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THE SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
OF
CAMBRIDGE WISCONSIN
AND
THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY
BY
MERRICE MARJORIE SCOTT

A Thesis Submitted for the Degree of
BACHELOR OF ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

1924

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The Settlement of the Community Around Cambridge.

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At the same time, the amount of foreign immigration was steadily increasing and finding few opportunities in the Eastern part of the United States, a great many of these foreigners went West.

In this way came the first settler to the Southwestern part of Dane County, Wisconsin to the township of Christiansa (then known as Albion), Mr. William H. Sawyer. Prior to the period he had been merchandizing in the village of Milwaukee for several years. He took up land in section twenty-eight of the town of Christiansa during the latter part of 1837, built a commodious loghouse, and for a number of years kept a place of entertainment for travelers.

To this same section of the country soon came a number of Norwegian immigrants to settle on government land and to make farm homes for themselves. The first colony of Norwegians to come to America had settled in New York in 1826. In 1856 too

1. The History of Dane County, Wis. Ed. by W. Sawyer, Vol. II, of Western Historical Soc's Series (Madison 1906), p. 334.

CHAPTER I.

The Settlement of the Community Around Cambridge.

The settlement of the southern part of Wisconsin took place as a result of the general westward movement of population in the early 1840s. The financial panic of 1837 had resulted in the loss of a great deal of property as well as the breaking up of a great many business enterprises, so many people were going West to take up government land and start anew, or to try to establish new business connections in this frontier region. At the same time, the amount of foreign immigration was steadily increasing and finding few opportunities in the Eastern part of the United States, a great many of these foreigners went West.

In this way came the first settler to the Southeastern part of Dane County, Wisconsin to the township of Christiana (then known as Albion), Mr. William M. Mayhew. Prior to the panic he had been merchandizing in the village of Milwaukee for several years. He took up land in section twenty-eight of the town of Christiana during the latter part of 1837, built a commodious loghouse, and for a number of years kept a place of entertainment for travelers.¹

To this same section of the country soon came a number of Norwegian immigrants to settle on government land and to make farm homes for themselves. The first colony of Norwegians to come to America had settled in New York in 1825. In 1836 two

1. The History of Dane County, Ed. by E. W. Keyes, Vol. II. of Western Historical Ass'n. Series (Madison 1906), p.334.

more shiploads came from Stavanger, Norway. They, most of them, went west to LaSalle County in Illinois in 1837 where they staid for a few years. Then some of them came on to Albion, Dane County Wisconsin 1840-41. Among these latter was one Bjorn Anderson, father of R.B. Anderson a well-known man in this part of the country and one time United States minister to Denmark. Mr. Anderson led this little colony of his friends north from Illinois into Wisconsin to find a more suitable place to settle for he did not like LaSalle County. They found a spot near Lake Koshkonong, Dane County, roughly sixty miles inland, west from Milwaukee, and fifty miles north from the Illinois line. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson was the first couple to settle there, Mrs. Anderson being the first white woman to settle in that whole town.^{2.}

These Norwegian colonists had come to America for very good reasons; they had many of them been very poor and hoped to better their material conditions here.^{3.} Then, too, the common men held the office-holding class in suspicion and did not like their unprincipalled and oppresive ways; they chose to endure hardship rather than oppression.^{4.} Besides there were also religious troubles. A small Quaker Society had been formed in Stavanger in 1816; and in 1804-14 a sect calling themselves Haugians after their leader, Hans Nielson Hauge, had begun to preach against the rationalism and secularization of the Lutheran Church. All these dissenters and semi-dissenters of the state religion were more or less persecuted by those in authority. Thus emigration start-

2. R.B. Anderson, The First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration 1820-40. (Madison, Wis. 1895) p. 149.

3. Ibid, p. 51.

4. Ibid, p. 52.

ed first from Stavanger. From that time on, immigration of this sort increased rapidly, and there were soon more Norwegians in this part of the country than in any other.⁵

Christiana was not established as a separate town from Albion until 1847. It was named by Grunnel Olson Vindeg in honor of the capital of his native land and became very dear to these people in memory of their distant home.⁶ These pioneers suffered many hardships in this frontier land. Money was seldom seen, people lived on the products of their little farms. Courage and perseverance were indeed requisites for success in life under such circumstances, and these characteristics most settlers had. So they lived, improving the wild land, buying more acres, working, always working and always hoping for greater success in the future.

At the same time that this settlement was taking place in the town of Christiana, another was springing up on the shores of a small lake about seven or eight miles away and just across the county line into Jefferson County. This lake was about a mile and half long. It's shores were lined with heavy timber. On all sides of the lake the country was quite hilly and the soil exceedingly fine for farming. In the hills off the Southeast end of the lake were many large Indian mounds, a source of much interest to the early settlers as well as to those that came later.

Among the first settlers to settle thereon was a Mr. George Dow of Scotland who was destined to play a great part in

5. Anderson, Norwegian Immigration, p. 47-50.

6. Keyes, History of Dane County, p. 334.

the growth of the community. Several Scotch families, of whom Mr. Dow's was one, had come to America in the late 1830s and 1840. Most of these settled in the East for a few years but planned to go West later. Men were sent on ahead to ascertain the lay of the land and its adaptability for settlement. The shores of this lake were finally decided upon and the men returned to enter the land at the land office at Milwaukee before they did any work on it. Some then returned immediately to start work, just who or how many it is hard to ascertain.⁷

In May 1841, Mr. Dow sent James Stark on from New York to prepare their new home for his family. He went by the usual route, thru the Great Lakes to Milwaukee by steamboat. Passenger rates were ten dollars per person from Buffalo. Both goods and passengers could go cheaper by trading vessel but the weather was generally so unsettled as to make it imprudent to run the risk of a long voyage. By steamboat it took Mr. Stark from May 14 to May 19 to make the journey.⁸ The cattle and some goods had been sent by this other route. The goods were loaded on wagons and drawn by the oxen from Milwaukee to the spot chosen for the Dow farm, a three or four days journey. Some of these men that had gone earlier had done a bit of clearing for Mr. Dow, so a little of the work was started before Mr. Stark arrived. He wrote back the following report of the land and the work done: "Your land is all high, -lying land covered with oak timber, the greater

7. Material obtained from my father, Daniel Scott, whose father, Robert Scott, was among the first Scotch settlers.

8. Letters from Mr. James Stark to Mr. George Dow, May 13 and 20th. 1841 in The Cambridge News, March 16, 1917.

part having the appearance of an old apple orchard somewhat thickly studded with trees. You can drive the wagon and oxen over the greater part of it. There is from fifteen to twenty acres chopped and fenced with a good and sufficient fence..." The ploughing had been poorly done and he considered the crops planted as wasted; so he replanted the ground with corn and potatoes since it was so late in the spring.⁹

All the letters sent back were started "Lake Dow, Wisconsin" for such was the place called for many years. Several other settlers drifted in that summer to do what they could before winter came to get the land ready to plant the next spring and the houses built for their families to occupy. It was a hard task to build a respectable house for flooring and shingles, as well as nails, had to be transported from Milwaukee. Mr. Stark had had to leave his stove pipe, his grindstone and plough in Milwaukee when he made the trip because the load was so heavy and the roads so bad. But they struggled on the best they could. In August Mr. Stark wrote. "Money is scarce here and very useful, no doubt you will want more in this quarter than you anticipated. The returns from farm produce are slow, the emigrants passing by taking most of our surplus."¹⁰

The Dow family itself did not move west until the spring of 1842. Many other families came with him, my own grandparents among them, and also settled as close to the Lake as possible.

