

Valentine SNIPPETS of SALEM

434 – RESEARCHING Wisconsin Community History of the State Historical Society

Contents:

An incomplete series of 20 articles pertaining to genealogy and historic research that were written by various historians and educators.

The material was just 'too nice' to dispose of.

NOTES:

There will not be a paper booklet of this PDF.

The documents may be relocated in the archives of the WKCHS.

0-73 pages

NOTE:

The materials herein were contributed by those of the area who wished that the history they have experienced be saved for the future generations. These may represent private documents as well as previously published articles and obituaries and images from their saved collections..

Researchers should also refer to the Valentine Digital archives at the SALEM COMMUNITY LIBRARY (and perhaps other websites) for more images in this collection or digital images of items photocopied in this booklet or related to the topic.

Compiled 4/2014 by L S Valentine Copyright©Valentine2014

Valentine SNIPPETS of SALEM

434 – RESEARCHING Wisconsin Community History of the State Historical Society

Contents:

An incomplete series of 20 articles pertaining to genealogy and historic research that were written by various historians and educators.

The material was just 'too nice' to dispose of.

NOTES:

There will not be a paper booklet of this PDF.

The documents may be relocated in the archives of the WKCHS.

0-73 pages

NOTE:

The materials herein were contributed by those of the area who wished that the history they have experienced be saved for the future generations. These may represent private documents as well as previously published articles and obituaries and images from their saved collections..

Researchers should also refer to the Valentine Digital archives at the SALEM COMMUNITY LIBRARY (and perhaps other websites) for more images in this collection or digital images of items photocopied in this booklet or related to the topic.

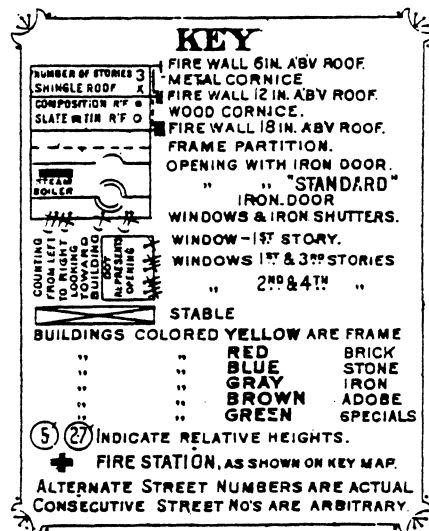
Compiled 4/2014 by L S Valentine Copyright©Valentine2014

Sanborn

to provide this service, the Sanborn Company began to produce large scale (fifty feet to an inch) extremely detailed maps (including even the direction of prevailing winds) focusing upon the downtown areas of cities. They included the size and number of stories of every building, the type of construction, the nature of the business or businesses which occupied individual buildings or larger commercial "blocks", the presence of fire hazards such as blacksmith forges, large baker's ovens or stored kerosene, and the existence of fire fighting equipment, cisterns or community water works.

The Sanborn map makers developed a detailed set of symbols to indicate the features of individual buildings. As the key shows, color indicated the material of which buildings were constructed. Other symbols were used to show the type of roofing, the presence of fire walls or iron shutters, the number of stories, and the location of windows and doors.

Since communities were always changing, the Sanborn Company continually updated maps to reflect new construction and different uses of existing buildings. In rapidly expanding cities, updated versions appeared frequently. In Eau Claire, for example, Sanborn maps exist for 1885, 1887, 1889, 1894, and 1897. On the average, however, the company updated maps approximately every five years.



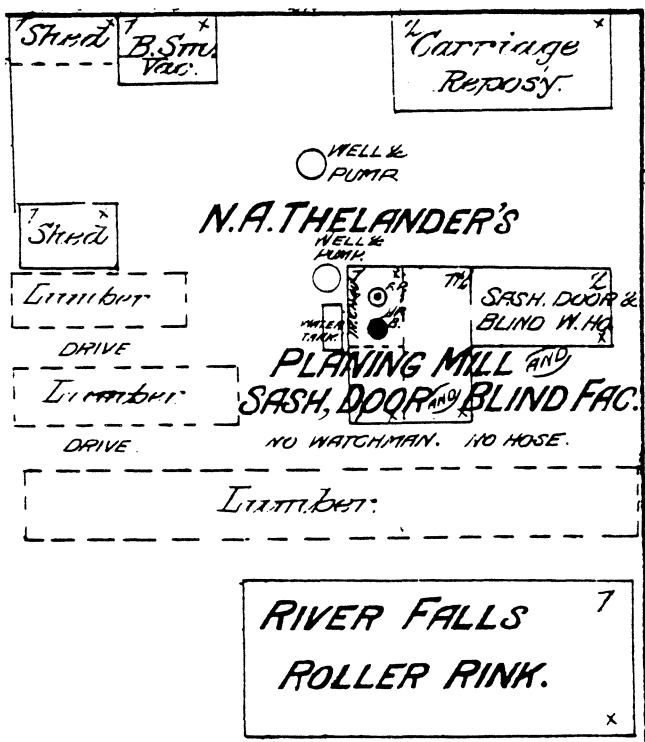
Sanborn maps exist for 325 Wisconsin communities. The earliest date from 1883 and some have information as recent as 1970. Most, however, are between 1883 and 1930. Maps were created for small cities and villages as well as large ones. The selection for Wisconsin includes communities ranging in size from Milwaukee to Wilson in St. Croix County, whose 1980 population was only 155 people.

Although the maps were created to provide details about the commercial district in communities, some residential neighborhoods are also included--especially those areas within one to three blocks from downtown.

The State Historical Society's collection of Sanborn Maps is extensive, and although the maps do not generally circulate within the ARC network, many Center's have obtained copies for their regions. The ARCs at Eau Claire, La Crosse, Stout, River Falls, Oshkosh and Parkside all have microform or other copies. In addition, smaller sets have been microfilmed for the counties of Rock and Kewaunee, as well as for the cities of Appleton, Merrill, Wausau and Wisconsin Rapids.

Microfilm copies will soon become even more easily available. The State Historical Society has ordered a complete microfilm edition of Sanborn maps for the State of Wisconsin which will be available through interlibrary loan. In addition, the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, Illinois, is purchasing a microfilm edition, which may be borrowed by ARCs through the UW-System interlibrary loan program.

The following illustrations show some of the typical information one can find on the Sanborn Maps and suggest some of the different ways that they may be used to obtain information about communities, individual businesses, residences or neighborhoods.

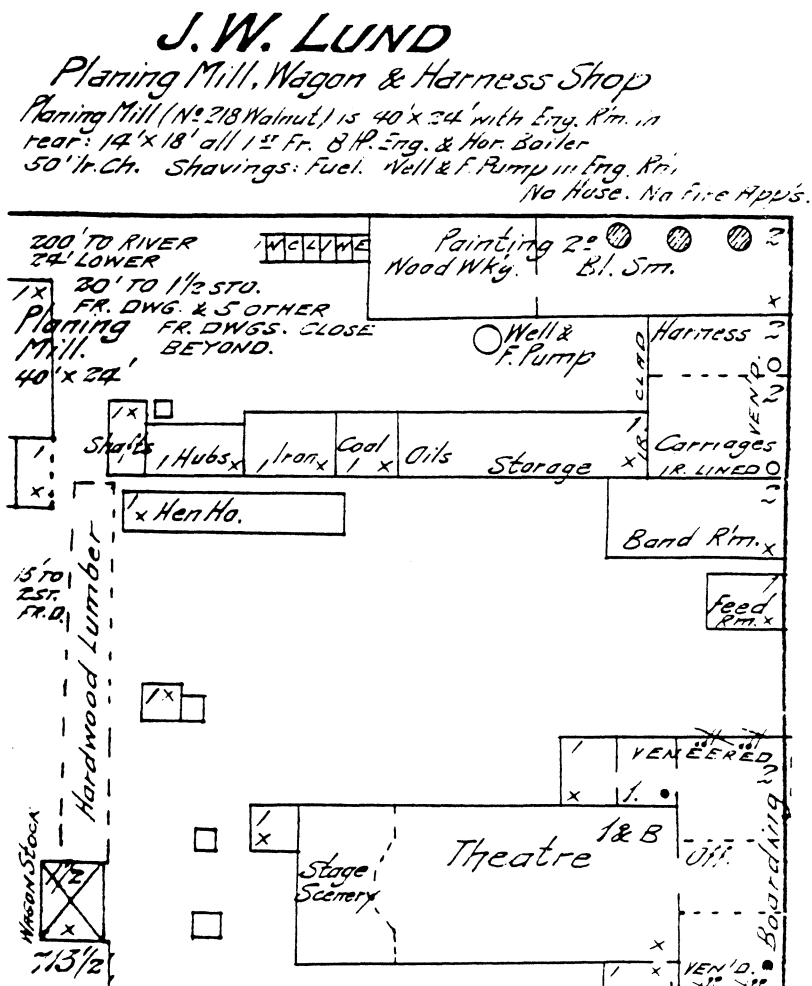


1884

Only seven years later, many changes have taken place. By 1891 the Thelander property has been purchased by another businessman and expanded considerably. The former "Carriage Repository" has been changed into a large "three forge" blacksmith shop, with additions to the west and south for painting, woodworking and harness shops. The 1884 planing mill building is almost gone. Only the front warehouse portion remains and it has been converted into a band room. Note how the distance to the river has been recorded at the upper left corner of the map. This was an important consideration in the days of bucket brigades and hand-pump hose carts.

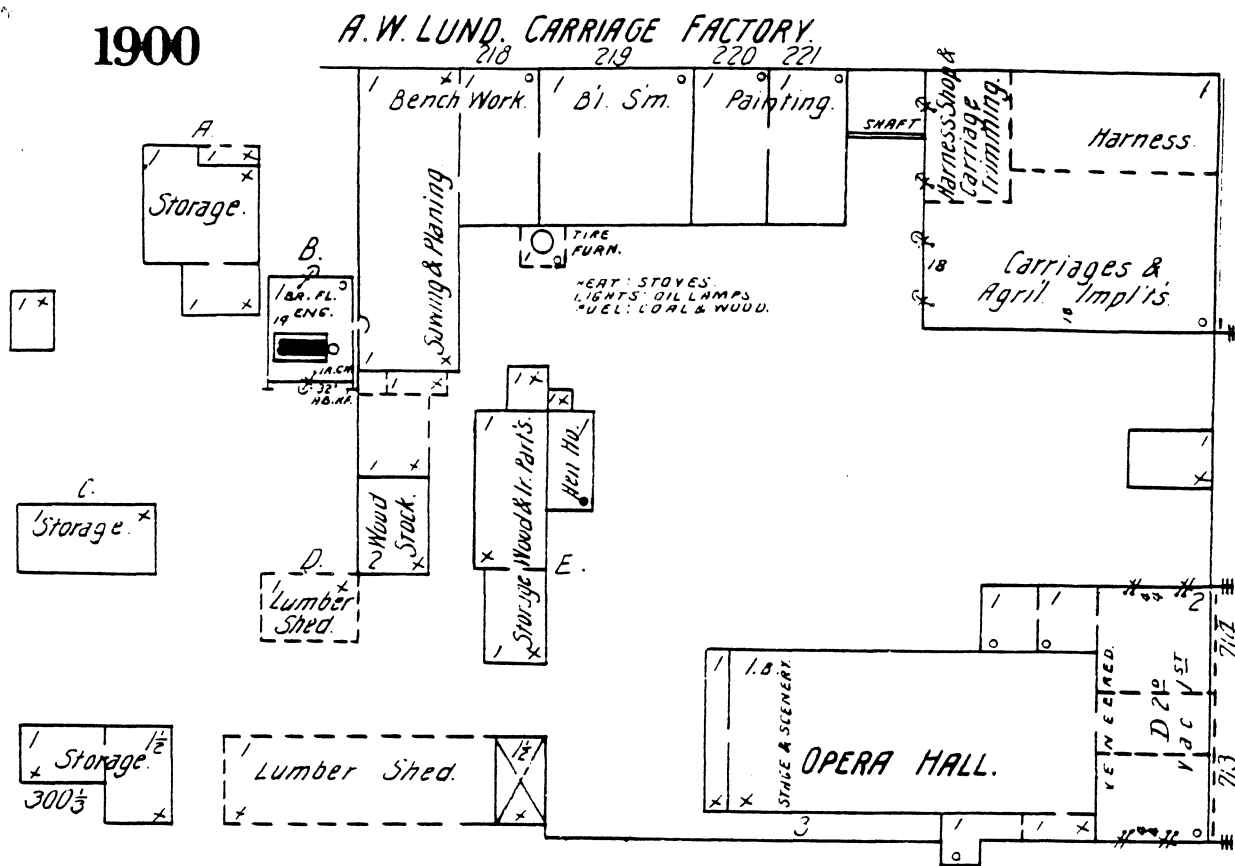
The old roller rink has been literally picked up and moved away from the street. A two-story brick veneer boarding house has been added to the front and the rink is being used as a theatre.

We can begin to trace the development of one small portion of a downtown district by examining this 1884 Sanborn Map. At the top is N. A. Thelander's manufacturing business which produces carriages, doors, blinds, and other wood products. The dotted lines indicate the location of stacked lumber, and the word "drive" between the stacks indicates that there is sufficient room for a carriage--or a fire wagon--to drive through. The colored original shows that all the buildings were constructed of wood. Notice how the map shows the location of wells, pumps, and water tanks, and the fact that the blacksmith shop at the upper left was vacant at that time. The River Falls Roller Rink was immediately south of Thelander's, also constructed of wood.



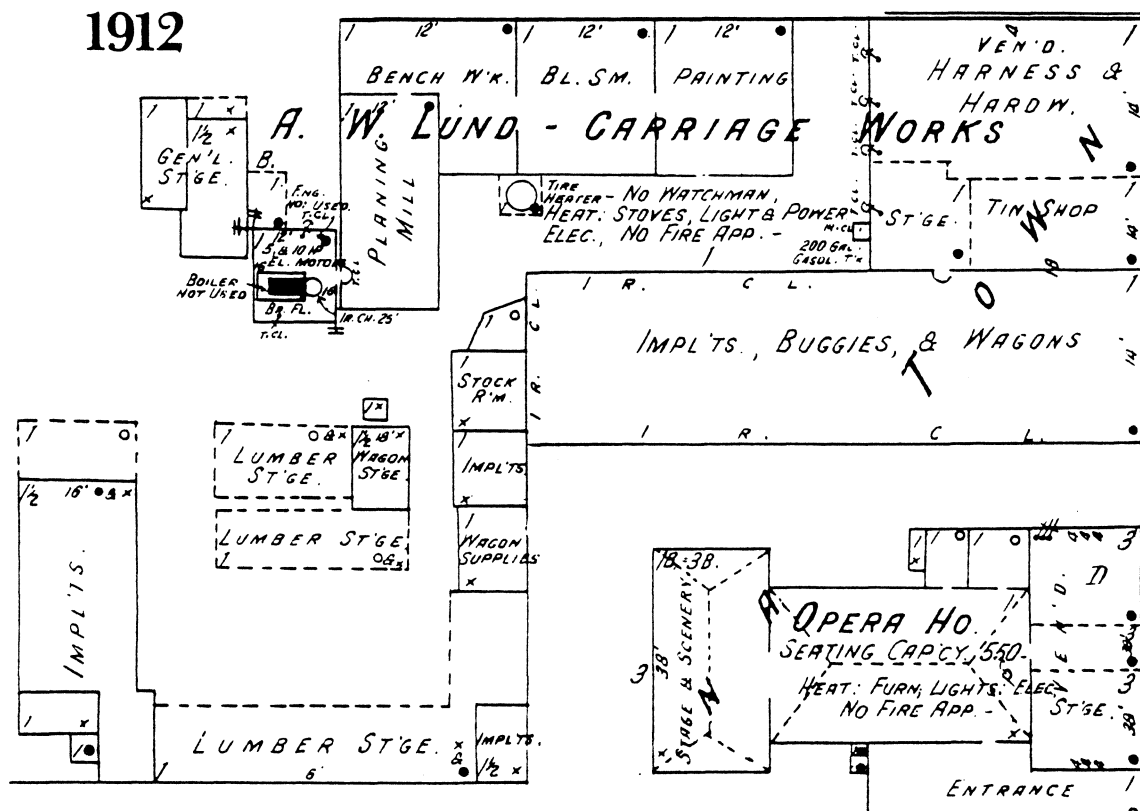
1891

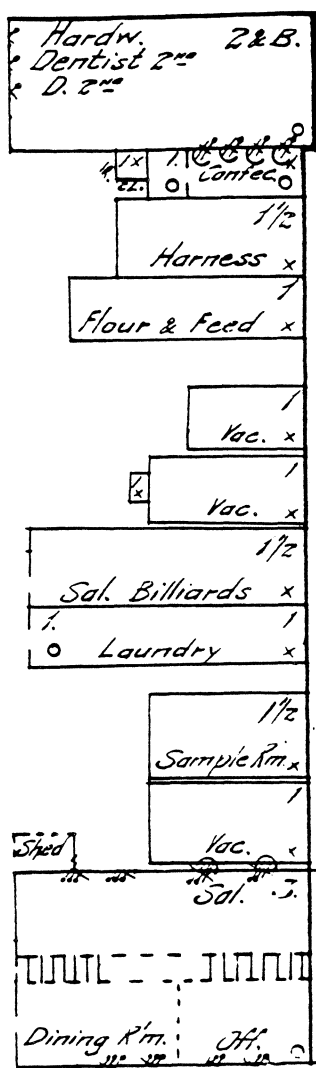
1900



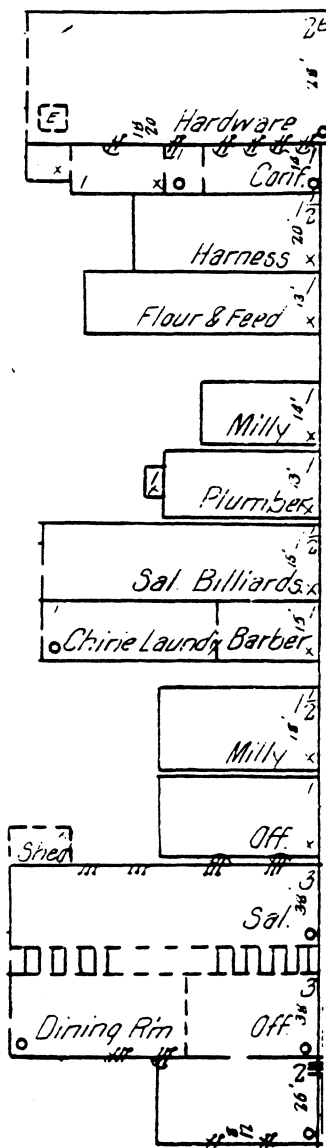
Between 1891 and 1900 the theatre has undergone only minor changes, but it has come to be known by the more glamorous name of the "Opera Hall." However, the carriage factory is totally different. Research in the local newspaper quickly tells us why: in 1893 Lund's business was completely destroyed by fire. The new building at the upper right has been constructed of brick and stone rather than wood. We also can see that the firm has started to sell agricultural implements. The final map, from 1912, shows continued expansion with the addition of a large new building for implements, buggies and wagons, and a line of hardware which was added after 1900.

1912





1891



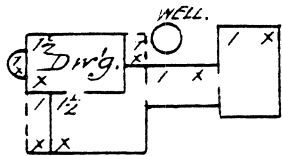
1900

A close examination and comparison of Sanborn maps can also reveal important information about changing economic conditions in a community over the years. The map to the far left shows one block in a Wisconsin city's commercial district during a depression in 1891. Notice that in this single block there are three vacant buildings where businesses have gone bankrupt.

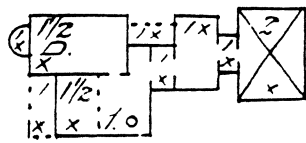
Compare this with the same block only nine years later. The map from 1900 shows every building occupied at that time. We also can see how stable the businesses appear to have been. Moving from the top to the bottom of the map, the hardware store, confectionary, harness shop, flour & feed store, saloon & billiard parlor, laundry, sample room, saloon, office and dining room are virtually unchanged from one map to the other.

Although the Sanborn Insurance Maps focus upon a community's business district, some also include a large portion of the residential area. Individual homes were recorded with the same precision as large factories. For this reason the maps are an excellent resource for determining when homes were built, and how

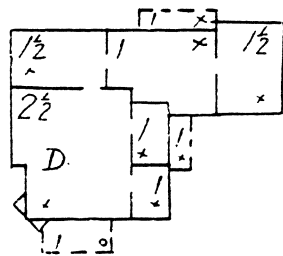
they have changed over the years. The four illustrations below show a single residential dwelling between 1884 and 1912. Extensive remodelling has completely changed the appearance of the home, and the Sanborn map makes it possible to determine approximately when each of the changes was made. Notice the bay window which appears in both the 1884 and the 1891 diagram. The dotted lines which appear along exterior walls indicate porches, or partially enclosed areas.



