

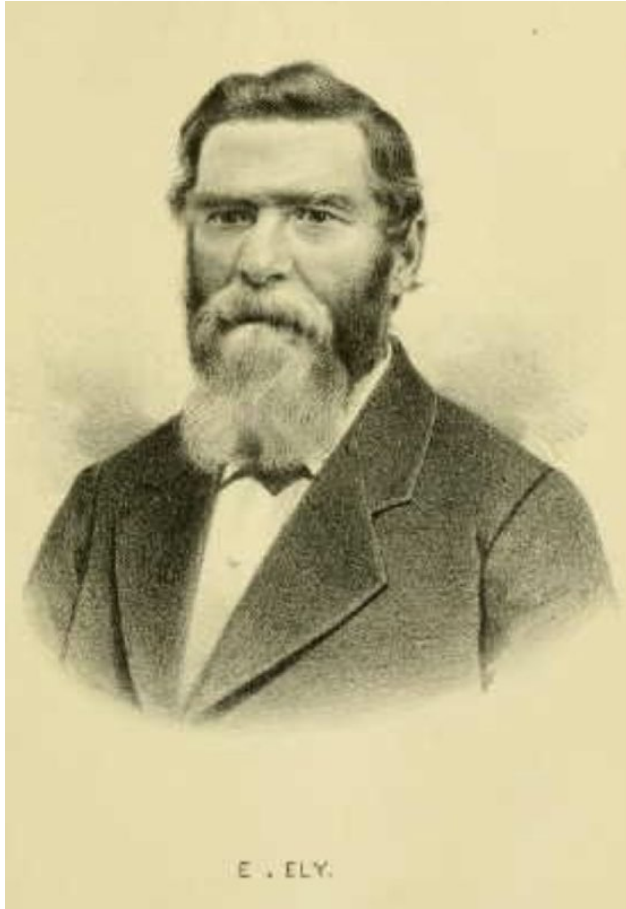
Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler

Eyewitness accounts of the 1852 Minnesota City
Settlement by pioneer Edward "Elder" Ely

*Transcribed from his original journal entries printed in the
Winona Daily Republican Newspaper 1867*



Typical Minnesota Pioneer cabin mid 1800's'



Edward "Elder" Ely was an unemployed Baptist minister when he arrived at the Minnesota City colony on May 4, 1852 via the steamboat the Nominee. He kept a daily journal of the pioneers of Minnesota City and the surrounding area, documenting their challenges, daily life, and prominent citizens.

Winona Daily Republican Newspaper Obituary
Nov. 17, 1887

DEATH OF EDWARD ELY

One of the venerable pioneers of Winona Pays
the Debt of Nature

The death of Edward Ely, which was briefly recorded in these columns on Wednesday, removes one who was a prominent figure in the history of Winona. He was born in Upper Middletown, Connecticut, September 17, 1812. He received his early education in the schools of his native State, but attended the Madison University at Hamilton, New York, where he

graduated, taking both the classical and theological courses, preparatory to engaging in the profession of a minister of the Baptist Church. His first location in his profession was at Milton, Pennsylvania. Mr. Ely was married in Owego, New York, April 26, 1817. His wife, Jane Wellington Barker, was born in Utica, New York, November 8, 1817. After their marriage they removed to Lancaster, Ohio, where he preached for seven years. From there he went to Wheeling, Virginia, where he remained for two years and from thence he came to Minnesota. A slight circumstance directed his steps in this direction. Late in the evening of May 4, 1852, a part of immigrants destined for the colony at Rollingstone landed from the Nominee at Johnson's landing, now Winona. Rev. Edward Ely came from La Crosse as a passenger on this boat. He did not belong to the association, neither was he ever a member of that organization. It was, however, through its influence that he was induced to come to Minnesota. Mr. Ely was at that time, as he has already stated, a Baptist preacher—a shepherd with a flock, a pastor awaiting a providential call to a ministerial charge. While in St. Louis with his family going from the State of Ohio to wherever the Lord in his wisdom might send him, he was accosted by Horace Ranney, an acquaintance of his boyhood, who was a member of the Western Farm and Village association, and one of the party then embarking on the steamer Excelsior for the colony at Rollingstone in the Territory of Minnesota. Mr. Ranney explained the object of the association, and readily induced Mr. Ely to put his family and effects, where were then on the Levee, on board the steamboat and accompany them to the promised land. He accompanied

them as far as La Crosse, where he stopped off with his wife and two children to afford them comfortable quarters while he visited the colony. His visit resulted in his settling at Johnson's landing, which afterwards became the City of Winona. As an inducement for him to locate here the town proprietors gave him an acres of land, on what is now the corner of Center and Second streets, where Ely Block stands. He built a residence in the Fall of 1852. This was the first lathed and plastered home in the city of Winona. During the years 1852 and 1853 Elder Ely preached to the early settlers in Winona county, and also at La Crosse. The first funeral services held in the country were conducted by him at the burial of William Christie in 1852. The first marriage ceremony in the county was pronounced by him at his house. Elder Ely abandoned his profession as a minister of the gospel shortly after he came to Minnesota. He remained, however, an active member of the Baptist church. He was for a while in mercantile business and in insurance and real estate transactions, but has never been steadily engaged in an special branch of business. His buildings on the corner of Center and Second streets were all swept away by the "big fire" in 1862. From his fund of pioneer reminiscences of which he contributed a series of interesting letters to The Republican the Elder came to be regarded as authority in matters of local history. He was a popular speaker, and was frequently called on at public gatherings. He was always prompt to respond in a humorous and entertaining manner. He was the first regular postmaster in the city of Winona. In the course of his ministerial duties between Winona and La Crosse his frequent trips were made the means by which the settlers of Wabasha prairie received and sent away their letters. It was from this custom of carrying all letters about on his person that the traditional story originated to the effect that "the first post office of Winona county was in Elder Ely's hat". The faithfulness shown by Mr. Ely in his attention to this self-imposed duty was satisfactory to the settlers. Among the traditional anecdotes of the early days is one showing the zeal of Elder in the performance of his duties. While holding forth eloquently to an attentive congregation in his own shanty one Sunday the settlers were suddenly and unexpectedly startled by the whistle of a steamboat approaching the landing. The Elder brought his sermon to a close very abruptly, with the remark, "There's a boat from below." and hastened to the levee to receive the expected mail. Subsequently the Elder was duly appointed postmaster by unanimous recommendation of the citizens. The first regular mail made up by him after receiving his appointment was on the 8th day of January, 1853. He held the office until the Spring of 1855, when he was removed as a result of a change of administration. He was for a term or two coroner of Winona county. In 1872 he was sergeant-at-arms in the State Legislature.

Mr. Ely leaves a wife and four children, a son and daughter living in Dakota, one daughter living in Minneapolis and one son in Texas. His eldest son Charles was one of the bravest of the brave boys of the gallant old First Minnesota regiment.

In recalling Mr. Ely's early history in Winona we cannot refrain from speaking a word of his faithful and devoted wife, whose estimable qualities endeared her to the early pioneers and which was fully shared by the later citizens of Winona. The death of her consort will kindle anew the tender sympathy of a large circle of warm friends in her old home. For the deceased, we shall think over his genial humor and kind heart-above all his unflinching love and pride for Winona. May he rest in peace.

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A Leaf from the Notes of an Old Settler

Winona Daily Republican—May 4, 1867

We are indebted for the following extract from his journal of personal and local events to Mr. Ely, one of the first settlers of Wabashaw prairie where now stands the beautiful and flourishing city of Winona. Mr. Ely's journal herewith quoted records events which occurred precisely fifteen years ago. A recurrence to them now will be interesting alike to the "old settlers" who participated in or witnessed them, and to those who residence among us is of more recent date:

May 4, 1852—Landed at this place (called by some Johnson's Landing) from the steamer Menominee, at one o'clock in the morning. Went to the hospitable Hotel of E. H. Johnson. This "Hotel" is a mere board shanty, located about ten rods from the river. It is built with less than 500 feet of boards—no shingles. Found this the headquarters of new settlers. The family (unknown) of E. H. Johnson, John Evans and S.K. Thompson—Evans performed the duties of housekeeper and cook to which business he had been trained in early life.

In the morning I went out to view the prairie and see the settlers. Found Wm. H. Stevens "keeping bach" in a very small board shanty near the river bank, below Johnson's; and uncle Henry Gere, with his family, back on the prairie about one half mile; and Augustus Pentier and wife a mile and a half down the river, in a very small shanty. Mrs. Pentier was the first white woman that ever settled here—Mrs. Gere is the second.

The prairie is yet the property of the Sioux Indians as the treaty ceding all the West side of the Mississippi to the United States is not yet ratified.

The prairie is now covered with dry grass about 1 ½ feet high; it is marked in all directions with Indian trails leading to the landing. Steamboat men, and indeed all river men, unite in declaring the ground too low ever to build upon. They say steamboats have passed over it in all directions in high water. For this reason many are determined not to remain here, yet the whole prairie is marked out in claims. The names of the claimants are, first: Capt. Orren Smith, of the Menominee, E.H. Johnson, Ed. Hamilton, Wm.H. Stevens, John Nash, John Evans, and J. McDermot—these holding claims 2 ½ miles along the river. The two back tiers or claims are considered of little value, but are held by Beacher Gere, Elijah Silsbee, Frank Curtiss, Geo. W. Clark, and Allen Gilmore. The two last beyond the slough on the west. All that marks a claim is three or four rails in the form of a cob house.

The Indians are still here in great numbers, but are getting ready to leave. Jacob. S. Denman and family, together with J. Thomas, Secretary of the Farm and Village Association, arrived here on the Menominee last night, bound for Minnesota City, on the Rollingstone. He has gone to see the city today—will return and report tonight. *It looks blue.* Tomorrow I shall make further examination.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Two

Winona Daily Republican-May 6, 1867

May 6, 1852—Mr. Denman and Mr. Thomas, the Secretary of the Farm and Village Association, returned from Minnesota City last night. They report that about 50 members of the association are already on the ground; that they come mostly from New York City, by way of St. Louis.

Men, women, and children are all without shelter, except a large tent which, however, furnishes but little protection for so large a number. There is great dissatisfaction among the members in regard to the location. Some are determined to leave, and others are equally determined to remain. They have large quantities of goods and wares for housekeeping and farming. These are all exposed to the weather, and are scattered in endless confusion under the trees, among the timber. The women and children are busy in getting ready the daily meals, while the men are looking up the numbers of their lots, which are scattered here and there over 400 acres of the city plot.

Mr. Haddock, President of the association, is still surveying more lots to be ready for the coming multitude. Nearly all the members of the association come from the city and are unacquainted with pioneer life—the real ties of which have commenced in earnest.

Mr. Thomas, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association, is not pleased with the locations, and is determined to leave. This is producing great dissatisfaction among the members, as he holds the funds, and they fear he will not give over the money to the rightful owners.

Mr. Denman, one of the prominent members, has made up his mind not to locate at the city. He has moved into the shanty of W. H. Stevens, on the prairie here, near the river. Many others will not unpack the goods. There is no lumber to be obtained, and some are making what they call Gopher Holes. These are made by cutting small timber and setting them up in the form of an inverted V and covering them with turf. These afford some protection and furnish a good place to sleep. Food is plentiful, as all seem to be well provided with rations for several months. The weather is cold, and there are little signs of vegetation.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Three

Winona Daily Republican-May 7, 1867

May 7, 1852—Today Dr. Childs came down from Minnesota City with all his goods. He gives the following account of the last few days: He says a part of more than 40 left St. Louis on the 26th of April, bound for Minnesota City. The Captain of the Excelsior agreed to land the party at the nearest point possible. The boat passed Wabashaw prairie about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the 2nd of May. Reached Holmes's landing (now Fountain City). There they made fast to a wood boat, and unloaded while steaming up the river. When about 5 miles up the river the party of 40 agreed to put all their goods into the wood boat and made for the west side of the river the best way they could. Just at dark before supper, the boat was unfastened in the middle of the Mississippi. This small craft held the germ of the first settlement of southern Minnesota. After 5 hours the party landed on the high table land north of the city, at the upper end of the prairie (this spot now proves to be near Troost's new mill).

Cold and hungry, the women and children huddled together around a hastily made fire, while the men went hallooing through the woods to find Mr. Haddock and his ten assistants who had been on the ground some two weeks. After finding the party they learned that no shelter had been provided, save a little shanty 7 by 13 feet, built of some stray slab and boards found on the islands nearby. Towards morning the women and children were conducted to this place for shelter. The light of day revealed the actual condition of the party, and convinced all that it was no child's play to journey 2,000 miles and find such a home. Many thought of the homes they had left and wished themselves back again. Nearly one-third, without a second thought, determined to "go back to America" as they called it. Foremost among these was Dr. Childs. He formed a party, chartered the wood boat, reloaded their goods, got on board, and set the bow of the craft down the river. The party came along the west bank of the slough and landed near Johnson's shanty, four days after they had passed the same spot on their way up.

Dr. Childs looks tens years older than when I saw him five days ago at La Crosse. The way the part went onto Mr. Johnson's hot biscuit and fat pork showed that they had gained at least a Minnesota appetite.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Four

Winona Daily Republican-May 8, 1867

May 8, 1852--The sudden and unexpected arrival of so many strangers has alarmed the claimants here in regard to the safety of their claims. Several parties from La Crosse came up on the ice last Winter, and made claims--some on the prairie, and some in the valleys nearby. Those claims, especially those in the valleys, are marked by a blaze with an ax on a tree, with the name of the claimant written with a pencil. A meeting is called today to devise measures for the protection of the rights of these mostly absent claimants. Several men are here from La Crosse.

After talking matters over in little groups at the different shanties, it is deemed best to form what they call *The Wabashaw Prairie Protection Club*.

Andres Cole, Esq. of La Crosse, is made chairman of a meeting of all the settlers, and Ed. Hamilton is elected Secretary. The various questions pertaining to the laws regulating claims, in a new country, are discussed in open meeting, and it is resolved, among other things, that "self protection is the first law of nature", and the members pledge each other that they will protect the original claimants for six months, whether they occupy the claims or not. Committees are appointed to carry out the resolutions of the body.

Before the meeting broke up one very important measure was resolved upon, this to make application to the Postmaster General for a post office, and for the appointment of a postmaster. The business of drawing up a petition, getting signatures, naming the office, etc was given to Andrew Cole. The name of Geo.L. Barber, of La Crosse, was inserted in the position as a candidate for postmaster, as he had made a claim in the valley west of the landing. (now the farm of Mr. Fry, of Gilmore Valley). Mr. Cole, in consultation with some of his friends from La Crosse, inserts the name Montezuma as the name of the office in the petition.

It may now be recorded that the above mentioned deliberative body was the first ever organized in Southern Minnesota.

The weather is cold and rainy. The water is eighteen inches deep on the bank of the river at the landing. Those who go to, or return from Minnesota City, have to swim the slough--unless they are very tall! There are no boats, or water craft of any kind, to ferry over passengers.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Five

Winona Daily Republican-May 9, 1867

May 9, 1852—What next! The everlasting what next comes home to Dr. Childs, and his party, with peculiar force. They have left good homes in the East, and have encountered all the perils and perplexities of a journey of over 2000 miles to Minnesota City, and they now felt that all their toil would be in vain if they should return again to the places they had left. The enthusiasm which they experienced, and which was at fever heat when they went up the river, had now gone down below zero.

Something must be done. Mr. E.H. Johnson is Lord of the Manor on the prairie, and he proposes to give every man that will return here and build an acre of his claim. Four or five accepted his proposition, and the acres were soon selected and the ground broken up for planting and gardening. J. S. Denman, Secretary Thomas, Dr. Childs, and John Burns accept the gift of an acre and go to work. Some half dozen or more conclude it will not pay, and take the first boat down the river. It may be of interest now, after 15 years, to locate the several acres thus donated by Mr. Johnson.

