Montana contacted the Dunn County Historical Society to learn more about its Holland piano, which was still entertaining patrons. Holland pianos were a common sight in many country schools located throughout the county. It made sense from both the standpoint of cost and shipping to purchase the local product.

Submerged Electric Motor Company

Griffith Borgeson, in his book *The Golden Age of the American Racing Car,* tells of the Menomonie-born automotive genius, **Harry Armenius Miller,** who during "...a summer in Menomonie... worked out a peculiar four-cylinder engine, clamped it on a rowboat and showed his cronies how to enjoy their afternoons off. It was the first gasoline outboard motor in the country." Miller had worked on his engine in the early to middle 1890s.

According to the book *The Pictorial History of Outboard Motors,* by W. J. Webb with Robert Carrick, "Prior to 1900, work on outboard motors appeared to be somewhat like a 'moonlighting' operation...then, suddenly, a charge of enthusiasm...lifted the status of the small marine engine out of the experimental stage and onto a serious business level." To illustrate that point the book opens on the story of the **Submerged Electric Motor Co.** of Menomonie, the first outboard motor factory in the world.

It all began when the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company, shut down their mills in Menomonie for good in 1901. They abandoned several buildings at the mill site near the mouth of Wilson Creek, then publicized their availability to new tenants or owners. One of those structures was a two-and-a-half-story frame building vacated in 1900, located on the bank of the Red Cedar River a few rods south of the old mill dam.

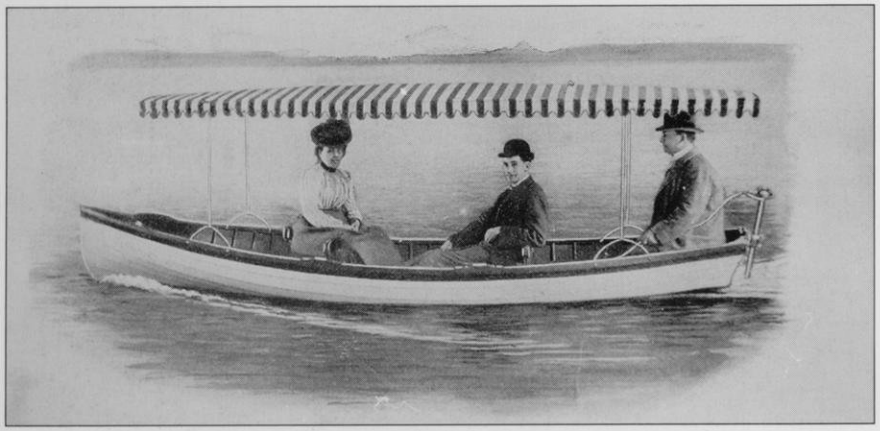


Submerged Electric Motor Co.

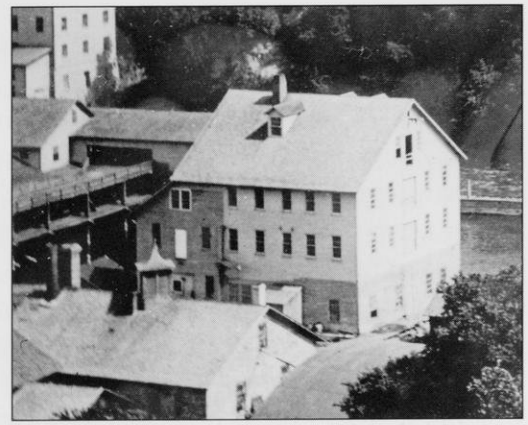
Senator James H. Stout, an official of the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company, was charged with the task of finding potential buyers of the surplus property. It was not long before **Tracey Hatch** of Chicago came to investigate the vacant facilities and chose the old frame building to establish his Submerged Electric Motor Co.

Hatch, an inventive chap who had developed an "Electric Propelling Mechanism" for boats, aided in organizing a small group of local investors to form the Submerged Electric Motor Company to produce the new-fangled machine.

By mid-year of 1900, the plant was producing its "electric portable propellers," advertised as "auxiliary power for sailboats and houseboats." Two 100-amp., six-volt batteries powered the unit, which featured a motor housed in a sealed capsule that also served as the rudder and supported the nine-inch, two-blade propeller. Since the motor, rudder, and propeller were all submerged, the company pointed out that it "saves room in the boat...." What the advertisement failed to mention was that there was quite a need to save "room in the boat," since an operator needed the space to store the batteries. There was enough power in the motor to "propel a small boat with two men aboard at three mph for four hours." If one wished to stay out of the water longer than that, it meant more batteries.



Boats, awnings, batteries, and rechargers were all sold by Submerged Electric.



Formerly owned by the Knapp, Stout & Co. this frame building became the site of the first outboard motor company in the world, the Submerged Electric Motor Company.

For nearly five years the Menomonie company had no serious competitors in the field, enjoying a monopoly until 1905 when the Waterman motor was unveiled in Detroit. In 1906, the Ferro motor was introduced in Cleveland, and the following year, the Walnut motor made its debut in Toledo. Two other motors, the Water Sprite and Burtray, were being built by rival companies in Chicago. Ole Evinrude, often claimed to be the first to invent the outboard motor, did not produce his until 1908.

In about 1906, the Menomonie firm, undoubtedly pressed into action by the rising number of competitors, introduced a gasoline motor which, according to the Webb book, "was the third internal combustion outboard developed in this country." By the time World War I broke out in Europe, the Menomonie-based company had lost much of its share of the market to the rapidly increasing number of competitors springing up throughout the United States, and the firm stopped production and closed forever.

An early version of Hatch's outboard motor is on exhibit in the Dunn County Historical Society's Heritage Museum. It should be pointed out that the pioneering firm not only built the engines but it also supplied the boats, batteries, and generators to charge the batteries.

Cigar Factories

One of the earliest cigar factories in the city was one run by Albert Haffie and Charles T. Diamond. In 1888 Haffie left the company to form his own cigar factory with his brother. Diamond continued to run the **Diamond Cigar Company,** a store-front operation on the ground floor of the Heller Building (now the Lee Building) on Main Street. **Haffie Bros. Cigar Factory,** run by L. and Albert A. Haffie, was also located in the Heller Building. In 1893 the Diamond Company was purchased by Otto and Al Anderson, two brothers and former barbers. They moved the newly acquired business into a new building located on their property along the lake bank at the intersection of Main, Crescent, and Fourth streets.

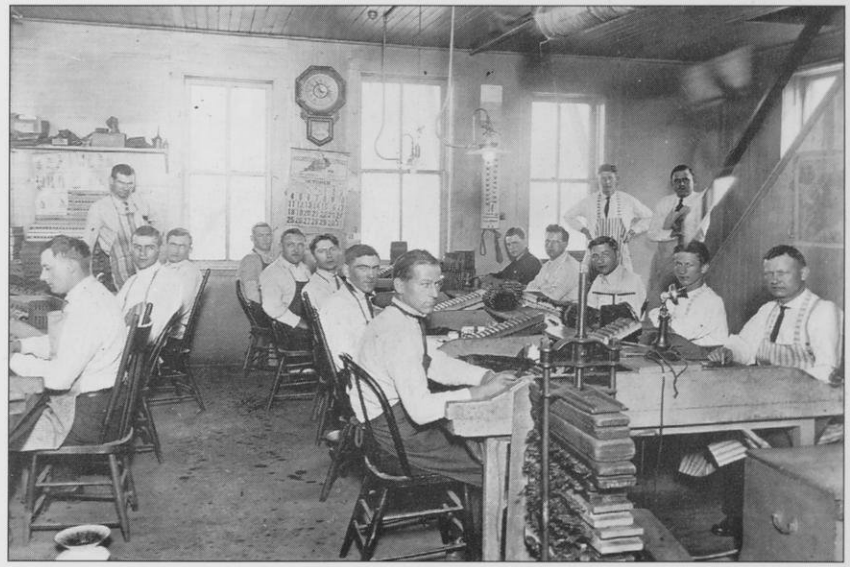
The Anderson Brothers Cigar Factory.

Their office and sales room, located at street level, measured 22 x 40 feet. On the lower level was an equal space dedicated to the manufacturing of cigars. A stock room measuring 20 x 22 feet held supplies.

In the beginning, the "crew" consisted of Otto and Al, but by 1896 there were 13 men making cigars for the company. Each man made an average of 300 hand-made cigars per day. From 1894 through 1896 over a half-million cigars were produced by the **Anderson Brothers Cigar Co.**

In 1920 the Andersons started the A. B. Leaf Tobacco Company in Barron, raising their own tobacco, storing it in their warehouse, and providing their own supply of leaf tobacco to use as wrappers for cigars. By 1925 the Anderson Bros. factory had become the largest cigar factory in northern Wisconsin producing 2 million cigars a year.

Men were not the only cigar makers in Menomonie. In the mid-1890s **Mrs. J. Evers** ran a factory in the 100 block of East Main



Cigar makers at work at the Anderson Bros. factory. Each man made about 300 cigars per day.

producing such brands as Criterion, Heart's Delight, and Northwest. It is not known if she ever "tested" her products.

A year after the Anderson Brothers began their business the **Menomonie Co-operative Cigar Co.**, operated by William Schultz and H. J. Hanson, began producing cigars, in May of 1895. They employed five cigar makers in a factory on Main Street.

By the 1920s the only competition for the Anderson Bros. were a pair of former employees, Reine Breitzman and Al Plutshack, who ran the **Menomonie Cigar Factory** on the third floor of the old Carroll Lucas building, 420 East Main Street. They continued to operate until 1955 producing a local favorite, the Havana Crook cigars. Some of the other brands manufactured by local cigar factories included the Menomonie Club, the A & B Cigar, and the Wakonsa. Much of the tobacco used as wrappers was raised locally in the Colfax area.

H. A. Schmidt Blacksmith Shop

This firm started in about 1872 as Schmidt & Heintz, Blacksmiths, but in 1887 John A. and A. P. Heintz left the company to start a wagon and carriage factory. H. A. Schmidt took on the new name and then, in 1894, a new partner, C. H. Schabacker.

It continued to serve as a general blacksmith shop on the northeast corner of West Sixth Avenue and West Second Street repairing wagons and carriages and manufacturing brick molds, and brickmakers' and well drillers' tools and supplies.

This company's most unique products were carousels and steam riding galleries. Schabacker, a trained woodworker who learned his trade working several years in St. Paul, carved the carousel horses for the merry-go-rounds the firm manufactured. Most of these modest carousels were popular with small carnivals that could not afford the the grand ones manufactured by such companies as the Philadelphia Toboggan Company. Schmidt's firm was a major supplier for the horse-powered, steam-powered, and gasoline-powered merry-go-rounds advertised in amusement publications throughout the nation.

Unfortunately it appears that not one of the carousels or the carved wooden horses still exists, although the Dunn County Historical Society has not given up the hunt. Since the merry-go-round units were not in the grand scale of those nineteenth century carousels still operating today, it is quite likely those made in Menomonie simply wore out with the constant assembly and disassembly so typical of a small carnival operation.

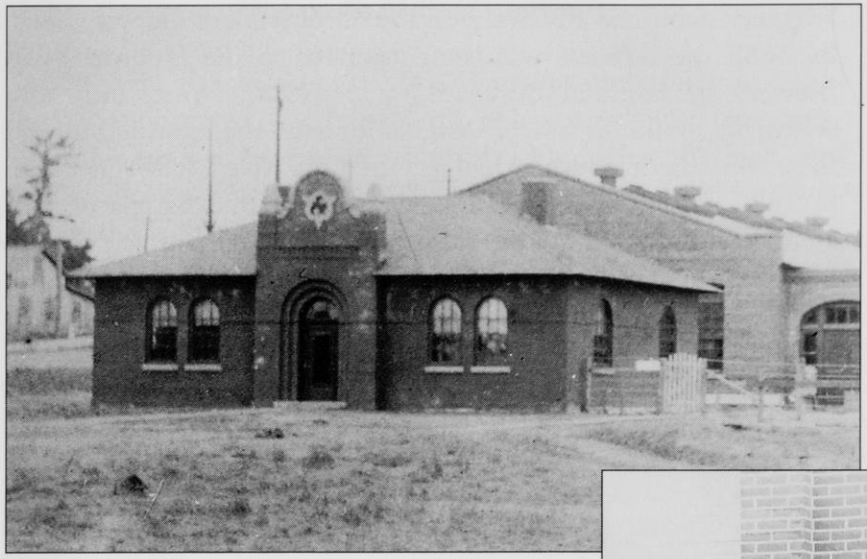
Oscillating Sleigh Company

After John A. and A. P. Heintz left the Schmidt & Heintz Co. in 1887, they established a general blacksmithing and carriage/wagon manufacturing business across from Knapp Park, at the corner of Crescent, East Second Street, and Sixth Avenue.

This firm was named Heintz Brothers, operating under that name until 1904 when the brothers developed a sleigh that oscillated when running over ruts in the ice and snow and on rough roadways. It was such a popular feature that they changed the name of their firm to the Oscillating Sleigh Company. Orders for the unique sleighs came from throughout the midwest but the rapid influx of automobiles, vehicles that could be run throughout the year, caused a decline in the sleigh, carriage, and wagon business. A few years later the firm closed.

Globe Iron Works

In 1904 the Globe Iron Works left Minneapolis and relocated in Menomonie in a new plant south of the railway crossing on North Broadway. Charles O. White, owner of the firm and inventor of its major product, the White engine, very likely moved to Menomonie



Globe Iron Works.

to work with the nearby Submerged Electric Motor Company.

White's patents were for engines primarily designed for marine work, which would be appropriate for the outboard motor company. He also produced motors for recharging batteries, the primary source of power for outboard motors.

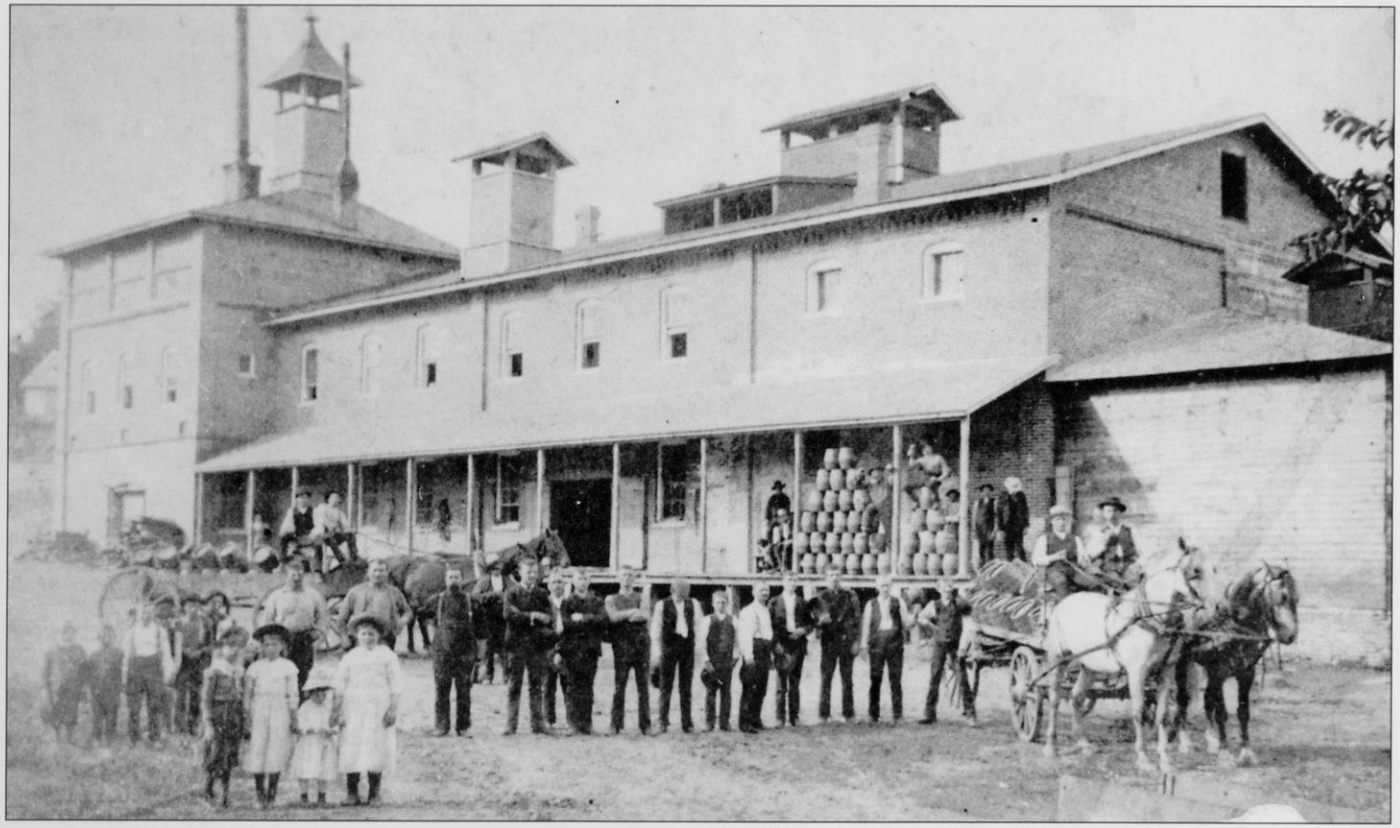
White could not stop "improving" his engines, however. He kept tinkering with the units so much that his customers began to complain and even return engines to the plant. He lost important customers, many of them foreign, and was soon out of business.

The Heintz firm made this rig for the Menomonie Fire Department.

Breweries

Two breweries operated in the Menomonie area in the 1870s. One was the **Christian Fuss Brewery** at the end of West Twelfth Avenue at the top of Brewery Hill. Fuss and his successor, a Mr. Weber, maintained a beer garden at the base of the hill near the mouth of Galloway Creek where it enters the Red Cedar River.

A much larger brewery operation was located in the town of Menomonie about 2 miles west of the city limits, where **Roleff & Wagner** established a brewery on the north bank of Gilbert Creek. By 1888 the business was being operated as the **Hudson Road Brewery** by Gotfried Burkhardt, a native of Switzerland, who eventually found his way to Wabasha to enter the brewing business there. Burkhardt evidently had acquired the Roleff & Wagner firm in 1886 and soon was producing up to 60,000 barrels of beer annually. In 1895 ill health forced him to turn the business over to his son, Louis, who continued the business for several years. Today there is no trace of the building on Brewery Road.



The Hudson Road (Burkhardt) Brewery in its heyday of the 1890s.

Wisconsin Milling Company

When the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company quit business in 1901, the 1858 grist mill was sold to the Wisconsin Power Company, which continued to operate it until 1906 when the mill was purchased by the Wisconsin Milling Company. Operated by water power, the mill had seven run of stone until the old millstones were replaced by steel rollers and other modern equipment.

Within a few short years the new owners doubled production. By the 1920s products included Mill Rose Flour, Company's Best, rye flour, Bolted Corn Meal, buckwheat flour, Hygienic Flour, rye graham, and Creamola, a breakfast cereal made from the heart of the wheat.

There were also animal feeds under the names A-C Dairy Ration, A-C Calf Meal, A-C Scratch Feed, A-C Chick Developer Feed, A-C Baby Chick Feed, A-C Egg Producer, A-C Hog Feed, Monarch Dairy Feed, and Monarch Scratch Feed, No. 2. Products were marketed in Wisconsin, much of the midwest, and in Pennsylvania and New York.

A successful worker strike in the early 1940s spelled the end of flour production in the mill. Production cost increases due to higher wages reached a point where the company could not compete in flour production with the larger Minneapolis mills. The company concentrated on animal feeds until it closed in the 1970s.

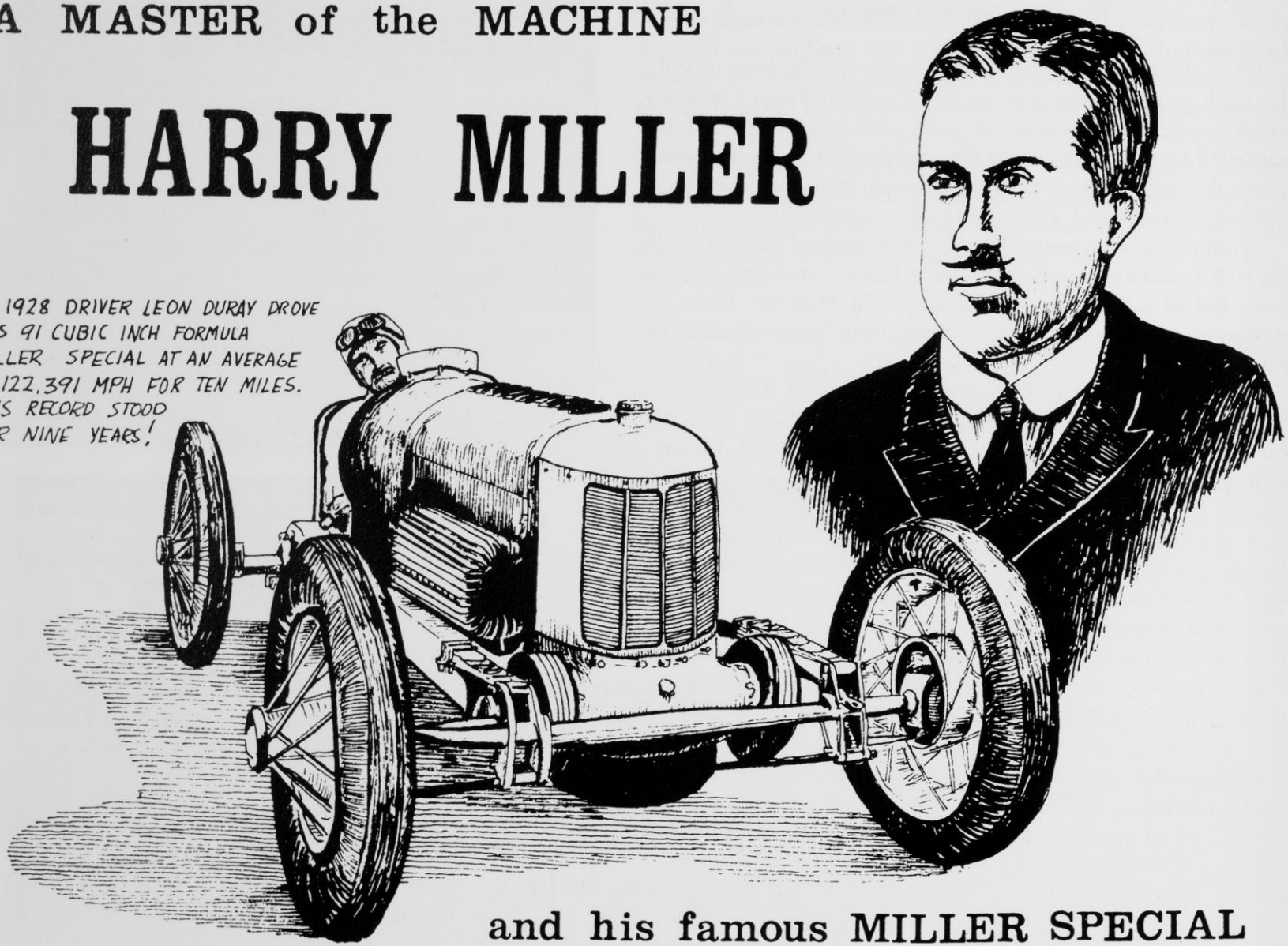
Mill Rose flour was one of the popular brands of the Wisconsin Milling Company.

An electric truck carried product from the mill to the warehouse across the river.

Two Wisconsin Milling Company products.

A MASTER of the MACHINE

HARRY MILLER



and his famous MILLER SPECIAL

10

Inventors and Innovators

Harry Miller

He is still regarded as "America's greatest automobile designer" 53 years after his death in 1943, but his father was furious when Harry Armenius Miller dropped out of school at the age of 15 to work in the Knapp, Stout & Co. machine shop. He loved the work and during idle moments he was allowed to tinker with some ideas of his own that presaged his life's work.

Miller, born in 1876, was the son of Jacob Miller, a native of Germany who had fled that country to avoid military service only to be drafted into the American Civil War soon after he arrived in the United States. Jacob had a talent as a draftsman and was a cartographer during his service with the Third Cavalry, Wisconsin Volunteers. Upon his discharge the elder Miller found his way to Reads Landing, Minnesota, where he met Capt. William Wilson. Wilson needed a man with Miller's talent to draw the maps of the Knapp, Stout lands and to teach music and art to family members of the men who worked in the mill.

His son, Harry, was one of five children whom Jacob and his wife raised in the home that still stands in the Midway area west of Menomonie. Every work day young Harry would ride his bicycle to work starting out on Midway Road, then turning right on Water Street, which ran along the river bank eastward to the mill. Today Water Street is little more than a dirt trail, but traces can still be seen as it leaves the river and climbs the bluff opposite the Hunt-Wesson/Swiss Miss plant.

When he turned 17, Harry decided to seek his fortune in the world. He left Menomonie and found his way to Salt Lake City, Utah. He returned home a year later but left again in 1895 at the age of 19 to try his luck in Los Angeles. He found a job in a bicycle shop and met 16-year-old Edna Lewis. They fell in love, became engaged, and in 1897 were married. It quickly became obvious that two could not live as cheaply as one. Harry's $18.00 a week simply was not enough, so they returned to Menomonie to live with his parents.

Harry was soon back at his old job in the machine shop. It didn't take him long to tire of the return trip home up that steep hill on his bicycle. Griffith Borgeson, in his book *The Golden Age of the American Racing Car*, relates how Harry made his life a bit easier:

> To get to and from work he designed and built a bicycle on which he mounted a small one-cylinder engine. It has often been claimed that this was the first motorcycle in the United States. If so, it did not occur to Harry to protect the idea, and soon there were companies making fortunes from it.

A number of photographs of Miller's motorcycle appeared in the March 1996 issue of *Cycle World.* In the accompanying article, "The Miller Mystery," writer Allen Girdler states that

> The Miller is in perfect balance and proportion. There are straight lines and there are curves, to blend and emphasize the unity of this motorcycle and the theme is carried as far as it can be.... Didn't some philosopher say something about how the genius is in the details?

Girdler also reveals that Miller produced racing car engines "so good Ettore Bugatti—yes, that legend—acquired a Miller and happily copied Harry's ideas for his own engines."

Borgeson quotes a portion of a Miller biography that appeared in an unnamed 1937 newspaper:

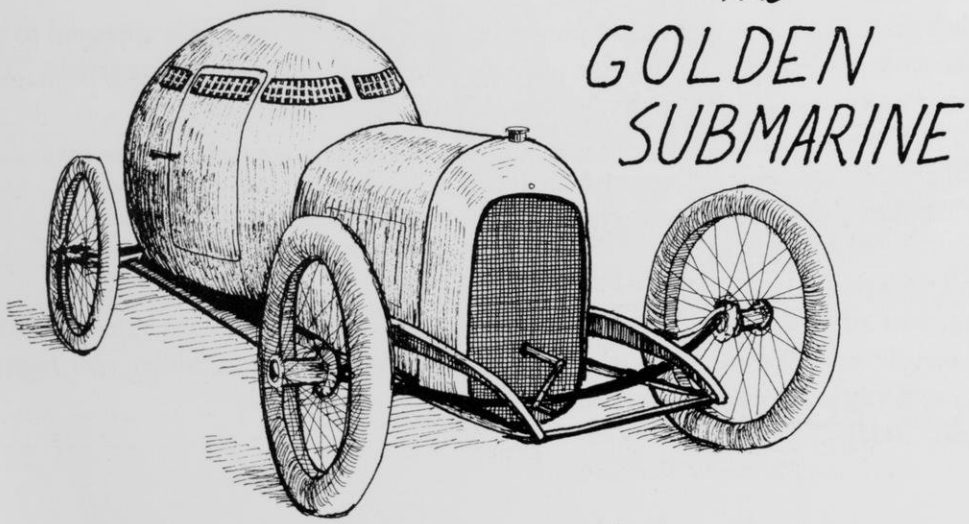
> The following summer at Menomonie he worked out a peculiar four-cylinder engine, clamped it on a rowboat and showed his cronies how to enjoy their afternoons off. It was the first gasoline outboard motor in the country.
>
> About that time his wife got terribly homesick and they packed up and went back to California. He never did get around to patenting the outboard engine—clean forgot all about it.
>
> A young machinist in the shop at Menomonie was not so lackadaisical. He brought out a one-cylinder shortly afterward. His name was Ole Evinrude, and he became the papa of a highly profitable industry.

We have only Miller's word that Evinrude ever worked in Menomonie. No records have surfaced to indicate that he even visited the city. A member of the Evinrude family who came to Menomonie in 1986 to learn more about the Miller outboard had no knowledge of any connection between the two men.

In 1905 he built his first automobile. When Edna suggested that he begin manufacturing cars he was repelled by the thought. He preferred tinkering, exploring possibilities, and moving on to new challenges. He became active in the design of engines for inboard racing boats and airplanes. But it was in the design of racing cars that he made his reputation.

In 1916 Miller designed and built his first racing engine, a successful effort that caught the attention of Barney Oldfield, the top driver of the day. A year later Miller designed the first streamlined racing car, the Golden Submarine, which was commissioned and raced by Oldfield. This revolutionary racer brought Miller his first renown as a car builder. It is interesting to note that during the restoration of the car it was discovered that the magneto for the Golden Submarine was made in Menomonie. Miller never forgot his roots.

In 1979 a trading card featured Harry Miller standing alongside his first four-wheel-drive racing car in 1932. On the back of the card



Inventor extraordinaire Harry Miller.

a brief biography of Miller stated that:

> Harry Armenius Miller was the outstanding figure in American racing between the two World Wars—some would claim the greatest U. S. automotive designer of all time. Twenty years after his death in 1943, direct derivatives of an engine he had designed for power-boat racing in 1926, later modified for racing car use by his one-time associate Fred Offenhauser, were still dominant in track racing. And it remained competitive through to the present day.

Miller has been described as an intuitive engineer, a pure genius who could conceive a new design or concept in his mind. His lack of formal education was a handicap, especially when it came to the mathematics necessary to precisely transfer his ideas to blueprints, he relied on talented draftsmen such as Leo Goossen to execute the drawings. A poor businessman, he made and lost fortunes with apparent indifference.

In 1920 he produced his first straight eight, a 183-cubic-inch engine which Jimmy Murphy used to win the 1922 Indianapolis 500. Thereafter his output was prolific.

Miller-built cars were in high demand in the 1920s when he introduced his famed supercharged 91 engine, which a driver could purchase for $5,000. For another $5,000 a driver could get a complete 91 rear-drive racing car. A front-drive car with a 91 cost another $5,000. Borgeson writes that Miller "priced his products in neat, round figures." From 1922 through 1929 Miller cars won 73 of the 92 major races held in the United States, a success continued throughout the 1930s and continued long after Miller's death from cancer in 1943.

One of Miller's last projects involved the early stages of development of the rear-engined Tucker automobile. In an opening scene of the movie *Tucker,* an early Miller automobile is pushed before the camera.

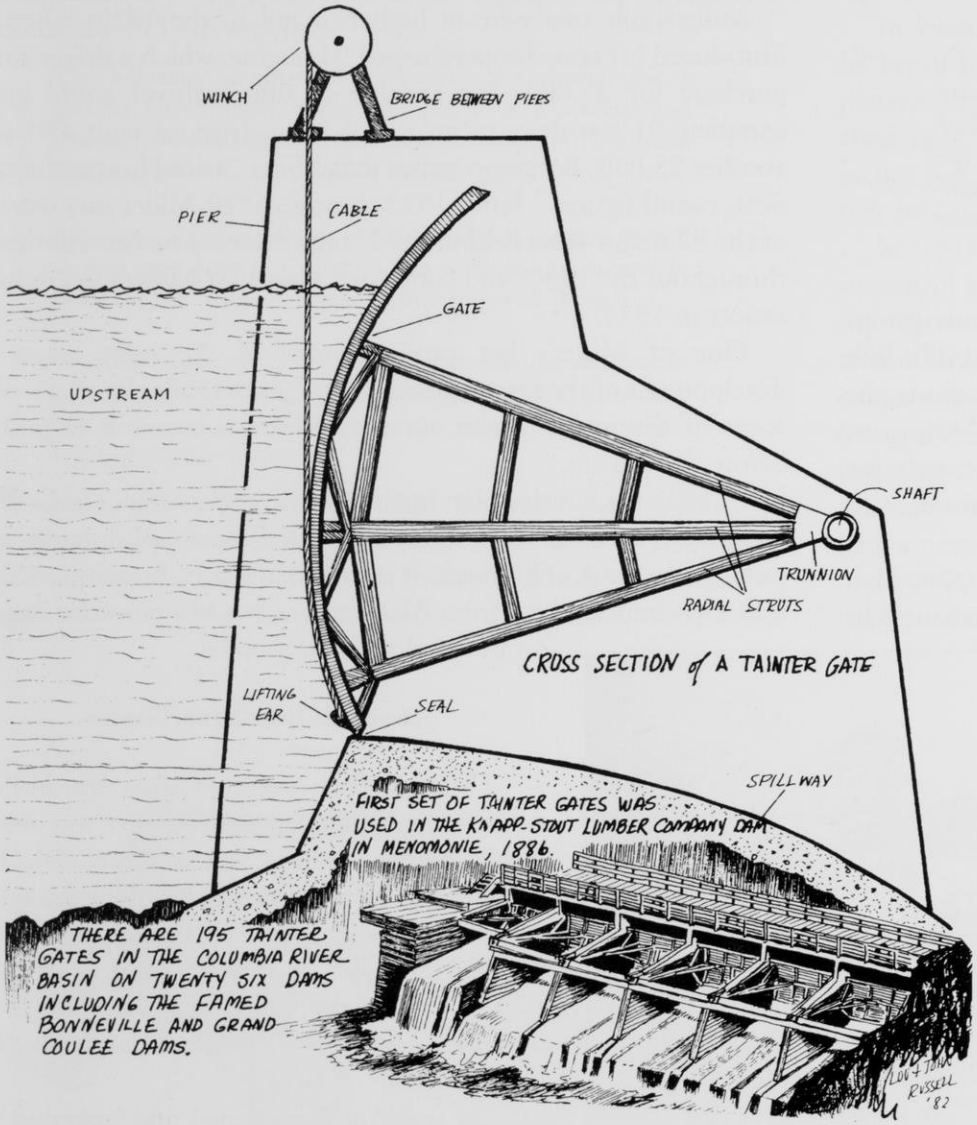
In 1995 the Smithsonian Institute, with the assistance of Griffith Borgeson, installed an exhibit of Miller's accomplishments and published a book of his work. It is clear that Harry Armenius Miller, a sparsely educated lad from Menomonie, made a powerful impact on the world of automobiles.

Jeremiah Burnham Tainter in his steer-drawn wagon.

Jeremiah Burnham Tainter

Thirteen years younger than his brother Andrew, Jeremiah Burnham Tainter was always in his shadow. Andrew was well established in Menomonie by the time Burnham, at the age of 26, came to work in the Knapp, Stout mills in 1862. He began as a millwright, did some surveying for the company, and has been described as a very talented engineer and draftsman.

He and Andrew opened and operated the City Livery stable that was located on the present site of the Mabel Tainter Memorial



The basic design of the Tainter gate.

building. That enterprise ended when the building was demolished to make way for the Memorial.

Burnham Tainter had a talent for designing water control devices to be used on the Red Cedar River and tributaries within the company's territory. In 1886 the company needed a water control device that would almost instantly release enough water from the mill pond to allow the ponderous "Red Cedar River strings" of lumber to float down to Dunnville and the larger Chippewa River.

Burnham redesigned a basic but clumsy water control gate developed in the east. Installed in the dam at Menomonie in that year, it proved to be an efficient device that was relatively easy to manipulate. When opened, a bank of six gates provided an almost instant rush of water sufficient to send the long river strings on their way to market.

Today, over 100 years later, the **Tainter gate** is used in water control dams and locks throughout the world. There are 321 Tainter gates on the dams and locks of the upper Mississippi River Basin from Minneapolis to St. Louis. Tainter's gate succeeded because he cleverly designed it so that the rush of water helped both to open and to close the gates with a minimum of manpower.

There are 195 Tainter gates in the Columbia River Basin on 26 dams, including the Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams, and the gates are in use in Holland, Switzerland, Italy, and many other countries. Jeremiah Burnham Tainter died in 1920 at the age of 84. It all started in Menomonie.

W. R. Hotchkiss & George Paft

W. R. Hotchkiss was the president and manager of the Dunn County News Co. from 1908 until 1913. In that year he left the firm and along with a pressman with the *News*, George Paft, established a new publishing enterprise in the Twin Cities, the **Deluxe Corporation**, a major printer and supplier of business and personal bank checks.