9. Letter from Mr. Stark to Mr. Dow, June 12, 1841, in the Cambridge News, March 16, 1917.

10. Letters from Mr. Stark to Mr. Dow, in The Cambridge News, March 16-23, 1917.

By 1845 the settlement had grown to include about twenty five families with more coming every year.^{11.}

Thus in this way did these two separate communities start and grow. The settlers were all farmers and spent most of their time clearing their land to enlarge their farms. Any considerable surplus that they had to sell was driven overland to Milwaukee, but this trip was too expensive to be made often. Thus their connection with the outside world was slight. Madison was closer to the Norwegian settlement than Milwaukee was, but it consisted of only some eighteen or twenty houses and the inhabitants themselves were mostly farmers so needed little in the way of farm produce. Wheat was the principal crop raised to sell and the nearest grist mill where it could be ground was situated at Whitewater about twenty miles from the Lake Dow settlement and twenty-seven or eight from the other. In short they lived quite independently of anyone else, especially until regular roads were built connecting Madison and Milwaukee, over which mail soon came regularly and the trip to Milwaukee made more conveniently.^{12.}

Both communities grew rapidly. In 1847 Christiana was established as a separate township occupying all of township six north, range twelve east in the southeast part of the county up to the county line.^{13.} It held its first town meeting and election at the house of Neil A. Perry. The following officers

11. Interview with my father.

12. Letters from Mr. Stark in The Cambridge News, March 23, 1917.

13. Keyes, History of Dane County, p. 334.

were elected--William H. Mayhew, chairman; Nicholas T. Holms, William H. Coon, supervisors; A. Lasher, clerk; N.G. Vanhorn, treasurer; and Samuel H. Coon, assessor.¹⁴ The census of 1850 showed the counties of Dane, Rock, and Racine to have the greatest number of Norwegians in the state. Of these Dane had the largest number, and a large percent of them were found in the towns of Christiana and Albion.¹⁵

The town is a productive one throughout, the land being for the most part gently undulating stretches of prairie. There is an abundance of water in the town. The streams are the Koshkonong River which enters the town at the present site of Cambridge; Koshkonong Creek in the southern part which has its rise in the smaller streams in the center of the town; and Mud Creek which runs north into the town of Deerfield. Norwegians had settled in this part of the Country so rapidly that by 1850 the entire region was becoming quite sparsely dotted with farms.¹⁶

In the town of Oakland in which the Lake Dow settlement was located, immigrants came just as rapidly. The entire town is made up of good farm land, more or less hilly. It has in it the two lakes, Dow's Lake and what was then called Snell's Lake, about half the size of the other. The two lakes were only about a mile apart and with the little springs, brooks etc. that run into them, they keep the land around quite well watered. Crops were good and settlers came rapidly in the forties. In the western part were the Scotch and the Yankees, while in the

14. Keyes, History of Dane County, p.335.

15. Schafer, Joseph, "An Agricultural History of Wisconsin," Vol.I. of The Wisconsin Domesday Book (Madison 1922), p.50.

16. Keyes, History of Dane County, p. 335.

eastern half many Germans were filtering in.

Immigration from Germany had begun on a large scale from 1847, though a good many had reached this part of the country before then. The same general causes were forcing these people out of their Fatherland as forced most settlers away, religious troubles, political oppression, and wide-spread hard time.¹⁷ Wisconsin opened its government land at an opportune moment for these people, so many of them came west to settle there.¹⁸ The towns of Jefferson, Waterloo, Lake Mills, Aztalan, Hebron, and even Watertown were thickly populated with Germans, all of them to the east and north of the settlement in Oakland.¹⁹ But each year they kept coming farther west and settling on their farms nearer and nearer to the Lake. Another colony went in South of the Lake and settled. Thus the whole town of Oakland was quite rapidly inhabited though of course sparsely as compared to today.

The first town meeting was held as early as 1843, April 4, at the home of Gerrad Crane of that town. The following persons were elected and took the oath of office: Supervisors, Alonzo Horten, chairman, Edmond Butts, and Erastus Snell; Town clerk-Nelson B. Horton, Town treasurer-Holmes Ives, Town assessors-Holmes Ives and Gerrad Crane, three highway commissioners, three common school commissioners, two town constables, one collector, one sealer of weights, and one overseer of highways.²⁰

17. Schafer, History of Agriculture in Wisconsin, p. 52.

18. K.A. Everest, "How Wisconsin Came by its Large German Element" in The Wisconsin Historical Society Collections Vol. XII. ed. by R. G. Thwaites (Madison 1890), p. 416-20.

19. K.E. Levi, "Germans in Wisconsin" in The Wisconsin Historical Society Collections Vol. XIV. (Madison 1898), p. 351.

20. Records of the Town of Oakland, Town Hall of Oakland.

The town meetings were held regularly after that year and the town has always been well organized. Very few of the German immigrants took a share in the town government because they could speak so little English, but they lived, worked, and learned from their English-speaking neighbors and in due time took up their share of their duties. So this part of the country too, became more widely cultivated and settled until one passing through on the Madison-Milwaukee road 1850-5 would gain the general impression that this section of the country was well occupied by farmers.

CHAPTER II.

The Settlement of Cambridge.

The Settlement of agricultural communities, such as those previously described, played a great part in the general development of the country, but these farmers could not have long survived independently. Consequently it was with great anxiety that these farmers learned of the possible foundation of a village in their midst in 1846-47.