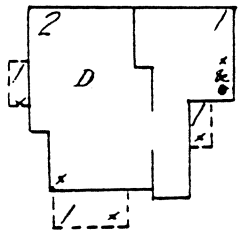
1884



1891

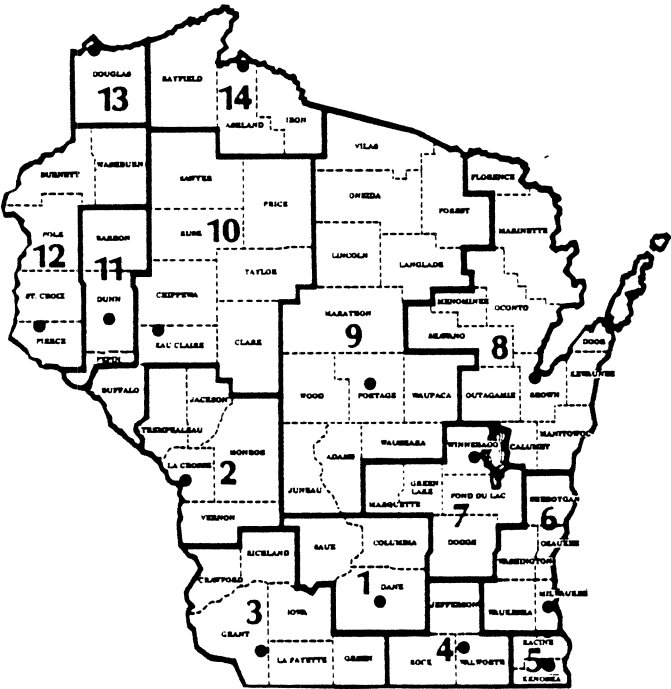


1900



1912

For additional information about Sanborn Maps, contact the Area Research Center in your district or the Map Librarian at the State Historical Society.



**WISCONSIN'S
AREA RESEARCH CENTER
NETWORK**

- 1 State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison
- 2 University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- 3 University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- 4 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- 5 University of Wisconsin-Parkside
- 6 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 7 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- 8 University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- 9 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- 10 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- 11 University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie
- 12 University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- 13 University of Wisconsin-Superior
- 14 Northland College, Ashland

From Exchange Vol. 28, No. 1 Winter 1986

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the second in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society. It was written by Tim Ericson, Archivist for the Statewide Cooperative Collection Development Project.



Church Records - Part 1

Wisconsin church records, and vital records kept by early itinerant missionaries, are widely used by genealogists and by researchers tracing the history of their congregations for a centennial or another special event. However, records from churches or other religious organizations--regardless of their denomination--also have broader research value for all community historians.

Religion has been an important factor in Wisconsin history since the earliest days of settlement. Often a church was the first record-keeping organization in the community. In many cases, missionaries were among the first people to travel through a newly settled region and write what they saw of the land and the people. In addition to serving religious needs, churches often became the primary social and cultural centers in small frontier villages. They sponsored educational programs and functioned as centers of community life for ethnic immigrant groups. Churches actively promoted community improvements such as schools, and they served as the rallying points for social crusades of the day, from the abolitionists of the Civil War era to the longstanding prohibition campaign to the civil rights movements of the 1960s.

Because of churches' close involvement in community affairs, and the average clergyman's overriding concern for the well-being of Wisconsin's early inhabitants, religious records--aside from what they might tell us about an individual church--often contain unique, invaluable information about the early history of specific localities.

Many of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin's religious records--particularly individual church records--have been distributed throughout the Area Research Center network where they are closer to their area of origin and more accessible to local researchers. Additionally, many ARCs also have collections from regional denominational organizations. For example, the Eau Claire ARC has records from the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire (1877-1949:EC Mss V) which include registers and record books from several regional Episcopal congregations. The Oshkosh ARC has a similar collection from the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac (1860, 1862, 1873-1935:OSH Mss AV).

Denominational Organizational Records

Many church-related collections remain at the State Historical Society in Madison. Among the most useful are several large collections of association or conference records which contain a great deal of information about local churches and communities throughout the state. Notable among these are the archives of the United Church of Christ-Wisconsin Conference (1839-1958: Mss 181). In addition to minutes and proceedings, a large portion of this collection is composed of files on individual Congregational (UCC) churches in more than 200 different Wisconsin communities. Typically these files contain photographs, correspondence, newsletters, reports, and other records. Although the files pertain directly to the church, they often contain valuable information about the history of the community or the region in which the church is located. The following excerpt--from a letter written by a minister in the Trego, Wisconsin, area in 1930--provides insight into conditions in that region at the time of the Great Depression.

"Northern Wisconsin has for some time been facing a very serious economic condition which has been aggravated this summer and fall by the drouth. For over two months our locality has not had a rain and all hay, potatoes, grain and other crops burned up. One grower with 80 acres of potatoes told me the other day his crop would not bring \$10 per acre. Douglas County is offering its land at \$2 per acre and has thousands of acres of abandoned farms to sell."

It is easy to see how such information would be an interesting addition to a community history. The UCC files date primarily from the 1920s to the 1950s, although some contain documentation as far back as the 1880s. To find out



Files of church records often document important community-related activities. Here the pastor of a Trego church prepares to distribute clothing to needy families during the Great Depression.

SHSW WHi(x3) 41715.

which communities are included in this collection, researchers should consult the nearest ARC or the Reference Archivist at the State Historical Society.

The Wisconsin Congregational Conference (1840-1949:Wis Mss GX) is a similar collection which includes records from Ripon College, Brockway College, and church records from 38 Wisconsin communities, as distant from one another as Cumberland, Platteville, Stoughton and Green Bay.

The American Home Missionary Society collection (1827-1848:Wis Mss GV) includes approximately 300 photostat copies of letters written by missionaries who worked in Wisconsin Territory prior to 1848. Many letters describe, in striking detail, the hardships endured by some of our pioneer ancestors. The following excerpt from one such letter, written by a missionary in the Burlington/Rochester region, illustrates that bilingualism was an issue in 1847 as it is today, and that the "American Dream" was not achieved quickly by everyone:

"The majority of the [Norwegian immigrants] know nothing of the English language & from so far as I learn, care nothing for it. An English school has been taught among them one or two winters, by means of which a few children have acquired some knowledge of our language. Many of the parents, however, reject the opportunity with ignorant self conceit, and say they have no need of English...A few of them...have neat & comfortable dwellings...but a majority of them, especially those who emigrated from the barren regions of Norway, are poor & miserable and know little of the arts of husbandry whereby to gain a livelihood."

The same letter concludes with a moving description of the conditions endured by one immigrant family during the winter of 1846-1847:

"I visited one family in which I found every individual, eight in number, prostrated with disease. Two of them, the father and a daughter of some 16 years, were shaking violently with the ague. The daughter shoeless and nearly destitute of clothing stood hovering over a few live coals by the side of which stood an old filthy looking copper tea kettle, from the spout of which they would take their turns drinking. The others were huddled in bunks filled with prairie hay with nothing over them...save a few sheep skins sewed together. Aside from the tea kettle we saw but one article of furniture...a wooden bowl filled with what I took to be [bread] kneaded and prepared for baking. This, as near as I could learn, was all they had in the house with which to support life."

8
The archives of the Methodist Episcopal Church-West Wisconsin Conference (1848-1951:Wis Mss UT), encompasses a territory roughly west of a line from Ashland to Beloit. Many of the records in this collection were compiled by a conference historical society which was organized to encourage the writing and preservation of church histories. There is historical information on churches from more than 100 different Wisconsin communities. Files include newspaper clippings, unpublished historical manuscripts and correspondence. Church historians will be interested in conference and circuit histories, biographies of ministers who served in the region, local and association

newsletters, membership and baptismal records, and other statistical information relating to churches in western Wisconsin. Detailed lists of the contents of this rich collection also are available at each of the ARCs or from the Reference Archivist at the State Historical Society.

The Wisconsin Baptist State Convention (1842-1955:Mss 274) has a similar collection, although it is less extensive than either the UCC or the Methodist archives. The Baptist materials include short church histories from approximately 30 communities around Wisconsin. There is, in addition, a large number of typed transcripts of letters from Baptist ministers who were in Wisconsin during the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s. The letters generally are short, but they were written by missionaries working from Racine to Superior, and many contain valuable information about the respective regions. The account below, written March 12, 1857, by a missionary in the Green Bay region, shows that at least some of Wisconsin's early settlers took their religion very seriously:

"Last Sabbath I baptized the first person into the fellowship of the church. The candidate was a young lady 18 years of age. We repaired to the Fox River [which] was covered with ice three feet thick, [and] in which a beautiful baptistry had been cut for the occasion. A flight of steps cut in the ice descended to the bottom of the river. It was the first baptism [by] immersion in Green Bay [and] it made an impression on persons of other denominations."

The State Historical Society has recently purchased a large collection of Wisconsin American Lutheran Church records (1844-1978), originally microfilmed for the ALC archives at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. This collection includes records from more than 300 Wisconsin communities. The Platteville ARC also has an extensive collection of microfilmed ALC church records from the southwestern part of the state (Platteville Micro 16).



A Spring Valley Congregational Church file contains several photographs documenting a disastrous flood that almost wiped out the community in September, 1942.

SHSW WHi(x3) 41716.



During the 1930's many found it impossible to make financial pledges. Instead they gave food or other "in-kind" contributions. Church members shown here use a tractor-powered saw to cut wood for the church. SHSW, WHI(x3) 71714.

Works Progress Administration Survey Records

Certainly one of the most fascinating collections of church-related material can be found in the records of the Works Progress Administration (1936-1942: Series 1953). During the Great Depression the WPA undertook many projects, among which was a survey of Wisconsin church records. During this search, workers also compiled brief histories of all the churches they could find--even some which had ceased to exist years prior to the survey. The result is a gold mine for community historians.

Individual histories are generally quite brief, noting facts such as the date of founding, names of ministers and other church officers, highlights in the church's history, and information on the church buildings(s). Occasionally photographs, news clippings, annual reports, brochures and other historical material accompany the written reports. Even these brief summaries often contain valuable information, as illustrated by the selection from a now defunct Baptist church located in Pierce County:

10 "[The church was] organized in 1889. People in this community donated logs for lumber and their services. Soon a frame church building was erected and dedicated in 1889. ...Slowly the membership dwindled and by 1925 there were not enough members left to hold services, and so from 1925 to 1930 the Baptist Conference held quarterly meetings. [In] 1930 [the] Conference sold the building to the Ku Klux Klan, and in 1939 the building was torn down."

Community historians will find the WPA collection useful for many reasons. Most important is the sheer number of histories included--close to five thousand! The survey covered all parts of the state--both rural and urban--and includes information about churches that have long since ceased to exist. The collection would be indispensable, for example, to a researcher looking at the history of churches on a county-wide basis. The survey encompasses all denominations, including Catholic churches that are not represented in most other Historical Society collections. It also includes denominations which are extremely small, or which no longer exist, such as the Church of God in Christ, the Christadelphians, and the Foursquare Baptists founded by the famous woman evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson. Finally, the collection also contains information about religious organizations such as the Salvation Army, YMCA and non-denominational groups.

Church Records, Histories & Missionary Correspondence

The archives section also has a large number of individual church histories and original church records, as well as letters, recollections and records of itinerant missionaries who traveled around the state during the early years of settlement. Like the examples cited above, these resources frequently contain unique information about the early history of Wisconsin communities. The following excerpt, written in 1833 by a missionary in the Prairie du Chien area, gives advice to prospective emigrants:

"The soil is certainly superior to any I ever saw in any country, producing small grain such as wheat, oats &c., from 30 to 45 bushels per acre. Corn does not grow so well here as in Missouri and Illinois, but I am told that 40 bushels per acre may be expected.

[Concerning] the price of staple products...corn and wheat \$1 per bushel, oats 50 cents, pork and beef from \$5 to \$6 per hundred. I gave since I came \$45 for two cows and calves, and was glad to get them.

Prospects for common laborers [are as follows:] \$15 and boarding are given per month for laborers on a farm, fifty cents per cord for chopping wood, and \$18 to \$25 for digging minerals. I know of no place in the United States, where laborers can do better than in this country."

For additional information about any archival records related to churches, missionaries and religious organizations, contact the Reference Archivist, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, or the nearest Area Research Center.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the third in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society. It was written by Tim Ericson, Archivist for the Statewide Cooperative Collection Development Project at the Society.

Church Records—Part 2

Community historians excited by the richness of information contained in church records in the Archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin will also find useful material in the State Historical Society Library's large collection of resources about Wisconsin churches and religious organizations. Like the records in the Archives & Manuscripts section, Library collections contain unique information about Wisconsin's early settlers, and the cities, villages, and rural localities they inhabited.

Included, of course, are hundreds of individual church histories from throughout the state. But community historians probably will find even more unique and fascinating information in one of the many publications issued by various religious organizations active in Wisconsin during the nineteenth century.

One of the earliest and most extensive is the Home Missionary (1828-1909: DS.7H7). This publication regularly featured letters from missionaries living in all parts of the Wisconsin frontier, especially in the years prior to 1880. Although these letters focus primarily upon religious matters, they also contain a wealth of material about individual communities, and about the people who had immigrated to the state. For example, the following selection, from a letter written in 1856 by a missionary in Trempealeau County, gives an early account of the origin of that county's name.

"There is, just east of the Trempealeau River . . . a conical bluff which appears to stand in the water when the rivers are high. To this the French gave the name 'Trempe a l'eau' [which means] soaked in water. This is the origin of the name now applied to the range of bluffs, river, county and town."

Another selection, from North Pepin in 1857, tells something about the hardships faced by early settlers.

12
". . . many thoughts and cares are about the comfort of wife and children. Till within about ten days past we lived in a very uncomfortable log cabin--so low that we must always stoop or hit our head upon the boards above. It is no slight trial of one's patience to be always thumping the head against a rough board or beam. This cabin became so cold that we really suffered in it before we left. Some of our Eastern friends would not think such

accommodations endurable. But such we have to put up with in a new country."

A third example, from Prairie du Chien, gives an excellent idea of how scarce money was on the Wisconsin frontier in 1858.

"The [\$2] fee [for baptizing two children] was a 'godsend.' We had been, for some time, borrowing, and the last dollar was spent, the flour barrel was empty, and over every store door is now written in large letters TERMS CASH. The \$2 bought us a sack of flour and one dollar, a donation from an old lady, got us some butter and cheese. These, with some stores remaining from last year's garden, afforded bountiful supplies."

Other publications, similar to the Home Missionary, contain equally useful information about the establishment and building of churches, and about the early history of Wisconsin communities. For example, Church Building Quarterly (1883-1909: DS.7C57), published by the American Congregational Union, lists facts about hundreds of Wisconsin churches, including the year they were built, the amount of aid they received, and the amount that had been returned to the Society through local donations. Also included are many church building designs which feature an artist's drawing of the building's exterior, and detailed floor plans such as the one shown on the opposite page.

The Minutes of the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (1861- :BX/8381/W51) represents only one of several denominational publications that typically contain statistical and biographical information. However, such proceedings also include revealing evidence about the attitudes and beliefs of Wisconsinites at a given period of history. The resolutions below, from the 1861 Methodist Episcopal annual meeting, illustrate strong feelings on the subject of liquor, and the outbreak of the Civil War:

Resolved, That we will do all that we can to cast odium on the liquor traffic, and to banish from good society all that are engaged in the nefarious business.

Resolved, That we strongly recommend that a sermon be preached at least once a year, in all our congregations, on the subject [of temperance reform].

Resolved, That all the war power of the nation should at once be used to crush the rebellion.

Resolved, That the citizen who withholds from the Government, in this time of peril, his earnest and cheerful support, is a traitor to his country, and an enemy to his God.

13
The Baptist Home Mission Monthly (1881-1909: DS.7B21) featured regular statistical tabulations of church membership and financial giving, biographical information on ministers, diagrams of church buildings, and occasional articles concerning work with ethnic groups in several Wisconsin regions. A regular feature entitled "From the Field" included occasional excerpts of letters written by Wisconsin clergymen. Focusing more heavily on spiritual matters

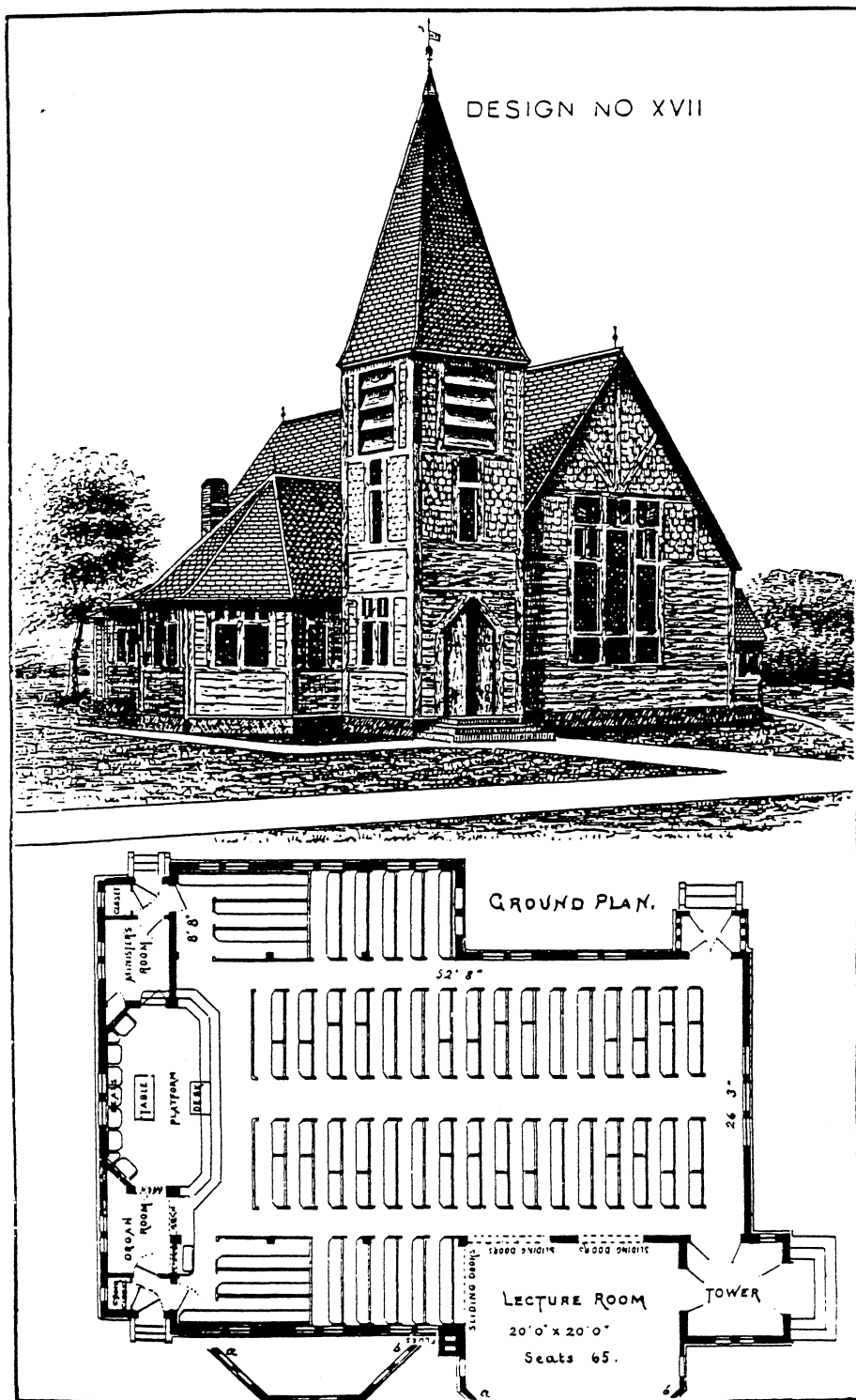


Illustration from the Church Building Quarterly, April 1883, Vol. I, No. II. New York: The American Congregational Union, No. 59 Bible House, p. 47.

than the typical Home Missionary letters, they still contain some gems about pioneer life in Wisconsin. An 1888 letter from Chippewa Falls adds to our knowledge about the importance of lumbering in that community:

"Thousands of young men this winter have been here and are now away in the camps far from everybody . . . This occupation takes many for six or eight months of logging, so that the term 'woods

widow' has grown up in this north land and signifies the woman whose husband is off in some distant camp earning a livelihood."

The Journal of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Wisconsin (1847- :BX/5918/M6/J7) lists parishes and the names of all ministers, proceedings with resolutions concerning social issues with which the church was involved, and reports from missionaries and rectors. The following excerpt tells a few intriguing details about a mass migration from one Wisconsin village during 1862 and 1863:

"I left my station in Theresa, Dodge Co., on the 18th of October, 1862, the Rev. F. A. Beckel taking my place. He found there yet 15 families of the old congregation; the most of them have left since the time he took charge of the parish, and moved to Minnesota and Nebraska, whereby the once flourishing mission has been destroyed entirely."

The Wisconsin Historical Records Survey's six volume set entitled Inventory of the Church Archives of Wisconsin (CD/3590/H48) is the only portion of the WPA church records survey (discussed in the previous issue of Exchange) that was published in its final form. The set encompasses six denominations: the Church of the United Brethren, the Protestant Episcopal Church (Diocese of Fond du Lac), the Church of the Nazarene, the Disciples of Christ, the Assemblies of God and the Moravian Church. Each volume includes a denominational history, a bibliography of secondary resources, a map showing the distribution of churches in Wisconsin, and a brief historical sketch of churches, missions, hospitals, schools and other denominational organizations. Much of the information duplicates the WPA records (Series 1953), although it is more complete and easier to use. Individual churches are indexed both by their name, and the name of the community or county in which they were located. Typical church listings include founding and ending dates, the names of ministers, and information about the construction of church buildings. The Inventory of Church Archives would be especially useful to persons researching counties or regions since it includes both defunct and ongoing churches.

