

CHAPTER XV

THE CITY OF BARABOO

ORIGINAL PLAT OF ADAMS—BARABOO PLATTED—BROOKLYN AND BARABOO—EARLY POSTMASTERS—POSTMISTRESS LUCY F. PERKINS—THE BARABOO WHISKY WAR—THE RIVER ON A RAMPAGE—VILLAGE ADDITIONS—VILLAGE GOVERNMENT—MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND FINANCES—THE FIRST SCHOOL AND TEACHER—UNION VILLAGE SCHOOL—SELECT PRIVATE SCHOOLS—NEW UNION SCHOOL—FREE HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZED—PRINCIPAL SCHOOL OFFICIALS—THE PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL—THE WARD SCHOOLS—THE POSTOFFICE TO THE PRESENT—BARABOO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY—MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS AND UTILITIES—THE PRESS OF BARABOO—THE CHURCHES OF BARABOO—THE FIRST M. E., FIRST BAPTIST, CONGREGATIONAL, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, GERMAN M. E., TRINITY EPISCOPAL, ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN (ST. JOHN'S), GERMAN EVANGELICAL AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCHES—SOCIETIES AND LODGES—THE MASONIC BODIES IN BARABOO—THE ODD FELLOWS—OTHER SECRET AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES—THE PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS—SOCIAL, LITERARY AND REFORMATORY—THE CIVIC LEAGUE—THE BAND—CHARITABLE AND RELIEF INSTITUTIONS—FINANCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS INTERESTS—BARABOO COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION—THE RINGLING BROTHERS.

The founding of the settlement at the Baraboo Rapids by Eben Peck, Wallace Rowan, Abram Wood, James Van Slyke and others, from 1839 to 1846, eventuated in such an industrial center as to give it the name of the Baraboo Mills. Attention was naturally drawn to the locality as a more desirable site for the county seat than Prairie du Sac in the eastern border of the territory to be accommodated. As noted, in the winter of 1845-46 the Territorial Legislature was petitioned to re-establish the seat of justice by a vote of the people, and the election which resulted moved the county seat to the Baraboo Rapids. The county board then appointed twelve commissioners to designate the exact point on the Rapids. The latter next arranged with the school district for the southeast quarter of section 35, town 12 north, range 6 east, which had been previously claimed by the educational authorities.

On the day of the land sale in 1846 Prescott Brigham, one of the commissioners, purchased the tract named as a private individual, there

being no funds in the public treasury for that purpose, and subsequently deeded it to the county. Mr. Brigham was elected the first register of deeds after the county seat was relocated. He was enterprising and popular.

ORIGINAL PLAT OF ADAMS

The county commissioners platted the quarter section named into a village, the professional work being done by Charles O. Baxter, county surveyor. He was a great admirer of John Quincy Adams and the plat, which was recorded in April, 1847, bore the name of Adams. In his field notes, the original Village of Adams is thus described: "Commencing at the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of Section 35, Town 12, Range 6; thence east forty chains to the quarter post between Sections 35 and 36; thence south thirty-nine chains sixty-four links to the section corner on the town line; thence west on said line thirty-one chains fifty links to the Baraboo river; thence north forty-one and west four chains; thence north seventy-eight and west six and eight one hundredths chains to an open line through Section 35; thence north thirty-five chains fifty-five links to the place of beginning—the plat covering the southeast quarter of Section 35, Township 12, Range 6, except a small fraction on the south side of the river."

BARABOO PLATTED

About this time George Brown caused a survey to be made of his property, the greater portion of which lay on the south side of the river. He called his plat Baraboo, which is technically described as follows: "Commencing at the northeast corner of Section 2, Town 11, Range 6; thence south six chains thirty links to the Baraboo river (eight chains fifty-eight links to the south bank of the river); thence south twenty-two chains seventy-five links; thence west twenty chains; thence north thirteen chains; thence east twenty chains to the east line one chain seventeen links south of the river—the plat covering forty acres, a strip equal to about thirty lots lying along the south side of the river being reserved for private use" by Mr. Brown for mill and other purposes. The plat extended north of the river to the extent of thirty-four lots, 62 by 132 feet in size.

BROOKLYN AND BARABOO

On the 14th of January, 1849, the board of county commissioners ordered that the village plats of Adams and Baraboo be consolidated under the name of Brooklyn. They continued, however, to be separate bodies until May, 1866, when the two communities were united under the

village charter of Baraboo, although the name of Adams had been dropped as early as 1852, at the suggestion of the postal authorities, and all mail was sent accordingly.

EARLY POSTMASTERS

In the meantime the "old box" of a courthouse and the sham wooden jail had been built, the former on the north side of Fourth Street, facing the square. The courthouse was built by Edward Sumner and completed in April, 1848. The year before Dr. Seth P. Angle had been appointed first postmaster of Adams, with an office on Water Street. The postmaster also was interested in a drug store on the north side of the courthouse square. Eber Z. Crandall succeeded Doctor Angle in July, 1848; Benjamin L. Purdy assumed the position in June, 1849, and held over the year 1852, when the villages on both sides of the river took the name of Baraboo in the postal guide.

POSTMISTRESS LUCY F. PERKINS

Lucy F. Perkins, the only woman to occupy the office, was appointed in May, 1853, and bravely conducted its affairs, in the midst of distressing private complications, in what afterward became known as the "old Perkins home," just east of the present high school building on Second Street.

The following by her son, ex-Congressman George D. Perkins, goes into some touching details: "Lucy Forsyth Perkins was Baraboo's postmaster under the administration of President Pierce. Following the election in 1852 certain friends of my father interested themselves in my mother's behalf and their success was to her like manna from heaven. There are old citizens of Baraboo who remember her and her painstaking and faithful service. I understand that the home where we lived and where the office was, midway between Under the Hill and the Court House district, is still standing. There it was she kept her own house and postoffice.

"In 1849 our family removed to Baraboo from Milwaukee, which had been our home for two years. Prior to that we had been broken up to make a vain search for my father's better health. He opened a law office in Baraboo and was for a time justice of the peace, but his ailment grew upon him and on the 13th of September, 1851, at my uncle's home in Milwaukee, where he was interrupted in a journey, he died. At that time there was my mother and four children, the oldest being Henry, who was fifteen. The railroad from Milwaukee extended as far as Waukesha. When my mother got back to Baraboo, after the funeral, she had a little household furniture and just one dollar in money. I had preceded her, coming out with a teamster on a high load of merchandise,

and the trip occupied ten days. I had earned fifty cents and this was added to my mother's capital. She prepared to take boarders, and she began with one boarder, Dr. Alexander. It was a great campaign she started upon, the campaign to keep her little family together, and to give her girls and boys such opportunities as the little town afforded. She was never deserted by her courage.

"The Baraboo postoffice when I first knew it was nearly opposite where Mrs. Col. Noyes now lives. B. L. Purdy, who recently died at Fairbury, Neb., was postmaster. My brother Henry was in his service at the time of my father's death. He afterwards took an apprenticeship in the home printing office. With John W. Blake he leased the Republic, established by Colonel Noyes, and later he became part owner with A. N. Kellogg. He sold his interest to Mr. Kellogg and he and I came to Iowa. We got out the first number of the Cedar Falls Gazette in March, 1860, and in the course of a few months my mother and two sisters joined us in the new home. In 1869 I came to Sioux City and it was here my mother died, April 26, 1898, as she was approaching the 86th year of her age. To the last of her life she remembered with tender affection the old friends of Baraboo.

"Speaking for myself it is almost needless to say that there can never be another place to me like Baraboo. I knew every nook and corner of it, and nearly every stone on the precipitous banks of Devil's Lake. It was the home of my active boyhood. I was near my 20th year when I left to engage in the serious undertaking of starting in business for myself. We used to have good times in those old hard times. We had sleighing, as you have now; we had spelling matches, as you may not have now; we had fishing, better than you have now, and we had our swimming holes and the waters from the dams. I knew every dog and animal thereabouts; and it is still a delight to say I knew some of the girls. You would not like the old Baraboo, I cannot help liking it, and the picture of it, as a photograph, will not leave me while I have a memory."

After her time and previous to the assumption of a corporate body by the Village of Baraboo, the following served as postmasters: James H. Wells, Truman J. Wood and Samuel Hartley.

It was Mr. Hartley who erected the frame building which afterward was occupied by the Republic newspaper, but fitted up by the new postmaster for the accommodation of the villagers when he was inducted into office in 1861. He placed in the postoffice 472 boxes and 76 drawers, which gave Baraboo quite a metropolitan standing. Mr. Hartley also had the honor of holding the postmastership after the village incorporation.

THE BARABOO WHISKY WAR

During the interim, also, occurred two events which at the time caused much excitement. The Baraboo whisky war of 1854 centered

in the invasion of the Brick Tavern by the women of the town and surrounding country, whose indignation had been aroused by the death of a hard drinker at its bar and the consequent suffering of the family. The ladies were egged on doubtless by the Methodist minister and other citizens and flooded the floor of the saloon with its liquid stock. They were arrested about a week later—that is, the ringleaders in the crusade—were taken to Lower Sauk before a German justice of the peace, who held them for trial in the Circuit Court. The offenders were released on their own recognizance, and at the next term of court Judge Wheeler assessed the total damages at \$150, which was immediately paid by the husbands and other male sympathizers of the raid. Which ended the Baraboo whisky war.

