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## **John Nagle's history of Manitowoc County, Wisconsin. Monograph 22 1974**

Manitowoc, Wisconsin: Manitowoc County Historical Society, 1974

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# John Nagle's History of Manitowoc County, Wisconsin

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1878  
MANITOWOC, WIS.

No one but the person who attempts the task, can fully appreciate the difficulties to be encountered in preparing the history of a county of which so little is a matter of record. Facts gleaned from personal recollections are generally fragmentary in character and unsatisfactory to the compiler, bearing the marks which lapse of time never fails to impress and the uncertainties which accompany observation when not directed by a definite purpose. Though the pioneer finds delight in recurring to events belonging to the early days of the county when Civilization invaded the domain of Nature, his reminiscences are more usually suited to a narrative embracing curious anecdotes than to be a part of the authentic record of brief historic facts. Besides memory is not exempt from the mutations of time. Age works confusion of ideas and a "mass of things remembered, but nothing distinctly." Many of the early settlers have passed from scenes in which they were prominent actors. Those that are left to contrast the progressive present with the laborious past in which is bound their life work, suffer from infirmities which made the present painful and the past obscure. The primitive days of a county's history are usually most prolific in those events around which interest clusters, and it is much to be regretted that the history of the early period of this county was not written when reliable data could be more easily obtained. An exhaustive search of the printed recollections of the first settlers of Wisconsin, results in disappointment when prosecuted in the hope of finding reference made to Manitowoc. Attention is usually focalized on Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, the two oldest places in the state, and as travel between these two places followed the course of the Fox and the Wisconsin, explorers and travelers rarely had occasion to direct their steps toward Manitowoc. Explorations were generally confined to the country drained by the larger rivers which afforded facilities for

the transportation of lumber, shingles, furs, etc., dealing in which, constituted the principal business of all who penetrated the wilderness in search of wealth or of homes. From this fact we find that many places in the interior of the state, have a history dating farther back than Manitowoc which offered inducements principally to persons of agricultural pursuits. Even in this county the first settlers were attracted by the pine forests which extended along the lakeshore, and the manufacture of lumber and shingles was the principal industry for a number of years.

The name "Manitowoc" is an Indian word and considerable diversity of opinion prevails as to its significance, authorities differing in its interpretation when they do not agree in ascribing its origin to the same tribe. It is variously translated as "The place of the Manitou," "the habitation of the Good Spirit," and "the Devil's Den." All agree, however, that the name resulted from a tradition current among the Indians, that a non-descript being was at various times seen at the mouth of the river.

The territory comprised by the county of Manitowoc seems to have been occupied at various times by different tribes of Indians. The earliest authentic account is a report of John de St. Comes to the government of Canada, in which he speaks of the west shore of Lake Michigan being inhabited by Mascoutens. As those are never mentioned in subsequent reports it is probable that their occupation was but temporary. Menomonees, Ottawas, Chippewas, Winnebagoes and Pottawatamies occupied the country, sometimes in common. The Pottawatamies always maintained a sort of indefinite claim to the entire western shore of Lake Michigan until it was extinguished by the treaty in Chicago in the year 1833. The Menomonees, however, were the generally acknowledged owners of the territory and in a treaty made at Green Bay, (Washington), February 8, 1831, ceded to the general

government a large tract of country including the territory composing the county of Manitowoc.

Bands of Chippewas and Menomonees were in the county when white settlers first made their appearance. They were at all times peaceable and did not offer the slightest molestation to the settlers. In different parts of the county large corn fields, the rude agricultural efforts of the Indians, were found. Those in Manitowoc and on the flats of the Rapids were abandoned by the Indians, but a "plantation" at Cato Falls was under cultivation in the year 1837. This seemed to be the headquarters of the chief of the band of Chippewas in this county. His name was Mexico, and he is spoken of by those who knew him, as a person of peaceable and benevolent disposition. He died in the year 1845, aged about 60, and was buried at Manitowoc Rapids a little above the village. Indian burying grounds were quite numerous. At the foot of Sixth Street, on Shove's farm near the Rapids and on the Smith's farm in Gibson are the largest. The Indians usually retired from the lakeshore to the interior during the summer, but returned in the fall and camped on the flats along the rapids and near the lakeshore between Manitowoc and Two Rivers. Until quite recently a band of Chippewas camped every winter in Schleswig. The first settler found them supplied with rifles and axes and a number of the sugar-maples tapped for the purpose of sugar making. The first settlers were supplied by the Indians with venison and wild cranberries in exchange for pork, of which they were particularly fond. With the decrease of game their visits became less frequent and an Indian is now rarely seen in the county.

## Geology

Except to the painstaking student, the geologic formations of Manitowoc county present but little that is attractive. The force employed by Nature to give grandeur and sublimity to surface configuration, worked kindly here and the



strata are usually left as deposited by the ocean. This conformability and the absence of faults, leave but one formation exposed and owing to the vast accumulation of drift superimposed on this, it crops out only in a few localities where the erosion of streams removed the drift material or on hills where denudation could act.

The underlying strata of rock belong to the Niagara period of the Upper Silurian Age. The Niagara formations in this state have been divided into the following beds: Mayville, Byron, Lower Coral, Upper Coral, Racine and Guelph. Of these beds, each but the first-named directly underlied the drift in some part of the county. The Byron beds may be found in the extreme western part of the county; the Upper and Lower Coral through the western and middle part of the county in a north and south line; the Racine beds in the middle and eastern parts, on the same line; and the Guelph beds in the extreme eastern part. The Lower Coral beds are exposed in various places along the valley of the west Twin River, in section 13 of Cooperstown, where they have a thickness of 28 feet, and in section 28 of Gibson having a thickness of 40 feet. There are minor outcrops of these beds extending into Cato where there are three conspicuous ledges, two in section 5 and one in section 6. Along the Manitowoc River from Cato Falls to Clark's Mills and a short distance below, these beds are occasionally exposed, have a thickness of from 10 to 15 feet. The Racine and Guelph beds are but little exposed in this county, — slightly in Manitowoc Rapids and near the river at Neshoto. The Lower Coral beds are mainly valuable for the manufacture of lime. In Cooperstown the dolomites are particularly pure. The Upper Coral beds are silicious or argillaceous and are consequently not of much value in the manufacture of quicklime. The Racine and Guelph beds are quite pure and make an excellent quality of quicklime or a good building stone. At Kunz' quarry in Manitowoc Rapids a quality of stone is obtained so pure and hard as to be susceptible of polish.

The surface of Manitowoc county is generally level. Its topographical features are mainly the result of glacial, fluvial and lacustrine action. Were it not for these three agencies it would present no variety of surface, but would be a dead level with the surface gently sloping toward the lake, — the dip of the underlying strata being in that direction. The surface configuration of the county is mainly owing to the action of drift. The range of hills extending through the

county known as the "Kettle Range," is a vast lateral, medial moraine, formed by two glaciers, one coming from what is now the basin of the lake, in a south-westerly direction, the other moving along the valley of the Fox in a south-easterly direction. Their melting and subsequent recession, formed the range of hills referred to and the subsoils of the county. The Kettle Range extends through the eastern part of Cooperstown, the western part of Gibson, over the entire surface of Franklin, through the eastern part of Maple Grove, western part of Kossuth, over the greater part of Cato, through the northwestern part of Manitowoc Rapids, western part of Liberty, southern part of Eaton, western part of Meeme, over all of Schleswig except the extreme western part. This range makes the surface of the towns through which it runs broken and hilly and thus modifies the simple contour which the undisturbed stratified rocks would give this portion of the state. The range is from one to ten miles in width, and is made up of boulders, clay, gravel, and sand. The boulders are of the Azoic and Paleozoic Ages, and were transported by the glaciers which formed the moraine. Blocks of limestone from the Racine beds may also be found in the range in the southern towns. The culminating point of the range in this county is in the N.W. quarter of section 5, Meeme, which rises to the height of 348 feet above the level of the lake. Other prominent points are in Sec. 1, Cato 245 feet, Sec. 2, Franklin, 303 feet. The range gives variety to the surface and a degree of picturesqueness to the towns through which it runs. In the depressions of the range are numerous lakes, which geologically, are known as moraine lakes, having been formed by the action of the glaciers which formed the moraine. Of this kind are Cedar, Wilkes, and Pigeon Lakes, the two former in Schleswig and the latter in Liberty.

Though the drift furnished the material for the subsoils of the county, in some parts it has been modified by the action of water. This action of the water gave rise to two synchronous formations, though differing in character, — a beach formation and a coordinate subaqueous deposit. The waves washed out the finer material deposited by the glacier and bore it out to the still water where it was deposited. The coarser part remained and is denominated by a beach formation. The towns through which the range extends are covered by unmodified drift. The adjacent towns to the east, viz: the greater part of Meeme, Centerville, Newton, Manitowoc Rapids and Kossuth, a small part of Gibson, Manitowoc,

Mishicot and Two Rivers have a surface of modified drift, a lacustrine deposit of red clay. This red clay was deposited at an elevation of 248 feet above the present level of the lake. It reaches that height at Sec. 21, Meeme, and also at the other side of the Kettle Range, near St. Nazianz. A recession of the lake and a subsequent advance caused a beach formation and a coordinate off-shore deposit.

The beach formation occupied a portion of Centerville, Newton, Manitowoc, Two Rivers and Mishicot. It is made up principally of sand and gravel, interstratified with layers of clay. An excellent quality of brick is manufactured from the red clay of this beach formation. The brick manufactured by Mr. Ostenfeldt is from this, and it burns to a beautiful cream color. Along the beach near Two Rivers, are inconspicuous examples of dunes.

The sub-soils of the county derive their characteristics from the drift and the subsequent action of the lake. The towns, through which the Kettle Range extends, have sub-soils of heavier marly clay, containing boulders and gravel, mixed with the carbonates of lime and magnesia, derived from the disintegration of dolomites. Coterminous with the heavier marly clay, is the red marly clay, occupying the same area as the red clay deposit already mentioned. This red marly clay does not differ much in chemical composition from the heavier marly clay, but it does in physical characteristics. It is more finely comminuted, more compact and adhesive, and at the surface is comparatively free from boulders. It becomes much harder when dry. The silicious sandy soils predominate in Two Rivers, town of Manitowoc, in the eastern part of Newton and in portions of Two Creeks and Mishicot. This soil is not at all fertile, but in these towns it is mingled with clay which in some places makes it a fertile loam. Humus soils are found in Liberty, Rockland, Eaton, Maple Grove, Manitowoc Rapids and Two Rivers. The surface is humus in many of the other towns, but considerable tracts of these last named have sub-soils of organic formation.

The heavier and the red marly clay are the prevailing soils of the county. They are fertile and enduring, and though much more difficult to work than the prairie or sandy loam, they will sustain a greater number of crops without the continual use of fertilizers. The presence of the carbonates of lime and magnesia in large quantities, adapt them to the growth of cereals. Though cropping exhausts those carbonates on the surface, there is an abundant supply in the sub-



soils and deep plowing or sufficient rain will make them available. The soil will produce, not only grains and a variety of root crops, but also fruits suited to the latitude.

The native vegetations of the county is principally hardwood and conifers. There are small areas that were exclusively pine, including portions of the town of Manitowoc and Two Rivers, smaller portions of Meeme, Cato, Franklin, Kossuth, Manitowoc Rapids, Cooperstown and Schleswig. The western part of Schleswig and Eaton had a native growth exclusively of beech and maple. Portions of Liberty, Two Rivers, Manitowoc Rapids, Mishicot, Schleswig, Maple Grove and Eaton are marshy, principally tamarack or cedar. The manufacture of lumber was at one time quite a lucrative branch of industry, but the pine forests are now wholly exhausted, as are also the hemlock forests which at one time supplied the many large tanneries in the county.

The drift in Manitowoc county has a depth ranging from 60 to 90 feet, as shown by the artesian wells. The interstratification of the porous beach formations, and the almost impervious lacustrine deposits, furnishes conditions favorable for the supply of water and in consequence it can be obtained in all parts of the county without much difficulty. All natural springs of the county have their origin in the drift, the water being caught in the pots and kettles, and discharged at the foot of the enclosing hills. At other places the red clay furnishes the necessary impervious strata and the beach formation the pervious. The artesian wells have their origin in the Niagara limestone.