J.S. Denman selected his acre where Hills's Block now stands; Thomas, where the Normal School is now kept, in the City Building; Dr. Childs, where the Post Office stands; and John Burns, where Dr. Ford lives. This last was from the claim of Mr. Hamilton.

Having settled the (unknown) and bounds of the several lots, all is order again, and plowing, planting, fencing, commences. Today Mr. William Christie, one of the Minnesota City Company, is brought to the wharf very sick. Dr. Childs says he will not recover, and pronounces his disease a mild form of the cholera, brought on by exposure. He had crossed this side of the slough, near where the railroad now crosses, on his way to Minnesota City. He had been out without shelter for three days, having no means of crossing with his goods. He is an entire stranger, from New York City; has come on alone to join the colony. Johnson's Hotel has about 30 borders, beside that poor sick man, and the flour barrel is nearly empty.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Six

Winona Daily Republican-May 10, 1867

Sunday Evening, May 10, 1852—Poor Christie died last night about sun down. His corpse was prepared for the coffin and placed some distance from the door of the shanty, and left till morning for burial. Mr. Johnson with much trouble found boards for a coffin. About noon the body was buried by a few friends, about a mile from the landing on the claim of John Evans. This is the first grave ever made for a shite man on this prairie.

Between 50 and 60 passengers arrived at daylight bound for Minnesota City. They are mostly from New York City, by way of Chicago and Galena, traveling by teams and on foot 120 miles through the Illinois sand. Nearly all day is spent in looking after baggage and piling it up in some kind of order, so that each one can find his own. The company are all members of the Farm and Village Association, and they come prepared to remain, with supplies to last at least till Fall. They have all kinds of agricultural implements, seeds of all sorts, and clothing in great abundance. They have pigs, chickens, canary birds, house plants, and some cats and dogs. They feel somewhat disappointed at not landing at the city. The water is four feet deep in the slough, and is still rising, and there are no teams to be had. There is no road for the next six miles and no bridge over the Rollingstone. There are at least twenty-eight tons of freight to be removed; besides, the women and children must go along or remain here without shelter. Several men go up to see Mr. Haddock to find out what to do. At last they resort to the wood boat brought down by Dr. Childs. I may as well say here in advance of the date that this boat made regular daily trips from the landing at the foot of Main street to the landing near Troost's Mill, until the middle of July. The boat was called the Macedonian, and was under the command of one Captain Jackson. Freight 37 ½ cents per 100 up, and about half as much down. Hour of arrival here—11 a.m.; departure—3 p.m. Passengers went free by pulling at the oar by turns.

We hear that a part of 40 or more came up on the 5th and landed about six or seven miles above the city, and are having great difficulty in getting down on the west side of the river.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Seven

Winona Daily Republican-May 11, 1867

May 11, 1852—Accepted an invitation to go to Minnesota City in the wood boat last night. With not a little labor we reached the landing just after dark; was conducted by my guide about a half mile through the timber to the big tent. Here I found about fifty who had retired to sweet sleep under the canvas. Nearly every foot of sleeping room was occupied—not even room for one more. That was the only place of shelter. I tried in vain to find a place for sleep within the tent. Half in and half out I managed to wear out the night. In the morning I was benumbed with cold. I thought of the poor fellow who slept in an open New York park. He took cold because someone had left the gate open.

As soon as light I was up. So one after another the whole family left their beds, all dressed ready for the labors of another day. The men chopping wood; the women were kindling fires for an early breakfast. Several families would cook and make coffee upon one stove. I took breakfast with the family of Mrs. Dilworth, (now living on the railroad near Stockton) all seated on the ground. Here I first saw Mr. Haddock. He was brim full of impracticable schemes and wild speculations. He was surveying more city lots, and leaving out a 30 acre lot for a cemetery.

He, with ten assistants, called the pioneer squad, had been on the ground now twenty-three days, and no sign of a house had been built, except a foundation three logs high, built by Mr. Manby and seven children, whose wife had come on with him as part of the pioneer squad. To the influence of this woman belongs the credit of laying the foundation of the first habitation in Minnesota City. The house was completed and became the headquarters after the tent was taken down.

J.P Owens, of the St. Paul Minnesotian, is here taking notes. He came down from St. Paul, and rumor said at the solicitation of Gov. Ramsey, to persuade the whole colony to abandon Minnesota City, and go up the river on to the vacant lands near St. Paul. His reasoning fails to convince Mr. Haddock, who sees bright visions of a future city here that shall rival even St. Paul. The streets, parks, public squares and avenues are named after the same in the city of New York. The weather is warm at mid-day—the first real warm day of the season. The water is still rising, and Johnson's cord wood is floating away.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Eight

Winona Daily Republican-May 13, 1867

May 13, 1852—We have had one of those cold, drizzling rains which is very uncomfortable to those who have no shelter, which is the case with nearly all here. The children are cross. The goods are all exposed, and are getting badly damaged. On the whole, there is great discouragement among all the settlers. Parties have returned from Minnesota City, and are making preparations, some to return down the river, and others take the wood boat and go up to Minnesota City. Yesterday the steamer Caleb Cope landed a large number bound for the lands of the Farm and Village Association. Among the passengers are some who have come from La Crosse to settle here.

This boat brought Mr. Abner S. Goddard and family. Mr. Goddard resolved a commission some time in August of this year as Postmaster, Mr. Barber failing to come up to open the office. Mr. G. died about the time or soon after the commission was received. He was elected Secretary of the Wabashaw Protection Club and served till his death.

These notes will fail to do justice to the early settlers unless I record here that Mrs. Goddards (now Mrs. A.B. Smith) opened the first boarding house on the prairie, which house was the Home of all the early settlers that did not keep house themselves. Mrs. Smith has now the distinction of being the first woman now living here. Mrs. Pentler is dead. Mrs. Gere has gone to live in Rochester, so that Mrs. S. has for the last ten years been the old settler here.

Her shanty—for it was a shanty—was located on Third street near the present Davenport House. The sick found a home here. The young men congregated to talk about claims. If they brought home game it was always taken to her house to be prepared for the table. There were claim meetings and all sorts of meetings to promote the general good. I may say that this oldest female settler, Mrs. Smith, has brought to this city, first and last, a greater number of intermediate and remote relations than any other person now living here. She has numerous relatives and more numerous personal friends than fall to the lot of most persons to possess.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Nine

Winona Daily Republican-May 14, 1867

May 14, 1852—Today Dr. Childs, determined to abandon his acre given by Johnson, buys one-half of a claim, some 80 acres, of J. McDermot. This claim embraced the Indian tepee, which the Indians have just abandoned. These tepees, about twelve in number, are built by settling poles in the ground in a circular form, and are covered with long wide strips of bark from large ash trees. The Sioux have made their homes in three tepees for several years. The government has had a man by the name of Reed living here to instruct them in the business of farming. The improvements, such as they have, are beyond the slough, at the mouth of the valley (now Gilmore Valley).

These tepees are on the prairie at the right, near the railroad, above the Evans farm. Here Dr. Childs repaired an old log house and lived there for several years. He paid one dollar and acre for the claim. This was the first money ever paid in Southern Minnesota for land.

Today Mr. Johnson planted potatoes. This was on the ground where Simpsons block now stands, but as the field was not enclosed they did not amount to much. Every boat brings fresh arrivals for Minnesota City and many are waiting here to go down the river. The cause of dissatisfaction is that there is no landing. The roll of names was called this morning at the city, and it was found that fifty-two members were present. This, with women and children, makes one hundred and fifty. Tomorrow is the day for drawing garden lots.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Ten

Winona Daily Republican-May 15, 1867

May 15, 1852—It has now been thirty days since the party left New York city, bound for the mouth of the Rollingstone. One hundred and fifty are on the ground today, besides nearly as many have gone down the river, not satisfied with the location. This is the day appointed for drawing garden lots, to one of which each member is entitled. The constitution gives to each member a building lot of two acres and a garden lot of two acres, and a farm of 160 acres. The survey of the city is now completed. They have a public square of seven acres, two parks of eight acres each, a cemetery of eighty acres, and lands for a public seminary of 320 acres. There is not a little excitement at the drawing of garden lots as those in the immediate vicinity of the parks and public squares are considered by far the most valuable.

There was also a drawing for farms. The whole of the south and west valleys of the Rollingstone were laid off into farms of 160 acres each. These farms were taken by lot—No. 1

having the first choice, No. 2 the second, and so on till all were supplied with farms, or till the farms were all exhausted. After the drawing very few moved on the farms, but generally began improvements on the garden plats.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Eleven

Winona Daily Republican-May 16, 1867

In order that the readers of these notes may more fully understand some of the difficulties connected with the early settlement of this place I must occasionally write without any reference to date: a brief survey of the Northwest as it was fifteen years ago, may not be out of place. Beginning at Chicago, we could come west by rail forty-five miles towards Galena. There we were compelled to take the old stage as the only mode of public conveyance. This was exceedingly perplexing to those who had household goods, and such like plunger, to convey West. All western travelers took the most direct route to Galena. This city was then the great depot of supplies for the Upper Mississippi. A tri-weekly line of Packets ran directly to St. Paul. There was also a weekly line from St. Louis to St. Paul. The old Galena Packet Company, which was by many thought to be a great and oppressive monopoly, has given place to other corporations that are now thought to be equally oppressive. A comparison of the bills of fare and freight may not be out of place. The old Packet Company used to charge from Galena to St. Paul \$4; from Winona to St. Paul \$2.50; from Winona to La Crosse, \$1; from St. Louis to St. Paul, \$8; sometimes not more than \$6. Freight was equally low. Flour 43c per bbl; sometimes freight was brought from Pittsburg to St. Paul, more than 2,000 miles, as low as 30c per hundred. Yet these old monopolies were considered oppressive. Fifteen years has removed the old names that were familiar to the early settlers, from this great thoroughfare. The boats have nearly all gone to the bottom of the rivers and the commanders are no longer here.

One name that is now familiar in Minnesota was, 15 years ago, an obscure traveling huckster on the Nominee, running from Galena to St. Paul. Whenever any of the early settlers wanted a sack of corn meal, a barrel of potatoes, or a pair of pigs, or a few live chickens, they gave their orders to J.C. Burbank, who was then doing a private Express business, accommodating everybody between the two cities. This was the beginning of the Northwestern Express Company. The world moves.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twelve

Winona Daily Republican-May 17, 1867

It is suggestive of some of the many changes that have taken place on the Upper Mississippi that in 1852 there was not a place on the river above the Iowa line where the boats landed on the west side of the river except to leave the mail once a week at Reed's Landing.

To accommodate Alexis Baily and a few Indian traders, a post office had been opened at Wabashaw village, two miles below. This office had for some reason been removed to Reed's, and was for some years the only office on this side of the river in Minnesota. Brownsville, as late as 1854, was called Wild Cat Bluffs. This savage name was changed in honor of the first and almost the only settler, Charles Brown, who still resides there. La Crosse was a village of about 300 inhabitants. Its commercial importance arose from the fact that it had all the trade of the Black river lumber region. Trempealeau was then called Monteville, and contained about 50 inhabitants. Then the only habitation for more than 50 miles, to Wabashaw village, was the one built by Willard B. Bunnell, near the present village of Homer.

There were two or three German families living at Holmes' Landing (now Fountain City) who kept wood for steamboats.

Between this and St. Paul was the little village of Prescott, Wis. Called at the time Point Prescott. At Minneapolis there was only the old government mill, and one or two old houses. In this then wilderness the boats had little to do except to take in wood until they reached St. Paul, which then contained about 3,900 inhabitants.

One fact I must not fail to mention in the connection, Capt. Orrin Smith furnished E. H. Johnson with a large lantern, which was to be hung up at the landing at the foot of Main street, as a signal, whenever he had any business for the boat, to land. This lantern was frequently used till early in the summer of 1852. The boats nearly all passed without landing unless this signal called them in.

During a part of this Summer there was a very spirited opposition between the old Falena line and a steamer called the West Newton. This boat was commanded by Capt. Harris, and made two trips a week from Galena to St. Paul. Fare was then often as low as 50 cents on the opposition days. This was fun for the people. That kind of amusement has become strangely out of fashion these days, which we wish might return again.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Thirteen

Winona Daily Republican-May 18, 1867

May 18, 1852—Went up to Minnesota City today. Found that many were dissatisfied with the garden lots they had drawn and a general exchange was going on among the members.

Gardening has commenced, but with little prospect of any crop in the coming season. There are scarcely any teams for breaking up the soil, and many of the gardens are made among the timber by spading up little patches. The settlers are all exceedingly busy. There are houses to build, fences to make, stock to look after, and everything has to be done at the greatest disadvantage. Many are without the right kind of tools and the greater number are from the city and all this kind of work is new to them. All trades are represented here. There are printers, book binders, blacksmiths, masons, tailors, shoemakers, rulemakers, print cutters etc.

By a reference to the list of trades, it is found that only three in fifty are put down as farmers. Very few are skilled in the use of the ax—one of the most indispensable accomplishments of a pioneer in the timber. Some are making gardens for the first time, and of course know little about it. Those skilled in farming or in the use of the ax and shovel, will succeed, and are making good progress. Others must fall before the season closes.

Exposure and the fatigues of a long journey have brought on sickness. Many have been without shelter now more than two weeks and are greatly discouraged at the lateness of the season. Some are selling out for what they can get and are determined to leave. Goods are sold at great sacrifice, and there are but few buyers at any price.

Among the articles for sale are nails, glass, sash, and many kinds of builders hardware, agricultural implements of all sorts, rifles, guns, pistols, fishing tackle, stoves, household and kitchen furniture, flour, corn meal, and provisions of all kinds. All these things are cheaper in Minnesota City than in Galena.

The weather is cool and the water is still rising. New settlers are coming every day to take the places of those who leave

Reports of the bad state of things here are going down the river, and many turn back when they reach Galena. Gov. Ramsey and J.W. Bass, postmaster at St. Paul, have been here to encourage the settlers, or to air the real condition of the colony.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Fourteen

Winona Daily Republican-May 20, 1867

May 20, 1852—Today at Minnesota City there was an election for Postmaster. There were two names put in nomination—T.K. Allen and Robert Pike. Mr. Allen is from New York City; has been secretary of the Association from the beginning. He was present to hear the opening address of Mr. Haddock in the rooms of the Society in Grand street, New York, at the inception of the association. He was secretary of the society for sixteen months and did not miss one meeting. The election resulted in nominating Mr. Pike as postmaster.