15
The periodicals mentioned above represent only a sample of the many publications that have been preserved in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin's Library. A host of denominational journals and almanacs contain articles and sermons dealing with issues of the day, including the activities of reform groups like the Anti-Saloon League, and reports about work among particular ethnic groups. Religious newspapers contain names of clergymen, lists of churches and other facts, figures and narrative information important to understanding the history of Wisconsin churches and the communities of which they are a part. The types and the amount of the information available in each of the titles varies considerably depending upon the date, the denomination, and the nature of the journal. Some, especially Lutheran publications, require a reading knowledge of German or Norwegian, but almost all contain at least some information that will be useful to church or community historians.

Many of these resources are available on interlibrary loan. For further information write the Reference Librarian, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

When conducting research on the history of your county, township, village, or city, remember to consult religious records. From the beginning, churches were important forces in Wisconsin communities. Missionaries and clergymen were astute observers of the conditions that prevailed in the newly settled territory, and of the attitudes of the early immigrants. In addition to telling about religious history, church records and publications document aspects of the social, political and economic life that our Wisconsin ancestors experienced as they built the communities in which we now live.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the fourth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society. It was written by Tim Ericson, Map Curator for the Society's Archives Division.

Published Government Documents

Community historians often have a difficult time finding new information pertaining to the early years of the village, township or county they are interested in writing about. Frequently they must rely upon previously published histories for the majority of their information, but for another excellent historical resource, think about all the different ways that government influences our lives. At the local, county, and state level there are hundreds of agencies that deal with matters relating to business and manufacturing, public health, taxation, law enforcement, general welfare, agriculture, and a host of other responsibilities. In the process of performing these duties, government agencies collect an enormous amount of statistical and narrative data.

Government has been an information gatherer to some extent throughout Wisconsin's history. The information collected over the years and now preserved at the State Historical Society, can tell community historians a great deal about life in Wisconsin from the earliest days of settlement.

Although original government records are preserved in the State Archives, a surprising number have been compiled, analyzed and published over the years. They appear in the form of histories, proceedings, catalogs, and annual reports of the government agencies that produced them. This article will focus upon some of the published government records that contain information relating to individual communities. The publications mentioned in this article are occasionally available in public libraries and certain government documents depositories around the state. But the most complete collection is located in the State Historical Society Library's government documents area.

Several of these government publications do not need much description because they are already well known and widely available. The Wisconsin Blue Book, for example, contains some excellent community history data, especially relating to population, voting patterns, newspapers, and biographical information on locally elected state officials. Likewise, Printed Proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors, published annually in pamphlet form under the provisions of Wisconsin Laws of 1901, and the Supervisor of Assessments' Annual Statistical Report, also published annually under the Wisconsin Laws of 1905, include information pertaining to road and bridge construction, local crop production, and farm animals. However, these resources only scratch the surface of the information available for historical research in government publications.

Report of Inspection—Continued.

ESTABLISHMENTS INSPECTED.	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES			Cost of new building improvements.	Cost of new machinery.
	Male.	Fem.	Total		
HUDSON-ST CROIX CO					
Inspected June, 1893, by Van Elten.					
CHICAGO, ST. PAUL, MINNEAPOLIS & OMAHA RY. SHOPS, mfrs. freight cars and gen-ral repair work. Eight buildings—one 2-st. brick; six 1-st. brick; one 1-st. frame; four boilers; one engine, 280 horse power. Etab. 1890	361	.....	361	.....	\$9,550
Accidents.—A workman lost his leg in gearing to crank drilling machine; another lost a thumb on hand planer; another lost a thumb and finger in a rip saw; the foreman of blacksmith shop lost a finger in gearing of a portable forge; another workman fell from a car and broke his shoulder.					
HUDSON FURNITURE CO. Five buildings—one 4-st. frame; one 3-st. frame; two 1-st. frame; one 1-st. brick; two boiler; one engine, 75 horse power. Etab. 1890	100	.....	100	.....	.....
Note.—Firm has since reported as "gone out of business."					
HUDSON SAW MILL CO. Eight buildings—one 2-st. frame; seven 1-st. frame; six boilers; two engines, 290 horse power. Etab. 1883	95	.....	95	\$3,000	5,000
Ordered a railing placed around crank to engine and cover placed over pulley of saw dust conveyor in basement of mill. Accident.—A workman injured his right hand in a saw dust conveyor necessitating amputation; another lost three fingers in holdaw roller on edger. Cut of mill for 1892 was 11,000,000 feet lumber; 1,600,000 lath; 4,500,000 shingles.					
HUDSON STAR & TIMES, B. J. Price, printing and publishing. On first floor of 2-st. brick building. Etab. 1854	5	.....	5	.....	.....
WILLOW RIVER MILLING CO., mfrs. flour. Eight buildings—two 3-st. frame; six 1-st. frame; 600 horse power (water). Etab. 1863	7	.....	7	.....	.....
HUMBIRD--CLARK CO					
Inspected May, 1893, by Van Elten.					
WATERS, JAMES, mfr. lumber. Two 1-st. frame buildings; one boiler; one engine, 55 horse power. Etab. 1890	18	.....	18	500	1,800
Ordered a railing placed at side of main belt and projecting key on pulley of rotary saw covered.					
HUNTING--SHAWANO CO.					
Reported by firm.					
TURNER, WILLIAM, mfr. lumber. One 2-st.; one 1-st. frame building; one boiler; one engine, 50 horse power. Etab. 1887	20	.....	20	400	200
Boarding house connected.					
INGRAM--CHIPPEWA CO.					
Reported by firm.					
FRENCH LUMBERING CO. One 2-st. frame saw mill and one 1-st. frame planing mill; one boiler; one engine, 65 horse power. Etab., 1888	33	.....	33	.....	.....
IRON RIVER--BAYFIELD CO.					
Inspected July, 1893, by Van Elten.					
IRON RIVER LUMBER CO. Five buildings—two 2-st. frame; three 1-st. frame; four boilers; one engine 400 horse power. Etab. 1892	60	.....	60	8,000	25,000
Accident.—A workman was wound around a shaft					

From the Synoptical Report of Inspection of Factories and Workshops, the Sixth Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Labor, Census and Industrial Statistics of Wisconsin, 1893-94, J. Dobbs Commissioner, Democrat Printing Company, State Printer, Madison, Wisconsin, 1894, 43a.

18 The published reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (1883-1910) are an excellent community history resource. Each year the Bureau sent inspectors throughout Wisconsin to check on factories, bakeries, newspaper offices, hotels and other types of businesses where there was a concern for public

2

safety. Each report contains the compiled results of these inspections. The result is a body of information on thousands of individual Wisconsin businesses, organized by community and containing such information as the number and construction of buildings, the type of power used, the size and composition of the work force, and the year of founding.

For certain years the Bureau of Labor Statistics also conducted "man-on-the-street" interviews with Wisconsinites in order to get their opinions on questions relating to working conditions, labor unions, child labor, immigration and other topics pertaining to the workplace. These interviews also have been published, with the respondents identified by occupation and community. A typical example from the 1887-88 report asked "Does immigration injure your trade? If so, in what manner, and to what extent?" A blacksmith from Hudson responded "Yes; because immigrants work for almost nothing and seem to be able to live on wind--something which I cannot do." A boxmaker from Milwaukee agreed, and said "To illustrate the effect of immigration upon our trade, I will say that if we should demand an increase in wages and in order to secure it strike for a half a day, we would find the shop full of immigrants the next morning." Responses to these and other questions may help to explain a great deal about attitudes, working conditions and other aspects of life in late nineteenth century Wisconsin communities.

The Bureau also compiled information about blacksmiths, carriage and harness makers, millers, coopers, carpenters, stone masons, and other professions. Data included average wages (for example, carpenters in 1900 made from \$1.50 - \$3.00 daily), nationalities, working conditions, periods of employment, common illnesses or injuries, the ages at which they entered their trades, and even what trade they would recommend for a boy!

Finally, the Bureau undertook several fascinating studies relating to housing conditions in particular Wisconsin communities. The following excerpt from a 1909 Eau Claire report indicates that the problems we commonly associate with large cities were also present in smaller communities.

The keeping of horses, cattle and chickens within the crowded wards is a serious problem. [In one location] on First Avenue [there were] three lots [where] in addition to four families of twenty-seven persons, there were six cows, four horses and over 100 chickens. [Each rear yard contains in addition to its barn, chicken coops and earth closets a well from which the families secure drinking water. There are no sewer connections or provision for disposal of garbage.

There has been considerable sickness in the past summer and fall, especially in the ninth and tenth wards. Small pox, scarlet fever, and spinal meningitis were spreading at the time of the inspection, and the quarantined families were too ignorant or wilful to strictly observe such quarantine.

69

The concern for health and sanitation was echoed by government officials from rural areas also. County Health Officer E. L. Boothby from Hammond, St. Croix

County, reported in 1886 that "not one cent has been expended for sanitary work. Privy vaults, which are in a filthy condition, are the special unsanitary things here. There has been [much] disease here, much of which is among children from two to six years old." His remarks along with those of physicians from throughout Wisconsin are preserved in another interesting series: the published annual report of the State Board of Health (beginning in 1876).

Information pertaining to law enforcement, county institutions such as jails, and poor-houses (or county farms) can be difficult to locate--unless one looks in the annual reports of the Wisconsin State Board of Charities and Reform (1871-1890). These include detailed summaries of county institutions. One inspector reported about the La Crosse City Lock Up in 1871: ". . . a more dismal, uncomfortable and unhealthy place than this hall can hardly be conceived. Completely underground, no ventilation, but dim light, damp, mouldy, with a foul smell from the privy, with water standing on the floor." The reports also tell about the number, nativity, and reasons that people were confined. Some included interesting details about the day to day routine of confinement. The state official who inspected the Dodge County poor-house in 1871 even detailed the standard meals served:

Breakfast - Meat, vegetables and coffee
Dinner - Meat, vegetables and sometimes soup
Supper - Bread or pudding, and molasses and tea

During the previous century when most Wisconsinites were involved in agriculture, it is important to know something about farming practices of the time. The Transactions of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society (1851-1896) are an excellent source of information for this. The following 1852 account, illustrates some differences in dairy farming and the attitude toward it:

While I have never considered Wisconsin to be preeminently a dairying state, there are many portions well adapted to the business. [However] at the present time too many of our farmers keeping from two to six cows do not even make butter enough for the family use. They suffer their cows to range over the country during the summer, and . . . waste one-third of their time hunting after cows that have strayed into the woods or onto the prairies."

Additional information about county and local agricultural organizations and county fairs will be of equal interest to community historians. The following 1852 account, for example, indicates that the formation of the Jefferson and Dodge County Agricultural Society was accomplished without the usual fanfare:

At the [organizational] meeting the attendance was meagre. Some four or five farmers appeared from Dodge County and about the same number of mechanics, merchants and manufacturers from Watertown. Those who had been active in getting up the meeting were almost discouraged by the indifference which, it was but too apparent, was felt by those most deeply interested. Nevertheless, it was determined to form an association to be known and designated as the Jefferson and Dodge County Agricultural Association.

Several similar agriculturally related organizations, including the Wisconsin Dairymens Association (1874-1916), the Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association (1897-1952), the Southern Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association (1905-1928), the Northern Wisconsin Agricultural and Mechanics Association (1870-1887) and the Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association (1889-1936) all have similar published reports with information--especially during the early years--that will be of interest to community historians.

The wealth of published government and organizational records and proceedings in the State Historical Society Library can add new perspectives to the research and writing of local history. The next article in this series will continue to survey these resources by examining Civil War and other military records and published information on doctors, dentists, and other professionals.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

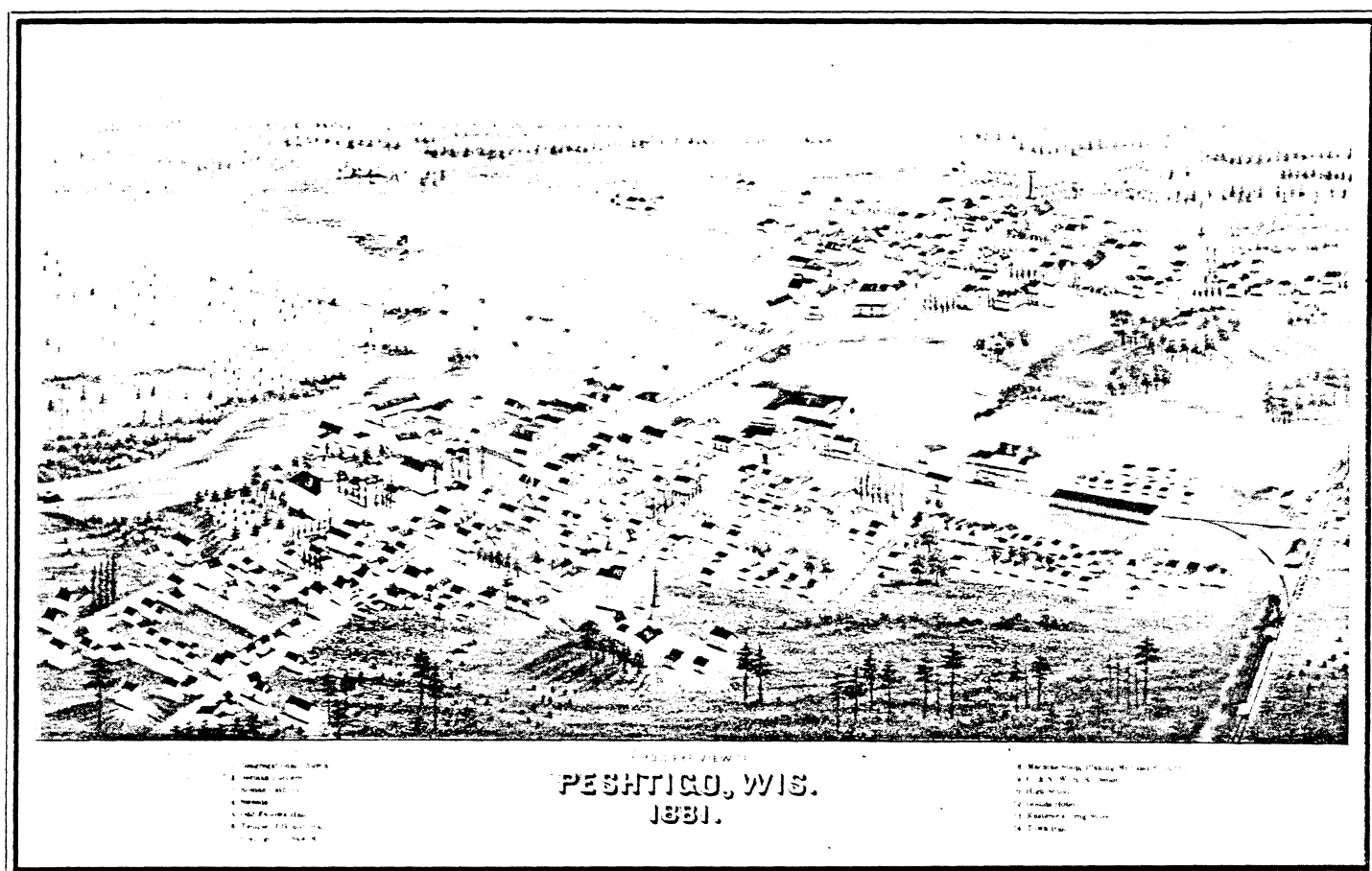
This is the fifth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society. It was written by Tom McKay, Coordinator of the Office of Local History.

Bird's Eye Views

Slides, snapshots, home movies, and the ubiquitous camera strapped around every tourist's neck offer reminders of an instinctual need to produce pictorial records that can be traced back to petroglyphs and cave paintings. While photography continued to emerge in the last half of the nineteenth century of a means to satisfy this need, engravings and lithographs, techniques for converting drawings to prints, remained important parts of the pictorial record of everyday life. For the community historian, the nineteenth century bird's eye view, one form of printed pictorial record, represents a valuable research tool.

Bird's eye view's depicted communities as panoramas seen from above. Though neither map nor photograph, bird's eye views combined elements of both while lacking the precision of either. As detailed representations of communities, the views reproduced a record of street patterns and names, bodies of water, railroad lines, landmarks, and each of the houses, barns, factories, stores, and public buildings in the town. The resulting illustration captured a tremendous amount of information, and the map collection in the Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin includes more than 160 bird's eye views of communities from all parts of Wisconsin. Local historians can write to the Society to purchase a pamphlet compiled in 1975 which lists the bird's eye views in its collection. Although the 1870's and 1880's represented the heyday of the bird's eye view, the Society's collection ranges from an 1852 illustration of Milwaukee to a 1915 depiction of Superior in a view of the twin ports.

Artists began their bird's eye views by sketching all of the buildings on every street and each feature of the surrounding area for the subject community. After studying the sketches, the artist selected a "vantage point" and translated the sketches into the completed perspective illustration. A variety of artists and lithographers engaged in the bird's eye view trade with some resulting variance in the quality and style of the products. However, nearly all bird's eye views will include accurate street patterns and names, illustrations of buildings depicting the main details of major structures, and identification of schools and churches.



Bird's Eye View of Peshtigo, Wisconsin, 1881. Courtesy of the Archives Division Map Collection, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

As a commercial venture, accuracy and detail helped sell bird's eye views. Comparing an 1896 bird's eye view of Washburn with photographs of the same period offers insight into the accuracy that could be achieved. As expected, a photograph shows that the prominent Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railway elevator in the foreground is accurate down to the exact number and placement of its many windows and doors. The bird's eye renders less important buildings and houses in a generic style, but period photographs, where available, indicate that even those structures have the correct number of windows and doors. Church steeples, towers on the city hall, and the smoke-stack on the Washburn brewery all appear in the appropriate size, style, and position.

Bird's eye views can offer much more to the local historian than details of individual buildings. They also contain a record of settlement pattern, environment, and community activities. For example, the 1881 view of Peshtigo indicates the burned out forest on the town's outskirts that remained from the huge fire ten years earlier. An 1870's bird's eye of Mauston shows, on the edge of town, the stockyards and railroad siding of a livestock shipping business. The main business district along Mauston's State Street appears in detail, and a cluster of false front buildings on Mansion Street pinpoints

the location of a secondary business district. Unlike present day Lancaster, the community's 1875 bird's eye view shows the primary commercial district extending along Maple Street away from the largely undeveloped courthouse square. A glance out into the countryside shows not only the location of a racetrack at the fairgrounds but also the size and orientation of the grandstand.

While much of the historical record contained in bird's eye views can be pieced together and actually studied in more detail through other sources, some of the information is unique. An 1880 view of Alma provides a record of every business building with wharf or levee facilities for riverboats. The 1885 bird's eye of Waupun includes a detailed inset of the Althouse, Wheeler & Co. windmill factory complex. The inset identifies every building in the complex, foundry, wood shop, warehouse, machine shop, paint shop, etc., by function.

Inset illustrations were a feature, designed to sell more prints, that appeared on some bird's eye views. The 1896 view of Washburn contained 20 insets, each a careful rendition of a major building in the community. While a list of churches and schools was standard for bird's eyes, some added the businesses and homes of prominent residents or subscribers. The 1880 view of Alma has a list of 45 entries keyed to the illustration. While most represent leading citizens, Mr. Probst's small boatworks, located in two sheds along the Mississippi, appears on the list.

Bird's eye views contain a wealth of information, but they are, true to their name, overviews and most useful in combination with other sources, even other bird's eyes. For example, comparing the 1871 view of Lake Geneva with an 1882 version shows that one of the two mills along the millrace added a smokestack and steampower during the intervening eleven years. Statistics from the manuscript records of the federal census for Buffalo County, provide a better understanding of the Probst boatworks identified on the 1880 Alma bird's eye view. Nineteenth century bird's eye views froze communities at a point in time. Today they give local historians a window in time which, when used with other historical sources, can increase the understanding of a community's history.

(Note: Because of a staff change at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the article on Civil War, military, and professional records scheduled to appear in this series has been postponed to a future issue of Exchange.)

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the sixth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay, Coordinator of the Office of Local History.

The Blue Book

In 1853, a Legislative Manual for the State of Wisconsin appeared in print pursuant to a resolution of the Assembly. The resolution directed that the manual contain the rules of the Assembly and Senate along with such statistical information as might prove useful. The publication that Wisconsin citizens know as the Blue Book traces its origins to that resolution. During the course of one hundred and fifty-four years, the volume has experienced changes in size, content, and publication schedule - even the official title has changed several times. The statistical information collected has been organized for the use of officials with statewide responsibilities, and the categories of tables and compilations have changed as a reflection of the changing society which state government has served over the years. Nonetheless, the local historian who explores Wisconsin's Blue Book will find a surprising amount of specific information about individual communities and counties packed between its covers.

A community's institutional structure represents an integral feature of its history. Over its years of publication, the Blue Book has initiated several lists of community institutions. The 1853 Legislative Manual included a list of all communities with post offices in the state, and the Blue Book has continued to publish such a list to the present. For small communities in particular, the post office lists are quick reference tools. A local historian in Valton, for instance, can find a post office listed for the community in the Blue Book from 1869 through 1915, or researchers studying ghost towns in Waupaca County can chart the growth and decline of communities in question in part with the county post office lists in the Blue Book.

25 In 1867, the Blue Book added a list of all newspapers published in Wisconsin, and each succeeding Blue Book has carried a list of current newspapers. The list appears by municipality and indicates the title, publisher, and publication schedule for the newspaper. In some years the listing also included the language in which the newspaper was published and its political persuasion. The Blue Book began reporting on the electronic media in 1946 with a list of radio stations, expanded in 1950 to include television broadcasters.

Educational institutions received attention on a community-by-community basis for a portion of the Blue Book's history. While educational statistics in the

POST OFFICES IN WISCONSIN.

LIST OF POST OFFICES, WITH NAME OF COUNTY, AND WHERE SITUATED.

BROWN COUNTY.