### Early History

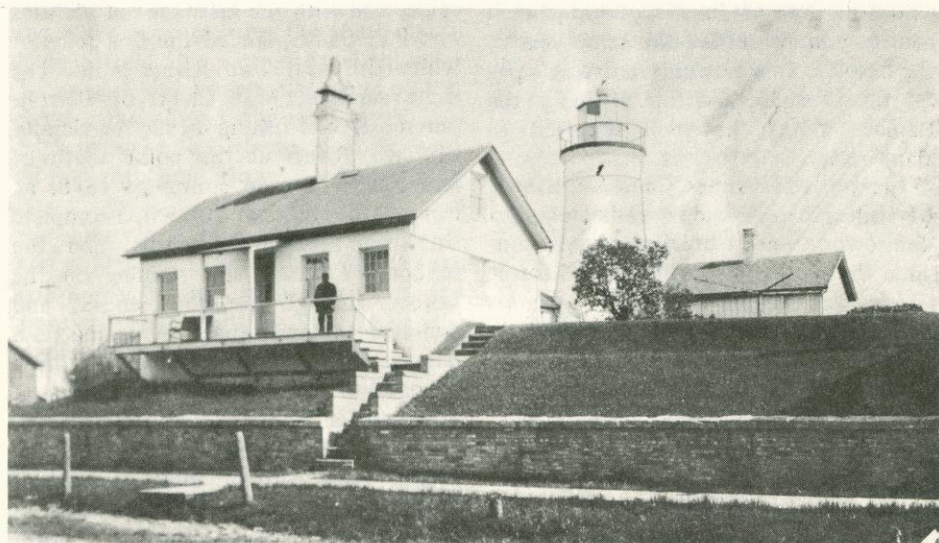
The earliest mention we find made of Manitowoc, is by Col. A. Edwards, who made a trip in 1818, from Green Bay to Chicago, in a canoe. He says when he arrived at Manitowoc, "Many Indians were out in canoes spearing white fish." The first murder of a white man in the county, was in the spring of 1821. Dr. W.S. Madison, the surgeon of the troops at Green Bay, obtained leave of absence to visit his family in Kentucky. He was accompanied by two soldiers. When near the site of the city of Manitowoc, and while the soldiers were a short distance in advance on foot, a Chippewa Indian in ambush, shot the doctor from his horse. The whole charge lodging in the back of his neck. One of the soldiers mounted the doctor's horse and returned to Green Bay for aid. A number of officers and soldiers started for Manitowoc, but on their arrival, found the doctor dead. No

Indians were to be seen. The body was carried to Green Bay and interred there. The Indian, whose name was Ke-tau-kah, was delivered up by his tribe, some time after. He confessed the murder, but assigned no reason, even stating that the whites had always been his friends. He was sent to Detroit for trial, was found guilty and executed the 27th day of December, of the same year. In the same year, Col. Ebenezer Childs, with a party of two men went from Chicago to Green Bay. Childs took passage on the Mackinaw boat as far as Manitowoc. One of the men made the trip as far as Manitowoc with a horse. Childs landed here and proceeded on horseback to Green Bay. In the year 1825, Col. Wm. S. Hamilton, son of the renowned Alexander Hamilton, passed through Manitowoc with a drove of cattle to supply the garrison at Green Bay. General Ellis says in his Recollections, that in 1822, there was a trail from Green Bay to Manitowoc, and thence to Sheboygan, Milwaukee and Chicago. In the year 1826, Moses Swan and Isaac Haertel, as companions in trade, made a voyage along the western coast from Green Bay, with a Mackinaw boat of goods, and traded with the Indians at Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Milwaukee. They made this trading voyage each spring for seven years. Col. Childs again passed through Manitowoc in 1827, with a drove of 210 head of cattle for the garrison at Green Bay. When near Pine Rivers, in this county, an old blind pack horse which he had, fell down the high bank near the lake and was killed. In 1833, Daniel LeRoy, M.L. Martin and P.B. Grignon, explored the country from Green Bay south as far as Milwaukee. They speak of an Indian village at Manitowoc.

The United States land survey in the county was completed in the summer of 1835, by A.G. Ellis, father of Judge Ellis of Brown county. A land office was established the previous year at Green Bay. At this office the first entries of land were made for this county. The first entries of land made in the county, were by Louis Fizette and Wm. Jones, at Manitowoc, the former on August 3rd, the latter, September 10th, of the year 1835, and at the Rapids by Francis Laframbois and Wm. Jourdain, respectively on the 3rd and 6th of August, 1835. The years 1835-6 were remarkable for the spirit of speculation which swept over the entire country. It extended over Europe and the United States and in the wilderness manifested itself in extravagant entries of land. People entered into the wildest schemes and town plats were laid out hundreds of miles from the abodes of man. Fabulous prices were asked for lands supposed to be favorably located for the site of prospective towns. Rumors of a projected railroad to the Pacific, enlivened speculation in lands in this county and many entries were made.

Sartoris made heavy purchases in and around the town of Cato. Fizette sold his lands in Manitowoc to Arndt of Green Bay who immediately disposed of it at \$100 per acre. The land in the possession of Jones extended three miles along the lakeshore south from the "Little Manitowoc," and to the present line separating Manitowoc Rapids from the Town of Manitowoc.

In the spring of 1836, Jones, Clark & Co. sent a gang of five men, Mark Howard, E.L. Abbott, Franham, E.L. Allet and D.S. Munger to clear a site for a town. They cut down a dense tamarack forest which skirted the river near the



Lighthouse at entrance to Manitowoc river harbor. Erected in 1850 at North 5th Street and York Street. This lighthouse was taken down in 1895.



foot of Sixth and Seventh Streets. Those trees were cut into steamboat wood and piled up for future use, as steamboats had not then begun to touch at Manitowoc. They also built a shanty at the foot of Seventh Street. The town plat of Manitowoc was also laid out that summer, by a civil engineer named Waterburn. Stakes were driven to mark the division of lots which were entirely unacquainted with the woodman's axe. This same spring a settlement was made by Jacob W. Conroe, at Manitowoc Rapids. He built a saw mill during the summer of that year and had it running that fall. It has two upright saws and was run by an old fashioned flutter wheel. After the establishment of Jones, Clark & Co., at Manitowoc, they contracted with Conroe to purchase all the lumber manufactured by him during '37, at \$20 per M., delivered at the mouth of the river. The lumber was shipped from the mill to the mouth of the rivers on scows, the water being quite high that year. Some of the lumber was used in the erection of building in Manitowoc, and the rest shipped to Chicago, freight being \$5 for M. Most of this lumber was sold after the financial panic of this year, at \$7 per M. This was the first export from Manitowoc County. Conroe remained in the county until 1843, during which time he acquired considerable wealth. He took quite a prominent part in the affairs of the county and was a member of the house of representatives of the territory of Wisconsin, from Brown, then including Manitowoc, for the years 1838-9. Conroe was married when he came to the Rapids, and Mrs. Conroe was the first white woman in the county, and the only one for some time. He employed about thirty men, none of whom now reside in the county except Pat Teboo, a Frenchman, who still lives at Rapids. A Frenchman named Vauraw settled the same year at the Rapids. Jos. Edwards arrived during the fall of 1836, and first settled at the Rapids, though he soon removed to Manitowoc.

In April 1837, Jones, Clark & Co., sent 40 laborers, besides carpenters, to Manitowoc to erect buildings and to continue the work of clearing off the forest which was begun the year previous. Among these men were Moses and Oliver Hubbard and D.S. Munger. Those were the only ones who had families. A warehouse was built this spring near the river, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, 40 x 60, the lumber being obtained from Conroe's mill. This warehouse is still standing, and is in a good state of preservation. They also erected a frame house for the family of Ben. Jones, at the

N.E. corner of York and Seventh Streets; this building is still in good condition and is used at present as a dwelling house. Shanties were erected for the accommodation of the workmen, and a considerable tract of land was cleared. A large quantity of steamboat wood was chopped, and the following year sold to steamboats which anchored outside the mouth of the river while scows brought the wood out. Those laborers received from \$30 to \$40 per month, and the carpenters were paid from \$2.75 to \$3.00 per day. In July, Benjamin Jones and family, with P.P. Smith, arrived on the schooner Oregon. They occupied the frame house built a short time prior to their coming. Mr. Jones was the only member of the firm of Jones, Clark & Co., that lived in Manitowoc. Since his arrival in 1837, he has never resided elsewhere, and has been identified with every movement calculated to advance the interests of the county. Mr. Smith was a boy of 14 when he came to Manitowoc. He has been quite a prominent business man, and held important positions of trust in the county. To his retentive memory I am indebted for the larger part of the material of which this sketch is composed. Benjamin Jones, as agent for the company, opened a store in one end of the warehouse at Manitowoc.

A large tract of land at Two Rivers, had been entered by Judge Lawe of Green Bay. In the spring of 1837, Robert M. Eberts and family, and John P. Arndt, with a number of workmen, arrived at Two Rivers and proceeded to erect a steam saw mill. The mill was completed during that summer and was in operation in the fall. It is still in existence, though remodeled and otherwise improved. A large log house was built the same year. This summer Jos. Edwards constructed a seine, and with the assistance of his sons and P.P. Smith, landed the first seine of white fish near Two Rivers point. The same summer, M.P. Clark, of Detroit, entered several fishing sites in the vicinity of Two Rivers at the point south of Manitowoc. In the spring of 1838, he came with a crew of 20 men, a complete outfit of fishing apparatus, and the schooner Gazelle, still running on the lakes, though partially rebuilt, and commenced the business of fishing on a large scale. Fish were very plentiful those years, and they frequently caught as many as one hundred and fifty barrels at a haul. Clark continued this business for fifteen years with unflinching success, by which he amassed considerable wealth. The fish caught were shipped to Detroit, principally.

In the early part of 1837, a saw mill

was built for Theyer, Rouse and Thompson, on the Manitowoc River, near the present line between the towns of Manitowoc Rapids and Cato. The old fashioned flutter wheel and two upright saws were used. H. McAllister and P. Pierce were carpenters engaged on the mill, both having come to the county that year. A road was cut from the Rapids to the mill, on which to draw supplies to the workmen, of whom twenty were employed. The lumber manufactured was rafted down the river. Supplies for the workmen came by schooner from Chicago. On one occasion the supplies were delayed and the workmen's bill of fare was limited to potatoes and a few fish caught in the river. Work was discontinued at this mill after the panic, and it soon passed into the hands of J.W. Conroe. It is now known as the "Murphy Mill." A mill was built the same year at Neshoto by a man named Stringham. The old mill stood until a few years ago when it was torn down, though long before its "occupation was gone."

During the first half of the year 1837 business was quite brisk in all settlements. The fever of speculation had reached its culminating point. The value of property was very much inflated and some lots in Manitowoc were sold as high as \$1,200 each. The population of the county was about 180, distributed among the settlements as follows: Manitowoc, 60, Two Rivers and Manitowoc Rapids, 40 each and about 20 at Theyer's Mill. Land was cleared at Manitowoc and some oats and potatoes planted. The oat crop was very light but the potatoes yielded well. In the spring of this year, Addie, daughter of Benjamin Jones, was born, being the first white child born in the county. She is now the wife of Dr. S.C. Blake, of this city. The summer of the same year one of the 40 laborers died and was buried in the old cemetery, now a part of the resident portion of the city. This was the first death in the county, of a white man from natural causes. A post office was established in July, at Manitowoc Rapids, J.W. Conroe being appointed postmaster. The office received two mails a week, which were carried by Francis Flinn, for two years, from Sheboygan to Green Bay, on foot, on the Indian trail. He made two round trips a week. He was succeeded by Capt. Henry Edwards, who used a horse to make the journey, the increase in mail making this necessary. There had been mail carried over this route between Green Bay and Milwaukee before this, but it is believed to have been a private enterprise. The postoffice remained at Manitowoc Rapids until 1849, when it was removed to Manitowoc, and G.





Some harvesting tools of the early years.

Malmrose was appointed postmaster. A large two story building was erected in Manitowoc by a man named Spink. This building was destroyed by fire the following year.

A financial panic swept over the country during the summer of 1837, the result of the over-speculation of the two preceding years. Then came the natural reaction. Every branch of industry languished and the depression in business was felt in every infant settlement. There was no demand for land. Its inflated value burst and shrunk to the opposite extreme. Lots in Manitowoc would not bring one per cent of what could readily be obtained for them a short time before. All the mills in the county discontinued work and discharged their hands, except Conroe's which continued to run. Most of the workmen left the county, only those having families remained. The families of Benjamin Jones, Oliver Hubbard, D.S. Munger and Jos. Edwards remained at Manitowoc. A settlement was made this year at Kewaunee, but it was abandoned during this extreme depression. Peter Johnson remained, but grew discouraged as winter approached, and P.P. Smith with three or four others, took a Mackinaw and removed him and his family to Manitowoc. The population of the county was reduced to sixty. A number of those who remained and were without means, began the work of shingle making. Those shingles were shipped to Chicago and exchanged for provisions. About this time there was a rumor that the Indians were meditating an attack upon the settlers. Pat Teboo and E.L. Sebas were sent to the Indian chief, Mexico, to ascertain if it were true. Mexico managed to draw from them the object of their visit, and assured them that he had no such intention. He felt

offended at the suspicion of the settlers.