May 2, 1837, a certain Joseph Keyes and family started from Northfield, Vermont for the West. They traveled in wagons to Burlington on Lake Champlain, thence by steamboat to Whitehall and from there by canal to Buffalo. They embarked at Buffalo and landed at Detroit. From there they traveled by covered wagon along the swampy roads of Michigan, through Indiana to Chicago, and finally emerged in the afternoon of June 7, 1837 from the heavy timber on the banks of the Milwaukee River, at what was then known as Walker's Point. They resided in Milwaukee until autumn. The latter part of September, they left that town with two teams, one of which was a wagon drawn by oxen. They passed through Prairiesville (now Waukesha), crossed Summit Prairie, and went through Oconomowoc until they struck woods, through which they traveled to the present site of Watertown. The next day they reached the ford at Milford, ferried the wagon across it on a boat constructed of two canoes, the rest fording it. They struck across a roadless opening and at dark found a floorless shanty, shingled with a haystack, at the present site

of Lake Mills.^{1.}

There the family settled and lived for several years. Joseph Keyes built a saw-mill and a grist mill on the village property that he owned. In 1843 he sold this and purchased a farm where the family remained for three years or more, tilling the soil and engaged in general farm work. "But the restlessness of my father," says Judge Keyes of Madison in an article in The Wisconsin State Journal in 1904, "could not brook such unemployment, so he began explorations in the eastern part of Dane County in the valley of the Koshkonong River, with a view to finding water power sufficiently strong to justify mill construction."^{2.} This river is a small, but swift stream; starting in Sun Prairie it flows through the town of Cottage Grove, Deerfield, Christiana, and Albion and discharges into the famous lake of that same name. Mr. Keyes first selected a site a bit above the present location of Cambridge on the river and began to build. The site of Cambridge was then wild waste of land, there was not a single house-no evidence of life except the passage of the highway through there from Madison eastward.^{3.}

The above site, coming to be known as Keyesville, was found unfavorable for the building of a village. So, early in 1847, the Keyes' family "pulled up stakes" and dropped down the Koshkonong to the present location of Cambridge. The river made

1. E.W. Keyes, "Early Days in Jefferson County" in Wisconsin Historical Society Collections Vol. XI. Ed. by R. G. Thwaites (Madison 1888), p. 417-419.
2. M.W. Odland, "The Genesis of Cambridge" in The Wisconsin State Journal February 10, 1904.
3. Ibid.

a large loop there and the town was planned to spread over and up the hill to the east of that loop. Building operations began at once. The dam was constructed across the north side of the loop, and the race dug across the foot of the hill, connecting the two sides. Foundations of a saw mill were put in; a house was built for the Keyes family to live in.⁴

Joseph Keyes was really the sole proprietor of this land but his two sons Simon and Abel were his associates in the enterprise. The village was laid out in July, the land and water power rights having been previously purchased from the government. On October 15, 1847, Abel Keyes filed the plot of the village of Cambridge at the office of the register of deeds of Dane County.⁵ The saw mill and grist mill together was rapidly completed and put into use. Shortly after the plot was filed, a third interest of it was deeded to A. B. Carpenter of Beloit. He became the owner of a large tract of land nearby and adjoining Cambridge and owner of part interest in the first Cambridge store. Though Mr. Carpenter never lived at Cambridge, he was a frequent visitor there and his place is a prominent one in the history of the village.⁶ The store, of which he owned a part, was run by Mr. Daniel Davidson who sold the first goods disposed of in the village. Two hotels were soon built also, one called the "Cambridge House" built and owned by Mr. George Dow of the Lake Dow settlement and the other called the "Union House"

4. Odland, "The Genesis of Cambridge", State Journal Feb. 10, 1904

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid.

owned by a Mr. Wheeler.⁷

Thus the village was started and soon began to grow. Its population and that of the neighboring community, consisted principally of Yankees from the East, Scotch from Scotland, and Norwegians right from Norway. They were a sturdy enterprising lot of people--these early citizens--and they were inspired with lofty hopes and enthusiasm for the place. Visions of a great city flitted before their eyes. On July 4, 1848, a large celebration was held in honor of the founding of the village the year before. People came from miles around to this great social event. The Union House, so aptly called the "Union House" by the people, served as head-quarters for the crowd. Speeches were made, the village formally named and dedicated in honor of its predecessors, one in Massachusetts, and one in England. "England has her Cambridge, Massachusetts has her Cambridge, the "Athens of America", so shall Wisconsin have hers; and may she live and grow following in their footsteps to their honor and glory," said one fluent orator.⁸ Is it any wonder these loyal, hard-working citizens were greatly inspired?

However the importance attached to the founding of this village was no small matter. Corn, wheat, oats and rye were the principal crops of the farmers, and these grains had to be ground both into feed for the stock and into flour for family use. The existence of a mill, such as was built at Cambridge, within reasonable hauling distance of most of these farmers was a decided

7. "Our Surroundings" in The Cambridge News, June 24, 1898.

8. Odland, "The Genesis of Cambridge" in The State Journal, Feb. 10, 1904.

asset. The mill did very well too, and was very profitable to the owner in spite of the failure of the wheat crop for two or three successive years. It was soon found that the mill could grind more than the grists and flour of the early settlers who came from the surrounding region, so a market was sought in Madison. The flour was carried to Madison by the farm teams and sold there at three dollars per barrel. The wheat raised by the farmers and not ground and sold in this way had to be and was hauled with great labor to Milwaukee where it sometimes brought only twenty-five cents a bushel. On this return trip the farmers brought such merchandise as could not be purchased in Cambridge, packed in flour barrels that cost fifty-five cents each when empty.⁹

Shortly after the founding of the village Mr. George Dow and Mr. Wheeler built another store. Mr. Dow and his family had moved to the village now and were living in what was also used as a hotel. Both sides of the street for about four blocks were lined with buildings, though there were also many vacant lots in between them. There were several general stores as well as a boot and shoe shop owned by Thomas Nelson, a harness shop owned by different persons, a tailor shop, saloons, a cabinet shop, milliner store, etc. In most of these buildings only the lower floor was used as a store and if there was any upper floor it was used as living quarters for the owner. They usually could not afford to build two buildings. Many of these old buildings are still standing.¹⁰

9. Odland, "Genesis of Cambridge" in State Journal, Feb. 10, 1904.
10. "Reminiscences of Former Times" in The Cambridge News, 1918.

In 1856 Mr. Dow also brought a wool-carding machine into the village for the preparing of wool.¹¹ This, too, was a decided asset, for the raising of sheep was very frequently a part of the general farm work. Since the settlers had to be more or less independent of the outside world, they naturally made most of their clothes themselves. Up to this time there had been no carding machine near enough to be practicable, but after this the wool could be brought to Cambridge, carded, and then taken home to be spun into yarn by the women on the farms and thence knit into mittens and socks or woven into cloth for garments. At that time there was no machine for weaving at Cambridge, so anyone that wanted their yarn woven by machine had to take it to Janesville about twenty-five miles to the south-east, for that was the nearest mill. Mr. J.Q. Emery, prominent man in Wisconsin affairs today tells that his first suit of "long trousers" was made from the wool from his father's sheep, carded in Cambridge and then taken to Janesville to be made into cloth. He lived at Rutland, between fifteen and twenty miles from Cambridge, so one is made to realize the wide-spread importance of the bringing in of this machine.¹²

Not only did Cambridge become the economic center for the surrounding country-side, but there too were founded her churches and her schools. Some of these people had come there

11. George Dow and A.B. Carpenter, "Cambridge" in The History of Madison, Dane County and Surroundings, Published by N.J. Park and Co. (Madison 1877), p. 367.