Bridgeport.	Green Bay.	Little Chute.
Cooperstown.	Greenville.	Mukwa.
Depere, (c. h.)	Hortonville.	Oneida.
Fremont.	Lansing.	

CALUMET COUNTY.

Charlestown.	New Holstein.	Pigeon Grove.
Dundas.	Pequot.	Stockbridge.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY.

Clearwater.	Nelson's Landing.
Middle Mills.	Ogalla.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Bellefontaine.	Hampden.	Pigeon Grove.
Centreville.	Lodi.	Portage City.
Columbus.	Lowerville.	Port Hope.
Dekorra.	Marcellon.	Poynett.
Fall River.	Oshaukuta.	Randolph.
Fort Winnebago.	Otsego.	Rocky Run.
Grand Marsh.	Pardeeville.	Wyocena.

current Blue Book appear as state or county compilations, earlier editions contained specific information on local districts. For example, a table appearing in the 1903 Blue Book recorded each graded school in the state along with its enrollment, attendance, and teachers' wages. Similar information on free high schools also appeared. Higher education has received attention in the Blue Book, and future local historians may find a 1987 table reporting enrollments for each public and private college in the state to be a useful source.

As a creation of politicians and public employees, it comes as no surprise that the Blue Book contains a wealth of material on politics and public institutions. However, the degree to which this material records local history may cause some surprise. A researcher can put together an interesting picture of local political leanings by charting the results of statewide gubernatorial races. The Blue Book reports these election results for each local precinct in the state and has done so since 1853. It is possible to learn that Tommy Thompson and Anthony Earl ran a dead heat at 61 votes apiece in Spooner's second ward in 1986 or that in the Adams County Town of Grand Marsh, Randall outpolled Hobart 52 to 1 in the election of 1860. The Blue Book records Presidential elections in similar detail.

The Blue Book also reveals political patterns through lists of county office holders. The 1853 Legislative Manual recorded the name of each county sheriff, register of deeds, and clerk of court, and by 1861, an expanded table of county officials also listed the names of the treasurer, district attorney, clerk of board, surveyor, and coroner. Although the careers of local legislators are often well chronicled, the Blue Book may hold some further tidbits. The 1853 Legislative Manual printed each legislator's town and county of residence, age, native state or country, years of residence in Wisconsin, and boarding place in Madison. The 1870 edition expanded the section on legislators into brief biographies that added information about marital status, educational background, occupation, other elective offices held, and organizational memberships. Since 1905, photographs of individual legislators have appeared in the Blue Book.

Local historical societies in communities that serve as homes to state institutions may find the Blue Book particularly useful. During the late nineteenth century, the Blue Book reported the affairs of state operated schools, hospitals, and prisons in considerable detail. Engravings printed in the Blue Book also offer some of the best recorded images of these institutions. Even the more recent Blue Books hold statistics of value to a local historian studying the influence of a state institution on the community. For example, current copies of the publication report the annual attendance at each state park and historic site.

27 The Blue Book gathers statistical information generated through government operations, and its contents have changed as government has changed. Exploring early volumes can lead to unexpected insights about local history. A close examination of the 1874 Blue Book produced an abstract of county tax assessment rolls from throughout the state. Among the categories tabulated were the numbers of wagons, watches, and pianos reported in each county. The 1491 pianos recorded in Milwaukee County compared to the 8 registered in Kewaunee County might give extra perspective to a local historian in either location. The figures certainly create a context for understanding the settlement of the state that

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

381

Abstract from Assessment Rolls—continued.

COUNTIES.	Pianos, etc.		Bank Stock.		Value of Merch'ts and Manu. stock.	Value of all other Personal Property.	Total val. of all per-sonal prop-erty aforesaid
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.			
Adams	32	\$1,315			\$15,517	\$34,170	\$219,301
Ashland	9	1,400	1	\$1,000	31,883	30,970	81,218
*Barron							
Bayfield	13	2,390		901	9,890	14,510	34,564
Brown	185	15,910	2,067	118,870	269,681	188,179	936,442
Buffalo	28	1,093	3	1,150	35,521	61,532	408,788
Burnett					3,100	2,549	351,577
Calumet	41	1,625			49,809	57,388	25,795
Chippewa	24	1,936			165,175	88,299	411,507
Clark	44	4,207			78,223	51,676	281,653
Columbia	387	31,259	750	55,000	397,963	595,810	1,994,082
*Crawford							
Dane	562	57,827	2,766	289,375	777,290	1,623,189	4,730,107
Dodge	511	39,185	1,569	121,589	298,228	898,034	2,721,104
Dor	10	1,109	1	2,560	46,342	40,127	183,227
Douglas	12	710				2,757	9,665
Dunn	50	3,945			404,000	216,527	983,884
Eau Claire	123	24,555	600	60,000	769,101	341,153	1,578,431
Fond du Lac	585	47,948	2,099	78,243	625,168	878,650	2,848,431
Grant	363	26,450	500	31,250	414,444	793,554	2,838,028
Green	255	20,213	1,400	90,200	201,867	589,859	1,873,031
Green Lake	275	15,494			122,840	263,847	894,891
Iowa	173	9,793			165,196	318,676	1,417,338
Jackson	60	4,296		8,327	153,833	121,033	558,886
Jefferson	362	26,847	1,350	144,505	376,000	488,767	1,991,912
Juneau	112	8,725	1	2,000	215,803	167,166	641,559
Kenosha	244	26,034	525	35,000	208,306	428,074	1,316,866
Kewaunee	8	685			49,467	8,579	111,524
La Crosse	194	22,696	750	72,000	474,143	809,933	1,591,835
La Fayette	220	13,268		14,500	105,557	282,032	1,277,716
Manitowoc	60	1,549	409	14,163	287,658	192,034	803,782
Marathon	52	2,603		6,840	180,000	34,111	336,687
Marquette	52	2,748	1	400	21,306	25,183	291,247
Milwaukee	1,491	253,105	15,480	1,035,000	8,959,647	4,945,724	16,328,364
Monroe	166	9,745		30,400	187,851	182,622	842,134
Oconto	56	6,890	5	1,400	505,805	100,511	783,519
Outagamie	101	9,662	1,126	84,875	201,122	109,545	801,378
Ozaukee	36	2,433		375	49,475	115,108	435,866
Pepin	32	1,665	4	1,000	35,424	43,498	240,716
Pierce	88	6,063		6,085	99,290	155,301	667,823
Polk	30	1,835	1	350	18,438	36,219	193,090
Portage	94	11,210			208,620	108,695	616,915
Racine	321	33,375	3,502	263,812	493,120	942,475	2,400,865
Richland	100	4,014	2	4,891	70,616	138,161	667,727
Rock	809	74,424	2,750	307,500	782,400	1,793,096	4,622,625
St. Croix	125	10,632	750	42,500	133,667	204,725	795,312
Sauk	266	18,620		35,900	204,525	406,020	1,436,378
Shawano	13	734			9,482	1,752	90,014
Sheboygan	241	18,187	35	16,000	246,865	475,233	1,609,467
Trempealeau	68	4,845		7,342	47,041	174,101	684,820
Vernon	51	2,439			70,358	227,643	937,763
Walworth	574	53,445	2,000	125,150	347,838	1,299,991	3,404,840
Washington	156	6,779		710	110,844	401,484	1,101,717
Waukesha	384	31,988	500	50,000	335,296	1,091,060	2,782,789
Waupaca	145	6,422	33	3,765	129,723	78,320	535,954
Waushara	46	1,713			33,979	38,259	861,247
Winnebago	516	47,245	2,050	250,050	1,188,404	1,717,689	4,177,967
Wood	63	5,495	489	19,575	143,746	42,911	284,669
Total	10,992	\$1,039,805	43,519	\$3,433,557	\$21,666,817	\$24,155,003	\$6,613,943

*No report.

The Legislative Manual of the State of Wisconsin... for 1874.

population statistics alone do not achieve.

Three useful guides can aid researchers using the Blue Book. Two indexes for locating biographies of specific legislators are: Biography Index to the Wisconsin Blue Books, 1870-1973, compiled by Darlene E. Waterstreet, Milwaukee: Badger Infosearch, 1974; and Biography Index to the Wisconsin Blue Books,

1975-1985, compiled by Darlene E. Waterstreet, Milwaukee: Badger Infosearch, 1986. An overview of the Blue Book's history and contents appears in A Guide to Wisconsin Blue Book, 1853-1962, by H. R. Theobald, Research Bulletin No. 141, Wisconsin Legislative Reference Library, Madison, 1963.

To thoroughly explore the Blue Book as an historical resource, the researcher needs access to the most complete set as possible of the volumes published since 1853. The State Historical Society Library holds a complete set in its reference section as do some large public and university libraries. Every public library in the state receives a copy of the Blue Book when it is published, but many of these libraries were formed after the publication of the manual began. Some smaller libraries are not able to retain out-of-date copies of the Blue Book. In addition to its reference set, the State Historical Society Library has every Blue Book since 1860 in its circulating collection. This covers all of the publications except the first two Legislative Manuals. These circulating copies are available to any resident of the state through interlibrary loan. As a record stretching back to 1853, the Wisconsin Blue Book represents one more tool that the local history researcher can use, sometimes with surprising results, in the study of community history.

.....

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the seventh in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Jim Hansen, Reference Librarian at the Society.

Federal Population Census Schedules

Sauk City village-917, Sheboygan city-7314, Waukesha village-2969, Ahnapee city-948, New Munster village-87. These population totals, from the census of 1880, are examples of what every local researcher is likely to need at some point in his or her research--information on the population of the city, village or town being investigated. However, these totals, fascinating though they can be of themselves, are only the introduction to a mass of records of nearly unparalleled detail and interest to the local historian, the original records of the federal censuses.

The federal government has taken a census of the population of the United States every ten years beginning in 1790 and continuing through 1980, with the 21st census scheduled to be taken in 1990. Each census has had the statistical data published but, for the earlier censuses, the original schedules have much more to offer the local historian. The original manuscripts of the federal censuses from 1790-1910 are open to the public and are available on microfilm at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Wisconsin is first covered in extant schedules in the census of 1820. Brown and Crawford Counties, covering most of the present-day state, were part of Michigan Territory at that time and were enumerated on a total of two pages. The later censuses of 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910 are also available, and with the more recent censuses provide much more information both in volume and detail. A fire at the U.S. Census Bureau in 1921 destroyed the original manuscripts of the 1890 U.S. censuses. No Wisconsin schedules (and almost none for the rest of the country) survive for that particular census year.

30
The earliest available censuses for Wisconsin, those of 1820, 1830 and 1840 are somewhat limited in the information they provide, recording the name of only the head of the household and listing the rest of the members as so many males or females within a variety of age categories. Beginning in 1850, however, the census schedules become much more detailed and informative for

the researcher, listing the name, age, sex, race, and state or country of birth of each individual. They give the occupations for all males fifteen years of age or over and the value of the real estate owned by the head of the household. Later censuses also contain this basic core of information and gradually add more details. In 1860 the value of the "personal estate" was added. In 1870 the census asked whether the parents of each individual were of foreign birth and whether adult males were citizens of the United States. The census of 1880 indicates the relationship of each individual to the head of household, as well as the state or country of birth of the parents of each individual listed. The 1900 census provides even more detail, indicating the number of years married for wedded couples, the year of immigration for foreign born residents, and the naturalization status of immigrants. The census of 1910 again contains this information.

The census is most important as a snapshot of a particular community at a particular stage in its development. The census for any given area was normally taken over a limited period of time and thus provides a mass of detail that can be absorbed and manipulated. There are, however, some difficulties in using these materials effectively.

The basic arrangement of the census remains essentially the same from year to year. The census of the entire United States is normally arranged by state; within a state by county; and within a county by township or municipality. However, in early years the enumerators frequently did not separately identify municipalities from the townships in which they were located. The 1870 census does this to some extent but the 1880 census was the first to make this separation in any regular and consistent fashion. Although the overall arrangement of census schedules remains fairly consistent, when the researcher reaches the local level that logical pattern breaks down. How a particular enumerator chose to traverse his designated area was entirely up to that enumerator's judgement. Unless the researcher is willing to undertake extensive and detailed investigation, the exact path of the enumerator through his area is not normally known.

31
The census of any given area is only as accurate and useful as its enumerator made it. The enumerators were as human as any other officials, and the researcher will find considerable variation in the level of care and accuracy with which the censuses were taken. Enumerators were hired through the patronage system during the nineteenth century with little attention given to any special qualifications that the individual did or did not have. Enumerators frequently had particular difficulty in areas with large immigrant populations, and there are obvious indications in the census records of confusion caused by language barriers and similar problems. It should also be understood that any given census is likely to have missed individuals for a variety of reasons including lack of care by the enumerator, individuals in the process of migrating or moving, and individuals refusing to answer the inquiries or simply disappearing into the woods when the census taker came around. Another possibility that may occasionally be encountered is the opposite situation, an overcount. While this has not been documented in

Wisconsin, there have been cases identified in large cities, particularly in 1870, and the phenomenon is not unknown in other census enumerations, as well. If the researcher encounters substantial numbers of people who cannot be documented in other sources as being in the community, the possibility of an overcount should be considered.

As indicated above, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin holds microfilm of the U.S. censuses for the entire United States from 1790-1910. Copies of the microfilms for Wisconsin only from 1820-1880 and 1900 are available for interlibrary loan. As yet, the 1910 census can not be obtained on loan. Microfilm of the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses can be purchased from the State Historical Society, and other years are available for sale from the National Archives. Many local libraries or historical societies will also hold microfilm of the census records for their immediate areas. These detailed enumerations of the population represent a basic research tool for many local history projects.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the eighth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Jim Hansen, Reference Librarian at the Society.

Federal Non-Population Census Schedules

The Gustave Steuding Brewery of Durand with capital of \$3,000, hand and horse power, one employee and the appropriate amounts of barley, hops and wood produced 200 barrels of beer (worth \$2,000) in the year ending June 1, 1870. William Richardson, a 39-year-old, English-born carpenter died at Janesville in October 1849 of "dissipation." Waupaca County in 1860 had 67 common schools serving 3,369 pupils, seven churches (three Methodist, and one each of Presbyterian, Baptist, Catholic and Lutheran), three libraries (all in the common schools) totalling 89 volumes, 13 paupers and no convicted criminals during the preceding year. George Newton of Hustisford had one milk cow in 1850. In 1860 he had six. All the above-listed minutiae of nineteenth-century Wisconsin came from the same source--the non-population schedules of the federal census.

When historical or genealogical researchers consider the census they most often think only of the population schedules (described in Exchange vol. 30 no. 2, Spring 1988, pp. 18-20), but the non-population schedules are at least as interesting--and informative. These schedules, gathered by the census enumerators at the same time they took the population census, provide a wealth of otherwise unrecoverable detail for an important period of Wisconsin's nineteenth-century history.

33
The census was originally intended to serve as a basis for legislative apportionment, but as the nineteenth century progressed, the statistics-gathering function of the census nearly overwhelmed the head-count. While abortive attempts were made in earlier censuses to gather more than population totals, it was the census of 1850 that marked the real beginning for the non-population schedules. In that census, in addition to providing more details on every individual listed in the population schedules, the enumerator was directed to record mortality schedules, agricultural schedules, industrial schedules and social schedules.

The manuscripts for these schedules survive and are available for research use for the censuses of 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880. At least some of these schedules were also taken for later censuses but the original copies were destroyed after the statistical compilations were made. The published statistical reports are available for the 1890 census and its successors, but unfortunately not the original manuscript returns--the ones that named individual names.

Census instructions directed enumerators to record on the mortality schedules the name, age, sex, race, occupation, state or country of birth, month of death, cause of death and duration of final illness for every person who died within his area of coverage during the year immediately preceding the taking of the census. For example, in the 1850 census the mortality schedule would cover deaths occurring between June 1, 1849 and May 31, 1850. The mortality schedules, because of the built-in inefficiencies in collecting the data, never included more than a fraction of the deaths occurring in a particular district even within that limited time-span, but the reports do provide useful information on diseases that were prevalent in a particular area (the incidence of consumption, i.e. tuberculosis, in the early records is noteworthy) or at least those that were recognized at the time.

The most extensive of the non-population schedules were the agricultural returns in which the enumerators were supposed to identify each individual farm, its acreage both improved (i.e. under cultivation) and unimproved, the cash value of the farm, the value of farming implements or machinery (often under \$100), the number of livestock of various types, and the production of the farm crops during the previous year. These detailed reports, recorded in long horizontal columns over two pages, provide a wealth of detail information for analysis. Comparisons can also be made from census to census on the intensity of farming, popular crops, horses vs. oxen and many other factors. When used in conjunction with the population schedules they can give a good picture of how a particular household was faring in comparison to its neighbors and again from one census to the next census ten years later.

34
The industrial schedules (called manufacturing schedules in the 1880 census) list the name of the corporation, name of the business, capital invested, kind, quantity and value of the raw materials, kind of motive power ("foot" was popular), the number of employees and wages paid, and the kind, quantity and value of goods produced. Urban areas may list many industries while a rural area might have only a single mill. The enumerators were supposed to include any manufacturing industry that produced more than \$500 of goods per year, but interpretation varied. Some enumerators listed only substantial factories, others more usefully listed every blacksmith and shoemaker.

The social schedules (which apparently survive for Wisconsin only for 1850-1870) provide a miscellany of scattered information. The schedules requested information on the valuation of real estate and personal estate; the annual

taxes; details on colleges, academies and schools (kind and number of teachers and pupils, and funding sources and amounts); libraries (kind and number of volumes); newspapers and periodicals (name, political affiliation, frequency and circulation); religious establishments (number of denominations, individual churches, parishioners and the value of church property); the number of paupers and criminals; and the average wages of the district. Much of the detail asked for in the social schedules was not gathered in any other form in the nineteenth century, making these details from the county or even township level quite valuable resources. They have proven helpful for research ranging from newspaper history and bibliography to tracing the history of religion in several counties. The social schedules for the 1850 and 1860 censuses were sometimes gathered for specific townships or assembly districts, sometimes for an entire county. For 1870 only county-wide social statistics were reported.

Any of the information gathered by the enumerators, whether raw data or compiled statistics, must be used with caution. Enumerators frequently misunderstood their instructions, and made recording or copying errors. The non-population schedules were gathered by the same enumerators and at the same time they gathered the information for the population schedules. As a result, the listings in the agricultural schedules for a given district should be in the same order as the population schedules.

The non-population schedules can sometimes be hard to locate. Many libraries have the population schedules on microfilm from the National Archives, which does not include the non-population schedules. However, on the microfilms of the 1850-1870 U.S. Census for Wisconsin produced and sold by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, all the schedules for a particular county will be found together. For the 1850 and 1860 censuses the various schedules will be scattered through the reels in what appears to be a random order. Actually that order retains the order of the schedules gathered by a particular enumerator. For 1870 the non-population schedules (with the exception of the social schedules) follow the population schedules for the entire county. The social schedules for all the counties in 1870 will be found on the last reel of the series--the reel containing the schedules for Wood County. The original schedules for 1850-1870 will also be found in the manuscript census volumes near the reference librarian's desk at the State Historical Society's headquarters. Duplicate copies of all the non-population schedules also appear in the Society's Archives collections. For 1880, only the mortality schedules have been microfilmed. All the other schedules must be used in the Archives at the State Historical Society.

35
The mortality, agricultural, industrial and social schedules of the federal census will certainly not answer all the historian's questions about those areas, even for the limited periods they cover, but they are an important contemporary source of information from the period that should not be ignored. They can provide statistical analysis at a more detailed level than published census statistics and, used carefully, they can shed much light on the nineteenth-century history of any community.

14822

Page No. 1

SCHEDULE 4.—Products of Industry in _____, in the County of _____, State of _____, during the year ending June 1, 1870, as enumerated by me.

Post Office: _____, _____, Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	MOTOR POWER		6	AVERAGE NUMBER OF HANDS EMPLOYED					12	MATERIALS			PRODUCTIONS		
			4	5		7	8	9	10	11		13	14	15	16	17	18
1	W. H. H. H. H.	Grainery	3000	Hand			2			1000	12	Barley	500 bush	500	Beer	2000	2000
												Wheat	1000	200			
												Wood	100 boards	200			
2	W. H. H. H. H.	Grainery	3000	Hand			1			1000	12	Barley	500 bush	500	Beer	2000	2000
												Wheat	1000	200			
												Wood	100 boards	200			
3	W. H. H. H. H.	Machine Shop	2000	Hand			3			1000	12	Iron	1000	200	Ploughs		
												Steel	50	50	Butter	20	300
												Wood	4000	80	Repairing		1000
4	W. H. H. H. H.	Turnsmith	300	Hand			1			100	12	Iron	1000	200	Iron		1000
												Steel	50	50	Iron		500
												Wood	1000	200			
5	W. H. H. H. H.	Turnsmith	600	Hand			2			100	12	Iron	1000	200	Iron		500
												Steel	50	50	Iron		400
												Wood	1000	200			
6	W. H. H. H. H.	Furniture	800	Hand			2			100	12	Iron	1000	200	Furniture		1000
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
7	W. H. H. H. H.	Wagon Maker	800	Hand			1			100	12	Iron	1000	200	Wagon		1000
												Steel	50	50	Repairing		1000
												Wood	1000	200			
8	W. H. H. H. H.	Blacksmith	500	Hand			2			100	12	Iron	1000	200	Wagon		1000
												Steel	50	50	Repairing		1000
												Wood	1000	200			
9	W. H. H. H. H.	Wagon	500	Hand			1			100	12	Iron	1000	200	Wagon		1000
												Steel	50	50	Repairing		1000
												Wood	1000	200			
10	W. H. H. H. H.	Wagon	9000	Water			3			1300	12	Wheat	10000 bush	2000	Flour	2000	12000
												Barley	1000	200	Cornmeal	2000	1000
												Wood	1000	200	Flour	1000	500
												Steel	50	50	Flour	1000	100
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			
												Steel	50	50			
												Wood	1000	200			

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the ninth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay, Coordinator of the Office of Local History.