THE RIVER ON A RAMPAGE

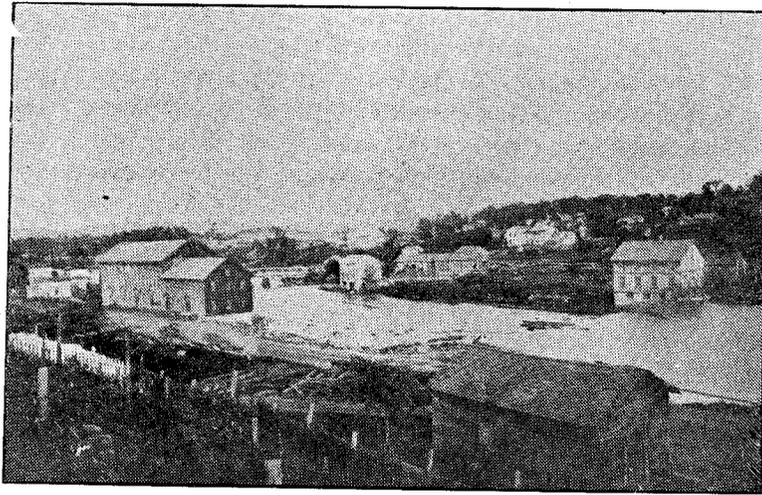
On the night of March 14, 1859, the Baraboo River, greatly swollen by the spring rains and melting snows, burst through the north wing of the boom just above Bassett & Pratt's dam, carrying down a large drive of logs with great force against the upper dam timbers, which gave way. This increased the flow of water in that direction and hurried thither hundreds of other logs which, like so many battering rams, soon beat a large hole in the dam and, within thirty minutes' time, a torrent of water four feet in depth poured through the chasm. As it poured through the opening, the flood struck the bank just above the flour mill and rapidly undermined it. The flour was finally moved to neighboring buildings, and parties were sent off to fell trees, which were placed in the pathway of the oncoming torrent where the bank was weakest. Notwithstanding this prompt defense, about one-third of the dam was swept away, as well as a considerable section of the Lower, or Maxwell Dam.

VILLAGE ADDITIONS

The first addition to the original village plat was entitled Mrs. Peck's First Addition, and was recorded June 15, 1849. The others, in succession, made until city incorporation was effected in 1882, were as follows: Wallace's Addition, August 9, 1849; Mrs. Peck's Second Addition, July, 1855; English's Addition, November, 1856; Moore & Drown's Addition, April, 1860; Thomas' Addition, May, 1873; Camp's Addition, September, 1873; Brown's Addition, October, 1873; Langdon's Addition, July, 1874.

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

The Legislature of 1865-66 passed an act incorporating Baraboo as a village, and fixing its boundaries as follows: The southeast quarter



BARABOO ABOUT THE TIME OF INCORPORATION

The accompanying illustration is of the Baraboo river and the manufacturing industries of Baraboo about 1866. The picture was taken by Mathew Mould, a pioneer photographer. The large building to the left is the P. A. Bassett flour mill; the one across the river to the right, the John Seaborn hub and spoke factory; the one in the distance near the end of the bridge, the Bassett heading factory; the structure just to the right, the P. Pratt saw mill; the two on the side of the hill, up from the bridge, the Baraboo House and Bender's brewery; and on the cleared space far beyond the bridge, the H. H. Potter hop yard.

and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 36, township 12, north, range 6 east, and the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 1 and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 11 north, range 6 east. The village charter also provided that the first election for officers should be held on the second Monday in April, 1866, "in case this act shall take effect on or previous to that date, or in case no election shall be held on that day, then such first election of officers may be ordered and appointed by any ten freehold voters."

The first record of any election, under the act of incorporation, is dated April 2, 1867, when the voters within the village limits assembled at the courthouse and cast their ballots (104) for members of the first board of trustees and police justice. The following were chosen: S. M. Burdick, president and police justice; B. F. Mills, A. Andrews, T. D. Lang, J. R. Hall, B. L. Purdy and C. C. Remington, other members of the board.

The first meeting of the board thus elected was held April 5th, three days following, and all, with the exception of Judge Remington, took the oath of office, C. A. Sumner being appointed in that gentleman's place. The appointive offices, under the charter, were then filled—clerk, John Barker; attorney, C. C. Remington; treasurer, R. M. Strong; constable, Frank Fletcher; attorney, W. H. Clark; surveyor, W. H. Canfield; fire warden, M. C. Waite, and poundmaster, James Goodwin.

The successive presidents of the village board succeeding Mr. Burdick were: M. Mould, 1868-69; J. R. Hall, 1869-72; James Dykins, 1872-73; Samuel S. Grubb, 1873-74; M. Mould, 1874-76; Frank Avery, 1876-77; D. S. Vittum, 1877-80; William S. Grubb, 1880-82.

Succeeding Mr. Barker as clerk were Anton Fischer, who served continuously until 1872; Phillip Cheek, Jr., who was in office until 1879, when Rolla E. Noyes was appointed. R. M. Strong, Mair Pointon, J. J. Gattiker, T. D. Lang, Fred Johnson, L. O. Holmes, M. Hoffman and E. O. Holden were village treasurers at various times, and W. H. Clark, C. C. Remington and John Barker, seemed to have a monopoly on the position of attorney of the village board.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND FINANCES

The City of Baraboo was incorporated by Chapter 21, Laws of 1882, and under act approved on February 25th of that year. The first meeting of the common council was held March 28, 1882.

The mayors who have served Baraboo: C. A. Swineford, March, 1882, to March, 1883; T. M. Warren, March, 1883, to April, 1886; F. N. Lang, April, 1886, to April, 1887; J. Van Orden, April, 1887, to April, 1889; John H. Hull, April, 1889, to April, 1890; M. H. Mould, April, 1890, to April, 1891; Charles Wild, April, 1891, to April, 1893; A. F.

Fisher, April, 1893, to April, 1895; J. B. Ashley, April, 1895, to April, 1896; A. G. Buckley, April, 1896, to April, 1898; Frank Avery, April, 1898, to April, 1900; Ed L. Luckow, April, 1900, to April, 1901; E. P. McFetridge, April, 1901, to April, 1902; D. M. Kelly, April, 1902, to April, 1904; E. G. Marriott, April, 1904, to April, 1908; John H. Hull, April, 1908, to April, 1910; Charles Bender, April, 1910, to April, 1916; G. T. Thuerer, April, 1916—.

City Clerks—J. G. Train, 1882-85; J. S. Worthman, 1885-1917; S. H. Wood, 1917—.

Treasurers (elected for one year). E. A. Holden, 1883; M. H. Mould, 1884; H. P. Jones, 1885; H. P. Jones, 1886; Amos Hull, 1887; A. A. Hull, 1888; J. K. Hawes, 1889; Aug. Ockerhauser, 1890; A. Christie, 1891; Henry Watson, 1892-93; Henry Noyes, 1894; Geo. A. Pabodie, 1895; Joseph Doppler, 1896; Ed Selleck, 1897-98; Chas. Junge, 1899-1900; Frank Avery, 1901-2. Elected for two years: J. C. Link, 1904; Wm. B. Hazeltine, 1906; Ira Humphrey, 1908; Wm. B. Hazeltine, 1910; Henry L. Hale, 1912; W. B. Hazeltine, 1914; C. L. Brewster, 1916—.

Chiefs of the Fire Department: H. W. Abbott, chief engineer 1887 and chief of the fire department 1888; J. G. Seaman, 1889-92; A. Ackerhauser, 1892-93; J. G. Seaman, 1893-97; Wm. Marriott, 1897-98; J. G. Seaman, 1898-1906; Aug. Ockerhauser, 1906-07; W. J. Power, 1907-10.

After 1910 the police and fire commission made the appointments. W. J. Power was appointed chief in 1910 and still holds office.

City Marshals—Henry Cowles, 1882-83; L. O. Holmes, 1883-84; H. W. Abbott, 1884-86; B. S. Doty, 1886-93; R. Delap, 1893-96; R. Wilby, 1896-99; H. W. Abbott, 1899-1901; L. W. Stone, 1901-03; B. N. Robinson, 1903-04; L. W. Stone, 1904-06; J. E. Buckley, 1906-10.

In 1910 the city marshal's office was placed under the Police and Fire Commission. S. A. Pelton was appointed chief and still holds office.

City Attorneys—John Barker, 1882-89; S. S. Barlow, 1889-92; R. D. Evans, 1892-1900; R. E. Noyes, 1900-02; Evan A. Evans, 1902-03; John M. Kelley, 1903-10; V. H. Cody, 1910—.

City Engineers—R. G. Evenden, 1882-98; W. G. Kirchoffer, 1898-1904; H. E. French, 1904—.

Health Officers—Charles Gorst, 1886-1902; Theo. Koch, 1902-09; Dr. A. L. Farnsworth, 1909-11; L. W. Sayles, 1911—.

Street Commissioners—In 1882 C. N. Davis was elected a street committee to see to the duties of street commissioner for 1883-84; C. L. Brewster, 1885-88; Chas. Bender, 1888-89; C. M. Smith, 1889-92; C. L. Brewster, 1892-97; W. M. Langdon, 1897-99; C. L. Brewster, 1899-1906; H. H. Hulbert, 1906-09; C. L. Brewster, 1909-16; John Steinbrinck, 1916—.

A number of interesting and practical items are gathered from the

report of the Finance Committee of the City Council in its report for the period from July 1, 1915, to December 31, 1916, inclusive. The balance on hand at the former date was \$27,761.25; net amount of city tax roll for 1915, \$99,495.86; total of balance on hand and receipts for the entire period, \$192,004.28. The total disbursements, or expenses of operating the city government, for the eighteen months, were \$181,155.68, and the balance on hand December 31, 1916, \$10,848.60.

THE FIRST SCHOOL AND TEACHER

When a few families had gathered at and near Baraboo Mills agitation commenced for a school and teacher. Eben Peck had met one E. M. Hart, a Massachusetts man, at Prairie du Sac, and still kept him in mind when the little colony at the Rapids demanded a school among other modern improvements. Finally a meeting was held June 22, 1844, at which Wallace Rowan, Lewis Bronson and William H. Canfield were appointed a committee to select a district school site. They selected the high point of ground a short distance west of the Wood & Rowan Mill, but the site was changed at the suggestion of Mr. Peck, who proposed that the district should claim the southeast quarter of section 35, town 12 north, range 6 east, to be entered and afterward sold, when deemed financially advisable for the support of neighborhood schools. A log building was therefore erected near the northwest corner of the quarter. Notwithstanding the abundance of timber in the vicinity, it is said that it was put up on the most economical plan. But it was so well ventilated that one of the old settlers who attended school therein asserts that "you could throw a cat through the cracks without touching a hair."