12. Interview with J.Q. Emery, early resident in this part of Wisconsin.

because of religious troubles at home so as early as October 10, 1844, a meeting had been held in the eastern part of the Norwegian Koshkonong settlement, which though originally separated from the Christiana settlement had now grown until the farms of both intermingled, for the purpose of organizing a church. About forty heads of families solemnly declared by "word of mouth and their signatures" that they united to form a Norwegian Lutheran Church. This was the first church of this denomination ever founded in America. Three days later, on October 13, a similar meeting was held in the western part of this same settlement and united to form a West Koshkonong Church, as it is still called.¹³ The two bodies disagreed over some slight detail, and though they were both organized by the same man, Rev. J.W.C. Dietrickson of Norway sent over for that very purpose, they never agreed and united.¹⁴ To this day the East Church and the West Church still exist, about seven and five miles out respectively.

These churches however, were too far out in the country to include the Norwegians nearer the village and in it or the people of other denominations. At first meetings were held in the cabins of the settlers, but soon two churches were organized. In the early 1840's a Dane named Christian Willerup and ordained as a Methodist minister came to Cambridge. He worked among the Norwegians there in and around the village, making conversions to Methodism among them. "It was about this time," says R.B. Anderson, "that Rev. Willerup baptised all the children in the Anderson family." Bjorn Anderson, having been a Quaker of course the

13. Keyes, History of Dane County, p. 283.

14. Life of R.B. Anderson, by Himself, (Madison, Wis. 1915) p.12-13

children had never been baptised but he had died in 1850 and now Mrs. Anderson, returning to the beliefs of her people, took this opportunity and had all nine children baptised at once.¹⁵

In 1848 Rev. Willerup organized a Scandinavian Methodist Church in the village. He went around among all the Norwegians and Danes in the country raising money to build a church. While in Chicago, the famous Swedish singer, Jenny Lind, contributed two hundred dollars to this fund. Finally the required amount having been raised, he and his congregation built a stone church on the West side of the village which in a slightly remodeled form is still standing. This church was the first Norwegian Methodist organization in the world and became the nucleus of the Methodist work among the Scandinavians which has since grown to such large proportions on both sides of the Atlantic.¹⁶

About this same time a similar religious movement was going on among the people on the other side of the village. Rev. Dr. William Cargen had come from Scotland to the Lake Dow in 1846. A manse was built for him on the north end of the west side of the Lake and still stands to commemorate his memory.¹⁷ He preached two years and six months before the church was organized with but little support because the people were so poor. But on March 3, 1849, the Presbyterian Church of Oakland was organized with thirty-seven members. A Rev. Mathew Fox and Rev. David Lyon officiated.¹⁸ Of the original thirty seven members, there is still one living, Mary Mathison, who is over ninety years old,

15. Life of R.B. Anderson, by Himself, (Madison, Wis. 1915) p.82-8

16. Ibid, p. 8-9.

17. The Cambridge News, Aug. 11, 1922.

18. Interview with Dr. J.B. Cargen, son of Rev. Dr. Wm. Cargen.

and is still living on her old homestead by the Lake. On April 14, 1849, a meeting was called to vote on the location of a house of worship, "vote of hands favored the burying ground," which was located just north a bit back of the manse. The church was not built just then, but services were held regularly. Sacrament was administered every three months and monthly collections were taken. January 7, 1850 the budget minus the minister's salary, amounted to sixteen dollars; June 1, 1850 the collection was four dollars and forty cents. Application was made to the Board for two hundred dollars to pay Rev. Cargen. The Board granted one hundred eighty dollars and the Congregation raised one hundred four dollars. That was his salary for that year.^{19.}

On December 13, 1850 a meeting was held at the manse to consider again the building of the meeting house.^{20.} By this time the success of the village of Cambridge was almost assured, so it was decided to build on the top of the hill just east of the village but some distance from the manse. At a meeting a little later it was resolved that the church henceforth be known as the Oakland and Cambridge Presbyterian Church. Not until 1853 was anything definite done concerning the building. In the minutes for July 14 of that year the plans of the church were stated. The pews were to be valued, numbered and drawn by ballot by each person desiring a pew, and nearly every family had one in those days. The rental received from them was to go towards the

19. Minutes of Meetings of Oakland Presbyterian Church, owned by Dr. J.B. Cargen of Cambridge, Wis.

20. Minutes of meetings of Presbyterian Church, owned by J. W. Telfer of Cambridge, Wis.

support of the church.²¹ There ensued some discussion as to the exact location of the church on the top of this hill because the county line between Jefferson and Dane County passed right over it. Whether to put it on one side of the line, or the other, could not be decided. They finally compromised and built it exactly on the line. Rev. Cargen remained the pastor from then until shortly before his death in 1871.²²

Education facilities were also soon provided for the boys and girls of the community. The very first school in the community was built in 1848 on the ground occupied by the present school building. This was only a little one-room district school with but one teacher and offering only the most elementary of subjects.²³

And so these people lived on, happily in their new homes in spite of the hardships they endured. They were such a simple folk and so satisfied with their lot. Tragedies in their life were numerous, yet they faced them bravely. A certain Mrs. McFarland sang beautifully and while recovering slowly from the birth of one of the children, two men dropped in to hear her sing before they left for California. At least this was a community of homes and women, and where they were going there was only hardship and brute men fighting for gold and more gold. She did sing for them, took cold, and died four days later. One

21. Minutes of Meetings.

22. Interview with Dr. Cargen.

23. "Our Surroundings" The Cambridge News, June 24, 1898.

of them made the coffin to bury her in, and, the only paint in the country being some red paint, it was painted red.²⁴ Such intimate details of the lives of these men and women make us marvel at their courage. Yet it was all for the cause of progress and they bravely endured all things in order that the village and community might grow and prosper.

As the country around Cambridge became more and more thickly settled, so did its demands increase, and as its resources did the village grow. At the outbreak of the Civil War, which drew away young men from the village and the farms, the village had grown rapidly. It had about two hundred and fifty inhabitants; there were fifteen houses on the west-side of the creek around and near the Methodist Church and twice that many on the east side. Buildings lined both sides of the street and included everything that an ordinary farming village must contain, blacksmith and repair shops, mills, dry-goods and grocery stores, post-office, hardware stores, doctors' offices, etc. Each year the farmer was coming to town for more of his commodities and Cambridge was the nearest and most favorable trading village for the farmers for miles around. It was indeed the "farmers' gateway to the world" and as such found its excuse for existing.

The mill had by this time changed hands. Mr. Koper had

24. Material from George Townshead, ^{Sand} grand-daughter of George Dow.

carried on the flour and feed business only, the saw mill being soon discarded. The mill was the center of activity in the town

CHAPTER III.

The Development of Cambridge as a Community Center
1860-1915.

The growth of a village, founded to satisfy the needs of the community there-about, depends almost directly on the growth of that community. Thus as the country around Cambridge became more and more thickly settled, so did its demands increase, and so in accordance did the village grow. At the outbreak of the Civil War, which drew many young men from the village and the farms, the village had grown rapidly. It had about two hundred and fifty inhabitants; there were fifteen houses on the west side of the creek around and near the Methodist Church and twice that many on the east side. Buildings lined both sides of the street and included everything that an ordinary farming village must contain, blacksmith and repair shops, mills, dry-goods and grocery stores, post-office, hardware stores, doctors' offices etc. Each year the farmer was coming to town for more of his commodities and Cambridge was the nearest and most favorable trading village for the farmers for miles around. It was indeed the "farmers' gateway to the world" and as such found its excuse for existing.