County Atlases

During the years between the Civil War and World War I, an active commercial enterprise developed in the publication of county atlases. Maps of rural land ownership in a county formed the core of each of these publications. However, as commercial ventures, publishing companies added a wide variety of information to their atlases that they hoped would increase the number sold. Most of the atlases also relied on the monetary contributions of patrons or subscribers to underwrite the cost of publication. In return, the atlases carried biographical sketches, directories of the patrons, or engraved illustrations memorializing the subscribers who made the publications financially viable. The formulas used by publishers to achieve commercial success in the 19th century make the county atlas a valuable, and sometimes surprising, source of information for local historians today.

The State Historical Society holds an extensive collection of Wisconsin county atlases (as well as county atlases from many other states) in its Archives Division. While the collection does not include all atlases published for Wisconsin counties, most of the state's counties are represented in the Archives by one or more atlases. Atlases did not appear on a regular schedule but only when a company decided to undertake this complex subscription publishing venture. Many counties had only two or three atlases published during this period, and many northern Wisconsin counties did not become subjects of printed atlases until after 1900.

37
In the search for commercial success, nearly every atlas publisher employed a different formula for the content. The plat maps of rural land ownership represented the one common denominator. The plat of each township in the county received its own page in the atlas. These plat maps identified the boundaries and the name of the owner of each parcel of rural land in the township. A small black square in the parcel indicated the presence of a home and/or farmstead. The township plats identified the routes of railroad lines by name and also showed roads and streams. Most atlases identified the

sites of school and church buildings, and many included other prominent features such as creameries, cemeteries, and marshlands. An overall county map at the beginning of the atlas showed the location of the township within the county.

County atlases published by the Minnesota magazine, The Farmer, printed lists of rural families organized by the township in which they resided and the post office where they received their mail. Each family's entry also included the names of family members residing in the home, the number of acres in the farm, and even, where applicable, the name of the farm. For example, the G. G. Williams family which resided in Unity Township in Trempealeau County called their farm "Violet Meadows." While names of family members and the number of acres in a farm can be found in the manuscript records of the federal census, the census was taken only once every ten years. The county atlases published by The Farmer provide a supplementary source of specific information about some families in a non-census year. This series of atlases also noted other useful information including towns in the state with telegraph stations and post offices authorized to prepare money orders.

To increase the marketability of their atlases, publishers usually included plats of cities and villages. These maps did not show individual homes or land ownership. However, they usually marked the locations of schools, churches, hotels, opera houses, and similar buildings of interest to the general public. Large manufacturing concerns often appeared on the city and village maps. For example, the Medford plat in the 1913 Taylor County atlas published by George A. Ogle and Company indicated each of the major structures at the excelsior factory, brickyard, tannery, and sawmills.

Publishers prepared general information to repeat in each county atlas they printed. A world map and a map of the United States were standard features in most county atlases. The Wisconsin county atlases published by The Farmer all featured a mileage chart of distances between selected Wisconsin cities. George A. Ogle and Company included a standard digest of civil government, chronology of world history, and general information on banking and business methods in the county atlases it published.

While companies used standard "boilerplate" as an inexpensive device to produce a more substantial publication, unique information about the county provided the primary commercial appeal of the atlases. Some publishers used a historical sketch of the county as part of their format for a county atlas. The sketches listed the names of early settlers, dates in the establishment of civil government, and incidents of interest from the county's early years. The historical sketch in W. Belden and Company's 1876 atlas for Milwaukee County recounts the rivalry between east side settlers and west side residents over the first bridge across the river. The historical sketch also featured tables of statistical information such as the growth of population by decades. The sketches often included more contemporary economic data than historical statistics. Tables in the 1876 Milwaukee County atlas listed economic data such as commerce through the lake port, value of local manufactures, and wholesale sales from the 1874 report of the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce.

To appeal to Milwaukee's German population, this atlas printed its historical sketch in both English and German.

County atlases employed a variety of methods to acknowledge the patrons and subscribers who provided much of the money to support the cost of publication. Virtually all atlases carried lists of patrons. Many rewarded larger subscribers by including portraits, illustrations of farmsteads, or biographical sketches of the individuals. Portraits of subscribers in the 19th century atlases appeared as engravings, but by the 1910's atlases began running photographic portraits. Publishers also heavily illustrated their atlases with engravings of the farmsteads or businesses of subscribers. Comparisons with extant photographs reveal a concern for accuracy in producing the engraved illustrations.

The biographical sketches in county atlases reflect the commercial system used to produce the publications. In most cases, publishing company employees solicited the subscriptions, collected biographical data from the subscribers, and wrote the individual sketches of the subscribers. Naturally, the sketches preserve the history of those subscribers who were able and willing to pay rather than individuals chosen purely for historical reasons. The Winnebago County atlas published by Brant and Fuller in 1889 demonstrates the potential shortcomings in a list of biographies created by the subscription system. Its 42 pages of biographies contain more than 800 entries--but not one biographical sketch of a woman.

Paid advertising represented yet another component in the commercial formula for most county atlases, and these ads form an additional historical record. Typically, advertising sections did not appear in county atlases until the 20th century. Neither the 1877 nor 1895 Grant County atlas, for example, carried advertising. However, the 1918 Grant County atlas published by George A. Ogle and Company had an advertising section of nine pages that presented 345 ads. These advertisements represented businesses from virtually every community in the county. The businesses placing ads ranged from banks and hospitals to bakeries and newsstands.

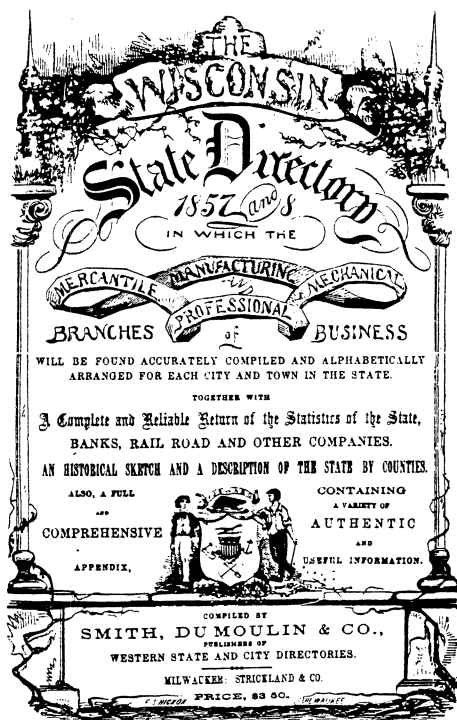
39 Although they developed content largely around commercial concerns, county atlases of the late-19th and early-20th centuries remain useful historical documents. As archival collections, researchers must use the atlases in the archives reading room at the State Historical Society. In addition to the atlases held in Madison, the Society has placed all duplicate copies of atlases in the collections of the appropriate Area Research Centers throughout the state. Area Research Centers are located at Northland College in Ashland and the University of Wisconsin's Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Parkside, Platteville, River Falls, Stevens Point, Stout, Superior, and Whitewater campuses. Local historians can turn to county atlases in these collections as valuable tools in researching county history and the often poorly documented history of rural areas.

From Exchange Vol. 32, No. 1 Winter 1990

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the tenth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay, Coordinator of the Office of Local History.



Wisconsin Gazetteers and Business Directories

40
The 19th-century expansion of the United States across an entire continent intertwined widening geographical boundaries with business opportunities. America's businesses could find new markets in recent settlements and investment possibilities in growing communities. Both to serve and profit from a growing economy, a variety of publishers became engaged in another new enterprise, producing state gazetteers and business directories. These gazetteers and directories were about business and for business. The ambitious volumes attempted to list all active businesses in a state as well as compiling data about communities throughout the state that would be useful to business interests. Because of their goal of gathering information about all businesses and all communities, these written companions for the 19th-century entrepreneur have become helpful sources for today's local historians.

Bigger & Hill.....Oshkosh
 Comstock & Brothers.....Portage City
 Pettibone C. J.....Portage City
 Gaillard & Famechon...Prairie du Chien
 Pelton, Wright & Co...Prairie du Chien
 Lee & Dickson.....Racine
 Lyman & Sully.....Sheboygan
 Skinner & Son.....Sheboygan Falls
 Livingston & Blodgett.....Stevens Point
 Seamans & Hamilton.....Two Rivers
 Moak & Peabody.....Watertown
 Hall S. C. & Co.....Whitewater
 Smith E. A. & Co.....Whitewater

Sheet Lead and Lead Pipe.

Shepard S.....Milwaukee

Shingle Manufacturers.

Marsh G. S.....Depere
 Cook & Corbett.....DuPlainville
 Cunningham, Galloway &
 Humphrey.....Fond du Lac
 Galloway E. H. & Co.....Fond du Lac
 Hamilton J. K. & W. C.....Fond du Lac
 Sawyer & Hurd.....Fond du Lac
 Harris Isaac.....Franklin
 Hickok A. & Co.....Franklin
 Hubbard & Wilbur.....Fremont
 Salmon, Clark & Co.....Hudson
 Germe D. C.....Kenosha
 Gilles E. D.....Kenosha
 Hellicut David.....Leon
 Brotherhood Thomas.....Menasha
 Lawson P. V.....Menasha
 Potter & Duchman.....Menasha
 Williams L.....Menasha
 Lynch Thomas.....Milwaukee
 Otto & Nihoff.....Milwaukee
 Ryan Michael.....Milwaukee
 Storer Joseph.....Milwaukee
 Taylor J. R. & Co.....Milwaukee
 Benson A.....North Bend
 Phillips & More.....North Royalton
 Beckwith, Mead & Ripley.....Oshkosh
 Sheldon L. P.....Oshkosh
 Thompson —.....Oshkosh
 Evans James.....Racine
 Secor & Baxter.....Racine
 Ensign John.....Saratoga
 Humphrey Henry.....Springville
 Richardson Joshua.....Springville
 Potts Brothers.....Springville
 Standeford William D.....Springville
 Eldred & Balcom.....Stiles
 Fuller E. S.....Sturgeon Bay
 Nelson Edwards.....Sturgeon Bay
 Peterson Soren.....Sturgeon Bay
 Torstenson Frederick.....Sturgeon Bay
 Furguson Henry.....Warren
 Oliver O.....Winooskie

Ship Builders.

Moffat R.....Berlin

Peck I. G.....Black Earth
 Mix Nathaniel.....Clyde
 Beach Samuel C.....Dundas
 Hokes John.....Freedom
 Ellis A. B.....Harmony
 Bushnell A.....Horicon
 Yates C. H.....Horicon
 Bates Stephen & Son.....Manitowoc
 Rand H. & Sons.....Manitowoc
 Peppard John.....Manitowoc Rapids
 Palmer William.....Mauston
 Alexander S.....Milwaukee
 Jones J. M.....Milwaukee
 Blinn Washington.....Omro
 West H.....Prescott
 Rodgers John.....Sacramento
 Bernier Joseph.....Seneca
 Beauprie Peter.....Sheboygan
 Stokes & Lockwood.....Sheboygan
 Morse Charles H.....St Croix Falls
 Farmer H. W.....Taycheeda
 Herbridge James.....Two Rivers
 Jerome J. R.....Wautoma
 Maillows Louis.....Wequiot
 Cheever Frederick.....Westfield

Ship Chandlers.

Norris G. D.....Milwaukee
 Langlois & Robilliard.....Racine

Shipsmiths.

Colister & Carpenter.....Manitowoc
 Alexander S.....Milwaukee
 Jones J. M.....Milwaukee

Silver Plated and Britiana Ware.

Poole D. C.....Madison
 Blair & Persons.....Milwaukee
 Cramer & Becker.....Milwaukee
 Eissfeldt C.....Milwaukee
 Elmore M. G. & Co.....Milwaukee
 Goodrich H. W & Co.....Milwaukee
 Hardy J.....Milwaukee
 Loomis, Watson & Hoes.....Milwaukee
 Preusser C. E.....Milwaukee
 Van Cott A. B.....Milwaukee

Silver Platers.

Morris & Darling.....Milwaukee
 Williams & Kraft.....Milwaukee

Soap and Candle Makers.

Blankenhorn C.....Cedarburg
 McDonald & Co.....Clifton Mills
 Scott Stephen.....Emerald Grove
 Cooper & Gibson.....Fond du Lac
 Gill H.....Geneva
 Birge George.....Horicon
 Maynard Frederick.....Jacksonville
 Allen J. A.....Ladoga

4 0

The earliest Wisconsin state business directory in the collection of the State Historical Society dates to 1857. Smith, DuMoulin & Company, compiler of the directory, identified itself on the title page as a publisher of "Western State and City Directories." The preface to the volume notes that the publisher was a Wisconsin company and that the Wisconsin directory represented its first attempt at such an enterprise. A 272-page listing of companies and self-employed individuals engaged in businesses and professions comprises the bulk of the publication. The directory organizes its entries under classifications arranged alphabetically from accoucheurs to Yankee notions dealers. Under the heading for each classification the names of businesses and individuals appear by city or town, again arranged alphabetically. The directory includes more than 350 classifications of businesses and professions. Scanning each classification to identify companies or individuals active in a particular community can be a time consuming task but may produce some surprising results. For example, researchers from Sheboygan, Milwaukee, and Manitowoc might expect to find the shipbuilders listed for their communities, but that classification also has entries from communities such as Black Earth, Horicon, Wautoma, and Mauston.

Smith, DuMoulin & Company supplemented its business listing with other pertinent information. One section presents brief profiles of state colleges, universities, and academic institutions with rosters of their faculties. The publication includes a statewide list of notaries public and offers financial information on banks and insurance companies based in Wisconsin. Other tables concern secret societies, magazines, and the annual conventions or conferences of religious denominations. Interspersed throughout the directory are more than 200 display advertisements for individual businesses.

An 1865 directory published by George W. Hawes presents its business listings in two formats. Each format includes all of the business information gathered statewide by the publisher. One list is arranged alphabetically by the classification of the business. However, the directory also organized its data into a second listing arranged by communities. Rather than scanning the directory classification by classification, a researcher from West Bend, for example, can turn to an entry under that community's name and find a listing of 27 businesses.

27

The publishers of Wisconsin business directories who followed Hawes did not immediately adopt his format. In 1876, a directory compiled by Murphy and Company did return to the dual listings, one organized by business classification and the other by community. From that time until 1927, a Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory appeared biennially. Although compiled by several different publishers, each of these directories used the format of two listings. The listing organized by community also featured a brief synopsis of information about each of the communities that might be useful to business people. This synopsis included postal station status, railroad and telegraph connections, and later telephone service. The community listings included towns of virtually any size, but county seats and large communities received descriptions with additional detail. Throughout the period of

HEAVY MALLEABLE WORK } THE MILWAUKEE... A SPECIALTY. } MALLEABLE IRON.. CO., Waukesha, Wis.

814 ORI WISCONSIN STATE GAZETTEER OSC

DR. H. H. HAYSEN'S SURE-DIPHTHERIA-CURE.
A Vegetable Non-Poisonous Preparation, and Positive Cure for all Mucous Membrane Affections. Send for Circulars, Testimonials and Directions. Correspondence in English or German. DR. H. H. HAYSEN, 143 Third St., MILWAUKEE, WIS.

northwest of Oshkosh, the county seat, and 12½ southeast of Weyauwega, the usual banking and shipping point. Population, 25. Mail, daily. F. A. Gruenhagen, postmaster.

Gruenhagen F. A., General Store.
Krueger E. H., blacksmith.

ORLEANS.

On the C., M. & St. P. Ry., in Marinette county 22 miles northwest of Marinette, the judicial seat and nearest bank location, and 165 from Milwaukee. Population, 200. Mail, daily. E. W. De Bower, postmaster.

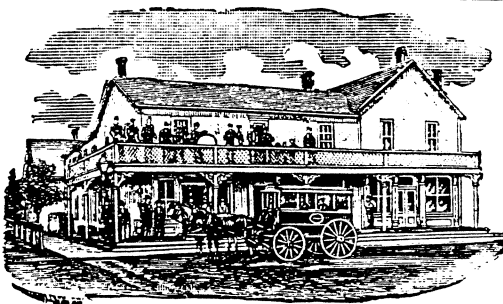
Manson-De Bower Lumber Co.

OSCEOLA MILLS.

An incorporated village, located on the M., St. P. & S. Ste. M. Ry., and on the St. Croix river, in Polk county, of which it is the judicial seat, 33 miles northeast of St. Paul. It dates its settlement from 1844, and has Baptist, Lutheran and Methodist churches, a graded public school, a public hall, with a seating capacity of 300, a creamery, 2 flour mills, a bank and a weekly newspaper, the Polk County Press. Telephone connection. Stage daily to East Farmington and South Farmington. Population, 500. Exp., Western. Tel., W. U. F. Wilke, postmaster.

Andersen Henry P., register of deeds.
Ayres Seth, hay presser.
Bank of Osceola, Charles H Oakey & Co proprs.
Bell Lycurgus, county treasurer.
Benjamin Samuel C., livery.
Bethania Mineral Spring Co, H B Dike pres, Ole Larson sec.
Beyl Frederick, blacksmith.
Blanding Seymour W., county surveyor.
Burdick Henry P., lawyer.
Combacker Henry E., physician.
De Goller S Morris, surveyor.
Dike Henry B., lawyer.
Downend Robert, surveyor.
Dresser Mrs M E, propr Opera Hall.
Feyder John N., hardware.
Filzen & Langebach (Paul Filzen, John E Langebach), flour and feed.
Garlick Louis H., carpenter.
Geiger Mrs G, genl store.
Goodwin H C, carpenter.
Goodwin Mrs H C, dressmaker.
Haag Edward, genl store.
Hale Isaac, city marshal.

Hansen Gustaf, fish hatchery.
Heald Alvah A, clk Circuit Court.
Heald B A & Co (Byron A Heald, S. C Benjamin), genl store.
Heald Michael, apiarist.
Holliday Edward R, coroner.
Hotel Cascade, W J Sevey Propr. (See adv.)
Kennedy Wm T, district attorney.
Kent Robert, furniture.
Kent W & Bro (Wm and John), genl store and creamery.
Kimball Asahel, lumber.
Larson & Oakey (Ole Larson, Charles H Oakey), abstracters.
McDill George D, lawyer.
Mahre Fred, saloon.
Mears Charles E, propr Polk County Press.
Miller Frederick, brick mnfr.
Nason Albert L, carp.
Nason Merrill M, blacksmith.
Oakey Charles H, lawyer.
Oakey Charles H & Co (Charles H Oakey), proprs Bank of Osceola.
Osceola Mill Co, C C Ladd pres, J W Ladd sec, flour.
Page Moses, carpenter.
Peterson John P, county supt schools.
Polk County Press, C E Mears Propr.
Ramsey Wm, apiarist.
Rowcliff Stephen J, grocer.
Rowcliff Thomas J, painter.
Saleik Frederick, jeweler and barber.
Sanders W W, farm impts.
Schmidt Louis, farm impts.
Schmidt Wm, saloon.
Sevey Warren J, Propr Hotel Cascade. (See adv.)
Skeleton Mrs Carrie, milliner.
Sleeper E W, dray.
Smith Erskine C, blacksmith.
Smith Manfred, county clerk.
Smith Uriah H, meats.
Staples Charles E, furniture.
Staples Charles W, drugs and books.
Staples Mrs Ella F, music tchr.
Stelling Jacob, harnessmaker.
Stevens A H, plasterer.
Treadwell Edward, veterinary surgeon.
Tyrell John C, propr Valley House.
Valley House, J C Tyrell propr.
Vassaw Joseph, sheriff.
Vogel Henry C, shoes.
Wilke Frans, postmaster.
Wilkins James M, carpenter.
Will Bros (Frederick and Frank), meat.
Zorn Emil, mason.



HOTEL CASCADE.

W. J. SEVEY, Propr.

TERMS, \$2.00 PER DAY.

Only two miles from the famous Troutmere Ponds and Hatchery. Headquarters for Outing Parties and Sportsmen. The very best of accommodations. Stables in connection.

OSCEOLA MILLS.

WIS.

G. Campbell & Sons,

Catch Basin Covers, Fire Cisterns, Brass and Iron Work. MILWAUKEE, - WIS.

gazetteer and directory production, the publications continued to print display advertisements.

While state business directories gathered an impressive array of data, they did not produce a definitive list of businesses in Wisconsin. They existed as private, commercial activities and depended upon the success of their own surveys of business. These surveys did not produce results as inclusive as the occupations listed in the original returns of government census schedules, and even the completeness of the business directories themselves varied from publisher to publisher. Nonetheless, researchers can find a variety of uses for the directories. Many communities experienced rapid growth in the ten-year intervals between federal censuses. The business directories may document the establishment or growth of particular businesses or industries during these periods. The listings by community demonstrate the core business activities that could be expected in even the smallest settlements and how these may have changed over a fifty-year time span.

Comparative reading of state business directories may help establish a tenor of the times. Comparisons of street addresses for different types of business establishments may reveal how the business community organized itself. For example, an 1865 listing for Columbus shows that Dr. E. Churchill, resident dentist, located his office on the second floor above John Swarthout's drug store. The directories may also remind local historians that 19th-century business was not a single, unbroken line of economic success. Of the state's twelve manufacturers of threshing machines listed in the 1857 business directory, only J.I. Case was reported in business twenty years later. An 1857 entry for Miss Perkins of Rural as a rag carpet weaver gives some sense of the options open for an unmarried woman to earn income in a small town.