Fredrick C. Leonard

Fredrick Leonard graduated from Menomonie High School on June 13, 1884. He was the son of a Knapp, Stout official, Charles F. Leonard, the head bookkeeper for the company who had come from New York State in 1881. The Leonard home was at 912 Fifth Avenue. Very little is known about Fredrick's schooling after leaving Menomonie. What is known is that he went on to invent the Leonard valve and then established the **Leonard Valve Company** in Cranston, Rhode Island, still a major American supplier of steam valves.

Peter Bazarnik

In the early 1950s Peter Bazarnick developed the **Holiday dishwashing machine** and set up his factory in the former Lange Canning Co. building on Tainter Street in north Menomonie. It was an efficient machine that had all the "bells and whistles" expected by the average housewife of the times. But Bazarnik was going against the big names in the business so it was a difficult task to gain both the attention and the confidence in his machine. His dream came to a sudden end when an order for 300 machines came in from a housing development in the state of Washington and he was unable to get financing to build the machines and fill the order.

George Yoachim

George Yoachim developed a unique floor drain in 1927 that was sure to be a best seller. He worked with his brothers-in-law at the Forster Foundry in the 900 block of South Broadway and formed the **Star Floor Drain Co.** It did indeed become a "best seller" and the company began to turn the drains out as fast as it could but it was difficult to keep up with the demand. Then the "crash of 1929" stunned the nation, putting a virtual stop to new construction, and the company's floor drain business came to a close as fast as it began.

Walter Walsh

It was in the mid-1930s when the nation was in the prolonged state of recovery from the devastating recession that Walter Walsh had an idea. Why not develop a small iron smelter that could melt cast iron? It would be perfect for classrooms in trade schools and manual training classes in high schools where there was little need for large quantities for casting. He went to **Sam Forster** of the **Forster Foundry** for help and the two men developed the unit until it was perfected.

But the nation's recovery still had some way to go. World War II was in its early stages and both the idea and the unit were shelved until better times. However, the war brought on the discovery of new materials and new uses of those materials that were soon adopted by the trade schools and the high school manual training classes after the war, and the need for a classroom smelter was greatly diminished.

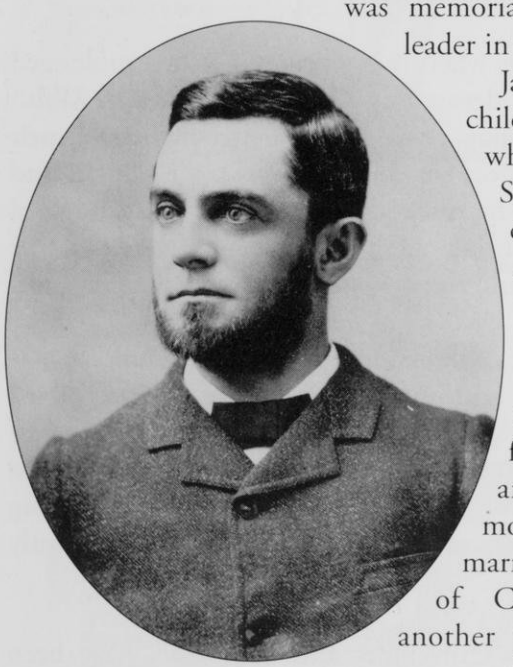
Not all of Menomonie's inventors and innovators have been discussed here, in part due to a lack of reliable information. The story of the Submerged Electric Co. and of the Heintz Bros. Oscillating Sleigh Co. were covered in Chapter 9. Perhaps the greatest of Menomonie's innovators was James H. Stout.

James Huff Stout

The Dunn County News of December 8, 1910, carried this banner headline:

JAMES H. STOUT, MENOMONIE'S
FOREMOST CITIZEN, IS DEAD.

Not only in Menomonie but across the state and the nation Stout was memorialized as an outstanding leader in education.



James Huff Stout

James H. Stout spent his childhood in Dubuque, Iowa, where his father, Henry Stout, was an outstanding citizen and entrepreneur. As a young man James was employed by the giant lumber firm of Knapp, Stout & Co. Company. After working for the firm in St. Louis and Reads Landing, he moved to Menomonie and married one of the daughters of Capt. William Wilson, another partner in the lumber company.

Stout was both a dreamer and a doer. His very substantial wealth derived from the profits of the lumber company enabled him to transform ideas into reality. He dreamed of a new kind of education in which the arts of home and industry would become a part of every child's education, then built buildings, equipped them, and hired teachers to substantiate the dream. The result was the founding of what would become the innovative University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Angeline Wilson married James Huff Stout.

James Stout dreamed of a more attractive city. He brought to Menomonie a famous landscape artist, Warren Manning, to lay out a comprehensive plan for city beautification, starting with the campus of the Stout schools.

The Spark that Made it Happen

"It was while in St. Louis…that Mr. Stout became interested in educational work. A friend remarked one day in his hearing that he would like to educate his three boys in manual training, but did not have the means.

"Mr. Stout spoke up, 'That need not hinder you. I will furnish the money [for school] if you will look after [the rest of] the boys' [needs].'

"The arrangement was carried out. Mr. Stout watched the results and his interest in this form of education was awakened."

…from Curtiss-Wedge et al, *History of Dunn County* (1925)

He also dreamed of improving educational opportunities for rural Dunn County. To fulfill the dream, he created at his own expense a system of traveling libraries emanating from the Mabel Tainter Memorial Library and reaching out to the rural communities.

Stout dreamed of starting a school for the black children of Thornton, Arkansas, where he had a lumber mill. He wanted these children to have the same opportunities in household and manual arts being enjoyed by Menomonie children. His death cut short his plans, but his family later made his dream a reality.

Stout exhibited the same leadership qualities in business. He was in the forefront of efforts to improve Menomonie through civic organization. As chairman of the state senate's Committee on Education, Stout took the lead in establishing the county normal schools and the county agricultural schools.

In 1896 he financed and supervised the construction of the Stout Road, a half-mile stretch of experimental roadway comprising a

The Stout children. Evaline died of diabetes at age 13. James Huff, Jr., committed suicide at the age of 21 shortly after the death of his father. William enjoyed a long life.

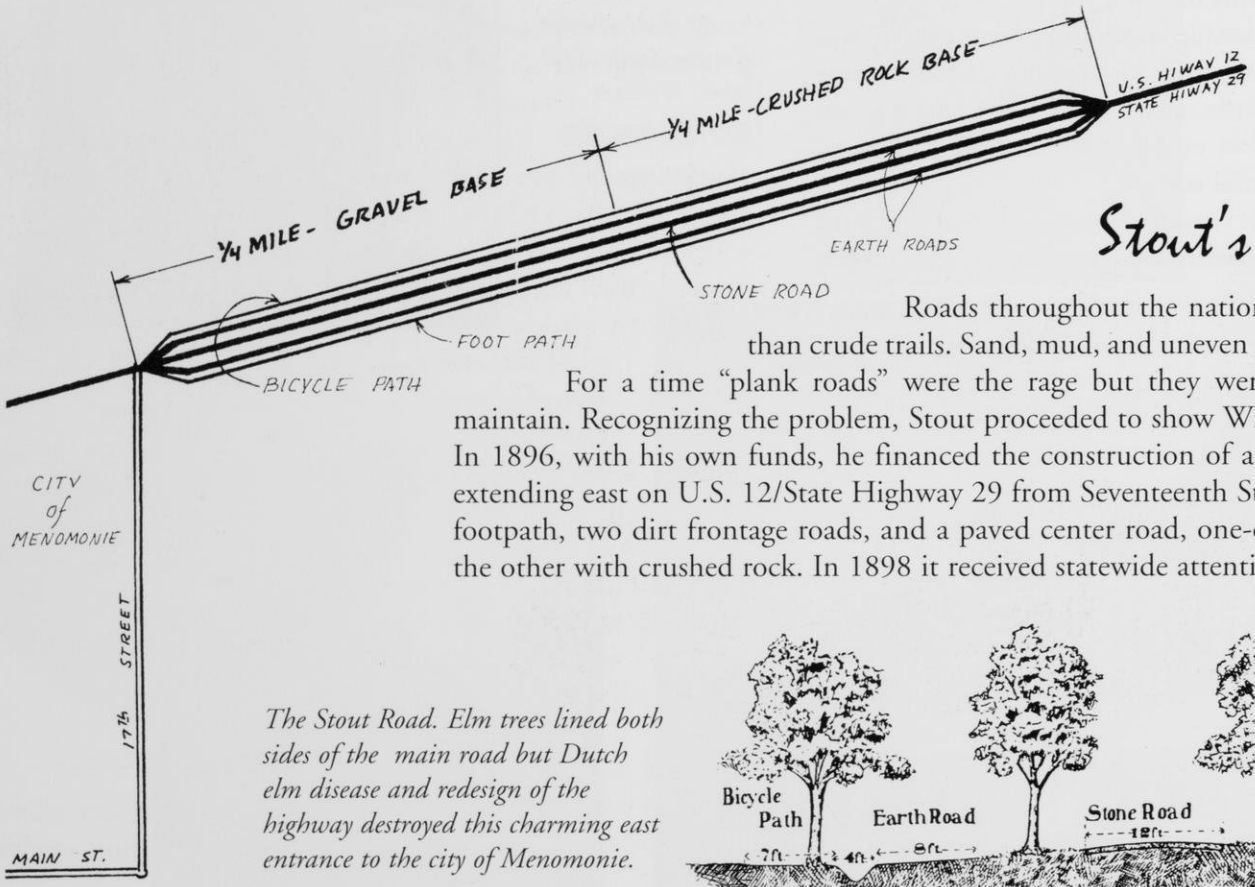
The Stout home.

Sen. Stout was active in community events like this 4th of July picnic.

bicycle path, footpath, two dirt roads, and a center road paved with stone. He was instrumental in bringing Hatch's Submerged Electric Motor Co., the first outboard motor factory in the world, to Menomonie in 1901.

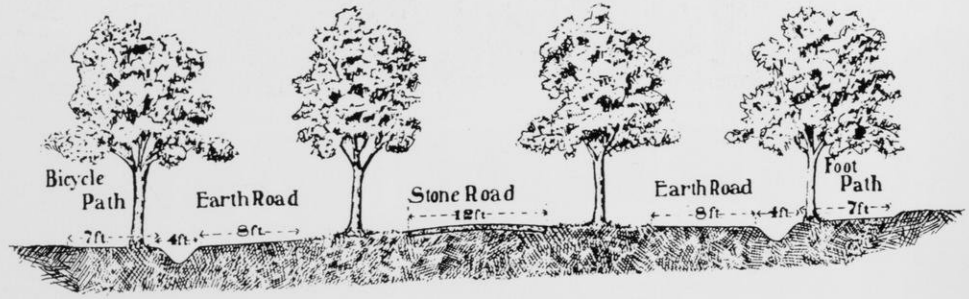
By the time of his death in 1910 at the age of 62, Stout was president of the First National Bank, Menomonie, the Bank of Menomonie, the Wisconsin Milling Company of Menomonie, the Stout Lumber Company of Thornton, Arkansas, and the Thornton & Alexandria Railway Company.

Stout had other dreams as well. He dreamed of building a model county school and of moving the Stout campus to a new location away from the center of town. What other visions he had we will never know, but from the many things he accomplished in his twenty years in Menomonie we can assume that many would have become reality.



Stout's model road

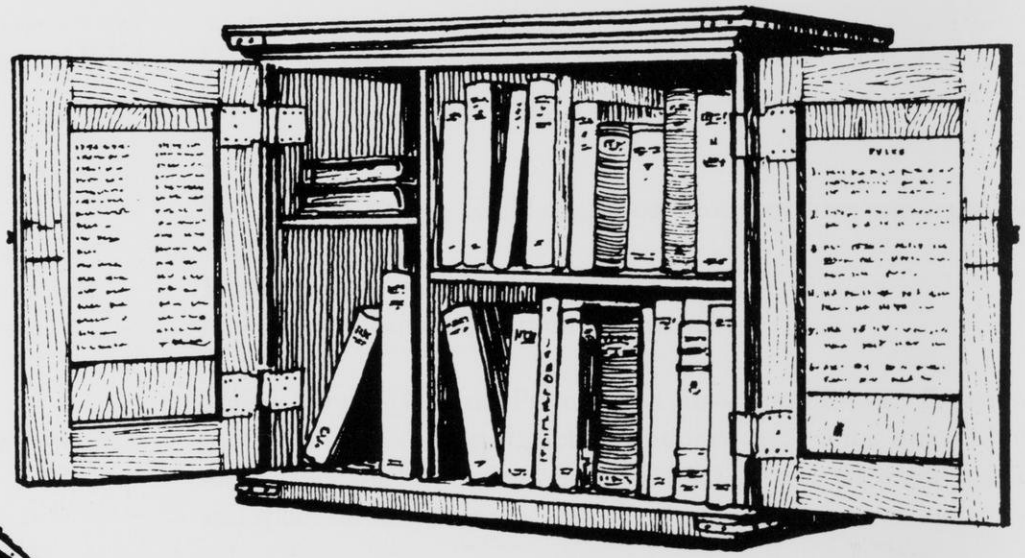
Roads throughout the nation in the 1800s were little more than crude trails. Sand, mud, and uneven ground made traveling difficult. For a time "plank roads" were the rage but they were costly to build and hard to maintain. Recognizing the problem, Stout proceeded to show Wisconsin what a road should be. In 1896, with his own funds, he financed the construction of a five-lane road a half-mile long extending east on U.S. 12/State Highway 29 from Seventeenth Street. It included a bicycle path, footpath, two dirt frontage roads, and a paved center road, one-quarter mile with a gravel base, the other with crushed rock. In 1898 it received statewide attention.

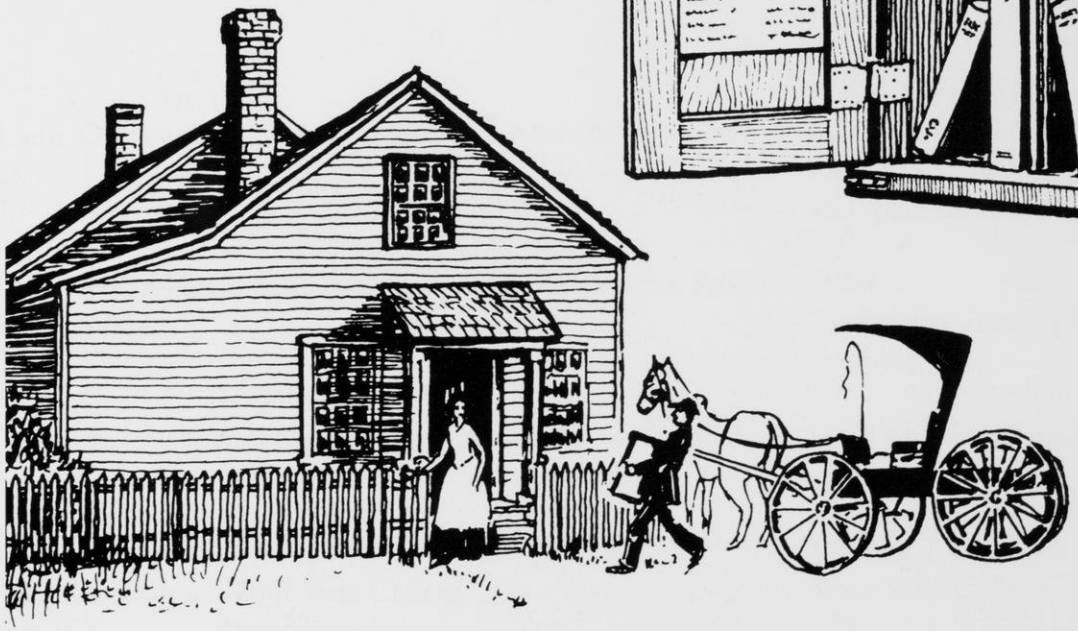


The Stout Road. Elm trees lined both sides of the main road but Dutch elm disease and redesign of the highway destroyed this charming east entrance to the city of Menomonie.

The first traveling library

In May 1895, Stout established the first traveling library in the state (perhaps in the nation). He purchased 500 books, placed them in three dozen boxes, and distributed them to rural library associations, which kept circulation records. These "libraries" were circulated by a man in a horse-drawn buggy who made the rounds on a regular basis. By the following year, five other traveling libraries were active around the state.





Chronology, 1946 to 1996

1946
Menomonie celebrates its Centennial.

Lange Canning Company moves to north Menomonie, establishes plant on Tainter Street.

Sanna Dairies purchased by Nestle Food Company.

1949
Major addition and new entrance erected on hospital's east side.

1950s

Grand and Orpheum theaters close and move to the new State Theater.

1950
Sanna Dairies develops a cocoa mix under the brand name Swiss Miss for an airline.

1951
Dunn County Historical Society incorporated as a nonprofit organization.

1955
Stout Institute becomes Stout State College.

1957
Devastating tornado rips the area just north of the city, leaving over two dozen dead and hundreds of homes and barns destroyed or damaged.

Last class graduates from the Dunn County Normal School and the building becomes part of Stout State College.

Doors to Dunn County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy, the "Aggie," close for last time in June.

1958
Menomonie Theater Guild organized; produces three one-act plays.

1959
New Dunn County Courthouse constructed.

Mabel Tainter Memorial Preservation Association formed to restore the memorial building, largely abandoned except for the reading room, since the Depression. Between 1961-87 over $150,000 raised and spent on restoration.

1960
Three-story nursing home wing added to the Memorial Hospital complex.

Swiss Miss cocoa made available to the public.

1961
William J. Micheels replaces Verne C. Fryklund as president of Stout State College.

1964
Stout State College becomes Stout State University.

1967
Menomonie abandons mayoral form of government and adopts city manager system for a decade.

New Menomonie High School built near Grove Hill in southwest Menomonie.

Beatrice Foods purchases Sanna Dairies.

1968
Harbor Inn, renamed the Bolo Restaurant, moves into new building.

1970s
Swiss Miss goes into national distribution.

1971
Stout State University becomes University of Wisconsin-Stout.

1972
Robert Swanson becomes chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout replacing William J. Micheels.

1973
Red Cedar Junction railroad line paralleling the Red Cedar River, constructed in 1882 and which serviced the Knapp, Stout & Company, abandoned and acquired by the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources; it would later become the Red Cedar State Trail.

Badger Iron Works moves its operation to the new Industrial Park.

1974
Mabel Tainter Memorial listed on National Register of Historic Places.

1975
Menomonie Engineering founded.

Environmental impact statement for proposed Red Cedar State Trail submitted and approved, clearing the way for trail development.

Wieser Concrete opens operations in the Industrial Park.

1976
John and Jackie Dotseth finish restoring Wilson/Stout home and open it to the public as the Wilson Place Museum.

1978
Menomonie Engineering changes its name to Cedar Corporation.

1979
First annual summer Chautauqua of the Pinery held.

1980
Myrtle Werth Health Center opens, replacing Memorial Hospital.

First Tinman Triathlon held in Menomonie.

1981
Red Cedar State Trail completed and available for hiking, biking, and skiing.

Greenwood Players children's theater founded by Marion Lang.

1985
Dunn County Heritage Center Museum on Wilson Park unveiled in August.

Creamery Restaurant opens for business in Downsville under

The Dunn County Courthouse today.

management of the Thomas family.

Hunt-Wesson acquires Beatrice Foods, including Sanna.

1986
Menomonie returns to a mayoral form of government and elects Charles "Chuck" Stokke mayor.

First annual Christmas Faire of fine crafts held at UW-Stout. It later moved to the Mabel Tainter Memorial where it continues under the management of Nancy Blake.

1987
First issue of monthly *Lamp Lighter* published by Steve Lampman of Boothby Print shop in June. It ceases publication after five colorful issues in October/November.

First annual Taste of Menomonie held on the Wilson Place Museum grounds in September.

1988
Charles Sorensen succeeds Robert Swanson as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

1990s
ConAgra acquires Hunt-Wesson, which becomes a wholly owned subsidiary.

1991
Construction begins on the Cardinal FG glass factory.

1992
Cardinal Glass begins production in September.

1993
Rolar, Inc., producer of Poore Bros. potato chips, begins operations in July.

Wal-Mart Distribution Center starts operation in Menomonie.

Arts Coming Together organized.

1994
Oaklawn Elementary School replaces the abandoned East and Little Elk Creek schools.

1996
Menomonie Sesquicentennial.

The Moorish-style Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater.

11

Cultural Life and Entertainment

Prior to the arrival of the West Wisconsin Railroad Company's line in Menomonie in 1871, early settlers relied on their own devices for most of their amusements. Popular pursuits included such social activities as attending meetings of lodges and benevolent societies, church functions, and sewing circles, as well as card-playing, dancing, hunting, fishing, and occasional visits by itinerant performers.

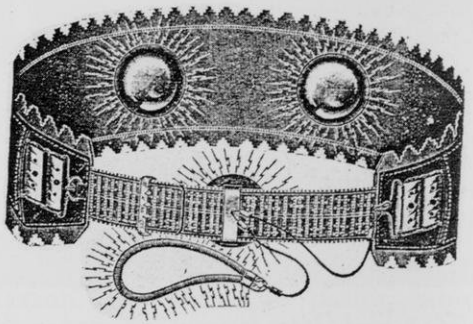
It was not unusual to travel miles by horse-drawn buggy to a dance. Bella French, writing in her *American Sketch Book, Menomonie and Dunn County, Wisconsin* (1875), stated "...so great was the love of dancing, that parties have been known to go to Eau Claire or Chippewa Falls, breaking the way through deep snow, to attend a dance." A single fiddle supplied the music at most of these events, but in 1855 Mr. and Mrs. Phineas Branch brought the first piano to the village, where it was placed in the Knapp, Stout & Company's hotel managed by Mrs. Lorenzo Bullard.

It was the arrival of the railroad that brought traveling entertainers, many with marginal talents, to the previously remote areas of the nation, and the growing settlement of Menomonie was a thankful recipient. At first these early entertainments took place in the company's community building, lodge halls, and churches. Then, in 1869, an immigrant from Switzerland, Henry Grob, built a two-story frame building in the 500 block of Thirteenth Street (now Broadway) that became known as **Grob's Hall,** the first entertainment venue in the village and the largest structure in the growing village.

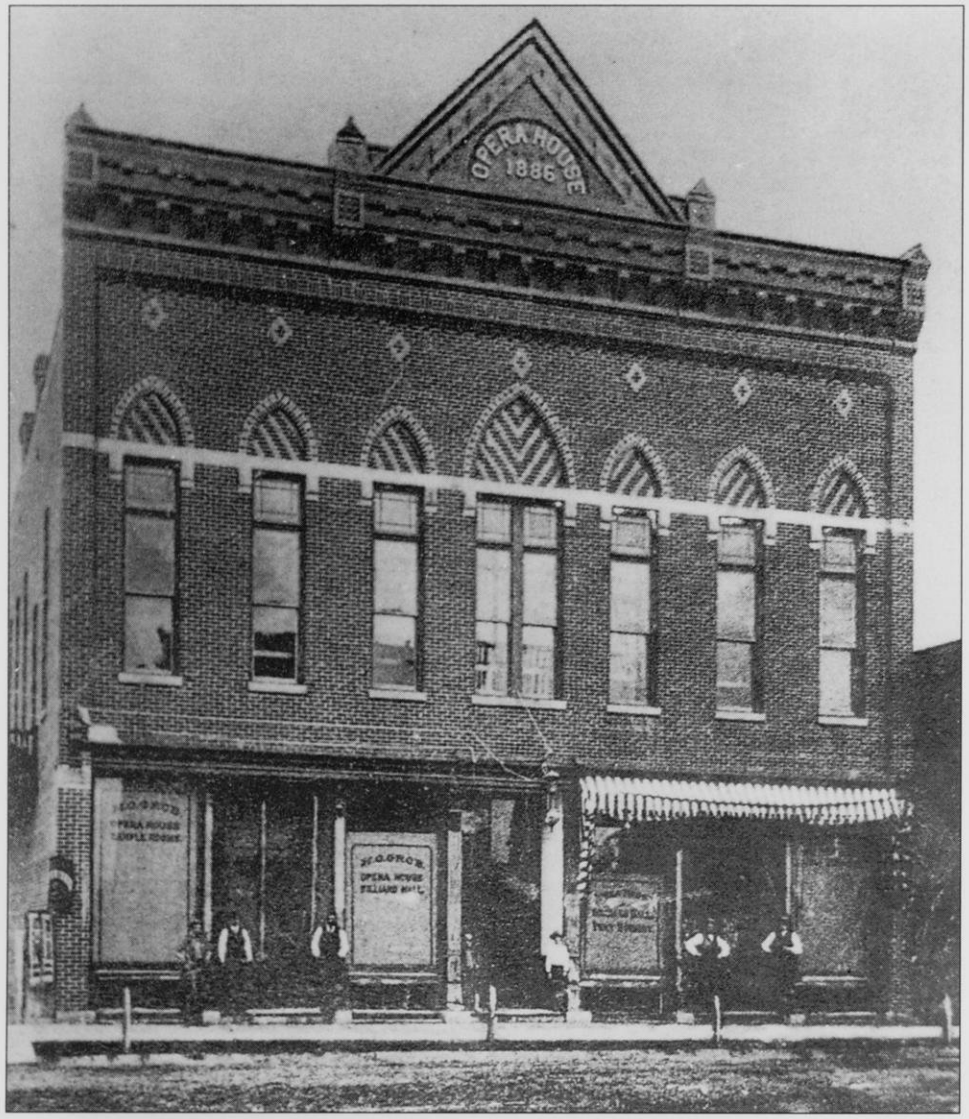
Grob, a musician, headed his own orchestra and booked many musical events in his hall. Traveling lecturers and medicine shows were frequent attractions. A young Mabel Tainter received much of her early exposure to the arts at Grob's Hall.

On November 28, 1884, a raging fire leveled the hall and the adjacent Merchant's Hotel. Henry Grob's widow, Elizabeth, and her son-in-law, Ferdinand Schmidt, quickly replaced it with a sturdier building called the **Grand Opera House.** This new building was a two-story brick structure that featured a large auditorium with a seating capacity of one thousand on the second floor and two store fronts on the ground floor. There was much activity in the new hall. Theater chairs could be pushed aside to allow ballroom dancing and replaced when a traveling speaker, politician, or a touring road show came to town. Jacob Miller, the "artist-in-residence" with the Knapp, Stout & Co., was the scene painter for the Grand Opera House. There is one drop painted by Miller, a mountain pass scene, that survives from the opera house. It is now in the collection of drops at the Mabel Tainter theater.

One of the more memorable events was the arrival of the peddler of battery-powered electric belts that promised to cure most stomach, liver, and kidney ailments for the wearer. The belt was equipped with a series of electrodes that, when activated, would give a tingling sensation. After



The Electric Belt with magical powers!



The Grand Opera House was located on the west side of Broadway in the middle of the 500 block.

Stori's Concert Hall, after a fire renamed the New Concert Hall, was located in the 200 block of Main Street opposite the post office.

the peddler made his presentation and had sold a few units he asked that all minors and ladies be excused while he explained to the men what real magical powers the belt possessed!

In 1890 Ferdinand Schmidt died and the operation of the opera house was assumed by his sons, Fred and William, who had anglicized their last name to "Smith." They continued to feature traveling road shows, speakers, and local social events in the building, which was now becoming known as **Smith's Hall.**

In the meantime David Stori, a longtime restaurateur in the city, constructed another second-floor auditorium known as **Stori's Concert Hall.** It had a capacity of six hundred, but the cramped stage forced many performers to enter from the audience. It was here that the Kickapoo Indian Medicine show appeared on occasion. One of the most intriguing shows that appeared at the Stori's Concert Hall was Lila Gardner and Her Female Mastodons! Famed Norwegian violinist Ole Bull performed on its stage. At street level were two store fronts, one occupied by Stori's saloon/restaurant and the other by the Haffie cigar factory, one of the four or five such factories manufacturing hand-made cigars in Menomonie in the late 1890s.

Fires plagued and eventually destroyed the Concert Hall. A blaze damaged it severely in 1893 but it was repaired and renamed the **New Opera House** and continued to operate until the night of August 31, 1922, when the frame building was leveled by fire. In 1996 the Coffin Department Store occupies the former Stori site at 230 East Main Street.

Both the Grand Opera House and Stori's Concert Hall were purely functional spaces that had little embellishments adding to the atmosphere of a theatrical event. That all changed when the **Mabel Tainter Memorial** opened in 1890 as a "community cultural center" featuring all the interests of the ill-fated Mabel who died at the young age of nineteen. Area citizens now had access to a free library and reading room, an assembly room, a ladies work room, a young men's work room, a meeting room for the Grand Army of the Republic, and other facilities such as the elegant Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater.

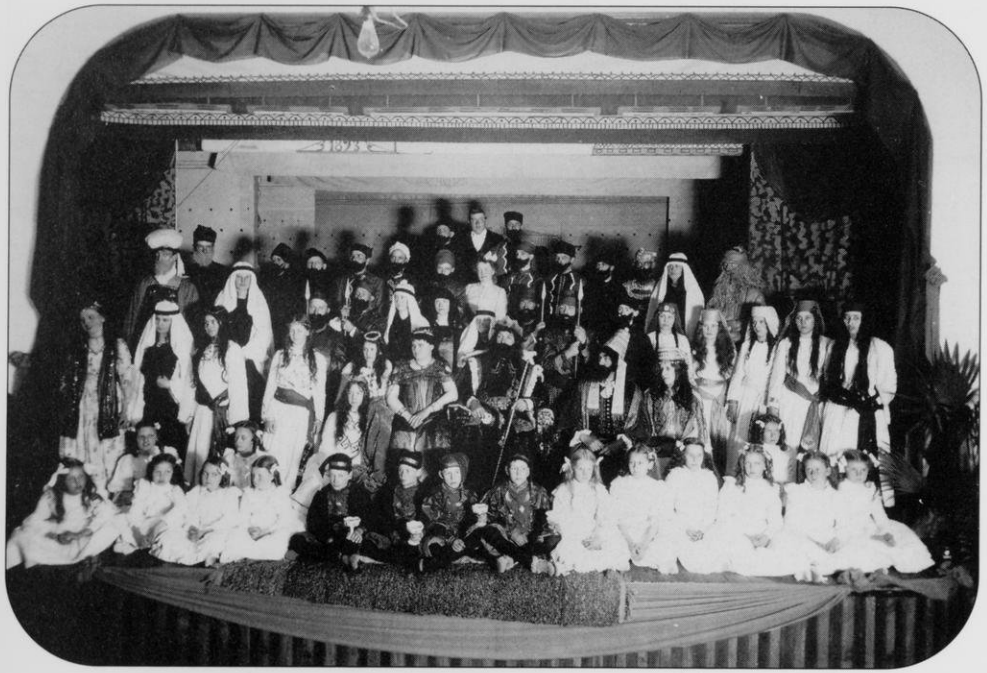
A production at the Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater.

It was **Henry Doty Maxson,** the Unitarian pastor, who convinced Captain Andrew and Bertha Tainter to build the Memorial, which would serve as the Unitarian Society's meeting hall

as well as a community center. Architect Harvey Ellis, temporarily working for the LeRoy Buffington architectural firm of Minneapolis, designed the building that includes what writer/critic Robert Gard called "a jewel of a theater."

In 1890 when the Mabel Tainter Memorial building opened, the average annual family income in the city averaged a little more than $500. Work in the mills and other industries meant long hours six days a week. It was a treat to escape from the work-a-day life, enter the elegant Tainter with its gas and electric lights, running water, indoor plumbing, comfortable theater seats, and exotic Moorish decor, and be entertained by a constant flow of visiting acting companies, performers from the Chautauqua circuits, speakers, and musicians as well as local community theater presentations.

Legends persist that such famed performers as Joseph Jefferson and George Arliss appeared on the Memorial's stage. Arliss, a highly successful actor in his country, England, came to the United States to pursue his career. Unsure of his acceptance by American audiences he signed with a small touring company to appear incognito in the popular *House of a Thousand Candles,* a production that came to the Memorial in the early 1900s. Arliss went on to become famous in this country and to appear in the 1921 film *Disraeli.* He found success on the American stage and in over twenty films.



A hometown production at Stori's New Concert Hall.

The Rev. Henry Doty Maxson convinced Andrew and Bertha Tainter to build the Memorial.

The Ben Greet Players, the touring companies of **John Winninger** and **Frank Winninger,** the Olbrect Sisters, the Hyer sisters and Lily and Lila, two of the LaGrand Sisters all appeared on the stage as well as explorer/lecturer Roald Amundsen, Helen Keller with Annie Sullivan, and other speakers. Although based in their home town of La Crosse, the Olbrect Sisters considered the Tainter theater as their base, rehearsing there for their tour each season and performing their premier performance there.

At the turn of the century there were over four hundred traveling repertory acting groups and similar performers touring the nation, including the brothers Winninger. Frank would bring his group of players to the Memorial and present a different play for each of the six nights of his visit. At the fall of the curtain on each show, Frank would step out from behind the curtain and express his appreciation of the responsive audience, then urge them to attend his brother

John's productions, due to bring in his acting troupe a few months hence. When John came with his troupe for another six nights of plays he would step from behind the curtain to plug Frank's return.

Another Winninger, Charles, never appeared on the Memorial stage. He had gone to Hollywood in the early years of the movie industry and achieved fame as Captain Andy in the 1929 film version of *Showboat.*

On one memorable occasion a traveling troupe presented an allegorical drama in which there was a heaven and a hell. One of the Memorial stage's three trap doors, each complete with a hand powered elevator, presented the cast a perfect exit to Hades. When the time came for one of the cast to be banished, he stood on the elevator and began to deliver his lines as he descended. Half way down through the hole in the stage he found himself stuck, having failed to measure his girth and the width of the trap door. As soon as the audience realized the problem a voice shouted from the back of the auditorium, "There's no more room in Hell!"

An advertisement for the Frank Winninger Players at the Memorial.

That's all that it took to turn what had been a drama into a hilarious comedy.

In recent years the still vibrant and active Mabel Tainter Theater has hosted the Garrison Keillor show, a touring company from the Guthrie Theater, folksinger Tom Paxton, and other nationally known performers, not to mention regular productions of local theater companies.

A founding member of the Washington D. C.-based League of Historic American Theatres, the Mabel Tainter Theater is often listed as one of the top ten historic theaters in the United States. Some theater historians have stated that it is *the* No. 1 historic theater in the country. It is unique in that it is the only showplace in the nation with a complete set of "groves" that enable stage crews to change scenes in moments, a unique set of hand-powered elevators in the stage, the last remaining "Chinese windlass" to raise and lower the "paint frame" upon which scenery flats are placed to be painted, and perhaps the last hand-operated "butterfly" or "tab" (tableau) curtain still in use in America.

With three operating stage theaters in the city, there was always the possibility of all three presenting events on the same date, but there was a gentlemen's agreement among the managements to try to avoid conflicting events. An even more threatening challenge to live theater came in 1909 with the establishment of a **motion picture theater** by Fred and Bill Smith in a vacant ground floor space in the Grand Opera House. They named it the "**Grand.**"

They had hardly opened the doors of their new enterprise when a rival group, the Menomonie Land Company, announced plans to open a new movie theater, the **Majestic,** in the 400 block of Main Street. This theater opened on January 1, 1910.

Both theaters featured short films running from one to four or more reels in length, with vaudeville acts on stage when the time came to change reels. Things really became heated when the Smith brothers rented space for a movie house in the same block as the Majestic and ran both the Grand and the new theater for another five years before purchasing property and establishing the atmospheric **Orpheum theater.** It wasn't long before the Majestic closed.

First-run films were featured at the Orpheum while "B" pictures and Westerns were offered at the Grand, a theater better known as the "Bloody Bucket" because of the action pictures shown there.

The Orpheum Theater, a first-run theater operated by the Smith Brothers, was a small version of "atmospheric" theater style popular in the '20s.

The Grand movie theater on the ground floor of the Grand Opera House. Photograph of a scrap metal drive sponsored by the Grand in 1942 during World War II. William Smith standing left of center.

The Majestic Theater (left building), 438 Main St., the second movie theater in Menomonie.

For the next 25 years or so the Smiths continued to operate the two theaters, but when new owners took over in the 1950s, both the Grand and the Orpheum were closed and moved into a new facility, the **State Theater.** Movies were now available to patrons at the State and at the **outdoor movie theater** located on the north edge of Wakanda Park.

