

# IN THE EARLY DAYS.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TERRITORY AND STATE.

The history of the territory now comprising the state of Wisconsin commenced over two hundred years before its admission into the union half a century ago. In 1634, authorized history has it that Jean Nicolet, a French explorer sent to the Northwest by Champlain, coming via Lake Michigan, landed on Wisconsin soil just below the mouth of Fox river. He was welcomed by the Indians and a feast was held at which one hundred and twenty beavers were eaten.

There were other visits from French missionaries and explorers and 1670 the Northwest was taken possession of in the name of the

posts at Green Bay and established Ft. Howard.

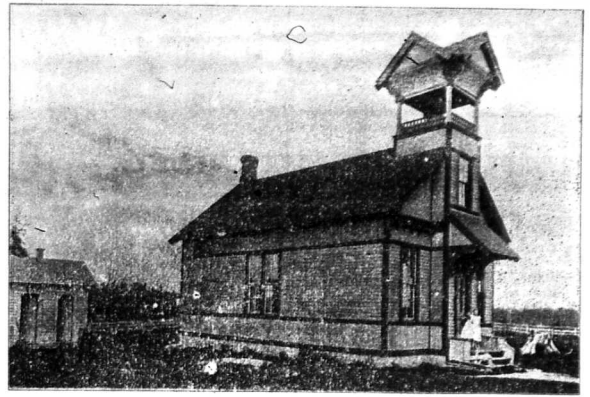
All the territories of New France, including Wisconsin were ceded to the English by the French in 1763 and trade posts were established at Milwaukee.

In 1806, the first real permanent white settlement was made at Green Bay by Charles Lauglade.

Under the "Act of Quebec" civil government was established in 1774. In 1786, Julian Dabunne opened lead mines in Wisconsin. British defeat placed the Northwest in control of the United States and a government of the territory Northwest of Ohio was

1833. Milwaukee was settled the same year. Land offices were established at Green Bay and Mineral Point in 1834 and a census taken that same year showed a population of 4,795.

In 1836, the territory of Wisconsin was organized by an act of congress, April 30. Pres. Jackson appointed Henry Dodge governor. The territory was organized July 4 and the following territorial offices appointed: secretary, John S. Homer of Virginia; chief justice, Chas. Dunn of Illinois; associate justices, David Irvan and Wm. C. Frazer of Pennsylvania. They were sworn in at Mineral Point, amid great festi-



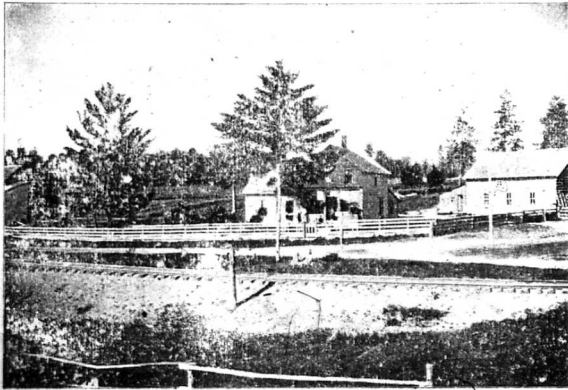
School House in the Town of Pine River

union took place May 20. The first legislature assembled June 5 and the state officers were sworn in on June 7. The first governor was Nelson Dorey. Henry Dodge and Isaac P. Walker were elected United States senators and Andrew J. Miller appointed judge of the United States district court. The same year the state university was organized and the free school system established by law.

## JENNY BULL FALLS.

'Twas about sixty years ago that this vast wilderness was first approached by civilized man. Previous to that time, and for many

of large numbers of logs, B. Scott mills. The erection of this mill was commenced in 1846, and was not completed until 1849. The first logs were cut along the Prairie river in what is now the Seventh ward, the first logging camp being located exactly where A. C. Norway's house now stands. About this time the first railroad through this section was talked of. It was termed the "Horicon" line, and was to run from Milwaukee via Horicon and Berlin through to Merrill, but was never built. The first store building was erected by Smith & Cooper and stood on the site of the T. B. Scott Co's ware house. The first house was built by John Fee-



John Landry's Farm three miles South of Tomahawk.

French king by Sieur Saint Luson at Sault St. Marie.

In 1671, Father Allouez established the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, at the present site of the city of DePere, six miles north of the mouth of the Fox river. In 1672, Joliet and Marguerite departed from the Upper Fox river into the Wisconsin river and journeyed down the latter to its mouth.

The French king, in 1711, placed all of Wisconsin under the command of Governor-General D'ran of Arlaguette, with headquarters where now stands the town of Mobile, Alabama. In 1716 Frenchmen are known to have

provided by the "Ordinance of 1787." In 1800, Indiana territory was organized. It comprised the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and all of Minnesota east of the Mississippi. Gen. William Henry Harrison was appointed governor.

During the war of 1812, most of the French and Indians in Wisconsin sided with the British.