Benjamin Jones, this year, built the National Hotel, still standing near the Windiate House. It was not wholly completed until some years after. Three rooms were finished and one of these was used as a bar room. "Gin, brandy, and whisky, all came from one and the same bottle." Customers were scarce and the three rooms furnished ample accommodations for the guests who were like angel visits — few and far between. Four families from Sheboygan settled at Manitowoc this year. The first wedding in the county occurred in July of this year. E.L. Abbott, one of the five men who came to Manitowoc in 1836, and Maria Smith, sister of P.P. Smith, and a member of Benjamin Jones' family, were the parties.

The marriage ceremony was performed by Benjamin Jones, who had been appointed Justice of the Peace. The event was duly celebrated at the Rapids, whither the young couple went after the performance of the ceremony. Mr. Jones was the first judicial officer of the county and the only official acts of his, that he can remember, are the performance of marriage ceremonies — a circumstance which speaks well for the law abiding character of the community.

Each of the settlers had cleared enough land for a garden, and potatoes and other vegetables were raised. Oats were sown in small quantities by H. Conroe and Benjamin Jones. In 1839, Horace Conroe sowed four acres of wheat about one mile north of the Rapids. The crop yielded fairly. It was brought to a mill at Green Bay by Hiram McAllister and ground into flour. This was the first flour from home raised wheat in the county. Horace Conroe did not continue to work his farm but soon left the county. In the year 1841, Jones sowed five acres of wheat near the south end of Main Street. This was an excellent crop. This wheat was brought to DePere by P.P. Smith and ground there. It took four days to make the trip with an ox team. About this time Hiram McAllister purchased the farm, now one of the finest in the county, and owned by John Landrith, and commenced the work of farming and continued it until within the last few years. He has the distinction of being the pioneer farmer of the county.

During the winter of 1838-39, what is now known as the Green Bay road was cut through the county. It was not bridged or graded. As late as 1848, persons coming from Sheboygan to the county had to ford streams and found the route very laborious. There was not much travel over the road until some time after

the year last mentioned. Other roads were projected during the year 1839, which will be mentioned in another place.

The first school was opened in the county this year. It was conducted by S.M. Peak, in a small building near Sixth Street and was attended by about 12 children. P.P. Smith attended this school and was perhaps the oldest pupil. The expenses of the school were defrayed by those having children attending.

The first settlers were mostly from the Eastern states, though few came directly from there, the majority having resided in Chicago or Green Bay before settling at Manitowoc. The workmen, most of whom intended to remain only while employment could be had at satisfactory wages, were French. After the panic, immigration to the county practically ceased until the year 1846. Up to that time there does not appear to have been any new settlements made. In the year 1840, the population of the county was 240; in the year 1842, it was 263. The history of the settlements already mentioned constitutes the history of the county up to the year 1846, after which time the population was considerably increased by the accession of a number of hardy pioneers who came with the intention of earning a livelihood and making permanent homes here. From 1848 to 1850, the county settled up rapidly. Though by the census of 1846, the population was only 629, in 1850 it had increased to 3,702. Those who settled here during the years ranging from 1846 to 1855, suffered perhaps the greatest privations of all the pioneers. They were a distance from Manitowoc and Sheboygan, and after the store of provisions which they brought with them were exhausted, they had to rely principally on the meager products of their diminutive farms. Potatoes were the staple article of food; bread was a luxury and milk was very scarce. Neighbors were separated by from three to five miles of trackless forest and a journey "to town" was a task of no insignificant proportions, and though their wants frequently justified the attempt, the state of their finance interposed an objection.

#### Political History

Manitowoc county was created by legislative enactment December 7, 1836. At that time it did not include the territory comprised by the towns of Gibson, Cooperstown, Two Creeks and that part of Mishicot in Township 21. Those towns were detached from Brown and annexed to Manitowoc by the legislature in 1850. The act creating the county established the seat of justice at Manitowoc Rapids



and attached the county to Brown for judicial purposes. In 1837, the "country contained within the boundary lines of Manitowoc county" was set off as a separate town and named Conroe, and the polls of elections were to be opened at Conroe's mill. The county was organized for all the purposes of county government, December 17, 1838, but for judicial purposes remained attached to Brown, until the year 1848, when by legislative enactment it was organized for judicial purposes and became a part of the third judicial circuit. The same act provided for the election of a Sheriff of the county, required the county commissioners to provide suitable rooms for holding the sessions of the district court and declared that the first terms of said court should be held in the schoolhouse at the county seat. It was also declared lawful for the county officers to keep their offices at their residences.

The first election held in the county was on March 4, 1839, at the house of P.P. Pierce, Manitowoc Rapids. The whole county constituted one voting precinct. Oliver C. Hubbard, Hiram McAllister and H. Conroe were judges of the election and P. Johnson and J.F. Este, clerks. There were two tickets in the field, one representing the Jones party and composed of Manitowoc men and the other the Conroe party, in the interests of Manitowoc Rapids. There were 33 votes cast of which the Conroe party received 17, and were thus elected by one majority. The election returns were carried by O.C. Hubbard to Green Bay. The votes were canvassed by the clerk of the board of county commissioners of Brown county and certificates of election issued to H. Conroe, J.G. Conroe and John Rigney, as county commissioners, to Peter Johnson as collector, to O.C. Hubbard as county assessor and to J. W. Conroe as register of deeds. The board of county commissioners held their first session at the house of J.G. Conroe in Manitowoc Rapids, on the 15th of March 1839. J. W. Conroe was appointed clerk, but being absent, J.L. Watson was appointed clerk pro tem. The proceedings say nothing of the election of a chairman and the record is signed by the full board. At this first session the votes given for constables were carefully canvassed and the board decided that Jas. Este, Wm. Flinn and Chancey Calhoun were fully elected said constables until the next general election. This board held two more sessions during the term of their office which was up to the next general election in August. On March 8th, 1839, the territorial legislature set off "the



Village of Manitowoc, 1855. Ship entering the harbor is the "Roositer."

country contained within the boundary lines of Manitowoc county as a separate town by the name of Manitowoc."

The same section established a polling place at the steam saw mill in Two Rivers. At the next election there were then two voting precincts in the county. J. W. Conroe, H. McAllister and B. Jones were appointed by the county board as Judges of election for the precinct of Conroe, and W.T. Sheppard, S.C. Chase and John Glass for Two Rivers. Three commissioners were appointed to survey and mark out a road from the mouth of the Manitowoc river to the rapids of said river, thence to Thayer's Mill, thence the most eligible and direct route to such point on the county line which is most convenient to Stockbridge and Brother-town settlements. No action was taken by this board on the report of the commissioners, but in October of the same year it was "ordered that \$250 be expended on the road and that it be extended from the mouth of the Manitowoc river to Two Rivers. J. W. Conroe was appointed to superintend the construction of the road. In July 1839, the board levied a tax of "five mills on the dollar on all property allowed to be taxed for county revenue." The valuation of taxable property in the county was placed at \$210,000 and the whole tax levied was \$1050. On January following, the board directed that \$52.50 be paid over to Brown county in pursuance of the law requiring 5 per centum of the taxes levied in Manitowoc county, to be paid to Brown for the purpose of defraying its proportion of the expense of holding court in that county. For each of the years 1840 and 41, a tax of 3 mills on the dollar was levied. In 1841 the tax levied was intended to be sufficient to pay the "following estimated of the demands which are and may be made against the county:" J. W. Conroe, for town house \$240. For the expenses and fees of

officers \$87. The five per centum to be paid to Brown county and the same amount to the territorial government both estimated at \$80. In 1842 there were county orders outstanding to the amount of \$106.81. It was estimated that the county charges would foot up to \$130. County officers fees \$100, and contingent expenses \$65. A considerable increase of expenses in one year. The taxable property in the county in 1841 was estimated at \$270,000.

At the election held in August Benjamin Jones and J.L. Edwards were elected county commissioners. At the session of the new board held in October, the county was divided into three assessment districts and J.S. Chase, O.C. Hubbard and E.L. Abbott were appointed assessors. In July 1840, the commissioners resolved to erect a county house, the cost not to exceed \$650. J.W. Conroe took the contract and completed the building that summer. It was a one story frame building 24 x 30, and 14 feet in height and was built on the hill to the north of the Rapids. It was destroyed by fire in 1852. In the session of November 10th, 1840, a number of roads were laid out, and the county was divided into four road districts. S.C. Chase, D.S. Munger, H. McAllister and J.G. Conroe were appointed supervisors of these road districts. It seems that as early as 1839 money was drawn from the treasury for county poor purposes. In October of that year, R.M. Eberts was paid \$22.50 for the care of a pauper. In 1841, B. Jones was appointed poor master for the county. In January 1842, the commissioners granted a petition of the people of Manitowoc Rapids, requesting that they might be allowed to use the town house (two) school house when the same was needed for county business. In extending their permission, the board declared that in consideration of this the school districts at Two Rivers and Manitowoc will



be entitled to the privilege of building a school house in their respective districts before one is built at Manitowoc Rapids. In July 1843, the board levied a tax of one-half mill on the dollar for the purpose of erecting school houses. In 1844, Oliver Clawson and E.L. Abbott were appointed school commissioners for Manitowoc county. They held their first meeting at the Rapids for the purpose of dividing the county into school districts. Three districts were organized. District No. 1 was named Two Rivers School District. It comprised the territory now included in the towns of Maple Grove, Franklin, Kossuth, Two Rivers and that part of Mishicot in Township No. 20. School District No. 2 was to be known as Mill School District and included within its limits the present towns of Schleswig, Eaton, Rockland, Cato and Manitowoc Rapids. District No. 3 was named Union School District and included the present towns of Meeme, Centerville, Liberty, Newton and Manitowoc. The commissioners gave notice to the electors in the several school districts, to meet on the 10th day of October for the purpose of electing school district officers and to transact any other proper business. The county has always, with the exception of one year, raised quite a liberal tax for the support of schools. The exceptional year referred to, the county board refused to levy any tax for school purposes, insisting that each of the towns had levied a tax sufficient to defray all expenses.

In April, 1844, the Board discontinued the precinct of Two Rivers, but it was restored the January following. In accordance with an act of the territorial legislature of 1839, empowering the county commissioners to procure abstracts of deeds, mortgages, etc., from Brown county, John P. Champlin was appointed for that purpose, by the county board in January, 1848. Those abstracts when recorded in the proper books, are as good evidence as the original record. In 1848, considerable money was expended by the county in the erection of bridges at Manitowoc, Two Rivers and Manitowoc Rapids.

On the 9th of January, 1848, the board divided the county into four towns, viz: Two Rivers, Manitowoc, Manitowoc Rapids and Meeme. The first town meetings were held at the following named places: Two Rivers at the house of Sebastian Boldus; Manitowoc at the American House; Manitowoc Rapids at the County House; Meeme at the house of H.B. Edson. The town of Two Rivers, as then organized, included its present area, that portion of Mishicot in Town-

ship No. 20, and that portion of Kossuth in Range No. 24. The town of Manitowoc included the same territory it does today. The town of Manitowoc Rapids embraced the territory of the present towns of Maple Grove, Franklin, Rockland, Cato, Manitowoc Rapids, that part of Kossuth lying in Range No. 23, and all of Eaton, Liberty and Newton except the two southern tiers of sections in each. Meeme comprised the present towns of Schleswig, Meeme, Centerville and those portions of Eaton, Liberty and Newton not included in Manitowoc Rapids. The property in these towns was assessed this year (1849) at \$423,254.27. The several towns were assessed as follows: Two Rivers, \$50,701.34; Manitowoc, \$73,499.13; Manitowoc Rapids, \$178,990.66; Meeme, \$120,063.14. The tax levied in the county the same year for state and county purposes was \$5,287.67. The first list of grand and petit jurors drawn in and for the county was selected from the poll list, on February 26, 1849. The list was not completed until the following August. In the fall of 1849, a jail was built at the county seat, at a cost of \$235. The following year the jail was deemed insecure and the sheriff was instructed by a resolution of the county board, "To spike the jail on the inside, above, below, and on the sides, including the doors and excepting the partitions, with 40 penny cut spikes, driven into the timber sufficiently thick and near together to prevent cutting or boring of the timber." The windows were to be barred and the outside door to be covered with sheet iron. These improvements were made necessary from the fact that offenders who were committed to the jail, usually took prompter means to secure their release than was contemplated by the law. In February 1850, the county board required the Register of Deeds to remove his office to the county seat. At the same session the board organized the towns of Newton and Centerville. Newton, as then organized, included the present towns of Eaton, Liberty and Newton. The place for holding the first election was fixed at the house of Frank Truettner. The town of Centerville has not since been changed and remains as then organized. The place for holding the first election was fixed at the house of W.N. Adams. In March, 1850, Gibson, Mishicot and Two Creeks were added to Two Rivers and Coopers-town to Manitowoc Rapids. The territory embraced by these additions had been the same year set off from Brown and attached to Manitowoc county. The amount of taxable property in each of these towns, in 1850, as shown by the

assessment roll was as follows: Two Rivers, \$69,089.60; Manitowoc, \$110,633.00; Manitowoc Rapids, \$168,307.76; Newton, \$58,318.48; Meeme, \$51,386.93; Centerville, \$31,508.48. In September, 1850, the territory now comprised by the towns of Maple Grove, Franklin, Rockland and Cato, was set off from Manitowoc Rapids and organized as a separate town to be known as Maple Grove. The place for holding its first election was fixed at the house of A.E. Sherwood.