Even before the district school was built Mr. Hart had tried his hand and head on the young people of the neighborhood, at the behest of Mr. Peck and the villagers. O. L. Stinson tells the story so well, both as to the school and the teacher, that the writer will not attempt to improve upon his version. Here it is: "Since no records exist concerning the school days of Baraboo's early life, outside of the brief and valuable outlines made by William H. Canfield, who was one of the very first to settle in the Baraboo valley, a glamour of uncertainty, mingled more or less with romance, is naturally shed around the accounts handed down from the adventuresome days of 50 and 60 years ago. Not many are now living who saw the erection of the log school house on Seventh avenue in 1844, when E. M. Hart taught the first school in Baraboo. Even among these, accounts differ as to the details of its construction and its exact location. There is no question, however, concerning the general spirit of the times, the ever present and all too prevalent weaknesses of human nature, the admirable courage and sacrifice of certain individuals, and the gradual supremacy finally of principles, which place the founders and promoters of the Gem City historically in the same class

with those who have accomplished results more ostentatious in character. Almost from the beginning, and continuously from 1844 to the present day, have there been ample opportunities in one form or another for the young people to obtain exceptionally good training, far exceeding indeed that procurable in the average town of the same size at the same time. Because all of the select schools and colleges finally went out of existence, does not argue that their importance was small. Because no college like that of Beloit or Lawrence university remains to the present day, does not indicate a failure on the part of the schools which existed in Baraboo merely for a time. It isn't so much what a community has to show from the many years of its historic struggles that counts in the final summing up. It is the attitude of the various progressive individuals, no matter what they may accomplish, which is the determining factor.

"Before a school district was organized, Eben Peck met E. M. Hart in Prairie du Sac and induced him to come to Baraboo and teach a private school. This was in 1843 and the school was taught, it is said, in an old log building, which had been standing from the very beginning of Baraboo. Mr. Solomon Shaffer was the name of the man living in the building previous to its use as a school. (Mr. Shaffer's wife was a sister of the first Dr. Cowles of Baraboo.)

"On June 22, 1844, a school meeting was held and a committee composed of Lewis Bronson, Wallace Rowan and William H. Canfield was appointed to select a site for a district school house. The high point of ground a short distance west of the Wood & Rowan mill was chosen. At the suggestion of Eben Peck the location was changed to the southeast quarter of section 35, town 12 north, range 3 east, on the northwest corner of which the log structure was built. This building stood there many years after its services as a school house were ended, on Seventh avenue, slightly east from the corner of Birch street and Seventh avenue on the south side of the street facing the north, and was used for a dwelling, having been encased with boards. Until 1849 this building was used as a court room, town hall and general meeting house, as well as a school house.

"The logs of the building were left in the rough and the roof was made from slabs taken from Levi Moore's mill. The cracks were filled with battin. The size was about 12 by 14. The credit of its construction was shared by several, among whom were John Crawford, Wallace Rowan, James H. Webster, and David Reynolds.

"A small blackboard, about 5 by 2½ feet made by James H. Webster, was put up in the room. The furnishings were mainly benches. The teacher even had no desk. These benches were made from slabs, sawed on one side, rough bark on the other, taken from Levi Moore's mill, and they were arranged along the side of the room in a haphazard manner. The supports at the ends of the benches were split from slabs and two

were placed at each end. The heat was furnished by a fireplace, whose chimney appeared on the outside, as customary in those days.

“E. M. Hart, the first teacher came from Massachusetts. The subjects the first year were reading, writing and spelling, together with extensive efforts in elocution. The next year grammar and arithmetic were added to the course of study. The books were anything and everything which pertained to the subjects studied. ‘Exceedingly fortunate was the pupil who could get any at all,’ says David Reynolds, one of the first pupils.

“Among the pupils of the first school were: Arminta, John, Robert and Archibald Rowan; Julia and Henry Johnson; Eveline, Sophronia, Sam (a little deranged), Orin and Parmelia Gilson; Margaret and Hannah Wood; Victoria and Victor Peck; Henrietta and Mary Ann Webster; David Reynolds; Caroline and Cornelia Hill.

“Excepting those who lived at a distance, they brought their dinners. The games, ball, tag, ante-over, pom-pom-pullaway and ring-around-rosie and others, were played by the children.

“About once a week recitations were held. David Reynolds recollects that of one of the biggest boys, John Rowan, who appeared on the floor in front of the school, and spoke:

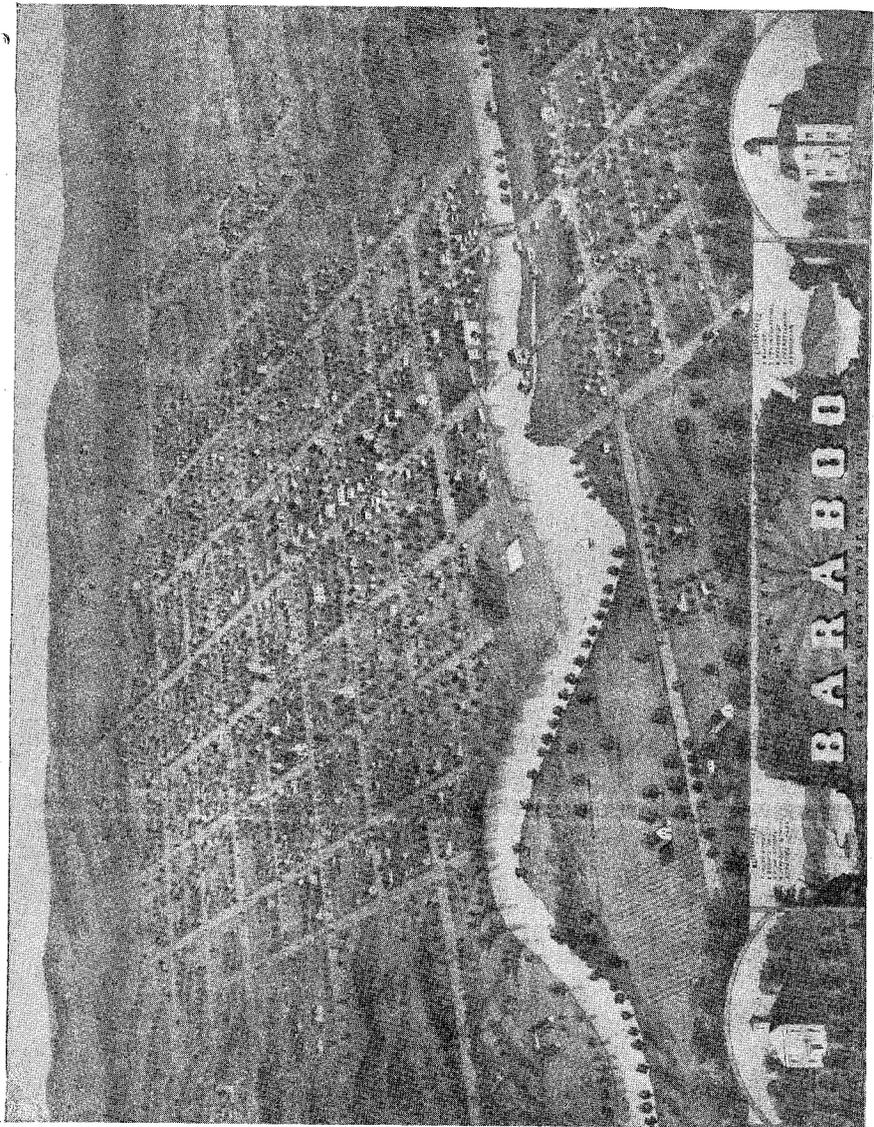
“ ‘A raccoon’s tail is ring-ed around;
A possum’s tail is bare;
The squirrel has a bushy tail,
And stub tail is the bear.’

“ ‘We laughed lots about that, so I never forgot it,’ said Mr. Reynolds.

“Occasionally a dance was held for the young people. One of these occurred at the home of the Gilson’s, the parents of the teacher’s wife. Louis Bunson often did the fiddling.

“Some rather unsavory reports floated about concerning the life of Mr. Hart previous to his sojourn in Baraboo. It was said that he had different names in different places. The accounts of him after leaving Baraboo are certainly not creditable. His school work seems to have been fair, although one of his pupils said that he ‘wasn’t extra smart.’ He had ‘fine manners,’ was a good penman and an excellent reader. His salary was paid in the old fashioned way and consisted of what the people gave him, amounting perhaps to some \$25 per month. School was held during the winter, about three months. The rest of the time he did not do much of anything.

“Mr. Hart was a bachelor and not very young. He became enamored of one of his pupils, Eveline Gilson, a very popular girl only fourteen years of age, and married her. This was the first white man’s wedding in the Baraboo valley, according to Mr. Canfield. The match was a very unfortunate one for many reasons; not the least of which was the dis-



BARABOO IN THE '70S

crepancy in their ages. An incident which occurred while they were living in the lean-to of the Shaffer schoolhouse indicates very well their unpleasant relations. When the lean-to had been built onto the schoolhouse for the teacher and his young wife, the window between was boarded up. A knot-hole remained, however, and this was pasted over with paper. At times the teacher noticed considerable amusement amongst his pupils. Paper wads were appearing in the air and he was unable to locate the miscreant; for no one in the room seemed to know anything about it. He finally discovered that they came from the knot-hole in the partition and went to interview his wife about it. An angry noise of quick words was heard by the pupils; but without much avail, for the teacher found his pupil-wife more difficult to manage than the whole school. Very sad, however, is the final story of this couple.

“Three children were born to them during their residence in Baraboo. After the few years teaching they departed and were not heard of for two or three years, when her parents got track of her. She was found alone on an island with one little girl. Hart had taken the two older children and left his wife alone to die. She was rescued only temporarily, however, and died soon after. Her little girl was adopted by her sister. It was intimated that Mr. Hart was in disguise, hiding in Baraboo at the time.

“Mrs. G. W. Walker of Lyndon Station, one of the first pupils, says: ‘Mr. Hart taught in Baraboo one year, nearly, and next at Sauk. He then returned to Baraboo and taught about two years. Among his pupils were many who were quite old. After he returned from Sauk he taught on the South Side where a rude slab building was put up for him by a “bee” organized by the people. It had a door in the north side and one long window in the south side, about the height of three panes of window glass. This window ran the whole length of the south side of the house. In front of this window was a bench and in front of the bench a long table. This long bench and long table, it seems, had to accommodate nearly all of the school, about thirty pupils (a large school for those days). During the winter period one or two small tables and benches were added as temporary affairs.’