The mill had by this time changed hands. Mr. Keyes had retired and Mr. Dow had succeeded to his property rights and carried on the flour and feed business only, the saw mill being soon discarded. The mill was the center of activity in the town

and did a great volume of business.¹ In 1864 Mr. Dow built a woolen mill which brought still more trade to the town.² Many farmers raised sheep, owned by other men, for a part of the income from their sale and when the woolen mill was built there these farmers immediately brought their wool there to be carded, dyed, and woven.³ Mr. Dow soon became the manufacturer of a large amount of first class woolen goods sold through-out the state. My Grand-father Scott, having been a weaver by trade in Scotland, worked in the dye-house for Mr. Dow for quite a while during that time he could spare from his farm work.

Ten years later a cheese factory was also started by Mr. Dow and carried on with merited success. The farmers then, as now, did a great deal of dairying, and cheese and milk factories were scattered all over the country.⁴ About fifteen years later, this cheese factory was turned into a butter factory still owned by Mr. Dow. There the farmers, from distance of from one to five miles, hauled their milk. This latter factory still exists tho it has been rebuilt and moved.

In the 1880's too a bank was established by Mr. C.C. May. It at once did a considerable volume of business especially among the country people. Mr. May is still in the banking business at Cambridge. In 1899 Mr. Dow financed the building of another bank which is also still in operation. From the Civil War on, the farmers were gradually accumulating more wealth and in a

1. Odland, "The Genesis of Cambridge," in The Wisconsin State Journal, Feb. 10, 1904.

2. Ibid.

3. Interview with Mr. J.Q. Emery.

4. Park and Co., History of Madison, Dane County and Surroundings p. 369.

great enough extent to make the banking business quite profitable.^{5.}

In 1885 a local paper was started by Mr. E.L. Howe. It was called The London-Cambridge Times and published in London. But in the summer of 1886 the plant was moved to Cambridge, and the publication of The Cambridge News began. It was only a double page folded together. The printing on the inside was done at Madison and sent to Cambridge, while the two outside sheets were done at Cambridge. It contained principally advertisements with news items scattered among them.^{6.}

On Sunday night May 25, 1890 a fire broke out in the village. A greater part of the business part of the town was destroyed as well as those dwellings that were located on the upper half of main street. The fire started in a corner building and took all those buildings on the three adjoining corners and down each street for some distance. There was of course no means of putting out fires there except the regular old-fashioned "bucket-brigade" so it is not to be wondered at that so many buildings went up in flames. Most of them were rebuilt the same year, but nevertheless the growth of the town was stunted. It staid just about where it was for five or six years.^{7.}

Shortly after the fire, however, June 30, 1891, Cambridge was duly incorporated as a village under the statute of the State "with the powers incident thereto."^{8.} Officials were duly elected

5. Interview with early residents.

6. The Cambridge News, December 8, 1923.

7. "Our Surroundings" in The Cambridge News, June 24, 1898.

8. Village records of Cambridge, Wisconsin 1891.

and as a village it has existed ever since.

In spite of its incorporation, it did not pick up in growth until 1897, from which time it grew rapidly for several years. After the Civil War the farmers had begun to raise tobacco, at first on a rather small scale. But the crops were so fine and the returns so large that more acres were put in every year. Finally, to satisfy the needs and demands of these farmers a tobacco warehouse was built in the fall of 1898 by a stock company.⁹ The tobacco was stripped from its stalks and made into bundles by the farmers. These bundles were then brought to the warehouse where the tobacco was taken from them, sized, and packed according to size. From there it was shipped to the manufacturers. Warehouses had also been established at Edgerton, twelve miles south, and at Stoughton, fourteen miles west, but they were both rather far away. This one being built in Cambridge made it more convenient for these farmers living near Cambridge as well as bringing them there to do their trading which would not doubt be done elsewhere if the tobacco were hauled elsewhere and sold. It also provided work for men and women in the winter months when there was usually so little to do. This warehouse is still standing and opens every fall, winter, and spring for work.

In spite of the springing up of such business enterprises as this, Cambridge was handicapped for many years by being an inland town. It lay on an improved and much traveled road from
9. "Our Surroundings," The Cambridge News, June 24, 1898.

Madison on to Fort Atkinson, Whitewater, and thence to Milwaukee. Stage lines ran through the village from the earliest days so the settlers easily kept in touch with the outside world.¹⁰ At the time the village was founded and laid out however, the Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien Railroad had assured the settlers that they would pass through there, a promise which they never kept.¹¹ In 1881, the hopes of the villagers were again raised by the project of a line of the Northwestern Railroad that was to come from Madison, to Milwaukee through Cambridge, Jefferson, and Waukesha. The people of the village were so glad and so sure of the success of the project that they did little to promote it. In the meantime the people of Lake Mills became solicitous for the growth of their village, so they got together and raised enough money to persuade the railroad company to build their line through Lake Mills, having missed Jefferson by three miles and thence through Deerfield to Madison. Thus Cambridge was again doomed to disappointment but it was more or less its own fault.¹²

From that time on there was much talk of building a spur line down from the main line to Cambridge a distance of about three miles almost directly north. At that point on the railroad a very small settlement was springing up, called London. In 1893 a vote was taken among the people to get the opinion of the whole town on the matter. A corporation would have to be

10. The Wisconsin State Journal, Feb. 10, 1904.

11. Park and Co., History of Madison, Dane County and Surroundings p. 368.

12. Interviews with early residents.

formed and stock sold to finance the proposition. The opposition won by ninety votes.^{13.} The matter was not dropped, however, and agitation for it continued. Within a year the proposition did carry. The road was built at once, on money obtained from village bonds sold to the people. In the summer of 1895, the road was finished, and its completion celebrated by the country round-about. The terminus of the road was placed a bit northeast of the business section of the town in the hope that it might, in the near future, be continued on to include other towns in that direction. But there was never anything done about it, so a year later the terminus was changed, on Sunday to avoid having an injunction served on them if any of the people should object.^{14.} A railroad bridge was built just below the dam, and the railroad crossed the foot of main street and built its engine house just on the other side of the creek back of the mill. This train made the trip back and forth to London several times a day bringing passengers and freight.

At the same time that the business of the town increased so did the educational and religious facilities increase. The schools and churches formed the center of social interest. The little one-room school house had been moved a few years after it was built but it still remained the same old building. After the Civil War a select school was started. Mr. A.H. Porter was in charge of it; tuition was paid by those pupils who wished to continue their education here. It was not under the control of

13. The Cambridge News, August 18, 1893.

14. Interviews with early residents.

the district at all, and the subjects taught were more advanced than those of the public school.¹⁵ The only school higher than this in the country near Cambridge was the Academy at Albion to which most of the boys and a few girls went for their advanced education. In these early days, too, there was a select school taught for the little children, those that were really below the district school age.

