

A STANDARD HISTORY
OF
SAUK COUNTY
WISCONSIN

An Authentic Narrative of the Past, with Particular Attention
to the Modern Era in the Commercial, Industrial,
Educational, Civic and Social Development

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PREFACE

Sauk County may be likened to a versatile individual. Since the days when the pre-Cambrian sea rolled in majesty where now lie broad valleys and picturesque bluffs, this locality has undergone innumerable geological changes. In no section of the State of Wisconsin are the natural features more varied or interesting. From the fantastic rock formations along the Wisconsin River, cut from bold mountain ranges when the present stream was a much more powerful current, to that geological cup in which is hidden Devils Lake, is a wonderful journey. Volumes have been written and will continue to be written in an effort to accurately translate the history of the rocks of this section.

The extensive prairies, remarkable for their fertility, the vast belts of timber and the low lands, now drained and productive, all these in connection with the harnessed water power of the county form the foundation of its undoubted desirability as a dwelling place.

The unusual fertility of the soil of large portions of Sauk County is perhaps the most practical of its resources. The waving cornfields of the prairies, the banner crops of oats, the fields of blooming clover on the bluffs, and most widely known of all, the dairy products, have won admiration from every section of the state and brought prosperity to the inhabitants.

Besides the remarkable bounty of its soil, the county is rich in historical data and legendary lore. No more appropriate frame for legend and romance could be imagined than the rock bound shores of the Wisconsin or the shadowy recesses of the Devils Lake cliffs.

In the preparation of these volumes the publishers have been tireless in gathering historical material, and in selecting and presenting in interesting form the events of particular importance in the annals of Sauk County. Credit is due Professor Samuel Weidman of the University of Wisconsin for the scholarly article on the geology of the region which he kindly contributed and to others who have lent valuable assistance. Much of the editing, all of the proof-reading and other details of seeing the copy through the press has been assumed by the publishers.

HARRY ELLSWORTH COLE.

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