In 1996 only the State Theater, remodeled as a four-screen venue, is operating as a movie theater and, aside from school auditoriums in the city's school system and at UW-Stout, the Mabel Tainter Theater is the only one offering a year-round program of live, professional and amateur talent.

Show People from Menomonie

If you had been able to visit the Barnum & Bailey Circus lot back in 1914, it would be difficult to avoid seeing "the ten-in-one string show" with its lineup of colorful banners depicting what ticket buyers would find inside. There was usually a "fat lady," a snake charmer, a headless woman, and in this particular side show, **"KoKo the Wild Man of Borneo."** KoKo was a slim, short man with a swarthy complexion who wore the appropriate dress of a wild man from Borneo. Later in his career he had his nose pierced to allow him to thrust a bone through the opening to give him a more menacing look. Few people who watched KoKo could have recognized him as **Nick Gradler** from Menomonie.

Nick Gradler as KoKo.

Nick had run off to join the circus as a young lad and spent most of his life touring with the circus and a succession of carnivals until he retired in the 1960s and returned to work as the night clerk at the Hotel Marion and live out his life in Menomonie.

He was not the only native of the city to be lured by the sawdust world of the circus. As a lad attending Menomonie High School in the early part of this century, **Ray Thompson** had rigged a trapeze in the backyard of his home at 1104 Sixth Street. He also had a great love of horses and began to train them. Soon after graduating from high school, Thompson took his act on the road, joining the Barnum & Bailey circus with his High School Horse act. This act consisted of performing horses, specifically a posing, gaited, or dancing horse trained to a "high school level." Later on, Thompson took the act to perform with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Thompson's was one of the top rated high school horse acts in the business.

Ray Thompson's horse act was one of the most popular in Buffalo Bill's Wild West show.

Two sisters, **Bernice and Erna Brown,** loved animals and soon after graduation from Menomonie High School married men who had equal interests in animals. Erna and her husband, Robert Sinclair, and Bernice, with her husband, developed animal acts that

Menomonie's Erna Brown Sinclair with "Skippy" and Johnny Weissmuller, the star of the MGM Tarzan movies in the 1930s.

were soon featured with the Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus. Erna had trained chimpanzees and when a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer talent scout was looking for an "ape" to play the role of Cheta in the 1932 movie *Tarzan the Ape Man* he selected **Skippy,** one of Erna's performing chimps.

When the movie came for its Menomonie premier, MGM did not send the film's stars Johnny Weissmuller or Maureen O'Sullivan to host the opening. It was Skippy that appeared!

Erna's Skippy continued to appear in a succession of Tarzan films and appeared in the 1950 film *Bedtime for Bonzo* that starred Ronald Reagan. In 1992 there was an effort to gain a "star" on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for Skippy, who was reported at the time to be "living in Phoenix at the age of sixty-three and still smoking a daily cigar!"

Leo the lion's owner was from Menomonie.

At the time MGM was producing the Tarzan movies it was looking for an appropriate logo to identify their films. Bernice Brown Emerson, the sister of Erna, had an animal act with the Ringling show that included a lion named **Leo.** Today Leo still appears in the famous logo that identifies an MGM film.

Edith Conway was the daughter of a Menomonie music store operator, W. E. Conway. She married **Charles Ringling** one of the famous brothers who operated the circus for fifty years. After a disastrous fire struck the circus on July 6, 1944, killing 168 men, women, and children and injuring hundreds more, it was Edith Conway Ringling, now a major owner of the circus (Charlie had

died in 1926), who insisted that the show resume its performance schedule immediately. She felt that the circus could not be revived the following year if it folded for the season. She was undoubtedly correct. In 1996 the circus had three complete shows on the road: the Red and Blue units traveling the United States and another unit performing in Japan.

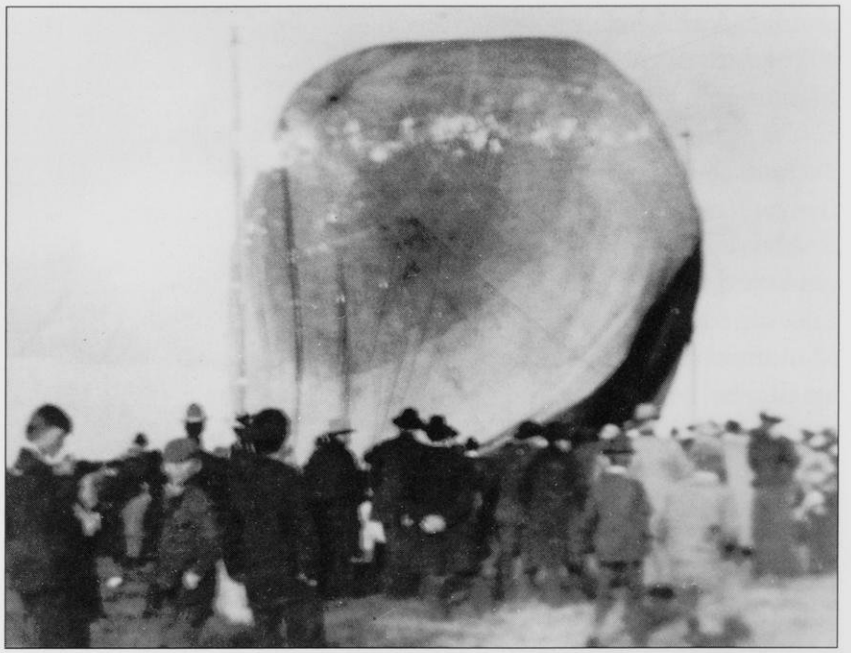
Morris Stephanson, a juggler on the vaudeville circuit, returned to the city on many occasions to perform for the local folks. There is very little information about his act other than a comment from one source calling it "astounding juggling."

In recent years **Steve Russell** was invited to attend the Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Clown College. Upon graduation he signed with the Hunt Brothers Circus of New Jersey. After a year with the Hunt show he was asked to teach juggling for two years at Ringling Clown College at Venice, Florida. While there, he was featured in the video *How To Be A Clown,* a Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey production. For two years he performed at Disney World near Orlando, Florida, and at Disneyland in California. In 1996 he is performing as a comic juggler on cruise ships throughout the world.

Another graduate of Menomonie High School was daredevil **Paul LeRoy Govin,** a "wing walker" who performed death-defying acts on the wing of a plane. A newspaper account described him as a man

> whose heart was as big, warm, true and strong as he was brave, dauntless, fearless and courageous. As an aviator and stunt performer he was skilled and daring yet never reckless or negligent.

He would ascend in an airplane and then perform feats on the wings, landing gear, and on a rope ladder suspended from the gear. As a climax Govin would let go of the ladder and free-fall for a few seconds before pulling the ripcord on his parachute that slowly lowered him to the ground in front of the admiring crowd watching his performance.



Jack Cosgrove about to ascend in his balloon act at the 1911 Dunn County Fair.

It all came to a sudden end on September 21, 1930, at an Alta Vista, Iowa, community picnic. He had completed his act on the plane, then dropped away and pulled the cord to open his chute. When the chute opened Govin slipped from its harness and fell to his death. He was thirty-three years old.

Another barnstorming performer who appeared at county fairs and other community events in the early 1900s was **Jack Cosgrove.** Cosgrove would ascend in a hydrogen-filled balloon sitting in a sling suspended from the base of the huge bag. When the proper elevation was reached he would leave his perch and parachute to the

ground. A chase crew followed the flight of the balloon to retrieve it when it returned to earth. Cosgrove always claimed he was from Menomonie but that claim has been difficult to verify.

Actors

Harvey Snively was born in Menomonie in 1882 and after he graduated from high school in 1900 he found a job with Swift & Co. of Chicago. Not satisfied, he moved on to the Saginaw Manufacturing Co., also located in Chicago. But the acting "bug" he caught while appearing in plays at Menomonie High School made him leave his job and try his luck on the stage.

He applied and was accepted by one of Ohio's leading stock companies and found great success, especially in character roles. Soon he found himself performing with other companies that toured throughout the country. Somewhere along the line he met Irma Magerhans, an actress and native of St. Louis, Missouri. They were married in April 1914.

Married life changed their perspective and, desiring to settle and raise a family, they decided to retire from touring. They moved to Menomonie.

Harvey attended Stout and received his B.S. degree in 1921 and then took over the family retail sewing machine business. But show business blood still flowed in the veins of two of their five children, Robert and Natalie. After completing her education, **Natalie** went on to study and perform at Chicago's Goodman Theater.

Robert Snively, after performing leading roles in plays and musicals at the University of Wisconsin, headed to New York. There he performed in character roles in many off-Broadway productions and did some advertising work, most notably in a national ad for American Express Co. Then Hollywood called, and Snively appeared in a number of character roles.

Harold Hansen, a long-time drama coach for Menomonie High School, spent some time with the Slout Players, a repertory tent show that traveled out of Michigan. Another Slout performer from Menomonie was **Evelyn Thomas** who played ingenue roles and did dance specialties in the vaudeville bits between acts.

Buffy Sedleck, a resident for some time who was active in local theater, moved on to professional theater in Minneapolis where she appeared on the Guthrie stage for a season, wrote scripts, and performed in area theaters. She appeared in the movie *Grumpy Old Men* as a proprietress seated on the back end of a pickup truck selling snacks and beer to ice fishermen on the local pond.

Mark Russell, born in Menomonie, is the producer of the P. S. 122 performance space in New York City. He was instrumental in introducing the public to Whoopi Goldberg, Eric Bogosian, and in 1994, the master of dialects, Danny Hoch. In 1985 *Time* magazine called Russell the leading producer of performing arts theater.

Sally Nystuen, a Stout graduate, has appeared on PBS, with the Cleveland and Dallas repertory companies, and in Oliver Stone's film, *JFK.*

Musicians

When the state of Wisconsin celebrated its centennial in 1948, one of the highlights was the Centennial Music Festival held on August 28th and 29th in front of the grandstand at the Wisconsin State Fair Park in Milwaukee. **Harold Cooke,** Director of Music at Stout Institute, was selected by centennial officials to coordinate the music festival. Cooke was an excellent choice. For years he directed musical activities at Stout, developing the fine Stout Symphonic Singers that traveled extensively throughout the United States. He possessed elements of showmanship that made memorable performances by groups he directed.

Early musicians of note included **Jacob Miller,** a cartographer in the Civil War, who was hired by Captain William Wilson to do map work for the company and to teach art and music to the children of the mill workers

Henry and Otto Grob, both partners in the early performing space, Grob's Hall, were fine musicians who had a small popular orchestra that played for many functions in their hall and for other events in the community.

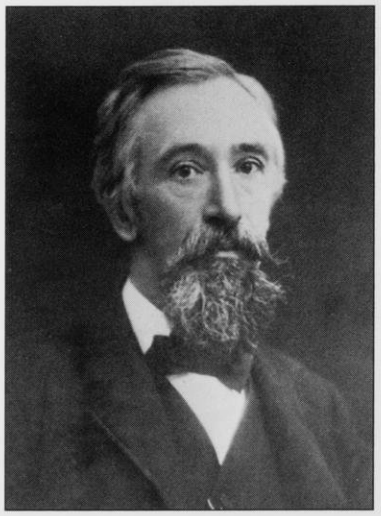
In the 1890s a **Professor Metcalf,** the official organist in those early years at the Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater, gave lessons and sponsored recitals and other performances in his Music Hall, the former Baptist Church building that was located on the southeast corner of East Second Street and Wilson Avenue.

Other local performers of some note were the **Voedisch sisters** who sang duets and solos and had some success performing in neighboring cities. **Marie Stori,** whose father, David Stori, ran the Concert Hall in the 200 block of Main Street, spent several seasons with a New York City-based quartet with which she often soloed on her violin.

Under the name of **Robert Bellows,** Menomonie native **Robert Brusen** has been a successful singer in such venues as cafes and lounges in Florida, a career he continued to follow in the 1990s.

Other graduates of Menomonie High School who have gone on to pursue singing careers include **Elizabeth Holleque,** a frequent performer in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. In 1995 Miss Holleque sang duets with Luciano Pavarotti in a television special *Pavarotti and Friends.*

A high school classmate of Holleque, **Linda Russell,** pursued a career combining drama and music. A graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York City , she appeared in several off-Broadway productions while performing as a folksinger for the National Park Service at Federal Hall, the site of George Washington's inauguration. In 1993 she appeared with Tom Paxton and Mike Seeger at Carnegie Hall. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s she presented her one-woman show, "Patchwork," in various venues from Maine to California and has appeared on several occasions on Voice of America. One of her specialties is preparing custom shows for historic sites such as Lincoln's home at Springfield, Illinois; the Adams family home at Quincy, Massachusetts; and Theodore Roosevelt's home in New York.



Jacob Miller

Ethan Iverson has performed on European tours and has several recordings, while **David Boe** is head of the Oberlin College Conservatory and a nationally recognized organist.

Artists

Jacob Miller, an immigrant who fled Germany to escape serving in the Prussian army only to be drafted into the American Civil War when he came to this country, was probably the first artist of note to settle in Menomonie. During the war he served as a cartographer with the Wisconsin Third Cavalry, a unit that spent most of its time fighting along the borders of Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas.

After Miller was discharged he met Captain William Wilson at Reads Landing, Minnesota. Wilson recognized the need for a man such as Miller to prepare detailed maps of the company's vast land holdings. He hired Miller, whom he also asked to teach both music and art. Although the bulk of Miller's paintings were views from

memory of his native land, he did paint a view of Menomonie from Meadow Hill that is hanging in the Mabel Tainter Memorial. Two large paintings depicting General Sheridan's troups attacking the Confederates at Winchester and the battle of New Orleans are also displayed at the Memorial.

Miller painted many full-length portraits of Christ for a number of local area churches. An excellent example of his work is the figure of Christ on display in the narthex of Christ Lutheran Church in Menomonie. He was also the official scene painter for the Grand Opera House. One of his painted background drops, a mountain pass, is in the collection of the Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater.

Peter Clausen, a Minneapolis scene painter, in 1890 painted the scene curtain and the majority of background drops and flats depicting a village square and assorted interior scenes for the stage of the Mabel Tainter Theater. Some drops are still in use in 1996.

George Belair, a local photographer who apprenticed with Robert Helsom, was responsible for several art works, including a portrait of James H. Stout.

In the 1930s, artist **Cal Peters** lived in Menomonie while he painted a panoramic view of Lake Menomin over the proscenium arch in the auditorium in Harvey Hall on the UW-Stout campus. He also produced a painting of Jean Baptiste Perrault's trading post/fort that was located in the Menomonie area.

Recently a well-respected illustrator of children's books, **Beth Peck,** moved to Menomonie from the the east coast. She has illustrated books by Truman Capote, Paul Gallico, and others.

Writers

In 1994, there was a state-wide resurgence of interest in the writings of poet and short story writer **Margaret Ashmun,** an instructor of English and composition at the Stout Manual Training and Domestic Science School at the turn of the century. After a time on the staff at UW-Madison, she pursued literary and editorial work in New York City.

Edna Ingalls, a native of Menomonie, left the city to teach French in a private school but returned to teach at Menomonie High School late in her career. In 1942 she produced *How to Write Letters for all Occasions,* an instant national bestseller that could be found in virtually every bookstore in the country. Menomonie and other Wisconsin communities and landmarks were included in some of the sample letters. Doubleday kept the title active well into the 1970s. Over 200,000 copies had been sold by 1971.

Mystery writer **Austin Ripley** lived on upper Lake Tainter, but his center of operations was in Menomonie. He was the originator of the "Photo Crime" series that appeared in *Look* magazine in the 1930s and '40s. These were short, concise mystery stories occupying one page of the magazine each featuring four photographs captioned with a clue or two to help solve the crime illustrated in the pictures. On occasion Ripley used Menomonie locations, such as 643 South Broadway which housed the Ration Board during World War II. In 1949 many of Ripley's stories were published as *Minute Mysteries* by Pocket Books, Inc., and reissued in 1976 by Harper & Row under its Perennial Library paperback subsidiary. During the early 1990s, PBS Television featured a selection of the mysteries.

Menomonie playwright **Doris Cronk** wrote a remarkable work of local history set before and during the Civil War, *Buttermilk Coulee,* that was produced with a cast of 55 by the Menomonie Theater Guild in 1990. Sell-out crowds enjoyed the memorable event, which also featured several stirring and touching musical numbers.

Community Theater

As the population in the area grew so did the desire for more types of entertainment. Churches and schools were among the first

venues for theater presentations by the local citizens. Lodge halls came later, providing space for amateur productions.

In 1870 Grob's Hall was the first commercial "theater" in the city. Traveling performing companies appeared at Grob's but it was also available for local groups staging plays. In the 1880s Stori's Concert Hall opened on Main Street, a new venue for both professional and amateur productions.

Community theater really became a force in the city soon after the Mabel Tainter Memorial theater opened in 1890. One of the first amateur productions in the Memorial was "Rip Van Winkle." Evidently it was a disaster since the director apologized for the poor performance and hoped that patrons would return after the cast had a chance to hold additional rehearsals.

For a short time there was a Mabel Tainter Theater Guild, but it wasn't until 1958 that community theater became firmly established in the city with the formation of the **Menomonie Theater Guild,** which began with a performance of three one-act plays. Since then the guild has produced at least three plays or musicals a season before enthusiastic audiences.

Another theater group, the **Greenwood Players,** founded in 1981 by Marion Lang, has specialized in innovative improvisational children's theater that has proved to be extremely popular throughout the region. Both the Menomonie School System and UW-Stout present productions on their respective stages to give students experiences in theater. 4-H Clubs also take part in drama competition.

Menomonie is blessed with scores of innovative citizens in every aspect of the cultural arts. Some of these people are well known and receive proper recognition; others, equally as talented, work quietly and virtually unrecognized by the general public.

Menomonie-born actor Harvey Snively cut a dashing figure.

The first schoolhouse was on the "West Side" where the Knapp, Stout headquarters, water mill, and original boarding house were located.

12

A Fresh Vision of Education

Soon after Captain William Wilson and John Holly Knapp acquired the little mill at the junction of today's Wilson Creek and the Red Cedar River there was an increase in demand for white pine lumber as the nation's population continued to grow. Lumber was needed to build homes on the virtually treeless prairies and plains that stretched from the Mississippi River westward to the Rocky Mountains and the Wilson/Knapp mill had the potential in resources of pine, management skills, and ability to deliver great amounts of sawn lumber, lath, shingles, and pickets for fences, via the river system.

As the demand for lumber grew, so did the need for men to work in the pinery, on the river drives, in the mill, and to guide the unwieldy rafts of lumber and by-products downstream. A nation-wide call for workers resulted in a steady flow of men, and in many cases, families to the area. Many of them were newly arrived from such countries as Norway and Germany seeking a new life in a new land. It soon became apparent that it would become necessary to establish a school for the growing number of children living in the settlement rising around the mill.

To answer that need, a small private school was erected near the mill in 1852 by Wilson and Knapp. A **Dr. Rogers** was hired as the first teacher to conduct classes during the winter months of 1852 and 1853.

In 1854 the population of school age children had grown to a point where a new school was needed. A one-room frame structure was erected on a plot of land a few hundred yards up the hill from the mill site on the east side of Hudson Road (today's Meadow Hill Drive). A contemporary record reported that:

> The ever enterprising and enthusiastic Captain William Wilson advertised for a man to teach school and conduct religious services on Sunday. In response to this call, the **Reverend Joshua Pittman** reported. His fervor in the evangelical pioneer work before him must have been considerably dampened when he was informed that he would be expected to preach regularly on Sunday, teach school six hours a day for five days in the week, and put in the rest of his time, mornings, evenings and Saturdays, in packing shingles"...in the mills."

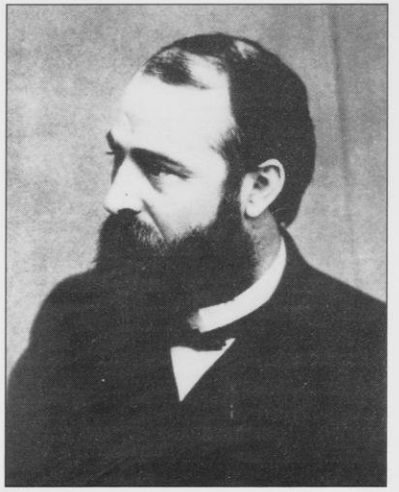
Pittman taught during the winters of 1854, 1855, and 1856. A Baptist, Pittman was instructed that his preaching on Sunday was to be nonsectarian.

The second school was a room in the Newman Hall Community Center, located on Hudson Road on Wilson Creek behind the company store.

Third schoolhouse in the village, in the center of the block now occupied by the UW-Stout Administration Building.

Students pose on the steps of the Central School.

In anticipation of the establishment of a school district, **Seriah Stevens** was selected as the first county superintendent of schools in 1855 and a year later a regularly organized school district was formed. **Jesse B. Thayer** was the first city school superintendent, a position he held until 1875.



John B. Ingalls

In 1859 the village was surveyed and platted and a one-room frame school building was constructed to serve about forty pupils. This new structure continued to serve the village until 1868 when a fire leveled it. Two years later in 1870, a new four-classroom public school building was constructed in the center of the block defined by Main, Broadway, East Second Street, and Wilson Avenue (at that time Wilson Avenue extended to Broadway).

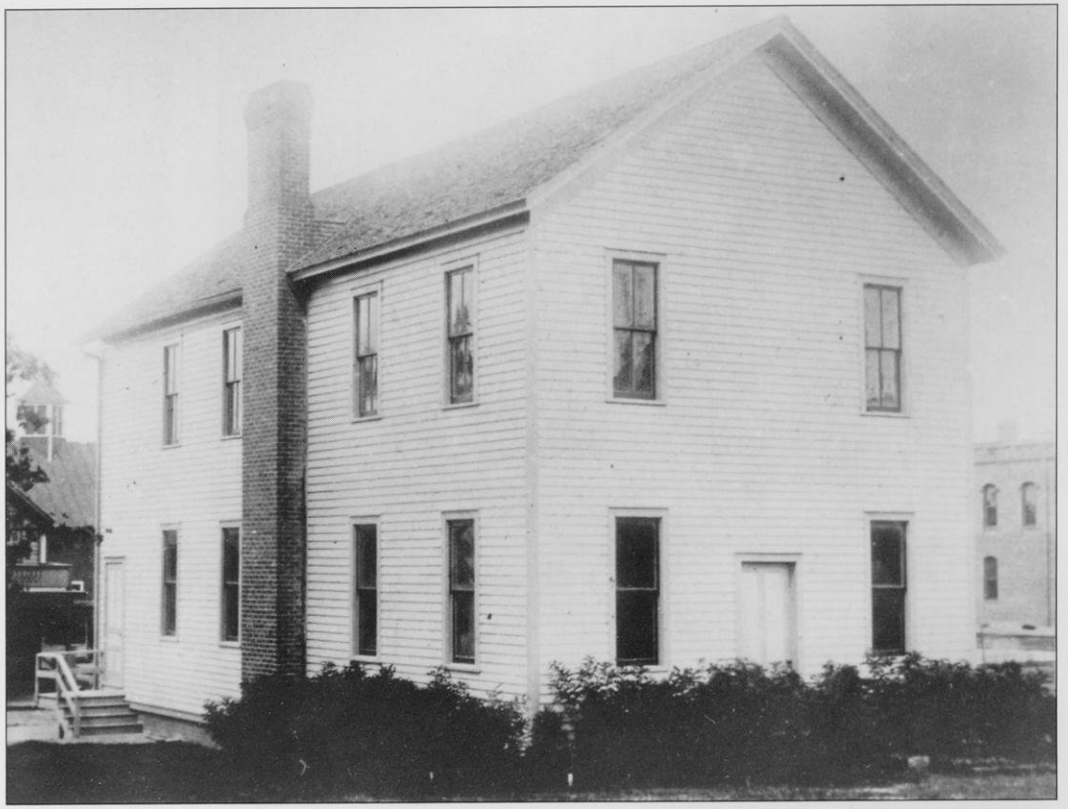
Sometime between 1870 and 1875 the **Union High School** was established on the same site and attached to the four-room elementary school. **John B. Ingalls** took over as city school superintendent in 1875. Staffing the school that year were J. B. Thayer, principal; Janet Steward, assistant principal; Libbie Thayer, Grammar Department; Hattie Salisbury and Lottie Walker, Intermediate Department; Lizzie Miller, Mary Yeo, Joseph Gates, and Mrs. S. W. Ritche, Primary Department.

Union High School was renamed **Central High and Elementary School** in 1880. Menomonie now had a population of 3,500 and a public school system consisting of the Central School (cost $12,000), **East School** ($4,500), **Coddington** ($5,000), and the old **West Side School** ($1,000) on the Hudson road. At that time there

were 100 students in the high school, which offered such four-year courses as mathematics through geometry, Latin through Virgil, and German. Six hundred pupils attended the four elementary schools.

In 1889 a gentleman came to town and immediately began to inject a new spirit and direction in the city's educational system. That man was **James H. Stout,** who, after working for many years for the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company as a lobbyist in St. Louis and in Washington, D. C. moved to Menomonie to accept a position in the company's headquarters and to serve on the board of directors. His intense interest in education soon found him on the local board of education as its chairman and working with school superintendent R. B. Dudgeon who had succeeded Ingalls in 1886.

Prior to his coming to Menomonie, Stout had been impressed by early schools of manual training he visited in St. Louis and Toledo, and it was not long before he offered to build, at his own expense, such a school for the Menomonie system. In 1891 **Stout's first Manual Training and Domestic Science school,** a modest two-room, two-story frame building, was erected on the Central School grounds. It had the capacity for forty students—twenty in the domestic science room and twenty in the manual training room.



The first Stout Manual Training and Domestic Science School was entirely dedicated to the education of Menomonie's elementary and secondary school students.

Stout's school was such a success it was clear that a new and larger facility would have to be built to accommodate future students. Plans were drawn for a new facility to be erected in the same block and to the east of the Central School building. In 1893 the new three-story frame structure, topped by a clock tower, was ready for students. There were rooms that included facilities for cooking, sewing, dining, woodworking, printing, sheet metalwork, foundry work, and machine shops. Stout paid for the $100,000 building and promptly turned it over to the Menomonie school system.

For the next three years the new Stout Manual Training and Domestic Science School, the pride of the system, filled the needs of the community schools until it came to an abrupt end on February 3, 1897, when a fire destroyed both the Central School and the adjacent Stout Manual Training School buildings.

On the day following the fire a petition was signed by hundreds of local citizens urging James Stout to rebuild his school. Without

First domestic science class in the original Stout building.

First manual training class in the original Stout building.

hesitation he agreed to build a larger and better manual training building, to cost not less than $60,000, if the city would build the high school at an equal cost. It was agreed and work on replacing the two school buildings with two brick structures began. Stout's new Manual Training and Domestic Science Building and its furnishings cost about $150,000. In 1996 that structure still serves UW-Stout as Bowman Hall.

In 1899 a new venture in education began in the state of Wisconsin. In that year the state legislature appropriated $2,500 to establish two experimental state normal schools, in Menomonie and Wausau (with $1,250 going to each school). Dunn County agreed to contribute an additional $1,700 and the city of Menomonie another $500. Marathon County opened its school on September 11, 1899, and Dunn County opened its **normal school** on September 18th. In 1901 the state legislature authorized the establishment of secondary schools of agriculture and domestic economy in Dunn and Marathon County, and the Dunn County Board of Supervisors decided to place the school in the same building with the normal school, thus establishing the first **school of agriculture** in the United States. Subsequent histories of these two schools are given later in this chapter.

Also in 1901 Stout added kindergarten rooms at Coddington and the new North School and equipped rooms at Central School for the training of kindergarten teachers. Students from Menomonie High School, Central Elementary, and other elementary schools in the city continued to be the sole recipients of the benefits of the Stout school until 1908 when the latter became a private college, **Stout Institute.** Under the new arrangement public school students now received instructions in manual training, home economics, and swimming from student teachers in training at the institute.

In 1941 there was an effort to build a new high school to replace the 1897 Central School building that had served so well, but with the threat of the country's probable involvement in the expanding world war the referendum for a new school failed.

It was not until 1967 that a new **Menomonie High School** building was approved and constructed near Grove Hill in southwest Menomonie. In 1995, after numerous referenda failed, voters approved the erection of a new middle school, a new North School, and improvements in other schools in the system.

Oaklawn Elementary School.

River Heights Elementary School.

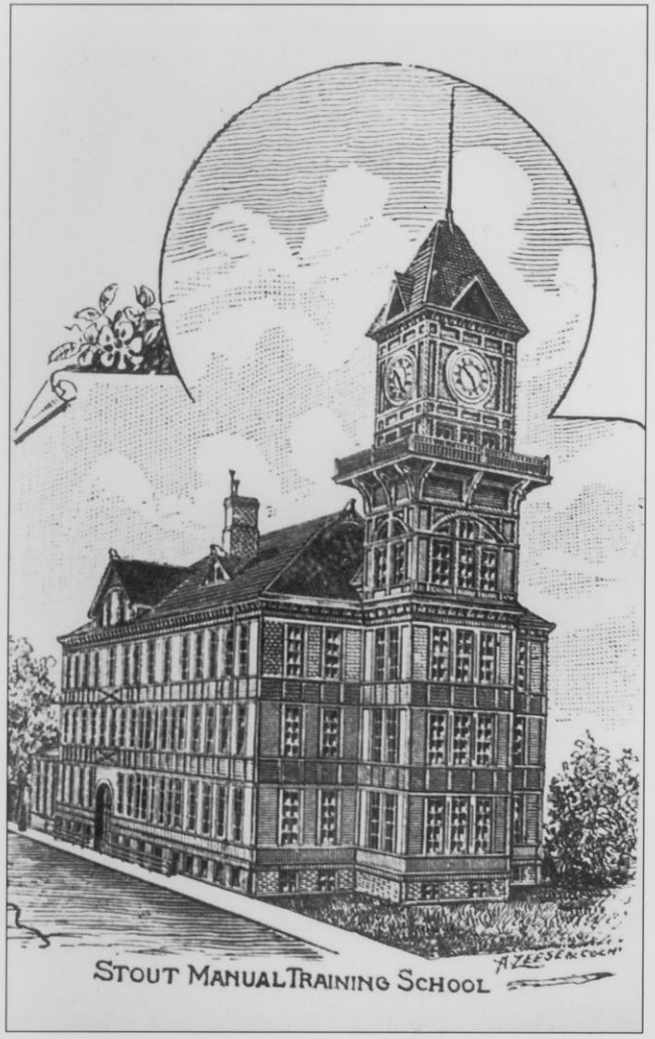
Menomonie Schools Today

Schools within the city of Menomonie are North, Oaklawn, and River Heights elementary schools and Menomonie Senior High and Middle School. Rural elementary schools in the Menomonie School District are Cedar Falls, Knapp, Downsville, and Lucas.

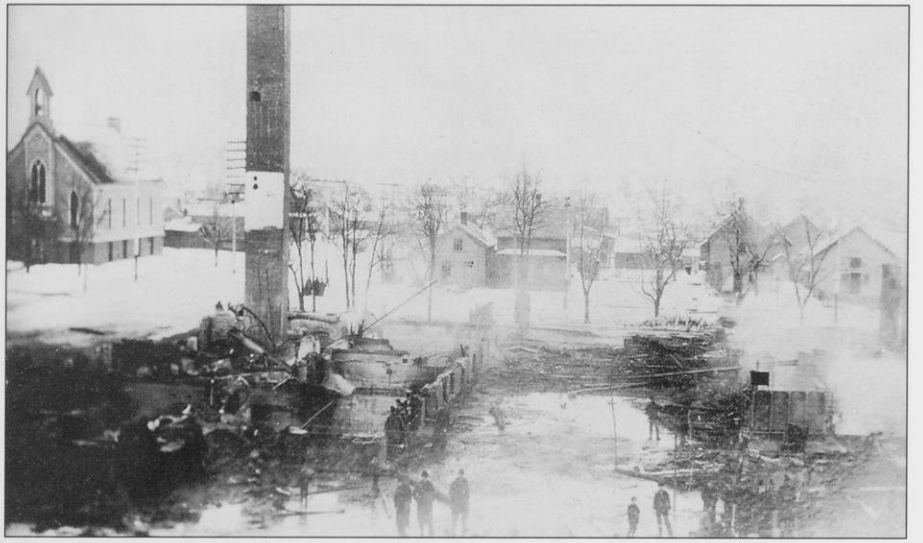
North Elementary School.

Administration offices.

Menomonie Senior High and Middle School.

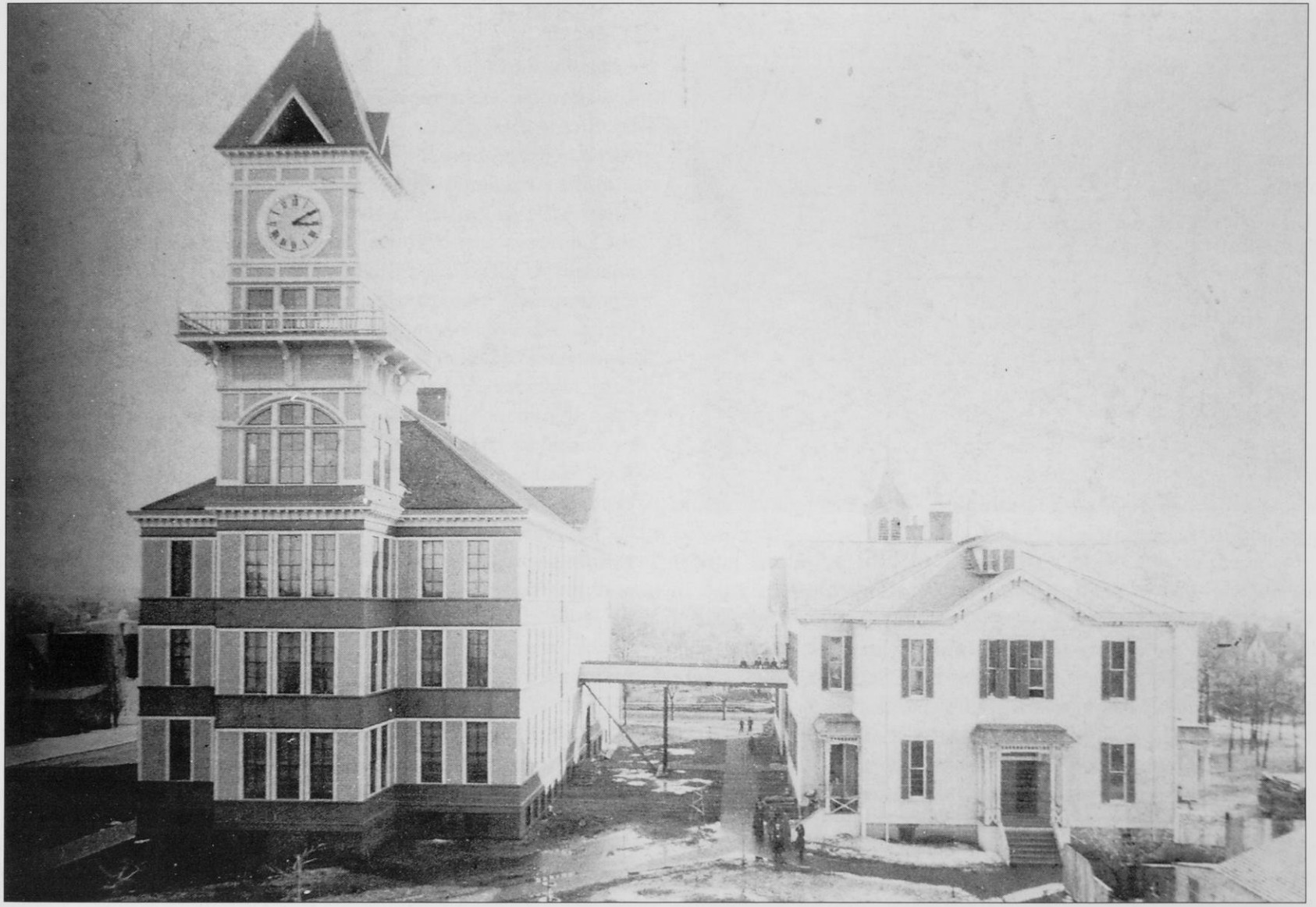


The second Stout Manual Training & Domestic Science building.



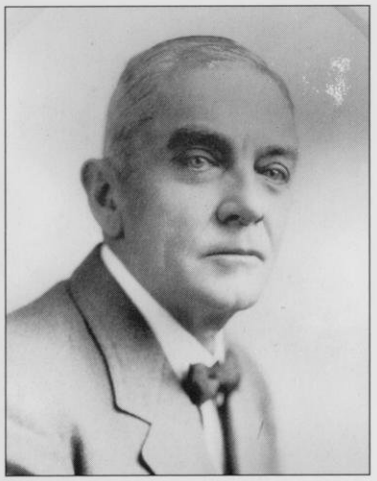
Fire leveled both the Central high school/elementary school and the Stout Manual Training School on February 3, 1897.