In 1870 a new school was completed up where the very first one had been. It had several rooms and accommodated many more pupils. It also was divided up into the different grades more definitely. From that time on and as need required it, the building was enlarged quite regularly and more teachers hired.¹⁶ There were seldom any more than three teachers until the high school was established in 1889. At this time only a three-years general course was put in. That much was thought sufficient for the current demand and gave sufficient training for most of the tasks that graduates then set out to do.¹⁷

The social place of the schools in the community was very important at this time. School socials and functions were held frequently and provided one of the principal means of a "get-together." Singing school was a common thing at that time. Some man came from some other town or at times one right there, came and held singing classes a certain number of times a week. These singing schools were made gala occasions, and old and young attended. Another such affair was the spelling-bee. The various

15. Interview with R. B. Anderson.

16. The Cambridge News, Jan. 6, 1915.

17. Recollections of a pupil at that time.

district schools competed with each other, and in this way the whole country side became better acquainted. In such cases the school had a powerful influence in the life of the community.

In 1898, at the annual school meeting, it was voted "that the joint school district No.5 of the town of Christiana adopt the four year high school course to be prescribed by the State department." The influence of the University was beginning to be felt even then and since graduates of a three-year course could not enter without entrance examinations, the change was suggested.¹⁸ In the fall of that year the course was started and the first class of four members, graduated in June 1899.¹⁹ The course was only the ordinary general one but at least the high school was placed on the state accredited list. In 1905, the school house burned, and a new one was built.²⁰ While that was being done, classes were held in the churches, over stores in which the top story was vacant etc. It was finished in a year or so, and is still standing and in use. The enrollment increased each year making other courses desirable. In 1910 a special agricultural course was added. It did not prove very successful, however, and was soon dropped. No more specialization was attempted for some years, but there was an earnest effort made to improve the quality of the courses offered and in this way the school did progress.

Churches increased very rapidly too. In 1893, the Cambridge and Deerfield Hauge Church on the prairie west of town

18. The Cambridge News, July 1 and July 8, 1898.

19. Graduation announcement in possession of author's parents.

20. The Cambridge News, Jan. 6, 1915.

separated. This church was founded between 1850 and 1860 by followers of the Norwegian Lutheran dissenters who had followed Hauge in 1836 and had eventually come to America. The Cambridge section of the prairie church organized into a separate body and built a church in town in 1893. The two congregations still had but one minister between them, but they kept everything else separate. ²¹.

In 1899 a German Lutheran Church was built on the eastern edge of town to accommodate the Germans that were fast filling in the country east of town. ²².

In 1888 the old Presbyterian Church was discarded and a new and larger one built to take its place. ²³.

In 1902, a Norwegian Lutheran organization was formed in the town by the Norwegians who had moved in. They built their church just a block from Main Street. ²⁴.

All these churches also played a vital part in the social life of the community. Nearly everyone attended church in those days and it was considered quite an event. Church meetings, church suppers, societies etc., all were held in the name of the churches and fostered by them. In the earlier times the church was the only place large enough to hold concerts or large meetings. In 1873, Ole Bull the great violinist, was touring the country and being known by some of the Norwegians around Cambridge, Prof. R.B. Anderson especially, he was induced to come to the town to give a concert. By consent of the church officials, the concert

21. Interview with one of the oldest members, Mr. M.M. Jarlsberg of Cambridge.

22. Record on church building.

23. Ibid.

24. Ibid.

was to be held at the Methodist Church as the most favorable place. At the last minute, the Methodist brethren became conscience-stricken at the use to which they were putting their meeting house and did not appear to open the church. A famous doctor of the village, Dr. Dundass, got possession of the key, opened the church and the concert was held in spite of the "brethrens!" opposition. Law suit was threatened for the deed, but it all passed once and all the people felt amply repaid for their bother for they realized they had heard a great master.²⁵ But such affairs were always held in some church, and usually promoted by the church, until halls were built that could satisfy the purpose.

By 1900 the village was growing and thriving splendidly and could look ahead to years of prosperity. But from that time until 1915 it really grew little more. It merely increased the radius of its influence by meeting the demands of the people over a larger area of territory. Farmers no longer lived quite so independently and in this period the trade of the town increased rapidly. One reason for this was as I have stated, the greater number of commodities that every farmer depended on the town for. Another reason was that more people came to Cambridge than ever before. Beginning in 1900 farmers began to retire and many came to Cambridge to live. When their friends and relatives in the country had trading to do they came to Cambridge to do it and spent the day visiting at the same time. The weekly trip

25. Interview with Mr. R. B. Anderson.

to town was made a gala occasion and the business of the town was greatly benefited by this. Another reason was that the merchants did cater to the farmers' trade. It is largely a credit trade, and the merchants there were perfectly willing to do business on that basis, so it increased.

It is said that every farmer has his favorite town, and Cambridge became that to an increasing number of farmers each year. By 1915 it had grown to include about 700 inhabitants within its limits, most of them retired farmers and business men. It had fast been taking on the appearance of a farmers' town and as such had certainly achieved the height of its existence in 1915.

Perhaps the change in the business of the town is the most noticed. The coming of the automobile enabled the farmers to come to town more quickly and therefore more often. From that point of view, the town should have been benefited. But another result was that the farmers could also make much longer trips to towns farther away, and make them with as much ease as they had formerly made the short trip to the nearest town. It is this fact that has brought the changes. Since farmers can and do go to Janesville, Stoughton, Madison, and even to Milwaukee to shop, naturally the business of the village has suffered. The area of competition has increased and the merchants have to compete with

CHAPTER IV.

Cambridge Today.

Cambridge, as a community center, has changed greatly in the last ten years. During the Great War the farmers of this part of the country became very prosperous. Prices of farm produce went up by leaps and bounds, and though the general trend of all prices was higher, and a dollar would not purchase as much as in 1910 for instance, still the income of most farmers had doubly increased. The natural conclusion to draw from this increased buying power on the part of the farmers would be that the village did accordingly, that much more business. But that fact is only true in part. With the farmer's increased prosperity came their desire and ability to own automobiles, and it is the coming of the automobile principally that has caused the change in Cambridge.

Perhaps the change in the business of the town is the most noticed. The coming of the automobile enabled the farmers to come to town more quickly and therefore more often. From that point of view, the town should have been benefited. But another result was that the farmers could also make much longer trips to towns farther away, and make them with as much ease as they had formerly made the short trip to the nearest town. It is this fact that has brought the changes. Since farmers can and do go to Janesville, Stoughton, Madison, and even to Milwaukee to shop, naturally the business of the village has suffered. The area of competition has increased and the merchants have to compete with

the merchants in these larger towns that are farther away. But again I must qualify my statement for the business of the town has suffered mainly in the character of the business it does, not in the quantity of it. For instance, the sale of ready-made garments has a small place in the dry-goods business of Cambridge. In the days when all the clothes were made in the home by a seamstress hired for the purpose, materials etc. found a ready sale in the town. But since ready-made garments are the vogue, the size of our stores does not allow them to deal with this commodity to any extent. Even if they did attempt to do it, they would be compelled to charge relatively higher prices and they would be unable to compete with the larger stores in the larger towns. So the clothing business has decreased measurably. This same condition exists in the boot and shoe business. People preferred to do their shopping in this line in larger stores where there were more styles to choose from. Our merchants could not hope to compete successfully on this basis, so the shoe stores gradually went out of business, and though each dry-goods merchant carried a small line of shoes, principally work shoes and school shoes, it really amounted to nothing. Within the last year or so the business in plain, every-day shoes has picked up, due perhaps, to the feeling that the people have that the prices charged elsewhere are too exorbitant.

