

Birthplace of a Commonwealth

A SHORT HISTORY OF BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN



BY

Jack Rudolph

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CHAPTER TWO
BIRTH OF A TERRITORY
(1816 - 1836)

In the bright sunlight of an early August day in 1816 the fleet of four sailing vessels flying the 18-star flag of the United States made an impressive show as it moved slowly up the Fox River and dropped anchor in midstream, somewhere between the present crossings of Green Bay's Main and Walnut Street bridges. Black cannon snouts covering the crowd of Indians and whites assembled on the west bank and blue-clad soldiers pouring over the sides into small boats made it clear that this was not a social call. The infant republic was finally asserting sovereignty over Wisconsin.

The first wave hit the beach, disembarking troops formed ranks smartly and the boats went back for another load. While the deployment continued several residents and Indian leaders of La Baye came forward to meet Col. John Miller, commanding the occupation force.

If introductions were a bit stiff there were reasons. The troops had anticipated and were ready for resistance, while neither the Indians nor white residents of the little community knew what to expect. Both had backed the losing side in the recently ended War of 1812, the United States had a mean reputation in dealing with hostile Indians, and the whites were now men without a country. As aliens living in American territory, who had fought for Great Britain, they were barred from the only occupation they knew - fur trading - and even their homes were forfeit.

Thanks to the tactful good sense of Indian Agent John Bowyer, who preceded the expedition, nothing happened. The troops were soon busy erecting a military stockade on the site of the old French and English forts, in what is now the Chicago & North Western railroad yard, (to be named Fort Howard in honor of Brig. Gen. Benjamin Howard, who had died while commanding the Western Department in the recent conflict). Reassured there would be no retribution, the Menominees accepted the inevitable and prepared to do business with the newcomers. The fur traders went back to work while Bowyer looked the other way. As the fort took shape initial tensions faded.

Although Fort Howard's tactical value

quickly waned as other garrisons were established farther west, the post looms large in the history of Northeastern Wisconsin. Just by being there it insured the peaceful penetration of the Fox River Valley even though, for almost half its existence, there wasn't a G.I. on the premises.

When complete, the fort was a typical frontier stockade, built in the shape of a lopsided diamond with one corner almost on the river bank. A wooden wall 30 feet high (reduced by half as Indian dangers lessened) enclosed some three acres in which barracks, administration buildings and officers quarters



MAJ. GEN. ZACHARY TAYLOR (1784-1850), 12th President of the United States, commanded Ft. Howard 1817-1820, then transferred to Ft. Crawford at Prairie du Chien where his daughter eloped with a young lieutenant in Taylor's regiment. Jefferson Davis became a U.S. Senator, Secretary of War and President of the Confederacy (State).



RANSAY CROOKS (1787-1858), general manager and later owner of the American Fur Co., may never have visited Brown County but exerted a decisive influence on its future by ruining many of the original French fur traders. His foreclosure of mortgages held by the fur company led to the founding of the Village of Astor (State).

to the walls faced a central parade ground dominated by a tall flagpole in the middle. For the next 25 years the neatly whitewashed walls and buildings on the open plain with the Stars and Stripes above them against a forest background were reassuring sights to settlers as well as newcomers sailing up the river.

In 1820 the commander, Col. J.F. Smith, decided to move the post to the top of Allouez ridge where Cotton House now stands. A temporary camp, called Camp Smith, was laid out there while the garrison prepared to erect a stone fortification, but Washington over-ruled the audacious colonel and in 1822 the troops were ordered back to the original site.

Meanwhile, a cluster of crude shacks which the troops promptly dubbed "shanties" went up on the river bank below the ridge to cater to the garrison. The place was called "Shantytown." Despite the later efforts of Judge James Doty and John Lawe to dignify it with the title of "Menomineeville", "Shantytown" it remained.

The post had other positive benefits to the settlers in addition to protection. It was a handy market for local farm produce, its doctors provided medical care, it sponsored the first schools and organized religious congregations and it was the nucleus of a cheerful and active social life after army families arrived. Regular communications with the East came with the visits of supply vessels, including the first steamboat, the little side-wheeler *Walk-in-the-Water*, which made its first call in 1820.

Occupation opened the gates to American settlers, who began to trickle in virtually on the heels of the first troops. Most were from New England and New York – young men, single, acquisitive and aggressive. Gradually they pushed the original French-Canadians into the background.

By the time 23-year-old Federal Judge James Duane Doty arrived in 1824 most of the men whose names are now firmly written into the history of the territory were already on the scene. They included Daniel Whitney, founder of Green Bay; William Dickinson, founder of De Pere; the Rev. Eleazer Williams, Henry S. Baird, the Irwins, Ebenezer Childs and John Penn Arndt.

Among the first arrivals was Whitney, a canny New Hampshireman and an adventurous 24-year-old, ready to try his hand at anything, willing to take a calculated risk and stay with it. In an active career of a quarter of a century the stone-faced Whitney was an explorer, fur trader, storekeeper, lumberman, real estate



MORGAN LEWIS MARTIN (1805-1887) was one of the first lawyers in Wisconsin, political leader, land speculator and judge. As Territorial delegate he introduced The Wisconsin Statehood act in Congress. His home, "Hazelwood," built about 1837, is now part of the Neville Public Museum. The photograph shows Martin in early middle age (State).



JAMES DOTY HOUSE - This bungalow, the first brick structure in Wisconsin, was built on what are now the grounds of the State Reformatory in the later 1820s. It is no longer standing but its site is marked (Neville).



JAMES DUANE DOTY (1799-1865) was the first federal judge west of Lake Michigan, Territorial governor and delegate to Congress, later a Congressman, land speculator and real estate promoter. The miniature may have been painted shortly before he arrived in Green Bay at the age of 23 (Neville).