The nearest post office for two or three hundred people was at this time at La Crosse, and it was with no little difficulty that we could obtain our letters. At this time, originated the story that still lives, about the "Postoffice in the hat". The names of all those expecting letters were sent to La Crosse, with a request that the postmaster there would forward letters by every safe and convenient opportunity. As my family was then waiting at La Crosse, I used to visit them every few days, and when I returned would bring up the mail for all the settlers on this side of the river, and when I visited Minnesota City I carried the letters to the proper owners, unless I had found some one going up to whom I could safely entrust them. Thus when it was asked, "Where is the post office?" someone replied: "In Elder's Hat!". After my family came up, all letters were left at my shanty until they were called for, or I had the opportunity to send them up or go myself and carry them. If the young men in the city did not wish to see me from any personal considerations, they always crowded around me to see if I had any letters in my hat, from some sister, mother, or sweetheart they had left behind. But although Mr. Pike received the appointment of Postmaster, this for a long time did not remove the difficulty about the letters, as there was no office at the landing. The name system of distributing letters was continued for nearly a year; and I am happy now to say that I never heard of one complaint about lost letters.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Fifteen

Winona Daily Republican-May 21, 1867

May 21, 1852—This afternoon we had a visit from a delegation of the Sioux Chiefs. They came to demand in the name of Wabashaw, a barrel of flour, or its equivalent in money, of everyone who had built upon their lands. They threaten to burn the shanties unless their demands are met. These high officials are six or seven in number, and are determined to make

trouble if they are not paid before night. They have letters from the Indian agents requesting the settlers to make some contributions to the Indians to help them live and keep them quiet till the treaty is ratified. They have secured no pay from the Government for these lands; and they did not consider them sold unless they got some pay. All the settlers who had not paid at an antecedent period now satisfied these chiefs—some with a barrel of flour and others with money. After this was done they brought out their long pipes, smoked the pipe of peace, shook hands and left for their tepees till morning. This was the last official act of the Sioux on the prairie. They then returned, gathered up all the old tools, such as broken plows and farming implements, and everything they considered of any value. When all this was done and they seemed ready to leave, as if they had forgotten something, a party went out on the prairie, took away the fence around some graves and leveled all the ground as if to destroy all signs that anyone was buried there. This little rude fence was said at the time to have enclosed the graves of Wabashaw's children.

I was told that the same Indians visited the settlement at the Rollingstone, made the same demands they had here, and with like effect. Thus ended the reign of the Sioux. The beginning is lost in the deepest and darkest mysteries of former ages upon which no light will ever fall. It is now more than 200 years since the white man commenced this war of extermination on the red man. They are already annihilated on more than half the continent, and 200 hundred years more will exterminate the entire race from every place except the records of the human family.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Sixteen

Winona Daily Republican-May 22, 1867

May 22, 1852—A matter of the most serious importance to all the settlers at Minnesota City must now be attended to. It must be demonstrated by actual experiment whether the city is on the bank of the Mississippi, or six or seven miles from it. Mr. Haddock, in his letters to New York, assured the association that the site he had selected on on the west bank of the Mississippi; that it had a good landing; that the reason why the boats did not land was that Captain Smith was interested in the new town site at the landing at Wabashaw prairie, and would not allow the boats of the Galena Packet Company to even make the attempt to land. This matter was early brought to the attention of the members in public meetings, and an able committee was appointed to sound Straight Slough, and make an accurate record of the depth of the channel. Boats and ropes and leads were procured, and an expedition was fitted out to commence at the

upper end of the slough, some three miles above the city, and go through the entire length, some eight miles, to the mouth near Winona. The work of sounding the slough was thoroughly done and the committee were fully convinced that there was no serious obstacle in the way of landing the largest Mississippi packets right opposite the city. So confident were the committee that a small receiving house was built on the bank of the slough opposite the city, and Brother Luark moved in public meeting that when the boat approached the landing, the whole city should move out in a body to give her a hearty welcome. A committee was dispatched to Galena to lay the matter before Captain Smith. The Captain knew that the channels of the Mississippi had long since been marked out by the old French voyagers, and that they could not be changed; yet he was willing to gratify the committee by making the attempt. So he sent the Old Nominee, under command of the clerk, with instructions to go to Minnesota City, if possible. The boat came up, bringing the committee. She arrived at the prairie about ten o'clock Sunday morning. The clerk, Mr. Brooks, now acting Captain, invited all who desired to go to Minnesota City to come on board and witness the experiment. Some dozen or more accepted the invitation, while others preferred to watch the boat from the landing. All hearts were exultant as they saw the boat moving slowly and carefully up the slough. She continued on for about a mile from the mouth of the slough, and then suddenly came to a dead stand-still. She had struck an impassable sand bar. They labored for a time to pass the bar, still the captain became satisfied that further effort was fruitless. So he backed down the slough, and leaving the few passengers she had taken on at our landing, went on her way to St. Paul by the old and long tried channel. Thus ended all effort to find a channel where nature had made none, and Minnesota City was left six miles from any landing. The finishing of this work occurred later than the date at the beginning of this article indicates.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Seventeen

Winona Daily Republican-May 23, 1867

May 23, 1852—"What a beautiful spot ! What a lovely place! What majestic bluffs! I never saw anything more charming. I should like to live here." Such were the expressions of strangers when they came off the gang plank and reached the bank of the river and looked over the broad prairie. They had been on the upper deck for the last half hour, gazing over the landscape that skirted the bluffs and lay along the river. Minnesota is paying for the rigors of a hard Winter by the loveliness of the last of May and the charming month of June.

The intelligent traveler, after the first expression of delight, always asked, "What kind of land lies beyond those distant bluffs? An answer to this question will determine whether a city shall some day mar the natural beauty of this prairie."

The first party that went out in search of farms beyond the bluffs consisted of O.M. Lord, William Sweet, and Benj. Williams; the former from Michigan, the two latter from near Galena. They landed on the prairie from the old Dr. Franklin, in the night, at Mr. Pentler's shanty, near the present residence of John Keyes, Esq. This was the last day of April 1852—three days before the part of the colony from New York, bound for Minnesota City, landed.

Mr. Lord said he, with his party, went from the place where they landed towards the Sugar Loaf, where they expected to find lodging for the remainder of the night. In the distance he mistook the bluff for a haystack, and when they discovered the mistake they camped on the open prairie till morning.

The party went out to the West Rollingstone Valley. Williams and Sweet made claims about three miles from the head of the valley. Sweet retains the same claim to this day—now more than 15 years.

Mr. Sweet was the first man to take a claim beyond the bluffs. After he had made the claim he went back to his home and brought on a part of his family, together with a Mr. Hull. Hull remained all Winter

I should record here the first death that occurred beyond the bluffs. Mr. Sweet had left his little son to live with Hull during the Winter. The boy every morning drove some stock to the Whitewater for a drink. One fatal morning he did not return as usual, and a search was made for him, and he was found dead, a few miles from the house. He had chilled and fallen in the snow. This was mid-Winter. There were no boards for a coffin, and no bars or picks to break the frozen ground for a grave, and the body was not buried until Spring. It was seen unburied in the Spring by some of the early settlers.

I think Dr. Beatly spent this Winter on the prairie, about seven miles from St. Charles. Those two settlers were all that lived beyond the bluffs during the Winter of 1852-3.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Eighteen

Winona Daily Republican-May 24, 1867

May 24, 1852—Parties from La Crosse made several fruitless attempts to reach the prairie beyond the bluffs early in the Spring of 1852. They generally went out by the South Rollingstone, with only "grub" for one or two days. None of these parties got further out than

where Stockton now stands. They were delayed by the tall grass and by the trout fishing, till hunger drove them in. They all gave glowing accounts of the lands in the valleys, and of the fine sport they had in the trout brooks. In some places they captured the large trout by driving them into a kind of net made of a Guernsey overshirt.

Quite a large party, made up in LaCrosse, in connection with the few citizens of this place, determined to make extensive explorations as far out as the head waters of the Whitewater as soon as the Spring grass was up, sufficient to furnish a bite for the horses. Armed and equipped for a sojourn of a week or more in the wilderness, the party left Johnson's shanty with pack horses to carry provisions and camp fixtures. They went up the Gilmore valley, and continued on due west till they were far out beyond the present village of St. Charles. They camped by a little spring near H.L. Springer's old place, to spend the Sabbath. Here the Rev. Mr. Sherwin, a Congregational minister from La Crosse, preached to the little company. This was the first religious meeting ever held beyond the bluffs in this county. The company consisted of J.L. Balcombe, Ed. Hamilton, Elder Sherwin, W.H. Card, and several others, names not known. On the return they slept in the Indian tepees near the present railroad machine shop. This was the last time the tepees were ever used.

After this visit to the back country, Dr. Balcombe determined to make his home here. From letters written at the time, we learn that he considered this the only place where a large city could be built in Southern Minnesota. He was sanguine, fifteen years ago, that Wabashaw prairie would be the future center of a great railroad system in this part of the state.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Nineteen

Winona Daily Republican-May 25, 1867

May 25, 1852—The Mississippi has now been rising slowly for nearly a month and a half—the last fifteen days only one inch in the twenty-four hours. Today it comes to a stand. This is said to be the highest water for many years, except in 1849. No story has been more current, or told with greater apparent truthfulness, than the one about the high water covering all the prairie. Indeed, Mr. Bunnell, who has been in the country many years, refused to build his house here, for fear that it would be swept away by the high water. The prairie was now an island, and there was water sufficient to float the largest packet, in the slough back of the landing. It was common, when the water was rising, to hear old raftsmen, as they were passing by, say: "Them

fellows will get drowned out before long.” To those who had lived on other rivers, there was some reason for this fear. The Ohio had been known to rise fifty feet above low water mark. Such a rise here would leave the very highest ground ten or fifteen feet under water.

This question about high water was one that interested all the settlers. I think Mr. Haddock stated to me the first time I saw him, that high water would take us all away.

We determined to settle this matter by a reference to old settlers. Mr. Cratt had lived at Wabashaw village since 1825. His testimony would be worth that of a dozen raftsmen. We found he had high water marks for fifteen years, and that the highest he had ever known the Mississippi to rise was a little less than fifteen feet from low water mark. The testimony of Mr. Reed, the Indian farmer, who had lived here, was to the same effect.

It is generally supposed that we always have a June rise in the Mississippi. This is by no means certain. Several times in the month of June the boats have not been able to reach St. Paul without great difficulty, and the Minnesota river has been almost dry.

I will here record a statement made to me many years ago, by Matthew Luney, one of the oldest settlers. He said that the highest water he had ever seen occurred in the months of August and September; that the June rise did not come down till near the Fall of the year. If this same thing should occur again it would overflow all our hay-lands at the very time we should want to be mowing, and would destroy the most valuable and essential crop grown in the immediate vicinity of Winona. This matter of time in high water made little difference when the country was unsettled; but now, since we depend so much for the grass of the lowlands, the time of high water is quite an important question.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twenty

Winona Daily Republican-May 27, 1867

May 27, 1852—At a fall meeting at Minnesota City, yesterday, it was resolved to send a committee of three able men to explore the country as far as St. Peter, on the Minnesota river. The special instructions to this committee were to ascertain the quality of the land, the timber, water, etc, but more expressly “to find the most feasible route for a railroad from St. Peter to Minnesota City.” Such is the language of the resolution. Francis Norican, Robert Pike, and William Stephen, composed this committee.

Mr. Norican had spent the winter on the Rollingtone. He came in the fall in time to secure a stack of hay to winter his oxen. He made his claim so as to secure the water power near the present railroad depot. This claim he gave to the Association on condition that he should retain five acres, embracing the water power. William Stephens was one of the pioneer squad; Mr. Pike was one of the prominent and active members of the Association, well fitted to pioneer 140 miles through the wilderness.

The committee made no delay, but started out immediately bound for St. Peter. There was then no human habitation on the whole line of the route between the two rivers. There was no trail or any landmark to guide these persons. They took a direct west line and continued on till they reached St. Peter. They noted all the peculiarities of the country through which they passed-prairie, timber, creeks, marshes, etc. Mr. Pike drew up a full report of the labors of the committee. They made the distance from river to river 115 miles, which is 25 miles less than the real distance, as ascertained since. They returned by way of the Minnesota river to St. Paul, then to Winona. The whole journey occupied nearly two weeks. The first mail route opened in Southern Minnesota was by this same track as mapped out by this committee.

Two of the members of the Association died about this time. The first one, Mr. Shipley, died very suddenly while on his way for a load of goods at the landing, six miles above Minnesota City. He was buried by the roadside, under the bluffs, without any coffin. The other one, a Mr. Denmore, died at the City. His was the first grave made in the new cemetery. By this time exposure and rainy weather had brought on sickness. Many were at this time sleeping in what they called "gopher holes.". The gardens gave little promise of early vegetables.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twenty-One
Winona Daily Republican-May 28, 1867

May 28, 1852—It was now a little more than three weeks since the arrival of the first boat and already our register contained the names of six who had died, and another one was past hope of recovery. The real Asiatic cholera was here. A young man by the name of Morgan had died after a sickness of only eight hours. A little niece of Dr. Childs, a sweet girl of about twelve Summers, had come two thousand miles, from New York, by way of Cleveland, Cincinnati, and St. Louis, and had been out in the woods on the night of the arrival of the first party. This child had died of the measles in Johnson's shanty. There was much sickness and suffering in a little shanty made of a few boards, on the mound at the landing, now at the foot of Main street.

This shanty was made for the purpose of storing goods without any roof except a few boards laid loosely over the top. Several families had been detained here on their way to Minnesota City, until bad weather and exposure had brought on sickness. There were seven days of cold rain about this time—no shelter, no physicians, no medicine, no place to work or sleep, and it could hardly be expected that the sick would recover. Two little children died, and the mother, by incessant watching, was taken with the same disease. As soon as the children could be buried the mother was carried on board the boat in a large chair, and taken to La Crosse, where she died in a day or two. Such are some of the trials of the first settlers on this side of the river.

The shanty in which these children died was not without occupants for more than two months. It was a kind of hospital. Bad as it was, it was the best and only place where the sick could find the semblance of shelter, except Johnson's shanty and the boarding house of Mrs. Goddard, and these were always more than full; for Gov. Ramsey, when he was here, had so sleep filled in his blanket on the river bank. He came prepared for it.

At this time many were leaving for down the river. The young man who had followed some light employment in the East, had now found out that he was unfitted for the rough struggles in this border warfare. He had seen enough of the West and was satisfied to go home to his mother and sweetheart. He was disgusted with the country and carried back a bad report to his friends. Altogether this was the gloomiest period in the records of our early settlement.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twenty-Two

Winona Daily Republican-May 29, 1867

May 29, 1852—The early settlers of Minnesota had little cause of complaint where they compared their condition with that of the pioneers of the older States. When Ohio, and indeed all that portion of the country lying west of the Alleghenies was settled, the privations of the early settlers were ten-fold greater than they could be in Minnesota. Fifty years ago the hardy pioneer had to live upon whatever he could find in the country immediately around him. If he had the luxury of so common an article as salt, it had to be brought on pack horses across the Alleghenies, from the seaboard. The timber country afforded abundance of game, but then, the article of powder had to be obtained by gathering saltpeter from the cavies in the mountains, and being mixed with charcoal, was manufactured by a kind of domestic process into powder with which to kill the game. The land had to be cleared of heavy timber, and it would take a good

ax-man a whole year to get among the tall timber so that the sun could shine upon a single acre.

It was very different on the banks of the Mississippi. Here the settler was in immediate communication with the great commercial cities of the West. If he had money he could have all the luxuries of the city at his own table. He could find one acre or a thousand acres of land if he desired it, ready for the plow. This state of things had its influence on the settlers. They knew it would not be long before the earth, so fitted by nature for immediate cultivation, would yield abundance to supply all their wants. Thus, taken as a whole, Minnesota has had less privations than any other new country. It has had less sickness, less of real hard labor, less losses by failure of crops, than any other portion of the West. When we remember that the little broken county of Winona has paid, in the first 10 years of its history, \$800,000 of direct taxes, besides uncounted indirect taxes, and that this has all, or nearly all, come out of the soil, we shall feel that Minnesota ranks among the best States of the West. The county of Winona has paid more taxes in the last ten years than was paid by the whole State of Ohio the first twelve years of its history.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twenty-Three

Winona Daily Republican-May 30, 1867

May 30, 1852—Still they come to Minnesota City. These last arrivals are mostly from the country. They represent six or seven States. I omitted to note in its proper place that perhaps one-fourth of the members of the Association attempted to reach the settlement on the Rollington by landing about six miles about the city plot, and some were landed as far up as the mouth of the White Water. These parties had a series of delays and vexations too tedious to mention in these notes. There was no road down the sides of the bluffs next to the river. Some attempted to bring their goods down in a small boat, and an entire boat load was capsized and sunk in the slough, or near the edge of it. Some valuable boxes of bedding, clothing, and small pantry ware belonging to Mr. Nicklin, were not found till the water went down; then they were taken out, nearly ruined. Mr. George Foster of our city remembers some of the mishaps of these days. In the wet and moldy flour that was sunk on the way down. Nothing was gained by the new route of reaching the city. It was delay and vexation either way.