In March, 1851, the county board abolished the town system of providing for the poor, and established a county system. Three superintendents of the poor were elected by the board. In May, 1851, the county board directed the purchase of the farm in the town of Manitowoc Rapids which continued to be known as the "Poor Farm" until the county system was abolished. Three hundred dollars were appropriated for the erection of a suitable house on the farm. In November, the territory in the present towns of Cooperstown and Kossuth was organized into a separate town to be known as Kossuth. The school house near Joseph Pangain was designated as the place for holding the first town meeting. Section 1, of the present town of Eaton was detached from Newton, then including Eaton, and annexed to Maple Grove. The present town of Eaton was organized the same month, and excepting the section just named, together with its present area included the west half of Liberty, and Section 31, 32, 33 and one-half of Section 34 of the present town of Rockland. The first town meeting was to be held at the postoffice in Chaunceyville. In November, 1852, all that portion of the then town of Two Rivers which now constitutes the towns of Mishicot and Gibson, was set off as a separate town, and named Mishicot. The four eastern sections of the present town of Kossuth were also detached from Two Rivers and attached to Kossuth. This left Two Rivers with its present limits. In May, 1853, the name of the town of Eaton was changed to "Walders." At the same session the name of Mishicot was changed to Saxonburg. The county board restored the original name of each in 1854. In 1853, the legislature changed the county seat from Manitowoc Rapids to the village of Manitowoc, and authorized a vote of the electors of the county on the removal. The act also required the county board to provide suitable rooms for the county officers within one year after the removal of the county seat. A special meeting of the county board was called May, 1853, principally for the



purpose of taking means to erect county buildings. An animated contest took place as to the location of the county buildings. It was at first decided to erect the buildings on the north side Park, but this resolution was subsequently rescinded on account of the inability of the county to secure a good title to the site. Some difficulty with the contractor and with the owners of the site on which it was finally determined to erect the county building, prevented its completion until 1857. John Meyer designed the building and also took the contract for its erection at \$8,000.00. It was completed at a total cost of \$10,000.00. The county offices were built in 1860. The contract was taken by Benjamin Jones of \$2,800.00 but there was so much extra work that the entire cost of the building did not fall short of \$5,000.00. On Nov. 16th, 1855, the town of Abel was set off from Meeme. The name was subsequently changed to Schleswig. The first election was held at the house of Henry Belitz. On the 19th of the same month and year, the territory within the limits of the present towns of Cato and Franklin was set off from Maple Grove, and organized as a separate town under the name of Franklin. The first election was to be held at the school house in the district then known as No. 1. In November, 1856, two new towns were organized, Cooperstown and Rockland. They remain today in extent as then organized. The first

election for Cooperstown was held at the house of V.M. Aldrich; the first election for Rockland at the house of John W. Schultz. On November 16, 1857, the town of Buchanan, now known as Liberty, was organized from territory set off from the towns of Eaton and Newton. The school house in Sec. 9 of the town was fixed upon as the place for holding the first election. The town of Gibson was organized as a separate town on November 9, 1858. Prior to that time it constituted a part of Mishicot. The first polling place was located at the school house in District No. 2. The town of Rowley, now Two Creeks, was organized in 1860.

As Manitowoc continued attached to Brown for judicial purposes, there were no territorial courts held in the county. Judges Miller and Frazer were judges of the district to which it belonged until the admission of Wisconsin as a State. In 1848, A.W. Stow, Judge of the fourth judicial circuit, held a term of the circuit court at the courthouse in Manitowoc Rapids. There were no grand or petit jurors called, and no case tried. Hon. E.H. Ellis, J.L. Kyle and J.H.W. Colby were admitted to practice at the bar. E. Ricker was appointed clerk and O.C. Hubbard sheriff.

#### General History

The people of Manitowoc realized at an early day the importance of

transportation facilities, and persistent efforts were made to secure railway communication with other points. As early as 1850, there were cheering prospects that the Chicago, Milwaukee and Green Bay R.R. would soon be extended to Manitowoc. This road was graded some distance north of Milwaukee and then discontinued. Hon. George Reed had brilliant plans for making Manitowoc a railroad center of lines converging from the west connecting with a line of steamers to Pere Marquette. For a time it seemed as if these plans would be realized but the opposition of Milwaukee and the want of unanimity at Manitowoc prevented. A charter for a railroad known as the Manitowoc and Mississippi R.R. was secured. The village of Manitowoc and a number of its prominent men subscribed for bonds, and the work of grading between Manitowoc and Menasha was begun in 1855. There was the greatest enthusiasm about this time over railroad matters. The inhabitants of Manitowoc felt assured that the natural advantage of the town aided by the completion of this road and the improvement of the harbor, would result in making it the metropolis of the state and the great commercial emporium of the northwest. Nor were they alone in this opinion. Many persons during this period of prospective prosperity were attracted to Manitowoc by the splendid possibilities which seemed to be within its reach. But work was discontinued on the road in 1857, and the splendid visions which were conjured by the activity and enterprise of these years were for the time dispelled.

About this time a project for a plank road from Manitowoc to Menasha was agitated. Work was begun at both termini; the towns through which the road was to run signified their willingness to aid the enterprise. The road was completed to the "Four Corners", and then discontinued. The people fully realized the importance of these indispensable adjuncts, but lacked the means of accomplishment. They had the sagacity which foresees the results which come from extended commercial facilities but they were hampered by circumstances beyond their power to remedy.

The advantages which would accrue to the town from the improvement of the river were perceived, and steps were taken as early as 1850, to secure an appropriation from the government for this purpose. The legislature in that year memorialized congress for an appropriation for the improvement of the harbor. An appropriation of \$8,000 was soon after made and expended. In 1853, the legislature authorized the village to



Manitowoc Savings Bank Building built in 1856. This building was used until 1927.



borrow \$15,000 for improvement of the harbor, but this was not done. Congress neglected to extend any further aid for some time, and in 1866, the town of Manitowoc was authorized to raise \$60,000. A board of harbor commissioners was appointed. \$20,000 was raised by the town of Manitowoc, including the village, and \$15,500 of the amount expended in the construction of a dredge and dump scows. The dredge and scows were afterward sold to the city and the proceeds together with the surplus, \$4,500, expended in dredging the river. The government afterward made liberal appropriation, thus removing the necessity of further aid by local taxation. The piers of the harbor extend 1,500 feet into the lake. There is an average depth of 17 feet at the mouth of the harbor, and of 12 feet in the river up to Peter Larson's shipyard. The river is navigable to within a quarter of a mile of the Rapids bridge, for vessels drawing 6 feet of water.

The East and West Twin Rivers afford a rare opportunity for an excellent harbor, and the government, within the last few years, have begun the work of improvement. Those rivers are navigable for a number of miles above their mouths.

In 1850 and '54, the village of Manitowoc and Two Rivers suffered from the Asiatic cholera. During the prevalence of the cholera in the former place in the first named year, 22 deaths occurred. In proportion to the population, Two Rivers suffered more than any other place in the United States. It was the most serious check it received during its existence. This was the only fatal epidemic with which the county has been afflicted.

At different times there were eight newspapers published in the county. The Herald was established in 1850, under the management of C.W. Fitch, and was Democratic in politics. The first few numbers were printed in Sheboygan. It was purchased by Captain Smith, then proprietor of the Manitowoc Tribune, in 1861. The Wisconsin Demokrat, a German, Free-Soil paper was established in 1852, by Charles Roesser. After some years it passed in to the hands of A. Wallich and the name was changed to The Union Demokrat. It was suspended by him in the year 1866. In 1868 the Zeitung was started by Otto Troemel. It was really a revival of the Union after an interregnum of two years. This, after the death of Mr. Troemel passed into the hands of Fred. Heineman, who changed its name to The Journal. Its publication was suspended by him in the fall of 1877.

The Nord-Western was established by

C.H. Schmidt in 1855. Its publication was suspended during the war, but was resumed in February, 1865.

The Manitowoc Tribune was established in 1854, Republican in politics. In 1858, its proprietors started a daily paper known as the Daily Tribune. It was published until 1861, when it became a tri-weekly. This lasted a little more than one year and became a semi-weekly, and this was finally discontinued. Under the management of Fred Borchardt a semi-weekly was again attempted but was again discontinued. The Tribune was consolidated with the Pilot in April, 1878.

The Manitowoc Pilot was established by Jere Crowley in August, 1858. It has changed hands a number of times since its organization. In 1871 the office was completely destroyed by fire, while under the control of J.C. Bollmeyer. It passed into the hands of its present management in April, 1878.

The Manitowoc County Chronicle was established at Two Rivers in 1872, by a stock company. It was at first edited by H.S. Pierpont, but was afterwards purchased by W.F. Nash, its present editor.

The Concordia, a religious paper was established in 1875. It was published a little less than one year, when it was removed to Green Bay.

Ship building was a leading industry in Manitowoc from 1870 to 1873. In the different shipyards there were employed at one time about 300 men. It is estimated that \$300,000 per year was expended in these yards. At one time there were 12 vessels on the stocks in process of construction. The reduction in lake freights proved fatal to this active industry, and the shipyards are now an example of desolation where once was busy life.

That portion of the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Road, between the cities of Manitowoc and Appleton was completed in 1872. Railroad communication with Milwaukee was secured in 1873 by the completion of the road between Manitowoc and Sheboygan. The first train from Manitowoc to Milwaukee was run on Monday, September 22, 1873. The company operates 43 miles of road in this county and has its machine shops and roundhouse in the city of Manitowoc. The county voted aid to the amount of \$250,000 for the construction of the road to Appleton, to Milwaukee and to Green Bay. Bonds in the amount of \$216,000 were issued, the road not being entitled to the full amount on account of its failure to complete the road to Green Bay. This amount constitutes the bonded indebtedness of the county. The Wisconsin Central operates a few miles of road

and has one station, Kiel, in the county.

Together, with these facilities, Manitowoc has lines of steamers connecting it with the south and the northern lake board cities, and also a line to Mackinaw.

The population in 1875 was 38,456. The whole number of acres in the county, 370,326, and the assessed valuation in 1878 of \$11,275,606.

The increase in wealth and prosperity is owing solely to the unaided efforts of the inhabitants of the county. The property in the county is the product of their labor. The history of its past offers the strongest encouragement to bright hopes for its future. The people are energetic, enterprising and in comfortable circumstances; the soil is fertile; the means of communication with other places, ample. With a union of all these favorable circumstances the county must make more rapid progress in the future than it has in the past. But, in prosperity, the memory of those should be cherished who dared the privations of an unsettled country and who brought the wilderness under subjection.

#### Eaton

Eaton comprises all of township No. 18 north of range 21 east. The surface of the town is rolling, the high lands being a heavy clay soil and the low lands somewhat swampy, the larger part of the swamp land lying in the northeast and western sections. The town was named after one of the early settlers, Mr. C. Eaton, who engaged in lumbering in 1849 or 1850. The first actual settlers were O. Swenson and family who located on Sec. 14. in 1849. They were obliged to cut their own road for about eight miles to get to their land. A little later, the same year, N. Porter settled on Sec. 4. The town was first organized in 1851 with Mr. Curchard as chairman. In August, 1854, Rev. A. Oschwald, who formed a colony in Baden, Germany, consisting of about 30 members, came to this town and purchased 3,840 acres of land. In 1858 they began the erection of their church and convent buildings on Sec. 25, the present site of the village of St. Nazianz. They also built a saw and grist mill. The colony is now known as The Catholic Association of St. Nazianz, and has about 130 members. The same year Anton Stoll, J. Durst, M. Rauch, Felix Pfefferle, John Stiegler, P. O'Shea, A. Sprang and several others located land in different parts of the town.

N.K. Johnson moved here in 1851 and took up land on Sec. 10. In 1865 he built a sawmill. He has lately started a store and cheese factory. C. Schwalbe settled on Sec. 14 in 1854. The first white child



born in the town was H.M. Manson in 1850. The first school was taught by Theresa Mott in her mother's house on Sec. 10 in 1854. The first death, was Mr. Guenter who was killed by lightning in 1854. The timbers consists of maple and beech principally. The present town officers are F. Swenson, Chairman; A. Fischer and G. Gellings, supervisors; Theo. Wolf, clerk; A. Schnurr, treasurer; and F. Noworatsky, assessor.