JOHN PENN ARNDT (1780-1861) compiled a remarkable series of "firsts" as a pioneer innovator after his arrival in 1824. Among them was the introduction of the Durham boat, which revolutionized Wisconsin river transportation (State).



FORT HOWARD HOSPITAL - From an early 20th Century photograph taken before the ward building was restored as a museum. It is now in Heritage Hill Park (Neville).



ELEAZER WILLIAMS (c 1785-1858) gained national notoriety as a claimant of the title of the "Lost Dauphin" of France. An Episcopal missionary, he led the first contingent of Oneida Indians to Wisconsin (Neville).

promoter and transportation tycoon and a success at all of them. Even John Jacob Astor couldn't lick him. His crowning achievement was the founding of the city of Green Bay.

Dickinson arrived a few months after Whitney and promptly launched a bitter rivalry with the latter that even extended to the building of palatial mansions neither finished. When Whitney moved his base of operations north to the junction of the Fox and East Rivers, Dickinson went the other way to settle at the De Pere rapids. The Vermonter, a man of vision, had great faith in the site as a source of water power and lived to see it vindicated, although he died land poor.

A cheerful adventurer in the mold of Charles Reaume, Ebenezer Childs would be better known if he hadn't taken off for greener fields. Another New Englander, he never accumulated a fortune but he was prominent in local and territorial politics as sheriff of Brown County and a member of the territorial legislature. Fiercely independent, he worked for both Whitney and Dickinson and in his later years took keen delight in portraying himself as a blacker sheep than he probably was.

The most attractive of the newcomers were Henry S. Baird and his young bride. A self-educated, personable Irishman, Baird was the first practicing attorney in Wisconsin, a leader in the organization of the state bar association and revered by it as the "Father of the Wisconsin Bar." He never engaged in land speculation and very little in politics, being content to stick to the law, from which he made a comfortable living.

Baird was greatly helped by his wife. Arriving in Shantytown as a 14-year-old bride, Elizabeth Fisher Baird established herself as a frontier charmer, gracious hostess and well-loved personality in her own right. The Bairds later wrote reminiscences of their early years in Wisconsin that are among the most charming and informative first hand accounts of what pioneer life was like.

In 1821 an Episcopal missionary, the Rev. Eleazer Williams, visited La Baye with a party of Oneida Indians in search of a new home. The Oneidas, who with the Mohawks constituted the military arm of the Iroquois Confederacy or Six Nations, were being pressured out of their New York lands and had requested help from the Menominees - in return, legend has it, for assistance in driving back a Sioux invasion generations before. The Menominees gave them a large tract to which Williams led part of the eastern tribe the following year. The deal encountered



ELEAZER WILLIAMS HOME - Two pictures of the home of Eleazer Williams at Little Rapids. The left photo shows the abandoned cabin before it collapsed in 1890; that at the right is



a reproduction that stood in what is now Lost Dauphin State Park (State).

opposition that forced the Menominees to scale down the size of the grant, but by 1831 a compromise set aside lands for the Oneidas, part of which they still occupy.

Williams was a controversial character whose pretensions to being the "Lost Dauphin" of France have given him a romantic place in regional lore probably larger than he deserved. His claims are generally discounted now but they have never been disproved — or confirmed — beyond doubt, the only one of numerous pretenders never exposed as a complete fraud.

John Penn Arndt was unique among the youthful advance guard. He was 44 with a wife and six kids when he arrived in 1824. In the next 40 years he was involved in just about everything, piled up a remarkable series of "firsts" and a considerable fortune. He was the first licensed tavern keeper in Wisconsin, introduced the Durham boat which revolutionized river traffic and shipped the first load of lumber from the region to Chicago. He was also deeply involved in plank road promotions and politics.

James Duane Doty was one of the most remarkable men in the early history of Wisconsin. Only 23 when he convened his first court in 1824, he was an excellent judge whose decisions, including the famous murder trial of Chief Oshkosh, effectively established the supremacy of civil law in the territory. He was also a consummate politician and a land promoter-speculator whose schemes often exceeded his means, but his ethics were questionable. Some of his devious maneuvers have defied unraveling for nearly 150 years.

Politically Doty was a territorial delegate to

Congress, territorial governor and later a congressman. After his Wisconsin career was washed up, he moved on to Utah where he was on the threshold of an even more brilliant one as a highly popular territorial governor when he died unexpectedly.

Coming on stage a little later was Morgan L. Martin, who settled in Shantytown in 1827 and remained for 60 years. Possibly the most influential man in Northeastern Wisconsin next to Doty, the 22-year-old college graduate (a rarity in the 19th Century) was also Doty's cousin and a fledgling attorney who came to Wisconsin at Doty's insistence. Lawyer, land speculator, politician and finally a judge himself, Martin, as territorial delegate, introduced the enabling act in Congress by which Wisconsin achieved statehood and built the multilocked Fox River navigation system which finally connected the Great Lakes with the Mississippi, but was ruined financially when the state reneged on its commitments.

His daughter Deborah was head librarian of Green Bay's Kellogg Public Library for many years and an outstanding area historian. Her *History of Brown County*, published in 1913, is the only large scale work on the subject. Martin's wife was a niece of the famed Dr. William Beaumont.

Despite the early appearance of such figures, the population of Northeastern Wisconsin increased slowly. The 1820 census showed only 290 white civilians and 585 soldiers in the entire eastern half of the state, while that of 1830 listed 680 civilians and 474 soldiers. When county sheriff Ebenezer Childs conducted a

territorial census in 1836 — by which time the lower half of Brown County had been lopped off — the remaining area had 2,706 white inhabitants.