At this time in the city all was excitement. Some were selling, some were buying, some planting, and some were building. Trout fishing was one of the sports of this season. I think the captured trout were more plentiful on the tables on Monday morning than any other morning of the week. I have seen good sized wash tubs full on Monday morning.

About this time there began to be a good deal of trouble with the cattle. This difficulty was obviated by placing all the cattle under the care of a herdsman, and driving them beyond the bounds of the city. The contract of taking care of the cattle was given to Robert Pike, at 50 cts a head for the season. He took all the cows and young cattle every morning and drove them into the south valley beyond the creek. About this time the Association built a bridge over the Rollingstone. It was called "Hurdle Bridge". This was the first bridge built in the county.

Just 15 years ago today Robert Pike was appointed "Bexton and Undertaker of the Cemetery." Such is the language of the resolution. I should mention that this cemetery was a little below the present Railroad Depot. Several of the graves were desecrated when excavating for the railroad.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twenty-Four

Winona Daily Republican-May 31, 1867

May 31, 1852—There is a doctrine in the creel of many theologies that supreme selfishness is the governing motive in all human actions. If anyone has doubts this theory, let him go and live for a few years in a claim country and he will be convinced that there is some reason for this belief to be discovered in the conduct of man.

Several hundred settlers had come to live where the land was not yet surveyed, and where everyone was at liberty to measure out his own claim according to his own pleasure. The language of the old territorial law was that each settler might hold his claim in two places—which meant that he might have 80 acres in one place and 80 in another. This was equivalent to holding two claims.

Mr. Johnson, the first man on the prairie, made his first claim at the lower end of the prairie, in the Fall of 1851, and built a small shanty upon it. As he came here to represent both himself and Captain Orrin Smith, he held that he had a right to hold two full claims, and about mid-winter he engaged Mr. Pentler to hold the lower claim, and he himself came up and made the second claim, building his shanty near where Dr. Ford's office now stands. Mr. Bunnell, then living near where Homer now stands, sent a man to hold the claim. This commenced a series of

claim quarrels that continued through several years. Johnson tore down Bunnell's shanty, and Bunnell tore down Johnson's shanty, till five shanties had been destroyed. Johnson came out the victor, and drove Bunnell's man off. Thus, quiet was restored for a time. This case was destined, however, to breed further trouble, as will be seen further on in these notes. Every man on the prairie must arrange himself on one side or the other of these quarrels, and these cases were more frequently settled by the number of friends each one could secure, that by a reference to the principles of justice involved.

It may be interesting to note here the value of claims at that time. I think Mr. Johnson offered all his interest to Mr. Haddock, and to others, at about \$500. Edw. Hamilton, who held the claim where Mr. Huff's residence now is, offered his at the round sum of \$100. Nash was bought off his claim as late as the Spring of 1853 for a suit of linsey-woolsey clothes and about \$10 for pocket money, and was sent off the prairie in a kind of clandestine manner, and was heard of no more. Every man could have been bought off from every claim lying between the lower end of the prairie and Minnesota City for less than \$2,000, except Captain Orrin Smith, and he had no legal claim here, as he had never been a resident.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twenty-Five

Winona Daily Republican-June 1, 1867

June 1, 1852—If any of your friends from the East or South ever propose to visit Minnesota tell them by all means to come in the month of June. Then the house cleaning is all done, the gardens are made and Spring has come up. By Spring we mean the springing up of Vegetation. During this month we never fail to have one kind of small fruit—strawberries. If we grew peaches, pears, apricots, and the like, we would say to our friends come in the Fall; but as it is, the most pleasant month in the year is June. Then nature puts on her loveliest garb. Who is there now here that has not made up his mind to leave Minnesota when the thermometer was 20 degrees below zero and the frost of January was coming through the thick stone cellar wall, that old not change his mind when he felt the balmy air and looked out on the landscape of the month of June? The beautiful prospect of vegetation very much encouraged the early settlers. The fields were covered with green; the trees were loaded with the most charming foliage; the streams were full of the finest fish. The days seemed longer and nights shorter. The twilight lingered on the distant West, and appeared long before the sun was up. The moon beams seemed softer and the light more clear and strong when viewed in comparison with what we had seen before. By this time, all save the sick had the Minnesota appetite. In dress the people

had thrown off all the stiff conventional (unknown) of the city, and all did as they pleased without regard to the speech of his neighbor. Many slept in the open air as much from choice as from necessity.

Much time was spent in short journeys up the valleys. At this time it was customary for all, or nearly all, men, women and children, to go to the landing to see every boat. Some one would watch for smoke away down the river and announce a boat. This would be a signal for all to get ready to make a line for the landing. They hoped to see some friend, or get a letter from home, or hear the news. It was at least a change from the monotony of everyday life.

The great question of those times was, Is the treaty ratified? The early settlers felt the same interest on this subject as was felt at a later period on the land questions, and are the bonds negotiated?

At this time the settlers at Minnesota City are discussing the question of building a city hall. They bought a raft of lumber for this purpose, which landed near Troost's mill.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twenty-Seven

Winona Daily Republican-June 4, 1867

June 4, 1852—Near the last of May a Methodist minister, by the name of Henderson, who had lapsed from the good old doctrines of John Wesley, and I think had fallen from grace, came to Minnesota City from Chautauqua county, New York. He was a young man of good address and ardent temperament. He entered largely into the sympathies of the Association. He became quite a leader. It was soon found that he was a full believer in the doctrines of spiritualism, mesmerism, clairvoyance etc. He began to form circles and listen to table rappings, and to communications from departed friends, He held frequent conversations with Washington, Wesley, and other worthies who had gone to the spirit land. He made some converts to his vagaries. The leading topics in conversation were on subjects connected with conversations from departed friends. The spirit world, according to the theory adopted by these spiritual disciples, was divided into seven spheres. The better a man was in this world, the higher he would rise in the spirit world. Thus, Tom Paine was in sphere No. 1; Washington in No 5; and Wesley in the highest—No. 7.

A proposition was made for a church to be formed, to be called the Universal church. A committee was appointed by the friends of this movement, to draw up a constitution for his Universal Church. Henderson, as chairman of the committee, drew up a short paper, embracing

the cardinal doctrines of these theorists. After he had prepared it with great care, and it had received the approval of the whole committee, it was submitted through Mrs. Henderson, who was a medium, to the approval of John Wesley. Wesley was found in the seventh sphere, engaged in the most exalted employment. He had no time to attend to such minor matters, but sent George Washington, from the fifth sphere, to say that the document was all right, save a few verbal changes, and a change in the name of the church from Universal to Evangelical. This last statement in regard to the approval of Wesley, was made in a public meeting, on the Sabbath Day, in presence of a congregation of more than one hundred people. It is fair to say that their sentiments were not approved by the great body of the Association.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twenty-Eight

Winona Daily Republican-June 5, 1867

June 5, 1852—The weather about this time was cool, and a dry west wind which sometimes increased to a gale, made sad havoc among the shanties on the prairie. Several families were awakened in the night to find the wind had taken away the roofs of their homes. Mr. Denman, with his family, at the time was living under a pile of lumber which he had laid up to dry preparatory to building. This was scattered in all directions, and the family was left, without the least protection, on the open prairie. The women sought the neighboring shanties, while the men spent the remainder of the night in gathering up the pieces as best they could. These cool winds prevailed for several days. The gardens made no improvement. The corn that was two or three inches high looked sickly. The surface of the river was in constant turmoil. The white caps rolled with fury against the shore. At this time Mr. John Burns, of Burns Valley, landed at Bunnell's with a large stock of cattle. He took up the claim he now holds. His place had always been called Wabashaw's Garden, for here the old chief had lived and cultivated an acre or two in corn and some small vegetables. It was always considered one of the choicest spots for such purposes. Peter Gore at this time lived as the only settler in what was called Gore Valley—now called Pleasant valley. I think Mr. Gore is the first settler that took a farm in this county.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Twenty-Nine

Winona Daily Republican-June 6, 1867

June 6, 1852—The water had now receded slowly for the last ten days. This state of things brought new difficulties. Up to this time we had crossed the slough in some kind of water craft. Now, we could neither ferry, nor ford, nor swim. The horses and oxen would mire in the soft mud. Many still have a vivid recollection of the serious troubles of those times—how we waded in the black mud when we went to Minnesota City or Burns Valley. It will be difficult for our readers to fully appreciate the serious vexations and difficulties of those early times—houses, bridges, fences, roads to build, crops to plow and replant, all wanted to be done at the same time.

The gophers and small field mouse are an intolerable nuisance. The first destroys the corn as soon as it is up, so that it has to be replanted many times. The field mouse would find its way into the cupboard, pantry, and bureau drawers, boxes of clothing, rolls of carpets, and would destroy all kinds of clothing. There seems to be no remedy for these pests, except to kill them. A cat is the most valuable domestic animal. She would destroy the whole race of these vermin in a few days.

There are many who think that the early settlers had great advantages over those who came later, and they wonder why it is that the first are almost universally poor. I think we have a fair illustration of this matter in the border counties of this state, where they are now crying for bread. Let a man from Winona county take one thousand dollars and start for Martin county and take 160 acres of the best land in the State under the homestead law, which is considered so liberal. First it will take \$100 to get there. Then he has no house, no fence, no braking, no roads, no bridges, no schoolhouse, nothing but a naked quarter section of land, surrounded by a thousand other quarter sections just like it. His food for his family has all to be purchased in the dearest market. He commences making improvements. Everything is done to the greatest disadvantage. Before the year is round he will find he has reached his bottom dollar. The last one is gone, and he has no return in crops; he is land poor. Who will now give him his \$1,000? Some shark, who never made a dollar's improvement in the country, and who probably never paid a tax, will give him three or four hundred dollars for the land and improvement; and this is all, in nineteen cases out of twenty, that the land is worth. Then the original settler has given a year's labor and a thousand dollars for three or four hundred. I will venture that prediction that we shall have a repetition of what we now have on the borders for the next twenty years, not from short crops, but from cases that I have briefly stated. The fact is that the government has given homesteads but lured people far into the unsettled country and left them to contend with the difficulties of which they had no conception. In early times I have known men in Winona

county spend \$1500 in the improvement of the finest farms in the county, and then glad to sell it for one half the cost of the improvements, and go away.

This benevolent homestead law is sure to make thousands of poor men. It is no doubt good for the government, but it will be a double death to the poor settler. He will nearly die from starvation and lose his farm at last. Horace Greeley may be wise in some things, but he has been a great blunderer on this land question. You can give no worse advice than to send a poor man with a family on a homestead far out on the border. It will be a homestead, no doubt, for someone, but not the poor man who turns over the first sod.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Thirty

Winona Daily Republican-June 7, 1867

June 7, 1852—It should be remembered that all that portion of Minnesota lying west of the Mississippi was without any civil organization. The county of Wabashaw, which embraced all that territory lying between the Iowa line and the Minnesota river, was for all legal business attached to Washington county, with the county seat at Stillwater. There was not a Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, or indeed any civil officer, on this side of the river. The colony at Rollingstone was the first to move to secure the appointment of a Justice of the Peace. Cases were arriving that required the existence of some legal tribunal.

Mr. Denmore had died and left quite an amount of chattel property, with no one to claim it. This was at once taken charge of by the Association, until the news of his death should reach his friends and it could be known how they desired it disposed of. This being ascertained, his goods and chattels were all placed in the hands of Robert Taylor. The estate was settled, and every dollar was sent to his friends, without one cent retained as probate fees or any other fee. In this way several estates were settled in those days.

The people at Rollingstone were the first to open a district school. This was done early in the Summer of 1852. They also opened the first Sabbath school in Southern Minnesota. Brother Luark, James Geo. Foster, Robert Taylor, Mrs. Campbell, and many other ladies, whose names are not known, were teachers. The Sabbath schools were held under the trees in the timber. There was frequent preaching on the Sabbath day. I believe the first sermon preached was on the 10th of May by a Congregational Minister from La Crosse, by the name of Reynolds. Mr. Henderson Cressey and some others occasionally preached, so that scarcely a Sabbath passed without some kind of religious service. I should not omit to say here that Mr. Robert Pike was always present at all these meetings, and he scarcely ever failed to embrace every

opportunity to catechise the minister on some nice theological topics which had been set forth in the sermon. This was always done with much good humor and much to the amusement if not to the satisfaction of the hearers.

All denominations were represented in the association-Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Liberals, Spiritualists, etc. Almost every other man you would meet was a physician of some kind and among them all there was a remedy for every human ailment. Some would cure with water; some with lobelia, some with mesmerism, and some with quinine. Most all were in favor of remedies of the new school.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Thirty-Eight

Winona Daily Republican-June 17, 1867

The lumber business of course commenced small. The first came in little lots on the deck so steamboats from La Crosse. Captain Smith was always willing to accommodate anyone who would settle on the prairie, by bringing up lumber at a more nominal price for freight. The first bill of lumber sold here that amounted to anything was furnished by Mr. Tainter, of the firm of Knapp & Tain of Eau Claire. About the middle of May Mr. Tainter came in person from Eau Claire to sell a bill of lumber. He Contracted about fifteen thousand feet, mostly to Dr. Childs and Mr. Denman, which was sent down in a raft by itself. Dr. Childs proposed to build a kind of Baronial castle, on his claim near the old Indian tepees. His plans and specifications for the building covered not less than fifteen sheets of foolscap. The erection of the building was deferred from time to time till his lumber was used to build a very inferior house and a few coops for chickens.

Lumber was furnished to the few settlers, during the summers by a class of men who were called pirates-menwho made a business of picking up lumber that had strayed from rafts and lodged on the bank of the rivers and on the islands and tow-heads wherever they could find it. From this source large quantities of lumber were obtained in early times in Minnesota.

The first store for the sale of groceries and farming utensils was opened by J.S Denman. After he had completed his house, called a car home, because it was built with a roof like a railroad car, he went to Galena and brought up a small stock of groceries and a few of the most necessary farming tools for the accommodations of the settlers. Thus Mr. Denman was the first merchant in the city. At the same time Mr. Denman bought a fine cow of Captain Orren Smith at Galena. Mr. Denman says this was the first cow on the prairie; this is not according to my notes at the time. Dr. Childs had the first one, brought from near Clayton, Iowa. The first store in Southern Minnesota was opened on the Rollingstone, near where Troost's Mill is by Mr. J.

Robertson. He opened a general grocery store as early as the 29th of May. Neither he nor Mr. Denman continued business more than four or five months.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Thirty-Nine

Winona Daily Republican-June 18, 1867

June 18, 1852—By this time matters began to assume some kind of shape at Minnesota City. The number of settlers had been gradually increasing, but still many were restless and dissatisfied—and began to see that they could not remain. Some of the men, after fixing their families as best they could, were determined to seek some other employment that would bring some return for the immediate wants of their families. Many went down the river to Galena, St. Louis, and other places hoping to find work and return in the Fall with supplies for the Winter. The settlers were greatly annoyed by the armies of mosquitos that were more numerous than the locusts in Egypt. The air was laden with a fresh supply every day from the stagnant pools of water that covered the low lands. There was no rest from this annoyance night or day. The same causes that produced these pests filled the atmosphere with a miasma that produced fever and ague. Nearly all of the settlers had more or less of this ugly form of disease. Various remedies were resorted to to effect a cure; some in the height of the fever would plunge into the Rollingstone; some tried leeks as a means of cure. There was no regular physician to apply the old remedies. Some resorted to quinine without a knowledge of the number of grains for a dose. Pretentious quacks started out as medicine men and dealt out quinine without measure. It was during the prevalence of this disease that Mrs. Haddock died. She had come on reluctantly from New York City, where she had been reared delicately in the higher walks of life; she was in no condition to confront the hardships of the border struggle—she was sick and sad from the first landing. Everything was new and strange to her, she gave easy to a kind of despondency and had little desire to live but for her children's sake. The ague, with a combination of other diseases, and unskillful treatment, soon put her past hope of recovery—she died as she had a presentiment she would before she left New York City. When she left New York she had a dread of a grave in Minnesota. She could not bear the thought of being buried here—this preyed upon her disordered mind until death ended her sufferings. She was buried under the edge of the bluff—one of the early martyrs to the settlement of Minnesota.

