

SAUK COUNTY AND BARABOO

BY DR. BOB DEWEL

**AN ANECDOTAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL
HISTORY, 1838 TO 2013
IN THREE SECTIONS**

**SECTION ONE—VOLUMES I, II, AND
III, PUBLISHED IN 2008**

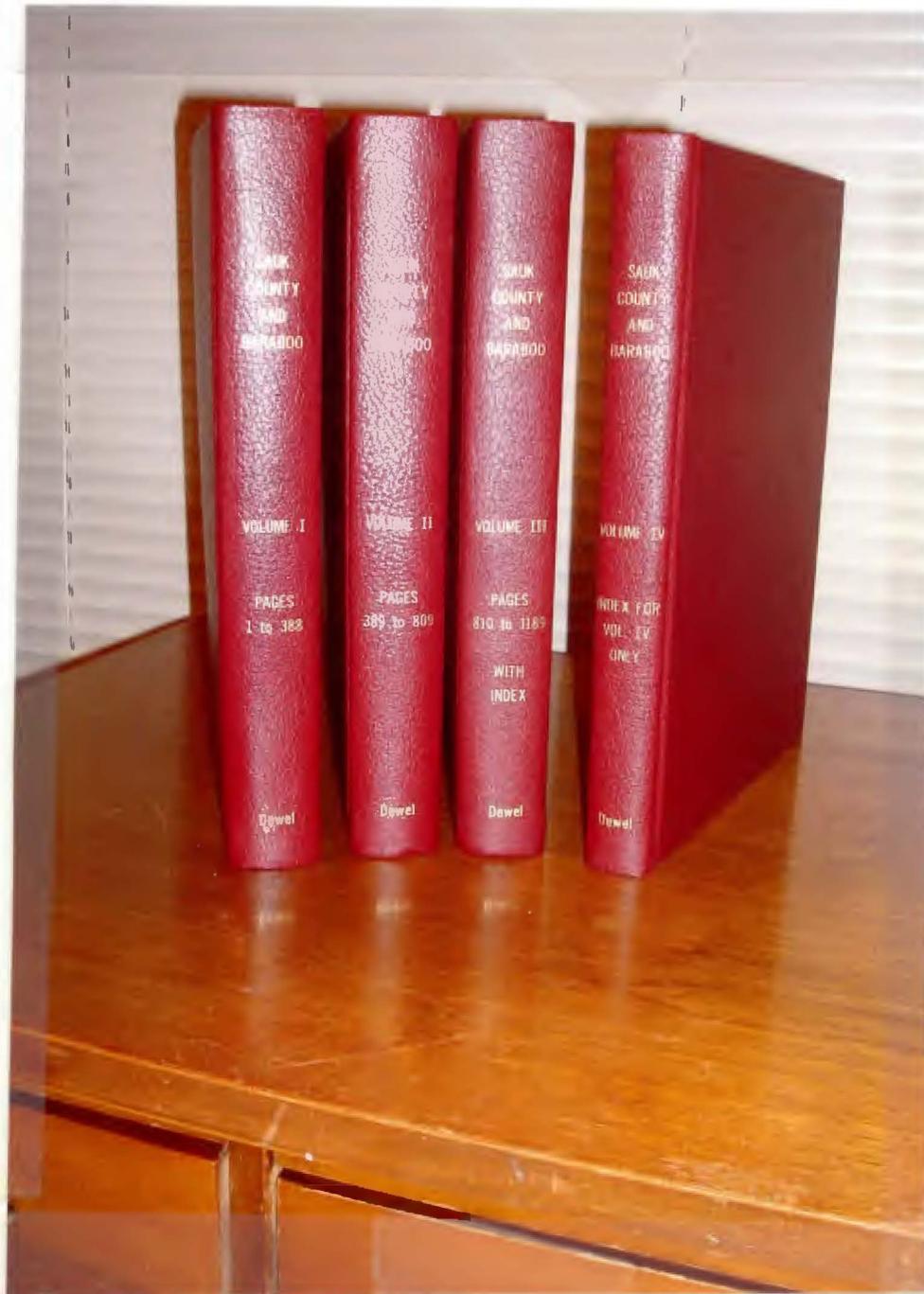
SEPARATE INDEX AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

**SECTION TWO—VOLUME IV
PUBLISHED IN 2012**

SEPARATE INDEX AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

**SECTION THREE—VOLUME V
PUBLISHED IN 2013**

SEPARATE INDEX AND TABLE OF CONTENTS



The Volumes of this Series:

Volumes I, II, and III, Published in 2009

Volume IV, Published in 2013

Volume V, Published in 2014

Notes regarding these articles:

There are 503 stories about Sauk County and its citizens.

As anecdotal history, it can give different insight to events and times

The stories are published in five volumes

The first four volumes are in red hardcover editions.

The small Volume Five is in a smaller spiral binding form

There are at least 750 illustrations

Each edition was limited to two or three dozen copies

As is occasionally evident, the author has no training in either

Composition or historical journalism.