“Hart is described by W. H. Canfield as being ‘medium in height, of light complexion, and nervous temperament, his education being very good.’ He relates an incident of Baraboo’s first teacher as follows: ‘E. M. Hart was not accustomed to dugout boats and once met his Waterloo while in Baraboo. On one occasion he attempted to cross the Baraboo river just above the Maxwell dam, and losing control of the craft went over. He got very wet.’”

UNION VILLAGE SCHOOL

“The village increased in population very rapidly for a few years and school requirements equally fast,” says Mr. Canfield in one of his sketches.

“When towns were organized in the change from territorial to state government it became necessary to reorganize the school districts. In 1849-50, the village then containing about six hundred inhabitants, a spirited contest sprung up between the advocates of a Union School district for the village and those who wished to divide the territory into three or four districts. After holding several meetings the advocates of a Union district prevailed, and in 1850 a two-story frame building thirty-five feet square was erected on Block 38, North Side.”

SELECT PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Before the organization of a public high school in 1877 several institutions of higher learning were established and maintained in Baraboo. In 1854 Rev. Warren Cochran opened a school in the Congregational Church which was afterward transferred to one of the Taylor buildings on the corner of Broadway and Third Street. A two-story wooden building was erected on a height a little west of the original town, and a school was opened with a view of laying the foundation for an undenominational college. Professor Pillsbury of New York succeeded Mr. Cochran and the school was finally chartered as the Baraboo Collegiate Institute. That was March 23, 1863, and its incorporators were: D. P. Crandall, Herbert Huntington, Terrell Thomas, C. A. Clark, C. C. Cowles and E. Martin. The institute had been formally opened in the fall of 1858 by Mr. Cochran, as principal, and Miss Almira B. Savage as preceptress. The latter was a Vermont woman of education and refinement, and is often given credit for starting the original school which developed into the Collegiate Institute. Among those most prominent in its management previous to its incorporation were D. P. Crandall, its first president; E. Martin, vice president; Dr. C. C. Cowles, secretary, and Herbert Huntington, treasurer.

Professor Pillsbury, of New York, succeeded Mr. Cochran in charge of the school, and in 1861 left it for Mineral Point, Wisconsin, to reorganize the seminary in that place. He was followed by Professor E. E. F. Hobart, a graduate of Beloit College, who, with his wife, conducted a successful school for several years. Upon their retirement Professor J. S. Kimball, of Keokuk, Iowa, assumed the principalship and continued thus until the new graded public school was opened in 1870. A subsequent review of the operations and influences of the Baraboo Collegiate Institute, largely within the past few years, made by those who once attended it as students, leads to the belief that no personality has so fondly and deeply impressed itself on the intelligent community of those days as that of Miss Savage, who, for several periods, had sole charge of the school.

In 1854 Miss Maria Train also opened a school of a select character, conducted it with ability for about two years, and then became Mrs. C. C. Remington.

In 1856 a move was made to establish a school for girls of a high order, which resulted in the chartering by the legislature of the Baraboo Female Seminary. Miss Mary A. Potter was the principal; Lucy A. Underwood and Mrs. Jane Gregg, assistants. In 1859 Miss Mary Mortimer became the principal, with Susan Warner as associate and an increased corps of teachers. Miss Mortimer continued in charge for six years and among those associated with the school about this time were Miss Minerva Brace, Miss Julia Pierce, Miss Ellen Curtis, Miss Eva Collins, Miss Mann, Miss Helena Zastrow von Kussov and Miss Augusta Camp, the last being at the head of the musical instruction.



JOINT DISTRICT NO. 4 SCHOOL, BARABOO

The successors of Miss Mortimer were Rev. H. H. Kellogg and his assistants, several being members of his own family. The seminary was a Presbyterian denominational school at its organization and although all were admitted alike that feature was no doubt somewhat of a drawback to its broad expansion. P. A. Bassett was a pillar of the institution and when the time came he could not give it needed support, the dissolution, as the result of this and other causes, came. The seminary buildings, northeast corner of Oak and Sixth streets, became personal property and were sold to the Episcopalians for a church and rectory. About the time of the transfer they were occupied by Miss Bevelyn A. Bassett and Miss Ellen Robinson, the two conducting a private school there.

Miss M. M. Nethaway, Rose P. Thrall and Grace Crossman also opened private schools for youths, misses and even infants, but they were all discontinued about the time the public schools became graded and thoroughly systematized, in 1870.

NEW UNION SCHOOL

In the last year of the Civil war, when it became apparent that the citizens of Baraboo would be permitted to devote more of their time to domestic affairs, it became evident that the needs of the Union school building erected in 1850 had been far outgrown. Again arose the discussion as to the division of the district, but unionism prevailed.

Two different sites were selected and purchased for the new Union School, but were both abandoned, and a third bought on block 38, a little south of the business district of Baraboo. Excavations for the foundation of the larger and better building were begun in April, 1869, and in October, 1870, it was completed at a cost of \$33,000. It had a seating capacity for about 870 pupils. About 600 pupils were enrolled in the district at the time the school was opened.

FREE HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZED

In April, 1877, the School Board of District No. 7, comprising James H. Halsted, H. Cowles and T. D. Lang, accepted from the State Commission of School and University Lands a loan of \$8,000, and thereby felt justified in organizing a free high school in the following August. At this time the high school department was organized although the schools were not thoroughly systematized until the incorporation of the city in 1882. During that period Prof. Isaac A. Sabin and Prof. William A. Willis, head of the school, were the leading laborers in the initial work of "licking the system into shape." The latter was retained as superintendent when it came under control of a separate board of education.

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL OFFICIALS

A complete list of superintendents and principals (of the high school) follows. W. A. Willis, superintendent and principal, July, 1882; to July, 1884; C. W. Cabeen, principal, July, 1884, to July, 1886; P. Pinch, superintendent, July, 1884, to November 1, 1885 (resigned); Herman Grotophorst, superintendent, November 1, 1885, to July, 1886; W. J. Brier, superintendent and principal, July 1, 1886, to July 1, 1889; L. H. Clark, superintendent and principal, July 1, 1889, to September 7, 1891 (resigned); E. C. Wiswall, superintendent and principal, September 7, 1891, to July, 1894; J. E. NeCollins, superintendent and principal,

July, 1894, to July, 1899; H. A. Whipple, superintendent and principal, July, 1899, to July, 1903; G. W. Gehrand, superintendent and principal, July, 1903, to July, 1908; H. R. Chamberlain, superintendent and principal, July, 1908, to July, 1910; A. C. Kingsford, superintendent and principal, July, 1910—.

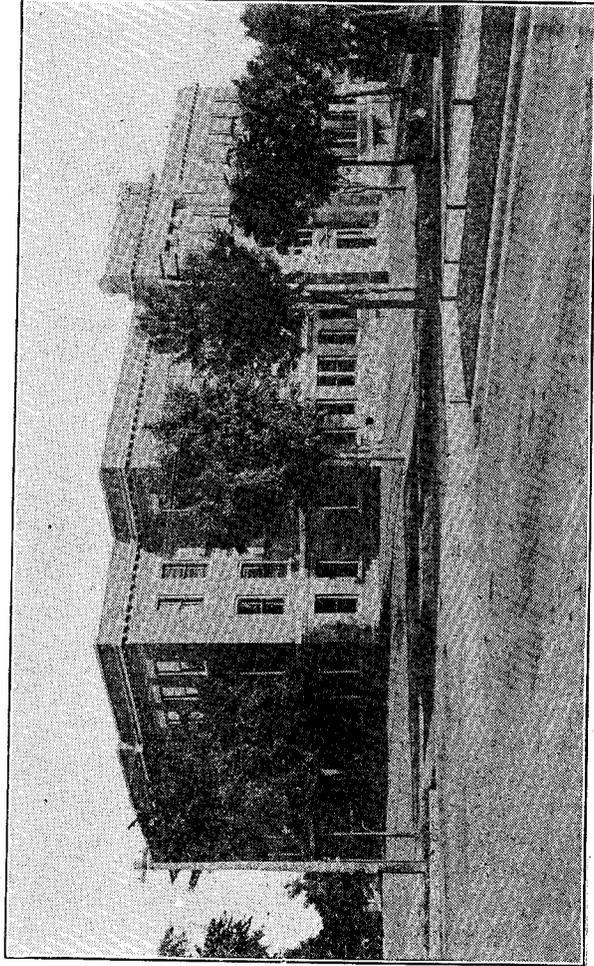
Presidents of the Board of Education: J. J. Gattiker, July, 1882, to July, 1886; John M. True, July, 1886, to July, 1888; E. W. Young, July, 1888, to July, 1890; John M. True, July, 1890, to July, 1896; J. B. Donovan, July, 1896, to July, 1897; John M. True, July, 1897, to July, 1901; J. Van Orden, July, 1901, to July, 1902; John M. True, July, 1902, to July, 1905; C. H. Evenson, July, 1905, to July, 1906; John M. True, July, 1906, to July, 1908; Evan A. Evans, July, 1908, to July, 1910; E. P. McFetridge, July, 1910—.

THE PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL

At the time the old high school was constructed, with its assembly hall in the third story, it was considered quite an imposing and most creditable public building. But, with the growth of the city and the elevation of public sentiment and requirements, it was finally held up as an "eye-sore," a "fire trap," and all that and more. In February, 1906, a defective flue caused a fire which burned out the vitals of the old building and hard wind blew down a large portion of its west wall; so that there was a unanimous sentiment in favor of erecting a large, tasteful, safe and sanitary high school building. In September, of the following year, the work had been completed which had brought to fruition a large public enterprise and added to the city buildings one which was really an imposing ornament, as well as practically adapted to every requirement.

The new high school stood on the site of the old, corner of Second and Oak streets, a massive 3-story building of red brick, 164 by 128 feet on the ground, trimmed with stone and galvanized iron. A large annex, built about six years previously, also was on the school grounds, still utilized for the overflow—the seventh and eighth grades.