Several reasons accounted for the slow increase. The upper half of Wisconsin was a dense forest through which the only avenues of travel were the rivers, where the effort needed to clear homesteads was formidable. Virtually the only settlements were on the lower Fox River. Furthermore, most of the territory belonged to the Indians and settlement on their lands was forbidden until a series of treaties in the 1830s opened it. Most early pioneers preferred the more open spaces to the south and southwest.

In 1816 Wisconsin was part of Illinois Territory but was shifted to Michigan Territory when Illinois became a state in 1818. One of the first acts of Michigan Governor Lewis Cass was to divide the area between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi into three counties. What is now the Upper Peninsula became Michilimackinac County while Wisconsin was split down the middle, the area west of the line being designated Crawford. Everything east was Brown County, in honor of Maj. Gen. Jacob Brown, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Army and one of the few successful American commanders in the War of 1812.

Although county officers and judges were appointed at the same time, actual authority rested with the commanding officers at Forts Howard, Winnebago and Crawford. Military law, often arbitrary and always unpopular with civilians, ruled the area until Doty broke it.

By that time conditions in the Fox River Valley had settled down. By 1821 most of the original settlers had been confirmed in their land claims and had acquired American citizenship. The Fox River between Green Bay and De Pere was dotted with homesteads and a few French Canadians had moved north along the bay shore to form a small community at Bay Settlement. Established in 1817, Bay Settlement was the first in the area outside the older group on the river.

As soon as enough newcomers had arrived to make their presence felt the American urge to organize a formal community took over. As early as 1824 Judge Doty persuaded John Lawe, who owned most of the land, to lay out a planned village in the vicinity of the present state reformatory, for which Doty wangled the county seat from the Michigan legislature. They named the settlement Menomineeville, although most of the residents continued to call it Shantytown.

Lawe didn't get around to registering the plat until 1829, however, and by that time Menomineeville had missed the boat. That fall Whitney, having acquired most of the land between the two rivers north of an east-west line through the present county courthouse, platted it as the village of Navarino. At the same time his business rival Dickinson headed in the other direction and settled at the Fox River rapids where, in 1835, he platted the village of De Pere.

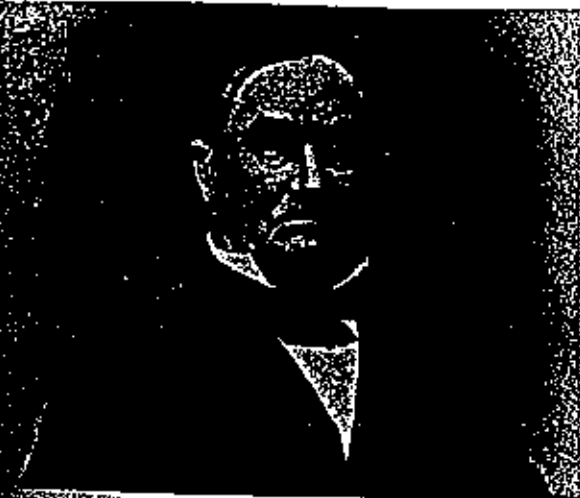
Most people thought Whitney had jumped his rocker. Navarino was simply a heavily wooded, mosquito-infested swamp. However,



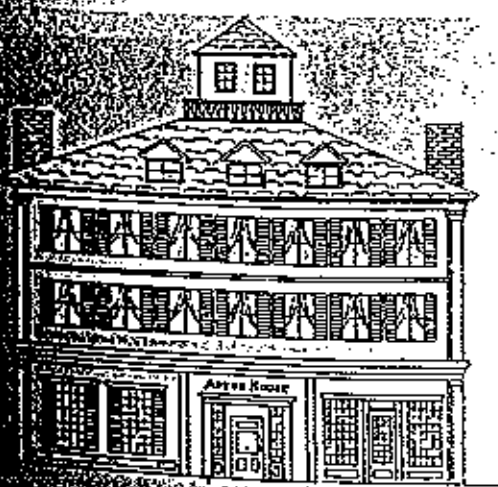
OLD FORT HOWARD — The mural now hanging on a wall of the Brown County Courthouse was painted from a photograph taken about 1850, showing the old army post as it looked from across the river. The officer on the dock is Maj. Granville Heller, 4th U.S. Infantry, last commanding officer at the fort (Neville).



DANIEL WHITNEY (1795-1862), founder of the city of Green Bay, was one of Wisconsin's earliest Yankee pioneers, a fur trader, store keeper, explorer, land speculator and financial tycoon. His plating of the Village of Navarino marked the beginning of the city (State).



B. A. BAIRD (1800-1875) was an early territorial attorney and member of the Wisconsin Bar. Baird rarely held political office but was one of the most popular and influential figures of the state.



ASTOR HOUSE - The most luxurious and famous hotel in Green Bay. The Astor House was a show piece of the city and the scene of many social events until destroyed by fire. The sketch was made from memory by A. C. Baird in his early boyhood (State).

it dominated the junction of the rivers and was directly across the Fox from the fort. When Whitney had built a dock, a warehouse and a hotel on the corner of Washington and Main Streets and began clearing the land it dried up. Progress was slow but gradually the Americans in Menomineeville began to drift away. Prospects also improved when the village of Navarino got a post office, a federal land office and a newspaper. The latter, the *Green Bay Intelligencer*, was launched in 1833, the first journal west of the lakes.

That same year the American Fur Company began putting the squeeze on the local French-Canadian fur traders and the next year drove them to the wall. For several years the company had been providing them with trade goods and buying their furs, but gradually they fell into debt, a situation encouraged by Astor's general manager Ramsay Crooks, who granted liberal credit until they were in too deep to get out and had mortgaged everything they had, including extensive lands in the Green Bay area. When he had them completely over the barrel, Crooks began hiking the price of trade goods while cutting the tab at which he would take their furs.