Hardly had the ashes cooled before workers began to reconstruct both schools.



The Stout School of Manual Training and Domestic Science building (left), constructed in 1893, and Central School (right).

A Short History of Stout



James Huff Stout

Stout has always been a bit different. It was different in origin for one thing. While almost all other institutions of higher learning started as colleges, Stout began as a public secondary school and evolved into a college. Stout is also different in that while sister institutions in Wisconsin bear the name of a locale, UW-Stout bears the name of its founder, James H. Stout. This is no accident. The ideas of the founder have been pervasive throughout the history of the institution. To understand what Stout was, and is, one must understand James H. Stout.

James Stout was of the second generation of a group of lumber barons who had formed a gigantic logging firm headquartered in Menomonie. The Knapp, Stout & Company in the second half of the 19th century extracted timber from a great pine forest which once stretched from Dunn County to Lake Superior. The firm cut logs into lumber at Menomonie and other mill sites and sent the product down the rivers to waiting customers along the Mississippi River. James Stout was one of those who became rich. What he did with his money is part of the story of what is now UW-Stout.

After working for the lumber firm in Dubuque, St. Louis, and Reads Landing (Minnesota), Stout decided to settle in Menomonie. What he had learned in St. Louis by contact with a manual training school set him to thinking about how much could be done for the children of Menomonie by introducing this new concept of education into the public schools. He persuaded the local board of education to allow him to build a manual training school as an adjunct to the public school. Manual training, that is, manual arts for the boys and domestic science for the girls, was to be integrated into the curriculum of the common school.

In 1891 Stout built a two-story frame building, which housed the domestic science rooms on one floor and the manual arts on another. Thus began with the establishment of the **Stout Manual Training and Domestic Science School** a series of developments which in turn led to the Stout Manual Training School, the Homemaker's School, the Stout Institute, Stout State College, Stout State University, and finally the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

A dominant theme in all of this development was change. The predominant theme, however, was continuity. In the laboratories of the Manual Training School the students worked with hand and mind to produce a product, using tools, materials and processes. In the laboratories of UW-Stout today the "hands on" approach to learning is still present, although many of the tools and materials, and processes have changed. What former President Verne C. Fryklund described as "know how" was the ultimate possession of the Stout graduate. The latter had learned to "do something well," said past president William Micheels. Stout was unabashedly a career-oriented institution, former Chancellor Robert Swanson said.

Senator Stout's philosophy of education was the dominant moving force in the formative years of the institution. He could not lead with any impressive list of credentials. He was not even a college graduate. He was simply an enlightened industrialist whose ideas corresponded in a remarkable way to those of John Dewey, the educational philosopher whose *School and Society* appeared in 1898, seven years after Stout built his manual training school. "Learn by Doing" was precisely what Stout had in mind.

The Stout Manual Training School, established in a modest frame building at the site of what is now the Administration Building, was so successful that there was apparently a need for larger accommodations. Senator Stout built and equipped a large three-story frame building with a clock tower. That structure burned down in 1897 and was immediately replaced, again as a gift of the senator.

In those early years Senator Stout established a number of schools in addition to that for manual training. In response to a perceived societal need, post-secondary training schools were established to prepare teachers of **manual arts, domestic science,** and **kindergarten.** A **Homemaker's School** reflected the generally held notion that the place for women was in the home. The **School of Physical Culture** was established to enhance the well-being of the students. The building was open not only to students but to townspeople. It contained a large swimming pool on one side and a gymnasium on the other.

As a result of all of these and other experiments in the new education, Menomonie became the focal point of interest to educators around the country and in Canada. **Lorenzo Dow Harvey,** destined to become the first president of Stout Institute, said in an address to Menomonie citizens in 1903: "Menomonie was not only the educational Mecca of Wisconsin, but also of the whole country, as leading educational bodies everywhere were now looking to this city for working illustrations of the most practical and advanced theories in modern education."

Up to 1908 the various Stout educational adventures were under the control of the Menomonie Board of Education. Management became cumbersome. The various Stout-sponsored schools were pulled out of the public school system and organized as the **Stout Institute.** A private college was born. The articles of incorporation,

Lorenzo Dow Harvey, first president of the Stout Institute.

signed by James H. Stout, Lorenzo Dow Harvey, and William Ribenack, Stout's private secretary, proclaimed that one of the goals was to "provide facilities in the way of buildings, equipment, and teachers, through which young people of both sexes may secure such instruction and training in industrial and related lines of educational effort as will enable them to become efficient industrial, social, and economic units within their environment."

As a private college, the Stout Institute was short-lived. Senator Stout died rather suddenly in 1910, leaving no will. His heirs were not prepared to take on the responsibility and financial burden of the new school. The suggestion that the state of Wisconsin take over the Stout Institute was acceptable to both the family and the state. The newly created Board of Vocational Education became the Board

of Trustees of the Stout Institute. In the next forty-five years as the Stout Institute, the school established its national and international reputation as the leader in home economy, industrial, and vocational education.

The death of Senator Stout did not leave the Stout Institute devoid of leadership. Lorenzo Dow Harvey was well organized in the field of industrial education. During his term as president he succeeded in adding two buildings: the Trades Building and the Home Economics Building, now known as Harvey Hall. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was the legislative approval of Stout as a four-year college. After Harvey's death in 1922, **Clyde Bowman,** dean of Industrial Education, became the acting president, succeeded in 1923 by **Burton E. Nelson.**

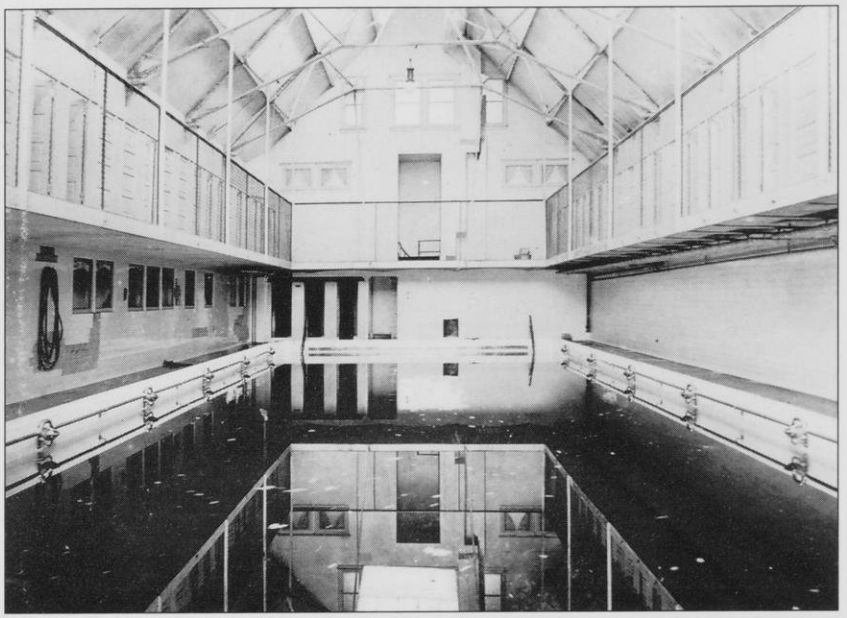
Nelson's term of office, which lasted until 1945, was beset by all sorts of problems. The accrediting agencies in higher education demanded changes in the curriculum to broaden the base for awarding the bachelor's degree. Nelson managed to satisfy those demands, and during the 1930s Stout became fully accredited. There were other problems. The Depression years came and then World War II. A sometimes disinterested Board of Trustees failed to back Nelson in any kind of building program. But one of the major accomplishments was the introduction in 1935 of the master's degree program in home economics education, industrial education, and vocational education.

A new era opened with the presidency of **Verne C. Fryklund,** which began immediately after World War II. A teacher and writer in the field of industrial education, Fryklund brought new vigor to the office of president. Veterans returned, enrollment increased, and the need for new facilities was met by a building program which resulted in a new library building, a new student center, and a new classroom building, known now as Fryklund Hall.

While the Fryklund administration was sometimes controversial, the president kept to a steady course in a changing climate of higher

The Yellow Lodge, the first administration office, was located on the present site of Harvey Hall, southwest corner.

The Stout natatorium and gymnasium included a bowling alley and community club rooms.



The interior of the natatorium, the first indoor swimming pool in the state of Wisconsin.

The gymnasium was fully equipped and state-of-the-art at the time of construction in 1901.

education in Wisconsin. The name, "Stout Institute," disappeared with the formation of the state college system in 1955. The legislature appropriated money to strengthen the liberal arts throughout the system. **Stout State College** might have introduced liberal arts majors, but Fryklund said in no uncertain terms that the school would adhere to its traditional offerings. One curricular change was quite significant, however. Stout began to offer a major in industrial technology, representing a break from the teacher education emphasis.

President Fryklund's resignation in 1961 brought **William J. Micheels** to the campus as chief executive officer. He was a native of Menomonie, a graduate of Stout and steeped in the Stout tradition, but willing to change some things. The 1960s were difficult times for all institutions of higher education with changing social attitudes and the impact of the Vietnam War. In response to these factors, the skyrocketing enrollment, and the new demands of society, President Micheels reorganized the administrative structure, added new majors, and fought for new buildings. At the end of the Micheels era Stout was more liberal in its thinking but still retained the emphasis on "hands on" learning.

In 1964 the state colleges became state universities and in 1971 the state universities merged with the University of Wisconsin. Thus **Stout State University** became the **University of Wisconsin-Stout.**

Chancellor Micheels resigned in 1972 for health reasons. The nationwide search for a successor ended full circle in the selection of **Robert S. Swanson** who had been a student, teacher and administrator at Stout. The university faced many problems, resolved in an affirmative way by an unruffled chancellor and staff. A sit-in in support of an instructor denied tenure ended peacefully. Needed space for a growing enrollment was solved with added buildings. Most of all the mission of Stout was clarified. Stout was to be an institution devoted to the preparation of students for careers in a changing world.

In 1988, in a break with the past, the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, chose a historian, **Charles W. Sorensen,** to succeed Swanson. Under his administration the university has increased its efforts in the direction of diversity in the student body and staff. Partnerships have continued to develop between the university and industry and the Stout Technology Park has invited this cooperation. Stout has also been authorized to offer a new program in Industrial Engineering.

For over a century Stout has been preparing students to enter society equipped in special ways to make an immediate contribution. It has emphasized the practical but has never lost sight of the need to offer liberalizing experiences. The Stout graduate is uniquely prepared. That is the basis of the institution's worldwide reputation. The cooperative effort of students, faculty, staff, and administration in addressing campus challenges such as diversity and affirmative action has equipped the graduate to help solve work-place and community problems. Stout's successful history seems due to its adherence to the philosophy of enlightened practicality.

The campus of Stout Institute in 1915 showing the institute building at left (today's Bowman Hall) and Menomonie High School at right (now demolished). Both buildings were erected in 1897 after a devastating fire destroyed the first Stout tower.

The Stout campus and Menomonie's Main Street (next to lake Menomin), Aug. 1970. Broadway runs diagonally in the near left foreground. The Administration Building is in place at upper left, but missing are the library, Home Economics Building, and Student Center near the heating plant smokestack at upper center.

UW-Stout Memorial Student Center.

UW-Stout Library Learning Center.

UW-Stout Human Environmental Sciences Building (formerly School of Home Economics).

"The Ideal Schools of Menomonie"

> Menomonie, Wisconsin, is a little city of but 5,600 people, and yet it is the best living proof of what the public school system of the United States can be made to do under proper conditions. It contains within a few hundred acres the most varied, the most complete object lesson in public education that exists anywhere today.

Those words make up the lead paragraph of a long article by Adele Marie Shaw in the March 1903 issue of the national publication *World's Work*. Subtitled *A Little City of 5,600 people in Wisconsin with the best public schools in the world—What Senator Stout has done for City and Country Education—How the public school reaches the whole community,* the article tells of the leadership of James H. Stout and describes in great detail the many educational innovations he encouraged and developed in the school system.

Shaw includes Stout's original proposition presented to the Menomonie Board of Education in 1890:

> I will place upon the school grounds, in a place to be designated by the Board of Education, a building of proper kind and size, furnished with all equipment necessary for the instruction of classes of boys and girls in the subjects included in the first year of a course in manual training. I will also pay the salaries of the necessary teachers, the cost of all necessary materials and supplies, and all the contingent expenses for three terms, or for a time equivalent to three school terms, except such a part thereof as shall be paid by five hundred dollars, which to be provided by the Board of Education.

Shaw spent several days in Menomonie and its environs, visiting with school officials, teachers, and students while inspecting the school buildings and grounds. She describes her visit to a manual training class:

> [T]hese grammar school lads that I saw were at work in a self-reliant, businesslike fashion upon a hickory step-ladder, a whitewood medicine cabinet, a birch towel-roller, an oak piano stool, collar and cuff boxes, plate racks, picture frames, and waste baskets.

She was amused to learn that Sen. Stout would occasionally visit a manual class early in the year and challenge the boys to "make something...anything you want to." They did but with limited training in the use of tools at that point "the results were atrocious but interesting." Those objects were put aside and then brought out at the end of the year after "...they had learned since making these articles how to appreciate grace of outline as well as mechanical perfection."

When Shaw sat in on a domestic economy class she watched a high school girl who "had been given a dollar, out of which she was to provide for twenty-five people." This meal included:

Cream of Tomato soup	Cost:	12 cents
Croutons/Bread	Cost:	15 cents
Veal Loaf	Cost:	40 cents
Potatoes	Cost:	14 cents
Butter	Cost:	10 cents
Milk	Cost:	15 cents
	Total:	$1.06

Twenty-seven people were served!

She was impressed with Stout's dedication to the arts exemplified by a collection of artworks collected by the director of the art department, Kate Murphy, whom Stout had sent to Japan to purchase the items. One lady stated, "I'd dragged through a sick day, flogging myself on from minute to minute till late in the afternoon, and at the very end of my labors I had to climb up to the art rooms on an errand. In five minutes I was well. There is something about beauty that comforts you all over."

Shaw then visited the gymnasium and natatorium.

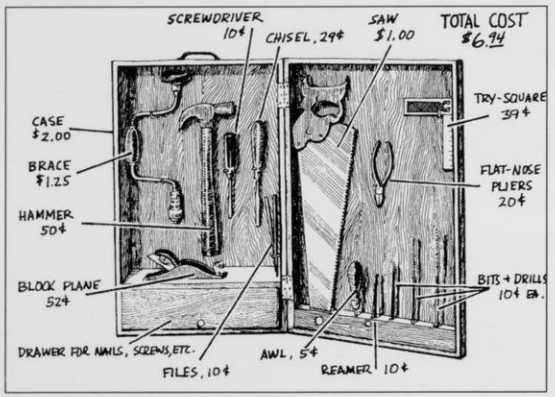
> Menomonie is the only place where you can go indoors from a temperature 38 degrees below zero and find a class of public

> School boys swimming in the waters of a warm indoor lake, or a class of public school girls splashing in the lively competition of a first swimming lesson.

She described the pool, measuring eighty by thirty feet, as "the largest swimming tank in the world open to school children."

Mr. MacArthur, the physical education director, explained that "the characteristic features of the instruction given in this school are that the girls receive the same attention as the boys, and that the training of both begins while they are young."

Shaw also described the county schools, noting that one of the first two agricultural high schools in the world was located in Menomonie along with a county normal school dedicated to the training of rural school teachers. She pointed out that Sen. Stout was very involved in the county school system. He gave fully equipped tool chests to each rural school to provide experience in the manual arts. He also offered rotating "traveling picture groups" to provide the basics of an art education and presented a framed picture of Lincoln to each school. All the schools were in the vicinity of one of Stout's traveling libraries, giving rural students free access to books on many subjects. Stout offered prizes to schools that designed and implemented landscaping for the grounds of their buildings.



Sen. Stout's tool kits for Dunn County rural schools.

Shaw concludes her article,

> ...the recent history of Wisconsin shows no good movement which he [Sen. Stout] has not advocated. But it is Menomonie that sees the concrete results of his work. The people there know what has been accomplished in a city where even yet the outskirts show women in wooden shoes, and the poorest homes reveal a diet of fried meat and lard-spread bread.
>
> While a man is living it is impossible to write what the next generation will say, without offense. But it should be set forth plainly that there is no disparagements of the citizens of Menomonie in the emphasis laid upon the work of Mr. Stout. His is one of the few born in any generation. With a mind to conceive the things that should be, he has the knowledge of affairs and the patience to make his conceptions possible. It is a great thing to say of any city that it has listened to the plans of a such a man, and, cooperating in their fulfillment, has come by effort and self-denial to the place Menomonie occupies today.
>
> From the visit to Menomonie I have learned three things:
>
> 1. Measured by this actual demonstration of what the public schools can do, most other public school work is dead and ineffectual.
>
> 2. The value of the Menomonie schools as an object lesson is due more to the thrift than to the money expended on them.
>
> 3. If communities were willing to spend both thrift and money they would receive in hard cash a hundredfold for their expenditure. Menomonie workmen built the fittings of the schools; they are building the houses of many families attracted to the place by the schools alone. Students from outside leave in this little city every year at least $80,000.

In late fall of 1995 the Menomonie School district voters approved a multimillion dollar expenditure to build a middle school, a new North School and to remodel other facilities in the district. Perhaps with efficient, up-to-date facilities providing both teachers and students an innovative and creative environment, Menomonie can once again be "That little city with the best public schools in the world."

The Dunn County Normal and Agricultural School shared this building.

Students at "Aggie" attended shop classes in these two buildings. The one on the left was the first Stout building of 1891.

The Dunn County School of Agriculture & Domestic Economy

Everyone called it "Aggie," an affectionate name given to the Dunn County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy, the first agricultural school in the United States. In 1901 the state legislature authorized the establishment of two schools, one at Wausau and the other at Menomonie. Dunn County was the first to organize a school under this act. It was a school designed to answer the needs of boys and girls from country schools, giving them a chance to pursue the special subjects of agriculture, manual training, and domestic economy.

It all began in November 1901. The Dunn County Board of Supervisors took action to erect a building to house both the new agricultural high school and the Dunn County Normal School. During the following year a three-story brick building with a ground plan dimensions of 42 x 96 feet was erected at a cost of $16,353.16 It was accepted by the County Board on November 8, 1902. On the following Monday, November 10, students filed in for the school's first classes. Dr. K. C. Davis was the principal and in direct charge of the agriculture department. Grace Stokes was placed in charge of the department of domestic economy and L. M. Cole headed the manual training department. The board of control for the school was James H. Stout, president; N. O. Varnum, secretary; and J. E. Florin, treasurer.

Two winter short-course terms of 12 weeks each did not include academic work, but were made up chiefly of agriculture and shop work for the young men and cooking, sewing, and laundering for young women.

According to a brief history of the school issued in 1957:

> Much was done for the school by individuals and local institutions to make it a success. Authorities of the Mabel

Tainter Memorial Library began purchasing books of special value to the students in the Agricultural School and they were granted free use of the library. The authorities of the Stout gymnasium extended to the young men the privileges of that institution. For the first year Senator Stout permitted the young men to use the complete equipment of the Stout Manual Training carpenter shop for their lessons in farm carpentry. this gave the school officials time for fitting the shop building. full year courses were also available and became a popular choice after the national Smith-Hughes Act granted the agriculture school full high school accreditation status.

The Dunn County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy continued as a four-year accredited high school until it closed on June 30, 1957, after serving continuously for 55 years, longer than any of the eight other state agricultural schools. When asked why the Dunn County school had been so successful, Francis Haugh, the last school administrator of the "Aggie," listed two reasons: (1) an excellent program combined with an excellent teaching staff throughout the years, and (2) the slow emergence of vocational agriculture courses in the rural high schools in the county.

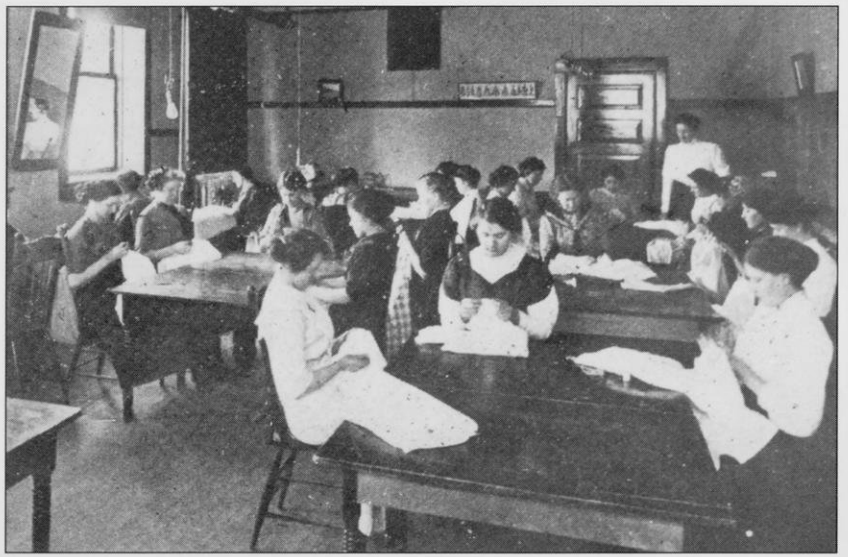
Senator Stout permitted the young men to use the complete equipment of the Stout Manual Training carpenter shop for their lessons in farm carpentry. This gave the school officials time for fitting up the shop building belonging to the school and getting it properly equipped to begin work for the fall of 1903. Senator Stout. gave to the Agricultural School, the original Stout Manual Training building, which was moved from its old location on the Central School grounds to the southeast corner of the Agricultural School lot.

Among the regular courses for the young men were science or agriculture, soils and fertilizers, dairying, poultry raising, stock feeding and care, judging and marketing, plant life, insects and diseases, vegetable, flower, and fruit gardening, farm carpentry and blacksmithing, rural architecture and building, business arithmetic, farm accounts and commercial forms, history, civil government, and library reading.

Courses for the young ladies included sewing, cooking, home economics, personal and domestic hygiene, millinery, home nursing, poultry raising, chemistry of foods, principles of gardening, history, civil government, and library reading.

Enrollment for the first year in the regular course was 53, with most of the students from Dunn County. Four students were from neighboring counties and one girl was from Pueblo, Colorado. Ten students enrolled in the short course, all from Dunn County, and one student took a special course.

On July 1, 1957, the day following the closing of the Dunn County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy, agriculture

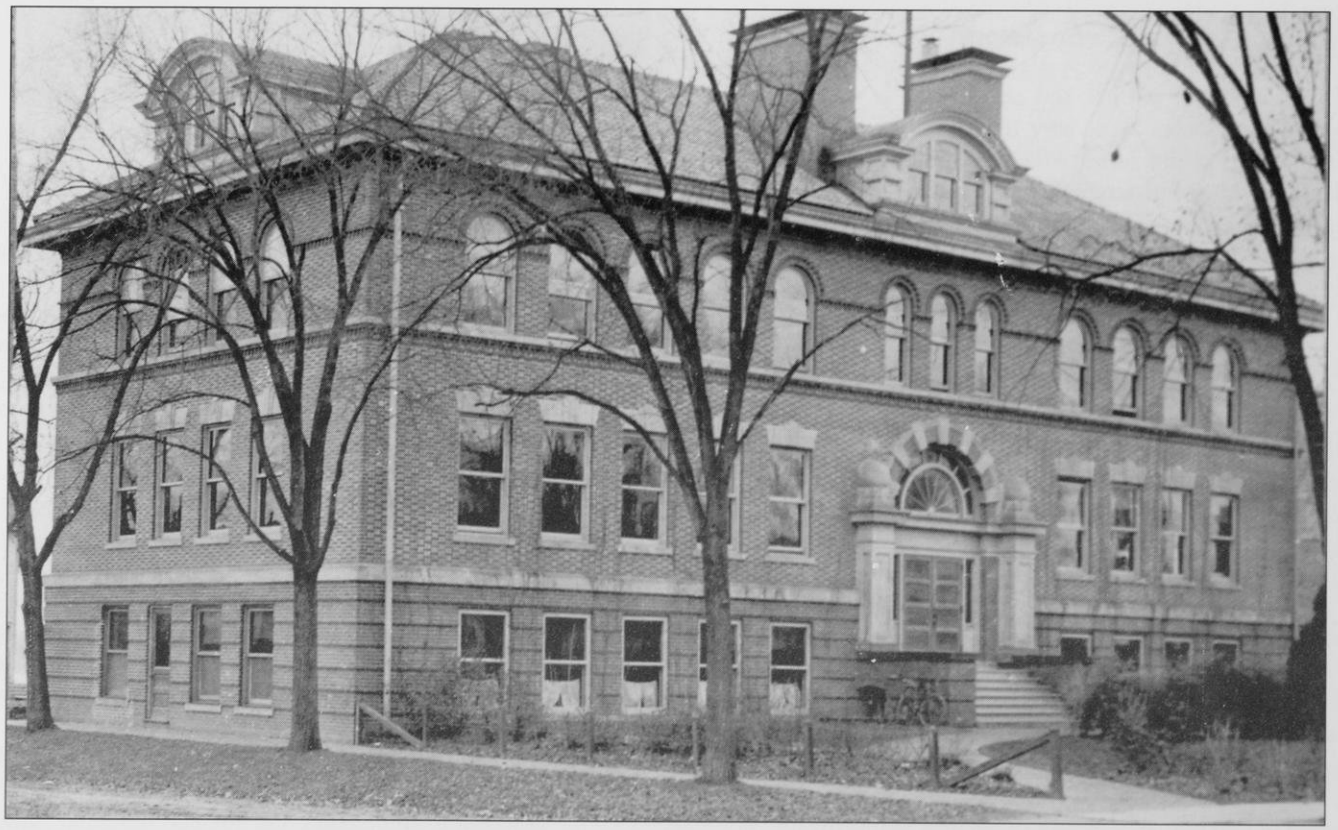


Class at the Dunn County Normal School.

courses were added to the Menomonie High School curriculum. Prior to this date the high school had never offered an agriculture course. Archie Abbott, who had been teaching agriculture in the Aggie since 1952, was picked to teach the same subject at Menomonie High School. Abbott continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1989. He was replaced by Jean D'Angelo who remains in the position in 1996.

The Dunn County School of Agriculture had a succession of 11 principals: Dr. K. C. Davis, 1902-07; J. A. Wilson, 1907-09; R. R. Crane, 1909-11; W. W. Sylvester, 1911-13; F. E. Sexauer, 1913-17; D. P. Hughes, 1917-25; Wallace Landry, 1925-28; Randall Swanson, 1928-35; Gordon R. Stein, 1935-42; Clara Moeschler, 1942-50; and Francis J. Haugh, 1950-57.

Closing the doors of the Dunn County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy at the end of June 1957 brought to an end an experimental school that had become a proven success over its 55 years, graduating 991 students.



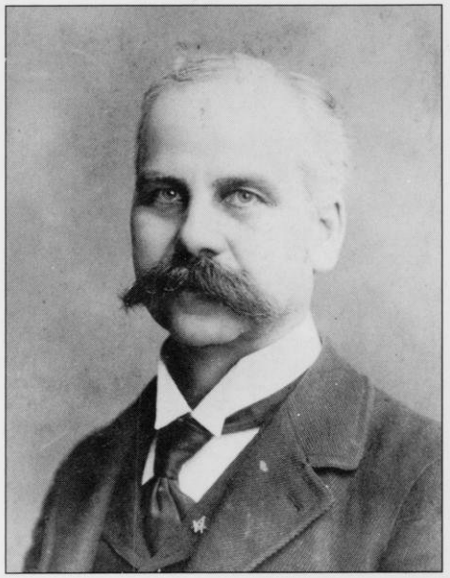
Dunn County School of Agriculture & Domestic Economy, the first agricultural high school in the United States, shared quarters with the Dunn County Normal School.

Dunn County Normal School

We conclude this chapter with an account of the beginnings of the Dunn County Normal School in the words of Miss Elizabeth Allen, principal of the school when it celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1924. It is excerpted from Curtiss-Wedge et al., *History of Dunn County* (1925), pp. 87-90. As noted earlier in this chapter, the Normal School was established pursuant to an act of the state legislature of 1899 and a local Training School board elected. Elizabeth Allen picks up the story:

> The [Training School] board was empowered to secure a principal for the school at once and an assistant as soon as necessary; and on Monday, September 18, 1899, exactly seven days later than the opening of the Marathon County Normal, Principal W. L. Morrison stood before a group of twelve student teachers ranging from eighth grade to high school graduates and formally organized this school. The following week eleven more students enrolled and Mr. Waite acted as assistant to Mr. Morrison until a permanent teacher could be secured.
>
> On October 23 of the same year the membership had reached 41 and Miss Elizabeth Allen of the Milwaukee State Normal School took her place as assistant. During that first year 57 students were enrolled, 18 of whom were graduated on June 29, 1900. The course of study prescribed covered necessary reviews of all subjects taught in the rural schools added to a year's training along professional lines....
>
> With no charge for their use Senator Stout furnished and equipped two large rooms on the fourth floor of the Stout Manual Training building...for the use of the school. [It operated there for two years until its own building was completed in 1902.]
>
> The enrollment in the fall of 1900 made it evident that a building would very soon be an actual necessity, and the county board of that year appointed a committee to investigate the matter. Senator Stout offered the gift of the "Music Hall," formerly the old Baptist church, provided the city of Menomonie would furnish a lot. After due consideration of the building and other factors in the situation, the matter was voted down for these reasons: The conservative element of the board considered the school still in its experimental stage. The building in itself was inadequate for the purposes desired. There was a strong probability at this time that at the next session of the board a county school of agriculture would be established and both schools could be housed in the same building.
>
> In November, 1901, that school was unanimously ordered to be organized, [and] at the same session a building committee was appointed to take charge of the erection of a suitable building to house both schools. Supervisors Clark and Cronk, acting with the Training School board, Messrs. Stout, Florin and Varnum, were the committee who brought to a successful completion the present building. Meantime the school was working at full capacity with 70 enrolled selected

Bowman Model School on the Normal grounds, named after Gaylen Bowman, the principal for many years at Normal, provided practical classroom experience for the teachers in training at the school.



Gaylen Bowman

from 80 applicants and with 10 on the waiting list.

The board appropriated $20,000 for the building. The [value of the] four lots on which the building now stands [today the site of Fryklund Hall on the UW-Stout campus]...[was] donated [by Sen. Stout, the city of Menomonie, and] by personal subscriptions of citizens, and it is due largely to the splendid efforts of the present treasurer of the Training School Board, Mr. Henry M. Miller, that this last sum was secured. The total cost of the building and equipment was $20,216.85.

The building was formally accepted by the board on Saturday, November 8, 1902, and was opened to the school on Monday, November 17, 1902. "Moving Day" was an event not soon to be forgotten; the historical bottle was carefully stored in the office and the "County Normal" was at home.

Some of the events and changes in those early years:

1902 Another teacher added to the faculty.

1904 Prof. Morrison retires, replaced by Gaylen L. Bowman, who came from the Waupaca County Training School.

1912 Miss Allen resigns and becomes a fruit farm owner in New York state.

1922 Gaylen Bowman dies on April 19.
Miss Allen recalled in August as principal of the school.

1924 Bowman Model School erected at the Normal school.

1927 Frederick W. Jungck becomes principal at Normal.

1937 Two-year courses now available at Normal.

1957 Last class at Normal graduates and the building and site become part of the Stout State College expansion.

From 1899 to 1957 the Dunn County Normal School graduated 1,345 teachers.

Chippewa Valley Technical College

In 1911 the Wisconsin state legislature made its mark as a national leader in vocational education by requiring every city of 5,000 or more to establish part-time evening schools for those post-high school citizens wishing additional training.

It was only natural that the new legislation be initiated in Menomonie with Stout Institute and its vocational training focus. In October 1912 the Stout Institute Board of Regents also assumed the role of State Board of Vocational Education and began establishing the schools.

Menomonie Vocational School began that year as part of District 1, holding evening classes primarily in the high school. In 1968 it became part of the District 1 Technical College. At first headquartered in River Heights Elementary, it moved in the early 1970s to a vacant building at the Dunn County Health Care Center. In the mid-1980s the name was changed to **Chippewa Valley Technical College** and in 1991 the Menomonie branch moved to the Stout Technology Park.

The second Dunn County News *building.*

13

Fit to Print

On April 21, 1910, the *Dunn County News* celebrated its fiftieth anniversary by publishing a "Semi-Centennial Edition" supplement to the regular issue of the newspaper. A portion of that supplement detailed the beginning of the first newspaper in Dunn County. In 1907, to prepare for the article the *News* publisher, Rockwell J. Flint, contacted the first editor, Charles S. Bundy, then serving as a municipal judge in the District of Columbia.

Flint wanted to know more about early Dunn County and how the newspaper business began. Bundy replied with a thorough account of some length. He recalled how at one time Dunn County extended all the way to the Mississippi, which put the county seat, Dunnville, near the center of it all. When Pepin County was set off from the lower part of Dunn County, the seat of government, Dunnville, was now only a mile or so from the county's southern border.

By 1860 it was clear that Menomonie would be the location of the county seat as soon as voters had their say in that fall's election and according to Bundy, "Almost the first thought after that was settled was a county paper." He continued,

> What is now Menomonie consisted of Knapp, Stout & Co.'s mills; the "company store," a large and well stocked establishment, where could be bought almost every article of food, apparel, ornament or shelter, either for man or beast; Bullard's hotel on the knoll just west of the "company store," where the best kind of mince pie and coffee could always be found; Andrew Tainter's house, still nearer the store to the northward–a modest two-story frame; Capt. William Wilson's rambling one-story and a half frame, only a few steps to the southeast of the entrance to the store; Samuel B. French's house, and a few others which I am not able to recall. There was, besides, a considerable cluster of other buildings down the west bank of the river below the mills, some large, as the dining hall and dormitory, and others small, and used as lodgings for the mill hands and their families. These buildings were all frames, as I recall them, and they furnished comfortable quarters for a population of probably 5000 inhabitants. There was no bridge across the river then and the only mode of crossing was by ferry boat attached by sliding pulleys to a rope stretched across the river at a point just above the dam.
>
> All that plateau where the "village," and later the city of Menomonie now is was unbroken prairie without a single house, and was not yet platted on paper.

That was the situation in Menomonie when it became the county seat of Dunn County. Bundy guessed that the county population was about 5,000, a number that seems much too high. In the early years the only public access to the area was by water, but by 1860 the mill site community was served by a stagecoach route from Black River Falls to Hudson via Menomonie. That added contact with the outside world apparently was enough to convince the officials of the Knapp, Stout & Company that it was time for the establishment of a newspaper.

Bundy wrote,

> Capt. Wilson was a born optimist, and he was the "whole push" in Menomonie. He had determined to have a newspaper. With plenty of money at his command, it was an easy matter to procure a press, type and materials, and it seems that he had a printer in mind who would do the mechanical work. All he lacked was an editor. Turning to me one day, he says, "Bundy, I believe you would make a pretty decent editor. Suppose you try it?" As I had never yet read anything in type of my own composing and had never seen the inside of a printing office, I

had no grounds for doubting my qualifications for the post, and I cheerfully signified my willingness "to try." That was the genesis of the first Dunn County newspaper, founded in 1860.

It was probably Wilson's partner, John Holly Knapp, still living in Fort Madison, Iowa, who was directed to purchase the press and supplies and ship them via the company's steamboats as far as Dunnville. From there the equipment was sent by wagon to Menomonie.

Capt. Wilson had the second floor of the company's tin shop converted into the newspaper's office. With Bundy, the lawyer-turned-editor at the helm, the ***Dunn County Lumberman,*** a seven-column folio, made its debut on a Thursday in April 1860. Just which Thursday has never been determined since that issue and those that followed for the next two years were never preserved. Local historians continue to hope that somewhere in someone's attic there will be a cache of those early issues of the *Lumberman*. Volume 3, a compilation of 52 issues of the newspaper from April 19, 1862, to April of 1863, and now available for reference at the Mabel Tainter Memorial Reading Room, is perhaps the last remnant of that early newspaper remaining in Menomonie.

Bundy's role as editor was short lived. On May 10, 1861, he answered the call to arms in the American Civil War. On October 26th of that year he was commissioned 2nd lieutenant of Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers. Filling his role as editor was his brother, E. B. Bundy, also a lawyer who eventually become circuit judge for the Eighth Judicial Circuit. His tenure as editor was also short. He was quickly succeeded by Thomas Phillips, who remained in the post until 1865 when Knapp, Stout & Co. sold the paper to Dr. E. G. Benjamin.