#### Newton

The town of Newton lies on the east side of the county, the southeast part being washed by Lake Michigan. It ranks No. 1 in its agricultural resources. It has a large population and has been marked by a rapid growth. At the time of the organization of the town in 1850 there were only 30 or 40 voters, now there are about 400. The soil is very rich, and there is very little waste land in the town. In the north and central portions of the town there are several small spring lakes. There are also a number of small streams meandering the town.

No exact information can be obtained as to who was the first settler. Mr. F. Truettner is said to have been the first, he having located land and settled on Sec. 9, in the spring of 1848. This year quite a settlement was made on the Green Bay Road and also in the center of the town. Those who came in 1848 are C. Wernecke, who located on Sec. 15; F. Schmitz, C. Schmitz and H. Schmitz, on Sec. 22; H. Meyer, who kept a hotel for several years on Sec. 9; F. Truettner, Sec. 9; H. Hoefner, Sec. 6. Those of later date are J.D. Lehmkuhl, in 1849, W. Grosshuesch, 1849, A. Teitgen, 1852. Mr. Teitgen has kept a hotel ever since his first settlement in the town. J. Ewold, 1850, E. Bodeawold, 1850, Wm. Kolanczhik, 1852, F. Pleuss, 1851, C. Giellow, 1855. The first chairman of Newton was F. Hecker and the first clerk G. Kremers. The first school house was built on Sec. 4 in 1850. The first church organization was in 1851. The first white child born within the limits of the town was Louis Truettner, Oct. 16, 1848.

There is considerable local business carried on in the town, such as mills, stores, cheese factories, blacksmith and wagon shops, etc.

C. Wernecke is the present chairman and C. Giellow is town clerk.

#### Schleswig

Schleswig is the southwest town in the county. It was first called Able, after Mr. D. Able, who was the first settler. The town was first organized in the spring of 1856 and H.F. Belitz was elected chairman. The following winter he had the

name changed to Schleswig. This is a very good farming town, is somewhat rolling, and well watered. The Sheboygan river runs through the southwest part of the town, supplying a good water power at the villages of Kiel, Rockville and Millhome. These three villages are thriving little towns. Kiel, the largest, is situated on the line of the Wis. Central Railroad, in Sec. 30. It carries on a live trade in the adjoining territory of three counties having several large stores, hotels, warehouses, etc. Rockville and Millhome each have a large general store, saw and grist mills, shoe shops, blacksmith and wagon shops, etc. A tribe of Menomonee Indians numbering about 150 had planting grounds on Sec. 31 until about 1859. Their chief was Soloman. D. Able, the first white settler, located in Sec. 13 in 1850. From that time the town was settled very rapidly. Among those who settled in the next few years were M. Strassman, 1854, J. Barth, 1855, C.R. Zorn, 1854, F. Krieger, 1855, Hans Greve, 1855, Gutheil Bros. 1856, J. Loos, 1856, J. Thode, 1854, G. Luelloff, 1855. The first church (Catholic) was built in 1859. The first marriage was J. Kammerer to Miss Abel. The first white child born in the town was H. Abel, on Sec. 13, in 1852. The present town board are J. Barth, chairman; C. Tiedemann, clerk; P. Mattes and M.F. Strassman, supervisors.

#### Cooperstown

Cooperstown was organized in 1856 with J.R. Weber as chairman, and John Seger as Clerk.

This is the northwest town of the county. The surface is rather rough and hilly. The soil is for the most part clay and is stony in some places. This town shows a remarkable growth and a rapid settlement.

The first settler was Mr. Jos. Edwards who settled on Section 12, in 1840 or 1841. Mr. Edwards was mail carrier for a number of years between Sheboygan and Green Bay. His daughter Emma was the first white child born in the town. The settlers in this town were troubled with Indians up to a quite recent date. Among the early settlers are Jos. Kirscher, 1847, H. Nachtwey, 1847, Jos. Allen, 1844, John Arnold and Mr. King came in about the same time. In 1847 a sawmill was built on Section 12, by Messrs. Pierce and Bruce. The first school was held in Allen Cooper's house on Section 1, and was taught by James Evers in 1850. The first death was that of Jos. Kirscher in 1847. The first religious service was held in H. Nachtwey's house by James Roerl in April, 1848. The first church was built on Section 1 in 1852. The 25th of July 1878, the first church bell in Cooperstown was placed in the church on Section 1, Bishop Krutbauer of Green Bay conducting the exercises.



**A KITCHEN OF 1860** — The kitchen was the center of family life almost a century ago. Pictured here is a Wisconsin family kitchen of 1860, its table set for Thanksgiving dinner with the abundant fruits of the Wisconsin harvest. A large pewter coffee pot and ironstone tureen rest on the stove . . . the pump from the outside well dominates the sink . . . and grandmother sits comfortably in her rocking chair with her yarn reel nearby.





Fishing boats, Two Rivers harbor.

### City of Two Rivers

The early history of Two Rivers differs but little from that of hundreds of other cities and towns scattered along our lake shores or located upon the many rivers that penetrate the vast pine forests of the northwest; for like them, Two Rivers owes its origin, and, in a measure, its subsequent growth and prosperity to the business of lumbering. The splendid pine lands, located upon the rivers that form a junction at this place and give the town its name, attracted hither the first white settlers, and the manufacture of lumber was, for years, the principal business carried on; but during the past decade other manufacturing interests have sprung into existence that surpass it in importance.

In 1836, Robert M. Ebbers and John Law, Esq., of Green Bay, came here and erected a sawmill which is still standing, although it has twice undergone repairs. This mill was, it is thought, the first permanent structure erected by civilized man in Two Rivers. Of course it naturally became a center for settlers to cluster around, and thus the work of building the town was begun. Since then the growth of Two Rivers has been steady, though slow; although in its early years it received a sudden check by the breaking out of cholera.

In the year 1856, Mr. Wm. M. Honey came to Two Rivers from Massachusetts and, with others, organized the New England Manufacturing Company and built the present chair factory, which since has become the property of the Two Rivers Manufacturing Company and has been enlarged and improved. The year before the erection of the chair factory, H.S. Pierpont & Co., built a large sawmill which was kept in operation until pine logs became scarce, when it was taken down and removed. About this time the tanneries of the Wisconsin Leather Company were also built; which are located just beyond the city limits and still in active operation.

The tub and pail factory, which today

is, perhaps, the largest factory of the kind in the world, was built in 1856. It has been twice entirely consumed by fire, but each time it was rebuilt and enlarged. This factory and the chair factory have assisted materially in the growth of Two Rivers.

There are now in Two Rivers, besides what have already been mentioned, a large sash and door factory, a magnificent flour mill, two tanneries, two wagon factories, a large brewery and several large stores. There are also at the present time four large churches, and two of as fine school buildings as can be found in any town of the size of Two Rivers in the west.

The present outlook for Two Rivers is indeed, very promising. Her facilities for communicating both by rail and by water routes, with the markets of the south, west and east are unsurpassed. The lands lying in her vicinity are being rapidly cleared up and made into farms, and the business of her factories is steadily increasing year by year so that, everything considered, the future of Two Rivers looks bright and satisfying.

### Two Rivers

Soon after the survey in 1836, a company called the Neshota Company, of which G. Conroe was a member, purchased a tract of about 5,000 acres which included the western portion of this town. A sawmill was built by the company at Neshota soon after the purchase. This is considered the first settlement. Taylor and Pendleton bought the company's interest in 1848, and afterwards built a steam sawmill. G.V. Jones and George Cooper were made partners in 1853. In 1862 the last two mentioned gentlemen bought out the mill interest. A large tract of the original purchase excluding Sec. 29 was purchased by the Two Rivers Manufacturing Co. Oct. 10, 1866.

H.H. Smith came to the town on the 24th day of Sept. 1845. He rented a large sawmill built by R.N. Evarts in 1837-38, and after engaging in the lumbering business for several years, Mr. Smith bought the property in 1847.

Among those who settled in the town at an early date were D. Dick, in 1849; F. Walsh, in 1850; Edward Stolberg, Henry and Fred Risland and Chas. Stickmesser, in 1851; Gustavus Volck, in 1852; Chas. Sticke, A. Wuster, in 1853; Wm. Kloss, in 1854; Jacob Sechrist, in 1855; Andrew Rutz in 1857. Jacob King laid out the village of Neshota about 1858 and built the flouring mill located there in 1859.

Cyrus Whitcomb and Rufus Allen organized the Wisconsin Leather Co., and

built a tannery on Sec. 25, about 1850. Their immense building located north of the city of Two Rivers, managed at present, by Chas. B. Whitcomb, is 315 feet long and 50 feet wide; employs 60 men, consumes about 7,000 tons of bark per year, and tans 60,000 hides annually; making it the largest establishment of the kind in the northwest. The tan-bark is obtained by the cargo from Michigan while nearly all of the hides are obtained from Texas.

The soil along the lake is sandy and lacks the fertility found in the interior where there are many good farms.

The predominant nationality is German. In the northern part there is a Polish settlement extending into the town of Two Creeks. The northeast part is almost uninhabited, owing to the swamps and sandy wastes.

### Kossuth

Joseph Poquin is supposed to be the first settler, the exact date of his settlement being unknown. It was probably, however, not long previous to 1844 when L. Katzenmeyer first came to the town. Mr. Poquin was for many years proprietor of a small tavern bearing his own name situated on Sec. 15, where travelers were accommodated and the pioneers were accustomed to meet and exchange their good cheer. Ludwig Ahlsvede and Nicholas and Valentine Meyer bought homes in the town in 1845, followed by Henry Grobe in 1846. The next year (1847) witnessed a greater influx of settlers than during any previous year. Among the families might be mentioned J.D. Krumdick, J. Spencer, C. Hessel, C. Ewen, Jacob Hessel, Sr., Quinin Wallou, Henry Spencer and Bernard Delsman. James Robinson, born in Manchester, England, settled in Sec. 12 in 1848, commenced clearing a farm, cutting his own roads and taking his produce to Manitowoc in an ox cart. The trip which then required two days, is now easily made in almost as many hours. Mr. Robinson's experience was not dissimilar to that of nearly all who came in at an early date. Those who followed him the same year were Theo. Delsman, Louis Voekler and Henry Maas. In 1849, Wm. Robinson, M. McCarty and Henry Kiel determined to cast their lot with the other settlers of the town and accordingly commenced building houses. Wm. Eatough settled in Sec. 28 in 1850. His land being several miles from the Green Bay Road he was obliged to cut his way through the dense wood in order to get to and from his house. He also cut the first road leading from the Branch into town. Thomas Mohr, Fred Dalwig, Henry Cusen and A. and J.



Cloupek also came in 1850, the last two of whom built a sawmill on a small stream in Sec. 15 of this same year, and a gristmill in the immediate vicinity in 1855. Those who came later were J. Kreinik in 1852, Frank Dirkman in 1853, and Freeman Squirrel in 1854. K.S. Weeman, a lumberman from Maine, purchased in 1857 a large tract of land along the river in the southeast part of the town, which was covered principally with pine. After cutting the valuable timber he settled upon a portion of the tract which he originally bought merely for lumbering purposes.

Michael Kellner settled in the northern part of Kossuth near the Franklin line in 1849, where he has since engaged in various manufacturing interests and started a small village named Kellnersville, in honor of its enterprising founder. His large gristmill was erected in 1862, while his large store, located just over the line in Franklin, was not built until 1869.

Kossuth, including what is now Cooperstown, was set off from Manitowoc Rapids in 1852, the first annual meeting being held in the school house near Poquin's tavern in April of the same year., Mr. Wm. Eatough being chosen chairman and G.W. Burnett, Clerk. Daniel, son of John D. Krumdick, born July 12, 1847, was the first child born in the town. The first English school was taught by Mrs. G.W. Burnett in a building which stood upon the present site of the town house. A German school, however, had been held previous to this in Nicholas Meyer's house.

Originally the land was covered with a dense forest of pine, maple and other timber. The settlers, undaunted by the hardships of pioneer life, have toiled on year by year, felling the trees and improving the land till Fortune has smiled upon their efforts, as their fine farms testify. The surface is undulating, the town containing but little waste land. The inhabitants in the northern part are principally Bohemians, while further south they are Germans.

#### Manitowoc

Perry Smith was one of the earliest settlers of the town, having come here when the country was a perfect wilderness. The date of his settlement was prior to that of George Dusold, a shoemaker by trade, who arrived in 1846. Ava Smith, came to Manitowoc from Michigan in 1845. After living in various parts of the county and engaging in various kinds of business, he finally settled in Section 17, where he now resides. Soon after arriving in 1845, Mr. A. Smith purchased the Manitowoc House which was located



Manitowoc harbor view — 1863.

opposite the present site of the Windiate House. This and the Exchange were the only hotels in the village at that date.