In 1834 Astor retired and sold the Great Lakes department and company name to Crooks. To pay him off Crooks foreclosed the mortgages and assigned the lands to Astor. The only one not completely ruined was Lawe, who managed to save his home site (on which he built a new one in 1836) and joined the company as manager of the Green Bay "outfit", a job he held until the company was dissolved in 1844.

At this point Doty, having lost his judgeship, stepped into the picture as Astor's agent and persuaded the somewhat reluctant old man to plat a rival village just south of Navarino as a means of realizing something from the unused real estate. Doty, a clever promoter, thereupon platted the village of Astor and launched a brisk land war against Whitney. Almost simultaneously Dickinson platted De Pere and formed the Fox River Hydraulic Company to exploit the water power potential of the rapids with a dam across the Fox.

The county itself was further compartmented in 1835 when it was divided into three townships. The town of Green Bay covered everything east of the river to include the Door Peninsula, De Pere stretched to the south and Howard included everything west of the river. The organization was largely a paper transaction, though, since the areas were too big and too sparsely

settled for any formal government.

With the rivalry between the three small villages of De Pere, Astor and Navarino growing hotter Doty cut his losses at Menomineeville and planned to have the county seat moved to Astor. To do so, however, a referendum was necessary, and his scheme backfired when Astor and Navarino cancelled each other's vote and De Pere sneaked off with the prize. Not until 1854, when Green Bay became a city, was it able to pry it loose. Meanwhile, having learned their lesson the hard way and having been badly burned in the Panic of 1837, Astor and Navarino buried the hatchet in 1838 and combined as the Borough of Green Bay, with Morgan L. Martin as president.

The 1820s also saw the beginnings of formal education and religion in the region, although the early progress of the former wasn't encouraging. The first schools were apparently established at the military posts to teach army dependents — at least, the first teachers to offer their services to the civilian community were former soldiers. Unfortunately, the first experiments failed.

The original French-Canadians were indifferent to education and there were too few children of school age among the early, youthful American pioneers to support teachers even at modest fees. When the Rev. Richard Cadle established the Cadle missionary school for Indian children in a former Camp Smith barracks in 1827 he found the Indians equally indifferent, and the school closed after limping along for a few years.

Religious revival was more successful. In 1818 the Rev. Samuel Peters of the Church of England conducted the first Protestant services in the area (and the first of record of any kind since the closing of the Jesuit mission in 1728) and within a few years both Catholic and Protestant congregations were formed.

A Catholic church was built in what later became Astor in 1825 but it was shortly destroyed by fire. In 1830 the Rev. Samuel Mazzuchelli organized the congregation of St. John the Evangelist at Menomineeville and built a church there. By 1832 Methodism was strong in the Fort Howard garrison; in 1836 the First Presbyterian Church, to which John Jacob Astor donated a bell, was organized in Green Bay, followed by an Episcopal congregation in 1838.

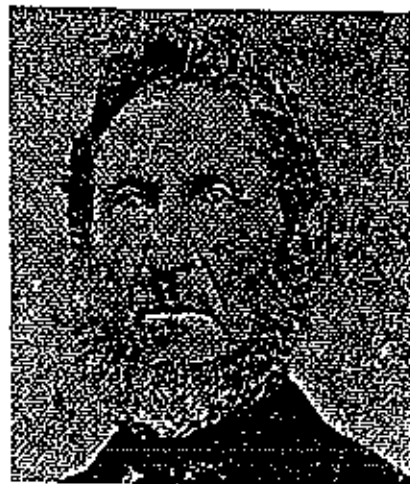
For several years settlement was held up by the thorny question of Indian land ownership. In 1830 a colorful council was held at Green Bay at which over 2,000 Indians gathered to



MRS. DANIEL WHITNEY - Known as the "Queen of Navarino," Emmeline Whitney was a kindly woman and a great friend of Elizabeth Baird (State).



MRS. HENRY BAIRD - Elizabeth Baird, married at 14, was a frontier charmer equally at home in an Indian wigwam or a mansion on New York's Fifth Avenue. Her reminiscences of pioneer life in the 1820s are among the most valuable in the Wisconsin Historical Collections (State).



HOEL S. WRIGHT, founder of Wrightstown, was a ferry operator, tavern keeper, postmaster and long time leader of the village. He supposedly bought his first land there by selling house-cats (Don Smith).



BANK OF WISCONSIN - This sturdy vault stood for many years as a reminder of the first banking institution in the territory, which collapsed in the panic of 1837. It stood until 1897 on the north side of Green Bay's Crooks Street, back of Fire Station No. 1. (State).

discuss the problem with American authorities and in the next few years a series of treaties settled it satisfactorily for everybody but the Indians.

Before any great migration occurred, however, the region was embroiled in a frenzy of land speculation. The Navarino land office and the United States Hotel bar in the same village were the scenes of wild dealings in timber lands (first purchased at the land office and then offered for additional sale in the saloon). Land titles turned over so fast it took years to untangle them.

As part of the speculative fever the territory's first bank, the Bank of Wisconsin, was chartered and opened at Astor in 1835. Like all "wildcat" banks of the time, the Bank of Wisconsin issued paper money far beyond its capacity to redeem, and when the federal government demanded payment for lands in cash through the Specie Circular of 1836 the bubble popped. The Panic of 1837 hit hard in the territory, a side effect of the collapse being a deep-seated suspicion of banks in general that lasted well into statehood.

Despite the treaties, conflict with the Indians was inevitable, and in 1832 the so-called Black Hawk War exploded. Such fighting as occurred never came close to the Fox River Valley but it panicked the area since nobody was sure what the Menominees would do when the Fort Howard

garrison was reduced to less than 20 men. The Menominees had chosen the losing side too often in recent times, however. They didn't think Black Hawk had a chance and did nothing while the scare blew over.