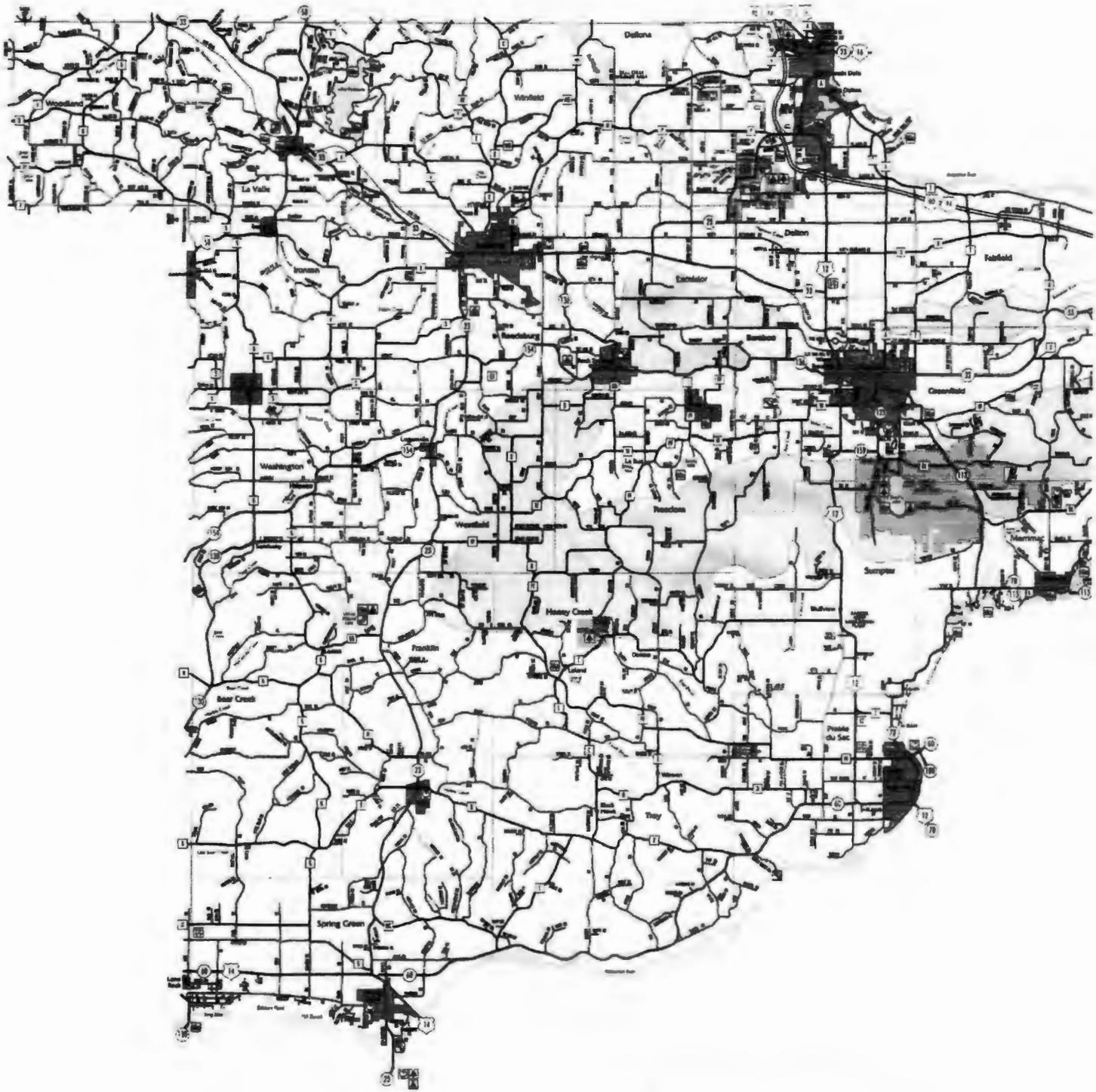
Published in the News-Republic and Baraboo Sun over 16 years

Complimentary copies went to historical and educational locations.

Internet publishing was made possible by donations from:

Joe and Lou Ann Ward, Bryant Hazard, Bill Schuette, Robert Curry Jr., Joan Litscher, and Sauk County

The author donated his material without compensation.



Sauk County, Wisconsin.

The County Seat is Baraboo



The new History Center, future home of the

Sauk County Historical Society

Sauk County And Baraboo

SECTION ONE

VOLUMES I, II, III

Volumes I, II, and III ONLY. See Volumes IV and V elsewhere.

An Anecdotal and Chronological
History---1839 through 2008

A collection in chronological form of the author's some 372 articles as they appeared in the Baraboo Sun and the Baraboo News-Republic from 1997 through 2008, with many additional pictures from the author and the Historical Society.