Why it had been named the *Dunn County Lumberman* is no mystery but a letter from Bundy to a subsequent publisher, Rockwell Flint, explained why it was later changed:

The fifth office and plant of the Dunn County News *located on Third Street.*

This building in the 300 block of Wilson Ave. housed the Dunn County News *on the first floor and the city water department on the second.*

> Appropriately the newspaper in its beginning was called *The Dunn County Lumberman.* In those days nearly every material interest in this section, if not actually bound up in, was at least related to, the vast enterprise whose character was indicated by that title. As time went on, the young community took on more diversified interests. Lines of mercantile and industrial activity were developed and a symmetrical growth was ere long manifest in which many spheres of action were in evidence.
>
> While the prosperity and progress of them all depended to a great degree upon the central motive force which had taken form in the mammoth mills upon the pond bank where the river currents bore down from the pineries the potential for the sources of great wealth, pine. At the same time the ramifications of community life gradually led to the feeling that the place was something more than a lumber camp.
>
> It began as the years went by to assume the aspect of a small city, somewhat pretentious in its appearance and its purposes as cities of its class were reckoned in that pioneer period upon the wooded northern frontier. And so the little city's newspaper partook of, and to a degree led in, the metropolitan spirit, and in a few years became ill content to be known by a designation that told of but one field of business effort.

In other words, it was time to change the name of the newspaper from the *Dunn County Lumberman* to the ***Dunn County News,*** a name that it retains to this day. The name was not changed immediately, however.

Through the urging of Capt. Wilson, Dr. Benjamin, a former part-owner of the *Eau Claire Free Press,* had come to Menomonie in August 1860, to be the community's first physician. For the next five years he served the community's health needs, but in November 1865 the name of Knapp, Stout & Co. came off the masthead of the newspaper. Dr. Benjamin was the new owner.

A paragraph in the 1910 anniversary issue of the *News* stated,

> Dr. Benjamin was a man of pronounced ideas, strong principles and the absolute courage of his convictions. His connection with the paper left a strong imprint on its character.... That the new editor was not disposed to be too much restricted by the bonds of precedent may be judged from the following, taken from an editorial, published December 9, 1865: "With an eye to brevity, we review the first three weeks with the *Dunn County Lumberman.* At the start a change of name was contemplated; because the old name didn't seem wide enough to cover and represent the business of the county. We are not all lumbermen any more. The farming and commercial interests begin to loom up; the mechanics and manufacturers are claiming attention. And the old name stands yet; and so let it stand. 'What's in a name.'"

But Benjamin had a change of heart and the Saturday, April 7, 1866, issue of his paper came out with a new heading in bold type, the *Dunn County News.* He soon left the old office in the company's tin shop and established the paper in a portion of a frame dwelling house located in the 100 block of Main Street on the present site of the Lee Building. Circulation of the newspaper grew as Benjamin urged "citizens of Dunn County, is it not your duty to give our paper to your families, and to send it off to your friends? Come and get it, bringing $2. It will pay."

In August 1867, Dr. Benjamin sold the newspaper to Captain William Wilson and A. J. Messenger, who brought with them this statement of intentions and desires.

> In the first place, we intend to do what we can to advance the interests of this section of the state, and especially of Dunn County, will try to advance all religious, moral and educational movements; and in politics we shall never be neutral, but for the union all the time. Finally, we hope and desire to make our paper a journal of so much interest that every resident of Dunn County will desire a copy in his house.—W. & M.

Wilson and Messenger chose another lawyer, Samuel W. Hunt, to edit the News. Hunt served as editor until 1891 when he left to join Menomonie attorney C. E. Freeman to form the Hunt & Freeman law firm.

On Saturday, August 12, 1871, two young men from Prescott, Wisconsin, Rockwell J. Flint and E. H. Weber (pronounced "wee-bur") published their first issue of the *News* under their ownership and editorial management. Wilson and Messenger assured their readers that

> Messrs Flint & Weber, the new editors and publishers, come to us highly recommended by their neighbors and by the press generally. They have been tried as newspaper men and proven successful. Their occupation is that of printers and writers. They have come here to build up for themselves a home and standing among us. Their interests as well as their wishes inspire them to make as good a paper as their ability will permit them to. We ask for them the same generous support given to the paper while run by us and believe that no confidence bestowed on them will be misplaced.—Wilson & Messenger.

Now for the first time real honest-to-goodness newspapermen were in charge. It was the beginning of the Flint family management of the *Dunn County News* that, except for a period between 1908 and 1913, existed for well over a century.

According to his obituary in the *News* on February 6, 1908, Fred F. Morgan purchased a half interest in the paper in 1900 from Rockwell Flint after selling the *Cumberland Advocate* and moving his family to Menomonie to take advantage of the excellent schools here. The two newspapermen formed a partnership as Flint & Morgan. In 1906 they sold a one-third interest to J. T. Flint, admitting him as an equal partner. Morgan died on February 3, 1908, and on June 1 the *News* was purchased and formed into a corporation by its new owner/manager, W. R. Hotchkiss. A veteran

Personnel posed on the steps of the News *building in 1910. Located on the corner of Wilson Avenue and 3rd St, it was the fifth site of the newspaper.*

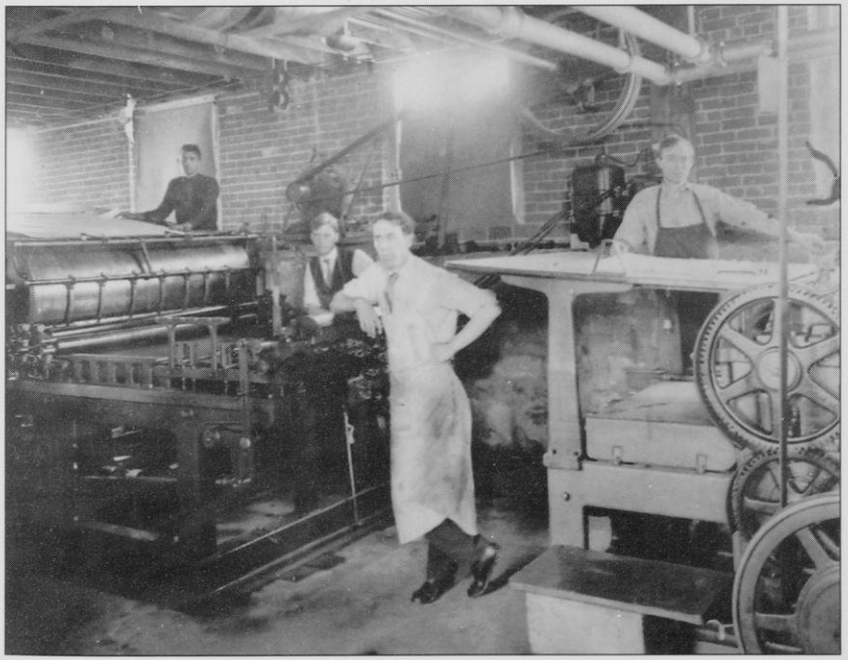
newspaperman who had edited papers at several locations in southern Wisconsin, Hotchkiss came to Menomonie from Barron where he had published and edited the *Barron County Shield* for three years. In May of the following year M. C. Douglas took over as editor of the *News* after 16 years experience in Milwaukee, seven of which as managing editor of the *Milwaukee Sentinel.*

During his tenure with the *News* Hotchkiss began to have dreams of another venture. In 1913, he left the company with one of his pressmen, George Paft, and started a new enterprise, the Deluxe

Corporation, a check printing company which became the major supplier of bank checks in the country. This company is still a leader today.

In October 1913, the *News* was sold to editors M. C. Douglas and J. T. Flint; the following February the Flint-Douglas Printing Company was incorporated, resuming Flint family ownership that persisted until recently. When *Dunn County News* publisher Rockwell Flint II died on January 24, 1991, his wife Carole was listed as owner. Larry Hubner was named publisher in May 1991.

Hubner's tenure was short. He resigned on January 22, 1992, and editorial staff member Layne Pitt was named editor, succeeding Wallace Smetana who had served as editor since April 1, 1960. Smetana remains on the staff as editor emeritus today. In September 1992 the newspaper was sold to the Independent Media Group and Jeff Becker was named publisher. Julie Wierzba was appointed editor. As the city celebrates its sesquicentennial the publisher of the *News* is Jules Molenda and Peg Zaemisch is editor. After serving the community as a weekly for over 130 years, the *News* began publishing twice weekly (Wednesday and Sunday) in 1994.



The pressroom of the Dunn County News *at its Wilson Avenue and 3rd Street location, its last before the present site at Main & Seventh Streets.*

Over the years the *Dunn County News* had a number of competitors but few managed to exist for more than a few years. There was the ***Lean Wolf,*** a small publication that was originally published in Durand beginning in October 1869, but moved to Menomonie in March 1870. Less than three months later it merged with the *News.*

Another pretender was the more successful ***Menomonie Times.*** Established in 1875 by a Mr. Relph, it had a shaky start and closed down for a few months before it was revived by Flavius J. Mills, who served as publisher and editor. Evidently he had little success and the property was returned to Mr. Relph, who had found additional financial help from a Mr. Gardiner. This arrangement came to an end when a Chicago financial house foreclosed on the mortgage.

Dr. D. H. Decker came to the rescue with F. J. McLean, who purchased the paper, eventually incorporated it in 1884, and then, in 1888, sold the majority of the *Times* to A. P. Davis who continued to edit it until the early 1900s. He was followed by a succession of editors who lasted about as long as it took the ink to dry on the masthead of the paper. In 1910 the *Menomonie Times* ceased publication.

In 1887, the German Printing Co. introduced the German language ***Menomonie Nordstern*** with Carl Pieper as editor. He edited the paper until January 1902, when Frank and Antonio Pieper took over the chore until the publication was suspended in March of 1904. Another edition was issued as *Nordwesten* but there is little or no information concerning its fate.

Carl Pieper was also involved in the 1891 founding of the

Wisconsin Signal, a weekly described in the 1925 *History of Dunn County* as "another populist paper issued weekly." In the following year it was sold to the Signal Publishing Co., a firm made up of about 100 Dunn County farmers. For the next two years it was edited by Leona Windsor, followed by a Miss Anderson. Its business manager was Jeremiah Burnham Tainter, a brother of Captain Andrew Tainter. He held that post until November 1898, after which the *Signal* appears to have just faded away.

For eight months, from October 1903 until May 1904, Thomas Dreer published a weekly designed for juveniles called the ***Menomonie Badger.*** Another local publisher, H. W. Rintelman, issued the quarterly *Facts and Figures* for the Wisconsin Anti-Saloon League. Henry Coleman was the editor. The "quarterly" was issued for only four quarters from April 1900 to April 1901.

Another paper edited by a doctor was published in 1888, the ***Dunn County Herald,*** a temperance newspaper with a very short life. Dr. Kate Kelsey, the first woman physician to practice in Menomonie, and F. A. Vasey shared editorial duties.

Throughout the 1930s and into the early 1950s the *Dunn County News* published the ***Daily Shopper,*** a four-page tabloid-sized paper. In later years called the ***Menomonie Shopper,*** it was published on Mondays and Fridays. Each issue included current news but it was primarily a shopper's guide packed with local business advertisements. It was distributed free of charge to all residences in Menomonie and, in later years, beyond the city limits. In 1996 the *Shopper* was revived as a weekly.

It had competition from a mimeographed publication the ***Daily Reminder,*** owned and edited by Hugh McGowan. This was strictly a shopper's guide without news items. Now called the *Dunn County Reminder* it continues as a weekly publication distributed free to residences throughout the county.

In 1987 Philip Diser began publishing the **Visitor's Guide to Menomonie and the Red Cedar Valley** four times a year. That same year, in June, Steve Lampman, owner of Boothby Print Shop, began publishing a monthly tabloid called the ***Lamp Lighter.*** After five entertaining issues featuring stories on local points of interest and profiles of residents, organizations, and activities, it ceased publication with the October/November issue.

The Dunn County Pinery Rifles fought in the Civil War Battle of Spotsylvania in May 1864. Shown here: Union Gen. Hancock's 2nd Corps assault the Confederates at the "Bloody Angle" on May 12 (see p. 183).

14

Going off to War

The Civil War

Menomonie's own Civil War unit, the Dunn County Pinery Rifles, later to become Company K, participated in the some of the most famous battles of the war: the Peninsular Campaign, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Sailor's Creek, 25 miles east of Appomattox Court House where the war finally ended. As gallant as any in the conflict, they lost many of their number, including Captain William Evans.

For a fuller history of Company K, one should consult the series of articles written by Dr. Dwight Agnew for the *Dunn County News* between April and August 1961 to commemorate the beginning of the Civil War Centennial. The collected articles are available at the Area Research Center at the UW-Stout library, which also holds the minute books and other records of Captain Evans. Here we can give only a taste of the stirring stories of the conflict, drawing principally on Dr. Agnew's articles.

The Pinery Rifles were organized in May and June 1861, only a month after the war began with the battle at Fort Sumter. Following one recruitment meeting, according to the *Dunn County Lumberman,* "the company formed in line and marched to the tune of Yankee Doodle through the principal streets and serenaded some of our citizens." Mrs. Lorenzo Bullard was quoted as telling the crowd, "Soldiers, I regret that I have but one son to give to my country," and then probably shocked her husband by remarking "If you lack one man, Mr. Bullard shall go too."

By July Company K, the first company raised in the Chippewa Valley, was in Madison, where at Camp Randall it joined the Fifth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment under the command of Col. Amassa Cobb. With them was Eliza Wilson, the "daughter of the regiment."

A Daughter of the Regiment

While young Menomonie men were serving in the Civil War, many village women formed a local chapter of the Soldiers' Aid Society, dedicated to involving every man, woman, and child on the home front in providing aid and comfort to their fighting men. Those who could made bandages, knitted socks, made scarves and other clothing items and collected food and reading material to send to the men on the front.

Eliza Wilson, the daughter of Captain and Mrs. William Wilson, made an even greater commitment by actually joining the regiment. She followed the hometown boys in battle as a nurse, bandaging their wounds and bringing them water.

Only two Wisconsin regiments had young women accompanying them to the field, the "daughters of the regiment." Eliza Wilson joined the Fifth. Miss Wilson, with her own tent and servant and furnished with necessary food and clothing, went out with the regiment on her philanthropic mission.

Daughter of a wealthy lumberman and former state senator, she was to pay all of her own expenses. Her duties were to head the regiment when on parade and to assuage the thirst of the wounded and dying on the battlefield, where it was hoped that she would be a real guardian angel of the regiment. Miss Wilson was well chaperoned, for several of her relatives were in the regiment, in

Eliza Wilson

addition to a number of men lately in the employ of her father. In the book *Wisconsin Women in the War,* a soldier describes her in these words:

> Eliza is decidedly smart and intelligent, of medium size, amiable, twenty [actually twenty seven] and pretty. She dresses in clothes of such pattern as the military (not millinery) board have ordered for nurses in the army, which is the Turkish costume, as near as I can judge—the same which sensible ladies favored a few years since as a national style. The color is bright brown; no crinoline; dress reaches half way between the knee and ankle; upper sleeve loose, gathered at the waist; pantalettes same color, wide but gathered tight around the ankle; black hat with plumes or feathers of same color; feet dressed in morocco boots. This vivandiere dress is no hindrance to rapid movements; fast walking is a graceful exercise, while the slow inevitable strut of crinoline appears awkward to the lady dressed in army costume.

From later letters it is evident that Eliza was useful as well as ornamental, for she took care of sick soldiers and "by her continued kind attentions to and care for them has merited and is receiving the blessings of those who were ready to perish in the absence of her kindness."

Another soldier, who wrote two months later, says:

> The boys have no sweethearts to see, and therefore white shirts, standing collars, hair-oil, bosom-pins and tight boots have disappeared completely. We have not seen a woman for a fortnight with the exception of the Daughter of the Regiment, who is with us in storm and sunshine. It would do you good to see her trudging along, with or after the regiment, her dark brown frock buttoned tightly around her waist, her what-you-may-call-ems tucked into her well fitting gaiters, her hat and feather set jauntily on one side, her step firm and assured, for she knows that every arm in our ranks would protect her. Never pouting or passionate, with a kind word for every one, and every one a kind word for her. She came with one of the companies and remains with the regiment. Were it not for her, when a woman would appear, we would be running after her, as children do after an organ and a monkey.

It appears that Eliza did not tire of doing good, for she is still mentioned in January 1862 as being with the regiment, only she had been quite ill, "which elicited much sympathy" from her comrades.

After the war Eliza returned home and became a leader in the women's rights movement. She and her parents hosted such luminaries as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. For a time Eliza operated the mill on Elk Creek on the Dunn-Eau Claire County line. She never married.

The Battles

On July 24 the 1,057 men of the Fifth Wisconsin traveled by train to Washington, D.C., arriving August 8. They were attached in September to the brigade of Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, who

drilled the men. Apparently Col. Cobb wasn't very experienced, and Gen. Hancock was heard to thunder out, "Colonel Cobb, where the ***** nation are you going with that battalion?" After months of monotonous drill during the winter of 1861-62, the Fifth was sent with Hancock's brigade down the Potomac to join Gen. McClelland's Army in the famous **Peninsular Campaign,** where it soon was in the thick of the **Battle of Williamsburg.** Late on Sunday, May 5, Hancock's brigade was ordered to storm **Fort Magruder,** which protected Williamsburg. The first assault having failed, the soldiers spent the night in torrential rain without blankets, chilled and exhausted after wading through deep mud.

Early the next morning, with bayonets fixed they attacked the larger Confederate force, then had to fall back. Lt. James Deerey of Menomonie wrote in a letter home that "the rebels followed us up all the time on double quick march, whooping and hallowing, 'Bull Run,' 'Balls Bluff,' 'Kill the Yankees, &c.'" When the companies reached the rest of the brigade, the whole force turned again on the rebels, "who retreated like so many sheep and fell like so many pigeons." Company K alone suffered no injuries. According to Deerey, "The bullets fell around me like hail; nary a one hit me. I thought I would fall every minute, but I was as cool as I am now.... I lost sight of Henry [his brother] in the field, the smoke was so thick." The Confederates abandoned Fort Magruder during the night, and the next day the Union forces entered Williamsburg.

The rebel capital, Richmond, was the next objective. Crossing the Chickahominy River, the Fifth Wisconsin encamped west of Richmond and after sundown on June 27 it skirmished with Gen. Toomb's Georgia brigade at the **Battle of Golding's Farm.** The captain of the Dunn County Pinery Rifles, William Evans, was shot in the abdomen and died in a Philadelphia hospital a month later. As a group, though, Company K did not endure serious losses. A member of the Fifth Wisconsin wrote, "During the terrific cannonading at White Oak Springs—and its equal I never saw—we

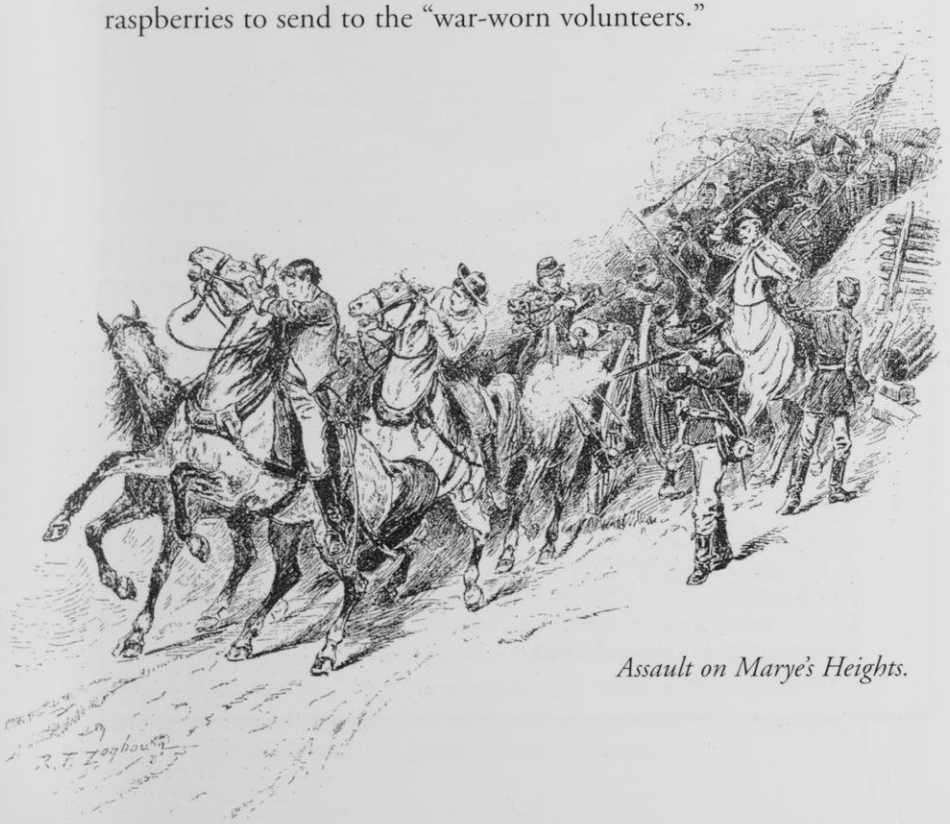
Engagements of Dunn County Pinery Rifles (Company K)

1862	
Warwick Court House, Virginia	March 27
Siege of Yorktown, Virginia	April 5 to May 4
Williamsburg, Virginia	May 5
Gaine's Mill, Virginia	June 27
Golding's Farm, Virginia	June 28
Savage Station, Virginia	June 29
Glendale, Virginia	June 30
Malvern Hill, Virginia	July 1
Antietam, Maryland	September 17
Fredericksburg, Virginia	December 12 to 15
1863	
Marye's Heights, Virginia	May 3
Salem Heights, Virginia	May 3 and 4
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania	July 2 and 3
Fairfield, Pennsylvania	July 5
Funkstown, Maryland	July 12 and 13
Rappahannock Station, Virginia	November 7
Mine Run or Locust Grove, Virginia	November 26 to December 2
1864	
The Wilderness, Virginia	May 5 to 7
Spottsylvania, Virginia	May 8 to 21
Cold Harbor, Virginia	June 1 to 12
Petersburg, Virginia	June 22
Snicker's Gap, Virginia	July 18
Charlestown, Virginia	August 4
Winchester or Opequan, Virginia	September 19
Weldon Railroad Expedition	December 7 to 11
1865	
Hatcher's Run, Virginia	February 6 and 7
Fort Steadman, Virginia	March 25
Petersburg, Virginia	April 2
Sailor's Creek, Virginia	April 6
Appomattox Court House, Virginia*	April 9

*Lee surrenders to Grant!

stood in 'park' within easy range, the shot and shell whistling through and over our train for upwards of an hour...." McClellan retreated without taking Richmond, however, and in August 1862 the regiment boarded ships for Alexandria, Virginia.

During that summer an officer of Company K wrote home lamenting the sad state of provisions: "This thing of living on jerked mule, hard bread and coffee, in warm weather, and in such business as we are engaged in, uses men up more than anything else they can be put at." He appealed for berries and other fruit, vegetables, butter, and sauerkraut to be sent to the front. The *Dunn County Lumberman* on August 2 reported that "Last week a small party of young ladies concluded to gather a quantity of berries that are so abundant in the neighborhood." The women gathered 100 quarts of raspberries to send to the "war-worn volunteers."



Assault on Marye's Heights.

In late August the lads of the Fifth Wisconsin arrived at the end of the **Second Battle of Bull Run** and escaped losses. At Crampton's Pass they were on reserve for the bloody **Battle of Antietam,** where 2,108 Union men and 2,700 Confederates were killed, and though under heavy artillery fire, again emerged without serious injury. At the **Battle of Fredericksburg** the regiment again suffered few casualties, with only one man killed and four wounded. A volunteer described the battle:

> We all wonder at our small number of wounded. Some of the time during the fight a perfect tornado of shot and shell went over our heads, and the little wicked buzzing of leaden hail flew thick and fast. All day Saturday we lay close to the ground and listened to the terrible fight. We could see it too. Upon the left we could see our brave men advance right up to the cannon's mouth, waving their colors all the time, and when the enemy's artillery opened upon them, whole windrows would be piled up.

In winter quarters in late December, a member of the Fifth Wisconsin described their rations: "Our Christmas meals consisted of the following...Crackers, Coffee, & Pork for Breakfast, Pork, coffee & crackers for dinner, and Coffee, crackers & pork for supper."

During the **Chancellorsville Campaign** in late April and early May 1863, the Fifth Wisconsin, including the Dunn County Pinery Rifles, attacked **Marye's Heights** at Fredericksburg, where thousands of men had already been killed. Four hundred yards of open ground, which Dr. Agnew called a "human slaughter-ground," led to a stone wall and rifle pits at the foot of the heights. Col. Allen told the men: "Boys you see those heights! You have got to take them! You think you can't do it, but you *can!* You *will* do it! When the order 'forward' is given, you will start at double quick; you will not fire a gun; you will not stop until you get the order to halt! *You will not get that order!"*

The men did take the stone wall "against withering fire from musketry and artillery," according to Agnew. The *Dunn County*

Lumberman reported that Bidwell Pedley of Menomonie was "shot in the breast and side during the battle of Sunday, and fell side by side with [Aaron Vasey of the town of Dunn]—the latter was killed instantly. Poor Bidwell was carried by his comrades back to the hospital and died in a few hours."

At the **Battle of Gettysburg** in early July 1863, the Fifth Wisconsin protected the left flank of the Union army and though exposed to heavy fire no one was injured. Other Dunn County volunteers were at Gettysburg as members of other units besides the Fifth Wisconsin.

Following Gettysburg, the Fifth Wisconsin was sent to New York to quell draft riots, then in October rejoined the reorganized Army of the Potomac as part of the third brigade. Lee had retreated into the Shenandoah Valley. On November 7 the regiment was among soldiers marching 15 miles to a point near Lee's fortifications at **Rappahannock Station** and just before sunset began a direct assault. The Fifth "at double quick stormed across the valley with fixed bayonets, hitting the largest and strongest redoubt against a 'deluge of case-shot and Minie bullets,'" in the words of Dwight Agnew. The *Dunn County Lumberman* described the famous bayonet charge:

> The charge seems to have been, for once, and almost from the first, an actual hand-to-hand struggle with the bayonet.... The Sixth Maine, as skirmishers, supported by the Fifth Wisconsin in battle line, rushed up to these earthworks, scaled them, bayoneted the canoneers at their guns, smashed the skulls of rebels with the butts of their muskets, and finally, turning their own guns upon them, cut off their escape to the river, and finished the business by taking nearly double their own number prisoners.

They captured 1,303 rebel officers and men, four guns, 1,225 stands of arms, and several battle flags. Robert E. Lee's biographer pronounced this the saddest chapter in the history of the Army of Northern Virginia. The Fifth Wisconsin lost 10 killed, including John Green of Eau Galle and William Phillips of Menomonie, and 14 wounded, including Lt. Henry C. Farwell and John Malcome of Menomonie.

The Fifth Wisconsin wintered at Brandy Station, near Culpeper, Virginia. A member of the Dunn County Pinery Rifles wrote a series of letters published in the *Lumberman* in January and February 1864, including one describing the agonies of homesickness: "If the friends of the soldier at home, could only witness how eagerly he watches the delivery of the mail, in hope of hearing from the dear ones...they could not be so cruel as to neglect to write him frequently."

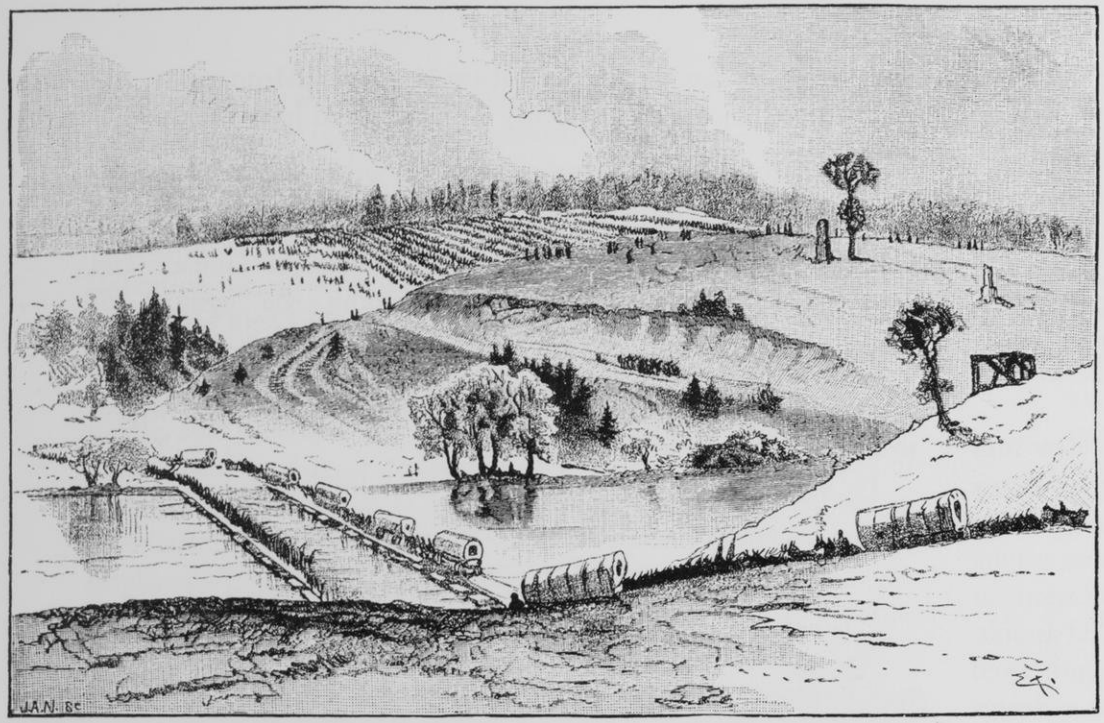
He also wickedly drew attention to some local attractions...

> I notice some of our boys are paying a great deal of attention to the fair damsels of Culpeper. Our young lady friends in Dunn County who have claims on the hearts of some "bold soldier boys" in this part of our army I would warn to present and press said claims immediately or all will be lost, for from present appearances these gallant fellows seem to be forgetting their "Dulcineas" at home and are going in heavy for the hearts of these enticing and attractive Rebel fair ones.

In the spring of 1864, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, now supreme commander of the Union forces, determined to prepare the way for a final assault on Richmond via an attack on Lee's Army of Northern Virginia arrayed north of the city in an area called **the Wilderness.** The Fifth Wisconsin was part of the main army moving toward a direct confrontation with Lee, who was located just across the Rapidan River from Union winter quarters at Culpeper. The Army of the Potomac began crossing the Rapidan on May 4 and plunged into the Wilderness. In the terrible fighting over the next two days, in which the Union forces gained no ground, John Crossley (or Crasley) of Menomonie was killed.

On May 7 Grant shifted his attention southeast to the hamlet of **Spotsylvania,** but Lee beat him there and built fortifications around the town. In 12 days of savage fighting the Union lost 18,399 killed

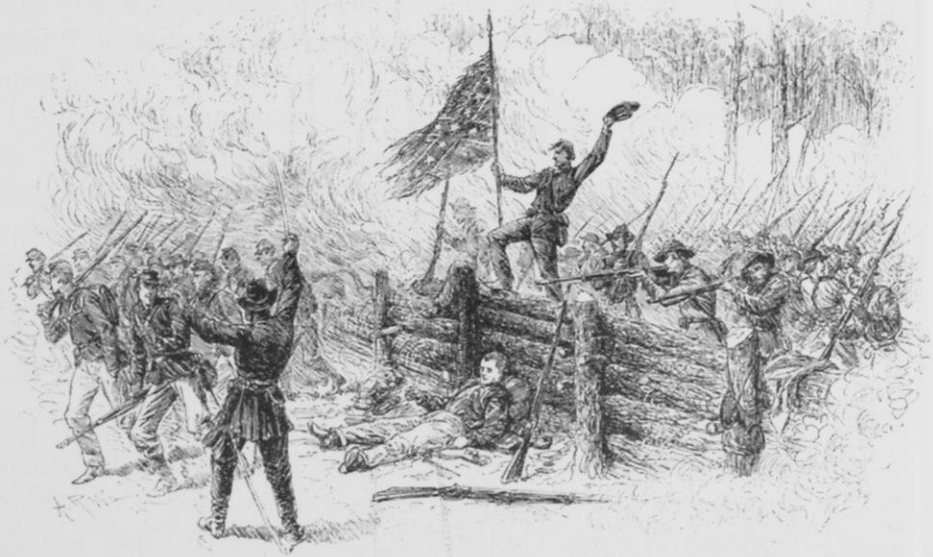
The Battle of the Wilderness
May 4-8, 1864



The Union Army crossed the Rapidan River at Germania Ford on May 4, 1864, to do battle with Lee's forces in The Wilderness.

Federal troops distributing ammunition under fire, May 6.

Rescuing the wounded in the Burning Woods, May 6.



Confederates capture part of burning Union breastworks on May 6.

The Union position at Spotsylvania on the morning of May 10, 1864.

or wounded and the Confederates some 9,000. The Fifth Wisconsin lost 70 men on May 10, including Lt. Henry H. Stout and John H. Bolton of Menomonie and Cpl. James Miller of Red Cedar. A letter written from the battlefield asserted that "Poor Stout fell like a hero in the front and foremost of the fray; leading his men to the rebel breastworks…"

In another letter, E. W. Gurley of Dunnville described the fighting on May 12 at Spotsylvania:

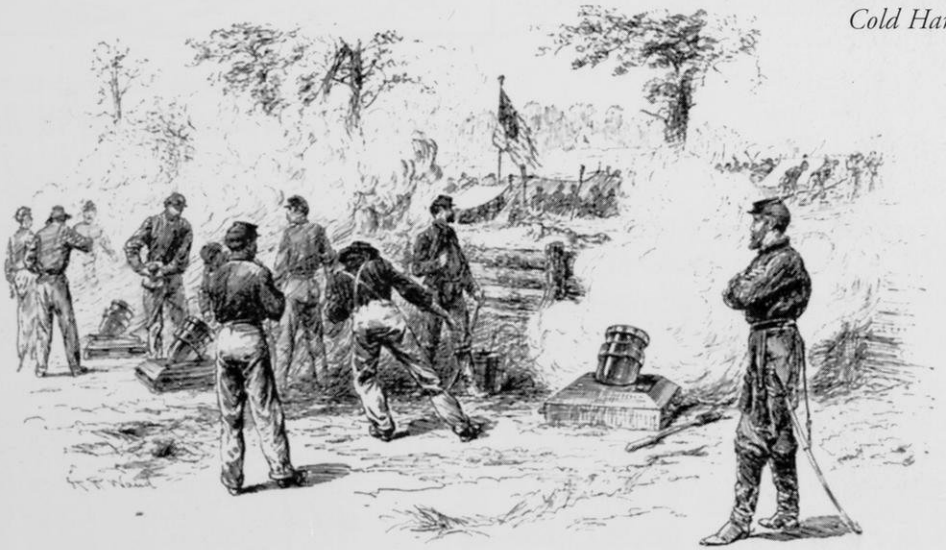
> This Brigade moved forward driving back the rebels, and gaining the shelter of a slight breast work, from which the enemy made repeated attempts to dislodge them; the 5th Wisconsin and 6th Maine were there: The rebels charged again and again, but only to die. Everything hung upon that point and the rifles of Maine and Wisconsin held it for nine long hours, under a fire so deadly that when their ammunition was exhausted it was impossible to supply them until Capt. Hurd…volunteered to carry the cartridges himself. In doing so, he was struck and badly wounded; but our boys got the ammunition…. At this point Mr. [Thomas] Robinson [also of Dunnville] fell, pierced through the heart by a rifle shot, and died instantly.

Lee meanwhile took up a strong position around Richmond, and

Grant moved toward Lee's eastern flank at **Cold Harbor,** attacking on June 3. According to a contemporary account, "Twenty minutes after the first shot was fired, fully 10,000 of our men were stretched writhing on the sod, or still and calm in death; while the enemy's loss was probably little more than 1,000." Failing at Cold Harbor, the following day Grant continued south to besiege **Petersburg,** part of the key Richmond defense system. The Fifth Wisconsin left Cold Harbor and marched 25 miles during the night toward Petersburg. On June 26, a volunteer of the regiment wrote, "Notwithstanding the hot weather and drouth, the battle rages here all the while. While I write the roar of artillery from the battlefield around Petersburg is continually sounding in my ear." The siege of Petersburg would last nearly a year, until April 2, 1865, but the Fifth Wisconsin was withdrawn before the end of July 1864 to help defend Washington, D. C., from a feared rebel attack.