Mrs. Robertson died this season, another victim of experience in a new country. Mr. Shaw had the ague, and, during the early part of his sickness, he remained in one of the

gopher-holes; when the disease assumed a more dangerous form he was taken to more comfortable quarters. He tried the cold water pack as a remedy, and sank rapidly, more a victim of the treatment than the disease. Mr. Shaw left, by his will, to distribute among the settlers, a large number of small apple trees. These were the first and have proved to be the best in Minnesota.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Forty-Six

Winona Daily Republican-June 22, 1867

1852—Late in the month of June the first school was opened at the residence of Mr. Goddard, with thirteen scholars. It was kept by Miss Angela Gere, daughter of Henry C. Gere. This school was continued for only a few weeks. It was kept in the same room where all the claim courts were held. The teacher was paid so much per scholar. This was the only school for more than a year. Miss Gere felt the need of a more convenient and retired room, for I think the same room was used for a large family of boarders. The scholars all came from about four families. The number of scholars was much larger at Rollingstone, and their school commenced earlier in the season, and was kept longer. Thus it will be seen that the schools of Winona had a very feeble beginning. The second school opened in Winona was by Mrs. Hamilton, mother of Alvin Hamilton. She was killed by lightning, and thus the second school came to a sudden close. No school was kept in Winter till 1854. One was opened by Miss Willis in a building put up by Dr. Belcombe, and owned by Mr. Ranney. This was the first school that really amounted to anything in the city.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Forty-Four

Winona Daily Republican-June 24, 1867

1852—The citizens at Rollingstone were by no means free from claim difficulties. A young lady, Miss Amidon, made a claim on the South Rollingstone, about half way between Minnesota City and Stockton, and left it and went East. Mr. Bannon, after she had gone, went on the claim and cut logs for a house. It was held by the committee on claims that he was violating the claim laws which governed the Association, and was warned off the claim. The committee agreed to help him move the logs and put them up in another place. When it was found that Mr. Bannon would not remove, but still persisted in his determination to hold the claim of the absent lady—on Saturday night, came and cut all the logs in two in the middle, thus rendering them unfit for use, as was supposed. The matter was finally settled by the complete triumph of the committee.

They came, after the logs were supposed to be spoiled, and generously offered to help Mr. Bannon remove them to his original claim and put them up into a six-sided log cabin. This six-sided building now stands near the railroad as a standing evidence of one of the early claim quarrels of Minnesota City. The law was vindicated, and I think this was almost the only serious difficulty that arose among the colony about claims.

This season some of the members made claims as far out as Stockton. A man by the name of Hunt made the claim by the Spring, on the L.D. Smith farm. He spent the Summer improving it and putting up a large quantity of hay—in the Fall he determined to go East. He left several yoke of working oxen to be wintered on the hay he had secured, and left the whole in charge of Mr. Burley. He then took a boat down the river. He was not halfway to La Crosse before word came that the prairie fire had destroyed all his Summer's work, and left his stock without food for the Winter. Hunt did not return after this calamity.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Forty-Five

Winona Daily Republican-June 25, 1867

The foundation for the first log cabin beyond the bluffs was laid just fifteen years ago today. It was built for Mr. Williams, of Scales Mound, near Galena, by a Mr. Hall, who came into Minnesota early in the Spring of that year. I learn by original papers sent in by a friend in Minnesota City that on the 26th day of June, 1852, quite a party left the city to attend the raising of this log cabin. They put up the logs for the cabin with much rejoicing. This claim was on the claim next to Mr. Sweet's, on what was at the time called Sweet's Prairie. As this was the first attempt to build a human habitation on the broad prairie in what is now the First Congressional District, it may not be amiss to review the history of the last fifteen years. There is probably not an instance on records where a purely agricultural country has settled up so rapidly and so permanently as Southern Minnesota. This is due mainly to two or three causes.

First—The condition of the soil and climate was such as to invite a rapid emigration. As a wheat growing region there is none to surpass, even if there is one equal to the whole prairie regions lying west of Winona. Millions of acres were ready for the plow, and would yield a full crop the first year. This portion of Minnesota might be called the land of bread. Its wealth lay on the surface in the soil.

Second—The location of this portion of the state was favorable to a rapid emigration. It was so near even the sea coast, when we consider the facilities for reaching it, that a week was ample time from the eastern coast of Maine to the broad prairies of Minnesota. The railroads

were completed for nearly 1500 miles and these shortened the distance and reduced the time from days to hours—so that what once would have required a whole season now only wanted three or four days. When the Western Reserve, or New Connecticut, as it was called, was settled 50 years ago, families traveled with ox teams for from five to six hundred miles, consuming a whole summer, in a journey which can now be made in a day or two.

Third—Germany, Norway, Sweden, England, Scotland and Ireland have been in a condition to take advantage of this state of things, and from those countries thousands have come to fill up these prairies and make themselves homes in the expanding West.

These causes have settled up Minnesota—especially the southern part—with a rapidity that has no precedent in history—and the same bid fair to hasten the settlement of the West, till before the end of the present (unknown) Minnesota will be an eastern State.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Fifty-Two

Winona Daily Republican-July 5, 1867

It was the last of June, 1852, the few settlers determined not to forget the observance of the Fourth of July, and began to make enquiry for a United States flag, as one thing necessary for the occasion. No flag could be found either here or at Minnesota City—so a purse was made up to send to Galena and buy one. Just at that time a man by the name of Robinson made us a visit from down the river. When he saw the settlers were determined to observe the National Holiday, he proposed to do a generous thing, and make a present of a flag, and send it up on the boat in time for the Fourth. The purse was used to buy some other articles connected with the celebration, trusting to the generous donor for a flag. In due time a package containing some goods which had been sent for, arrived, together with the flag. When it was opened, it was found to contain three little cotton flags, about 18 inches square, “worth ten cents apiece, or three for a quarter”. The flags were spread to the breeze on the bank of the river, suspended on some short green poles cut from the opposite bank. Around these flags was an overflow of patriotism by the early citizens of Winona. There was a general suspension of business, and an extra display at the dinner table, with a few invited guests.

At Minnesota City there was no attempt to observe the day, except by the boys, who perhaps spent an extra quarter for a paper of fire crackers or a little powder for a lead cannon. I think the little flats at Winona were the first and only ones ever used up to this time on this side of the river in Minnesota, except at Fort Snelling.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Fifty-Three

Winona Daily Republican-July 6, 1867

There were some members of the colony at Minnesota City determined to find some place on the river where they could be sure to have a landing. A Mr. John Burns-a man of some money-chose the place on the river where Mount Vernon now stands. He commenced improvements on a large scale. He built a large hotel-the largest one then on the river. He went into the wood business extensively, taking wood from any place where he could find it the most conveniently. He opened a store and gave employment to a large number of men. A post office was opened there at an early day and there was quite a show of business at the point on the river. Several men went up the Whitewater this same season to cut logs and floated them in small rafts to Debuque or St. Louis. Other parties were cutting trees on the unsurveyed lands on the Root River, and also on the Whitewater. Immense quantities of heavy timber were taken from the islands and low lands of Minnesota and Wisconsin in the early settlement of the country. The steamboat companies sent up large numbers of men to prepare steamboat wood for the next season. I think nearly all the wood used by the steamboats from Galena was cut in Minnesota.

During the summer of 1851 a settlement was commenced at what is now known as Richmond. A Mr. Fortune from Illinois made a claim and called it Fortune's Landing. It was subsequently laid out as a town and called Catlin. This for a time bade fair to be one of the rival towns, on the river, to Winona. Martin & Banks bought out Fortune and commenced improvements on quite a large scale. They also established the first ferry on the Mississippi between La Crosse and Lake Pepin. This ferry was kept up two or three years, and finally was removed to La Moille. A new survey was made of the town, and the name was changed to Richmond-several stores were built, and for a time there was quite a show of business. After various struggles it went into decay, and is now Misfortune's Landing-for is low water no boat even lands there.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Fifty-Four

Winona Daily Republican-July 8, 1867

On the morning of the 13th of September, 1852, there was a heavy white frost that nearly destroyed all the late corn and cut down all the vines. To many this was quite a calamity, for when the corn was destroyed they soon decided they could not winter in Minnesota. So a large

number, especially from Minnesota City, determined to seek employment and spend the Winter down the river, and as soon as temporary provision could be made for the families, there was an exodus of the men from Minnesota. There was no provision in the country for as large a number, and many had not the means to purchase if provisions had been here. So the only alternative left was to get down the river as soon as possible. Many whole families left, not to return, and some young men were never heard of any more. In July the number of men at Minnesota City was 130. After the close of the river this number was reduced to about 40. Mr. Haddock left. Dr. Balco he made haste and escaped in the last boat, to return again in the Spring. Many who were living in the valleys, fearing a scarcity of provisions and the coming cold Winter, made up their minds to try a warmer climate. When navigation closed fully one half of all the settlers on this side had left. The number of families on the prairie was reduced to ten or twelve. There was a sleigh ride during the early part of Winter, and all the women then living in the present bounds of the city made a company sufficient to fill the seats to a two horse sleigh. I think there were but a few more at Minnesota City. The "Winona House" that Mr. Veits had finished, was occupied by Ed. Hamilton alone during the entire Winter. It was used only once to get up a public Christmas dinner, and two or three tables were sufficient to accommodate all the settlers—men, women and children.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Fifty-Five

Winona Daily Republican-July 9, 1867

About the time the steamer Nominee was making her last trip nearly all settlers sent orders to Galena for supplies for the winter. Pork, flour, corn meal, and a general supply of groceries, made not less than fifteen or twenty tons which was to come up on the last boat. The day before the Nominee left Galena, Nov. 9, 1852, there was a very heavy snow storm in Minnesota followed by clear, cold weather. Large bodies of ice formed in the Mississippi, and the Fever river at Galena froze over. The Excelsior, bound for St. Louis, and the Nominee, bound up, had great difficulty in getting out of Galena into the Mississippi. All the supplies for Winona and Minnesota City were put on board the Nominee. The boat came up as far as La Crosse with difficulty. Then the ice increased to such thickness that Capt Smith determine, at the mouth of Black River, near Trempealeau, to abandon further efforts to get up the river He returned to La Crosse after leaving a part of the passengers on the Minnesota shore, to make their way up the river as best they could. "Uncle" Henry Gore was among the passengers. He walked fifteen

miles to Winona, in the snow, fourteen inches deep, carrying seventy-five pounds of provisions for his family.

All the winter provisions of the settlers in Minnesota were left at La Crosse. In a day or two the weather turned warm. The snow melted away-the river cleared of ice-but the Nominee had gone into winter quarters at Galena, and no other boat was expected up. Thus the citizens on this side of the river were left without supplies for the winter. Some proposed to leave the goods till the ice formed and bring them up by teams. Others proposed to go down and bring them up in small boats. Nearly two weeks passed and nothing was done. It began to look blue for the ensuing winter. What was done, and how it was done, will form another chapter.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Fifty-Six

Winona Daily Republican-July 10, 1867

Two weeks had passed when a change in the weather threatened to close the river suddenly. By this time a plan was matured for ten or a dozen men to go to La Crosse and bring up all the goods in a flat boat. Captain Erwin Johnson headed a party made up of the following persons: Brother Luark, John (unknown), E.B.Drew, Coriell, Peter Gore, S.E. Cotton, Mr. Brannan, O.M. Lord, and two or three others. This party started down in skiffs to La Crosse. They obtained a Black River flat boat and loaded the 20 tons of goods. By this time the weather had become cold, and the wind blew almost a gale down the river. With much difficulty the party reached the Minnesota shore, and now came the tug of war. True ice formed rapidly in the river. The settling poles and the ropes were immediately covered with ice. Sometimes the boat in a strong current would get advantage of the whole party, and in spite of all effort would go for a full mile towards La Crosse. The party succeeded in getting ten miles up the river the first day. They rested for the night and in the morning woke up to encounter colder weather and a more fearful struggle. Some feared that the river would close before they could reach Winona. A little past midnight on the third morning, the boat was safely landed at the lower end of the prairie, at the mouth of the Burns Valley Creek. The announcement of the safe arrival of the boat containing the supplies for winter created unusual joy among the settlers. In the morning teams came in from all directions to carry home the goods.

I should note here that this boat contained the goods and furniture of Andrew Cole Esq., the first lawyer that resided on this side of the river. Mr. Cole was one of the party up the river. He came from La Crosse.

The party that brought up the boat promised to return it, if possible, before the river closed. A.B. Smith, an old river pilot, was chosen to return the boat to its owners at La Crosse. The

goods were put on shore and he cut loose the boat and it drifted out among the cakes of ice. The weather had moderated, and it commenced to snow. At one time the boat was entirely surrounded by solid acres of slush and floating ice, and the old pilot decided that we should escape to shore and leave the boat to its fate; but it was dark and there was not a house for at least seven miles. So after much persuasion, the pilot consented to stay in the boat, as the safest plan, and, if possible, make for the Minnesota shore and float along the bank till we should reach Dacotah. Here he said there was a house. This proved to be the best plan, for in less than two hours we were safe on shore, at the house of Mr. Brown. There we had a good night's rest, and the next day before noon, we delivered the boat to its owners in La Crosse. Thus ended the expedition to secure our winter's supplies.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Fifty-Eight

Winona Daily Republican-July 12, 1867

Andrew Cole, Esq. who came up from La Crosse on a flat boat, opened the first law office in the city, and for a year or more was the only lawyer here. Mr. Johnson, with the consent of Captain Smith, gave him two lots fronting on Main street. These two lots are now among the best in the city. They extend from Blemere's corner to Brown & Smith's shoe store on second street and to Easty's brick store on Main street. These lots were considered worth at the time \$50 each. Mr. Cole often acted as counsel for both sides in the same suit. Finally Wm. B. Gere, who was not at the time supposed to be learned in the law, acted as opposing counsel, and sometimes Dr. Childs consented to defend a client when the case was plain. More frequently, however, counsel came up from La Crosse. The principal business of the winter after the river closed was getting out wood for steamboats. At that time the islands directly opposite the city were covered with heavy timber. Much of it was large and straight ash mixed with hickory and oak.

Mr. Denman formed a company at Minnesota City and cut a large body of wood for the steamboats. He banked it on Straight Slough, where boats had great difficulty getting at it in the Spring. The company lost money in the operation.