By Dr. Bob Dewel

Produced in association with the Sauk County Historical Society and the UW Extension Arts and Culture Committee. First Printing, March, 2009

Introduction

These three volumes do not resemble the usual history books. Rather, they are a collection of historical articles and anecdotes, presented in chronological progression, and arranged by decades. They were originally newspaper stories, covering a wide range of Sauk County happenings from its early settlement through December, 2008.

As a freelance columnist for the Baraboo Sun, and then for the Baraboo News-Republic, I produced these 372 historical stories over a 12 year period beginning in 1997. Indeed, I am continuing my column in 2009.

Until recently, there was never an intention of publishing the articles in history books such as these. The stories were written haphazardly as far as sequence was concerned, the subject of each column being whatever interested me that particular week. Only recently was their potential realized, and the Sauk County Historical Society encouraged their re-publication in chronological book form. As a result, articles which now are found appearing side by side in the chronological listing may have been written as much as ten years apart.

Each newspaper article's content had to be complete and had to stand on its own for the casual reader. Therefore there will be, on occasion, considerable repetition of material in adjacent articles which may have a related subject. Sometimes dates and other information are corrected in the subsequent article. However, the articles have not been edited for this publication.

Since I am without journalistic or historical training (see page 1146), there is considerable variation in the manner of presentation over the years. A few of the earlier articles had to be recreated from old newspapers, using the "cut and paste" method. The earliest articles were submitted to the newspaper hand-written. Later a typewriter was used, followed by a word processor. Eventually the computer made a more attractive format possible. Headlines were composed by the newspaper editor.

Printing was done by copy machine, resulting in problems with some of the older photographs, already faded in many cases. Many photos were added for this edition, and most photos can be accessed at the Sauk County Historical Society in more pristine form. Some photos appear in more than one article, if appropriate. I have kept a back-up envelope of the material in each article, which will be deposited in due time in the Society's archives for reference. As well as being faded, some photos which I used years ago are no longer available, and some, such as those on pages 901 and 946, are copied from faded newsprint.

I have striven to include and index as many names of local persons as possible over the years as a help to genealogists. Indeed, the Brigham Young University has recently published many of my articles on the internet, apparently because of my emphasis on names. Even if a person is only mentioned as a member of a football or basketball squad, that name is listed.

Obviously not all organizations in the city or county are featured or cataloged—that would be the job of a newspaper topic search--nor are all events covered. Despite my increasing years and the demands of an aging body, I continue to write since a wealth of material from this gifted area remains to be presented.

Since the articles were all published in Baraboo newspapers, and since Baraboo, as the county seat, was usually the center of investigation and recording of many county-wide incidents, there is a more copious coverage of incidents originating there. In addition, the Sauk County Historical Society in Baraboo is a combined depository for both the county and the city. Many historical references and stories had a Baraboo origin, though often with countywide ramifications. Also, I was writing for a Baraboo Newspaper and for Baraboo area subscribers.

The astute reader will find, running through many of the articles, a thread of encouragement for benevolence, along with recognition for some of those who have contributed from their largess. Some persons prefer to do so while living, even anonymously, so as to observe the success and pleasure that their gift brings. Hopefully this may inspire others to follow suit, gifting the Ringling Theatre or Historical Society or Circus World now, for example, rather than in a will.

Because some organizations such as Circus World, Badger History Group, and International Crane Foundation have their own publicity departments, I have not given detailed coverage to their history, significant though it is. In regard to the newspaper, the editors have not at any time directed the appearance of a subject, or censored the material I submitted. Up to the time of her death in 2005, my wife was my proof reader, and that loss is among the many personal losses I suffered with her death after 62 years of marriage.

The reader will find that I am an unabashed supporter and admirer of Sauk County and its favored place in nature as well as in the works of man. Like Ben Franklin describing the new American Constitution in 1787, we can say today of Sauk County "it is a good one, if you can keep it." Physical alteration of the land, and overpopulation, can destroy a place of beauty, as can allowing significant historical structures such as the Ringling Theatre to deteriorate.

In a separate page, but adjacent to the index, I have recognized some of the historians from whom I obtained information for my stories. All of those who are

living were most cooperative. Regretted is that we no longer have the counsel of men such as Canfield and Cole, proof that "the death of an elderly person, particularly a historian, is like the burning of a library".

I feel honored that it has become my lot to record some of the events in the history of this, my adopted county and my adopted state. Perhaps future historians and genealogists can draw from the material. I dedicate this undertaking to the men and women of the past who have contributed so much to the Wisconsin quality of life and to the many and varied cultural features of this beautiful and favored county.

The cooperation of the Sauk County Historical Society was invaluable, with significant help from Mary Farrell-Stieve, Bill Schuette, and Orris Smith. Local historians such as Paul Wolter, Joe Ward, and Mark Tully were generous in their support. We regret that we cannot acknowledge everyone who helped during the 11 year development of this material.

In conclusion, I offer special thanks to the UW Extension Arts and Culture Committee of Sauk County, whose support made this venture possible.