Researchers will find Wisconsin gazetteers and business directories in the State Historical Society's library. The original volumes for many of the years may be used in the library but do not circulate. The Society has microfilmed these publications, and the microfilms are available for use in local communities through interlibrary loan. Although limited to the information that could be produced by the energy of their compilers and respondents, the Wisconsin gazetteers and business directories contain yet another significant slice of historical data about virtually every community in the state.

.....

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the eleventh in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay, Coordinator of the Office of Local History.

Wisconsin: A Guide to the Badger State

Local historians can construct partial profiles of their communities' pasts by scanning lists and ledgers of business directories, census schedules, and other systematic records. Enriching these systematic profiles with the impressions, ideas, or attitudes about a community as recorded by residents or visitors immerses local historians in very different kinds of records. Diaries or collections of personal papers may paint very detailed and elaborate pictures of a community's history. Other sources, such as travel guides, offer only quick verbal snapshots of a community at a point in time. During the 1930s, workers in the Writers Program of the federal government's Work Projects Administration recorded data and impressions about a large number of Wisconsin communities for a guide that may provide surprising bits and pieces of information to local historians. The Wisconsin Library Association sponsored publication of Wisconsin: A Guide to the Badger State, one volume in the American Guide Series. In the Wisconsin guide, researchers will find quick impressions or miscellaneous notes for more than 350 communities and localities.

As one of its many Depression-era employment programs, the federal government hired out-of-work writers to travel individual states and compose entries for a publishable guidebook. A number of writers worked on each guidebook and authorship of specific sections of the guidebooks is not identified. The resulting volumes blended history, scenic descriptions, local lore, and contemporary statistical data into an impressionistic overview of the state. The Wisconsin guidebook consists of three parts. Part I is a topical examination of the state as a whole. The eighteen brief chapters in this part of the guide cover topics ranging from agriculture to education to industry to the theater. The preface to the guide acknowledges the advice and assistance received from a long list of Wisconsin's best known scholars. However, the guide does not name the authors of the eighteen chapters, and the reader cannot presume that the writers were experts on their subjects. In general, the chapter makes an honest effort at condensing information available in a more complete form in other books and secondary sources. For the topics addressed in Part I, the local historian can find other and better sources.

In Part II, Wisconsin: A Guide to the Badger State profiles nine of the

As US 2 enters the cutover, farms become more infrequent, their pastures more ragged, buildings poorer, and fences more straggling. From the top of a long rise, 50.5 m., is the last backward glimpse of Ashland, curving along the bayshore. Much of the cutover here has been settled by Slovaks, the first of whom took over the wild cutover land in 1909, centering their settlement around Moquah (Ind., bear) several miles north. These land-hungry immigrants were attracted by advertisements published in papers printed in their national language. They have retained much of the culture of their native land; colorful Slovak costumes are still worn at weddings and christenings.

At 55.2 m. is the eastern boundary of the CHEQUAMEGON NATIONAL FOREST, an unbroken sheet of trees stretching across a great basin to distant hills. Soon red clay gives way to the yellow sand of THE BARRENS. Blueberries grow thickly here, ripening in mid-July; then begins a migration of berry pickers—transients, Indians, and neighboring farmers. Whole families come, setting up rude shelters and tents in little colonies, picking both to use and sell. Ten to 12 quarts of berries, an average daily pick, bring about \$1.

At 61.9 m. is the junction with a side road.

1. Right on this road to LONG LAKE, 1 m., one of the few woodland recreational developments along US 2 (*campground and cottages; boating, fishing, and swimming*).

2. Left on this road to LAKE MILLICENT, 2 m., one of the westernmost lakes of the Pike Lake Chain. Only seven lakes are actually stream-linked, but there are more than 50 in the straggling chain that runs roughly southeast for 15 miles. The road winds past and between many of them, and connects with a maze of town and private roads.

IRON RIVER, 64.9 m. (1,114 alt., 475 pop.), occupies a site once known to the Indians as Medicine Springs because of the mineral waters that gush here. The first white settler was John Pettingill, who established a trading post in 1887 in anticipation of the arrival of lumberjacks and settlers. A sawmill was soon built on the banks of the Iron River, and Pettingill erected a hotel, which, in 1892, when people came to settle on the townsite, once accommodated 150 people overnight. Several times during the next generation the village was virtually destroyed by fire.

As the lumber industry gradually declined, many lumberjacks settled down to become farmers. Some time later the Scandinavians, who now outnumber other nationalities in Iron River and the surrounding region, drifted in from the Michigan iron country and began farming. They sell their produce to a canning factory and a cooperative creamery in the village and truck in loads of pulpwood to be shipped by rail to paper mill towns. Summer trade with vacationists on the nearby lakes constitutes an increasing source of income.

West of Iron River US 2 traverses an area of swamps and wooded marshes to BRULE, 73.1 m. (994 alt., 151 pop.), the center of the region in which President Calvin Coolidge vacationed in 1928. Consisting of only a few tourist cabins, filling stations, and taverns, Brule

largest cities in the state. Listed in order of presentation, Green Bay, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine, Sheboygan, and Superior appear. Each profile begins with a compendium of information about local public services and accommodations. The data includes locations of railroad and bus stations; fares for city buses, trolleys, and taxis; special traffic regulations; airport locations and scheduled airline service; radio stations; swimming, tennis, and golf facilities; numbers of hotels and movie houses; and more. Each of the cities has a brief historical sketch followed by a description of points of interest. Although these brief descriptions often lack detail, tucked within them the researcher may find forgotten bits and pieces of the community's past. For example, the city of Sheboygan operated a summer "Kiddies Camp" for undernourished children in Evergreen Park. The Madison section even contains a brief mention of the subjects of the exhibits in the State Historical Society's museum.

Automobile tours comprise Part III of Wisconsin: A Guide to the Badger State. Each of the 24 tours in this part of the guidebook follows a state or U.S. highway. The tour writers describe scenic views, sites connected with history or lore, and the appearances of cities and villages along the route. For each municipality visited, the guidebook lists the population and the altitude above sea level.

The tours meander through virtually every section of the state with comments about thousands of sites and hundreds of communities along the way. The longest tour runs 348 miles on state highway 35 from Superior to Prairie du Chien. The shortest covers 11 miles from Sturgeon Bay to the Washington Island ferry.

As in the city descriptions, the guidebook's automobile tours contain bits and pieces of information possibly long forgotten by local residents. For example, the guidebook describes the carp ponds in Stockholm that supplied live fish to kosher markets in larger cities. This business might be all but forgotten by historians in Pepin County. Many people may remember that John Dillinger, Sr. operated a small gangster museum at Little Bohemia near Manitowish. However, the guidebook also records the museum's 25¢ admission and the large red billboard that marked its entrance. Part III of the guidebook can prove particularly useful to county historical societies because it captures quick impressions of sites and communities in several sections of most counties.

Some local historians will find Wisconsin: A Guide to the Badger State in their public library. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has four circulating copies in its library collection, and the volume may be borrowed through interlibrary loan. While the guide may not provide the foundation for a systematic study, local historians may find between its covers forgotten details and bits of data that can enrich exhibits, publications, or programs about community life at the end of the Depression era.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the twelfth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay, Coordinator of the Office of Local History.

State Highway Maps

Local historians face the challenge of piecing together the history of a county or community from a wide variety of sources. When researching changes in transportation, local historians will find interesting bits and pieces and useful starting points about the automobile era on the official Wisconsin road maps printed by the state government. The state Highway Commission produced a tentative road map in November of 1914, and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin has copies of all but a few of the state's annual road maps from 1914 to the present. The maps do not circulate, but a day of study in the Society's archives reading room would be adequate to assemble important data on the automotive transportation history of any community of Wisconsin.

The earliest official road maps precede the designation of numbered state highways. These maps attempt to show main routes of travel and indicate, through differing widths of solid and dotted lines, the quality of road surfaces. The 1916 map advised travelers to inquire locally whether the road was passable before driving on the routes marked with dotted lines. It also solicited corrections from travelers for any routes that may have been inaccurately represented on the map.

In 1918, the Highway Commission began designating state highways by number. Some highway numbers provide useful clues in investigating a community's history. The state originally numbered the road from Green Bay to Wausau as highway 16. It continued with that number on the maps through 1926 but changed to highway 29 in 1927. For historical societies in communities along this route, the change in highway numbers may help date photographs, advertisements, or other historical materials that display or make reference to the highway number. In 1934, state highway 11 changed to U.S. highway 14--a useful reference point for another group of communities. The 1938 map showed that the shape of state highway signs changed from an inverted triangle to a shield. Any photograph with a state highway sign in this shield shape dates from 1938 or later.

Local historians can use the official state road maps to trace the development of paved highways serving their communities. The State Historical

Society collection of official road maps has a gap between 1919 and 1924. The 1924 map and maps for succeeding years indicate through differing solid and broken lines, the composition of a road's surface. Paving of roads did not flow evenly and gradually across the state. The road maps reveal the completion of paved road from Westby to Viroqua between 1926 and 1927. However, the paving of the highway from Westby to Coon Valley does not appear until the 1932 road map, and the completion of paving on U.S. 14 highway all the way from LaCrosse to Madison comes on the 1936 map. Drivers in northwestern Wisconsin waited until 1948, when a section of U.S. highway 53 was paved between Minong and Gordon, to have a hard surfaced road the entire route from Eau Claire to Superior. The pattern of road paving may arouse the curiosity of local historians in some parts of the state. For example, the 1928 road map shows a very small section of Marathon County trunk highway A paved at Hamburg. This hard surfaced section remained isolated for 11 years until highway A was paved from Hamburg to state highway 51.

The dating of road improvements includes other features in addition to paving. The 1960 road map shows the opening of interstate highways in Wisconsin with the appearance of sections of I-90 from Beloit to Janesville and Hudson to Elk Mound and a length of I-94 from Kenosha to the Milwaukee County line. The 1965 map shows the opening of the highway 151 bypass around Beaver Dam. The highway maps do not provide precise dates for these events, but they do offer starting points for further research in local newspapers or other sources.

A miscellany of useful information appeared on the official state road maps of different eras. Between 1924 and 1935, a symbol indicated which communities provided free public campgrounds for tourists. Lookout towers first appeared on the 1935 maps, and the 1941 map added symbols for waysides such as the one east of Omro on highway 21. Starting in 1950, the road maps carried a chart of facilities at state parks. A researcher can learn that Copper Falls State Park added electrical outlets for campers between the 1950 and 1951 seasons. Researchers investigating the decline of rural crossroads settlements can find when communities such as Dill, Steward, Polk, and Oakley in Green County disappeared from the official state road map. A small number of local historians may even discover photographs of their communities on the official state road maps of the 1930s and 1940s. Examples of views include the old Wisconsin River bridge near Spring Green, a sawmill at Neopit, and the Mt. Valhalla ski area. Following the 1940s, photographs on the maps change to unidentified, generic scenes.

Wisconsin's official state road maps will contain very little definitive information about a community's history. However, as a starting point they can help local historians begin to piece together the stories of a variety of developments in transportation and tourism that affected their communities. The maps also hold clues that will assist some historical societies in more accurately dating materials in their collections. Through just such bits and pieces, sources like the official state road maps fill in places in the complex puzzle of community history.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the thirteenth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay, Coordinator of the Office of Local History.

Automobile Tour Guide Books

America's devotion to the automobile has played a part in the twentieth-century history of every community in Wisconsin. The last column in this series examined the bits and pieces of local history that researchers can gather from state highway maps. Before highway maps became the standard guide for automobile travel, adventuresome motorists took to Wisconsin roads with the aid of automobile tour books. In the pages of these guides, local historians will find useful information about the dawning of the automobile age in their communities. The landmarks that tour book publishers used to guide travelers from community to community also offer more fragments of the early twentieth-century history of rural Wisconsin.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin's collection of automobile tour books includes examples from as early as 1908 until well into the 1920s. A small number of examples exists for the earliest years. For local historians, the most interesting volumes will be those published prior to 1918, the year when Wisconsin began designating numbered state highways. The tour books prior to that year relied on detailed directions which identified frequent landmarks to guide motorists from one destination to the next. For example, the 1910 Annual Tour Book of the Wisconsin State Automobile Association used 129 entries to guide travelers from Wausau to Appleton, a distance of 102.9 miles.

50 While many tour book entries consist of a simple "cross R.R." or "pass left hand road," scanning route descriptions can reveal interesting details about the communities and rural environs along the routes. County historical societies frequently encounter a dearth of historical information about the rural hamlets that once dotted the landscape but have largely disappeared over the last ninety years. The routes described in the tour books passed through scores of these hamlets in Wisconsin. Where the route was complex or difficult to describe, the authors included more descriptive facts to guide travelers through a rural community. For example, the 1910 Wisconsin State Automobile Association tour book reveals that the hamlet of Edwards (near Howard's Grove) had an operating cheese factory and saloon. On the other hand, King's Official Route Guide for 1916 indicates that Elm City (between Antigo and Rhinelander) was just a railroad station. Entries in this guide also show that the Clark County hamlet of Spokesville had a church, creamery, and store in operation. Although the tour books contain only partial information about any hamlet, the facts listed in the entries can be valuable additions to files that county

historical societies maintain about their rural communities.

Some local historians may find unusual and pleasant surprises as they conduct research in the automobile tour books. King's 1916 guide suggests that travelers nearing Green Lake turn off to "Mitchells Glenn, a place worth seeing, with fine views and a cabin full of historic curios of Wisconsin." Some publishers found that even the most detailed tour books could be made more accurate, or more attractive to buyers, by including photographs of key turns or junctions. These photographs, taken from the point of view of an automobile, constitute scenes which most local historical societies will not hold in their collections. The Wisconsin State Automobile Association 1910 tour book shows part of a rural flour mill near Whitehall and an excellent view of Ray Mercal's Cash Grocery in Palmyra among approximately twenty-five photographs. The State Historical Society's tour book collection also includes a photographic automobile map of the route from Chicago to Milwaukee. Published in 1905, this booklet contains a photograph of every turn and many landmarks along the route. Despite the mixed quality of their photographs, the tour books will provide previously unknown views of several communities.

Local historians may find the automobile tour books most useful for the insights they offer into the coming of the automobile age to a community. The publications concentrated on descriptions of road surfaces. Portage County historians can locate the beginning of brick pavement in Stevens Point on the route from Knowlton by using the 1910 Wisconsin State Automobile Association tour book. That same book identifies a stretch of corduroy road, made from logs, between Weyauwega and Freemont. All of the tour books clearly distinguish dirt, clay, and sand road surfaces from each other. Those identified as clay or sand roads may have accompanying comments about passability in poor weather. Researchers can discover city streets which had macadam paving and country roads which were favored with a gravel surface.

Companies printed automobile tour books as profit making ventures. Display advertisements and directory listings in the tour books contributed to the income generated by the publications. These advertisements contribute today to the history of local companies that made early entries into automobile related businesses. The 1908-09 Automobile Blue Book featured a 72-page directory of automobile related businesses throughout the state. Listings include garages, automobile dealers, gasoline retailers, mechanics, hotels, automobile manufacturers, and speciality equipment dealers of all kinds. Entries for Milwaukee businesses predominate, but listings of businesses in all parts of Wisconsin appear. Display ads in the various tour books promote everything from Cream City car tops to the Hotel Marinette to four models of Johnson vehicles which were manufactured in Milwaukee in the early 1900s.

During the early years of this century, Wisconsin residents hit the roads in the invention that would revolutionize the American lifestyle. Automobile tour books reveal a part of that story as it unfolded in communities across the state. These rare volumes can be consulted by visiting the archives and iconographic reading rooms of the State Historical Society. The next article in this series will examine another early record of the automobile's impact on Wisconsin's local history and a record which is available on microfilm in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin's library, the monthly magazine entitled Wisconsin Motorist.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the fourteenth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay, Coordinator of the Office of Local History.

Wisconsin Motorist

The last column in this series explored the use of automobile tour guide books to investigate the coming of the automobile age to local communities. Researchers who use the tour books may find valuable complementary information in the Wisconsin Motorist magazine, a resource held on microfilm at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. This Milwaukee-based publication reported a miscellany of motoring news from throughout the state. The magazine began publication in 1909 and continued until 1928. The State Historical Society collections include only a partial run of the magazines published, but the issues held contain a surprising variety of information from all parts of Wisconsin.

The issues of Wisconsin Motorist from 1919 through 1928 exist on microfilm as a nearly complete run. Prior to 1919, only a few issues from 1910 represent the magazine's early years. However, researchers may find those few early issues to be especially useful. At the opening of the automobile age, many local companies entered the market supplying automotive products. In the early issues of Wisconsin Motorist, researchers may discover advertisements for local manufacturing companies making long forgotten products for the automotive trade. For example, the O.C. Hansen Manufacturing Company of Milwaukee advertised Hansen's Auto Gaunlets, driving gloves, in the pages of Wisconsin Motorist. Harvey Spring Company of Racine ran advertisements promoting automobile springs. The Wisconsin Motor Car Company of Janesville purchased a full page spread for its car, the Wisco. In addition to such spots for manufacturing companies, the magazine's pages include a host of advertisements for automobile dealers, traveling accommodations, and other services related to the motoring public. Milwaukee-area businesses predominate, but local historians from many other areas of the state will find information about businesses in their communities.

52
The Wisconsin Motorist magazines from 1910 featured a column about new automobile clubs forming in the state. These columns reported the names of club officers and highlighted goals established by the groups. One new club in Manitowoc set out to promote a lake shore drive from Manitowoc to Two Rivers. The magazine also provided news briefs from around the state announcing new automotive businesses, motoring accidents, and road improvements. While larger communities such as Beloit, Kenosha, and Eau Claire

receive much of the attention, notice also appears of activities in smaller towns. In 1910, the magazine reported completion of a new gravel road leading from Sparta to the Little Creek schoolhouse. News from Sauk City indicated that an experiment in the community had inmates of the county workhouse crushing rock for road improvements.

Wisconsin Motorist attempted to promote travel through descriptions of scenic and historic sites to visit. One issue printed a lengthy article about the Indian mounds at Carroll College in Waukesha. Another month's magazine told readers about scenic Door County and described the excellent meals and rooms in such establishments as The Cove and the Eagle Inn. The magazine also published tour routes like those in the automobile guide books. Some local historians may find mention of special events, such as the automobile endurance test that passed through Elroy, Chippewa Falls, Merrill, and other communities on a great loop beginning and ending in Milwaukee.

The later issues of Wisconsin Motorist reflect the consolidation of the automobile industry on a national level. Fewer advertisements appear for manufacturers serving a local market with automotive products. Articles emphasize more general concerns about maintenance and operation of automobiles. Nonetheless, a selection of items of local interest continue to appear. Many businesses providing automotive services continue to advertise and receive mention. For example, a photograph and description in a 1923 issue extoll the efficient new service station of Hoaglin Tire and Battery Company in Oshkosh. Each year during the 1920s, the magazine ran a table of automotive registrations for each county in the state. Another yearly table listed the exhibitors at the large Milwaukee Automobile Show.

Wisconsin Motorist provides a context in which to understand local issues related to the automobile. A 1923 article about the state automobile club summarized its legislative agenda. Items of concern included mandating lights on all vehicles at night, enforcing the headlight law, and increasing speed limits. During the 1920s, northern states such as Wisconsin saw a lively debate about the practicality of plowing and maintaining roads for winter driving. Readers from Westby, Shullsburg, Plymouth, and other communities wrote to the editor with opinions on this subject. The magazine also reported that the bus line from Ashland to Park Falls maintained a winter schedule by leasing its own snowplow and tractor.

News from motor bus companies represented a portion of the range of interests in the Wisconsin Motorist that extended beyond private automobiles. The magazine regularly offered sections or articles on motorcycling, motor boating, and the motor truck industry. Frequent advertisements for Wisconsin-made Harley-Davidson and Indian motorcycles appeared. Notes in the motor boating section varied from a new boat motor invented by John Cremer of Cashton to the motor launch service started by William Campbell in Argyle to give pleasure rides on the Pecatonica River.

53
Historical miscellany most accurately describes the information that a researcher may draw from the pages of Wisconsin Motorist. The examples cited above represent only a sampling of articles that covered the gamut from used car prices in Milwaukee to the opening of state parks in Douglas, Buffalo, and Trempealeau Counties. No local historian should expect to

develop an overview of automobile history in a community entirely from Wisconsin Motorist. However, anyone planning a book, article, or exhibit on the topic of local automotive history could invest a few productive hours scanning the publication for advertising, articles, and notes that will add depth to their study. The Wisconsin Motorist microfilms can be borrowed from the State Historical Society Library through inter-library loan.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the fifteenth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay, Coordinator of the Office of Local History.

Iconographic Collections

Geographic Place File

The iconographic collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin contains a huge store of photographs and images documenting both the history of Wisconsin and historical events beyond its borders that influenced life within the state. To local history researchers, this rich source of visual information can represent a large and daunting challenge. Local historians may find an easy starting point for use of the iconographic collection by investigating its geographic place file.

The geographic place file contains approximately 12,000 Wisconsin images organized by community. The communities range from the city of Milwaukee to unincorporated hamlets such as Elton in Langlade County. All images appear under the name of the community. The file has no entries by county or other geographical name. The file holds a small number of non-Wisconsin images. The communities run in alphabetical sequence with Ableman as the first Wisconsin community and Yuba as the last. The images cover a broad range of Wisconsin history, but the majority fall in the years between 1880 and 1950.