The inside of the high school proper is of red birch, with the exception of the assembly hall, which is of oak. The main entrances of the building are from the north, south and west. The heating plant and the wood-working room of the manual training department are in the basement. Drinking fountains, modern toilet arrangements, electric lights, a complete modern combination system of heating and ventilating, a gymnasium, physical and chemical laboratories, large and elegant administrative offices and pleasant and convenient recitation rooms, are a few of the features which give the Baraboo High School standing among the best institutions of the kind in the state. All at a cost of about \$80,000; to which sum a very material addition would have to be



BARABOO HIGH SCHOOL

made if a similar building were to be erected in these war times of high prices.

THE WARD SCHOOLS

Outside of the high school and the annex, there are three public schools in Baraboo. The first ward building, a 2-story red brick, corner of Sixth Avenue and Angle Street, was erected in 1885; the second ward house, corner of Fifth Street and Barker, built of the same material in 1890, and the third ward schoolhouse, corner of Elm and Grove, erected in 1892.

The total enrollment of the pupils in the public schools of Baraboo is 900. They are instructed by about forty teachers, of whom thirteen are in the high school, four in the annex, and six in each of the ward schools. There are 130 in St. Joseph's (Catholic) School.

THE POSTOFFICE TO THE PRESENT

Dr. Seth P. Angle was the first postmaster in Baraboo, the office being in a rude building on Water Street, "under the hill." Doctor Angle is buried near the entrance in the Baraboo Cemetery and his monument may be seen set at an angle. The complete list of Baraboo postmasters, with the dates of their commissions, include the following: Dr. Seth P. Angle, March 8, 1847; Eber Z. Crandall, July 11, 1848; Benjamin L. Purdy, June 28, 1849; Mrs. Lucy F. Perkins, May 3, 1853; James H. Wells, February 21, 1857; Truman J. Wood, March 3, 1858; Samuel Hartley, April 19, 1861; David K. Noyes, May 7, 1867; David E. Welch, January 16, 1884; Mathew H. Mould, November 2, 1885; David E. Welch, second appointment, March 7, 1890; Ransom Jackson, March 15, 1894; Arthur P. Cheek, September 17, 1898; Frank E. Shults, August 12, 1911, and Alger C. Pearson, July 10, 1916.

The postoffice was located in various temporary places, more often on Oak Street than elsewhere, before a permanent building was erected by the general Government on that thoroughfare just west of the high school. The main entrance is on Second Street. From the time the bill was introduced by Congressman J. W. Babcock until the building was accepted from the contractors in January, 1906, covered a period of four years. Its cost was \$45,000; it is built of red brick, Bedford stone, granite and terra cotta, is about fifty-six feet square, and is well furnished and appointed.

BARABOO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The institution named is an educational influence of immeasurable value to the highest well-being of the city. It is of special value to

scholars of the public schools and to all, young and old, who are following any lines of literary investigation.

The organization of the library dates from September 27, 1897, when Frank Avery was chosen president of the board and J. S. Worthman, secretary. Miss Emma Gattiker was its first vice president. On New Year's day of 1898 Miss Kate M. Potter was appointed librarian and has since held the position, making her connection the longest, in continuous service, of any official identified with the library.

Since Mr. Avery's term expired in 1898, following have been presidents: John M. True, 1898 to 1901; E. G. Marriott, 1901 to 1903; A. G. Buckley, 1903 to 1906; R. B. Griggs, 1906 to 1909; Geo. T. Thuerer, 1909—.

The successors of Miss Emma Gattiker as vice president: E. G. Marriott, 1898 to 1901; R. B. Griggs, 1901 to 1902; M. J. Coughlin, 1902 to 1903; Mrs. J. E. English, 1903—.

Succeeding J. S. Worthman as secretary were: R. B. Griggs, July 1, 1902, to July 1, 1906; L. S. Van Orden, July 1, 1906, to July 1, 1908; J. S. Worthman, July 1, 1908, to July 1, 1910; Emma Gattiker, July 1, 1910—.

The library became a Carnegie institution in 1902, and the beautiful and convenient building now occupied by the collection of 11,000 volumes, club rooms and other accommodations, was completed at a cost of \$15,000.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS AND UTILITIES

It has become a generally accepted principle of public hygiene that a pure and abundant supply of water is the most effective safeguard against epidemics and other less pronounced forms of sickness. Of late years, also, a good system of waterworks has been made to fill another pressing desideratum; that is, the necessity of securing economical and adequate protection against fire for those communities which could not afford to expend large sums of money on costly and varied fire apparatus and in the maintenance of a well-paid department. These statements were, of course, made with reference to the City of Baraboo, which, for thirty years, has been developing its system of water distribution and protection against fire through its waterworks. The result is a fine supply of pure water and the provision of such means to guard against fire as the distribution of numerous water hydrants in thickly settled districts, with means of increasing the pressure in case of necessity. The headquarters of the fire department are in the city hall on Fourth Street, where are an engine, hook and ladder and hose cart. No. 2 house is on Lynn Street, where are a hose cart and even minor apparatus.

In 1886 the city issued bonds to the amount of \$100,000 for the

construction of waterworks, which were commenced in the fall of that year and completed in the spring of 1887 at a cost of \$75,000. The water is obtained from a group of living springs located about a mile northeast of the city near the Baraboo River, and the brick pumping station stands about 700 feet from the springs. The pumps are propelled by water power from a large dam race about half a mile long leading from the river. The standpipe in the north part of the city is on a hill some 140 feet above Main Street. The structure itself is 52 feet high and 30 feet in diameter and has a capacity of 150,000 gallons.

One of the municipal departments which, fortunately, has never been forced to abnormal growth in Baraboo is that given over to the police. Although here is a city of some thousands of people law and order are so instinctively maintained that its total police force comprises only one chief, an assistant and two patrolmen.

Besides the waterworks, the only public utility not under control of the city is the telephone service. The Baraboo Telephone Company, which renders that service, was incorporated in 1895, and conducts an exchange comprising several hundred subscribers and covering Baraboo and several adjoining towns.

THE PRESS OF BARABOO

The first newspaper to be issued from Baraboo lived a little more than six years. It was a whig organ, the Sauk County Standard, and its initial number was put out by Messrs. A. McFadden and C. H. McLaughlin on the twenty-fifth of June, 1850. In the following February Mr. McFadden retired, and Mr. McLaughlin assumed the proprietorship, changing the politics of his newspaper to democratic, with M. C. Waite as editor. In May of that year (1851) Duncan C. Niven succeeded Mr. Waite; politics the same. McLaughlin and Niven both retired at the end of the Standard's first volume, when the name of the paper was changed to the Sauk County Democrat. Until August, 1855, the changes of proprietorship and editorship were fast, if not furious, and included the assumption of various responsibilities by J. H. Wagoner, George R. Clark, R. H. Davis, D. S. Vittum, Cyrus H. McLaughlin (again), R. C. Gould, Andrew C. Holt, Victor E. Peck and James I. Dennis. Afterward, until the final suspension of the newspaper in November, 1856, J. W. Phelps and J. H. Wells guided its fortunes, such as they were.

The Baraboo Republic is, therefore, the oldest paper of continuous publication in the community. Its first number was issued in January, 1855, by D. K. and S. Noyes, being then a seven-column republican journal. In October of the same year the junior partner withdrew and was succeeded by Perkins & Blake, D. K. Noyes retaining the proprietorship and political editorship. In the meantime a name which was to become widely known throughout the United States had appeared in the columns

of the Republic as a contributor, and in September, 1856, it appeared as one of its editors—A. N. Kellogg, the originator, or at least the popularizer, of the “patent insides” for country newspapers, in which enterprise he afterward made a fortune. In the following month Mr. Noyes retired from the Republic, the editorship of which was assumed by Mr. Kellogg, while H. A. Perkins became its publisher, the two co-operating under the firm name of Kellogg & Perkins. In June, 1862, Mr. Kellogg withdrew and J. W. Blake and C. E. Stewart assumed the conduct of the Republic. Mr. Stuart withdrew in 1863, and Mr. Blake, the remaining proprietor, sold the paper to William Hill in 1865. Then came Joseph I. Weirich in 1872, Edwin H. Woodman in 1874, and in January, 1880, J. H. Powers. In 1882 Mr. Woodman retired, and in 1891 a joint stock company was formed to conduct the enterprise. At this time the Hood Brothers associated themselves with Mr. Powers, and in March, 1894, the Daily Republic was established. George H. and Sidney J. Hood succeeded Mr. Powers as proprietors and editors of the Republic and are still at the head of its affairs.

The Sauk County Democrat was established January 31, 1879, by Joshua G. Ford. In 1886 it was sold to Herman Grotophorst and E. August Runge. In 1890 the latter became sole proprietor and assumed the general editorship, with E. L. Luckow as local editor. Subsequently Mr. Luckow became proprietor and editor of the Democrat for a number of years, and was succeeded by Roland J. Osborne, present owner and editor.

In the early '80s a little newspaper was issued by L. H. Cook, at Delton, called the Mirror Lake Echo. The name was pretty, but that did not bolster up the enterprise sufficiently to ensure it a substantial existence, and it soon died of inanition of subscribers and advertisers. Most of the office material passed to J. T. Huntington, of that village, afterward bookkeeper of the state senate, and, through Col. D. E. Welch, of Baraboo, it was sold to J. F. Kartack, the printer, of that city. His job office was then over the store now occupied by Acott's clothing store, and thence the first issue of the Advertiser, the progenitor of the News, came forth on Monday, May 26, 1884. After the newspaper had appeared for about a year Mr. Kartack's brother, G. A., purchased an interest in the paper, which was enlarged to its present size. Various changes of location occurred before the paper was purchased by A. D. Dorsett and H. E. Cole, La Crosse newspaper men; which was in April, 1894.

The first number of the Evening News, issued by these gentlemen and J. F. Kartack, appeared June 4, 1894. It was both daily and weekly. After Kartack, Dorsett & Cole had owned the paper jointly for about a year Mr. Kartack sold his interest to J. K. Matchett, of Pierceton, Indiana, but the last named soon disposed of his share to Cole & Dorsett. For three years beginning January 1, 1907, Mr. Cole was the sole editor

and proprietor of the News, selling an interest to H. K. Page, January 1, 1910. They now own the paper.