It was during the early part of that winter that we had quite a sensation on the Prairie. The Indians often came over the river from the Trempealeau bottoms to sell venison and trade a little with the settlers. During one of these visits they stopped at the house of Elder Hamilton, on the river bank, a mile below. They asked permission to grind their knives on a grindstone at the

door. After they had done this little work they started down the bank of the river to go towards home. Charley Hamilton—then 18 or 20 years of age—after they had got down on the edge of the ice opened the door of the shanty and deliberately took aim with his rifle and fired, and brought an Indian flat on the ice. His companion immediately took him up and conveyed him beyond rifle range and laid him down again. The ball had grazed the crown of his head and stunned the Indian without materially injuring him. Had the ball gone an inch or two lower there would have been a dead Indian, and we should have had trouble. As it was, the Indians made little complaint to Mr. Bunnell, who understood their language. “Charly” kept shady for a long time, fearing they would retaliate. He could never give any reason for such a cowardly act, more than that he thought “some things could be done as well as others”. For a long time he kept a good lookout for the Indians.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Fifty-Nine

Winona Daily Republican-July 13, 1867

When the steamboats had gone down into winter quarters, and travel had ceased, there was a new arrangement for carrying the mail. An Indian halfbreed came on foot from Prairie du Chien with a small mail bag under his arm. His route was from Prairie du Chien to St. Paul for the first few trips. Finally his route was changed so as to terminate at Winona, and a man from Wabasha covered the upper end of the route from Winona to St. Paul. The Distributing office for all the Northwest was at Galena. Letters were often a month or six weeks old when they reached here. There was great confusion about the small routes from Galena to Minnesota. Sometimes letters for Minnesota were sent into Iowa, and sent at random through that state before they reached their destination in this Territory. The mail for St. Paul, after the river closed, was carried from Galena by some round about way through central Wisconsin, Black River Falls, and to Hudson and Stillwater. Only a small way mail came by way of the river. The whole upriver mail was carried in a small bag. Much of the time the carrier traveled on foot. After the river was firmly closed it was carried by one horse in what the halfbreeds called a “train”—a sort of rough made sled. Frequently a passenger was picked up on the way. During the winter of 1852-3 the trips were quite regular, but the carrier did not receive a dollar for his whole winter’s work. He was a sub-contractor and the principal failed, so his labor was lost. The only post-offices then on the river above Winona were Reed’s Landing, Red Wing, and Hastings. On the Wisconsin side were two—Prescott and Point Douglass.

The up-river carriers at times had great difficulty in crossing the Zumbro, Whitewater and Cannon rivers. Sometimes they were detained for many days and quite often drowned their horses. One of the carriers had been in the same service on the same route ever since 1822, conveying the mail from Prairie du Chien to Fort Snelling for the accommodation of the officers and men at the Fort. He told me that he had often traveled 70 miles a day on foot when occasion seemed to demand it.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Sixty

Winona Daily Republican-July 16, 1867

At the close of the year 1852, there were a few stray settlers in various parts of what is now Winona County. John Cook had ventured alone up the Whitewater and built a shanty, which is still standing, within a mile of the present town of Beaver. He lived alone all winter. His nearest neighbor was P. M. Burns at Mount Vernon. A man by the name of Honsel made a claim within two miles of St. Charles, and lived alone and kept back all winter. There was no settler on the river, or at least no house, where Homer now stands, except W.B. Bunnell. The next settler below was Fortune, where now stands the city of Richmond. Two or three men by the name of Campbell had made claims up Cedar creek. Hamilton McCollum lived in the extreme southeast part of the county on the river. He kept a tavern for the accommodation of parties who traveled by land to La Crosse. Two or three German families settled this season at the mouth of the creek between Lamoille and Pickwick. Mr. Wm Hewitt lived this winter about five miles from Winona up the Burns valley.

Thus it will be seen that at the close of the year 1852 there were not more than twenty-five persons in what is now Winona county outside of Winona and Minnesota City. Many persons, both men and women, living in Winona, held claims up the valleys. They had marked out claims: so that all the land in the valleys was claimed. They had cut a few logs and laid them together or had made a small piece of breaking, or, if no more, had spaded up a small patch of ground and planted a few seeds of some kind or set out some trees. There was one claim held by a young lady, Miss Angella Gere, in the Burns valley beyond Smith's mill. This claim was first bought of a young man, in La Crosse, for \$100, (so said at the time), and although Miss Gere was not more than 15 years old, she held it for several years, until it had been sold in parts several times. They think the Gere family realized no less than \$1000 for it at various times, till finally the first brick yard was opened upon it, and it passed out of litigation and out of the Gere family. These kinds of claims were the source of a good deal of vexation in early times.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Sixty-One

Winona Daily Republican-July 17, 1867

At the close of the year 1852 the settlers could review what had been accomplished in the last eight months. Out of more than one thousand that had come to Southern Minnesota not far from three hundred and fifty still remained. The losses by death had been more than thirty. To many there had been great sacrifice of property-some had left comfortable homes in the East, and at the close of the year found all their means gone and themselves without a home. A large number that left had no means to take them down the river. They had sold the last bed and the last chair to get means to escape from the scene of their disappointment. Many carried with them a sad account of the country. There had been an unusual amount of sickness and more than ordinary suffering connected with this sickness, from the fact that the ordinary comforts of a sick bed could not be obtained in so new a country. Not a few had been sick without even shelter, nurse, medicine or physicians, for sometimes whole families had been down at once. This was especially the case at Minnesota City. During these months the quality of the soil had been so far tested as to satisfy the settlers that when crops were properly put in and taken care of this part of Minnesota would be one of the best agricultural portions of the northwest. This year also the treaty had been ratified, which extinguished the Indian title to all the territory on the west side of the Mississippi, and it was confidently expected that the country would be surveyed so that in a very short time the questions of title to the lands would be settled. Many had remained here from an inability to get away. Their means were gone, and the only alternative left was to hold on and hope for the best. The next season might open with better prospects.

During the entire eight months from the first of May to the close of the year there had been but one lawsuit. All matters of difference had been settled by mutual arbitration. It was just at the close of this year that Gov. Ramsey appointed two justices of the peace, Geo. M Gere and John Burns. This year there had been one marriage and two births. B.K. Thompson was married to his present wife in November. Prairie Louise Denman was born the 5th day of July 1852. She is not now living. Also Mrs. Veith had a child born in November. It soon died.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Sixty-Two

Winona Daily Republican-July 18, 1867

The readers of these "Leaves" in The Republican have followed me through the year 1852. I have thus said nothing of the manner in which the Sabbath was spent. I have purposely reserved this matter till the close of the year. Before I give this I have thought it least to give some correspondence from a gentleman who visited us during the summer of 1852. The following letter I obtained about four years ago, after much labor and research, among the old files in the Pioneer office in St. Paul. I took pains to copy it, and now give such portions of it as refer to this vicinity. It will speak for itself.

Correspondence of the St. Paul Pioneer:
Wabashaw and Minnesota City, July 18, 1852

I took my pen in hand to inform you in a few words of a trip I recently made to Wabashaw, or Minnesota City, or the Rollingstone settlement. At half past one in the morning, I was landed at Wabashaw Prairie, having been 12 hours in running 160 miles, when I was met by my e'd friend, Rev. E. Ely, of Lancaster, Ohio, who has a shanty at the landing; and by him we were furnished mattresses for the remainder of the night. This Prairie once contained a large town of Sioux Indians. Many remains of these savages are now here and many graves are still visible. This beautiful tract of country is probably 12 miles long and 2 or 3 broad. It forms a perfect plain, without a mound or even a tree or shrub on the whole prairie. Many portions of the soil are adapted to cultivation. They have an excellent natural landing, and every facility for building up a town, except it is miles from any timber to build it on, or for fuel. This possibly may be a drawback upon their building. I saw a plat of their town, which surely looked well on paper. Many lots have already been sold. New settlers are arriving and many houses are about being erected, together with a large hotel. Indeed, the prospect now is that they will soon have a lovely little village upon this beautiful prairie. They now have some twelve families and some 50 inhabitants.

After going eight miles up the river we find ourselves at Minnesota City. It is generally known that the settlers at this place were collected by the Farm or Village Association in New York. We had heard many things said disparagingly of the settlement previous to our arriving there, and were not disposed to look upon it without some feelings of prejudice, but were determined to know the whole, if possible, in its true light. After spending four days in the place passing over their grounds, examining their plans, and visiting from house to house I am satisfied that few places indeed can be found where nature has drawn bolder and more beautiful outlines for the location of a large town, and where the settlers have more fully followed out nature's draft, than

in this place. A few words will give the reader an idea of the entire townplat, which is upon three tables of land resting beautifully one above the other. The first is about twenty feet above high water; the second is some fifteen feet above the first and the third table is thirty feet above the second. They extend up and down the river about three miles and back to the bluffs from half a mile in one and a half miles. And here it should be noted that the Rollingstone creek plays a singular trick which adds greatly to the value and beauty of the town. This is a rapid and beautiful stream, large enough to carry any saw-mill. This rises at the northwest corner of the town in two branches, where they are united in one, which then steals along in the most serpentine course between these table lands and bluffs, closely hugging the latter, which lie back of the town, while it constantly runs south and parallel with the river. In this way it hurries on for about one mile and a half; then turns short at right angles and runs directly east for a half mile; then making another right angle, it strikes off for half or three-quarters of a mile, when it wheels to the east again and soon is lost in the bosom of the great Father of waters. The town is, in fact, located in part upon a peninsula formed by the Rollingstone creek and the Mississippi.

The public hall is commenced, the bell for which is on the way from New York. A steam engine is soon expected for the saw mill. Two hundred and fifty inhabitants are now there; others are known to be on the road, and it is believed that five hundred will be there before the closing in of Winter, with the hundred oxen and fifty cows. Some have now pushed out fifteen miles and the prairie. They have preaching every Sabbath by either Baptists, Methodists, or Presbyterians, and sometimes by all, out under the oaks. The Sabbath we spent there (the 11th July 1852) we had the happiness of seeing a Baptist church organized of twelve members, and a Sabbath school of thirty-five scholars. This is, if we mistake not, the first Protestant church on this side of the river in our territory. With the congregation on the Sabbath we were much delighted. All seemed contented and happy, and not one case of home-sickness among them.

One fact I must not omit to mention. It has been affirmed and widely circulated that there is no good landing thereof. While I was there this was demonstrated to be false. A large party of boats, leads and lines went out and made extensive surveys, and what by some was supposed to be a mere slough was found to be in one of the principal channels of the river, perfectly navigable for boats, three miles nearer than the one now traversed by the boats, and furnishing a fine landing for Minnesota City. But I must take leave of this lovely spot. T. R. C

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Sixty-Three

Winona Daily Republican-July 19, 1867

It has frequently been said that when people come West they leave their religion behind-that this commodity does not bear transportation from the East. Some said in early times that the Sabbath day had not crossed the Mississippi. How far this is true in regard to the first settlers, I may leave the reader to judge after making a brief statement of the way the Sabbath was spent in Winona.

On the ninth day of May, 1852, the first funeral occurred on the prairie. It was on the Sabbath day. There was a brief religious exercise before the stranger, Mr. W. Christie was buried. This exercise was in the open air near the bank of the river. I heard at the time that the first sermon preached here was by a Methodist minister by the name of Chester. He was one of the party that accompanied Dr. Dalcombe from La Crosse out into the Rollinestone. I am sure Mr. Chester was the first minister ever here, for he had made a claim in the Gilmore Valley, five miles from Winona, very early in the Spring. On the same day of the funeral above mentioned, a sermon was preached by a Congregational minister by the name of Reynolds, to the few settlers at Rollinestone. There was always preaching either at Minnesota City or on the prairie. The first man that was employed to preach, or who received pay for preaching, was the Mr. Reynolds mentioned above. He was commissioned by the Home Mission Board of his own church to act as a missionary at Wabashaw prairie in the State of Wisconsin. The mistake made in his commission caused some embarrassment and finally led to his leaving this side of the river entirely. There was generally someone to conduct religious service, but the great difficulty was to find a place to meet. There were no trees for shade, and the sun was too hot for meeting in the open air without some protection. The shanties of the settlers were too small, and the spare room, if they had any, was filled with all sorts of household goods, so that at times there would not be twenty square feet of standing room. Still there was always some kind of religious exercise nearly every Sabbath, and the people all came together on that day. Early in the Summer two or three ministers from the college in Racine, Wis. came here and remained several days to decide upon the expediency of settling a man permanently to preach for their own denomination.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Sixty-Four

Winona Daily Republican-July 20, 1867

When Elder Hamilton came on the prairie, about the 20th of June, 1852, preaching was very regular. Mr. Hamilton had a large stock of good sermons, together with years of experience as a minister. He could make a good impression on any congregation. On Sabbath days all the people came to hear him, and they always went away satisfied that the hour was not lost in listening to the mature instruction of Elder Hamilton. He preached without pay from any quarter. All the services of the early ministers were strictly gratuitous. I think no man received any compensation for preaching for at least two years after preaching began.

During the early part of Summer, the Rev. T.R. Cressey came to Minnesota City. He was a member of the association, and he soon gathered the few members of the Baptist church that were scattered through this part of Minnesota. A day was appointed for organizing a church, and a council was called for that purpose, to meet on the 11th day of July, 1852. Delegates were called from St. Paul, Still water, and also from La Crosse and a church was organized according to the customs of that church. Mr. Cressey received an appointment from the American Baptist Home Missionary Society, at a salary of \$600, to make his headquarters at Minnesota City, and from that point to preach in any part of the State. Only one or two sermons were preached by the Missionary after the church was organized. He found a more promising field up the river, and left this part of the State. He was the first man and the only man that received any salary for at least two years on this side of the river. The church was larger that day that it was organized than at any subsequent time, for some of the more prominent members moved away, and the organization went to decay, and the few members left there joined at Winona when the church was organized here in 1855.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Seventy-Six

Winona Daily Republican-August 10, 1867

The winter wore away and gave us the pleasure of anticipating the going out of the ice and the return of the boats. The river broke up and was clear of ice by the middle of March. All eyes were turned down the river watching for the smoke of the first steamer. Two weeks passed in anxious waiting for the first boat. On the last day of March the long-looked for steamer came to the landing, bringing several families that became permanent settlers. Among these were R. H. Murry, Harvey Hubbard, and Isaac Hamilton, the father of Elder Hamilton.

Murray opened the hotel built by Veits, and carried on shoe-making in connection with keeping public house. Many still living will not have forgotten the crowded conditions of this hotel. It was never wanting in patronage from the first day it opened till it was destroyed by fire in '62.

From the day of the first arrival of the boat to the end of the season, there was a continued stream of immigration to Minnesota, and a fair portion of it landed at Winona. By this time the public mind began to be favorably impressed with the opening prospect in the then Territory of Minnesota, especially the southern portion. It is a significant fact, showing how little Southern Minnesota was known up to this time, that in Bond's "History of Minnesota and its Resources," a book of 400 or 500 pages, not ten lines in the whole work are devoted to that portion of the territory lying west of the Mississippi and south of the Minnesota rivers, excepting Mendota and Shakopee. Minnesota was in St Paul, St Anthony and Stillwater, but more especially in the first mentioned place.

The movements of the colony at Minnesota City did more to call the attention of the public in this direction than any other one thing or than all the other things put together. The history of this association became widely known through the public journals, and not a little by private correspondence.

The foundation of Winona was permanently laid by the settlers of 1853. Among these settlers were H. D. Huff in the city, with quite a number of honorable names in the country, who are still residents in this county.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Eighty-Five

Winona Daily Republican-August 21, 1867

The organization of Minnesota City was kept up during the Winter of 1852-3. Meetings were held almost weekly to discuss and arrange various matters that pertained to the general interest of the Association. The questions that came under discussion were such as had reference to roads, bridges, fences, city lots that had been left vacant by those who were absent. The members voluntarily taxed themselves for the general good. When a bridge was wanted a tax was levied on the lots in the city, or all hands turned out and gave labor till the work was accomplished. There was a mutual understanding among the members on questions pertaining to the good of all. The lumber bought for the town hall was used to build bridges by a vote of the

Association. There was endless trouble about vacant lots or lots that had been abandoned by the owners.