Thus Cambridge has become a supply station, in a very real sense of the word, to the farmer and to the townspeople themselves of only the more necessary things of life, the ordinary every-day things that everyone has to have. As far as luxuries

go, or fancy clothing or shoes, there is little demand for them, so of course, a correspondingly small supply.

Cambridge has also decreased as a social center of the community in these last years. The town has not been able to provide amusement enough for the country people, so on "Saturday" nights many of them go elsewhere. This is especially true among the younger people; for the older people, Cambridge, still is sufficiently exciting. The essential thing about this is that the town has done very little to hold these people. Anything in the way of community club rooms, with facilities for reading, physical recreation and amusement has been considered unnecessary and the boys and girls just naturally go in another direction where such things, even though less wholesome, can be found. The school has increased its enrollment, not from any larger area, but more young people are demanding an education today within the natural extent of the influence of the town and more farmers can afford to send their children when they can go back and forth each day in their car. The automobile has had little influence on the importance of the town as a religious center. What changes that have been brought about came as a result of other conditions, entirely. And so, as a social center Cambridge has also diminished in importance, the only really concrete thing that is done is the annual party held each year. One year the farmers entertain the townspeople, and the next year the townspeople entertain the farmers, and here the social influence of the town practically ends, as far as any efforts put forth by the people themselves are concerned.

There have been one or two phases of the business life of Cambridge that have not been affected. One of these is the milling business. The amount done each year is certainly greater than it used to be, although the mill deals in a much larger number of commodities than it ever has before. The manufacture of flour has gradually been reduced to a mere nothing, and now it does none at all. Instead it buys its flour and retails it out to its customers. It also buys and retails all the various kinds of manufactured feed. Then it has taken over a great part of the fuel business of the town, and during the winter months does a great deal in that line. Thus the whole sum of the business of the mill has not decreased, and it still plays a great part in the life of the town. Another business that has not diminished is that of the banks. Both of them, the International Bank, and The Bank of Cambridge, do a lot of business, and have really extended the area of their influence rather than decreased it. Still another business that has not been affected is that of the electric company. In 1911 there had been a movement started for the establishment of an electric lighting system for the village. It was soon underway and a dynamo was put in run by water power. This system was used for about six years and then was discarded, and now the electricity comes from the Kilbourne dam up through Edgerton. These lines have been extended north to London, out around the Lake and even west of town. Thus the electric business has also increased greatly in the last ten years.

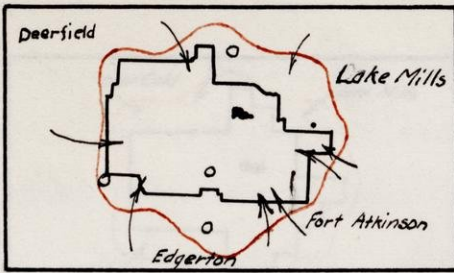
The latter part of 1923, a survey was taken of the economic relation of the village of Cambridge, and several other

such small towns, with the country surrounding them. Farmers were visited on all sides of the village and data collected concerning where they did their trading in general, where they did it for certain commodities, where they went to church, where they sent their children to school, and so on, endless questions were asked and endless answers received. From the data collected the maximum service area of the town was first computed. This area was determined by ascertaining the farther-most points in every direction to which any service of any kind ~~whatsoever~~ extended from the town, and then a swinging curve line was drawn to connect them. Then using four special commodities, groceries, furniture, good clothes, and work clothes, the extent of the service of each one was determined within the maximum service area, which, of course, always remained the same. Then this same process was gone through for the financial, marketing, communication, education, religious, and social services of the town. Points at which the trade areas of other towns entered that of Cambridge were noted and indicated by arrows on the figures plotted from this data. The following diagrams will show the results, and give an opportunity for a comparison of the extent of these various services.¹

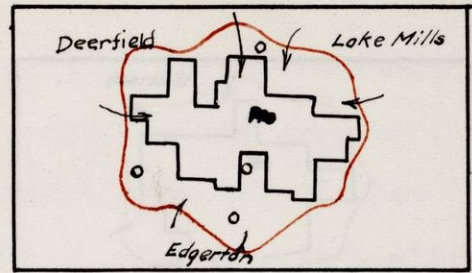
1. J.H. Kolb, "Service Relations of Town and Country", in Research Bulletin No. 58 of Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Wisconsin, (Madison, Dec. 1923) p. 39.

Marketing Service
Trade or Shipping Centers

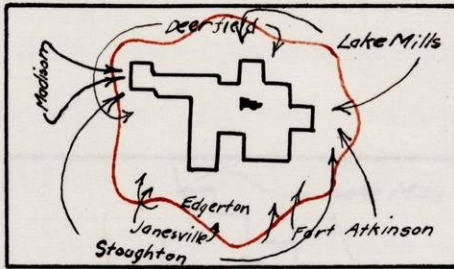
Communication Service
Mail Delivery



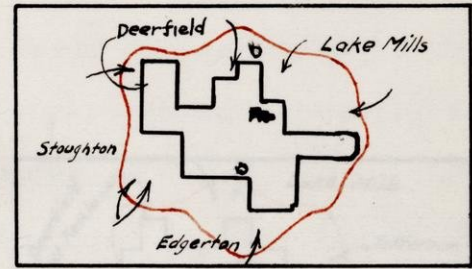
General Trade Areas and Maximum Service Area