Reenlisted soldiers and new recruits of the Fifth Wisconsin were involved in the final battles of the East, helping drive Lee's army from the Shenandoah Valley, including the **Battle of Cedar Creek** on September 19, 1864. Three Dunn County men were killed in this battle and two were wounded. Then the regiment participated in the final taking of Petersburg on April 2, 1865, which led directly to the **fall of Richmond** to the north. Jefferson Davis, president of the

Federal soldiers resisting a Confederate attack near Bethesda Church during the Cold Harbor campaign, June 2, 1864.



Brass coehorns (cannon) on the Union line at Cold Harbor.

Cold Harbor
June 1864

Confederacy, fled Richmond while Lee and his army retreated west along the Appomattox River. The men of the Fifth Wisconsin engaged Lee's army on April 6, 1865, at **Sailor's Creek,** losing 10 killed and 77 wounded in the "sanguinary conflict." The official record of the Adjutant General of Wisconsin noted that "the regiment was for some time exposed to a severe flank and cross fire, and acted with such distinguished gallantry as to elicit the warmest encomiums from the brigade, division and corps commanders." In Menomonie the "big gun" was brought out and 36 rounds were fired to celebrate the victory at Petersburg and fall of Richmond.

Three days later, on April 9, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant at **Appomattox Court House** and the Civil War was finally over.

One last drama was still to be played out, however. **Jefferson Davis** fled from Richmond to Danville, Virginia, then to Greensboro, North Carolina, to Yorkville and Abbeville, South Carolina, and on to Washington, Georgia. He was finally captured near Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, 1865. Twelve members of the First Wisconsin Cavalry from Dunn County were instrumental in his capture.

Agnew also chronicles the exploits of Dunn County volunteers in regiments other than the Fifth Wisconsin, including David McLain, who enlisted in Company C of the Eighth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. The Eighth became known as the "Eagle Regiment" because of its mascot, **"Old Abe the War Eagle,"** and McLain was his bearer for a time. Old Abe survived 17 battles of the western theater of war. At Corinth, Mississippi, according to McLain,

> ...all of the officers and men in [the Confederate] army knew that there was a Wisconsin Regiment opposed to them, that carried a live Eagle and they had cautioned their men...to take that Eagle dead or alive.... When we got up our Eagle and flag were in plain sight of the enemy and then they gave the rebel yell and came for the Eagle and flag.... When they made the first charge, a bullet cut the cord that held the Eagle to his perch when he flew off about 50 feet from the flag and I think about ten feet high.... About the time that the cord was shot, he was shot through one wing...but not drawing blood.

McLain succeeded in retrieving the eagle at Corinth without further mishap. Old Abe died in 1881.

On July 11, 1865, Company K of the Wisconsin Fifth Infantry Regiment was disbanded. During the course of the war 33 Menomonie men lost their lives, among them: John Crossley, William Phillips, William Pielenz, William Whitcher, Sidney Carpenter, James Newman, Jeremiah Beausnie, Michael Pelcha, Hendrick Witt, Edward Morgan, Byron Tripp, Bidwell Pedley, and Henry H. Stout.

Those who died of wounds included Captain William Evans,

Old Abe the Civil War eagle with the color guard of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment after the surrender of Vicksburg, July 1863.

John W. Bolton, Frederick Nolte, George Clifton, Frederick Massner (as a prisoner of war), and Marshall Wright. Captain John Milton Mott, Bruen Erhart, Herbert Burlinghame, John Fraker, Gilbert Larson, John H. Seavey, Cammillus Clark, Peter Carney, Milton Toffelmire, and a young drummer boy, William Young, all died from disease. George Cassidy, who had been wounded at Gainesville, was later accidentally killed at Alexandria, Virginia.

The Ludington Guards

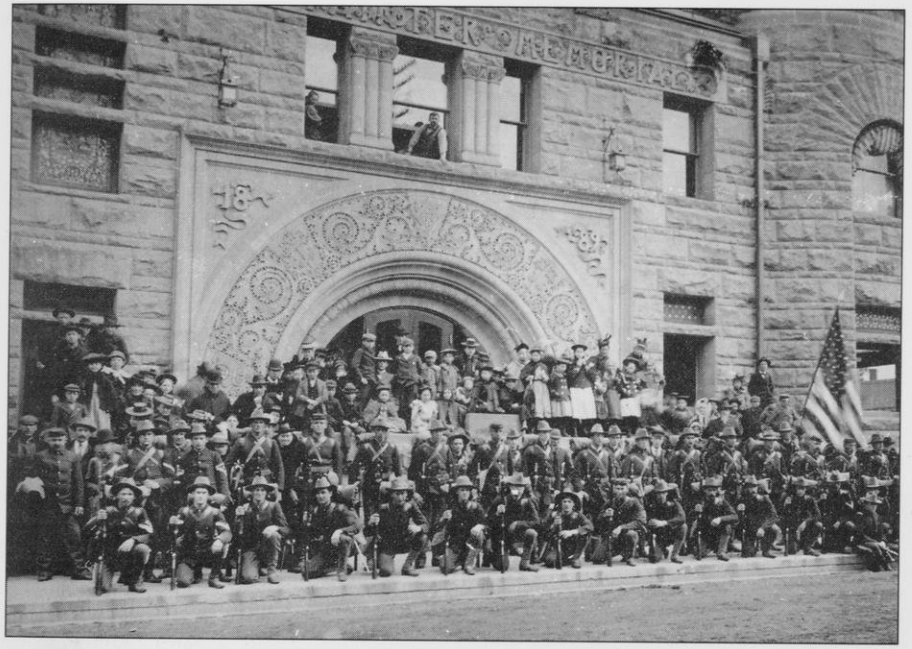
Twelve years after the Civil War ended, the Ludington Guard, named after the state's governor, Harrison Ludington, was organized as a cavalry unit on January 16, 1877. Thomas J. George was appointed captain of the company. Their first call to duty was on June 23, 1878, an assignment to quell "Indian troubles" in Burnett County. Some members of the company formed a small "Ludington Guard Band" to play marching music while the unit was on parade.

In July 1881 the guard was called to assist in the hunt for Ed and Lon Maxwell who traveled under the alias of the "Williams brothers." After Lon killed Dunn County undersheriff Milton Coleman in a gun battle outside Durand, both men had escaped. Some months later Ed was captured in Nebraska and brought back to Durand, but on November 26 a mob stormed the Pepin County jail and hanged him on the courthouse lawn.

In 1883 the members of the Ludington Guard were finding it difficult to obtain suitable horses (each man had to furnish his own mount), so it was made into an infantry unit and renamed Company H of the Third Infantry of the Wisconsin National Guard.

On April 28, 1898, Company H was called into federal service to fight in the Spanish-American War. It was involved in one battle, in Puerto Rico, the attack on Coamo and nearby Albonita Pass on August 12, 1898. The Menomonie unit suffered no battle casualties, though disease was rampant in the malaria-plagued camps in southern states where they trained before embarking for Puerto Rico. The unit was mustered out in January 1899.

In 1916 the unit was again called into service, along the Mexican border where Francisco "Pancho" Villa was causing troubles. Hardly had the unit returned home when it was summoned again. On March 27, 1917, the company was called upon to guard the Omaha railway bridge crossing the Red Cedar River upstream from Menomonie. Tensions arising from the European war gave rise to rumors that the bridge might be subject to sabotage. Twenty four men and one officer were left to guard the bridge while the rest of the company was sent to Superior to guard the ore docks and bridges.



Spanish American War soldiers from Menomonie at the Mabel Tainter Memorial.

World War I

America's involvement in Europe's war, which was becoming a world war, was imminent. On September 5, Company H and the rest of the companies in the regiment were stationed at Camp Douglas. After three days they entrained for Waco, Texas, for further training and were reorganized as Company H, 128th Infantry. Four and a half months later, on February 14, 1918, they traveled on a troop train to Camp Merritt, New Jersey. Four days after the company's arrival at Camp Merritt, the men of the unit boarded a troop transport bound for Brest, France. After twenty days at sea Company H arrived in France on Sunday, March 10, 1918.

Soon after, Company H commander, Capt. Albert Nathness, was transferred to the 18th Regiment of the First Division while the rest of the officers and men were assigned to the 28th Regiment of the First Division. This separated the Menomonie Company and all the companies of the 128th Infantry from the balance of Wisconsin and Michigan units assigned to the 32nd Division. Perhaps because of superior performance in the training period at Camp MacArthur at Waco, the Menomonie unit and other companies of the 128th Infantry were sent immediately to replace men of the 1st Division in the trenches.

Action came to the men of Company H in June of that year when they were thrust into action in the Alsace-Lorraine area. They were among the first American troops to set foot in Germany. By mid-July they found themselves at Chateau Thierry, then on to Juvigney. Their final experience in battle was a twenty-day campaign against the enemy in the battle of Meuse-Argonne. As it happened, despite the separation upon landing in France, the 128th Infantry companies in the 1st Division and their comrades in the 32nd Division found themselves fighting side by side against the enemy.

When the armistice was signed and the war came to a halt on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the 1st Division followed the retreating Germany army through Luxembourg and

Company H setting off for service in World War I.

eventually to Koblenz on the Rhine River. There Company H remained until spring 1919 when they returned to the United States and were mustered out at Camp Grant, Illinois, on May 17 and 18.

Twenty-one men of Company H lost their lives on the battlefields of France: William H. Buckland, Dan Storing, Charles L. Owen, Lawrence W. Neverdahl, Ralph L. Richard, Albert Amundson, Raymond Branshaw, Arthur C. Close, Stanley R. Harris, William H. Hosford, Lloyd S. Howe, Anton Juve, Arnold Kiester, Guy R. McClusky, Arthur C. Nelson, Odin F. Olson, Clarence G. Paff, Arnold G. Peter, Fred W. Ranee, Fred J. Rassbach, and Hedley Sundstrom.

World War II

Nearly 2,000 men and women from Dunn County served in World War II—1,754 men enlisted or were drafted into the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, or Marines. In addition, Menomonie's Company A, 128th Infantry of the Wisconsin National Guard, had a roster of 165 men activated on October 15, 1940. It continued to serve for five and a half years, until February 28, 1946. Eighty young ladies from the county served their country as nurses in battle zones, as WACs, WAKs, WAVES or similar units. Just how many were Menomonie residents is uncertain.

Company A, 128th Infantry, 1st Battalion at Camp Livingston Louisiana, May 29, 1941, preparing for World War II.

Company A lost six men in battle at Buna, Papuan, Saidor, Aitape Moratai, New Guinea, Leyte, the Verede Trail, and on Luzon: Clifford I. Cook, Raymond L. Haile, Oral Hake, Emory L. Hovde, Victor L. Olson, and Ronald R. Powell.

Over 80 of those in units other than Company A lost their lives in the war:

Helmer H. Alseth
Roger S. Anderson
Robert B. Antrim
Francis G. Ash
John R. Aumueller
Alvin A. Backen
Arthur L. Berg
Russell Blakely
Carl J. Bosshart
Richard W. Bourn
Harold Brown
Everett M. Bushendorf
Gerald B. Carswell
LeRoy R. Chamberlain
Francis Cronkite
Joseph H. Davis
Lawrence Erpenbach
James W. Frasl
Edwin G. Frogner
Gerald L. Govin
Robert E. Hakanson
Earl L. Hathaway
Valdon R. Hill
Willard L. Hinzman
Edward T. Hoff
Fredrik O. Hofland
Donald A. Howe
Emil Jepson (Jenson)
Amorn B. Johnson, Jr.
Juneau M. Johnson
Donald C. Kausrud
Robert H. Keith
Laverne E. Koehler
Louis E. Kincade
Hiram L. Knutson
George F. Kochendorfer
Lloyd T. Lee
Harvey E. Lowman
Morris McClure
Alfred Madison
Arnold Melgaard
Robert Mesang
Marvin H. Miller
Fred M. Milliren
James K. Mitchell
Hjalmer Molner
William R. Munroe
Harold Nelson
Marcel T. Olson
Clarence E. Paff
Robert W. Paff
Viron W. Parizo
Glen E. Patridge
Robert F. Pittman
Roger Randles
Malcolm L. Ranney
Robert L. Roland
Robert O. Russell
Lloyd J. Sanders
Robert H. Sanders
Lyle J. Schultz
Vainard O. Schultz
Valgene E. Schultz
Jerome Schwartz
Orin Semingson
Lester Seng
Glen A. Smith
James L. Smith
Gerald A. Speetzen
Morris T. Teppen
Earl M. Thompson
Dermont R. Toycen
Wesley P. Trinko
Morris A. Waite
Gerald G. Walseth
Patrick G. Welch
Victor H. Whistler
Robert L. Wingert
Eugene F. Winterling
Joe N. Winterling

During World War II the U. S. Navy established its V-5 aviation program at Stout Institute. It was the first step for young men who enlisted in the program to begin war-time careers as Navy pilots. Classes were small, not more than twelve men, and consisted of basic military training, pre-flight instruction, and practical flying experience using Piper Cub airplanes.

A farm field on the southwest corner of County Highways BB and B served as an airfield during the summer months. In the winter it was more convenient to move flying operations on to Lake Menomin. Those who successfully completed the V-5 program went on to further training at Navy bases such as Pensacola, Florida.

Korea

Of the 11 Dunn County casualties in Korea it appears that only two men were from Menomonie: Vern Harris Fuller, killed October 12, 1950, and Myron Lavern Potter, died April 25, 1951. Other Dunn County victims of the war were Jefferson Beaver, Morris W. Breezee, Juelynn O. Brown, Bernard J. Einum, Donald L. Hitz, Gerald V. Rossiter, Bernard E. Scovell, Gerald T. Sinz, and Duane Thompson.

Vietnam

Six Menomonie servicemen were among the 11 Dunn County men killed in the Vietnam war: John L. Abrams, Marlyn R. Anderson, Paul David Derby, Wayne Michael Hayes, John Roy Hulbert, and Frederic Clarence Styer. Four others, James Michael Arries, Raymond Robert DeMoe, Jon Thomas, and Roger Allen Pederson, were from the Elk Mound area.

Dr. Koch peddled elixcirs and home remedies door-to-door throughout Dunn County.

15

From Folk Remedies to Modern Hospitals

> Take a teaspoonful of powdered charcoal in molasses every morning, and wash it down with a little tea; or, drink a half glass of raw rum or gin, and drink freely of maywood tea.

That's the cure for a headache. At least it was believed effective in the 1840s, the era when early settlers were finding their way to the area. Medicine was an inexact science usually involving folk medicines concocted out of roots, plant stems, blossoms, seeds, and almost anything that could be dissolved, ground, pounded, and swallowed. About the only pill available at the time was one called Compound Blue Mass. Four pills cost about fifty cents but no one knew what they were supposed to cure!

Other than home remedies there was little or no medical help available. Some American Indian medicines concocted out of plants were effective; many were not. Frances Densmore in her book, *Uses of Plants by the Chippewa Indians* (1927), listed three possible remedies that evidently had some merit as a cure for a headache using the root of the dogbane *(Apocynum androsaemifolium)* plant:

> Take four pieces of dried dogbane root about the size of a pea, pulverize until reduced to powder and dry. When needed the powder is snuffed up the nostrils.

Other methods using the powder included these options:

> Place the powdered dogbane root on hot stones. Patient covers his head and inhales the fumes.

or...

> Moisten the powdered root with lukewarm water and apply to incision on the temples by the means of soft duck down.

That last method of application seems a bit drastic and risked additional medical problems. It would appear that most headache-ridden souls would favor either of the first two options.

When all else failed the afflicted one could always turn to W. R. Smart's Rheumatic & Neuralgic Paste, a "medicine" concocted by Mr. Smart of Dodgeville who marketed his paste "made of oil of angleworm, cayenne pepper, frogs and gum camphor!" He claimed it would cure "...toothache, nervous headache, neuralgia, pains in the back, chilblains and catarrh."

Many settlers trusted the traveling circuit riders, preachers bringing the Gospel to isolated communities, for advice. They respected their knowledge of the outside world and hoped the ministers could provide a cure for their ailments. In southern Wisconsin there was a Reverend Cutting Marsh who had some medical training, but he was an exception.

Walter Harris, in *The Story of Medicine in Wisconsin* (1958), points out that germs hadn't been discovered in the 1840s. It wasn't until 1857 that Louis Pasteur came up with his germ theory. Lack of knowledge about germs was devastating to anyone working in the pinery, on the farm, or in the home. Any wound inflicted by an errant axe or saw or any cut in the home presented a life-threatening situation since no one understood the importance of keeping an open wound free of microorganisms and there was no way of combating the resulting infections.

Often the patient would be liberally supplied with whiskey or rum to ease the pain. Perhaps some thought about splashing the liquor on the wound but there is little record of that happening in those early years.

Internal diseases, many contagious illnesses, and broken legs were often fatal without knowledgeable medical treatment, treatment that was rarely available in even the larger cities in the state.

Pasteur's announcement of his germ theory was enthusiastically accepted by physicians and medical schools in France quickly added it to their curricula. News of the discovery traveled rapidly and soon Capt. Wilson and his partners reacted to the need for improved medical services at Menomonie Mills.

Dr. W. A. Bury

A physician practicing in Dunn County in the 1850s, Dr. Walter Crocker, maintained his office in Dunnville, then the county seat. His office is still standing in the village today. Although Crocker was located too far from Menomonie Mills to provide the care that Wilson wanted, Crocker did not want to move.

In August 1860 Wilson convinced Eau Claire physician, Dr. E. G. Benjamin, to relocate to the newly named village of Menomonie, which in 1861 would become the new county seat. Dr. Benjamin would be the first physician in town.

For five years Benjamin was a full-time doctor but in 1865 Wilson, aware that the physician had been associated with the *Eau Claire Free Press,* asked the doctor to take over management of the *Dunn County Lumberman.* Benjamin filled the role of editor until 1867 when he left the community for Waukesha County.

To replace Benjamin as physician Wilson called again upon Dr. Crocker. Crocker suggested that his nephew, Dr. W. C. Pease, who shared his Dunnville practice, accept the position in Menomonie. Pease became the community's only physician until a short time later Dr. J. C. Davis, a physician and surgeon, opened his practice in the village.

W. A. Bury came to Dunn County in 1856 and built a saw mill in Cedar Falls, a mill later acquired by the Knapp, Stout & Co. Growing tired of the routine, he decided to make a career change and in 1874, without any formal training, he opened an eye and ear clinic in his residence on today's County Highway B near Rusk. His specialty was removing slivers from eyes. He was now "Doctor" Bury and evidently enjoyed such a good business that in 1879 he brought in a well-trained eye and ear physician, Dr. F. R. Reynolds. Bury died in 1883 leaving Dr. Reynolds in full control of the Eye & Ear Infirmary at Rusk and in his office in the First National Bank Building. Reynolds' work garnered many testimonials from former patients:

> Miss Mary Cullen of New Richmond received a blow upon the eye by an arrow shot from a bow, which resulted in a cataract causing total blindness and great disfigurement to the eye. This condition had existed for eight years. An operation by Dr. Reynolds restored the sight and removed all traces of the disfigurement, so that her nearest friends could not tell which eye had been operated upon.
>
> Mr. Miles Mitchell of Drywood, Wis., was blind in his right eye for thirty-five years. The left eye suddenly becoming blind, Dr. Reynolds operated on the right eye with a complete restoration of his eyesight, even after so long a period of blindness, so that he can now read common newspaper print with ease.
>
> Mr. Asa Stotesbery, of Cottage Grove, Minn., age 19, born with cataract and so blind as to be unable to find his way about without assistance, was restored to sight by Dr. Reynolds and is now attending school and is able to read the fine print.

It is interesting to note that this trio of statements praising the work of Dr. Reynolds appearing in the May 18, 1888, issue of the *Dunn County News* does not include any examples of success with Menomonie patients.

Dr. D. H. Decker came to Menomonie in 1877 and continued to serve the community at least until the turn of the century. In 1892 he opened a drugstore in addition to his practice.

There were two or three homeopathic doctors in Menomonie during the late 1800s. Homeopathy, according to *The American Heritage Dictionary,* is "...a system of medicine treatment based on the use of minute quantities of remedies that in massive doses produce effects similar to those of the disease being treated."

As the population of the community grew and the Knapp, Stout & Co. was becoming the largest such operation in the world, there was a succession of doctors setting up practices in Menomonie. Dr. Edward H. Grannis arrived in 1879, began practicing homeopathic medicine and was still serving the public in the late 1890s. A Dr. W. F. Nichols opened his office in 1882. Dr. E. B. Jackson, a surgeon in the field during the Civil War, came to town in 1885, followed by Edmond O. Baker, Dr. C. L. Statler (Stetler), Dr. J. V. R. Lyman, and the first woman physician in the city, Dr. Kate Kelsey, in 1886; Dr. H. M. Read in 1887. In the 1890s the lineup of physicians included many of those listed plus another homeopathic practitioner Dr. J. H. Bowers in 1890. Dr. A. F. Heising, Dr. C. A. Barker, and Dr. N. L. Howison began practices in 1893 as did the Norwegian physicians, Dr. L. Kortgaard, Drs. C. L. Norgren, and C. T. Finstad. B. D. Copp arrived in 1896 and Dr. J. Mueller came to town a year later.

Despite the fact that the city of Menomonie had a great number of capable doctors there was a large proportion of the population that sought relief from illnesses or physical problems with patent medicines such as Hamlin's Wizard Oil concocted to relieve everything from rheumatism to a toothache and fifteen other ailments; Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root designed to cure "Rheumatism, Kidney, Liver and Bladder problems;" and Dr. Frank Powell's White Beavers' Cough Cream that Powell claimed would "heal diseased lungs."

Dr. Kate Kelsey was the first woman doctor in town.

If one was reluctant to buy the scores of so-called medicines over the local drugstore counters he or she might be persuaded to purchase a "cure" in the local opera houses where "medicine men" extolled the virtues of appliances like electric belts or alcohol-laced tonics. On at least one occasion the Kickapoo Indian Medicine Show appeared at Stori's Concert Hall where Kickapoo Buffalo Salve, Sagwa tonic, and other remedies were sold between interludes of entertainment provided by "Indians" who were not necessarily Kickapoo or even Indians.

In the first two decades of the twentieth century, a few local citizens traveled to places like Almena to visit, "The Plaster Doctor," John Till. Till was an Austrian who came to Wisconsin in 1898 and worked as a lumberjack but became convinced that ulcers, cancer, appendicitis, rheumatism, varicose veins, and other ailments were the direct results of poisons in the body. Although he had no medical background, he concocted a plaster using his "magic ingredient 4X," a mixture of croton oil and kerosene that he claimed would draw out those poisons.

Hundreds of patients flocked to his clinics where they were subjected to the placement of his "4X" along the length of their spine and the placement of a plaster over the application of his concoction. Within a day there was the painful development of blisters and boils along the spine, so painful that the patient forgot all about the pain that brought them to the clinic in the first place.

The state medical board charged him with practicing without a

The KICKAPOO INDIAN

SAGWA

INGREDIENTS

Gentian, one-half pound; seneca, one-quarter pound; cubebs, one-half pound; rhei, one-quarter pound; salts, one-eighth pound; aloes, one-third pound; bicarbonate of soda, two and one-quarter pounds; senna, one-third pound; anise, one-quarter pound; coriander, one-quarter pound; pareivabrava, five-eighths of a pound; guaiac, five-eighths of a pound; licorice, one and one-quarter pounds; alcohol, three quarts; water, six gallons.

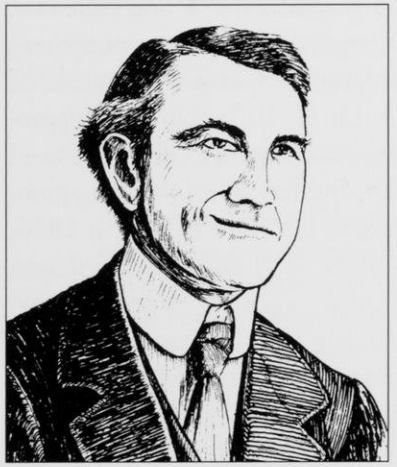
Steep for ten days, percolate and bottle. This mixture will fill sixty-five 12 ounce bottles.

From an old advertisement.

The Molitor Maternity Hospital.

license. When he ignored the order to desist he was arrested, jailed, and then released when he promised to leave the country. He came back after World War II and died in 1947.

Patients were treated in their homes or in the doctor's offices. In 1886 expectant mothers had the option of entering Mrs. Finley's maternity home on the corner of today's Seventeenth Avenue and Eighth Street for the birth of their child or calling upon the handful of midwives to assist in the birth. Later the Molitor hospital opened to mothers with child. In 1902 a Miss Kate Kuhn advertised her services as a midwife and nurse in issues of the *News.* Other midwives in town included Mrs. Hulda Kitzman and Mary Swant. It was not until 1915 that a general hospital was built in Menomonie.



John Till

In 1945 a list of doctors in Menomonie included C. H. Buckley, F. E. Butler, I. V. Grannis, J. A. Halgren, D. T. Long, Wm. Lumsden, A. E. McMahon, P. A. Quilling, B. J. Steves, and R. J. Steves.

Dentists

David Heller, a brother-in-law of Capt. William Wilson and his neighbor when both were living in Pennsylvania, came to Dunn County in 1857 to operate the Tainter House hotel in Dunnville. Two years later he took up farming in Spring Brook Township. Somewhere along the line he took an interest in dentistry and for a while worked as both farmer and dentist. In 1864 he left the farm and moved to Menomonie.

Lack of formal dental training did not deter him from becoming

Menomonie Memorial Hospital, replaced by the Myrtle Werth Medical Center.

Myrtle Werth Medical Center

the first dentist in Menomonie. His tenure was short, however. Heller died at the age of fifty-eight in 1868.

His son, John, who had planned to attend a business college, decided instead to take up dentistry, concluding he had worked with his father enough to know all about the business. Three years later, though, he decided to attend dental college. Graduating in 1872, he practiced as a dentist in Menomonie until 1884 when he went into the insurance business.

Other early dentists in the city included Dr. W. F. Gould, Dr. W. H. Bailey and Dr. Branch.

The White Boat House on Lake Menomin, 1910-57 (photo taken c. 1920s).

16

For the Fun of It

There was little spare time for recreation in the 1840s when mills on Wilson and Gilbert creeks were in the early throes of development. It was largely a man's world with only a half-dozen women moving into the area with their job-seeking husbands. A work week consisted of six days of sun up to sundown labor in the woods or mills with the only respite on Sunday, the traditional day of rest.

Recreational activities began on Saturday night and continued on Sunday. Those who could read found relaxation reading well-worn novels that passed from man to man; others played poker; some entertained by singing or playing the fiddle or mouth organ. Somewhat violent variations of children's games such as blind man's bluff and hide and seek were played by some of the more active men. Menomonie lumberjack Ole Hawkinson recalled more than one occasion when some of the men visited nearby Indian camps where they danced with the women.

Hunting and fishing were other pastimes that served not only as recreation but also as an important source of food for the family. As the population grew, the Knapp, Stout & Company erected Newman Hall, which provided space for community activities including dances, entertainment, lodge meetings, and church.

Visiting neighbors was always a popular diversion for families. Potluck dinners were followed by activities that included such games as checkers, chess, keno, and mumblety-peg. Buggy rides in the country during the summer and sleigh rides in the winter added variety to the lives of the more active residents. Favorite destinations included Black's Ravine (Devil's Punch Bowl), Alexander's Grove (Riverside Park) and Lambs Creek Falls, where picnicking and fishing were favorite pursuits.

After the Civil War baseball, golf, and tennis were introduced to the area. "Oyster parties" (dinners with these mollusks as the featured food), became popular as a larger variety of foods became available via the rapidly expanding railroad network.

Every community in the county had a **baseball team.** Menomonie fielded many teams, some sponsored by local merchants. Athletes often played for more than one team. There were community teams such as the Wakanda Braves and the Menomonie Blue Caps, the latter supplanted by the Menomonie Eagles, that played in the Dunn-St. Croix League in the years when that league was one of the best in the state. Early ball diamonds were located in Dutchtown on the west side of South Broadway and in the centerfield of the racetrack at the Dunn County Fairgrounds. With the establishment of Wakanda Park in the mid-1930s, a new diamond was installed on a peninsula of land in the lower level of the park, a site occupied today by the swimming beach. It was on this diamond that the local teams played against such teams as Connorsville, which had future Milwaukee Braves World Series rightfielder Andrew "Handy Andy" Pafko in the outfield, and Osceola, with future Minnesota Viking football coach Bud Grant as its pitcher. When the House of David team came to town a younger brother of one-time St. Louis Cardinal pitchers Dizzy and Daffy Dean was a featured player.

Summertime recreational opportunities included band concerts in Wilson Park, the annual Dunn County Free Fair, visits by traveling tent shows such as the Harry Brown Show and an occasional chautauqua. Ringling Bros., Pawnee Bill's Wild West

Bridge was a favorite pastime.

Boating on Wilson Creek.

Show, the Gentry Show, and Hagenbeck and Wallace show were among the many circuses to come to town around the turn of the century.

In 1910 the White Boat House was erected on the lakeshore below the intersection of Main and Sixth Streets. It was more than a boat house. Canoes and rowboats could be rented, private boats could be stored, and it also featured a spacious dance floor on the second level. On the roof of the building was a bandstand where the Ludington Guard Band and other similar units often played for the enjoyment of both boaters and dancers. Over the years floods and ice jams damaged the boat house and when the level of Lake Menomin was raised in 1958 the building was demolished. A hundred yards or so east of the White Boat House was the Red Boat House which marked the major swimming beach on the lake up until the time Wakanda Park was established. Swimming was also a feature of the small park at Point Comfort at the east end of the lake.

Dances were held in the local lodge halls, the Smith Opera House, Stori's Hall, and in the Wisconsin National Guard Armory at the intersection of Ninth Avenue and Broadway. One of the buildings on the county fairgrounds became a haven for roller skaters.

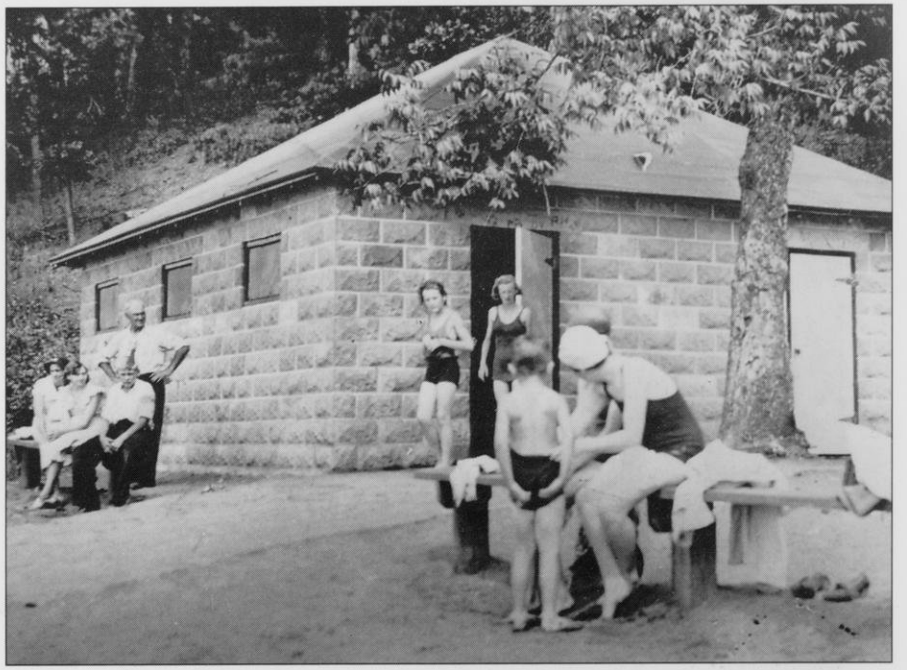
Winter sports in the Menomonie area included ice skating on the mill pond and an exciting bobsled run down the middle and length of Thirteenth Avenue from the top of Hospital Hill at East Thirteenth Street to West Fifth Street. Its excitement was enhanced by the added thrill of narrowly missing the crossing traffic of horse-drawn sleighs and pedestrians. For a time there was a toboggan run that shot down from the mill pond bank at the intersection of Crescent and Seventh Streets to the lake below.

Winter also meant basketball. The Menomonie Red Birds took on intercity rivals with a fine brand of ball for several seasons. Those games were played in the Armory where the front row of the bleacher seats met the black line that marked the court. Every time

the ball was tossed in, front-row spectators had to pull in their feet to allow space for the player to stand! Both Stout Institute and Menomonie High School teams played on the Armory floor until each school had its own facilities after World War II.

After a ski jump was erected in Wakanda Park, Olympic ski jumper Lloyd Ellingson (a future Menomonie lawyer and Colfax native) enticed some of the top skiers from the 1936 Olympics to come to Menomonie to perform on the local jump. Among these were Norwegians Birger Ruud, the 90-meter gold medal winner in both the 1932 and 1936 Olympics, his brother Sigmund, silver medalist in 1932, and Reidar Andersen, bronze winner in 1936, along with Americans Art Devlin and Alf Engen. Coming from the Olympic 90-meter jump, Menomonie's 90-foot jump was child's play for the visitors, who thrilled the Wakanda Park audience with such novelty bits as a tandem jump by the Ruud brothers.

Many of these recreational activities of the past are still part of life in Menomonie today. Joggers, hikers, cross-country skiers, and bicyclists utilize the Red Cedar Trail. Hockey and soccer have joined the other competitive sports as part of the local scene. All of this in spite of the attractions of motion pictures, radio, television, and in the 1990s, the ubiquitous computer.

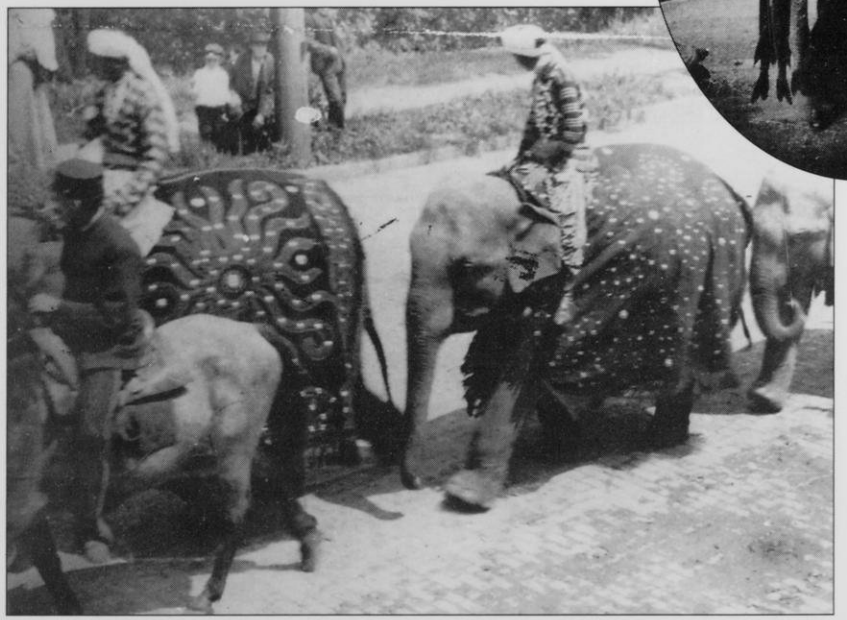


The Red Boat House on Lake Menomin.

Skaters on Lake Menomin.

Above: Swimming beach at Wakanda in 1940.
Below: Hagenbeck & Wallace Circus parade, Menomonie, 1928.

Center: Fishing on the Red Cedar.
Above: A Menomonie baseball team.
Below: Harness races highlighted the county fair.



Epilogue

In remarks at the Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce's 1996 annual luncheon, Mayor Chuck Stokke commented,"...we've reached a point where there's no one to work."–No one to work? Might William Wilson have said just about the same thing 150 years ago, advertising for workers to come west as he struggled with the start up of a lumber company in the midst of wilderness, the creation of a viable community on the fringes of civilization.

We now have a better understanding of results of the response to the needs of those times, as the people of the era viewed them. But what about our understanding of our own times, and the oncoming future. As Bob Garfield writes in the March/April 1996 edition of *Civilization* (published by the Library of Congress), "...[people have a] quaint inability to understand in their own time how... their visions, their assumptions will look from a distance." His use of commercials for Pfizer and Plexiglas and of General Motors' "Motorama" and "Futurama" exhibits should put us on guard against assuming too much about our ability to adequately understand our present and accurately predict our future.