An attempt was made to build a saw mill on the creek/ and on motion it was resolved to form a mill company. I (unknown) the following resolution on the book of the company.

Resolved, That the association grant to any company which may be organized for the purpose of improving any water power, the privilege of crossing any of the Association grounds in such manner as the Association may direct; provided the company is organized in such a manner as will permit all members to take stock upon equal terms if they desire; and provided further, that said company are obligated to set in operation a saw mill by, on, or before the first of December 1853.

This resolution is signed by 35 members of the Association. This I think was the whole number of members present at the date of the resolution, Feb 19th, 1853.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Eighty-Six

Winona Daily Republican-August 22, 1867

Early in the Summer of '54 the members of the Association at Minnesota City became fully aware that all hope of building a city according to the plans first proposed must be abandoned. They became alarmed about their own individual lots and improvements. The records show that meetings were held almost daily to devise plans for self-protection. After discussing various plans and propositions to secure the end proposed, it was finally determined, in full meeting, to appoint one man to represent each quarter section contained in the city plat. This man was to give bonds to each member living on the quarter section that he would deed each his respective interest. Before this was done the following certificate was given to each member:

Know all men by these presents that we, the members of the Western Farm and Village Association of New York, and citizens of Minnesota City and vicinity, do agree that _____ is entitled to hold as his interest in the town plat of Minnesota City in lots No _____ and in out lots No _____ and to purchases the same at Government price, through any arrangement we make for the same.

This was signed and witnessed in due form. This was not done till all the lots in the city were assigned to the residents of the city. Thus the idea of building a city was abandoned, at least to some future time. The land was finally entered by pre-emption. I think there was very little

division after the land was entered. Each man held the portion of land which he pre-empted. All the little subdivisions vanished into farms, and so the bubble ended.

Leaves from the Notes of an Old Settler-Number Eighty-Seven

Winona Daily Republican-August 23, 1867

The Pioneers at the Rollingstone failed in their plan to build up a town or city, yet they have not failed in the main objective that brought them West. They came to secure homes of their own. This they have accomplished. About thirty of the original settlers are still in and around the places where they first settled. As a list of these names will occupy but little space, and may be valuable for future reference, I make a record of them here. I find the list as follows:

Jacob S. Denman, E.B. Drew, S.E. Cotton, Robert Pike, Edgar Chapman, Harvey Campbell, Robert Thorp, O.M. Lord, Charles Bannon, J. Wright, H.B. Waterman, J. Nicklin, L.A. Henck, D.Y. Burley, Wm. Sweet, Wm. Stevens, L. Dillworth, H. Jones.

These are living in and around Minnesota City. Several are now residents of this city: Wm. T. Luark, Gen Foster, T.K. Alles, A.A. Gilbert, H. Romney. Others are still living in Minnesota-John James, Medalia; Robert Taylor, Mapleton; O. Hancock, Wabashaw; E.W. Cresay, Pine Island. There may be some others whose names don't occur to me now. But one death among the original male members that remained in Minnesota for the last 14 years. It is worthy of remark that not one of these original members who came in '52 has failed to secure a house of his own. Many of them are among our most successful and independent farmers. Many of them commenced poor and labored under great disadvantages and suffered many privations. They opened the first farms in Southern Minnesota. The first bushel of wheat ever brought to Winona came from the farm of E.B. Drew in 1855. From the farms of these settlers came the first vegetables ever brought to the market. The large squash, which many of the early settlers remember as a monster of its kind, came from the garden of Robert Pike. It weighed 221 ¼ lbs. It was heavier than a barrel of flour. It's like has never been seen in the West-at least it has never been reported.

“Elder” Ely often gave lectures in Winona on the history of the Minnesota City settlement. The February 8, 1871 and February 9, 1871 editions of The Winona Daily Republican printed one of his lectures on the topic.

MINNESOTA CITY

A SKETCH OF ITS EARLY HISTORY—FROM A LECTURE DELIVERED IN WINONA BY MR. E. Ely.

The origin of the Minnesota City colony was on this wise. The first part of July, 1851, Wm. Haddock, of New York city, delivered a lecture to a number of citizens, in a hall in Grand street, near Broadway, on the subject of the West, especially of the Western Territories. In this lecture he tried to awaken a desire in the minds of his hearers to get out of the city—cease to pay rent and to be dependent on working by the day to support themselves and families.

His words produced the desired effect. At the close of the lecture a primary organization was formed—of which he was appointed chairman. Other meetings were called and an Association was formed, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, terms of membership fixed, and parties wishing to go West were invited to join. Weekly meetings were held and new members were added with great rapidity, from the city and immediate vicinity. The city press noticed the movement with favor, especially the New York Tribune. Mr. Haddock was a printer, and he, with others of the craft, urged the starting of a small semi-monthly paper, to be called the Western Farm and Village Advocate. This little paper did much to aid the enterprise. It set forth the new and novel movement as worth the attention of all who desired to go West. In three or four months, the number of members reached nearly three hundred, and with an initiation fee of five dollars and a weekly due of twelve and a half cents, soon gave the Association a sum of money such as would warrant them in sending out a man to look out a location, so that the members might all move to their new homes by early Spring. The difficult and delicate duty of making a choice of a town site was committed to one of the city members by the name of Ransom Smith. He was employed by a contract under seal at one dollar per day and expenses paid, to go West, with instructions to look over the Western States and Territories thoroughly, and to be satisfied with no place unless it contained the advantages for a town site, surrounded by a large body of Government lands of the best quality, containing water, water power, wood, and all the elements necessary for building up a town. If possible, the town should be on some river, where immediate communication could be had with the outer world. It should also have present or future prospective railroad facilities.

The instructions given to Mr. Smith were very minute and entered into all the details of his work. He was enjoined not to work on the Sabbath or to extend his travels beyond forty-two days, to move with great secrecy, and to report in the home office at least once a week.

Mr. Smith left in November for the West. He had letters from the executive board to Gov. Ramsey and other distinguished men in the newer part of the great country. He had also a letter of recommendation from Horace Greeley.

Thus armed with instructions and letters he commenced his labor and travel, while the Association at home continued their work of increasing the number of members perfecting the organization.

They advertised for the following list of artisans to join the Association, promise that all should have work as soon as they should reach their new homes in the West: Farmers, blacksmiths, boot and shoemakers, carpenters, joiners, brick makers, cotton cloth manufacturers, cabinet makers, dry goods dealers, millers, grocers, hatters, lime burners, lumber dealers, masons, machinists, millwrights, painters, saddle and harness makers, tailors, tanners, wheelwrights, woolen cloth manufacturers, etc. It was intended to concentrate this company on at least ten square miles, so that all might have the comforts of advanced civilization.

Each member of the Association should be allowed to subscribe for and enter 160 acres of land and should have a village lot of four acres. They were also to draw up a memorial to Congress to make a free grant of land to each settler of 160 acres. There were many other items that we need not mention here. Mrs. Smith traveled 1,500 miles or more and could find no place which would answer the conditions in accordance with his instructions, so that his mission proved a failure.

By the time he had completed his travels it was nearly New Year's. Something must be done. Many had joined the Association and were making their arrangement to break up in the Spring, and a site was not yet selected.

Mr. Haddock had been corresponding with Gen. Sibley, our delegate to Congress, and had been advised by him to look over the lands in Minnesota which by treaty would belong to the United States.

Mr. Haddock and a Mr. Murphy were delegated by the Association to visit Minnesota without delay, and if possible, make a selection on the late Sioux purchase. These men made all speed to visit the then Territory of Minnesota. It was Winter and they were nearly three weeks in the laborious journey from the Hudson to the Mississippi. After trying in vain to reach the Minnesota

shore, opposite La Crosse, they put on skates, came up the river, and camped for the night opposite Homer. In the morning they reached Johson's shanty at Wabashaw Prairie, and spent an hour trying to purchase an interest with him. Failing to agree, Haddock & Co. proceeded on their way up the river, hugging the Minnesota shore. They soon reached the high banks above the Rollingstone. A hasty survey of the ground convinced them they had found the place they had long been looking for. One that would fill all or nearly all the conditions required by the most sanguine friends of the enterprise.

Mr. Haddock immediately commenced a cursory survey of the rich and fertile valleys of the Rollingstone. His description, written nineteen years ago, is by no means overdrawn. He said the streams are fed by numerous springs and abound in water power sufficient to drive any amount of mills and machinery. A very true and fair account of the whole grounds designed to be laid out into town lots was sent immediately to the Secretary of the Association in New York, and as soon as the land could be surveyed a map was drawn giving the number of lots that the drawing might immediately commence.

In the first map made and sent to the Eastern members, that portion of the ground which now proves to be overflowed was put down as probably high enough for building purposes. It was also stated that this ground would afford a landing for steamboats. This was a mistake that was bound to make serious trouble in future. It was the only error made in the whole description. Great was the joy of the members of the Association when the report of Haddock was received. Immediate measures were taken to commence the drawing of lots.

An extra meeting was called and a committee was appointed to go into a choice of the lots as laid down and numbered on the map. This was done fairly and to the satisfaction of all. The meeting continued all night. This being done the next move was west. A company of ten young men and a Mrs. Manly and her husband, with five small children, formed a part of this company, which had the significant name, "pioneer squad.". They were to hasten to the mouth of the Rollingstone and prepare the way for the coming party.

They started on the 7th of April and were fifteen days on the way, having come the quickest route. When they reached the chosen place they found Mr Haddock engaged in surveying more lots. He had received a telegram from the committee at New York to survey 250 lots of two acres each, as this number of members would soon be on the ground. The work of the survey went on, while scarcely nothing was done to prepare for the coming crowd. Day after day passed and no house or shanty was built. Mr. Manly, the only married man in the pioneer squad, left his wife and children as borders in Johnson's shanty at Wabashaw Prairie, while he went to work on his lot on the new town site. He laid the foundation of a log house. He soon became

discouraged and left. His wife did not go any farther up the river than Johnson's shanty. Manly brought the first yoke of oxen to the new place. One other man built a small place called a gopher hole. These improvements, with a little shanty built by Mr. Norragan, constituted the whole work done by the pioneer squad. Such was the condition of things when the first company of fifty of the main body arrived. This first installment of the coming crowd had left New York seven days later than the pioneer squad. They came by way of the Erie Railroad to Dunkirk, by lake to Cleveland, then by rail again to Cincinnati, then to St. Louis by boat. At that last stopping place they laid in such things as they were sure to need in a new country, groceries, provisions, flour, nails, glass, sash, small agricultural implements. One or two brought cows and other small livestock etc.

Thus prepared, joyful and happy, they all shipped on board the old Excelsior, Capt. Ward agreeing to land them at any point they should agree upon near the mouth of the Rollingstone. Thirty days had already passed since they left New York; four more would bring them to the place selected as their homes. On Monday afternoon about four o'clock they passed by Wabashaw Prairie without stopping. At Homes Landing (now Fountain City) they stopped to wood. The company now heard that they were opposite the mouth of the Rollingstone, but on the wrong side of the river; how to get over was a question long debated. It was finally agreed to go on up the river, and put their goods into the wood boat when it should be unloaded, and make the best way they could to the Minnesota shore. I should here say that two of the company that had started with this part of the main body had taken another boat at St. Louis, the Dr. Franklin No. 2, which had reached Holmes Landing the morning some ten hours ahead of the Excelsior. These men had stopped at this place. One, Mr. Gilbert, has taken a canoe and had crossed, leaving the other, Mr. Allen, to get over with the cow and baggage as best he could. When the Excelsior arrived, Allen embraced the only opportunity that was likely to offer to cross the river with his companions whom he had left at St. Louis. For the small consideration of \$15 which was more than he had paid for the whole trip from St. Louis, he was permitted to come on board with the cow and baggage and take his chances of crossing the river with the rest of the party.

By this time the boat had reached a point seven miles above the mouth of the Rollingstone. The wood was unloaded, and all the goods, chattels and cows were on the wood boat. The women and children being all safely transferred to their new and close quarters, the Excelsior check up and let the wood boat drop down the stream. It was now six o'clock. Without supper, the whole body, men, women and children, were on the broad Mississippi, floating down, looking

for a point of land one mile above the mouth of the Rollingstone. The wood boat pilot had never crossed the river, and was unacquainted with the landing place.

It was a beautiful moonlight night, and all went well. About midnight the boat struck land a few rods above the place where Mr. Troost's mill now stands. They were not long in finding some of the Pioneer squad. The women and children were led to the shanty of Mr. Norragan which stood under the large oak near by the platform of the Winona and St. Paul Railroad. There, in a little room 7 by 14, were crowded thirteen women and children—the Pioneer females of Southern Minnesota. Among this company was Mrs. Bannon, Mrs. Cotton, and Mrs. Dellworth, and some children who are still residents of the Rollingstone valley.

Mrs. Delworth made some tea and obtained some bread and pork from the shanty. It was for all a sleepless night. The men kept a camp fire burning, and some, it is said, traveled about in fear of the Indians and others tried to find a little rest in the Gopher hole—the only one which the combined energy of the pioneer squad had completed.

Morning came and it revealed the real condition of the party. The stern reality of pioneer life had now to commence in earnest. Some took a morning walk or scrambled up the bluffs to view the situation. Little groups could be seen here and there under the trees, settling the important question whether they should go on or remain. A large party, headed by Dr. Geo. F. Childs and Mrs. Sperry, determined not to unpack their goods, but to make all speed to get away. Others—the larger part—determined to go directly to their lots, as indicated by the map, and go to work.

A cloth tent, covering a radius of thirty-five feet, was erected, and this place became the headquarters for those who had determined to stay. Around this they placed cook stoves, and within the furniture and goods. This also furnished a sleeping apartment for the whole party for many days and to some for weeks.

The party headed by Dr. Childs had fully determined to leave. The man that had helped take the wood boat back to Holmes Landing had returned with a small flat boat. Into this boat the returning party had determined to put their goods and make all possible speed down the river. With much toil and labor the boat containing the returning company reached dry land near where the railroad crosses the slough above the Fair grounds. Dr. Childs remained with the boat and goods while Mr. Sperry and the women and children walked down the prairie to Johnson's shanty. They were hungry as wolves. They had been fasting for the last forty-eight hours.

Mr. Johnson had plenty of pork and flour and a good cook stove. This was agreeable to the hungry crowd. Mrs. Childs baked the most charming biscuit for three full hours till all were satisfied.

At this point in the history of the early settlement commenced a division which has not been healed to this day, and will hardly die out in this generation.