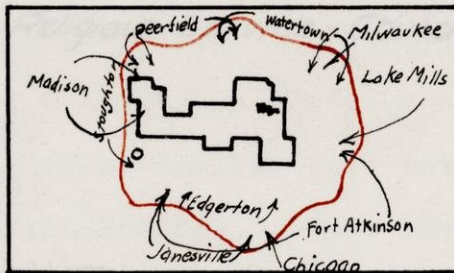
Economic Service-Groceries



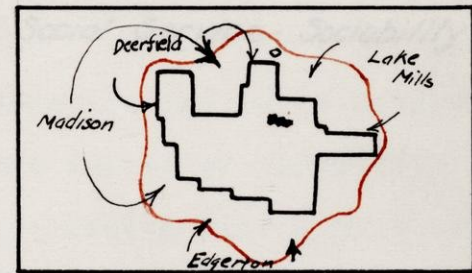
Economic Service-Furniture



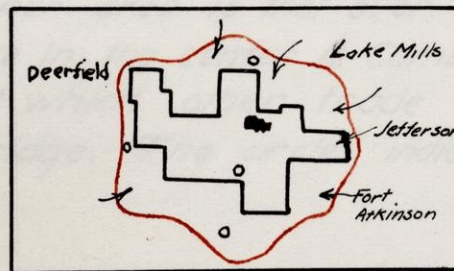
Economic Service-Work Clothes



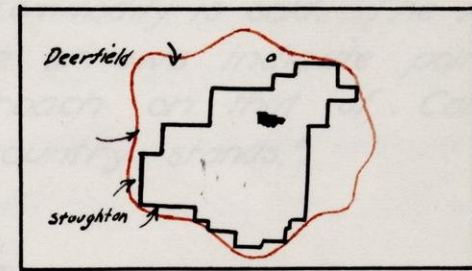
Economic Service-Good Clothes



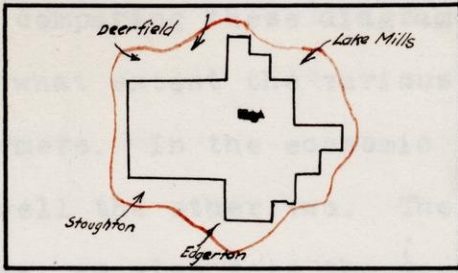
Financial Service-Banking



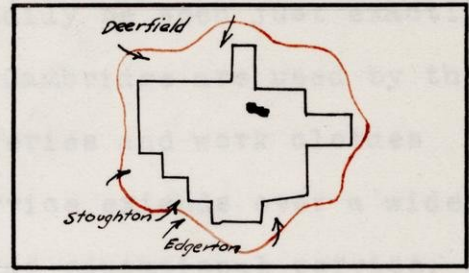
Marketing Service-Produce or Shipping Concern



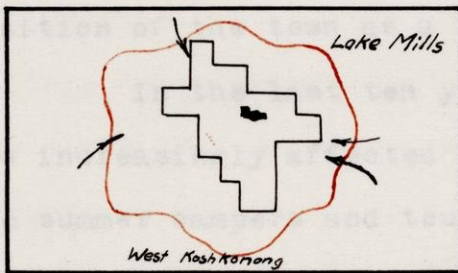
Communication Service-Mail Delivery



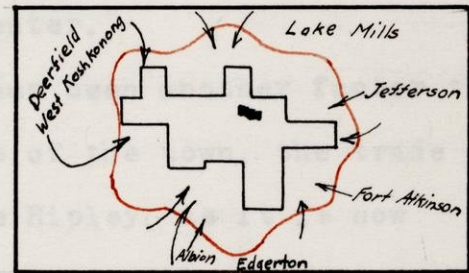
Communication Service -
Telephone



Educational Service -
High School



Religious Service - Church



Social Service - Sociability

The above diagrams indicate the extent of the trade area of Cambridge in the above commodities. The outer curved line indicates the maximum service area (secured by superimposing onto each other all the individual commodity areas). The inner area is that over which the commodity is sold. The figure in the center is Cambridge. The arrows indicate points at which other trade areas encroach on that of Cambridge. The circles indicate open country stands.²

2-Copied From: J. H. Kolb - "Service Relations of Town and Country" - Research Bulletin No. 58 of Agricultural Experiment Station of U. of W.

In comparing these diagrams it can readily be seen just exactly to what extent the various services of Cambridge are used by the farmers. In the economic service groceries and work clothes excell the other two. The banking service extends over a wide area, as also does the communication and educational service. The others are small not extending very far, in most cases beyond what one would expect in any town. In all a very clear picture is gained of the exact relation of the town of Cambridge to the country in 1923 and enables one to ascertain quite correctly the position of the town as a community center.

In the last ten years there has been another factor that has increasingly affected the business of the town, the trade of the summer campers and tourists. Lake Ripley, as it is now called, has become one of the most popular small summer resorts of this part of the country and hundreds of people come to spend their vacations there each summer. There are two large hotels and three smaller ones besides the great number of privately owned cottages. Since the lake is only about a half a mile from town, all of its trade is given to the stores there. From June to September the merchants reap profits from their beautiful little lake. Then, too, Cambridge is located on a state highway from Madison to Milwaukee and all during the spring, summer, and fall tourists travel through the town. Most of them stop for supplies and camp at the public camping grounds at the Lake or stop at the Hotel or restaurants in town for meals. In this way is the business of the town still further increased.

At the same time that Cambridge has changed in character

so too has it changed in appearance. It is one of the prettiest small towns in this part of the state. While the business section still occupies only about three or three and a half blocks of the main street, it is a much more modern main street than it was for instance in 1915. Several new buildings have been erected and are now being used for the most up-to-date stores. There are at present four dry-goods and grocery stores, a very modern drug-store, a clothing store, a feed store, the mill, the black-smith shops, three large garages, three restaurants, two barber shops, the printing office, the electric shop, two banks, a large hall, and several other small establishments. All of these people are doing a fine business and the village seems to be prospering.

In 1921 a Candy Manufacturing Company was organized in the town. For three years now they have been in existence making all kinds of candies and apparently are very successful. It is rather small in comparison to some candy manufacturing concerns, but nevertheless it has grown every year and seems to be taking on the aspect of a real "going" concern. If its present success continues, it will no doubt add prestige to the name and town of Cambridge.

The five churches are still in existence although the Hough Church no longer holds services. Most of its original members have moved away or have died, and what few are left have affiliated either with the Norwegian Lutheran or Methodist Churches. The building still stands, however, and there is a movement on foot for turning it into a club room. The other churches are all

still very active and do a great deal to keep up the standards of the community.

The school today is also improving. Three years ago, a commercial course was added to those then given and this has drawn more boys and girls to enroll there. At present the enrollment averages from a hundred to a hundred and twenty-five in the high school.

The town itself has grown very little. More retired farmers move in each year, but others move out. It's population stays about the same. In the last census, it was around 700, in the incorporated half. The town as I have said before, is divided by the County line. That part which lies in Jefferson County has never been incorporated with the rest. There have been several movements started with this end in view, but they have always been blocked. They are, evidently, afraid that their taxes will increase more than the advantages to be gained from the affiliation will warrant. So it still remains divided and it seems unprobable that it will change right away. Considering both parts of the town, its population is around 1000.

The town itself has many advantages. It is completely modern with its electric lighting system, water-system, and sewage system. It is near enough to Madison, twenty three miles, to make it very convenient. It is surrounded by other larger towns, offering those advantages that Cambridge is too small to afford. It is not connected with a railroad, since 1916 when the spur line to London was abandoned for lack of business, but the improved roads make hauling by truck even more advantageous than

otherwise and automobile trips to the nearest railroad towns are easily made. This very year, 1924, the streets of the village are to be paved, improving the town still more. The nearness of the Lake gives the town another advantage and since a large public park is being constructed by the town on the side of the Lake nearest it, the two will be brought still closer together.

In short, the town has an interesting historical background, an important function to serve in the country and as such has found its place in the development of the state, and exists a quiet, attractive little village.

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