THE CHURCHES OF BARABOO

Like all other intelligent American communities in which schools, newspapers and other educational forces are well organized, Baraboo is also strong in its support of the churches which have been persistently planted and nourished by good and far-sighted men and women. No religious belief, or shade of religious thought, is slighted, and there is no excuse, except lack of inclination, for not stimulating and strengthening the spiritual nature in some form of worship or another.

In this section of the chapter devoted to Baraboo, the story of its religious growth must be told through the records of the various churches and charitable organizations, and these sketches are arranged chronologically. Those which first assumed local form lead the list.

THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Methodists were the first of the religionists to establish themselves in the Baraboo Valley and, as is typical of the sect, in the early pioneer times their zeal carried along the great bulk of the settlers. The faithful and hard work of their missionaries finally developed into the strong organization known as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Baraboo, with a large membership and a handsome house of worship. One of the old members of the society of today, A. J. Gemmill, has recently prepared an authentic and complete history of the church, the main portions of which are reproduced herewith. He writes as follows:

“Rev. Thomas M. Fullerton, a Methodist, was the first minister of the gospel to visit Baraboo. He came to Potosi, Wis., from Kentucky in 1836, when in his nineteenth year. His mother became an invalid soon after he was born. He was providentially placed in a Presbyterian family, where he was trained in the fear of the Lord. In 1840, during a protracted meeting held by Rev. H. W. Reed and Rev. J. G. Whitford, he united with the M. E. Church. In August, 1841, he joined the new Rock River Conference held at Platteville, Wis., on recommendation of H. W. Reed, presiding elder. He was then appointed to Muscoda, a new circuit including all settlements on both sides of the Wisconsin river from Muscoda to Baraboo. It took three weeks to make the circuit, involving over two hundred miles of travel.

“Rev. John Crummer, a Methodist preacher on the Mineral Point mission, visited Sauk Prairie in 1840. He was followed by the Rev. James G. Whitford. Mr. Whitford had spent several years of widowhood as a frontier missionary, and very naturally desired to find a fellow-sufferer of the gentler sex; believing, as many do, that by uniting their

sorrows, they could bear them more joyfully. Mrs. Sarah Sayles, the widowed daughter of Henry Teel and wife, who had settled at the foot of the bluffs on Sauk Prairie in 1840, attracted him. Mr. Whitford and Mrs. Sayles were united in marriage on the 15th day of August, 1841. This was probably the first marriage in Sauk County.

"In 1841 Mr. Fullerton, then a local preacher, appointed to assist Mr. Whitford on the Mineral Point Mission, reached the Teel home at the foot of the bluffs on Sauk Prairie, June 23d, and preached there on Thursday evening, June 24, 1841. A Methodist class was formed at the home of 'Father Teel,' which, for several years, was the place of meeting, and also the stopping place of the traveling preachers.

"Rev. Fullerton's first visit to Baraboo Mills was on October 5, 1841. A Mr. Draper, a Baptist connected with the mill, requested him to establish meetings here. The mill was about one-half a mile above the ford on the Baraboo river. A Mr. William Hill, from one of the New England states, had built a log cabin ten or fifteen rods east of the mill, and boarded Mr. Draper's mill hands.

"On the 16th of October, 1841, on Tuesday evening at Mr. Hill's house, Rev. T. M. Fullerton delivered the first sermon preached in the Baraboo Valley to eleven persons. Of those present only Mr. Draper professed religion. Mr. Fullerton regularly filled the appointment for two years. Then he was appointed to a mission on Lake Superior. Afterward, on account of poor health, Mr. Fullerton located for about ten years. Then he became an active member of the West Wisconsin Conference, filling important appointments until he was superannuated in 1882. He died in 1889 in the 73d year of his age. Mr. Fullerton kept a record of all his missionary travels.

"On Sunday, February 6, 1842, Mr. Fullerton formed the first Methodist class in Baraboo, consisting of Solomon Schaffer, leader, Ollie Schaffer and Parmelia Gibson, all of whom were Methodist immigrants recently arrived. Mr. Schaffer was mill blacksmith and lived in a new house south of the mill. Mrs. Gibson and family lived a mile up the river on the north side.

"On the 10th of April, 1843, Mrs. Mary J. Hill, the woman of the house where the meetings were held, joined the class. She was the first convert to religion in the Baraboo Valley.

"The class was reorganized in 1843 by Rev. A. M. Badger, appointed to the Sauk Prairie or Prairie du Sac Mission, who continued the services. Lauren Cowles and Ralph Cowles joined the class in 1843. For some time meetings were held at the home of a Mrs. Gillson south of the river. During the pastorate of Rev. P. S. Richardson (1845) the place of meeting was changed to the home of Alexander Crawford in Lyons, and Mr. Crawford became class leader. Services were held in private houses, and in the Court House until the first chapel was built.

"In 1849 Baraboo was set off from the Sauk Mission and became the

head of a circuit under the name of the Adams Mission, Rev. Asa Wood being appointed pastor. After two years the charge was called Baraboo. This territory was within the bounds of the Rock River Conference until 1848, when the conference was divided and the Wisconsin Conference formed. The West Wisconsin Conference was formed in 1856.

“The first Sunday School in Baraboo was a Union Sunday School organized in the spring of 1848, with James A. Maxwell, a Methodist, superintendent. It was held for a time in a log schoolhouse on the Lyons road. Early in 1849 it was held in the Court House erected in 1848 on the north side of Fourth avenue opposite the park. In the spring of 1850 the Methodists separated from the Union Sunday School and formed a Methodist Sunday School, with James A. Maxwell superintendent. This school started with sixty-five scholars and sixteen officers and teachers.

“In 1849 the sixteen members of the Mission were as follows: Alexander Crawford and wife; James A. Maxwell and wife; C. A. Clark and wife; E. Langdon and wife; J. M. Clark and wife; Mrs. Chauncey Brown, Benj. L. Purdy, Charles Stanley, Ralph Cowles, Mrs. James Crawford and Mrs. C. M. Adams. In 1848 James A. Maxwell, Peter Losey and Alexander Crawford were elected a board of trustees. Late in 1849 it was decided to build a chapel. Mr. Crawford donated the lot at the southeast corner of Broadway and Fifth avenue for a church location. A building committee, consisting of Rev. Asa Wood and C. A. Clark, was appointed. Clearing away the snow from the ground, a rough wooden building, 34 by 36 feet, boarded horizontally, inside and out, with inch boards over 2 by 6 inch studding, and filled between the boards with sawdust, was erected in January, 1850. This was the first church building in Baraboo. In January, 1851, steps were taken to build a new church on the ground where the first chapel stood. During the summer the building, 36 by 50 feet, was raised on the basement walls, and the basement finished off so that it could be used for services during the fall and winter of 1851-52. This basement was also used for public school purposes and for a court room. The building was completed during the summer of 1853. Baraboo was then a thriving village in a region to which the tide of emigration had been increasing.

“The church was finished just in time for the sixth annual session of the Wisconsin Conference, which assembled in Baraboo on the 31st of August, 1853, Bishop Scott presiding. The church was dedicated by Bishop Scott during the conference on September 4, 1853. In 1866, during the pastorate of Rev. J. E. Irish, the church building was enlarged; 25 feet were added to the south end and a tower erected. In 1873, during the pastorate of Rev. James Evans, a house and lot at the southeast corner of Broadway and Seventh avenue were purchased. This property was the first parsonage. It was sold in 1891 and a house and lot at the north end of Broadway was purchased for a parsonage. This

was sold in 1895 and new church and parsonage grounds were purchased at the northwest corner of Broadway and Fourth avenue. A new parsonage was erected in 1896.

"The South Side M. E. Church was organized in 1885; the German M. E. Church in 1866.

"In 1898, during the pastorate of Rev. W. M. Martin, a new church was erected at a cost of \$17,000. On January 8, 1899, the Sunday School room was occupied for church and Sunday School purposes. The new church was dedicated on May 7, 1899, by Bishop C. C. McCabe.

"The following have served as pastors of the church, so far as known. The time is from the date of the annual conference of the year given. The conferences were held in the fall, except in 1859, when there were two sessions—one in the spring. The pastors: Rev. T. M. Fullerton, 1841-42; Rev. A. M. Badger, 1843-45; Rev. P. S. Richardson, 1845-46; Rev. Edrich Holmes, 1846-48; Rev. Joseph Williams, 1848-49; Rev. Asa Wood, 1849-50; Rev. Nelson Butler, 1850-52; Rev. C. A. Newcomb, 1852-spring '53; Rev. Asa Wood, spring to fall, 1853; Rev. Wm. H. Thompson, 1853-54; Rev. A. Hall, 1854-55; Rev. W. B. Hazeltine, 1855-56; Rev. W. Wilcox, 1856-spring '57; Rev. J. A. Swetland, spring 1857-April, '59; Rev. W. M. Osborn, April-October, 1859; Rev. C. E. Weirich, 1859-61; Rev. W. H. Kellogg, 1861-62; Rev. W. Wilcox, 1862-64; Rev. J. E. Irish, 1864-66; Rev. J. B. Bachman, 1866-67; Rev. Elmore Yocum, 1867-69; Rev. J. H. Whitney, 1869-71; Rev. James Lawson, 1871-72; Rev. James Evans, 1872-74; Rev. J. E. Irish, 1874-77; Rev. S. W. Horner, 1877-80; Rev. W. J. McKay, 1880-82; Rev. G. W. L. Brown, 1882-84; Rev. W. J. McKay, 1884-85; Rev. M. Benson, 1885-88; Rev. T. J. Snodgrass, 1888-92; Rev. B. E. Wheeler, 1892-Dec., '93; Rev. H. W. Bushnell, Jan., 1894-95; Rev. W. M. Martin, 1895-99; Rev. E. W. Mueller, 1899-1901; Rev. F. E. Ross, 1901-05; Rev. J. M. Melear, 1905-07; Rev. J. S. Crowder, 1907-09; Rev. S. A. Ross, 1909-11; Rev. E. P. Hall, 1911-16; Rev. C. E. Weed, 1916—."

The present membership of the church is about 400.