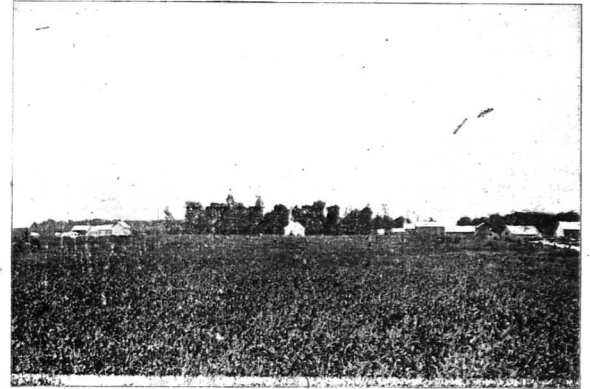
In 1814, an American force at Prairie du Chien was compelled to surrender to an overwhelming force under British leaders.

In 1818, Illinois was admitted to the union and Wisconsin was attached to Michigan. The same year Solomon Juneau appeared at

ties. The territorial council met at Belmont October 25. A United States land office was opened at Milwaukee and December 3, of the same year the capital was located at Madison, "between the third and fourth of the four lakes on the corner of sections 13, 14, 23 and 24, T. 7, R. 9." Geo. W. Jones was elected delegate to congress.

Progress and development were steady. In 1838 congress appropriated land to endow the university of the territory of Wisconsin. That year also saw eighty post offices established in the territory.

In 1840 the first beer was brewed in Milwaukee and the cen-



View of Bloomville in the Town of Russell.

years afterwards the present site of Merrill was the camping ground of the Chippewa braves. Here on the banks of the beautiful Wisconsin they built their camp-fires at twilight and under "murmuring pines and the hemlocks" lay down to rest. The rapids with which certain changes take place in opening up to travel the wild corners of a wilderness, has about it something startling. The first lumbermen arriving at Jenny Bull Falls right, anticipated, from its magnificent water power, its location in the center of the boundless forests of pine of the most valuable variety, the singular adaptation for the storing

The first settlement of Jenny Bull and stood at the mouth of the Prairie river near where First street commences. The first hotel was built on what is now the northeast corner of Main and Poplar streets, and was erected by Cyrus Strohrieger, who was also the first postmaster, having the office in the hotel building. The mail was brought from Wausau on horseback.

In 1854 a mass meeting of the citizens was held and the town of Jenny organized. At this meeting \$1,000 was voted to build a new school house, which was erected just back of the old Lincoln House. This building was also used for a "meeting house,"



Church in the Town of Scott.

been at Green Bay. Trading posts were established by them and the Indians in that region disciplined by force of arms.

In 1755, during the French and Indian war, Wisconsin Indians under Chas. Lauglade, led the onslaught against Braddock's army in Western Pennsylvania. Later under the same leader, these Indians fought against the British under Gen. Wolfe at Quebec.

In 1760 the English seized the French domain in the Northwest and Alexander Henry visited the present site of Milwaukee. One year later Capt. Boffin with British troops took possession of

Milwaukee.

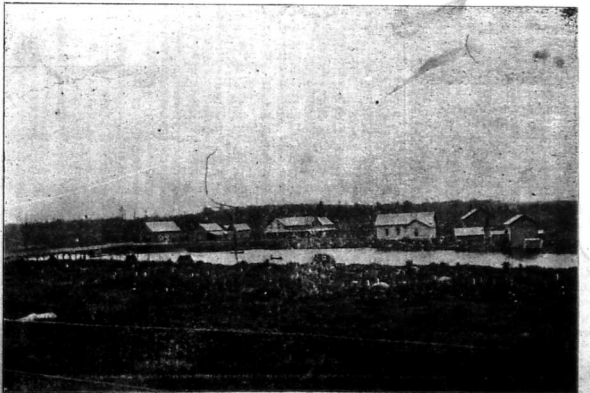
The first protestant sermon in Wisconsin was preached July 9, 1820, at Ft. Howard by Jedediah Morse, the father of Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph. In 1824, Judge James Duane Doty held the first district court in the territory at Green Bay. In 1829, thousands of miners settled in the lead region and much speculation resulted. The Black Hawk war came in 1832 with the result that the state became widely advertised and settlement greatly stimulated. The first newspaper in Green Bay, Intelligence, was established in

1833. Milwaukee was settled the same year. Land offices were established at Green Bay and Mineral Point in 1834 and a census taken that same year showed a population of 4,795.

In 1836, the people of the territory voted in favor of a state government. Congress passed an act to enable and authorize the formation of a state government and the first constitutional convention was held at Madison October 5.

In 1847, the first railroad charter was granted to the Milwaukee & Waukesha Railroad Company. The census showed a population of 210,546. The second constitutional convention was held at Madison December 14.

In 1848 proud statehood was achieved. Admission to the



View of Dudley in the Town of Russell.