The war dramatically illustrated the need for land communications across Wisconsin and in 1833 Doty and Lt. Alexander Center of the Army Engineers surveyed a route from Navarino to Prairie du Chien to link the military posts. The Military Road, built by troop labor from both ends in the next few years, wasn't much of a highway but it was passable and opened the interior to settlement. It also spawned the modern system of state, county and town roads, most of which began as offshoots of that first crude track.

Communication with the east broadened as more and more lake vessels called at the mouth of the Fox River but the area was cut off during the winter until an overland route from Navarino to Chicago was established in 1832. It took a full month for a man to make the round trip on foot, carrying the mail on his back. One of the first carriers was Alexis Clermont, who made the winter journey regularly until 1836. Clermont was still living in 1892 and as part of the promotion for the Chicago World's Fair that year, he made the trip again at the age of 84, clad in fringed buckskins as in earlier years. This time he made it more leisurely in midsummer.



ALEXIS CLERMONT - One of the early mail carriers in Wisconsin, Clermont carried the mail on foot in winter between Green Bay and Chicago in the early 1830s. Nearly 60 years later, at the time of the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the old man donned buckskins and back pack to make the journey again (Neville).

Another name was added to the growing roster of county pioneers in 1833 when Hoel S. Wright took up a homestead at what is now Wrightstown. The story is that Wright made his first stake in house cats. For some reason cats were in great demand at the time, selling for \$2.50 compared to \$1.25 for an acre of land. By raising and selling house cats Wright made enough to purchase his first 40 acres there.

When he established a ferry across the Fox in 1837 a small settlement grew up around his tavern, which he platted as a village. A modest sort, Wright wanted to name it after his home town of Bridgeport, Vt., but the first village council crossed him up and christened the place Wrightstown instead. His restored home is now an historical museum.

Although the fur trade continued to be the major industry of Northeastern Wisconsin all through the territorial period, lumbering gradually became a part of the scene. A few small, hand operated sawmills were running as early as the turn of the century (one at Duck Creek provided much of the lumber to build Fort Howard) and John Arndt was soon in the game. In 1825



HOEL WRIGHT'S HOME - Now known as the Wright-Mueller house, the restored home of Wrightstown's founder is a local museum (Don Smith).

he made a deal with the Menominees to log on their lands and nine years later shipped the first load of lumber from the region to Chicago.

What may rank as the first manufacturing plant in Brown County was established in Navarino in 1836 when Emmons Follett opened a small furniture factory at the corner of Walnut and Washington Streets. That same year the *Intelligencer* curled up its puny toes, being succeeded by the *Wisconsin Democrat*, published by the Sholes brothers. One of the boys, Christopher Sholes, married a Green Bay girl and achieved later fame if not fortune by inventing the typewriter.

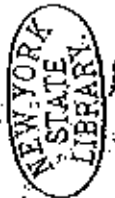
During the 1820s and 1830s population grew slowly in comparison to the southern half of the state. Yet from the very beginning settlers clamored for greater self-government, claiming - not without justification - that territorial authorities east of Lake Michigan paid little attention to their needs or wishes. The long howl finally paid off in Washington early in 1836 when an act creating Wisconsin Territory cleared Congress and was signed by President Jackson on April 20, to take effect on July 3.



WISCONSIN POPULATION BY COUNTIES, 1836
 Mississippi counties had 10,535 inhabitants; Iowa County had 5,234; Milwaukee, 2,893; Brown, 2,706; and Crawford, 860. On September 9, Governor Dodge proclaimed the results and his appointment. Because Crawford County did not have one-thirteenth of the population, he had assigned it no seat in the thirteen-man upper house, but tried to compensate by giving the county two lower-house seats.

POPULATION MAP OF 1836 - The population of Wisconsin at the time it became a separate territory is shown here following the territorial census of 1836. As can be seen, Brown County then covered about a third of the present state (State).

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HISTORY



OF THE

TERRITORY OF WISCONSIN,

FROM 1836 TO 1848.

PRECEDED BY AN ACCOUNT OF SOME EVENTS DURING THE
PERIOD IN WHICH IT WAS UNDER THE DOMINION
OF KINGS, STATES OR OTHER TERRITORIES,
PREVIOUS TO THE YEAR 1836.

COMPILED BY

MOSES M. STRONG, A. M.

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1858.

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the most valuable tracts adjoining these were obtained by "floats," and in that mode or by cash purchases, nearly the entire township passed from the government to individuals.

Among those who came to Milwaukee in 1835 were DANIEL WELLS, JR., W. W. GILMAN, GEORGE D. DOUSMAN, TALBOT C. DOUSMAN, E. W. EDGERTON, J. HATHAWAY, JR., JAMES SANDERSON, JAMES CLYMAN, OTIS HUBBARD, SAMUEL BROWN, GEORGE O. TIFFANY, DANIEL H. RICHARDS, BENONI W. FINCH, GEORGE REED, ENOCH CHASE, HORACE CHASE, WILLIAM BROWN, JR., MILO JONES, ENOCH DARLING, ALBERT FOWLER, C. HARMON, B. DOUGLASS, W. MANTLAND, ALANSON SWEET, HENRY WEST, JAMES H. ROGERS, SAMUEL HINMAN, Mr. LOOMIS, Dr. CLARKE, and Mr. CHILDS, and there were many others.

On the 13th of December, 1835, the first public meeting of citizens for public purposes was held at the house of Mr. CHILDS. B. W. FINCH was called to the chair, and Dr. ENOCH CHASE appointed secretary. The object of the meeting was stated by the chairman to be to adopt measures for petitioning Congress for appropriations for internal improvements, etc. Several committees were appointed to draft memorials, petitions, etc., and the meeting adjourned for one week.