John B. Liest, who is still living in Section 6 came only a year later than Mr. Smith, he being the first to locate on the town line road, four miles north of the village. J. Roemer was the first German freeholder to erect a house in the village, the date of his immigration here being 1847.

During the following year, R. Klingholtz and William Bach opened a store but one or two similar establishments having been previously opened. C. Hall made Manitowoc his home in 1850. O. Torrison, after remaining in Rapids one year, came to the village of Manitowoc in 1851. Moritz Kiel was here as early as 1855.

Mr. H. Brown settled on Section 7, the 6th day of July 1856. The country was then very new, and help being scarce, Mr. R.C. Brown assisted in rolling together the logs which formed their first dwelling. At this time the Indians were quite numerous and annoyed the settlers by begging and frightening those unaccustomed to seeing them. On the bank of the creek, east of Mr. Brown's house they were accustomed to assemble for their harvest dance.

The town was organized independent of the city in 1868. The first set of officers were as follows: John Hall, Chairman; Chas. Gahling and Chas. Liebert, Supervisors; R. O'Conner, Clerk; Nicholas Gentgen, Treasurer; and Ava Smith, Assessor.

#### Rockland

Long before the venerable Horace Greeley gave utterance to the oft quoted advice: "Go west young man," Mr. D. B.

Knapp, with the hope of bettering his circumstances, came to what was then the far west, and commenced making for himself a home; enduring all the privations and hardships incident to pioneer life. The place where he located was near the southern line of Rockland and the northern line of Eaton. The date of his settlement was July 12, 1849. J. Woodcock, with the same motive which prompted Mr. Knapp, came the same year. These two were the first actual settlers in the town. Both are still living on their beautiful farms, one in Section 36, and the other in Section 32.

Strange as it may seem to many, the fact is well authenticated that the germs of cholera were here as early as 1850. Mr. Knapp lost two children by the fearful epidemic the 16th day of August of this year, their deaths being the first which occurred in the town.

Gottlieb Haes located in Section 1, in 1852. David Krueger, his brothers and F. Markee making their advent in 1853. Fred Pollack and A. Krueger, not arriving till two years later (1855). Mr. L. Cooney, at the time last mentioned had been here only one year. Mr. James Albee emigrated from New Brunswick, settling upon the north side of the river in 1856. C.F. Hagenow, the present clerk, and proprietor of the Rockland House at Reedsville, opened a small tavern a short distance west of where he now resides, in 1857, having come to the town only the year previous. In 1858, Mr. Hagenow graded the railroad from Grimm's station to a point a little west of Reedsville. This was on the proposed road between Manitowoc and Appleton, which was shortly after abandoned.

1856 seems to have been unfavorable



for immigration. Of those who came at this date we can mention, besides those already named, only J.R. and James Lee, Fred Bubolz and C. Haes. The first birth was that of Mary A. Knapp, born Oct. 6, 1852. John Woodcock and Melissa Williams were the first to be united in matrimony. The first efforts in the direction of educating the young were made in 1850. In May of this year a school district was formed and Aschsa Holbrook was employed to teach the following summer in a small shanty located in Sec. 36, where the present schoolhouse now stands.

Rockland was set off from Maple Grove and organized in 1856, L. Fauhalber looking after the interest of the town in the capacity of chairman during the first term of office, and John B. Burke, serving with him as clerk.

The surface is generally level and in many places swampy. The swamp land, originally belonging to the state, is now nearly all in hands of private parties, Geo. Baldwin possessing more than any other one individual.

Except in the southern portion where there are a few Irish and American families, the inhabitants are almost exclusively Germans.

#### Gibson

Edward Brown was the first to break the wilderness and begin civilization in the town of Gibson. Mr. Brown settled on Section 27, in the spring of 1846. Mr. Brown in 1848, being the first in the town to yield to the destroyer. In the fall of 1850, John Birdsall settled in the town and was followed in the spring of 1852 by his brother, Benjamin Birdsall. Among the other early settlers are Jason Pellett, L. Pellet, Mr. Chatteston, E.N. Torrey, D. Peck, Geo. Burt, H. Zander, Wm. Zander, Chas. Kind and Chas. Streinbrecher. As a sample of what the early settlers had to endure we would cite the fact of John Birdsall and his brother carrying a plow on their backs from Two Rivers to their farm in Gibson, there being no other way of getting it. The town was set off from Mishicot in 1858. Jason Pellet was elected the first chairman, Luther Pellet, Treasurer and Byron Markhan, clerk. Frank Miller, in the winter of 1851, taught the first school in the town of Gibson. The first white child born in the town was Sophia Thompson. Chas. Steinbrecher is the present chairman of the Town.

#### Cato

The early history of Cato savors of romance. As early as 1845, one Burns, a printer by trade, and at one time employed on Long John Wentworth's paper,

penetrated the forest of Wisconsin territory in order that he might manufacture spurious money with impunity. The location of his establishment was no other than Section 4 of this town. Here he was accustomed to apply his trade of making unlawful money, occasionally going forth to put in circulation the product of his craftsmanship. While upon one of these tours he was at length seized, tried and condemned. Thus the disreputable individual who erected the first building in the town was doomed to a felon's cell.

R.M. Brown squatted upon a piece of land now owned by Jacob Grimm about the year 1845; but as he remained but a short time, the honor of first permanently settling in the town is conferred upon Hiel Heath and P. R. Classon, who built upon Section 5 in 1847. Mr. Heath came from Vermont arriving at Manitowoc on the 19th day of May, 1841. He pre-empted SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 5, in 1847, and after one or two exchanges finally, in 1850, purchased in Section 16 where he now resides.

Ira Clark in 1850 built a sawmill in Section 28 on the bank of the Manitowoc River; also a gristmill on the opposite side of the stream in 1852. The small village which has sprung up in the immediate vicinity still retains the name of Clark's Mills.

S. and O. Olsen located land in Section 36, with soldiers' warrants in 1848. Andrew Olsen, another brother, locating in Liberty at the same time, moved into the town the next year. Those who came the same year were Gunder Madson, A.O. Aubul, and William Chisholm; Messrs. H., P., and O. Madson, Andrew Jackson, L. Sulverson and Ole Larson coming a year later. Jacob Grimm purchased of some speculators the tract in Section 6 originally squatted upon by R.M. Brown at an early date, but did not commence improving the same till 1850. Mr. Grimm came to this country in 1833. After remaining in N.Y. five years, he went to Ohio, where he married and worked at his trade, making boots and shoes. While on a visit to some relatives in this county, he for the first time determined to settle upon the tract, the beautiful spring of living waters upon the land, now so much admired, no doubt influencing him to so decide.

S.D. Robinson, Darwin Davis, Linsley Dunham, Richard Evans, seeking for a home in the west, settled in the town in 1850, followed by Thomas Thornton, the present Chairman, in 1851. Wm. Hampton, Luther Wicker, Alanson Hickok and Eli Robinson in 1852; S.D. Harris, Wm. Carry, John Morgan, A.R.

Classon, Peter Comar in 1853; E. Roble, Gilbert Hanson, J. Lyon, and Michael Fitzgerald in 1854.

Mr. A.P. Cary settled upon the farm where he now resides in 1855. Then there being no bridge across the river at Clark's Mills he was obliged to ford the stream to get to his land. Those who came the same year were Wm. Kiel, Carl J. Gilbert, John Jacobson. N.A. Harris came to the town in 1854 and in company with Benjamin Williams built the sawmill at Nettle Hill in 1856.

C.W. Butler, a millwright by trade, came to the county at an early date and was employed in the construction of many of the large mills in this and other counties. The date of his settlement in town was 1856, being the same as that of Messrs. Hugh, James, and Frank Halron, I.J. Harris, Fred, son of R. Evans born in 1851, was the first child born. The death of an old gentleman named Harris is supposed to be the first in the town. The marriage of Michael McCort and Ellen Carney was the first that was solemnized among the early settlers. The first school district was formed in July, 1850. The schoolhouse was built on Section 10, Jane Jackson acting as teacher.

Cato was set off from Rockland in 1855, the first town meeting being held on the 1st of April, 1856. After the organization of the town, A. Hickok was the first to serve in the capacity of chairman. Those who were elected at the same time were M. Rawlane and H. Madson, supervisors, and J.E. Stirling, clerk.

The surface is undulating; the soil, clay on the highlands and a loam on the portions less elevated. The river passing through the town furnished valuable water power, which has been utilized in the manufacture of lumber and flour. Nature had indeed favored the town and the industrious inhabitants, who are of Irish, German and American descent having improved the natural advantages surrounding them and made Cato one of the wealthiest and most prosperous towns in the county.

#### Centerville

This town was set off from the town of Meeme and organized as an independent town in 1850, with Chas. Kaehler as chairman. The present chairman is Peter Werner, who came to the town in 1854, built a pier and started a store. The first actual settler was Mr. Adams, who located on the land now occupied by the village of Centerville. Among the earliest settlers were F.W. Rossberg and family, in the year 1847, who located land on Section 20. The same year G. Patitz, E. Jaehing and J. Augustine settled in the





The John Schuette home, 1872 to 1905, present Schneider-Mittnacht Funeral Home on North 11th Street, Manitowoc

town. In 1848, D. Schneider settled on Section 29 and F. Huhn on Section 29. The next year A. Rettele settled on Section 9, L. Franke on Section 30. Those of a later date were Aug. Mill and brothers, in 1854, J. Gobenschuetz, 1853, G. Leonhard, 1855, J. Sachse, 1852, H. Carbery, 1850, C.W. Leiteritz 1852, C. Pohland, 1852, A. Kessig, 1850, A. Bahr, 1853, and F.W. Boettcher, 1850. Peter Reuther the present town clerk, settled in 1854. The first schoolhouse was built on Section 20, in 1850. A Catholic church on Section 29 was the first one built in the town. There are several stores; among them are Peter Werner, in the village, P. Hoffman & Co., on Section 28, and M. Rossberg, on Section 15. Aug. Mill & Co. own a gristmill, built in 1868 with three run of stones. In connection they ran a planing mill and lumberyard. Kaiser & Weber have a saw and grist mill on Section 20, and R. Barthel a sawmill on Section 8, built in 1856. In 1866, C. Scheibe moved here from Manitowoc and commenced brewing beer. The capacity of his brewery is now 1500 barrels a year. There are three cheese factories in successful operation, owned by Aug. Klessig, J. Hertel, and F.A. Kielsmeier. There are besides several other branches of business carried on in the town. This town lies in the southeast corner of the county, and is one of the best farming towns. The soil is generally a black loam, with occasional tracts of clay lands. There is very little marsh, what there is being in Sections 33 and 34. The timber is mostly of the hard varieties. There are several streams which traverse the town, affording an abundant supply of water for stock raising purposes.

### Liberty

This town was organized in 1858, with O.O. Oppen as chairman. It was originally included with Eaton, under the name of Buchanan. The name was changed from Buchanan to Liberty in 1861, by Jos. Stephenson, and was organized as Liberty township in 1862, Jas. Taugher being the chairman. It is not definitely known who the first settler was; but among the first we would name K.O. Oppen, 1847, who located on Section 7, O.K. Gistand, 1852, John Stephenson and family, 1849 on Section 36, Thos. Finch and family, 1849, P. Donahoe, 1850, J. Taugher, 1852, J. Cody, 1850. There were a number of others who settled about the same time, of whom the names and dates were not obtained. Liberty is considered one of the good towns in the county; there is however some broken lands in the southwest part, and some swamp in the center of the town. The soil is largely black loam and highly productive. On Section 33 is Pigeon Lake, which covers about 100 acres, and is a feeder for the waterpower sawmill owned by W.F. Hahn. From the lake to the mill there is a fall of 22 feet, making a first class power. The town is well adapted for stock, as well as grain growing. Until the woodman's axe was brought into use, the town was covered by a dense and heavy growth of timber, mostly maple, beach and pine.