Dr. Child immediately determined to buy a claim on Wabashaw Prairie. He found one for sale where the old Indian teepees stood, one quarter of a mile east of the round house of the railroad. The Indians had gone or were going, and the Doctor had brought a quantity of Indian goods which he hoped to sell to them. He paid \$50 in gold for eight acres. This was the first money paid for land or for a claim in the Sioux purchase. The deed was made the 12th day of May, 1852. Possession was the best title and the Doctor moving into an old log shanty that had been built by J. McDermot who had made the claim that Spring. The same day that Dr. Childs left the Rollingstone to come down the river, Jacob S. Denman, E.B. Thomas, the Secretary of the Village Association, and some other members, landed at Wabashaw Prairie, on their way to the Rollingstone. They had come by the way of Chicago to Galena, and came up the river in the old Menomonee, under command of Captain Orrin Smith. He had informed Mr. D. and company that this was the best way to reach the Rollingstone. The same morning that Mr. Denman landed he and Mrs. Thomas took their horses and hastened to see Mr. Haddock and his new city. After a hasty survey Mr. Denman and Mr. Thomas, the Secretary, decided not to join the Association under Mr. Haddock at his new town site, but they were determined to build at the Wabashaw Prairie. Mr. Thomas had the money of the Association. The office of treasurer had been held by him. Great alarm was felt lest he should not pay over the money to the Association, and it was some weeks before the matter could be adjusted. One or two other members joined Messrs. Denman and Thomas in the determination to stop on the prairie. It was all this time that Captain Smith and Mr. Johnson gave several acres to the Rollingstone members. They gave to Mr. Thomas an acre where the engine house now stands. To Dr. Childs more including the ground where The Republican Office is located. Mr. Ed. Hamilton gave a man by the name of Burns an acre which was included in the block where Mrs. Ford now lives. Mr. Burns planted a garden and set out apple trees, some of which are still standing. These members of the Association, Messrs. Childs, Thomas and Burns, abandoned the acre thus given them before the end of the year. The two later named left and have not been heard from. During two months, commencing with the coming of the Excelsior, fresh arrivals were made almost daily. Some came by land, but mostly by boats. At first there was a determination on the part of Mr. Haddock and the managers not to encourage landing at the Prairie. I think they

feared that the members would be persuaded not to go to Rollingstone, but would be induced to remain there. Two companies landed near Mount Verson. There was no road down the side of the bluffs. Much trouble and toil attended the removal of passengers and goods by the route. Some tried to come down by water and one box of valuable goods was lost by capsizing of the small boat. The box belonged to Mrs. Niclen. It was found after three months, when the most valuable clothing and association goods were ruined. They tried this route by teams and found it impracticable. With great reluctance this way was given up and passengers and goods were all landed on the little mound at the foot of Main street. There a small temporary enclosure was made, which became a store house, a hospital and a house of death to nearly half a score of children. I see before me, even today, the forms of sad and careworn women watching over the dying babe, without shelter, without physician or medicine, and almost without sympathy or friends. It would require many pages, more than the reader would have time and patience to peruse to go into detail of the sufferings of that Summer. Boats would land at that fatal mound, and leave sometimes twenty, thirty or forty members of the Association bound for the Rollingstone. Very early the flatboat, called the Macedonian, the one brought down by Dr. Childs made daily trips from the mound to Minnesota City. It cost more to get a barrel of flour or any other goods from the landing here to this landing at the Rollingstone than to get the same goods by boat from St. Louis to Winona. There were no roads, no bridges, and no teams; all work had to be done at the greatest disadvantage. Few can realize the situation of two or three hundred people, in a new country, without houses to shelter the children, without fences to protect the little crops of when they depended on for food; without physicians or medicines, and, worse than all, many without money.

The gathering at Minnesota City (for very soon they voted to call the place by that name) was a sight to look upon. Men, women, and children, all at work clearing land, building shanties, spading the little garden, cooking in the open air under the trees, with the stove pipe leaning against the limbs, taking the frugal meal under the clear sky, or sometimes in the rain, with their clothes sadly worn and torn by constant sear in the high prairie grass. All these things and many more are fixed in my imagination as I used to see them in the timber—where the original city was laid out.

The organization formed in the city of New York was transferred to the Rollinstone. The same officers, the same laws, the same people, the same mode of doing business. There were almost daily calls for business meetings. The first real work was the surveying and dividing farms. Both valleys of the Rollingstone were regularly divided with farms, Mr. Robert Pike acting as surveyor. They were numbered and divided among the members by lot. Little was done on the farms the

first year. Some of the members, not liking the valleys, went out beyond the bluffs. Wm. Sweet built the log shanty on the prairies. A Mr. Holyer made a claim near where Utica now is. This was known for many years as the Bently place, he having sold it to Dr. Bently.

S.E. Cotton made a claim adjoining the Bently place—here he broke up for acres, which was about the first breaking done up on the prairies. Mr. Bannon held the plow for this breaking. One or two families tried to winter beyond the bluffs, but more of this bye and bye.

The three hundred residents at Minnesota City could not live without a Post Office. They secured the appointment of Robert Pike to this office, with the condition that they should carry their own mails to and from the nearest post office on the river, which would be Winona. Mr. Allen was appointed Justice of the Peace, and Mr. A. A. Gilbert, Notary Public. Mr. Allen had to go to St. Paul to take the oath of office. No civil officer could be found nearer, before whom he could take oath.

On the tenth day of July, 1852, a Baptist church was formed with twenty members. This was the first church formed in Southern Minnesota. Elder Cressy was pastor. It expired with the Association. A Sabbath school was organized; the children and teachers assembling in the open air—indeed all public meetings were held in the open air during the warm season.

A regular district school was organized and supported the first Summer. This was the first school in this part of the Territory. It should have been numbered 1 in our list of schools in Winona county.

While speaking of organizations, I must not forget the organization of a society of Spiritualists. A Mr Henderson, a lapsed Methodist minister, had with a few others adopted views held by Spiritualists generally. They had found among the residents some speaking mediums and some writing mediums. Mr. H. thought that all, or nearly all, the members of the Association, could be brought to stand on one religious platform. A committee was appointed to draw up a platform. Mr. Henderson, as chairman of the committee, drew up a paper, which, before he presented it to the people on the Sabbath day, he referred to the departed and saintly Wesley. His wife acted as medium. She found Mr. Wesley in the seventh sphere, engaged in such high and exalted employment that he could not come to attend to the matter. He sent the spirit of Gen Washington from the fifth sphere. The spirit of that statesman never came to tell Mr. Henderson that he approved of the paper which contained the church platform, except he suggested some verbal alteration, which would not materially alter its meaning. Mr. Henderson and most of his followers left early in the Fall, and have not been heard of since.

The flatboat, the Menominee spoken of, continued to make her daily trips, bringing and returning passengers and goods from the Mound to Minnesota City till July. By this time the

water had subsided and the sloughs were getting dry, so that teams could pass from place to place. The people were in a measure rested from the fatigue of a long journey. Many of those who were dissatisfied had left. The sick on the Mound had either recovered and left or had died and been buried. The goods had all been taken away. Those who had planted gardens were waiting to see what return they should receive for their labor. Those who had left had sold their little improvements if they had made any, including the city lot or lots, for a few dollars of ready money to help pay their expenses down the river. Mr Taylor, the Scotchman, after the death and burial of his wife and three children, came to the new town and secured a central position and his house seemed to become a common resort of all who were about to leave, or who had any goods to sell. The accumulation of all kinds of household furniture was very great. Nails, glass, sash, stoves, and all kinds of kitchen furniture were left for sale at prices less than half the cost.

The 15th of July was the day set for a general meeting of the Association. A number of members from New York city who had delayed coming till this time visited the new city, to make observations. They had made small investments or had sent friends on to the ground and come to look after them. At this time the census was taken, and the number all told was 250 in the limits of the city. At this time shares in the Association rose to \$25. Some of the visitors were quite favorably impressed, but I think none removed or ever returned after they had left.

It was about this time that the important question of a landing must be finally settled. As an effort to this end a small warehouse was built of logs on the west bank of Straight Slough, at the foot of Main street, as laid out on the map. A company of men with boasts and lines sounded and noted the depth of the slough from end to end. The report of the soundings was taken to Galena by one of the members, and Capt. Smith was inclined to make the attempt to pass up the slough and land opposite the city. On Sunday morning the old Nominee came up under charge of the clerk, John Brooks. She landed at Winona and took on Mr. Denman and Mr. Thomas, the old Secretary of the Association, and all others who desired to accompany the boat on her trial trip. The multitude at Minnesota City had assembled at the warehouse opposite the city waiting and watching the coming boat. It was an hour of deep anxiety both at Winona and at the city. Dr. Childs, on top of his low shanty, with spy-glass at his eye, reported the progress of the boat as she went puffing up the fatal slough. About a mile from the lower entrance of the slough the boat struck a sand-bar, which was a bar to further progress in that direction. After a little sounding the boat backed down the slough and left the Winona passengers and went on the old way to St. Paul. Thus the question of a landing was settled, to the deep regret and disappointment of the waiting crowd at Minnesota City. I think there was not a resident of

Winona who did not share to a greater or less extent in this regret and disappointment. All hoped and wished the boat might go through.

By this time the weather had become intensely hot, the sloughs were dried up, and sickness broke out. A malignant type of fever and ague became common and few escaped this disease. I think there was a time when fully one-half of all the residents were down with the fever and ague or some other disease. The sick were in every house, shanty, or gopher hole. Many died. Among the dead was Mrs. Haddock. She had come reluctantly from New York city late, and was soon on a sick bed, where she sank rapidly. The words she often repeated on her dying bed were: "It is hard to come all this distance from New York to be buried. In a pine coffin." She was buried in an open coffin, and no one now can find her grave. She lies somewhere near the railroad, a mile west of the depot, with eighteen or twenty other bodies who fell victims to the hardships and diseases of the first Summer in Minnesota City. Many who began with great zeal and resolution to make improvement on their lots, and who had continued their labors through the Summer months, began to look forward to the coming Winter with fearful forebodings. What little money they had brought with them was gone. The coming crop, if they had planted any, gave little promise of yielding anything adequate for the wants of the approaching Winter. The stern alternative was presented to either leave or starve. Many had no money to pay their passage down the river, where they hoped to find labor or friends to help them through the Winter. The boats, in consideration of these conditions, often took families to Galena or other places on the river without charge. Not less than one-half of the two hundred and fifty, as shown by the census on the 15th of July, were compelled to leave before Winter set in.

Some left their families here, hoping to return in the Spring with means to go on and make further improvements on their lots. Some few did return, but the most sent for their families in the Spring. By the first of May, 1853, there were less than one hundred on the ground occupied by the city. The sufferings of some families who had determined to winter on their unimproved claims beyond the bluffs, may perhaps, be made a matter of history. Mr. Hall, on the claim of Mr. Sweet, with his wife and Mr. Sweet's son, a boy twelve or fourteen years of age, made their home in a small, cold log cabin. They had the care of a few head of cattle. It was the duty of the boy to drive the cattle to the Whitewater to drink. This boy died a victim of want of proper food and clothing. It was in the dead of Winter. The body was taken up and carried to the house and placed in a box and lowered into a dry well till Spring, when it was taken up and buried. Mr. Chapman, now of Minnesota City, had, after spending two or three months in the city, determined to winter on the prairie some ten miles out from the river. He moved to a little log cabin which had been built by his son-in-law Mr. Stradling. Here the family experienced untold

suffering In this lone place food could not be obtained They had taken with them a scanty supply of corn meal, hoping to increase their store of provision as they should need them. Winter set in and soon deep snow. They were dealing rations to the children sparingly, hoping he bowlful of meal would hold out till they could obtain more from Mr. Denman, or at the city—when, to their great disappointment, they found a large stone with a bundle of paper in the bottom of the barrel. They had plenty of money, but it was ten or twelve miles through the deep snow to the nearest place where they had the faintest hope of obtaining a supply of flour or meal. Every article of food had to be carried on the back of Mr. Straddling, or the oldest boy, 15 years of age. In this extremity the father and mother went daily to the Whitewater, a distance of three miles, through the deep snow, climbing up and down steep bluffs and there patiently fished for trout by cutting holes in the ice. After a long day's toil they would perhaps bring home to the hungry and famishing children six, eight or ten small fish. The little boy died, and the father now says it was for want of proper food, and sadder than all the body could not be properly buried. It was dug up from its snowy bed and devoured by wolves. This is not a tithe of the suffering of these and other families among the early settlers.

During the first Summer there was brought by members of the Association some fifty or sixty head of cattle, oxen and cows, mostly. Mr. Bannon brought five yoke at one time. These cattle were a great trouble, and those who made gardens or planted, sowed in the largest fields. By a vote of the Association they were all placed under the care of a herdsman, who was to keep them in the valleys beyond the limits of the city, but to return the cows at night for milk. A bridge was built over the Rollingstone called hurdle bridge; this was the first bridge built in the county. For a time it answered the purpose for which it was built. The cattle were driven over it, and bars or a gate kept them out of the city, but as soon as the frost destroyed the grass the hungry brutes returned, crossed the creek at pleasure, and devoured the growing gardens.

Before all the members had arrived, such was the anxiety of those early on the ground, that a determination was formed to send out an exploring party, with instructions to go as fast as Mankato. Messrs. Pike, Norragan and Wm. Stevens, one of the Pioneer squad, were assigned to this duty. They started from Norragan's shanty on the 28th of June, and were seven days in reaching the Minnesota river. They passed through Faribault, where they found a large encampment of Indians. They reported the land good, and that a wagon road and railroad could be built between Mankato and Minnesota City.

We must pass over many matters of interest identified with the early pioneers of Winona county.

Two attempts were made to fix a county seat at the city. Mr. Jon Iams visited St. Paul as a lobby member of the Territorial Legislature. He went to the capital on foot. He secured the introduction of a bill in the lower house, making a county seat for all the region of country embraced in the old Fillmore county at Winona. It failed to pass. The next year a second attempt was made to secure the same object. This also failed, after an unpleasant squabble among the early commissioners. Henry D. Huff defeated Robert Pike and the other commissioners.

On a review of the whole subject, we see that much credit is due these pioneers. They organized the first church, the first day school, and the first Sabbath school. They had the first Justice of the Peace, Mr. Allen; the first Notary Public, Mr. A.A. Gilbert; the first county Commissioner, William T. Luark and Robert Pike. They opened the first mail route from the Mississippi to the Minnesota river. O.M. Lord and E.B. Drew carried the first mail when a single newspaper was all the mail bag contained. The first contract for this route was from Minnesota City to St. Peter. Winona was not the starting point on the river.

They sent the first Representative to the Territorial Legislature, O.M. Lord, who did more than any other man to give shape to the counties of Winona, Houston, Fillmore and Olmsted. They had the first postmaster, R. Pike. They had the first grist mill—one of burr's horse power mills—brought here by Mr. Allen. They raised the first vegetables that ever came to the Winona market—not forgetting the big squash raised by Robert Pike, which weighed 221 ½ pounds, weighed by Mr. V. Simpson. They have on the Rollingstone more water power (now developed) than can be found on any other single stream in the state outside of Minneapolis.

One-half of all the apples raised in the county came from seed planted by the early members of this association (Densmore and Shaw). They raised the first wheat, which was carried fifty miles into Wisconsin to be ground. They hold more land that they claimed as the Farm and Village Association than is held by the first settlers of any other place in the state.

As the names of those who are left to enjoy the fruit of their early toil and sacrifice will occupy but little space, I will give them: Herbert Jones, of the pioneer squad; Allen Gilbert and W. T. Luark, now in Winona; Robert Pike, J.L. Densmore, Mary A. Campbell, S. E. Cotton, M. Delworth, E.B. Drew, O.M. Lord, H.B. Waterman, D. Berloy, Chas. Bannon, James Wright, Mr. Nielan, E. Chapman, Robert Thorp. These all own land in the Rollingstone Valley.

After reading this brief sketch it will be for the reader to decide whether this association is not as great a success as any he has even been acquainted with. Certainly those who have held onto land are now well-to-do. It has been said that the writer of these was not acquainted with this association. Though not a member, I came to Wabashaw Prairie in the old Excelsior from St. Louis with the first company; I was intimate with the secretary, Mr. E.B. Thomas; lived all the

time within a stone's-throw of the fatal mound; lodged and fed hundreds of the members and they passed and refused aid down the river; nursed the sick many times; voluntarily took care of the goods that lay for days unprotected on the levee; passed and re-passed hundreds of letters before there was any post-office; none ever went hungry from my house, whether he had money or not; both myself and wife had given our bed to the sick, and taken lodgings on the floor. All these and much more I have done for this association in the early days of its trial, without "fee or reward or hope thereof."

If anyone can write a more correct account of the Farm and Village Association, or can correct any errors into which I may have fallen, I presume any of our city papers are open to make public all such matters. It may be a relief to some. If I make public my determination to write no more on the history of Winona, or Minnesota City, or Winona county. I have done too much of this already for my own good, so here I lay down my pen. E. Ely