53 Most of the images in the geographic place file represent Wisconsin's major cities. Milwaukee and Madison lead in number of entries with a total of eight file drawers of photographs and images. Throughout the files, images include a mixture of overall views, street scenes, community landmarks, and some special events. The section of the file for the city of Green Bay provides interesting examples of this mixture. The file contains approximately 250 views of Green Bay. A heavy representation comes from photographs of the Fox River showing docks, boats, paper mills, and other industrial features. However, a local history researcher may find surprising additional information in such images. A photograph, taken in 1889, of a southwest view of the Fox River holds, in the foreground, excellent documentation of family homes and their backyards. Local landmarks among the Green Bay pictures include St. Vincent's Hospital in 1910, the Green Bay House hotel in 1925, and a rustic area called Dutchman's Creek in 1925. The unveiling of a Daughters of the American Revolution tablet honoring Eleazer Williams is one of the Green Bay events found in the file.



Green Bay, c. 1890. Air view showing old Court House. Frederick L. G. Straubel, photographer. WHi(X3)11162.

Many smaller villages and communities appear in the geographic place file. Elroy has 15 photographs in the file including an excellent view of downtown in 1922 with a brick paved road, the high school in 1905, and the interior of St. Patrick's Church in 1911. Following Elroy comes a single image of the community of Elton. However, it is a detailed photograph of the Chicago Northwestern depot showing the water tank, a caboose on a siding, and railroad construction materials. Patch Grove also appears with only one photograph, but again this early view of its main street is a gem. The file contains 22 photographs of Jefferson, and one shows a chilling scene of the Rock River and a mill race in winter. The dam and powerhouse at St. Croix Falls appear in the file as well as a crisp stereoscope view of the office of the Polk County Press in that community. Three very clear photographs among the images of Orfordville show the dedication ceremonies for the Skavlem monument in honor of Norwegian immigrants.

Local history researchers using the geographic place file should remember that the huge iconographic collection often holds other images from their communities. All entries in the geographic place file include negative numbers. Working with iconographic reference staff, these negative numbers may lead to other photographs of equal or greater value to a researcher. The iconographic staff can also respond to specific written inquiries for assistance. The geographic place file can be a beginning point for local historians in the State Historical Society iconographic collection. Future articles will explore other ways to use this rich source of visual history.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the sixteenth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay and Beth Boland of the Office of Local History.

Wisconsin Place Name Books

An interest in local history frequently leads to an interest in learning how local places received their names. Villages, towns, counties, rivers, and a host of other places need names, and the origins of those names are often unknown to today's residents. To help trace some of those origins, the library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin lists in its card catalog, more than fifty publications devoted to place names in the state.

Some of the available place name publications treat specific communities or counties. Others trace names along a specific feature such as a railroad line or investigate names related to a specific subject such as Native American names. Some books offer a wider look at interesting place names from throughout Wisconsin. A few of these statewide studies present only lists of names without origins, but they still represent starting places for research.

People have named places after military and political figures, geographical features, former homes, railroad officials, Native American designations, and many other sources. The inspiration for some names came from unique events that make a good story. In turn, some of those stories grow more from myth and legend than from history. A careful researcher will check the details of place name origins in written publications against other sources. For example, a check of census records might determine whether a town founder, said to have named the community after his favorite daughter, ever had any daughters.

Local historians should find in the selected sources below useful starting points for place name research. Inquiries to the library at the State Historical Society can determine which are reference books available only for use only in the library reading room and which can be borrowed through interlibrary loan.

"A Gal Whose Name Went Down in History." Oconto County Reporter,
September 18, 1969.

Allen, Mary Moore. "Origins of Names of Army and Air Corps Posts, Camps and Stations in World War II in Wisconsin." (typewritten manuscript)
Goldsboro, N.C.

- Branch of Geographic Names. Wisconsin Geographic Names. Reston, VA: U.S. Geological Survey, 1981.
- Butteres, Virgil A. "History of Names: Etymology of Crawford County, Wisconsin." 1971.
- Carufel, Robin. Names and Maps Tell a Story of Wisconsin. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 1990.
- Cassidy, Frederic Gomes. Dane County Place-Names. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1968.
- Christiansen, Ruth Bunker. Polk County Place Names and Fact Book. Frederic, Wisconsin: Christiansen, 1975.
- Cole, Henry Ellsworth. Baraboo and Other Place Names in Sauk County, Wisconsin. Baraboo, Wisconsin: Baraboo News Publishing Company, 1912.
- Decisions on Names in Wisconsin. Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin State Geographic Board.
- "Early History of Lafayette County." Wisconsin Magazine of History, 2:329-330.
- Engel, Harold A. Wisconsin Place Names: A Pronouncing Gazetteer. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, 1968.
- Gard, Robert Edward, and Sorden, Leland George. The Romance of Wisconsin Place Names. Minocqua, Wisconsin: Heartland Press, 1988.
- Hale, James B. Wisconsin Post Office Handbook. Bulletin No. 20. Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Postal History Society, 1988.
- "How Our Towns Were Named." Algoma Record-Herald, July 20, 1967.
- "How The Towns Were Named." Kewaunee Enterprise, April 20, 1967.
- Kellogg, Louise Phelps. "Organization, Boundaries and Names of Wisconsin Counties." In Proceedings at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for 1909, pp. 184-231. Madison, Wisconsin: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1910.
- Kuhn, Herbert W. Indian Place-Names in Wisconsin. Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Archeological Survey, 1952.
- Lang, Milton E. "Discourse on How Wabeno Got it's Name: Also Others." June, 1980.
- Leader, W. J. "Some Local Names and Their Derivations." In Douglas County, Wisconsin Official Directory, 1914-1915, pp. 11-16.
- Legler, Henry Eduard. Origin and Meaning of Wisconsin Place-Names: With Special Reference to Indian Nomenclature. Madison, Wisconsin: 1903.
- Master Waterbody Listing. Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Meyer, Orrin W. Se Souvenir = To Remember: Calumet County, Wisconsin, The Milk Vein of the World. Calumet County, Wisconsin: Meyer, 1964.

"The Names of Green Bay, Wisconsin." Names, September 1973, 168-178.

Pierce County's Heritage. River Falls, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, 1971.

Rudolph, Robert S. Wood County Place Names. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1970.

Sander, Philip. "Notes Concerning the Origin of Names of Lakes in Kenosha County." Photocopy, November 1, 1983.

Spohn, William H. Madison's Memorials: Street and Place Names. Microfilm copy. Madison, Wisconsin: Madison Literary Society, 1950.

Stennett, W. H. A History of the Origin of the Place Names Connected with the Chicago & Northwestern and Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railways. Chicago, 1908.

Townships in Wisconsin Counties. West Allis, Wisconsin: Janlen Enterprises, 1978.

Verwyst, Chrysostom Adrian. "Geographical Names in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan Having Chippewa Origin." In Collections, vol. 12, edited by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, pp. 390-398.

Vogel, Virgil J. Indian Names on Wisconsin's Map. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1991.

"What's in a Name." Wisconsin Tales and Trails, 1(2):21

Wisconsin Geographic Names Council and US Board on Geographical Names. Decision on Names in Wisconsin. Madison, Wisconsin: Department of Natural Resources, 1975.

"Wisconsin Names: Their Origin and Meanings. Reedsburg Times, April 2, 1915.

Worthing, Ruth Shaw. The History of Fond du Lac County as Told by Its Place Names. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin: Worthing, 1976.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the eighteenth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Deborah Kmetz, Local History Specialist.

"Exchange"
St. Historical
Soc of WI
816 State St
Madison 53706

U.S. General Land Office

Vol 37 #3, 1995

Survey Plat Maps

During the period 1833-1866, draftsmen, first in Cincinnati and later in Dubuque, created plat maps for almost every portion of Wisconsin. These plats, produced as part of the federal government's land survey, represent some of the earliest attempts at mapping Wisconsin land at a local level. Copies of the plat maps, some as beautifully hand-drawn renderings and others as photostatic reversals, can be found at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin Archives. The plat copies exist for virtually every area of the state and contain fascinating information about the nineteenth-century landscape. Each map allows significant detail and many maps note the locations of individual cabins, springs, millsites and landings as well as trails, rivers, streams and villages.

The clerks and draftsmen who produced these maps probably never saw the land and instead created the plats using information contained in the field notebooks of contract surveyors. These surveyors, hired by the federal government, walked the land marking and measuring the township boundaries, and then further subdivided each township into thirty-six sections. As they walked these measured lines, the surveyors also recorded their observations about the landscape, noting natural features and evidence of human habitation. The surveyors drew sketch maps of each township in their notebooks and marked the major features of the land. These sketch maps served as a basis for the plat maps.

The program of surveying, called the U.S. Rectangular Land Survey, began in Ohio and proceeded westward. It advanced two purposes, both related to the sale of land. One purpose was to explore and describe the land, then regarded by the federal government as a source of income but also a virtually unknown frontier wilderness. The second purpose involved parcelling the land into manageable pieces for relatively efficient and quick sale to a growing number of European Americans eager to settle.

60 Federal land offices used the plat maps to provide information about the land to prospective buyers. The interested parties could presumably go to a land office, look at the plat maps created from the surveyors' field notebooks, and get a sufficient idea of the quality and type of land available for sale.

Since each plat map covered only a six-mile square of land, they provided enough suitable detail for an informed purchase. The first U.S. government land offices in Wisconsin Territory opened in Mineral Point and Green Bay in 1834. An office opened in Milwaukee in 1836, and twelve more would follow throughout the state. A list appears below.

Mineral Point	1834	La Crosse	1852
Green Bay	1834	Stevens Point	1852
Milwaukee	1836	Superior	1855
Muscoda	1841	Eau Claire	1857
St. Croix River	1848	Bayfield	1860
Falls		St. Croix Falls	1860
Hudson	1849	Wausau	1872
Menasha	1852	Ashland	1886

Using the plat maps, the federal government sold the land by section (640 acres) or by subdivisions of a section: half sections (320 acres), quarter sections (160 acres) and quarter-quarter sections (40 acres). The plat maps clearly delineated the 36 sections and the quarter sections for prospective buyers. The local land agents could further subdivide the sections on the maps into smaller acreages for smaller land sales. By looking at the maps, prospective buyers could also see the locations of rivers, streams, lakes, springs, mineral outcroppings, bluffs, salt licks and other elements of the natural landscape which had been recorded in the field notebooks. The surveyors also noted vegetation, and the plat maps showed the location and extent of different kinds of land cover including prairie, groves, openings, sugar bushes, windfalls, marshes, tamarack swamps and cranberry bogs. In their notes, surveyors made efforts to distinguish between high and low ground and rated the land as 1st, 2nd or 3rd rate for agricultural use or other economic purposes such as logging. The ratings sometimes appeared on the plat maps.

A look at an individual plat map, that for Township 1 North, Range 2 East, suggests some of the things a nineteenth-century land purchaser or a twentieth-century researcher might find when using the maps. (See illustration on page 13.) This township is located on land in present-day southwest Lafayette County. Lucius Lyon completed the interior survey for the township on April 8, 1833. This particular map is quite beautiful, hand drawn on a beige paper backed with muslin. The markings appear in black, brown, red, green and blue ink. The square township outline measures 12" x 12". Black ink lines divide the township into 36 sections and red ink lines subdivide it into quarter sections. This visually creates the "rectangular" grid for which the survey is named. Looking at the map reinforces the image of an abstract measurement overlaying the land. Each section in the grid contains a number which identifies it, beginning with Section 1 in the upper right-hand corner and ending with Section 36 in the lower right-hand corner.

The square township outline represents the major east-west and north-south boundary lines which define the township itself. The sections running

immediately inside of the outline's top edge (an east-west line) and its left-hand edge (a north-south line) are further subdivided into half-quarter sections and quarter-quarter sections. The true acreage of each of these parcels is noted within the subdivision itself, for example, "A80" or "A41.29." These quarter-quarter sections immediately adjacent to the top and left-hand township boundary lines vary from the standard forty acres because of adjustments made to compensate for the earth's curvature.

Within this grid of 36 sections, the mapmaker drew in symbols for elements of the natural landscape. On this map brown ink marks the natural watercourses which are all fairly small creeks with tight meanders. The lines appear almost as "squiggles." On other maps, where the watercourses are wider, shorelines are drawn, and blue shading represents the water itself.

The mapmaker also noted vegetation. An irregular and continuous line begins in Section 35 and moves to the northwest, loops back to the southeast, and reaches out again to the northwest. The line is accompanied by the mark , appearing at intervals along one edge. This same edge is shaded green on the map in the Archives collection. The area within the marked and shaded side of the line represents prairie; the area on the other side of the line stands for a mixture of prairie and groves of oak trees. (Though somewhat difficult to see at the reduced scale in the accompanying illustration, the symbols appear clearly on the maps themselves.)

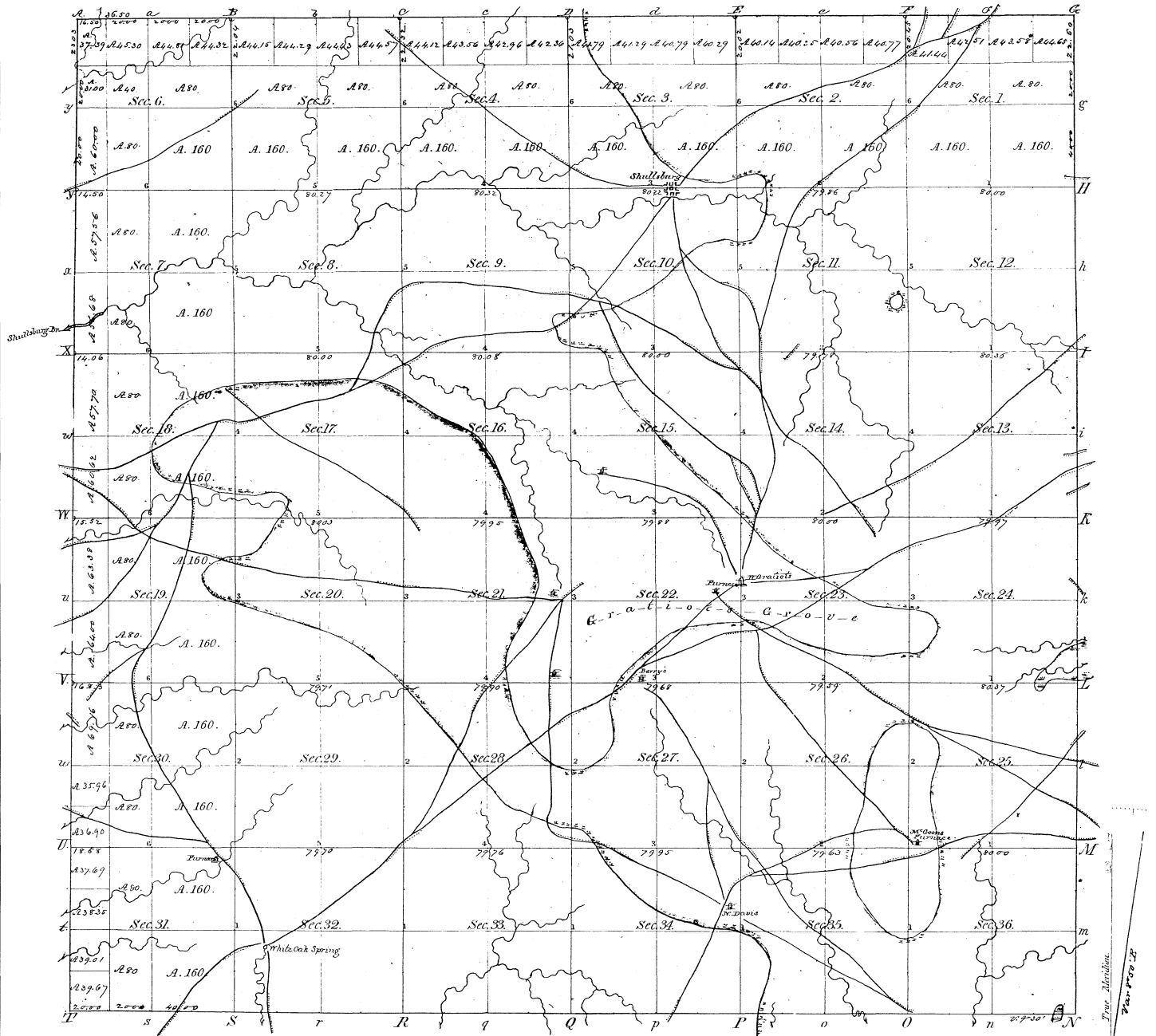
In addition to these natural features, the map also offers evidence of human habitation. The mapmakers used brown ink to indicate transportation routes which the field surveyors had seen. These are marked by a line accompanied by a series of small dots which appear at intervals . On this map the routes may be Indian trails, wagon roads, or both. Often early wagon roads followed pre-existing Indian trails. Several routes converge in Section 32 at "White Oak Spring." The route which runs to the southwest eventually reaches Galena, Illinois. At the time Lucius Lyon surveyed this township, these routes probably served as wagon roads along which teamsters hauled lead, smelted in the township's furnaces, to Galena for transportation down the Mississippi River.

The map also shows "Gratiot's Grove," a settlement in Sections 22 and 23, located near the words "Furnace" and "H. Gratiot's," each accompanied by the

symbol . On survey maps this symbol can represent a variety of structures ranging from cabins to inns, lead furnaces to fur trading posts. Here the symbol probably marks a lead smelting furnace and H. Gratiot's residence. Shullsburg, another settlement located in Sections 3 and 10, is marked by a different symbol  representing several blocks in a street layout.

The mapmaker noted additional single dwellings or furnaces along various trails or roads, including "McGoon's Furnace," in Section 25, "N. Davis" in Section 34, "Berry's" in Section 22 and a "Furnace" in Section 31. The plat also includes several unidentified structures marked with the symbol .

Township N^o 1 N, Range N^o 2 East 4th Mer.



Surveyed in 1832, by Lucius Lyon Deputy Surveyor.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the original plat in this Office.

Surveyor General's Office,
Dubuque, Dec. 1st 1851

Geo. B. Sargent
Sut. Genl

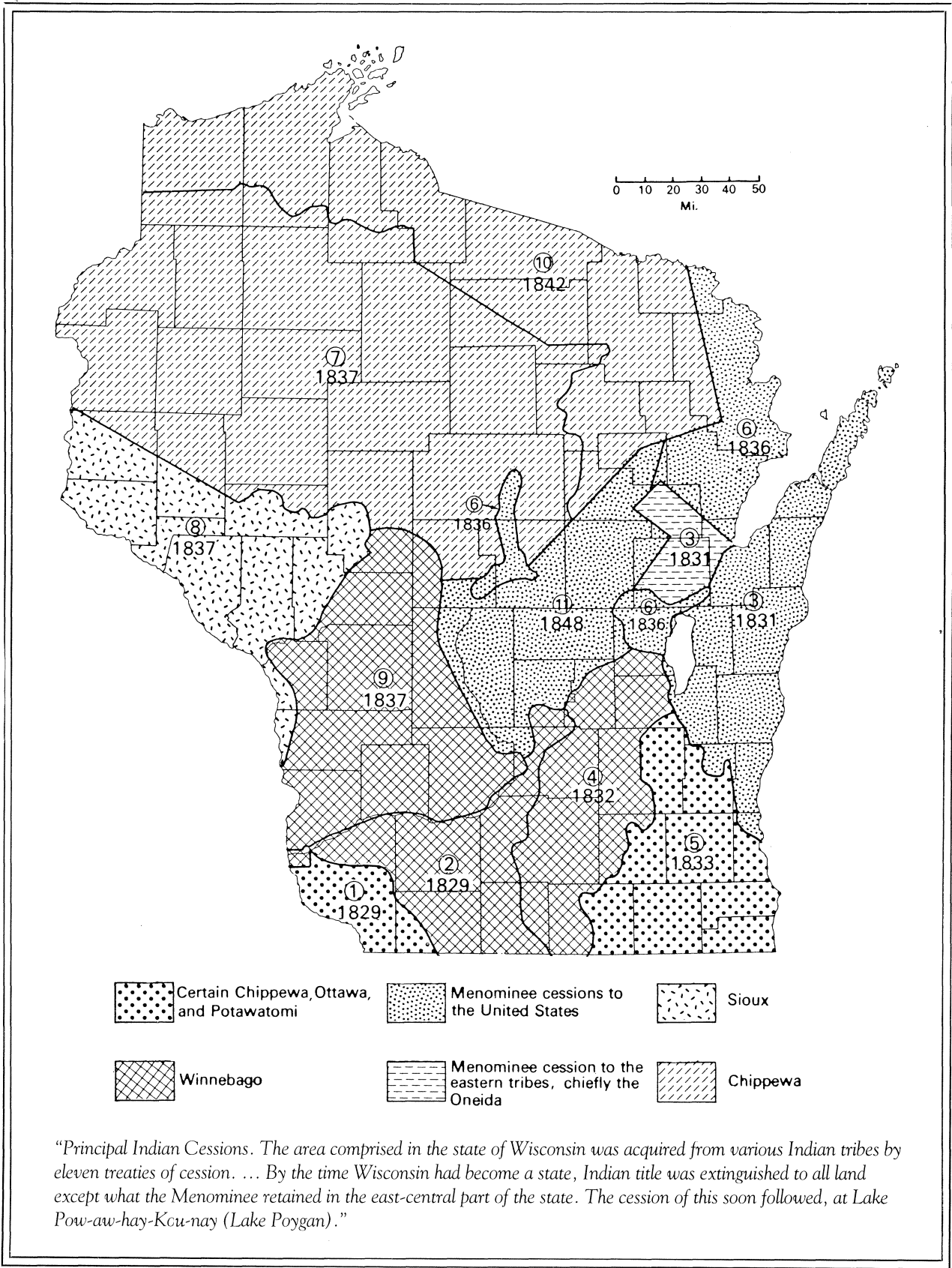
Survey plat map for Township 1 North, Range 2 East, located in present-day Lafayette County.
Lucius Lyon surveyed this township in 1832 and 1833.