So what about our present, its relation to the past, its relentless movement toward the twenty-first century? What is driving the area's economic growth, draining the labor pool, creating conditions which are at the same time similar to, yet different from, Menomonie of the 1800s? What will 2046 look like in a place called Menomonie? One answer is easy: the Menomonie Industrial Park and the University of Wisconsin-Stout Technology Park are the leaders in creating some 2,500 jobs during the past eight years, creating a labor shortage in the area.

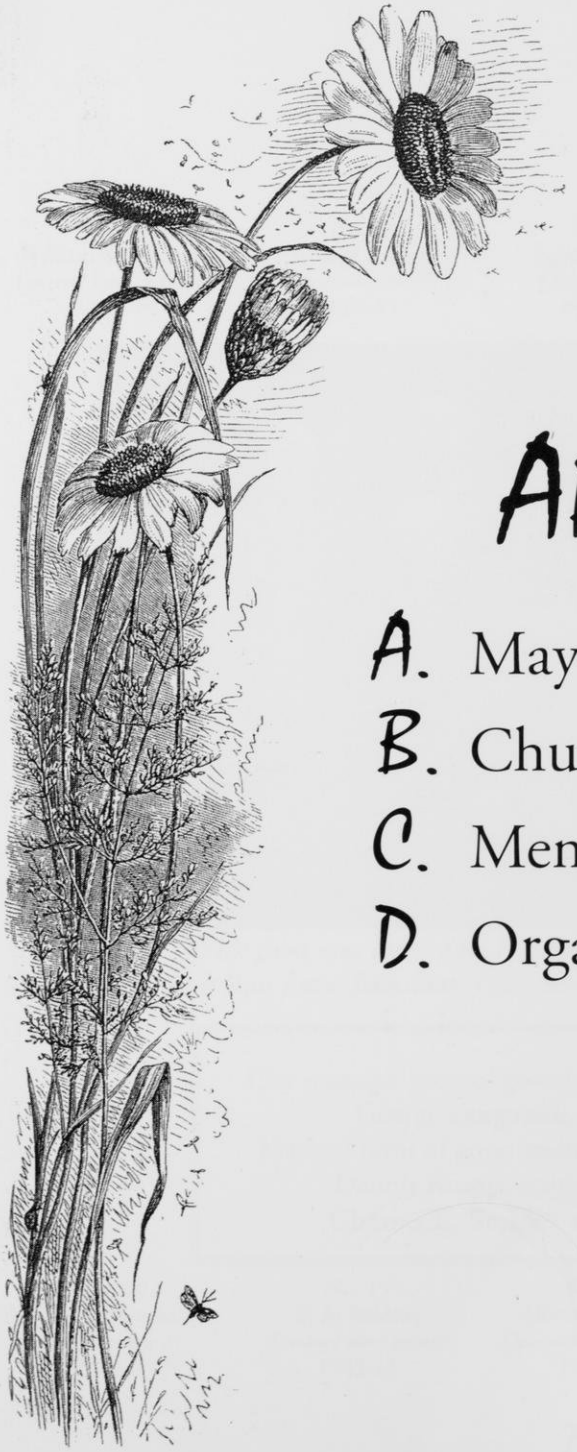
The other answers come with more difficulty. Recently, St. Joseph's School, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Arts Board, was involved in a year-long artist-in-residence program. The residency's theme was "Change;" the first topic was photography (whose roots are deep in the city's past). Within a year of the program's conclusion, the buildings of the primary block on which the children had focused had disappeared: one moved, the others demolished. The participants themselves were being schooled in a new structure, playing on a new playground, and the record of what had been now hangs on the walls of their new school. Even the students would move on, replaced by younger siblings or members of new families in the community. And while it was not earth and trees that were removed and replaced, but rather asphalt and bricks and mortar and glass, it was the impact of economic forces on people which created the need for the changes which came about. So the past was repeated in the present which had been the future but which itself has now become the past.

In the 1800s, the intersection of economic forces of the nation and the natural resources of the area created a need for labor, labor to support the booming industries which were harvesting the timber, quarrying the sandstone, firing the bricks, producing the food, and laying the foundations for the future Menomonie. After all, Knapp, Stout & Company, at its height, employed some 5,000 workers. Today's industries are different, the technologies are different, their relationship to the land is different (agriculture represents only 13.3% of Dunn County employment in 1996); the

fundamental elements, however, change but little. At the core of it all are people, people whose ideas create change, people whose labor effects change, people whose interactions define their changing culture, people whose changing needs ultimately drive change itself.

It is those same "people" who created this book; from those who, in 1994, came together to form the commission to prepare for this sesquicentennial year; to those who were charged with "writing a book which will be a definitive source about Menomonie for the next century;" to those who, most importantly, lived the lives which have found their way onto these pages, bringing to life the community in which we now live. Just as the people of the past did, just as those of the next century will do, we, today, go about our days never quite aware of the significance of what we do, where we go, what we buy. We consider it all so unimportant, so transitory. Yet it is the record of these daily tidbits to which the future will turn in attempting to understand not only the past but also itself, for they portray the daily life, language, values, and styles which are so elusive in a textbook but so essential to insight and, in the end, our enjoyment of a history which is alive, to which we can connect, on which we can build.

In a sense, then, we become one with the many examples of Menomonie's visionaries, present and past; for as Vern Holm wrote in a recent publication of the *Dunn County News* (once the *Dunn County Lumberman*), "Dreams turn into ideas, and the ideas take shape because of a commitment to the future; in turn, the entire community benefits."



Appendices

A. Mayors of Menomonie
B. Church Histories
C. Menomonie Industries
D. Organizations

Appendix A: Menomonie Mayors

No. 1
William Wilson
Founder of K, S &Co.
1882-83

No. 2
William Schutte, Sr.
General store, banking
1883-84

No. 3
George Seeley
City Livery Stable
1884-85

No. 4
Egbert Marks
Clothing store
1885-86

No. 5
William Schutte, Sr.
General store, banking
1886-87

No. 6
Thomas S. Heller
Insurance agent
1887-88

No. 7
Thomas B. Wilson
Official, K, S & Co.
1888-89

No. 8
Egbert Marks
Clothing store
1889-91

No. 9
John Hopwood
Manager, brick co.
1891-93

No. 10
Edmond O. Baker
Physician
1893-94

No. 11
Rockwell J. Flint
Dunn County News
1894-96

No. 12
George Galloway
Furniture, undertaker
1896-97

No. 13
John J. Carter
General store
1897-1900

No. 14
Andrew H. Johnson
General store
1900-02

No. 15
Ed. Haag
Occupation unknown
1902-04

No. 16
John R. Mathews
Attorney
1908-24

No. 17
Carl E. Peterson
Attorney
1924-30

No. 18
Albert Nathness
Occupation unknown
1930-42

No. 19
S. A. Bakken
Produce store owner
1942-45

No. 20
Ira O. Slocumb
Attorney
1945-49

No. 21
S. A. Bakken
Died in office
1949-50

No. 22
Harry Thomas
Printer
1950-51

No. 23
Nick Michelbook
Fuel oil dealer
1951-57

No. 24
William Eick
Barber
1957-61

No. 25
Gene McNaughton
Probation agent
1961-63

No. 26
William Eick
Died in office
1963-67

No. 27
George Chamberlain
Acting mayor
1967

City officials, c. 1915: front row, l to r: Sam Running, Victor Hunter, Mayor John Mathews, Samuel French, C. K. Averill. Back Row, l to r: John Lutz, Peter Swenson, Frank W. Rowe, J. S. Govin, J. E. Johnson.

City manager form of government adopted on Dec. 18, 1967
George Langmack, city manager, 1968-86
Mayoral form of government was returned on May 1, 1986
Dennis Kropp, acting mayor, April-July, 1986
Charles E. Stokke, mayor, 1986 to present.

Appendix B: Church Histories

Compiled by Jean O'Neill & John M. Russell from church histories.

Trinity Methodist Church

In the summer of 1852 the Rev. Mr. Mayne conducted the first Methodist service in Menomonie Mills. It was a one-time event and if there were others in the next few years they were not recorded. There were services held in the Knapp, Stout & Company schoolhouse near the mills in 1854, 1855, and 1856 conducted by the Rev. Joshua Pittman, a Baptist, who evidently conducted a nondenominational service.

In the fall of 1857 the Rev. Chauncey Hobart, D. D., presiding elder of the Methodist Church in the area, asked Rev. S. Boles to organize the **Methodist Episcopal Church Society** in Menomonie. During the balance of that year and the following year, services began on a regular basis with Rev. W. N. Darnell, Rev. James Gurley and Rev. John Dyer (Dryer?) taking turns in the pulpit. Incidentally Rev. Dyer's annual salary for his work in the church was $225! This arrangement continued until 1860 when Rev. E. S. Havens was assigned the post.

When Rev. William Haw was appointed pastor of the church in 1864 he oversaw the move of services from the mill site to the village schoolhouse on the square in the 100 block of East Main Street (a site located between the present UW-Stout administration building and Bowman Hall). They shared the new facility with the Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), each conducting services on alternate Sundays and conducting a union Sunday for the two societies. It was in the fall of that year that the Methodist congregation purchased a lot on the southwest corner of Block 128 (opposite today's Don's Super Valu), Wilson Flat, and made plans to build a church building.

Although there were laymen involved in those early years of the church the first recorded board of trustees, in 1864, included A. J. Messenger, W. M. Brown, W. Wilson, N. Shorey, J. B. McKahan, J. T. Lewton and David Heller. It was in the school building that the Methodists celebrated the local church's first baptism. Two infants and one adult were baptized on December 25, 1864, by the presiding elder, T. C. Golden. On January 10, 1865, Rev. Haw united Thaddeus Butterfield and Clara Green in marriage.

In the fall of 1865 the cornerstone was laid and work began on the new church building in Block 128 and was completed in the summer of '66. Total cost was $5,160.66, an amount paid through subscriptions and donations by August 1867. For a while the Congregational society continued to share the new facility with the Methodists by alternating morning and evening services every Sunday.

In 1877, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. S. S. Benedict, the small, wooden frame church building was moved to a site on the southeast corner of the intersection of present-day Wilson Avenue and Sixth Street (currently the location of Cedar Corp.). A furnace was installed and several renovations were made to the building after it was moved to the new site.

By fall 1882 the congregation decided to build a parsonage in the lot east and adjacent to the church structure. Rev. John Bachman, the first occupant, continued to serve the congregation until mid-1886. Apparently the church became known as the **Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church** in 1887, a move prompted by the celebration of thirty years of existence of the now debt-free church.

Sometime in the last year or two of the 1890s the church building was severely damaged by fire. It was soon replaced by a new structure seating 350 parishioners dedicated on January 2, 1901. Rev. James Evans was pastor.

In 1916 the words "Episcopal" and "Centenary" were dropped from the name (the word "Centenary" was briefly restored, then dropped again in 1922) and for the next seventeen years it was known simply as the Methodist Church. In 1933 there was need for remodeling the church but before the conference would authorize the money a new name had to be adopted. "Centenary" again became part of the title until 1950 when the name officially became **Trinity Methodist Church.**

"Remodeling" has always been part of the lexicon of the Methodists in Menomonie. In 1922 the old church was remodeled by adding a basement, a new furnace, changing the direction of the sanctuary, and installing a pipe organ. In 1948 a new floor was installed in the basement. A year later overcrowding forced the congregation to build larger education facilities and the extensive remodeling essentially closed the building. For a time services were held in the Orpheum Theater in the 400 block of Main Street.

In 1965 the board of trustees was authorized to purchase a house at 620 Wilson Avenue to serve as an educational unit that was consecrated as Trinity House. A year later, in July 1966, the congregations of Trinity Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren Church held the first united service of the two churches in the sanctuary of the latter in accordance with the plan of a general conference of the two national churches. Thereafter, the services alternated each month between the two churches. Rev. Eldon Farmer was pastor of Trinity and Rev. Milton Siewert was the spiritual leader of the EUB church at the time. In November delegates at special general conferences for both denominations voted to accept the "Plan of Union." Two years later, in April 1968, the two churches were officially merged to become the **United Methodist Church.** In Menomonie the merger actually became fact on July 30, 1967, nine months before the national union of the two churches.

A decade after union, the United Methodist Church celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony for a new church on April 23, 1978. Rev. Donald Iliff was pastor. First service in the new church occurred on February 19, 1979, and on May 6 the building was consecrated. It still serves as the city enters its one hundred and fifty-first year.

Pastors and Church Name Changes

Methodist Episcopal Church	1857-60	W. N. Darnell
		James Gurley
		John Dyer
	1860-61	E. J. Havens
	1861-62	Y. B. Reynolds
	1862-63	D. P. Knapp
	1863-64	M. Woodley
	1864-67	William Haw
	1867-68	T. C. Golden
	1868-69	H. W. Bushnell
Trinity Methodist Church	1869-70	S. O. Brown
	1870-71	G. D. Brown
	1871-73	John W. Bell
	1873-74	E. S. Havens
	1874-75	James McClane
	1875-76	G. T. Newcomb
	1876-79	S. S. Benedict
	1879-82	John Steele
	1882-83	Joseph D. Brothers
	1883-86	John Bachman
	1886-88	F. L. Hart

Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church (1887)	1888-89	J. F. Ziegler
	1889-90	E. Bradford, Jr.
	1890-93	James Evans
	1893-95	E. F. Marcellus
	1895	S. S. Benedict
	1895-97	E. R. Sidell
	1897-99	A. M. Pilcher
	1899-1902?	A. J. Davis
	1902	W. F. Emery
	1902-05	A. J. Coram
	1905-09	D. R. Dunn
	1911-15	J. H. Benson
	1915-18	Arthur Dinsdale
Methodist Church (1916)	1918-20	W. D. Lowe
	1920-30	A. R. Klein
	1930-35	George H. R. Kershaw
Centenary Methodist Church (1933)	1935-37	John Kundert
	1937-47	Robert L. Jamieson
	1947	Oscar Adam
	1947-55	Ralph Reece
Trinity Methodist Church (1950)	1955-60	Archie R. Henry
	1960-64	Kenneth D. Barringer
	1964-71	Eldon Farmer
United Methodist Church (1967)	1969-71	Russell E. Christensen
	1971-84	Milton H. Ford
	1974-76	R. Daniel Olson
	1976-85	Donald F. Iliff
	1984-93	Arland & Phyllis Averill
	1993-	Marilyn M. Rushton

First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

On February 17, 1861, a meeting of citizens of Menomonie was held in Newman Hall (known later as the Knapp, Stout & Co.'s land office) for the purpose of organizing the **First Congregational Church and Society of Menomonie.** Lorenzo Bullard was chairman; Samuel B. French served as secretary. Those present at the meeting were Rev. Philo Canfield, Mrs. Philo Canfield, H. C. Brunelle, Mrs. Orella Shorey, and Mrs. Eliza E. Malcome. They voted unanimously to form the society.

In March officers were elected and began to organize the church under the laws of the state. On December 28, 1861, the new congregation adopted the faith and covenant of the church.

Newman Hall continued to serve as the place of worship until they temporarily settled in the old carpenter shop of the schoolhouse where they held services every other Sunday, alternating with the Methodist Episcopal Church congregation. Both churches joined to provide a union Sunday School each week. When the aging carpenter shop became unsuitable the Congregationalists moved into the more comfortable hall in the Menomonie House hotel.

Among the early church leaders that contributed much to the growth and direction of the church were John and Valeria Knapp (both taught Sunday School and served in other capacities), F. J. McLean, Egbert Marks, J. H. Snively, Dr. D. H. Decker, Samuel B. French, W. C. McLean, John Hopwood, and Julia Wilson.

In 1867 the First Congregational Church joined with the Methodist Episcopal Church to build a union church building on the southwest corner of Block 128. For a while the two denominations alternated times of services on Sundays but eventually the Methodists took over exclusive use of the building,

forcing the growing First Congregational Church to seek a new meeting hall. In July 1869 the Congregationalists decided to build a church building on land donated by the Knapp, Stout Company on the northwest corner of Block 128, directly north of the Methodist Episcopal church. In the fall of 1870 the congregation moved into the new facility.

On August 16, 1879, Rev. Henry Ketchum, assumed the pastorship. One of his prime goals was to build a new and larger church building in a more central location. He urged the church membership to purchase four lots on the southwest corner of the intersection of Wilson Avenue and Fifth Street. That was soon accomplished and the frame church in use was moved to the new site in the fall of 1880. Membership increased under his leadership but in 1888 he resigned to be replaced by Rev. S. S. Hebberd, who served for two years.

In July 1890 the Rev. James W. White accepted the call as pastor. He turned his efforts immediately towards the need for a new church building and on June 1, 1892, the new church edifice, built of Menomonie brick and designed by architect Warren B. Hayes, was dedicated. It had seating capacity for 600 people. That structure still serves as the sanctuary of the 1992 remodeled complex that now serves the First Congregational Church—U.C.C. (United Church of Christ).

A memorable event was the appearance of Booker T. Washington, who spoke in the sanctuary in 1901.

Pastors

1861-63	Philo Canfield
1864-65	J. F. Imes
1868-75	J. C. Sherwin
1875-79	Arial McMasters
1879-88	Henry Ketchum
1888-90	S. S. Hebbard
1890-1901	James W. White
1901-05	Reuben L. Breed
1906-15	Lathrop C. Grant
1915-26	Arthur E. Westenberg
1926-30	George H. Waters
1931-40	William Reece Dixon
1940-54	John M. Buran
1954-56	Cornelius de Stigter
1956-63	Donald C. Farley, Jr.
1963-64	Arthur Sneesby (interim)
1964-69	Frank B. McDuffee
1969-73	Walter W. Ralph, Jr.
1973	Clarence Guthrie (interim)
1973-78	Raymond E. Birkner
1978-79	Edward A (Ted) Jackson (interim)
1979-87	Jon Carl Fleming
1987-88	Jill S. Bobholz (interim)
1988-	Rob MacDougal

Immanuel Baptist Church

In winter 1861 Rev. Amasa Gale held a series of meetings for residents of the village of Menomonie interested in learning more about the Baptist Church. Rev. Morgan Edwards continued such meetings in 1862 and baptized a number of converts.

It was not until December 1864 that the **Menomonie First Baptist Church** was organized with a core membership of ten but there were only occasional services during the next two years. The arrival of Rev. W. W. Ames in October 1866 spurred the reorganization of the church and brought about consistent celebration with regularly scheduled services. Ames insisted the church be organized against all secret associations.

By 1868 membership had grown to the point where it was decided to first establish a mission sunday school on the Sherburne (Rusk) Prairie and build a chapel there. That same year Capt.

William Wilson, cofounder of Menomonie and of the giant Knapp, Stout & Co., joined the church. In 1869 Wilson was instrumental in organizing a sunday school which met in the Company Hall. Two years later he built and furnished a new $17,000 church building on the southeast corner of the intersection of Wilson Avenue and East Second Street (a site now encompassed by UW-Stout). This new structure was dedicated on March 12, 1871, during the tenure of Rev. J. W. Fish.

Wilson's adherence to the policy prohibiting recognition of secret societies caused as many as 18 members to defect and form a more liberal congregation in 1873. Led by Rev. D. K. Colver, the seceding group formed the **Olivet Baptist Church.** This new church continued to exist until 1886 when the First Baptist Church changed its name to the **Immanuel Baptist Church.**

Pastor of the reorganized church was Rev. A. C. Blackman, who held services in the hall located on the second floor of the John Edwards & Son Hardware Store in the 400 block of Main Street. In about 1892 the congregation erected a church building on the southwest corner of Third Street and Thirteenth Avenue, a site now partially occupied by the UW-Stout fieldhouse. They worshiped here until about 1914 or 1915 when the church building was moved to the northeast corner of Broadway and Fifteenth Avenue (now a parking lot for UW-Stout).

On May 5, 1963, the Immanuel Baptist Church moved into its present building at 2700 South Broadway. A parsonage was built in June of 1969. Three years later under the leadership of Pastor and Mrs. Gordon Hanson, on April 10, 1972, the Immanuel Baptist Church School was formed with the establishment of a kindergarten for four-year-olds. In September, grades K through 2 were added and a year later grades 3 through 6. In the fall of 1975 the school opened to accommodate the additional grades of 7 through 12, and the first senior class graduated in spring 1976. This expansion of the school and services required the erection of a multipurpose building in 1977, the year the congregation was able to burn the mortgage of the church building.

In the 1990s the church introduced bus ministries addressing the needs of the Hmong community and their children and the mentally and physically handicapped.

The fate of the original First Baptist Church building after the division within the congregation is of some interest. Upon Capt. Wilson's death in 1892, and since the congregation had not lived up to its stated policy against secret societies, the property reverted to Wilson's daughter, Mrs. James H. Stout. Since James Stout wanted the property for the development of his schools, the Stouts offered the building to the Baptist congregation at no charge on condition they move it to another site. But moving the building was too costly so the building was retained by the Stouts who moved it to the southwest corner of the intersection of Sixth Street and Twelfth Avenue and remodeled as a residence that still stands today.

Early Pastors

1861	Amasa Gale (first meeting)
1862	Morgan Edwards, Missionary
1866-73	W. W. Ames
1873-78	C. K. Colver
1878-86	W. W. Ames
1886-89	A. C. Blackman
1889-91	John McGuire
1891-1913	S. A. Abbott
1913-17	Henry Buell

Immanuel Baptist Church

1917-1918	J. B. Reynolds -
1919-1921	P. C. Hanson
1921-24	E. E. O'Beirne
1914-35	J. E. Kess

1935-39	Jack Bowen
1939-44	W. L. Sanford
1944-49	Felix Runquist
1949-68	R. L. Sanasac, Sr.
1969-70	James Luther
1970-95	Gordon Hanson
1995-	Kenneth Owens

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

About 1861 the Roman Catholic population in Menomonie celebrated its first Mass in the home of John Nolan (listed as Noulan in most directories), a lumberman with the Knapp, Stout Company. Fr. Benedict Smeddinck, a missionary and pastor of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church (now Notre Dame) in Chippewa Falls, was the celebrant of that service and of services held in the lumber company's community hall on the mill site.

Then in April 1861 work began on a small wooden church to house the congregation of the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Block 61, in the original plat of Menomonie. One source states that the church building was located on the northeast corner of Ninth Avenue and Ninth Street. Overseeing the early stages of construction was a Fr. Sheridan, but it was Fr. Smeddinck who served the parish during the five years it took to complete the church building and who continued to conduct mass there until he was transferred to Milwaukee in 1868 upon the formation of the Diocese of La Crosse.

From 1868 through 1871, the new parish was served on a rotating basis by Fathers Fagan, Flasin, and McNicholey, missionaries from St. Joseph's in Chippewa Falls. In 1871 Peter Lammer, a local tailor, donated land for a rectory but it was two years before work began on the project, completed in 1874 during the tenure of Fr. George Keller.

From 1871 to 1873 the young parish was served by a missionary based in Eau Galle, Fr. Rheinhardt. He was succeeded by another missionary from Eau Galle, Fr. George Keller. It was not until April 1876 that the first resident priest, Fr. A. Michels, was assigned to serve the local Roman Catholic congregation. He served for two years before being replaced by Fr. Michael W. Heiss, who served for four years and was succeeded in 1883 by a German baron, a count turned priest, Fr. Constantine Von Droste. It was Fr. Von Droste who recognized the congregation's need for a larger church building. Almost immediately the ground was broken for the new facility on the southeast corner of the intersection of Wilson Avenue and Ninth Street, on the site of the current parish center.

A severe windstorm damaged much of the church during its construction and delayed its completion. On November 19, 1884, the church was renamed **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church** and officially incorporated under the state laws of Wisconsin.

The new frame church building, with a ground floor plan measuring 55 x 135 feet, was finally completed in 1885. Five years later the former church, located on the corner directly south of the new church, was turned into a school. In 1899 a raging fire destroyed the church. Work to build a new facility on the same site began as soon as the smoke cleared.

Two years later the old frame church building serving as a parochial school was torn down and replaced by a new brick school building. A new rectory was built in 1905 and a larger school in 1913. In 1915 the former school building was converted into a convent and in 1931 an addition was made to the north end of the school, which continued to serve the parish until 1994.

Lightning damage to the church steeple on July 25, 1940, forced its reconstruction and a change of design. This church served the parish for another 25 years before the congregation was able to move into a new church facility still in use. The former brick church building was demolished in 1969 and the old school/convent in 1985. In 1994 the 1912 school was razed and on May 20, 1995, a

new parish center was dedicated, intended to serve the parish well into the 21st century.

Early Priests

Missionaries from Chippewa Falls

1861-68	Benedict Smeddinck
1868-71	Arthur Fagan
1868-71	Rev. Flasin
1868-71	McNicholey (Nicolay?)

Missionaries from Eau Galle

1871-73	Fr. Rheinhardt
1873-74	George Keller

Priests of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

Resident Pastors

1876-78	A, Michels
1878-83	Michael W. Heiss
1883-85	Constantine Von Droste
1885-87	Louis Lay
1887-89	Sebastian Rohr
1889-92	Louis Kaluza
1892-92	Bernard Klein
1892-97	A. J. Joerres
1897-1907	Joseph T. Volz
1907-14	John B. Hauck
1914-26	Albert J. Dorrenbach
1926-33	Mathias F. Weishar
1933-40	William N. Jeuck
1940-41	Joseph F. Kundinger
1941-51	William Daniels
1951-54	Vincent E. Schwartz
1954-55	Alvin J. Daul
1955-84	Charles Blecha
1984-95	Vaughn Brockman
1996-	Lyle Schulte

Grace Episcopal Church

As early as 1870 there was interest in forming an Episcopal Church in Menomonie, and services were held that year. In September 1872 the establishment of **Grace Mission** in Menomonie was approved by Bishop Armitage of the Milwaukee Diocese. Robert Macauley was elected warden of the first vestry, E. B. Bundy served as treasurer, and E. H. Weber was appointed secretary.

Until 1874, the congregation was served by Fr. R. F. G. Page of Eau Claire. In 1873 the congregation purchased lots 7 and 8 in Block 26, in the original plat, as the first step toward a church building and rectory. A year later, Fr. P. B. Morrison was appointed missionary pastor, replacing Fr. Page.

On June 10, 1875, Fr. Morrison laid the cornerstone for the proposed church and on July 1, 1875, Fr. W. H. Ross became the first resident priest to serve the congregation. He oversaw the construction of the church building, completed in the fall, which was dedicated as **Grace Episcopal Church** on October 10, 1875.

The church was remodeled in 1882 and a rectory was built on the adjacent lot in 1888 at a cost of $1,300. This parsonage continued to serve the parish until 1995 when it was sold and a home purchased in the city's Woodland Terrace addition to serve as the parsonage.

On the morning of January 16, 1915, with temperatures hovering in the 20 degrees below zero range, a fire raged uncontrolled throughout the small brick church building. All that was left were the brick walls of the sanctuary. Rev. C. F. Niles of the Unitarian Society offered the Anglican community the use of its Memorial Hall in the Mabel Tainter Memorial building. The offer was gratefully accepted by the parishioners of Grace Church.

A new church structure was quickly rebuilt on the same site. Fr. W. H. Wolfe remained until the new church was completed and

then moved on, followed by Fr. E. E. Williams who had served the congregation first as a deacon, then as priest, in 1914.

Soon after Fr. Roy Rawson came to Grace Church as rector in 1949, the Eau Claire Diocese was the recipient of the C. T. Bundy estate in Menomonie, which included the elegant 1863 home, once the residence of John Holly Knapp, and several outbuildings on six acres of land overlooking the Red Cedar River in west Menomonie. It has since served as a conference and retreat center for the diocese.

During the night of January 26, 1950, with temperatures in the minus 30s this time, another fire flashed through Grace Church, causing damage of over $15,000 in the basement, with some smoke damage to the sanctuary. Church leader William G. Ballentine was appointed by Fr. Rawson to oversee the planning and reconstruction of the building. On September 1, 1950, the first Mass was held in the reconstructed church facility.

The church's lower level was completely remodeled in the 1970s to provide classroom and adult education space and the kitchen area was remodeled. New stained glass memorial windows were installed in 1970, replacing all the original church windows.

The tradition of an outdoor Apple Blossom Mass at Connell's Sunridge Orchard was begun in the late 1960s and has continued annually. In the fall of each year the congregation holds an Apple Pie Social at the orchard attracting hundreds of visitors.

Presently over 60 family units comprise Grace Church. An active Sunday School, adult education program, outreach projects, Episcopal Women's group, Young Peoples group, acolyte corps, and a contemporary music program are all part of the life of Grace Church.

In 1995 a deacon was added to the church staff to assist the priest in many areas of church life. The congregation is considering possible sites for a new, larger church building to accommodate their growing membership.

Parish Priests

1872-74	R. F. G. Page
1875-76	W. H. Ross
1876-77	M. L. Kern
1877-79	C. D. Mack
	O. E. Ostensen
	Ammi M. Lewis
1879-81	E. R. Sweetland
1881-86	M. L. Kern
1886-88	C. R. Crittenton
1888-89	Charles Hartman
1889-90	A. A. Hartman (lay minister)
1890-92	E. E. Edwards
1892-93	A. V. Gorrell
1893-94	James Simonds
1895-95	Dr. S. H. Meade
1895-99	W. B. Thorne
1899-1903	W. A. Dennis
1904-09	C. W. Turner
1910-10	Phillip Reed
1911-14	E. E. Williams
1914-18	W. H. Wolfe
1918-20	M. G. Argus
1920-23	O. A. Carlson (lay minister)
	A. B. Dimmick
	A. H. Head
1924-25	Horatio Gates
1926-28	A. W. Griffin
1928-32	Dr. F. B. Randall
1934-36	John G. Hilton
1936-42	Harlan R. Coykendall
1942-43	Supply priests & Merle Price (lay minister)
1943-45	F. W. Sullivan
1945-46	Albert E. Schrock
1946-49	Frank Alvarez
1949-55	Roy Rawson
1955-56	Bishop Wm. Horstick & Ed Feldt, Merle Price (lay ministers)

1956-56	Carl Gross
1956-58	Myron Herrick
1958-59	Arthur Heyes (supply priest)
1959-64	Boyce Bennett
1964-66	Bruce Pellegrin
1966-72	Charles A. Cason
1972-74	Supply priests
1974-75	James McManus
1976-90	Ralph Stanwise
1990-91	Supply priests
1991--	John Johanssen, J. D.
1995-	Fern Penick, Deacon

Peace Lutheran Church

Peace Lutheran Church was first organized on November 2, 1883, under the name **Evangelical Lutheran Friedans Church** by 38 members. After three months with a supply clergyman, John Weyrauch came to fill the position of pastor.

The church building, located on the southeast corner of Eighth Street and Twelfth Avenue, was dedicated on September 28, 1884. A parsonage was built in 1885 and a bell for the church was purchased in 1887.

A church school was started in 1888 and a schoolhouse was built in 1890. The school continued until 1919 when it was closed and the building remodeled for use as a parish hall and for Sunday school rooms.

In 1902 a 16-foot addition was built on the east end of the church, providing space for an altar and sacristy. In 1904 the old windows were replaced with stained glass windows at a cost of $360.

On February 8, 1938, the name of the church was changed to **Peace Lutheran Church.** On September 12, 1951, after five years' planning, groundbreaking ceremonies were held at Seventh Street and Tenth Avenue for the construction of a new church. The church, dedicated in August 1953, is a Gothic structure of Lannon stone constructed in an L shape with a nave seating 336. Over 14,000 hours of labor were donated by members of the congregation to build the church. A new parsonage located at Twelfth Avenue and Eighth Street, was completed in January 1961.

Pastors

1883-99	John Weyrauch
1899-1917	H. Hoerig
1917-56	John M. Woerth
1957-61	Eugene J. Leschensky
1960-70	Emil F. Eske
1961-73	Ernst F. Staehling
1973-80	Arthur M Vorhes
1974-86	Robert A. Bipes
1980-85	Alan C. Kelsey
1986-95	Jon Becker
1987-	Dale Freberg

Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church began its ministry and mission in north Menomonie in 1883 under the name **North Menomonie Norwegian Evangelic Lutheran Congregation of Dunn County.** The name was officially changed to **Christ Lutheran** in 1941.

The first pastor, Lars Larson, served from 1883 to 1897. A school housed the congregation until a church building located on the northeast corner of Tainter and Pine Streets was completed in the fall of 1884. A portrait of Jesus the Good Shepherd, painted by local artist Jacob Miller, was added behind the altar. Today that painting is on display in the narthex of the current church sanctuary.

Christ Lutheran affiliated and worked with other congregations in the area, sharing pastors and programs. Congregations that eventually merged with Christ Lutheran were South Menomonie, Tramway, and Mamre.

In 1961 a parade from the old wooden structure on Tainter Street brought the congregation to its new brick church building on the corner of Elm and Wilcox Streets in north Menomonie.

Christ Lutheran built a new sanctuary for worship in 1974 that included overflow rooms that could also be used as classroom space. There was also a library room and an additional classroom. The narthex centered around the baptismal font from the wooden frame church building on Tainter.

On August 27, 1995, the congregation dedicated an addition containing a new kitchen, large fellowship/dining room, accessible restrooms, and education space. The church office and pastors' offices were moved to the new addition as well.

In 1995, the Christ Lutheran Congregation numbered about 1,000 baptized members.

Pastors

1883-97	Lars Lund
1897-1900	Torger Haugen
1901-06	Peder Trelstad
1906-14	Edward Hegland
1915-18	Albert Tollevs
1918-25	Elias Haavik
1921	Paul Dietrichson (interim)
1921-22	Leif Evans (interim)
1925-26	Hans Allen (assistant & interim)
1926-39	Sven Johnson
1939-43	Gerald Giving
1943-57	Norris Olson
1957-58	Selmber Tallackson (interim)
1958-64	Arnold E. Olson
1965-82	Hilmar Mostul
1968-71	Frederick Dahl (visitation)
1981	Les Peterson
1983-	Andrew Boe
	Grace Swensen (associate pastor)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Many German-speaking people settled in Wisconsin and Dunn County area in the 1850s and 1860s. Lutheran seminaries in Germany and Switzerland sent missionaries to North America, and some came to Wisconsin and neighboring states to minister to these German speakers. The missionaries preached the gospel, administered sacraments, and helped these people to start churches. Pastors were sent to serve them. Dr. Moldehnke came from Watertown to Iron Creek to assist in starting a church there. German Lutherans from surrounding towns sought his help, also, and in several areas congregations sprang up. Often services were held in private homes led by lay members when a pastor could not be present.

In 1871 German Lutherans and Norwegian Lutherans cooperated on a small frame church building erected on the corner of 5th Street and Balsam (now 9th Street and 6th Avenue). They shared the building for several years, each group holding its own services in its own language. In 1872 Pastor Althoff joined the congregation.

In 1875 the German Lutherans purchased the Norwegian Lutheran interest in the church building, but allowed them to continue using it until they could build a church of their own. In 1877, the German congregation purchased property on Ninth Street between Eleventh and Twelfth Avenues and moved the wood-frame church there. All services, meetings, and confirmation classes were conducted in German, which remained the main language until well into the 1920s. Gradually English became the principal language.

In 1877 Eugene Notz replaced Pastor Althoff as pastor of the congregation, which voted to incorporate that July with the name **German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church.** The congregation

also officially joined the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod with which it has remained to the present time.

A parsonage built in 1879 was used for 42 years. A parochial school was started in the early 1880s in a room in the parsonage. The pastor served as teacher, assisted by lay members and sometimes his daughter.

By 1887, the congregation had outgrown the old frame church building and decided to build a new brick church at a cost of $12,000 on the corner of 9th Street and 11th Avenue where it stands today. The old church building was remodeled as the school building. The majestic spire of the new church remains a city landmark.

Sometime between 1903 and 1911, the wooden frame school house (the former church building) was torn down and replaced with a school building at a cost of $3,100 having two large rooms for classes and a basement.

In 1912, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the new church building, a large bell weighing 3,000 pounds was hung in the steeple and is still used to call worshippers to service. In 1920-21, the first parsonage was replaced with a larger new parsonage at a cost of $13,000. Installation of a pipe organ required modifications to the church balcony.

In 1935, the congregation started a Sunday school to accommodate those children not enrolled in the parochial school. English was now the more common language for services and meetings. In 1939 an English translation of the constitutions was adopted, which included changing the name of the congregation to **St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church** and the "Parochial School" was changed to "Christian Day School." In 1942, parents of day-school children organized the Parent Christian Education Association. Except during 1944-45, the school has continued operation to the present day.