In October, 1914, the Sauk County Historical Society placed its official stamp upon the claims of the First Methodist Episcopal Church to have erected the first house of worship in Baraboo, by unveiling a bronze tablet, bearing this inscription, near the corner of Broadway and Fifth Avenue: "The first church in Baraboo was erected on this lot by the Methodist Episcopal Society in 1850. This memorial tablet erected 1914 by the Sauk County Historical Society." The tablet is fastened to a quartzite bowlder which was taken from the cellar of the Wood residence near the cemetery. The exercises were in charge of Mrs. Hattie Hall Avery, chairman of the tablet committee and daughter of a former pastor of the church, Rev. A. Hall. The invocation was given by Rev. E. P. Hall, then pastor of the church, and the chief address delivered by the city superintendent of schools, A. C. Kingsford.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Both the First Baptist and the Congregational churches were organized in 1847; the former in July, the latter in December. In the fall of 1845 Rev. P. Conrad, then residing at Prairie du Sac, commenced his labors in the Baraboo Valley as a missionary preacher of the Baptist Church, his first meetings being held in the schoolhouse near the Wood & Rowan Mill. He was not able to organize a regular society until July 17, 1847, and then only five members joined the church—George F. Nelson, Mary Ann Clark, Warren Brewster, Rober Crawford and Annis C. Crawford. The next day two more members were received, Simeon and Ruth Crandall. Elder Conrad moved his family to Baraboo in May, 1851, and continued his pastorate until September, 1852, when forty members had been received and twelve dismissed, making the net membership twenty-eight. The first baptism in the church is said to have been Harriet J. Smith, December 6, 1851.

In the meantime the attendance had so increased as to outgrow the capacity of the old log schoolhouse, and from 1848 to 1858 meetings were held in the courthouse. In the fall of 1857 the congregation had voted to build a church edifice, which was completed and occupied in January, 1858. It was a frame building, 24 by 36 feet in dimensions and located on Fourth Street. Its cost was \$500. In 1860 the society was incorporated as the First Baptist Church of Baraboo, and in 1872 its meeting house was doubled in size. The edifice now occupied, corner of Broadway and Third Avenue, was completed in 1888 and is valued at \$15,000. The enrolled membership is about 140. The successive pastors of the First Baptist Church have been as follows: Revs. P. Conrad, N. Wood, J. B. Patch, A. A. Drown, E. B. Edmunds, S. Carr, L. M. Newell, S. F. Stimpson, L. Parnelly, J. B. Mann, Austin Gibb, E. J. Stevens, A. A. Drown (second term), L. M. Barnes, G. W. Freeman, J. G. Maver, A. M. Bacon, L. E. Sweet, S. F. Holt, H. Happell, G. S. Martin, F. Sprague, W. Stickel, J. C. Williams, E. B. Earle, F. D. Brown, C. S. Knight, C. D. Mayhew and J. W. Johnson (present pastor).

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Congregational Church of Baraboo had a small beginning, when Dr. Charles Cowles, Mary Cowles, Marion Blake, Lucy Blake, Benjamin L. Brier, Eveline Brier, Barzillai Hickok and Harriet H. Stanley met in the little log schoolhouse which stood on Seventh Avenue west of Birch, and organized a class of believers in that faith. Baraboo was then a child of about eight years, rather lonely in the western frontier country. Within the two or three years after the organization of the Congregational Society, the village grew quite rapidly and the church with it. The future looked so bright that a committee was appointed to solicit funds for the erection of a separate house in which to worship.

The initial movement was abortive, but in 1852 a church building was completed and Rev. Warren Cochrane was installed as pastor on a salary of \$500 per year. The building stood where the postoffice is now located on Second Avenue, and the little red brick church was the scene of many important events. It was afterward used as a schoolhouse. In 1859 the property was sold with the expectation of building a larger church, but the Civil war interfered with the enterprise so that it was not brought to a conclusion until 1867. During that period services were held in the First Baptist Church and in the Collegiate Institute Building.

In December, 1867, a new church was dedicated on Third Avenue, and in the spring of 1870 occurred the exodus to the Presbyterians by which the Congregational ranks were so seriously decimated. Then came



THIRD AVENUE, LOOKING EAST

a hard struggle to maintain an organization, followed by a slow but sure growth. The society was reorganized in July, 1887, and in January, 1895, the house of worship now in use on Broadway was dedicated.

The first pastors of the Congregational Church were: 1857, Reverend Hutchins; 1858, Reverend Cochrane; 1864, Reverend Steward; 1865, Reverend Cochrane, and 1872, Reverend Fairfield.

The pastors who served the church during the period of depression were: 1874, Rev. O. G. May; 1876, Reverend Bidwell; 1877, Reverend Blakeslee; 1878 to 1881, various pastors supplied the pulpit in lieu of a regular one; 1881, Rev. Pearse Pinch; 1886, Rev. Franklin Fisk, and 1887, Rev. J. A. Wood.

The more recent ones are: 1892, Rev. O. L. Robinson; 1899, Rev. J. W. Hargrave; 1906, Rev. Louis A. Goddard; 1913, Rev. B. E. Ray; 1916, Rev. J. Lloyd Smith.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On the 26th of February, 1851, a meeting was held in the Methodist Chapel under the auspices of an agent of the Presbyterian Home Missionary Society, to form a church at Baraboo. This was effected by those in attendance—Mr. and Mrs. Ralph G. Camp, Albert G. Tuttle, John D. Perkins, William Griffith, George W. Cook, Benjamin L. Brier, Mrs. David K. Noyes and Mrs. Anna Wood. A more formal organization was formed at the courthouse in March by the election of Messrs. Camp, Griffith and Noyes as trustees. Mr. Perkins had already been elected elder. It was agreed that the organization should be called the First Presbyterian Church and Society of Baraboo. The building committee next hired the upper room of the Union Schoolhouse for services and Rev. J. Kasson preached the first sermon July 31, 1851. He assumed the pastorate in the following October. A little frame church was completed and occupied in February, 1852, and in 1858 was much enlarged. Ten years later it was sold to the German Methodists. Rev. Charles M. Morehouse succeeded Mr. Kasson in 1854, and during the following decade Revs. George Spalding, Sidney Barteau, Hiram Gregg, James Hawley, E. B. Tuthill and E. B. Miner supplied the pulpit. Then came Revs. H. S. Clarke, F. Z. Rossiter (1865-72), G. P. Folsom, R. L. Williams, G. T. Killen, Daniel Long, C. L. Richards, H. H. Van Vranken, Stade Munneke, C. L. Koons and E. C. Henke. Mr. Henke assumed the pastorate in 1908; present membership of the church, 200. The house of worship in which the Presbyterians now meet dates really from the accession of more than fifty members from the Congregational Church in 1870. It became at once evident that a larger church edifice than the one then occupied would be necessary, and in 1872 it was completed at a cost of \$12,000, under the pastorate of Rev. G. P. Folsom.

GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Twenty years before the German Methodists were sufficiently strong to organize in Baraboo they had established churches in the towns of Freedom and Westfield. They organized their first society at the county seat in February, 1872. Its first board of trustees, elected February 11th, consisted of George Wolfe, Ernst Sharnke and W. Sharnke. Previous to that time, however, the society had held services in the basement of the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The pastor of the Baraboo circuit was Rev. Charles W. Iwert, who, assisted by John Faller, local preacher, supplied the charge at the time named. In the following year the German Methodists bought the Presbyterian Church on Second Street opposite the high school building. That structure was subsequently replaced by the substantial building now occupied. The pastors of the German Methodist Episcopal Church of Baraboo, with the years of their service, have been: Reverends C. W. Iwert, 1872-75; Christian

Menz, 1875-76; Charles Hedler, 1876-78; William F. Kreuchman, 1878-80; Gustav Magdsich, 1880-81; F. R. Meyer, 1881-84; S. F. Fritz, 1884-85; A. C. Berg, 1885-88; C. F. Neitzel, 1888-90; A. H. Kopplin, 1890-93; A. C. Keyser, 1893-97; A. H. Finger, 1897-1901; J. S. Menzner, 1901-03; J. Meek, 1903-05; C. F. Henke, 1905-07; W. F. Elske, 1907-13; W. F. Beyer, 1913-16; C. F. Dissmeier, 1916-17; W. R. Rueckheim, 1917—.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. Hugh Miller Thompson was the first Episcopalian clergyman to visit Baraboo (in 1854). He held services in Taylor Hall and became rector of what was then known as St. Paul's Parish. Mr. Thompson continued in that service for three years. In 1858 Rev. Thomas Corlet settled at Baraboo as missionary and remained two years, or until 1860. From that date until 1866 there was no public alms service. In August of the year named Reverends A. P. Dorset and William Dafter visited Baraboo and resumed Episcopal services in Taylor Hall. Rev. Alonzo J. M. Hudson came to reside in Baraboo in 1867, and the name of the parish was changed to Trinity. In the following year the church property on Sixth Street was purchased. Mr. Hudson resigned in 1873, and was succeeded by Rev. Robert Richie, who remained as rector and missionary until 1878. Rev. Mr. Lemon occupied the pulpit for a short time in 1879 and in the following year Rev. Samuel B. Cowdrey assumed the pastorate, which covered a period of twelve years. During that time the chapel was moved from Sixth to Oak Street (1885), the rectory was built (1887), and the new church completed and occupied (1892). Mr. Cowdrey resigned in 1892 and died in 1903. Rev. Alfred Griffin came in 1893, Rev. Charles L. Barnes in 1896, Rev. Marcus Simpson in 1903, Rev. A. C. Jones in 1906, Rev. Clark A. Wilson in 1908, and Rev. L. C. Ferguson in 1917. The present membership of Trinity is 125.

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Until 1859 there was no resident Catholic priest in Baraboo. In that year the members of the church purchased of the Congregationalists the little church on the the corner of Second and Oak streets, and Rev. James Schreiner served as pastor until 1869; Rev. Matt White, 1869-71; Rev. William J. Coughlin, 1871-73, and Rev. A. Verbeck, 1873-74. During the administration of Rev. Aloy Laigneil, 1874-76, the present St. Joseph's Church on East Street was erected. Rev. Charles Gunkel became pastor in 1876, Rev. A. Michel in 1878 and Rev. P. J. Lavin in 1880. In 1887 Rev. John T. Durward commenced his long service which so endeared him to all in Baraboo, resigning in August, 1911. Since October of that year Father E. C. O'Reilly has been in charge of the parish, which embraces a membership of some 260 families, or 1,000 souls.