### Maple Grove

Ava Smith, who settled in Franklin near the western boundary at a time when it was included in Maple Grove suggested the very appropriate name, which afterwards adhered to this town. The early history is intimately connected with that of Franklin, both being settled

about the same time. T. Morrissy, the postmaster and proprietor of a small store in Maple Grove, came to the town in 1850 and was one of the first to locate in its present territorial limits. Thomas Watt settled the same year, Mr. Cohen coming about the same time, followed by C. Kroeger, in 1852. John Driscoll, Martin Kelley, Andrew Fritch in 1853, and Martin O'Neil in 1854. Henry Horn located land in the south half of Section 6, in 1855, but did not move his family to the same till two years later. Those who came the same year were Ernst Schreiber and Thos. S. Kings. The town originally included Franklin, Cato and Rockland. The first annual meeting was held on the 18th day of April, 1851. M.C. Brown had the honor of being chosen first chairman, while the office of clerk was conferred upon L.W. Dunham. A school district comprising the entire town with the exception of the southern tier of sections, formed in August, 1850, was the first that was organized. The birth of James Cohen, October, 1850, was the first to occur in the town, while Patrick Burns was the first to die in the township. The firm of Klingholz, Reed & Stupetzke built a sawmill at Reedsville in 1856. This was burned in 1865, and a shingle mill built in 1866. Joseph Dubizkee & Rush purchased the property the same year, and erected a sawmill in 1867, to run in connection with the shingle mill. They were burned in 1870, and rebuilt in 1872, with an increased capacity for the manufacture of lumber, lath and shingles. Timber 42 feet long can be sawed, while from 1,500 to 2,000 feet of lumber can be turned out in a single day. With the exception of the central portion of the town which consists of swamp, unfit for cultivation, the land is highly fertile. Inhabitants in the northern part are Irish, while the German element predominates in the southern part.

### Meeme

This town originally contained what is now Meeme, Schleswig, Centerville, and a part of the three adjoining towns north. The first election was held at H. Edson's on Section 14, May 15th, 1849. John Stewart was elected chairman and H. Edson, clerk. The town ranks among the foremost in agricultural wealth. There is very little if any waste land. The early settlers experienced all the hardships of pioneers in reducing the heavy forests, and rendering the land tillable. The first to begin this arduous labor was H. Edson. The exact date of his settling in the town could not be obtained, but it was previous to 1849. Anton Walterbach came Sept. 10th, 1847, and located land



on Section 2. In 1849 he and his brother Peter moved in and began clearing up their land. J. Poppard settled on Section 11 in 1848. D. Nagle on Section 2, 1848, H. Mulholland on Section 1, in 1850, Nicholas Dittmar located on Section 29 in 1847, M. Herr settled on Section 23 in July, 1847. A. Herr came at the same time. Thos. Jenkins on Section 21 in 1847, J.H. Roberts, 1849, P. Philips, 1848, C. Dittmeyer, 1848. Between 1848 and 1854 where were so many settlers we have not the space to give their names.

There are several good water powers in Meeme, one of which owned by Mr. H. Kolway has a fall of 24 feet. Lumbering at one time was an important branch of industry and is still carried on to some extent. Most of the pine in the town has however been cut. The first school was organized, and the schoolhouse built on Section 11, in 1850. Mr. John Stewart taught the first term of school in Meeme Township. The old log church which stood on Section 1 was raised the 19th of March, 1851, and is said to be the first church in the town. The first marriage ceremony was that of Nicholas Dittmar and Miss Eckert, which took place on the 9th of May, 1848. Father Bremmer held the first religious service in the town of Meeme, at a private house on Section 10, about the year 1848. The first white children born in the town were H. Simon, February 2nd, 1848, and Andrew Phillips, May, 1848. The first death that occurred was that of Mr. Peppard. The name Meeme is from the Indian, meaning pigeon. The town is well watered, there being several lakes and a number of fine streams. The present chairman and town clerk are John Carey and P.J. Conway.

### Two Creeks

The first house built in the town, was erected by P. Rowley, in 1843. This was situated near the lake, in Section 31. The bay extended along the shore in the vicinity, was afterwards named Rowley's Bay, in honor of the first settler. K.K. Jones was the first resident of the present village of Two Creeks, while N. McMillen, one of the first to take up a residence in the town, located three miles south of the village; the date of the latter's settlement being 1849. H. Johnson, for many years engaged in fish trade, settled in the town in 1853, followed by Geo. and Wm. Taylor in 1854. I.A. Immler, hotel keeper, west of the village, immigrated in 1866. The first birth was that of Polly D. Rowley, born November 3rd, 1847, that of Roderick Taylor, September 23rd, 1847, being the second. The first death was that of Geo. Fox, on the 24th of August, 1847, while on his way home

from Chicago. It is thought that he contracted cholera in Chicago. The town was organized on the 3rd of April, 1860, and was first called the Town of Rowley. The following officers were elected at the first meeting: P. Luebke, chairman; N. McMillen and A.V. Walker, supervisors; August Zerlaut, Clerk; P. Flynn, treasurer; P. Luebke, school superintendent. With the exception of Manitowoc, Two Creeks has a smaller area than any of the other towns, and is situated in the extreme northeast part of the county. The soil is a sandy loam, producing good crops of the cereals in many localities. In its primitive state, it was covered with a heavy forest of hard and soft timber, infested with bears, wolves, lynxes, wild cats, badgers, coons and foxes. Deer were very numerous, making it a good trapping and hunting ground. The inhabitants are principally German, a few Poles and are found in the southern part.

### Mishicot

The pioneer of Mishicot was Daniel Smith, who settled on Section 5, during the year 1844. To Mr. Smith is due largely for the prosperity of this town. He commenced at once the erection of a sawmill which is still standing and is operated by Ira P. Smith. In 1846 Mr. Smith built what is called the upper sawmill, now owned by B. Soenksen. The first school in the town was a private school, started by Mr. Smith, and taught by Harriet Higgins. The first public school was organized in 1849, with George Peterson as teacher. H. Cogswell was the first white child born in the town; this was in 1846. In 1847 occurred the first death, that of Mr. Collins. The first marriage was that of Nathan Daniels to Miss Seas, in 1851. This town was separated from Two Rivers in November, 1852. The first election was held April 5th, 1853, Albert Borchardt being elected Chairman, Lorenz Peterson, clerk. The village of Mishicot in this town is quite prosperous, and carries on a large trade with the farmers in the vicinity. There are two general stores, one hardware and tin ware, three hotels, several blacksmith and wagon shops, harness, and boot and shoe shops, also a brewery, gristmill and sawmill; one mile up the east twin river is Soenksen's saw and gristmill. The soil of the town of Mishicot is generally good, there is a small amount of low lands, and a few sandy spots. The present chairman is J. Linstedt. Anton Braasch is clerk. The names and dates of settlement of some of the early settlers are as follows: J. Linstedt, 1848, L. Damon, 1855, F. B. Soenksen, 1851, F. Braasch, 1848, H. Beyer, 1851, J. Trossen, 1847, H. Mueller, 1856, F.

Mueller, 1848, N. Trossen, 1847, J. Scheuer, 1847, J. Altmeier, 1848, J. Reynolds, 1849, J. Runge, 1847, A. Cayo, 1854, J. Schmidt, 1847, and others, whose names could not be obtained.

### Manitowoc Rapids

This was one of the original four towns of Manitowoc county, although now it consists only of township 19-23. The first white men who came to this town to locate were J.W. Conroe and P. Teboo in 1836. The first white woman to brave the trials incident to a new country, was Mrs. Hart, who came from Green Bay in 1836. The first unmarried woman to come here was Hanna Gage, now Mrs. Hallenbeck. The first house was built by J.W. Conroe, in 1836. Mr. Conroe also built the first hotel, which was opened in 1837, by P.P. Pierce as landlord. J.W. Conroe also built the first sawmill, and was the first postmaster and storekeeper. In 1838 O.C. Hubbard came here and put up a sash factory, about a mile above where the village of Rapids now is. The first school was opened in 1840, in the county house, (built the year previous) Mrs. L.M. Potter being the teacher. The first mail was received in 1836, being carried on foot between Milwaukee and Green Bay. Supplies were also brought in the same way from the Bay. The first religious services were held at the county house in 1840, by a Mr. Bondwell. The town was organized in the fall of 1848, and held its first election in the following spring, Mr. Sprague being elected chairman, and W.M. Beardsley, clerk. Among the early settlers were Mr. P. Pierce, who came in the fall of 1837, and in company with Mr. Thayer built a sawmill on Section 19. E. and F. Lenervill came from Green Bay on foot and settled here in 1838, J. Jarr settled in the town in 1844, G. Hinze in 1849, B. Roemer, in 1851, C. Gustaveson in 1849, M. Erickson in 1840, E.S. Bedell in 1851, G.A. Hubbard in 1839. In June, 1837, H. McAllister settled in the town, and opened up the farm now owned by J. Landreth. Mr. McAllister is the pioneer farmer of Manitowoc county. This is one of the many good towns in the county. It is well watered and has several good water powers within its limits. The present chairman and town clerk is H. Wills and E.S. Bedell.



## COUNTY OFFICERS SINCE 1848

## COUNTY JUDGE

1848	I. H. W. Colby
1849	E. Ricker
1850	E. Ricker
1851	E. Ricker
1852	E. Ricker
1853	E. Ricker
1854	E. Ricker
1855	E. Ricker
1856	E. Ricker
1857	C. A. Walker
1858	C. A. Walker
1859	C. A. Walker
1860	C. A. Walker
1861	H. S. Pierpont
1862	H. S. Pierpont
1863	H. S. Pierpont
1864	H. S. Pierpont
1866	H. S. Pierpont
1868	G. W. Barker
1869	G. W. Barker
1870	W. W. Waldo
1871	W. W. Waldo
1872	W. W. Waldo
1873	W. W. Waldo
1874	T. G. Olmsted
1875	T. G. Olmsted
1876	T. G. Olmsted
1877	T. G. Olmsted
1878	M. Kirwan

## COUNTY CLERK

1848	E. H. Ellis
1849	E. H. Ellis
1850	H. C. Hamilton
1851	F. Borchardt
1852	C. A. Reuter
1853	C. A. Reuter
1854	C. Roesser
1855	C. A. Reuter
1856	G. W. Burnett
1857	T. G. Olmsted
1858	G. W. Burnett
1859	T. G. Olmsted
1860	J. W. Toombs
1861	J. W. Toombs
1862	A. Wittmann
1863	A. Wittmann
1864	W. Bach
1866	W. Bach
1868	W. Bach
1869	P. P. Fuessenich
1870	P. P. Fuessenich
1871	P. P. Fuessenich
1872	H. S. Pierpont
1873	A. M. Richter
1874	A. M. Richter
1875	J. P. Wickert
1876	J. P. Wickert
1877	J. P. Wickert
1878	J. P. Wickert

## COUNTY TREASURER

1848	P. Pierce
1849	A. Bleser
1850	A. Bleser
1851	S. W. Smith
1852	W. Bach
1853	W. Bach
1854	G. Kremers
1855	G. Kremers
1856	C. A. Reuter
1857	C. A. Reuter
1858	C. A. Reuter
1859	C. A. Reuter
1860	O. Koch
1861	O. Koch

1862	O. Koch
1863	O. Koch
1864	J. Blesch
1866	H. Baetz
1868	H. Baetz
1869	H. Baetz
1870	H. Baetz
1871	Q. Ewen
1872	Q. Ewen
1873	Q. Ewen
1874	Q. Ewen
1875	Q. Ewen
1876	Q. Ewen
1877	G. Damler
1878	G. Damler

## COUNTY SURVEYOR

1848	E. D. Beardsley
1849	
1850	H. L. Allen
1851	F. Armsby
1852	I. H. W. Colby
1853	I. H. W. Colby
1854	F. Armsby
1855	F. Armsby
1856	C. Palmer
1857	C. Palmer
1858	P. Brennen
1859	P. Brennen
1860	C. Wimpf
1861	C. Wimpf
1862	C. Wimpf
1863	C. Wimpf
1864	C. Wimpf
1866	C. Wimpf
1868	J. B. Burke
1869	F. Armsby
1870	F. Armsby
1871	F. Armsby
1872	F. Armsby
1873	J. O'Hara
1874	J. O'Hara
1875	C. Tiedemann
1876	C. Tiedemann
1877	J. O'Hara
1878	J. O'Hara

## REGISTER OF DEEDS

1848	A. W. Preston
1849	
1850	I. Salomon
1851	I. Salomon
1852	I. Salomon
1853	I. Salomon

1854	A. N. Baker
1855	A. N. Baker
1856	A. N. Baker
1857	A. N. Baker
1858	H. Baetz
1859	H. Baetz
1860	H. Baetz
1861	H. Baetz
1862	J. C. Eggers
1863	J. C. Eggers
1864	J. C. Eggers
1866	J. Franz
1868	J. Franz
1869	J. Franz
1870	J. Franz
1871	J. Franz
1872	J. Franz
1873	J. Franz
1874	J. Franz
1875	J. Franz
1876	J. Franz
1877	J. Proell
1878	J. Proell

## SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

1848	
1849	
1850	
1851	
1852	
1853	
1854	
1855	
1856	
1857	
1858	
1859	
1860	
1861	B. J. Van Valkenberg
1862	B. J. Van Valkenberg
1863	J. Crowley
1864	J. Crowley
1866	J. Crowley
1868	J. Crowley
1869	J. Crowley
1870	M. Kirwan
1871	M. Kirwan
1872	M. Kirwan
1873	M. Kirwan
1874	M. Kirwan
1875	M. Kirwan
1876	W. A. Walker
1877	W. A. Walker
1878	W. A. Walker



A view at South 8th Street and Franklin Street, Manitowoc, 1878.