In 1946-47, on the 75th anniversary of the congregation, the interior of the church building was renovated and new furnishings installed. The school was remodeled and enlarged in 1951 at a cost of $27,000. Major repair work was done to the church building in 1959. The parsonage was given major maintenance in 1961 with new siding to replace the old stucco exterior.

In 1963 a major addition to the building was completed connecting the older church building and the school building. The addition contained the nave, while the older building with its spire continued to be the main entrance. An adjoining property was purchased for a parking lot and school playground.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the church in 1971, the congregation added stained glass windows in the north wall of the narthex of the building and added a drive-through protective covering over the east entrance to the church.

The day-school grew to almost 100 students, necessitating the use of the school building's basement facilities for classrooms. A temporary, relocatable classroom building was purchased and erected in the parking lot. The two rooms in the new building greatly relieved the crowded conditions until plans could be made for permanent space. Ground for a new school building was broken in June of 1977. The new school, costing $222,200, included five classrooms, a gymnasium, kitchen facilities, and a small library.

The congregation's size and the heavy workload on the pastor led to the calling of an associate pastor in 1980. Two pastors have continued working together as associates since that time.

In 1985 the congregation purchased the house and property on the northwest corner of 11th Avenue and 10th Street. For a few years the house was used for Wisconsin Synod students attending UW-Stout. In the spring of 1990, the congregation purchased a second parsonage at 2000 9th Street. By this time the school had five full-time and one half-time teachers.

Currently, St. Paul's has over 975 confirmed members and over 1,200 baptized members. In 1996 the congregation is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Early Pastors

Pastor Moldehnke (from Watertown)
Pastor Gensike (from Iron Creek)
Pastor August Schmidt (from Iron Creek)
Pastor A. F. Siegler (from Iron Creek)
Pastor Pohlmann (from Durand)

St. Paul's Pastors

1872-77	Pastor Althoff
1878-79	Eugene Notz
1878-79	W. C. Jaeger
1879	Pastor Fuerchtenicht
1879-84	F. Kleinlein
1885-91	August Pieper
1891-1903	Martin Eckmann
1903-20	J. H. Schwartz
1920-30	Wm. Keturakat
1930-46	J. Middelstadt
1946-61	H. S. Pankow
1960-72	Marcus Schwartz
1972-80	Larry Zessin
1980-85	Pieter Reid
1985-90	Leroy Martin
1990-94	Jeffrey Bovee
1992-	Erick Steinbrenner
1994-	Danel Schmidt

Faith Lutheran Church

As early as 1978, North Wisconsin District officials began seriously looking at the possibility of establishing a Missouri Synod congregation in Menomonie and meetings were held with Pastor Raymond Larson of St. John's, Boyceville, to study the possibility. The first was at St. John's in January 1979, and in April other area Lutheran churches were approached to seek their consent. Permission was received to proceed, with the stipulation that the church not be placed downtown near the existing churches. A location on the east side of town at the intersection of 21st Street and U. S. Highway 12/State Highway 29 was selected.

An organizational meeting was held in the 4-H Center of the Dunn County Fairgrounds. Plans were made to begin worship in September with the Rev. Raymond Larson as vacancy pastor. A picnic and Bible studies were organized for the summer months. The first worship service was held September 16, 1979, in the mechanical sciences building of the fairgrounds, but cold weather soon forced the congregation to seek another meeting place. On October 14, 1979, they moved to the lower level of the Red Cedar Supper Club at 2117 Stout Road, and held their first Holy Communion. The management was most gracious in allowing the use of their facility rent-free for over a year. As Faith Lutheran Church it was incorporated on December 2, 1979.

In March 1980, the group requested a vicar from the seminary to help with the growing workload. Vicar Bruce Russell began work on August 15th. After discovering that the supper club building was for sale, the congregation secured permission to purchase it, consummating the sale in February 1981.

Pastor Larson accepted a call into the Army chaplaincy in February 1981. The Reverend Bruce Russell was inducted to serve the congregation for a year and then returned to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to complete his final year at Concordia Theological Seminary. The Rev. Ronald F. Hoffman was then called as a vacancy pastor.

In August 1982, Vicar Richard Holz became the first full-time pastor of Faith Lutheran Church after serving on a temporary basis for one year, working under Rev. Hoffmann.

Vicar Holz was followed by the second pastor, Rev. Bruce

Lamont. The congregation continued to grow under his guidance, but after a comparatively short time, he accepted another call.

A ladies guild was established and hosted a spring rally of Zone 8 Lutheran Women's Missionary League in April 1990. The pastoral office remained vacant for well over a year, and many options for survival were discussed including becoming a dual parish. The congregation decided to forge its own independence, however, and Rev. Robert Jarvis became the third full-time pastor, a position he continues to fill.

Pastors

1979-81	Raymond Larson (vacancy pastor)
1980-81	Bruce Russell (vicar on leave from seminary)
1981-82	Ronald F. Hofmann (vacancy pastor)
1982-90	Richard Holz (vicar, then 1st full-time pastor)
1990-91	Bruce Lamont (full-time pastor)
1991-	Robert Jarvis (full-time pastor)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

The first service held by a Norwegian Lutheran pastor in Menomonie was conducted by Prof. Laur Larsen, D. D., in 1859, at the time pastor of Rush River Church, Pierce County, Wisconsin. Regular services were introduced in 1867 by Rev. K. Thorstensen, then pastor of Froen Church in Little Elk Creek, who conducted seven services that year. At the close of service in a schoolhouse on the west bank of the Red Cedar River, on October 27, 1867, the first steps were taken to organize a congregation and on December 15 the congregation voted to formally organize. The congregation was named the **First Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church,** known as the "**Synod Church.**"

As early as 1869 members discussed securing a permanent place of worship. With pledges of $484, a church was built in cooperation with St. Paul's German Lutheran Church in 1871 and dedicated on September 19.

In May 1874 the church purchased a building lot at 9th Street and 10th Avenue. In March 1876, St. Paul's Church purchased the share of the First Norwegian Church in their building but provided that the Norwegian Lutherans could use the building for four years. There were fifty-nine members of the congregation at that time.

In 1877 a plain brick 32 x 50-foot structure was completed at a cost of $3,400 and dedicated on October 14. Rev. I. L. P. Dietrichson was the pastor.

Improvements were made over the years; in 1893 a house located in back of the church was obtained as a parsonage and used until a new one was built in 1915.

A Ladies Aid or "Kvindeforening" was formed to help in supporting missions and assisting the needy in the local community. Then followed a Young People's Society, a Little Girl's Society, the "Fram" brotherhood, a church band, and a choir. The first Sunday school was held in December 1877 and Bible school was instituted in 1881 as a summer session lasting forty days.

Pastors of the Synod Church

1867-74	K. Thorstensen
1875-76	H. J. G. Krogh
1876-79	I. L. P. Dietrichson
1879-89	P. A. Dietrichson
1889-89	K. Seehus
1889-92	T. K. Thorvilson
1893-1912	D. Kvase
1912-18	E. C. Haavik

Another Norwegian Lutheran Church was organized in Menomonie on September 4, 1870. This church was a member of the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Conference, which

united with other groups in 1890 to form the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, more commonly called the **United Church.** Services conducted in Menomonie prior to 1870 by Pastor Amon Johnson of Eau Claire resulted in the organization of a local church with Rev. C. J. Helsem as the first pastor of the congregation.

The congregation decided to erect a church building in 1871 on 6th Street and 10th Avenue. The church was rebuilt in 1894-95 at a cost of $4,100. In 1904 a parsonage was established in a house near the church.

The congregation organized a Sunday school, Young Girls Society, Young People's Society, and men's club which held many joint meetings with the "Fram" club of the Synod Church.

Pastors of the United Church

Up to 1870	Amon Johnson
1871-75	C. H. Helsem
1875-76	G. Hoyme
1877-97	Lars Lund
1897-1900	T. H. Haugan
1901-06	Peder B. Trelstad
1906-14	Edward Hegland
1915-18	Albert Tolleys

As early as 1885 the two Norwegian Lutheran congregations in Menomonie considered uniting. In 1913 they conducted a joint summer parochial school and joint Brotherhood meetings and in 1916, Pastor Haavik was asked to serve the United Church temporarily in addition to his duties at the Synod Church. While serving both churches, he worked diligently to bring the two together and on January 20, 1919, the First Norwegian Evangelical Church (Synod) and the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church (United) met in joint session to organize one congregation to be called **Our Savior's Lutheran Church.** Pastor Haavik was unanimously elected pastor of the newly organized church. Until this time Norwegian was the language used by both churches, but an agreement was reached that one-half of the services and all business meetings would be in English.

The churches in Little Elk Creek, north Menomonie, and Varney Creek also merged with Our Savior's, and Pastor Haavik agreed to conduct festival services and funerals at Mamre and Tramway. After the merger, the congregation used the United building for services, the Synod building was dismantled, and money was set aside for a new cross-shaped brick building.

The new church was dedicated on October 19, 1930. In order to have the services of a full-time pastor, the congregation voted to sever its connection with the other three congregations. The Rev. Ernest B. Steen was the first pastor to serve Our Savior's exclusively.

By 1952 it was necessary to enlarge the church to make room for more Sunday school rooms and for youth recreation, classrooms, a church office, a pastor's study, a kindergarten room, and a friendship room with kitchenette. Further remodeling in 1966 moved the altar to a more central position in the nave and gained seating capacity for the congregation. In 1980 the kitchen was remodeled to meet federal food service standards and a ramp was added for handicapped accessibility.

Because the Sunday school rooms were again overflowing and some classes were held in St. Joseph's Catholic school, an addition was approved that provided a new office complex, ten additional classrooms, a choir room with storage, an expanded library, and a multipurpose friendship room. The $890,000 addition was dedicated on May 17, 1992.

Our Savior's is devoted to worship, education, and missions with extensive programs in each.

Pastors of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1918-26	E. C. Haavik
1926-39	S. A. Johnson
1939-45	Ernest B. Sneen
1946-59	E. T. Boe
1960-69	Richard L. Holleque
1965-76	Odean Tieman
1969-75	Alfred Langhough
1976-84	Paul Roe
1976-79	Leonard Ellison
1979-89	John T. Mittermaier
1985-	John M. Mikkelson
1989-	Michael Peterson

Menomonie Alliance Church

Menomonie Alliance Church is part of the worldwide Christian and Missionary Alliance founded in 1887. The local fellowship, organized in fall 1867 under the leadership of Dr. and Mrs. Roger Natwick grew from a home Bible study led by Rev. Stanton Richardson, former vice president and professor of Bible and theology at the St. Paul Bible college (now Crown College).

Rev. Rueben M. Strecker and his family arrived in Menomonie in August 1967 to serve as the first resident pastor. Sunday services began in September in a rented Baptist Church building on South Broadway and 15th Avenue. The church was formally inaugurated on January 11, 1968 with 22 charter members. Construction of a church building at 200 N. 21st Street began in May 1968, and services were first held there in October 1968. The congregation soon outgrew these facilities, and services were first held at a new building at 502 N. 21st Street on January 13, 1980.

The Menomonie Alliance Christian School, organized in 1981 as a ministry of the church, initially included grades K-3 with two teachers. Hector Cruz was the first school administrator, from 1981 to 1986. Dwight Schussman is the current administrator. Today 13 teachers instruct 109 students, and the school offers K-7th grade. New education and office facilities were added in 1991-1992.

About 370 regularly attend services. The official membership has grown to 170. Several members have engaged in mission work in the Philippines, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Botswana, Mexico, Guinea, Russia, South Korea, and Malaysia.

The congregation sponsors a variety of ministries, including Sunday school for all ages and youth ministries. Each fall overseas missionaries present informative messages concerning the work of missions in other lands.

Current Pastor Rev. Jack Stimmel came to the church in July 1992 after serving as a missionary to South Korea and then as vice president of student affairs at Crown College in St. Bonifacious, Minnesota.

Pastors

1967-70	Rueben M. Strecker
1970-73	Arnold Woodring
1973-75	James Bulkley
1975-77	James Stone
1977-81	Gary Benedict
1981-86	Richard Brown
1987-90	Peter Bergen
1990-92	Bruce Leastman (interim)
1992-	Jack Stimmel

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

(Menomonie Branch, St. Paul Stake)

The Menomonie Branch was organized from the division of Eau Claire, Wisconsin Ward, in March 1980, with James Rampton as branch president. Members of the Branch met in the American Legion Hall from 1980 to September 1982. Their meetings from December, 1982 to 1985, were held in the Leisure Service Center.

James Rampton was branch president until 1983. Upon his release Thomas Holman was called as branch president and served until 1985. During this time, in June 1984, construction on the chapel at 2721 East Fifth Street began, and the first meeting in the new chapel was held in February 1985.

A public open-house was held and 200 people attended, many not members of the church. Each room had a different theme: Book of Mormon, Christ, Baptism, and Families.

Menomonie Branch Presidents

1985-86	Kent Bills
1986-91	Kenneth Campbell
1991-95	James Kiley
1995-	David L. Marklevits

Seventh Day Adventist Church

The first Seventh Day Adventist Church organized in Dunn County was in Lucas Township. Elder Samuel Fulton and his wife, Anna, held the first effort in 1879. Mrs. Fulton was a physician in a large hospital in Nova Scotia. After becoming a Seventh Day Adventist she lost her position and took a ministerial course. She joined her husband in Lucas, occupying the pulpit three nights a week. They organized a church of forty-five members.

Elder J. F. Fulton also spent some time here at that time. For a few years meetings were held in several homes until a church building was erected at what is now Hatchville, the most central location. Many attended from Beldenville, River Falls, Plum City, and other small towns west of Hatchville. Some came with ox teams while others walked through forests, over cow paths, and along logging roads to Sabbath services.

As people began to settle farther to the east to work in the mills and forests, the church building at Hatchville was sold, and another church was built in Lucas Valley on Peter Hanson's farm, now owned by Marvin Lynch. Here there was quite a large membership, but as timber began to disappear, many moved away. It was at this time that a church building was erected in Knapp where Brother Peter Hanson had taken up his residence. A church was built and an organization formed. After cars came into use, many from Lucas attended services in Knapp, while others still had Sabbath at Lucas.

In 1931, Elder A. L. Beasley held a tent effort in Menomonie and baptized a large class. Then Elder Oswald, President of the Wisconsin Conference, suggested that Lucas and Knapp churches be disbanded and that a new organization be set up in Menomonie. A meeting for this purpose was held at the home of A. L. Beasley on April 20, 1931. Elder Oswald presided at the meeting with a membership of forty-eight. A church later organized at Durand greatly reduced the membership of the Menomonie church. Death claimed others, leaving a membership of 32 on May 13, 1939.

A former Lutheran church in the 1000 block of Sixth Street in Menomonie was purchased for $1,400 in May, 1931. In September 1978 there was much discussion about purchasing the former Christian Missionary Alliance Church building. Papers were drawn up on January 11, 1979, and the first meeting in the church was held that night with a sermon, prayer circle, and business meeting

afterwards with the Alliance pastor and other officers. January 13, 1979 was the first Sabbath meeting in the present church at 200 21st Street. the present membership is 70.

Former pastors were Green, Hinkley, Brad Brookins, Wallace Mandigo, and Eugene Taylor. The current pastor is Clinton Meharry.

Unitarian Society of Menomonie

In the summer of 1887, some Menomonie citizens invited Unitarian minister J. H. Crooker of Madison to speak in the city, known as the "Queen of the Pineries." Its economy was dependent on lumbering and the brickmaking industry. Rev. Crooker was enthusiastically received, and a number of Unitarian ministers thereafter delivered sermons and lectures in Menomonie. Prof. Henry Doty Maxson of Whitewater was engaged to take charge of the liberal religious movement in the city beginning April 1888.

At an organizational meeting held that April, the Unitarian Society of Menomonie was organized "for religious, charitable and organizational purposes." Articles of incorporation affiliated the new society with the Unitarian or Independent Fellowship of America. The Bond of Union was signed by about 30 people who expressed the desire for "a religious organization which shall make integrity of life its first air, and leave thought free" and welcomed to membership "all of what ever theological opinion who wish to unite with us in the promotion of truth, righteousness, reverence and charity among men."

The early Unitarian Society of Menomonie met each Sunday in the auditorium of the Mabel Tainter Memorial building, donated to the city for certain public uses and to the Unitarian Society as a "permanent church home" by Capt. and Mrs. Andrew Tainter. Prof. Maxson's sermon, "The work of the Liberal Church," is believed to have provided the Tainters with the inspiration for the building.

Prof. Maxson died suddenly in late 1891. Rev. C. F. Niles became pastor in 1893 and served until 1916. 1905 records indicate some 250 persons connected with the society. Over the years, a Young Men's Club was organized, also a Ladies Circle, a Girl's Guild, the first kindergarten in the city (1901), and a dancing club for young people.

After Rev. Niles's resignation, there were a number of short-term ministers. Services were suspended in 1925, and the society met irregularly through the Depression years. In 1947 the remaining members voted to dissolve the society.

In September 1982, four families, having been associated with Unitarian Universalist churches and fellowships prior to arriving in Menomonie, gathered to discuss reorganizing the Unitarian Society of Menomonie. Monthly meetings began immediately; Rev. Emil Gunderson of the Prairie Star District met once with the group to advise them and family religious education meetings began in January 19983.

On April 10, 1983, a service and charter signing was held. Prof. Tim Hirsch of the Eau Claire Unitarian Fellowship spoke of the early Unitarian presence in Menomonie. Fifteen members signed the Bond of Union.

The Unitarian Society of Menomonie is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. In the 1990s services and religious education are held at the Mabel Tainter Memorial.

Appendix C: Menomonie Industries

Badger Iron Works

Herman Forster was four years old when his family left Germany to seek a new life in the United States. They settled in Menomonee Falls. When young Herman came of age he worked for a while in Chippewa Falls, then moved on to Eau Claire. In 1895 he moved to Menomonie.

Three years later he established the machine shop and foundry that has become the Badger Iron Works at 915 South Broadway. His firm provided equipment and repair services for brickyards, saw mills, cheese factories, sleigh and wagon makers, and creameries. Sam Forster, who became head of the firm in 1930, continued to operate the business until 1954 when George Forster took over. Since 1965 the company has been owned and operated by Lavern, William, Gertrude, and Mark Forster. In 1973 the company, which had outgrown its facility on Broadway, moved to the industrial park on Menomonie's east side, the first company to locate there.

By constantly looking for improved production methods, new markets, and new products, the company has been able to grow and prosper while others in the industry have fallen by the wayside. Today their products include valves; woodworking, metal-working, and farm machinery; and iron castings for the makers of fire engine pumps.

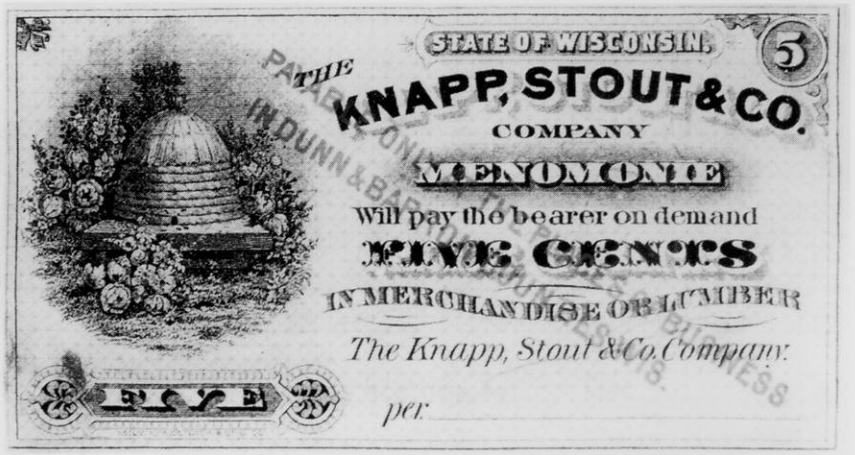
Banking

There was little recognized need for banking services in the early years of Menomonie. It was a company town essentially run, owned, and operated by the giant Knapp, Stout & Company. Workers in the pinery, on the river, and in the mills were paid in company scrip, which was only negotiable in the company stores. There was little need for national currency, though it was in circulation.

Family savings were often stashed in hiding places in their homes. Some were able to convince the company to hold family caches of cash in the store's safe.

By 1867 the need for an independent bank was evident. In May of that year Samuel B. French opened a banking department in his general store in the 300 block on the south side of Main Street. When a fire destroyed his building in 1881 he built a bank building at 330 East Main. When he ran into financial difficulties the bank was acquired by Captain Andrew Tainter and his son, Louis.

In 1903 the Tainter & Son Bank was reorganized as the Bank of Menomonie. Another bank was established in November 1873. when William Schutte, Sr., and Albert Quilling provided banking service in their general store in the 600 block of Broadway, centered around the vault located in the back. Incorporated as the Schutte &



Knapp, Stout & Company "scrip" at first was only redeemable at the company store in the community where it was issued.

Quilling Bank in 1903, it continued to serve until 1923 when it was merged with the First National Bank. Quilling went on to organize the Security Loan & Trust Company.

F. J. McLean was the organizer of a state bank in 1879 that eventually became the First National Bank in 1883. When the First National acquired the Schutte & Quilling bank it was reported that it was the largest bank for a city of its size in Wisconsin.

The Kraft State Bank was established in 1914 by Phillip Kraft and his three sons, John S., William F., and Samuel P.

In the late 1920s or early 1930s the Bank of Menomonie acquired the Security Loan & Trust Company and its building on Broadway, and for the next quarter century the First National, Bank of Menomonie, and Kraft State Bank served the banking needs of the city. Savings and Loans included Menomonie Farmers Credit Union and a branch of Eau Claire's First Federal.

As the city's population and economy grew after World War II many changes began to take place. In 1969 the First National Bank became First Bank & Trust, the only independent and locally owned bank in the city. Kraft State Bank became the United Bank, then the Valley Bank, and today it has become the M&I Community State Bank. First Federal Savings & Loan is now First Federal Bank of Eau Claire and the Farmers Credit Union is now WESTconsin Credit Union.

In the mid-1990s, the Bank of Menomonie was purchased by the First American Bank, and Citizen's State Bank of Woodville started business in North Menomonie.

Beginning in 1981 the three major banks cooperated in attracting businesses to the city's industrial park, a move that has served to increase the growth of businesses and industry in the area.

Cardinal FG

In May 1991, construction began on the building that would house the Cardinal FG plant in Menomonie's industrial park. Sixteen months later, the plant began producing residential float glass products. The operation proved so successful that in 1995, it became the first float glass plant in the United States to be ISO 9002 certified. Cardinal Glass was founded in Minneapolis in the 1960s with Roger O'Shaughnessy as owner and president, a position he continues to hold in 1996. In December 1990, Al Slavich assumed the position of plant manager.

Cedar Corporation

Originally named Menomonie Engineering, Cedar Corporation was founded in 1975 by John Klovning, Tom Kuester, Ron Pember, and Leon Herrick to provide civil engineering and land surveying services in Menomonie. In 1978 the company acquired its present name, reflecting the goal of offering a spectrum of professional design services to public and private sectors in a broader geographic area.

By the 1990s Cedar Corporation was providing civil, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering; planning, land surveying, architecture, and landscape architecture; interior design; and environmental and mapping services. The company has grown from four employees to over 80 and a major expansion was completed in 1994. John Klovning has been president since the company was founded.

Dunn County Reminder

During the Depression of the early 1930s, Hugh McGowan began to publish the *Reminder,* a mimeographed shopper, featuring advertisements of local businesses. In the mid or late 1940s the modest publication was acquired by Dan Givney, who published it for several years before it was purchased by a Mr. Tibbets.

Daryl G. Davis became the owner and publisher in 1967, operating at first in the cramped quarters of a garage on Crescent

Street. From there its office was moved to a site behind a laundromat on Broadway and then to a building at 2219 South Broadway, where it operates today.

Davis changed the name of the paper to the *Dunn County Reminder,* which now has a circulation of over 24,000. Davis also changed the format from the original 8 1/2" x 14" mimeographed sheet to a tabloid composed by computer.

Two of Davis's sons are involved in the paper's operation; Duane Davis is the business manager and Troy Davis is head salesman and distribution manager.

Midwestern Precast, Inc.

In 1983 Richard Fedie purchased the former plant of the Midwestern Block Company and established Midwestern Precast, Inc. The plant produces precast concrete items such as steps, car stops, septic tanks, bunker silos, and feed bunks.

Officers are Fedie, the owner and production manager; Michael Gansberg, transportation manager; and Rhonda Hellekson, office manager.

3M Menomonie

3M Menomonie is a multidivisional, development and production site operated by Corporate Quality and Manufacturing Services. It was established in 1973 when a one-story building was constructed on the 540-acre site. By the next summer, 50 employees were working in the plant. Today approximately 640 men and women work at 3M Menomonie.

Warehouses were added in 1976 and 1978 and additional production facilities were constructed in 1979 and 1985. In 1994 a 16,000-square-foot shipping and receiving dock was completed and in 1995 an additional 32,000-square-foot addition was completed to support production needs. Today the entire complex encompasses 398,000 square feet.

Menomonie's plant combines a "semi-works" facility, for early stages of product development and long-term manufacturing of high-tech, state-of-the-art products geared to market demand. There are twelve 3M divisions at the local site today, with operations in various stages of development and production.

Gwen Nickleski has been site manager since 1990. Previous managers were Raymond Meier, 1973-80; Bob Walters, 1980-83; Bill Nack, 1984-86; Gene Saienga, 1986-88; and Gary Whitenack, 1988-90.

MRM Elgin

Founded in Elgin, Illinois, in 1897, the local plant manufactures liquid filling and capping equipment for the packaging industry. Its operations were moved to northern Wisconsin in 1972 and in 1983 became a subsidiary of the Cozzoli Machine Company, New Jersey, and relocated to Menomonie.

Frank Cozzoli continues to own the business. Bob Briggs is the general manager of the Menomonie plant and K. L. Witt Widmer is the sales manager.

Phillips Plastics Corporation

Phillips-Origen Cleanroom Injection Molding and Assembly was started in fall 1992, a plastic injection molder and assembler of precision components for the medical, electronic, and commercial markets. Phillips-Origen is a subsidiary of Phillips Plastics Corporation, which employs some 1,500 people and has annual sales of over $130 million.

The operation is located in the Stout Technology Park in Menomonie and works closely with the UW-Stout and its resources.

The Phillips team focuses on completely automated operation with robotic, automated material handling, and integrated computer management systems. The plant's quality control system earned ISO 9002 certification in 1993.

This firm established the Anne Marie Foundation to distribute grants to community projects in cities where Phillips plants are located. Over the years the Foundation has awarded over $2.4 million in grants.

The company is in the planning stage of doubling the size of the Cleanroom Injection Molding and Assembly facility in 1997.

Adjacent to the site of the Cleanroom Injection Molding & Assembly facility in Menomonie is the **Origen Center,** created by Phillips Plastics as an "incubator" facility where ideas can be developed into new businesses.

Sanna/Swiss Miss

A Sicilian immigrant, Anthony Sanna, came to America in 1905 with an idea to process skim milk into a nonfat powder. Sanna's concept revolutionized the dairy products industry and resulted in the formation of Sanna Dairies in Ridgeland, Wisconsin, in 1936.

Sanalac powdered milk products were in great demand during World War II by the military and became the key ingredient in ice cream. Increasing demand for Sanalac led the company to purchase the former Nestle condensary milk plant in Menomonie in 1946. In the 1950s the plant began producing cocoa mix under the brand name Swiss Miss, originally manufactured for a major airline. Passengers were so impressed that Sanna received hundreds of requests for the product to be available on grocery shelves.

In response, the company introduced the Swiss Miss line for distribution to the public in the 1960s, and a tower dryer for producing instant dried products was built.

The company was bought by Beatrice Foods, Inc., in 1967, which undertook extensive facility improvements to accommodate the manufacture of Swiss Miss puddings. In the 1970s the hot cocoa mix was marketed nationwide, necessitating construction of an automated blending tower and new warehouse. In the '80s, additional pudding lines were moved from Cameron to Menomonie. New construction included a refrigerated warehouse, an office area, and a product agglomerator. Hunt-Wesson acquired the company in 1985.

During the early 1990s ConAgra acquired Hunt-Wesson and by 1996 the company was an independent operating company of Hunt-Wesson under the name Orville Redenbacher/Swiss Miss Foods. The Menomonie Swiss Miss Foods plant has its own management staff operating relatively autonomously.

Over 500 workers process the milk delivered daily from 250 area dairy farms. Major products are Swiss Miss Hot Cocoa Mix, Swiss Miss Pudding, and Sanalac powdered milk.

Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Wal-Mart, Inc., after lengthy negotiations with the city of Menomonie, decided to locate its six-state distribution center east of the city. Constructed in 1993, the vast complex provides jobs for several hundred people from the Chippewa and Red Cedar Valleys.

Wieser Concrete

Wieser Concrete, based in Maiden Rock, Wisconsin, acquired a manufacturing operation in the Menomonie industrial park in 1975. A new division, the Wieser Slatted Floor Co., was set up to manufacture machine-made dri-cast concrete products.

Company president and owner Joseph H. Wieser designed and developed an automated manufacturing process and an addition was

built to accommodate two of the machines, the only ones of their type in the United States.

In 1979, Wieser Engineering & Manufacturing, Inc., was founded on the same property and a steel fabricating plant was constructed. The purpose was to design and build machines and related forms to produce precast concrete products for companies throughout North America.

A major accomplishment of the new division was to engineer and build a machine to produce concrete blocks for a man-made island supporting an oil rig in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

Appendix D: Organizations

AARP
AAUW
Arts Coming Together
Alcoholics Anonymous
American Cancer Society
American Legion Auxiliary
American Legion Baseball
American Legion Post 32
American Red Cross
Amvets
ARC of Dunn County
Beta Omega
Beta Sigma Phi City Council
Blue Devil Boosters
Boys Scouts of America
Church Women United
DAV Auxiliary
Dunn County 4H
Dunn County American Heart Assoc.
Dunn County American Legion
Dunn County Barbershoppers
Dunn County Chapter Retired Teachers
Dunn County Democrats
Dunn County Farm Bureau
Dunn County Fish And Game
Dunn County Genealogical Society
Dunn County Historical Society
Dunn County Homemakers
Dunn County Humane Society
Dunn County Partnership for Youth
Dunn County Republican Party
Dunn County Snowmobile Association
Dunn County Vets Council
Dunn-Pepin Board of Realtors
Ex-Prisoners of War
Friends of International Students
Friends of the Menomonie Public Library
Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail
GFWC Menomonie Woman's Club
Girl Scouts of America
Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce
Greenwood Players
Habitat for Humanity
Hmong American Association
House of Hope
Indianhead Bike Club
Interfaith Caregivers
Jaycees
Kinship
Kiwanis Club
Knights of Columbus
Laureate Zeta
La Leche League
Letter Carriers
Lions Club
Ludington Guard Band
MOMS
Masonic Lodge #164
Menomin Jammers
Menomonie Airport Association.
Menomonie Archery Club
Menomonie Area Working Women
Menomonie Bassmaster Club
Menomonie Eagles
Menomonie Moose Lodge
Menomonie Mothers' Club
Menomonie Music Lovers
Menomonie R/C Flyers
Menomonie Saddle Club
Menomonie Theater Guild
Menomonie Youth Hockey
Music Parents
Myrtle Werth Auxiliary
Northwest Wisconsin Homecare Agency
Optimist Club
Overeaters Anonymous
PEO
Packer Backers
Pairs and Squares
Patriotic Council
Preceptor ETA
Red Cedar Antique Auto Club
Red Cedar Racing Association.
Rotary
Separated, Widowed, Divorced Christians
Sons of Norway
Sunrise Rotary Club
Tainter/Menomin Lake Improvement Assoc.
Teen Care Runaway Program Project Safe Place
Tops Club
Veterans of Vietnam
VFW Auxiliary
VFW Post 1039
Vocational Homemakers
Welcome Wagon
West Central Domestic Abuse
Wisconsin Right To Life
Women of the Moose
Xi Kappa

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"Jonathan Carver." Jonathan Carver, *Carver's Travels in Wisconsin* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1838), frontispiece [picture reversed].

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p. 185 "Old Abe the War Eagle at Vicksburg." Old Abe the Civil War Eagle Collection (Eau Claire Mss BL), box 1, folder 1. Area Research Center, Special Collections, McIntyre Library, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

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Where the Wild Rice Grows...

It's all here. The pageant of Menomonie, from the eons during which the area was covered by a vast inland sea populated by brachiopods and trilobites to its prehistoric Indian inhabitants, from European explorers and fur traders like Jean Baptiste Perrault to lumber barons Wilson, Knapp, Tainter, and Stout. Read about the colorful characters who lived here in the 19th and early 20th centuries, people like Eliza Wilson, Bernice and Erna Brown, and Jacob and Harry Miller.

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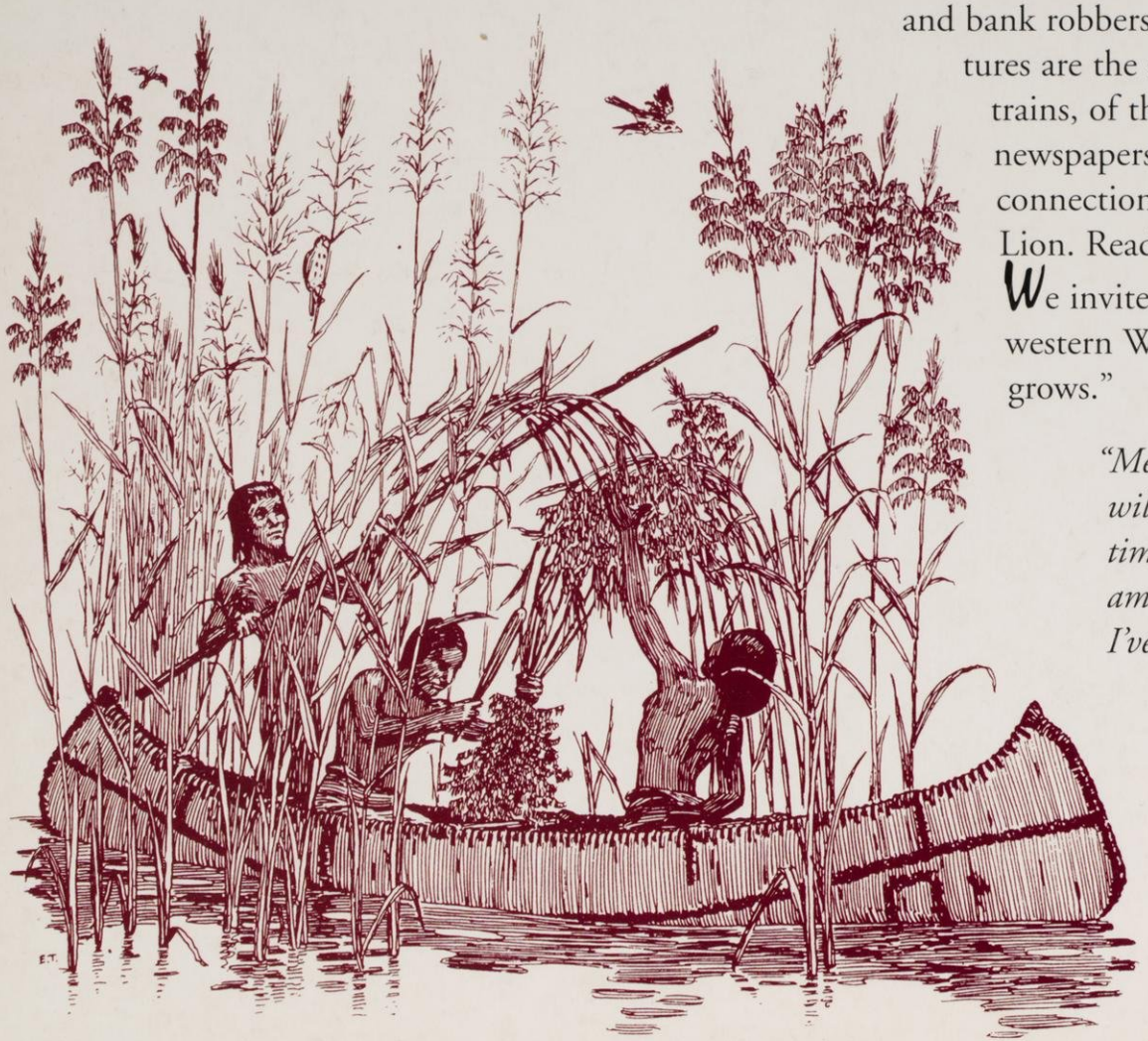

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—Jack Holzhueter, Editorial Department
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