On the 18th of December the meeting reassembled and, in the absence of the chairman, B. DOUGLASS was called to the chair. Petitions for the passage of a pre-emption law; for an appropriation for constructing a canal from Milwaukee to Rock river; and another for a light-house and harbor, were reported and adopted.

A committee, consisting of Lieut. CLYMAN, ALBERT FOWLER, ALANSON SWEET, and Drs. CHASE and CLARKE, was appointed to correspond with the settlers of the mining country on the subject of a communication between the two places.

ALANSON SWEET, HENRY WEST, and HORACE CHASE were appointed a committee to draft a petition to Congress for an appropriation to make the Chicago and Green Bay road.

A number of buildings were erected in 1835, and there was a wonderful spirit of speculation in lands, lots, and claims on the public lands.

CHAPTER X.

NEW YORK INDIANS.

From 1818 to 1822, there was a combination of influences dissimilar in motive but perfectly consonant in purpose, all operating simultaneously, which resulted in the removal of a part of the New York Indians, to lands secured for them near Green Bay.

The Holland Land Company, having a pre-emption right of purchasing from the Indians their reservations, which right had been confirmed by the state of New York, sold it in 1810 to DAVID A. OPEN, who with his associates were known as the "Ogden Land Company." This company, for the purpose of extinguishing the Indian title and thereby perfecting its own, conceived the plan, in 1817-'18, of securing in the West, by consent and aid of the general government, an extensive grant of land from the western tribes, as a home or hunting ground for the several tribes of the New York Indians. One of the first steps was to secure the consent and co-operation of the War Department.

The Stockbridge and Brothertown Indians had a small reservation of thirty-five square miles in Oneida county. These Indians, influenced by an educated and eloquent young chief, SOLOMON U. HEDRICK, and their resident missionary, JOHN SWABELANT, became anxious to obtain a suitable tract of land west of the lakes to which they might remove and where they could have a permanent home. They obtained the influence and aid of the American Board of Missions, by which the late Dr. JEREMIAH MORSE—whose name is identified with the history of education in America, by the publication of his Geography, Atlas and Gazetteer, and who was the father of S. F. B. MORSE the inventor of the electric telegraph—was induced to undertake the mission of selecting a proper location. Preliminary to this undertaking application was made to the Secretary of War, that he be commissioned to make a general tour among the northwestern Indians, with a view to forming a better understanding between them and the Government.

In 1816-'17, ELEAZER WILLIAMS, the same who afterwards advanced the fictitious and preposterous claim to be the Dauphin of France, LOUIS 19th, appeared among the Oneida.

Indians. Born among the St. Regis Indians, of which tribe his mother was a native, and with whom he had lived until he was fourteen years old, the Indian language was his native tongue. He spent his boyhood from the age of 14 to 19 in New England schools and acquired a good English education and was tolerably conversant with the Christian system and with theology. He was withal a natural orator and most graceful and powerful speaker. He was commissioned by Bishop HOBART as catechist and lay reader to the Oneida Indians. Great success attended his missionary work, as the result of which the Bishop confirmed about fifty communicants.

But the field for the labors of this missionary confined, as it was to about fifteen hundred Oneidas, was more limited than his ambition. Whether the idea originated with him, or whether it was suggested by the Ogden Land Company, or borrowed from the Stockbridges, he proposed to the Oneidas in 1818, a grand emigration scheme and a confederated Indian Government. This scheme contemplated that the Oneidas, and all other New York Indians, with many of those in Canada and the Senecas at Sandusky, should remove to the neighborhood of Green Bay, and there unite in one grand confederacy of cantons, but all under one federal head. The contemplated government was to be a mixture of civil, military and ecclesiastic, the latter to predominate. The older and more sober minded of the Oneida chiefs lent no favor to the plan, but some of the younger men were more captivated with it, and some of the young hereditary chiefs were drawn into it. He also enticed a few of the young men of each of the other tribes of the Six Nations, to enter into his scheme. He next addressed the War Department, soliciting its countenance and assistance to enable a delegation of twenty, from the several tribes of the Six Nations, to visit the western tribes, for the purpose of obtaining a cession of country for a new home.

The Southern States, and their representatives in Congress and in the executive departments, regarded with extreme jealousy the rapidly advancing power of the free States. By the ordinance of 1787, slavery was forever prohibited in any States to be formed in the Northwest Territory; and the northern boundary of Illinois was by an act of Congress purposely extended more than sixty miles north of the boundary prescribed by the ordinance, in the vain

expectation that the country north of it could never acquire sufficient strength in wealth or numbers to claim admission as a State in the Union.

During the administration of Mr. MONROE, JOHN C. CALHOUN was Secretary of War, and lent his sanction to a plan to devote the territory west of Lake Michigan and north of Illinois as an Indian Territory, in which to colonize all the remaining tribes in the Northern States.

It excites no surprise, therefore, that the Secretary of War yielded a ready acquiescence in, and co-operation with, the plans and application of the Ogden Land Company, Dr. MORSE and Mr. WILLIAMS. The application which had been made in behalf of Dr. MORSE was granted, and he spent the summer of 1820 in visiting several of the northwestern tribes, fifteen days of which were spent at Green Bay, where he was the guest of Col. SMITH, and where he devoted his best efforts to securing a western retreat for the Stockbridge and other New York Indians.

In response to the application of Mr. WILLIAMS, the War Department gave orders to the several superintendents of Indian affairs, and commandants of military posts, to issue to the delegates of the different tribes of New York Indians, not exceeding twelve, certain amounts of rations, blankets, powder, lead, etc., and to facilitate their movements on their journey. A requisition also was ordered to be made on the naval officer at Detroit for a vessel to take the delegates from Detroit to Green Bay, if there was any fit for service.

A copy of these orders was furnished Mr. WILLIAMS, and on the 22d of July, 1820, he arrived with the delegation at Detroit and called on Gen. CASS, then Governor of Michigan Territory and superintendent of Indian affairs.