How does the information contained in this map correspond to the written observations made by surveyor Lucius Lyon? In Lyon's 1833 written summary of this township (reprinted in Article 17 of this series; see Exchange Vol. 36, No. 3) he notes, "The afore described township, embracing as it does, some of the oldest wrought and richest mines in the country; is generally rolling, 1st rate land, about half prairie and half thinly timbered with oak, with an undergrowth of hazel." The map does not locate any of the mines. It does however, offer the location and range of the prairie and oak savannahs. The written summary underscores the land's value as 1st rate land and gives a sense of the topography with the word "rolling." In the written summary Lyon names all three settlements marked on the map: "Shullsburg," "Gratiot's Grove," and "White Oak Spring" and adds "each of which settlements now contain about five or six families, but the two former, in the most prosperous days of the mining business, have heretofore at one time, contained not less than forty families each..." Lyon also mentions abandoned mines, "The mines which have heretofore been very productive are situated principally on sections 2, 3, 10, 11, and 14 but are now many abandoned as they are thought not to be worth working." Although the mines do not appear on the map, the section numbers do. Locating the numbers on the map reveals that the sections containing the abandoned mines are clustered together in an area around Shullsburg.

The summary and the map convey different kinds of information. The written word provides descriptive information such as the number of families living in a settlement or the status of the mines. It also provides evaluative information where Lyon perceived a mining operation past its prime. The plat map, on the other hand, provides spatial information - specific locations, sizes and shapes of natural or man-made features, and distances such as a settlement's proximity to a transportation route. Either source provides valuable information, but used together the written summary and the plat map produce a fuller picture of the township landscape at the time of the survey. Sometimes it is vital to use the two sources together, as in the case of the vegetation. The written field notes identify the exact nature of the vegetation which is not apparent from the map symbols.

Lucius Lyon initiated Wisconsin's rectangular survey in 1832 with his work on townships in today's Grant and Lafayette Counties. That same year George Harrison, J.W. Stephenson, Robert Clark, Jr., Harvey Parke and Sylvester Sibley surveyed townships in present-day Green, Rock, Iowa and Sauk Counties. John Mullet and Henry S. Howell surveyed two townships in Columbia County and two in Marquette County. Mullet and Ira Cook surveyed two townships in Marquette County and one in Marquette and Green Lake Counties. All of Mullet's surveys involved land along the strategic transportation route between Fort Winnebago and Fort Howard. By 1836, the year the federal government established Wisconsin Territory, surveying had begun on selected townships in another twenty-one present-day counties. The surveying continued at a steady pace through 1866, when surveyors completed work in the northern interior of the state.

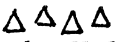
Two factors intertwined in the timing of the surveying and mapping: Native American land ownership and desire on the part of European Americans for land to settle. As late as 1825, the federal government formally recognized that virtually all of the land in what would become Wisconsin was owned by Native



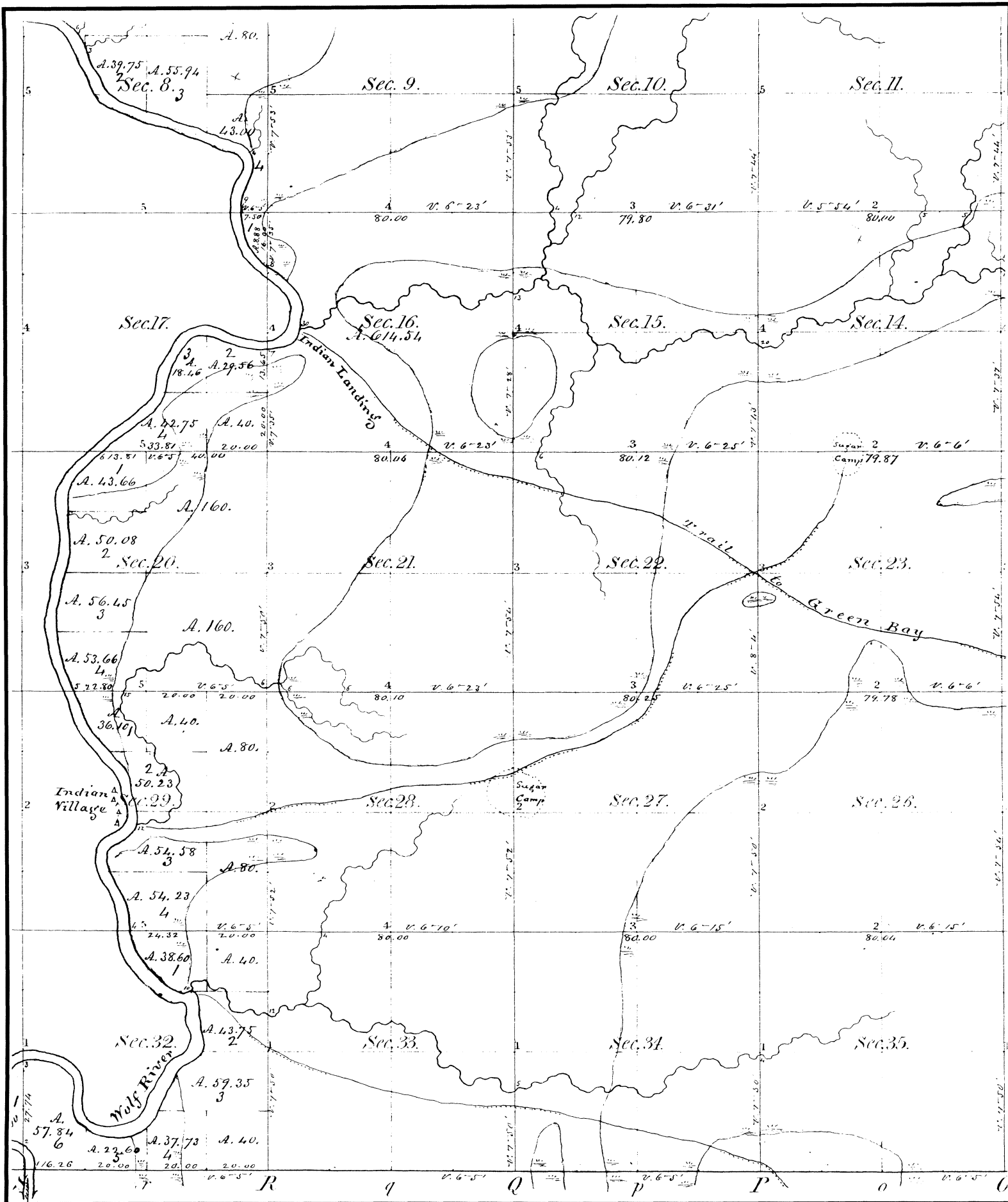
Map and caption reprinted from Robert C. Nesbit's Wisconsin: A History, Second Edition. Revised and updated by William F. Thompson. © 1973, 1989. (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.) Reprinted by permission of The University of Wisconsin Press.

Americans. By 1848, only twenty-three years later, Indian land titles for all of this land, except the small Oneida Reserve, had been transferred to the United States government in exchange for payments of cash and goods, and sometimes with the retention of hunting and fishing rights. The land cessions took place between the United States government and individual tribes and affected different parcels of land at different times. The cessions began with land in the south owned by certain Ojibway (Chippewa), Ottawa, Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) groups. The cessions continued with land owned by the Menominee on the shores of Lake Michigan and Green Bay and moved northward to include land held by the Sioux and the Ojibway. Menominee Indians retained the last land tract to be transferred to the U.S. government in the state, a tract located in east-central Wisconsin and ceded at Lake Pow-aw-hay-Kou-nay (Lake Poygan) in 1848.

Generally, the surveyors did not begin their measurements until the U.S. government secured title to the land. The map on page 15, reprinted from Robert C. Nesbit's Wisconsin: A History, shows the dates and extent of the eleven principal treaties of cession. It can be very instructive to parallel that map with the path of the rectangular survey across the state. Comparing the two helps explain the timing of the surveying, underscoring the fact that the exchange of land title was supposed to occur before the survey could proceed and the government could sell the land to the new European American settlers. European Americans did not always wait for the official land transfer or the surveying to occur. Settlers squatted on Native American land and engaged themselves in mining, farming and trading. In fact, the incursion of European American settlement precipitated tensions with resident Native Americans and sometimes accelerated a land cession. The survey plat maps may record the locations of early European American settlement, but other research sources must be used in order to determine whether the settlements pre-date treaties.

Evidence of Native American habitation varies from map to map, depending on the date of the survey and the nature of the settlement. Although a hunting camp probably would not appear on a survey map, a maple sugar camp or a permanent village might be recorded. The survey plat for Township 26 North, Range 16 East in present-day Shawano County provides a rich source of information about resident Native Americans in 1845. (See accompanying illustration.) The symbols  denote an Indian village, probably Menominee, along the west bank of the Wolf River in Section 29. Directly across the river, on the east bank, a trail leads to two sugar camps, one located a mile and a half away and another about two miles farther. Approximately two miles north of the village, along the river in Section 16, a "Trail to Green Bay" begins at an "Indian Landing." It proceeds to the southeast and intersects the sugar camp trail at the border of Sections 22 and 23. Theodore Conkey completed the interior survey for the land east of the Wolf River in this township in 1845.

When using the map in conjunction with Conkey's field notes, a researcher finds the land is composed primarily of wetlands and a mixture of deciduous and coniferous forests. A line with the marking  accompanying it at intervals creates three irregular shapes on the map, one in the southeast, one in the center and one in the north center. The area within the marked side of



Detail of the survey plat map for Township 26 North, Range 16 East, located in present-day Shawano County. Surveyors measured and described the land east of the Wolf River in 1845; west of the Wolf River in 1851.

the line represents wetlands and swamp conifers, including white cedar, black spruce, tamarack and hemlock. The others contain a mixture of deciduous and coniferous forests including sugar maple, basswood and oaks; pines, birch and beech. The sugar maples are concentrated in the areas marked "sugar camps," where the Indians probably tapped maple sap in the spring.

The approach developed through the rectangular survey for organizing the land has continued to exercise influence well past the survey's completion. The plat maps created by the Cincinnati and Dubuque mapmakers have been used as base maps for subsequent endeavors including later nineteenth-century county atlases. The divisions of section, half section, quarter section and quarter-quarter section, along with the township coordinates, still form the fundamental basis of legally identifying parcels of land in Wisconsin.

The survey plats, as examples of cartography, also offer insight into nineteenth-century aesthetics and technology. The maps were drawn on sturdy, fine quality papers. Their fiber-based content has preserved them well. Mapmakers used hand held pens that they dipped into a variety of inks, made from minerals and organic materials. The delicacy and deftness of the drawing offers a tactile and visual beauty that differs from the standards of twentieth-century mechanical and electronic uniformity and regularity. The maps, as well as the field notes themselves, vary in detail and presentation, revealing the skill of the mapmaker as well as the surveyor.

The United States General Land Office survey plat maps comprise Archives Series 698 at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Twenty-one bound volumes contain hand drawn plat maps for townships in township tiers 1-30. These tiers cover approximately two-thirds of the state from the Wisconsin-Illinois border to an east-west line running through Medford. Photostatic reversals of the maps are available for townships north of this line. The maps are also available on reels of microfilm, through interlibrary loan. In order to identify the appropriate volume, photostat or microfilm reel, researchers will need to know the township and range coordinates of the township in which they are interested. (See Article 17 of this series for instructions). The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands in Madison holds the set of original plat maps used at the land offices in Wisconsin. The maps in Archives Series 698 are certified nineteenth-century copies of the original maps, signed by the U.S. Surveyor General.

Sources used for this article include "A Guide to the Land Records at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin," by Michael Edmonds; Order Upon the Land: The U.S. Rectangular Land Survey and the Upper Mississippi Country (1976) by Hildegard Binder Johnson; Wisconsin: A History (1973) by Robert C. Nesbit; and "Wisconsin: A Natural Laboratory for North American Indian Studies" by Nancy Oestreich Lurie, which appeared in the Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 53, No. 1, Autumn 1969. Local historians may obtain the 11-page guide to land records by writing to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin Archives. Order Upon the Land, Wisconsin: A History and articles appearing in the Wisconsin Magazine of History may be ordered through interlibrary loan. The author would like to thank Gerry Strey, SHSW Map Curator, for her assistance in preparing this article.

Researching Wisconsin Community History

Resources at the State Historical Society

This is the twentieth in a series of articles on resources available to local historians at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was written by Tom McKay, Local History Coordinator.

Annual Reports of County Superintendents of Common Schools

The last half of the twentieth century witnessed many areas of rapid change on the local, state and national levels. Schools are among the most important institutions in any community's history, and the consolidation of schools brought great change to Wisconsin communities. Local historians can establish a baseline of information about elementary school education prior to consolidation and elimination of one-room schools through research in the Annual Reports of County Superintendents of Common Schools. These reports are found in the archives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin as Series 675. The reports cover the years 1940-1965.

County superintendents of schools gathered data from each individual school district in their respective counties and compiled the information in summary fashion on the annual report forms provided by the state government. As a result, the reports offer an overview of education in one-room schools and graded schools in a particular county rather than a profile of any individual school. The reports focus largely on a tabulation of numbers of school-age children in a county; statistics describing teacher preparation and experience; and financial data summarizing receipt of public monies and disbursements for expenses such as teacher salaries, transportation costs, maintenance, utilities, capital expenditures and operations.

The superintendents' reports can help establish a context for major changes in education at the local level. Each report indicates, for its county, the number of: one-room school districts; state graded school districts without a high school; and districts with both high school and elementary school grades. Researchers might be surprised to learn that in 1941 an area such as Green County had 103 one-room schools. Two state graded schools, one union high school, and four districts with high school and elementary grades comprised the remainder of the county's schools.

69 The number of rural schools gradually declined during the 1940s and 1950s, but eighty-one one-room schools remained in Green County in 1959. The decline in the number of rural schools reflected changing attitudes about education and changing school populations as farms grew larger and the number of families in a rural area grew smaller. In 1954, two of Lafayette County's eighty-three one-room schools had only four pupils each. Closings of such schools happened throughout Wisconsin every year.

While information about students from the superintendents' reports address in general terms the

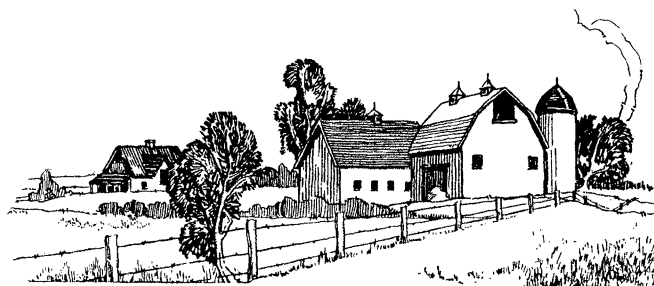
number of pupils in county schools, a more detailed picture of teachers emerges from the documents. The reports recorded the length of time teachers had served their present schools. The 1941 data for Burnett County reveals that seventeen of forty-four rural school teachers were in their first year at their present schools, eleven were in their second year, and eight in their third year. However, this revealed mobility among teaching positions rather than a corps of new teachers. In this same group of forty-four teachers, the majority had more than five years of teaching experience and nine of the forty-four had ten years or more in the classroom.

In addition to teacher tenure, the annual reports offer information about teacher salaries and preparation. In Burnett County, nearly all of the elementary school teachers in the early 1940s made less than \$100 per month. During the same time period, almost all of Milwaukee County's teachers made more than \$100 per month with some paid more than \$250 per month. In the early 1940s, superintendents' annual reports included a table charting the numbers of years of education beyond the eighth grade completed by teachers in rural and graded schools. By far the greatest number had training that encompassed one or two years of education at a county normal school for teachers. However, virtually every county had exceptions. In 1941, Marquette County had fifty-one rural school teachers including one with four full years of college and one with only one year of high school. By the 1950s, the reports follow changing expectations for teachers and record how many years of education teachers had beyond high school.

The reports hold a variety of clues about the day-to-day business of education in one-room and graded schools. For example, in 1941, Marquette County's fifty-one rural schools had an average of 380 books in their libraries, included sixteen schools with no playground equipment, and numbered fourteen schools with radios. Any local historical society conducting an oral history project about rural schools could find this type of information useful in formulating interview questions about day-to-day activities in a one-room school. The reports also give hints about special events. The 1941 reports for their respective counties show that all eleven rural schools in Forest County sponsored school fairs while none of the thirty rural schools in neighboring Oneida County held school fairs.

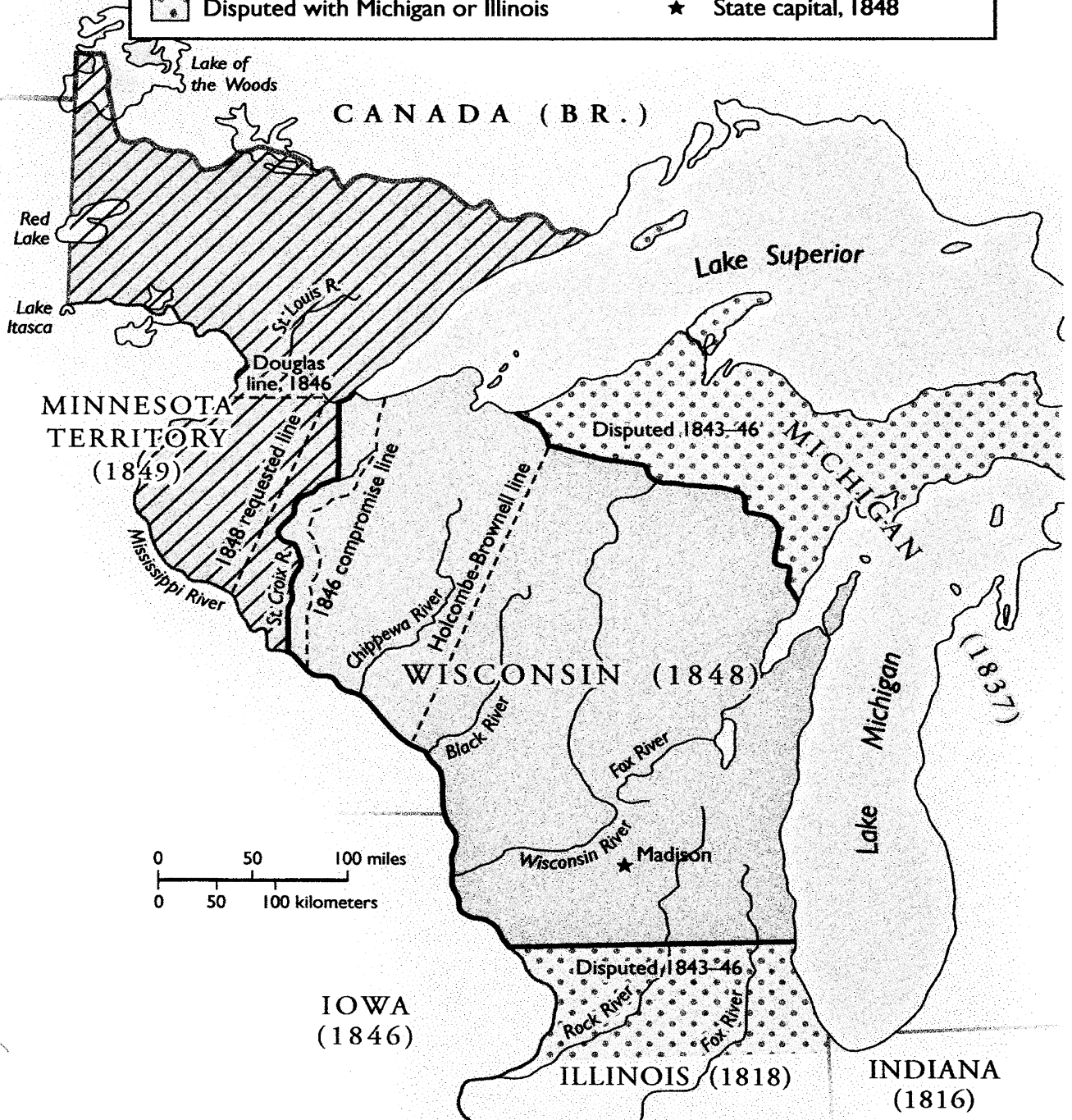
The Annual Reports of the County Superintendents of Common Schools are filed in alphabetical order by year. This means that the reports for any given county are spread throughout the thirty-one archives boxes that house this record series. The organization of Series 675 means that researchers wishing to access all of the reports for a given county from 1940 through 1965 would need to do so by using them at the State Historical Society in Madison. Historians interested in reviewing a county's reports for selective years could request to have those records transferred for use to one of the thirteen Area Research Centers throughout the state. While the reports cannot provide in-depth pictures of any individual school, they do offer an excellent context for understanding change in one-room and graded elementary school education on the local level during the middle of the twentieth century.

22



POSSIBLE WISCONSINS

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Proposed new territory, 1848 |  Proposed state boundary |
|  Unorganized territory, 1848-49 |  State boundary, 1848 |
|  Disputed with Michigan or Illinois |  State capital, 1848 |



don't remove the "Maple" 106-15