# COURT OFFICERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY

## JUDGE OF 4th DIST.

1848	A. W. Stow
1849	C. H. Larrabee
1850	A. W. Stow
1851	T. O. Howe
1852	T. O. Howe
1854	T. O. Howe
1855	W. R. Gorsline
1856	W. R. Gorsline
1858	D. Taylor
1860	D. Taylor
1861	D. Taylor
1862	D. Taylor
1863	D. Taylor
1864	D. Taylor
1865	D. Taylor
1866	D. Taylor
1868	D. Taylor
1869	C. McLean
1870	C. McLean
1871	C. McLean
1872	C. McLean
1873	C. McLean
1874	C. McLean
1875	C. McLean
1876	C. McLean
1877	C. McLean
1878	C. McLean

## CLERK OF COURT

1848	E. Ricker
1849	P. P. Smith
1850	P. P. Smith
1851	F. Ulrich
1852	F. Ulrich
1854	F. Ulrich
1855	F. Ulrich
1856	F. Ulrich
1858	F. Ulrich
1860	F. Ulrich
1861	J. Crowley
1862	J. Crowley
1863	J. Franci
1864	J. Franci
1865	P. J. Pierce
1866	P. J. Pierce
1868	J. Franci
1869	J. Franci
1870	A. Piening
1871	A. Piening
1872	A. Piening
1873	A. Piening
1874	A. Piening
1875	A. Piening
1876	A. Piening
1877	A. Piening
1878	H. Falge

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

1848	E. H. Ellis
1849	
1850	I. H. W. Colby
1851	I. H. W. Colby
1852	I. H. W. Colby
1854	W. H. Hamilton
1855	W. H. Hamilton
1856	G. L. Lee
1858	G. L. Lee
1860	J. D. Markham
1861	J. D. Markham
1862	J. D. Markham
1863	J. D. Markham
1864	G. N. Woodin
1865	G. N. Woodin
1866	G. N. Woodin
1868	G. N. Woodin



A farm scene in 1880.

1869	E. B. Treat	1852	E. Ricker
1870	E. B. Treat	1853	E. Ricker
1871	E. B. Treat	1854	J. M. Kyle
1872	E. B. Treat	1855	Jas. Bennett
1873	W. J. Turner	1856	C. H. Walker
1874	W. J. Turner	1857	C. H. Walker
1875	H. Sibree	1857	T. Cunningham
1876	H. Sibree	1858	H. C. Hamilton
1877	A. J. Schmitz	1858	J. B. Dunn
1878	A. J. Schmitz	1859	W. Aldrich

## SHERIFF

1848	G. W. Durgin	1860	J. B. Dunn
1849		1860	Jos. Rankin
1850	W. F. Snyder	1860	H. Mulholland
1851	W. F. Snyder	1861	J. L. Fobes
1852	D. Van Valkenig	1861	J. Stephenson
1854	F. M. Adams	1862	S. Rounseville
1855	F. M. Adams	1862	Jas. Cahill
1856	T. A. H. Edwards	1862	E. K. Rand
1858	I. Kemper	1863	D. Shanahan
1860	W. Murphy	1863	Jas. Cahill
1861	W. Murphy	1863	E. K. Rand
1862	I. P. Smith	1864	P. Fuessenich
1863	I. P. Smith	1864	T. Thornton
1864	G. S. Glover	1864	D. Smoke
1865	G. S. Glover	1865	H. Mulholland
1866	R. T. Blake	1865	M. Murphy
1868	R. T. Blake	1865	C. B. Daggett
1869	P. Mulholland	1866	N. Dittmar
1870	P. Mulholland	1866	W. Eatough
1871	A. Wittenberg	1866	D. Smoke
1872	A. Wittenberg	1867	N. Dittmar
1873	R. D. Smart	1867	M. Murphy
1874	R. D. Smart	1867	T. Robinson
1875	A. Wittenberg	1868	J. H. Bohne
1876	A. Wittenberg	1868	R. Donovan
1877	P. Mulholland	1868	D. Smoke
1878	P. Mulholland	1869	J. H. Bohne
		1869	R. Donovan
		1869	J. L. Fobes
		1870	J. Barth
		1870	M. Fitzgerald
		1870	C. H. Schmidt
		1871	S. Samuelson
		1871	M. Fitzgerald
		1871	Jos. Rankin
		1871	P. Reuther
		1872	M. McNamara
		1872	Jos. Rankin
		1873	C. R. Zorn
		1873	O. S. Davis

## LIST OF MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY AND STATE SENATORS

### ASSEMBLY

1848	E. Durgin
1849	Chas. Kuehn
1850	Samuel Kuehn
1851	G. C. Malmros



1873	.....	Jos. Rankin
1874	.....	C. R. Zorn
1874	.....	B. S. Lorigan
1874	.....	Jos. Rankin
1875	.....	F. Schmitz
1875	.....	B. S. Lorigan
1875	.....	R. D. Smart
1876	.....	C. R. Zorn
1876	.....	T. Mohr
1876	.....	W. F. Tisch
1877	.....	T. Thornton
1877	.....	T. Mohr
1877	.....	P. Johnston
1878	.....	T. Thornton
1878	.....	W. F. Nash
1878	.....	H. Vits

#### SENATE

1857	.....	T. Clark
1859	.....	S. H. Thurber
1861	.....	B. J. Sweet
1863	.....	Jos. Vilas
1865	.....	Geo. Reed
1867	.....	Geo. Reed
1869	.....	Geo. Reed
1871	.....	C. H. Schmidt
1873	.....	C. H. Schmidt
1875	.....	J. Schuette
1877	.....	Jos. Rankin



Manistowoc - 1st Ward School - Roosevelt School - On site of new Public Library.

## BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN NAGLE

as taken from

## HISTORY OF MANITOWOC COUNTY

WISCONSIN

VOLUME II

by Dr. Louis Falge

John Nagle stood high in the profession of journalism not only as an able writer and an original and logical thinker, but also as a business man, capable of managing the diversified interests which are essential in the conduct of a progressive newspaper. Moreover, he stood for all that is beneficial not only to the community but the state and country at large and his work was of such tangible and beneficial effect that his death caused a feeling of distinct loss in the community. He passed from this life March 21, 1900, after having for more than three decades been connected with the Manitowoc Pilot. He was born in St. Catharines, Ontario, July 4, 1848, and with his parents removed to Manitowoc when very young, settling on a farm in the town of Meeme. His early education was acquired in the district schools, where he showed special aptitude in mastering the branches of learning therein taught. He was always an interested student and the range of his knowledge was a very wide one, bringing him into close and intimate connection with the significant and vital problems of the present day as well as the learning of previous ages. For several years in early manhood he engaged in teaching school

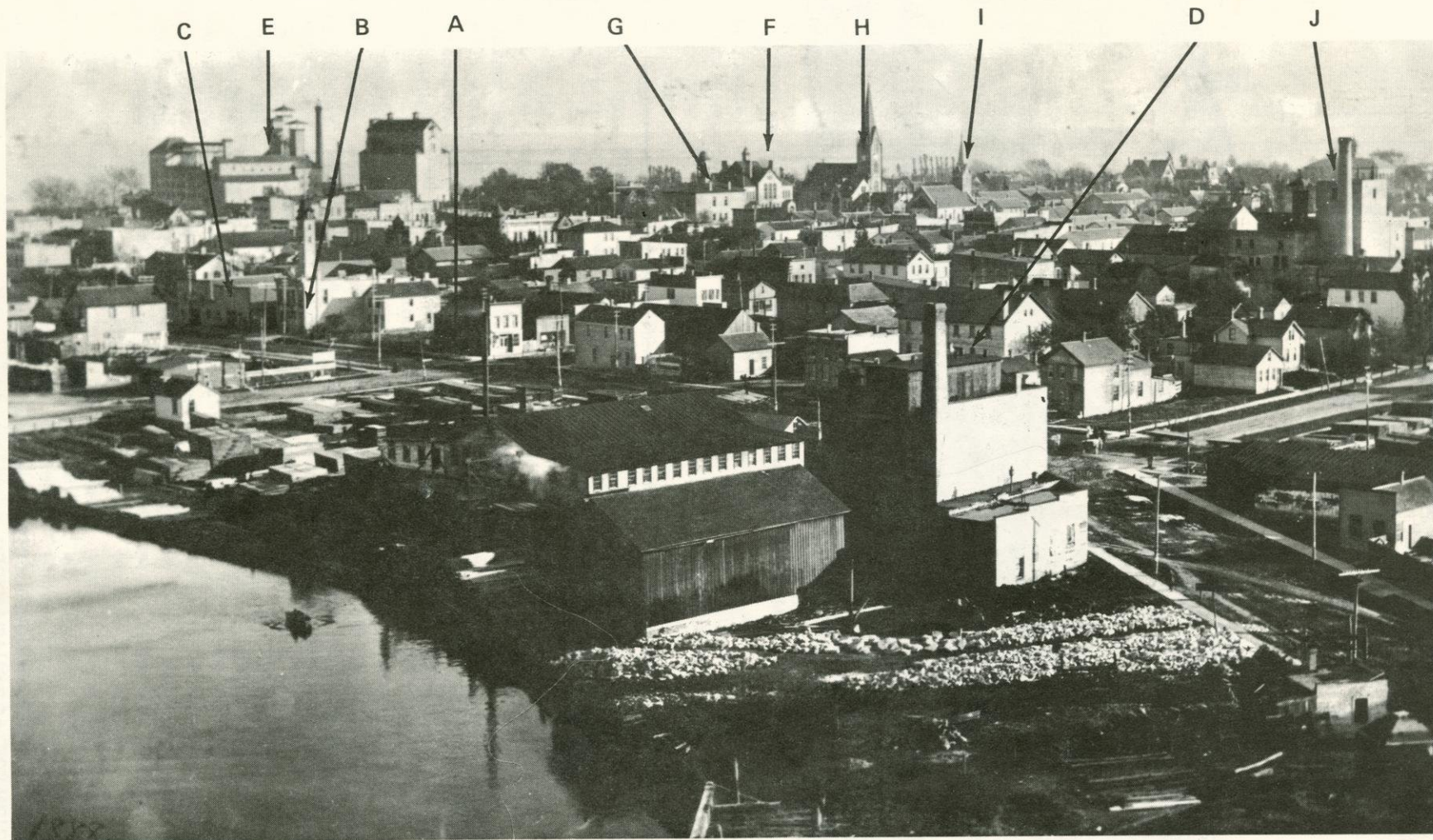
and was regarded as a successful educator in Two Rivers and Sauk City, where at different times he was connected with the public schools. In 1878 he entered the law office of Turner & Turner, with the intention of adopting the profession as a life work but later in the same year was induced to take charge of the Pilot and was thereafter closely associated with journalism in Manitowoc, making his paper one of the leading publications of the state. In March, 1879, the consolidation of the Pilot and the Tribune was arranged and Mr. Nagle became editor and part owner, the firm being known as Nagle & Borchert. This association was maintained until 1888, when Mr. Borchert retired and Mr. Nagle became sole owner, conducting the Pilot alone from that time until his demise. He followed a most progressive policy, his paper becoming the advocate of many measures which were most effective in promoting the welfare, development and upbuilding of the city and state. He was a stalwart democrat and the Pilot was recognized as a power in politics throughout Wisconsin, yet he was a man who placed principle above party and he was outspoken in his beliefs when he believed his party in the wrong. He never hesitated to support the right as he saw it and the correctness of his vision was frequently demonstrated in the large number who followed his leadership. His reputation as a writer and the influence of his paper were established and felt in the state during the campaign of 1890, when he separated from his party on the Bennett

school law issue and advocated the candidacy of Governor W. D. Hoard. His brilliant editorials in support of the law attracted widespread attention and won for him extensive recognition. In 1896 he was again in opposition to his party upon the money question and cast his vote for the gold standard. His fearlessness won him the respect of even those opposed to his policy and all recognized his opinions as the expression of his honest convictions.

In other public connections Mr. Nagle was also well known. The cause of education ever found in him a stalwart champion and no man accomplished more for the improvement of the county schools than he. For nine years he served as county superintendent and he always manifested a deep and abiding interest in education. His ideas in behalf of the schools were of a practical nature and they were a continual source of advancement. He was a member of the State Teachers' Association and served as its president for two years. In municipal affairs, too, he was deeply interested and his cooperation could always be counted upon to further any movement for the general good. He was respected wherever known and loved where he was best known. His sterling qualities drew him the warm friendship of all, for his were the characteristics of a high and honorable manhood. He was justly accounted one of the brightest newspaper men in the state and the influence of the Pilot was long felt for good.



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Manitowoc, 8th and Jay Streets. Pioneer Schuette's Store — Late 1800's.

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