On his arrival at Detroit Mr. WILLIAMS learned that a treaty had been made with the Menomonees a few days before, in which they had ceded to the United States forty miles square of their land in the immediate vicinity of Fort Howard. This purchase of the very land Mr. WILLIAMS most desired, frustrated all his plans, and for the present, at least, defeated all his hopes; and as there was no government vessel there fit for service he, with his delegation of Indians, retraced their steps to the State of New York. That State took the cause of the Indians in its keeping, and the treaty was rejected by the Senate, and this impediment to the emigration project was removed.

The next year a similar order was made by the War Department, and Mr. WILLIAMS, with fourteen delegates from the tribes of Stockbridge, Oneida, Onondaga, Tuscarora, Seneca, and St. Regis Indians, being joined at Detroit by C. C. TROWBRIDGE, deputed by Gov. Cass, proceeded to Green Bay, where they arrived August 5, 1821. A very large portion of the Menomonees, influenced by the French inhabitants, the traders, and many of the half-breeds, were opposed to any cession of lands. But on the 18th of August a treaty was made, signed by some of the chiefs and head men of the Winnebagoes and Menomonees, by which the land was ceded from Grand Kau-kau-lin to the rapids at the Winnebago lake, and extending on each side of the river, up and down, equi-distant with the lands claimed by the Menomonees and Winnebagoes. This treaty was approved by the President of the United States, but its validity was always denied by a large part of the Menomonees.

On returning to New York, Mr. WILLIAMS found a more formidable opposition to his proceedings than he had met at Green Bay. A large part of the Stockbridges, Oneidas, Onondagas, Tuscaroras and all the Senecas were opposed to the treaty.

In 1822 a new order was obtained from the War Department, which still continued to favor the enterprise, providing for another visit to Green Bay. The delegation was larger than that of the previous year, and JOHN SARGEANT, Jr., succeeded Mr. TROWBRIDGE, on the part of the United States. They reached Green Bay the 1st of September. The Winnebagoes and Menomonees were soon assembled at the agency house at Green Bay, but the Winnebagoes refused all further negotiations, and soon retired up the river. After making the payments agreed upon in the treaty of the previous year, followed by feasting, dancing and a general hilarity of two days, there was much negotiation and a conference which continued for several days, the result of all of which was that on the 23rd day of September, 1823, a new treaty was made between the chiefs assuming to represent the Menomonees, and those assuming to represent the Stockbridge, Oneida, Tuscarora, St. Regis and Munsee Indians, by which the former tribe purport to cede to the latter tribes, all their lands, east, north and west of those ceded the previous year.

This treaty was approved by the President, March 13, 1823, with some modifications of the boundaries.

A small party of about fifty Stockbridges located late in the fall of this year, at the Grand Kau-kau-lin on the east side of the river, and were joined the next year by a party of Munsees. A small party of the Brothertowns reached Green Bay the second year (1823) and located at Little Kau-kau-lin on the east side of the river. A small party of Oneidas came at the same time and located at the same place where they remained until 1825, when they removed to Duck Creek.

The treaty of 1823 excited, if possible, more opposition among the Menomonees, than that of the previous year and a large part of the tribe, probably a majority, were determined that they would disregard it. There was no less opposition to the treaty among most of the New York Indians who were resolved not to emigrate.

On the 11th of August, 1827, a treaty was made at Butte des Morts between Gov. Cass and THOMAS L. MCKINNEY, commissioners on the part of the United States, and the Chippewas, Menomonees and Winnebagoes, the chief object of which was to declare the boundaries between these tribes. In the second article of this treaty it is declared that the difficulties between the Menomonee and Winnebago tribes, and the tribes or portions of tribes of the State of New York, and the claims of the respective parties, as well with relation to tenure and boundaries as to the authority of the persons who signed the treaties, be referred to the President of the United States, whose decision should be final. The resolution of the Senate, ratifying this treaty, contained a provision, that it should not affect any right or claim of the New York Indians, which destroyed the effect of the second article of the Cass treaty.

In 1830, ERASTUS ROOT and JAMES MCCALL of New York, and JOHN T. MASON, Secretary of Michigan Territory, were appointed commissioners by the United States to effect an adjustment of the whole matter between the Wisconsin Indians and the New York Indians. Eight days were spent in council and every effort made to reconcile the Menomonees to the claims in whole or in part of the New York Indians. Nothing could be done. The Menomonees were inflexible. They would agree to nothing except that, as the New York Indians were in the country, they might stay

during good behavior, but must be regarded as tenants at will and having no interest in the land.

About this time COL SAMUEL C. STAMBAUGH was appointed Indian agent at Green Bay by General JACKSON. On the 8th of November, 1830, he left Green Bay with a delegation of fourteen Menomonee chiefs to visit Washington with a view to making a treaty there for the sale of a part of their lands to the United States. On their arrival there on the 11th of December, the President appointed Gen. EATON, Secretary of War, and Col. STAMBAUGH, commissioners to make a treaty.

After several delays and much informal negotiation the Commissioners and the Menomonees met and on the 8th of February 1831, agreed upon a treaty, in which it was provided that a tract of land should be set apart as a home for the New York Indians bounded as follows: Beginning on the west side of Fox River, near the little Kau-kau-lin at the 'Old Mill Dam'; then northwest forty miles; then northeast to the Oconto river; then down the Oconto, and up and along Green Bay and Fox River to the place of beginning containing about 500,000 acres, excluding private claims and the military reservation. The treaty in the first article limited the time of the removal and settlement of the New York Indians upon the lands to three years. It further provided in the sixth article, that if the New York Indians then in Wisconsin, should not remove to and settle on the ceded land within three years, the President should direct their immediate removal from the Menomonee country. On the 17th day of February, 1831, a supplementary article was added to the treaty, which provided, that instead of the limitation of three years contained in the first article, the President should prescribe the time for the removal and settlement, and that the removal of the Indians, mentioned in the sixth article, should be left discretionary with the President.

This treaty not having been acted upon at the session which terminated March 4th, 1831, a further stipulation was made on the 15th of March, that it should be laid before the Senate at its next session, with the same effect as at the late session.

The amendments made on the 17th February did not reconcile the New York Indians to the treaty, and they renewed their opposition to it at the next session. The result

was that the treaty was ratified by the Senate on the 25th June, 1832, with an amendment in the interest of the New York Indians, which provided that two townships of land on the east side of Winnebago Lake, equal to forty-six thousand and eighty acres, should be laid off for the use of the Stockbridge and Munsee tribes, and one township adjoining, equal to twenty-three thousand and forty acres, should be laid off and granted for the use of the Brothertown Indians; and that the Stockbridge, Munsee and Brothertown Indians should relinquish to the United States all their claims to any other lands, on the east side of Fox River, and that the United States should pay the Indians for their improvements thereon.

The amendment of the Senate also provided that the southwestern boundary of the 500,000 acre tract on the western side of the Fox River, should be extended southwesterly far enough to add to it 200,000 acres, and that the same number of acres should be taken from the northeast side.

On the 27th October, 1832, a council was held at Green Bay, by GEORGE B. PORTER, Governor of Michigan Territory, commissioned for that purpose by the President, with the representatives of the Menomonees, Stockbridges, Munsees, Brothertowns, St. Regis and Six Nations. The Menomonees assented without objection to so much of the Senate amendment as related to the three townships of land on the east side of Lake Winnebago, but proposed a modification of the southwestern boundary line of the 200,000 acres added on the southwest side, not however affecting the quantity of land added. All the New York Indians, including the St. Regis and Six Nations (generally known as Oneidas), accepted and agreed to the Senate amendments, with the modification proposed by the Menomonees, and requested that they might be ratified and approved by the President and Senate of the United States.

The conflict with the Wisconsin Indians, which had its origin in the three separate schemes of the Ogden Land Company to make its pre-emption rights available, of the Stockbridge, Munsee and Brothertown Indians, to obtain a more desirable home, and of ELIAZER WILLIAMS to build up a grand Indian nation, fostered and encouraged as these schemes were by JOHN C. CALHOUN, to render it impossible that more free states should be organized out of the North-

west Territory, by setting it apart for the sole dominion of Indian tribes, was now terminated. This conflict had continued for more than twelve years, and the result had fallen so far short of the grand hopes and castles in the air, built by WILLIAMS, that he abandoned forever his Utopian scheme and devoted his time to the establishment of his more visionary fiction, that he was the Dauphin—the "Lost Prince" of the house of the Bourbons.

The schemes of the Ogden Land Company, of relegating to the wilds of Wisconsin the Indians who occupied the lands in New York, which the company coveted so much, was attended with the same disaster, and the project of obtaining a home for them near Green Bay was abandoned, to be succeeded by a provision for their transfer a few years later to a reservation made west of Missouri, in the southeastern part of what has since become the State of Kansas, where a reservation of nearly two million acres was, by treaty, entered into January 15, 1838, made for—

"A permanent home for all the New York Indians now residing in the State of New York, or in Wisconsin, or elsewhere in the United States."

The hopes of the Secretary of War, and of all others who shared them, of abridging the area of freedom, were also disappointed.

The New York Indians, who had removed or desired to remove to Green Bay, were the only parties to the original plan of emigration that were satisfied with the result. The whole of the Stockbridges, Brothertowns, and part of the Munsees, with about eleven hundred Oneidas, moved soon after to their respective locations, and the community of the Oneidas has been continually augmented by the annual accession of small parties from New York.

By a treaty made with the United States, February 3, 1838, the Oneida Indians, in consideration of \$33,500, ceded to the United States all their title and interest in the land set apart to them by the treaties of 1831 and 1832, reserving a tract of one hundred acres to each individual of the Oneidas, to be surveyed by the government as soon as practicable, so as to include all their settlements and improvements.

By this treaty the possessions of the Six Nations were reduced to a tract of about eight miles by twelve, containing about sixty-one thousand acres. About two thousand of these people now live on this tract, who are slowly pro-

gressing in civilization. There is a missionary church and school in the settlement, under the fostering care of the Protestant Episcopal church. About one hundred and fifty families, comprising about seven hundred and fifty persons, compose the church congregation, of whom about two hundred and fifty are communicants.

The Brothertown Indians had entirely laid aside their aboriginal character, to the extent even of having lost their vernacular, and adopted the English language, and were in a fit situation to abandon their tribal relations and become citizens of the United States. Congress, therefore, by an act approved March 3, 1839, provided that the township of land granted for their use by the Menomonees, should be partitioned and divided among the different individuals composing the Brothertown tribe, and be held by them separately and severally in fee simple. And that thereafter each of them should be citizens of the United States, and their rights as a tribe or a nation should cease and determine. Since then they have been recognized as citizens; have been elected members of the Legislature, and to other offices under the Territorial and State governments, and have become homogeneous with the other inhabitants of the State.

CHAPTER XI.

THE LEAD MINES AND WINNEBAGO WAR.

The history of General SMITH is as complete in relation to the Indian disturbances in Wisconsin, as to the early explorations of the valley of the Mississippi, and this chapter is largely made up of extracts from that rare and valuable work.

Indian wars with their attendant horrors and savage atrocities have ever been concomitants of the primitive permanent settlement of every part of the American continent from those which followed the settlements at Jamestown and Plymouth to the latest conflicts with the savages of the Territories.

Indian traders in the Northwest were suffered to pursue their vocation for nearly two hundred years without mo-