The large parochial school building at the rear of St. Joseph's Church was completed and dedicated in October, 1912. It is a 3-story and basement building, was erected in about a year and cost some \$30,000. The seven sisters in charge occupy a convent built at the same time on Second Street. The entire improvement covered an expense of about \$45,000.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN (ST. JOHN'S) CHURCH

The religious organization named was founded in 1873. Among the charter members still living are Julius and William Gust and August, John and Lewis Marquardt; among the deceased, Dr. Theodore Koch, Carl Bender (ex-mayor), August Ringling (father of the Ringling brothers), and William Schultz. The first resident pastor of St. John's was Rev. John Giesel. He came in 1876 and two years later, under his pastorate, the first church on Fourth Street was built. In 1880 Mr. Giesel was succeeded by Reverend Scheffelmann, his successors being as follows. Rev. J. Doershner, 1882-84; Rev. A. F. Nicolaus, 1884-87; Rev. F. Popp, 1887-1903; Rev. H. Mueller since 1903. The congregation of St. John's Church numbers about 120 families.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL GEMEINSCHAFT

In the late '60s the Germans formed the society mentioned above, and in 1870 erected a church, which still stands, corner of Broadway and Second Street. Rev. C. E. Maves is the present pastor.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

The Christian Science Society of Baraboo was organized in May, 1913, and its increase in membership has made several moves necessary. Mrs. Elizabeth Harwood Thuerer, Miss Mathilde A. Schwerdt, Mrs. Ada B. Converse and Mrs. Florence W. Doppler have served as its first readers. The society now meets in the Young Men's Christian Association Building on Ash Street.

SOCIETIES AND LODGES

The activities of the men and women of Baraboo, like those of other typical American communities, are organized and centered in numerous bodies of a social, charitable, business and sometimes, of a secret nature. Of the last named class, the standard lodges, such as those identified with Masonry and Odd Fellowship, are the oldest and the strongest.

THE MASONIC BODIES IN BARABOO

This order is represented in Baraboo by lodge, two chapters and commandery. The oldest body is Baraboo Lodge No. 34, Free and Accepted

Masons, which was organized November 6, 1851, under a dispensation granted in the previous month to James Maxwell as worthy master; Harvey Canfield, senior warden; John G. Wheeler, junior warden; R. M. Forsythe, secretary, and others. Among the early masters of this lodge were, besides Colonel Maxwell, W. D. Truax, M. C. Waite, Edward Sumner, Daniel Ruggles, F. M. Stewart, William Jay, H. M. Peck, T. C. Thomas, D. S. Vittum, John Barker, W. W. Andrews, W. B. Blachley and R. Metcalf. About 1891 the old Folsom property, corner of Oak and Second Avenue, was purchased, and a Masonic Temple erected. There all the Masonic bodies meet at stated times.

Baraboo Chapter No. 49, which includes in its membership many Masons outside of Baraboo, was organized in July, 1875, with George G. Swain as high priest. It was chartered in February of the following year by Messrs. Swain, E. A. Watkins, Mair Pointon, J. E. Owen, T. D. Lang, George S. Rockwell, William Fox, G. M. Reul, John H. Hull and S. H. Waldo. Among the early high priests were G. G. Swain, D. S. Vittum and John Barker.

The local organizations of the order to be established at a later period were Baraboo Chapter No. 21, Order of the Eastern Star, and Baraboo Commandery No. 28, Knights Templar.

THE ODD FELLOWS

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows organized a lodge in Baraboo about a year before the Masons took to the field, but, after a short struggle, it went down. D. K. Noyes, Charles Wood, M. D. Evans, L. C. Stanley, Dr. S. Angell, T. Kirk and C. H. McLaughlin are known to have been among its charter members. Members of the order did not consider themselves strong enough to attempt a revival of the enterprise until 1871. On October 23d of that year was organized Baraboo Lodge No. 51, with the following charter members: D. K. Noyes, E. M. Coon, H. H. Webster, H. D. Newell, James Dykins and W. O. Stephenson. Of its noble grands who served at an early day may be mentioned D. K. Noyes, H. H. Webster, F. B. Baldwin, A. J. Gorman, A. H. Cowles, F. Barringer, Thomas Libbey, P. P. Palmer, L. O. Holmes, J. M. True, H. D. Potter, H. D. Snell, J. W. Blake, Fred Baldwin, A. A. Roberts, W. H. White, T. Spellan and Edwin R. Bow.

Northwestern Encampment No. 20, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted at Reedsburg in January, 1868, by Past Grand Master C. C. Cheeney of Janesville. After two years' work at that place, the lodge having suspended, the encampment also surrendered its charter. On November 15, 1875, it was revived at Baraboo by the following charter members: L. O. Holmes, P. P. Palmer, H. D. Potter, Thomas Libby, A. C. Tuttle, A. H. Cowles and S. F. Smith. These gentlemen served as the first elective officers of the encampment.

The order in Baraboo is also represented by Mabel Rebekah Lodge No. 70.

OTHER SECRET AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES

Baraboo Lodge No. 47, Knights of Pythias, was chartered in May, 1886, and the Uniform Rank (Division No. 22) was chartered in May, 1890. Devil's Lake Camp No. 390, Modern Wooden of America, was chartered in September, 1887. Baraboo Lodge No. 85, Ancient Order of United Workmen, was organized in May, 1881, and the auxiliary, drawing its membership from the wives and daughters of the former, was established in November, 1889.

There are also well established lodges of the Elks, Eagles, Modern Woodmen of America, Royal Neighbors, Royal Arcanum and Equitable Fraternal Union.

THE PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS

Always leading this class are the Grand Army Post and the Relief Corps. Joe Hooker Post No. 9, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Baraboo on March 3, 1880, by Comrade A. G. Densmore, chief mustering officer. The following were admitted as charter members: H. Albrecht, C. Bender, W. Palmer, George Bloom, J. C. Spencer, H. Southard, P. E. Longley, W. H. Staten, R. Delap, Volney Moore, Tom Scott, J. Whitty and J. A. Pabodie. Previous to muster, others were received, and Phil Cheek, Jr., was elected first post commander. The first meeting of the post was held in Odd Fellows' Hall. Among its early commanders were, besides Mr. Cheek, D. E. Welch, L. O. Holmes, H. Albrecht, D. K. Noyes and M. Spring. From the character of its membership, the strength of the post has gradually declined.

Its auxiliary, Joe Hooker Relief Corps No. 36, was organized December 28, 1888, with twenty-five charter members. Like the Grand Army of the Republic, one of the objects of the corps is to inculcate lessons of patriotism; in addition, to "render assistance to widows, orphans, and army nurses of the soldiers, sailors and marines of the G. A. R." All of this, and more, has been accomplished by the women's auxiliary of the Grand Army.

A Sons of Veterans Camp (No. 18) has also been instituted of late years.

Within the last four years, it is perhaps needless to add, the issues of the Civil war have been obscured at Baraboo, as everywhere else in America, by the vast overshadowing movements of the world conflict which have created new generations of patriots.

SOCIAL, LITERARY AND REFORMATORY

Baraboo has always encouraged the formation and development of societies and clubs devoted to the objects noted. From the old-style

literary societies, devoted almost entirely to scholastic problems and discussions which had little practical application to everyday life, have grown organizations which take up every matter of current interest and moment affecting the man, woman and child of the community. In these present-day discussions the women have taken a noteworthy leadership.

In the late '50s, when the old Academy and Collegiate Institute were flourishing, the Hesperian Club was also much alive. In the midst of Civil war times was formed a "reading circle" known as the Goose Club. The name rightly indicates that its regular membership was confined to the female sex. At such social functions as the annual dinner parties the men were admitted into the circle. The first members of the Goose Club, which substantially existed for a number of years, were Mrs. Ichabod Coddling, Mrs. Dr. L. C. Stye, Miss Eva Stye, Mrs. C. C. Remington, Mrs. J. G. Train, Mrs. Freeman Longley, Miss Nethaway and Mrs. Norman Stewart.

The Literary Club of 1876 was organized for the benefit of both sexes in the winter of that year, at the house of R. H. Strong. Its membership was generally drawn from the best classes of the young people and for about a year its main object, besides the encouragement of literary discussions, was to raise funds to establish a free reading room. By lectures, readings, concerts and dramatic plays, a fund of nearly two hundred dollars was raised for that purpose and quite a collection of books and magazines had also been gathered. The room was, in fact, opened and maintained by the club for a year, but the business men did not back up the project and it was dropped. The collapse of the library enterprise seemed to take the wind out of the sails of the club itself.

The Woman's Club was organized April 23, 1880, by Sarah Powers, Adele Cook, Addie Donavan, Lizzie Woodman, Ida P. Roberts, Emma Train, Sarah Spence, Fanny Holz, Mary Donovan, Lucy Case and Emma P. Scott. Its first officers: Lizzie Woodman, president; Fanny Holz, vice president; Lucy Case, secretary. According to the constitution of the club the objects of the organization were "to strengthen the feeling of sympathy and fellowship among women, independently of social distinctions and outside of the natural and proper affiliations of personal friendship or any existing organizations, and to discuss without personalities such theoretical or practical questions as relate to the well-being of home and society; and also to extend our knowledge and broaden our culture by such reading and study as we shall deem best adapted to our needs." After an activity of several years, the club disbanded. This was the first woman's club for literary work ever formed in the city.

Since that time various societies and clubs of a similar kind have come and gone, all fulfilling good purposes and some still persevering in various fields of discussion and achievement. Every intelligent person knows what the women's clubs have done within the past thirty or more

years. As to Baraboo they have solidly and intimately incorporated themselves into its best life. The Fortnightly Woman's Twentieth Century and Inter Se clubs still flourish and work.

The first meeting of the Fortnightly Literary Club was held on December 11, 1889, at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd Skinner, 215 Sixth Street, and this is the oldest organization of the kind in the city. Besides the host and hostess, those who were present and who organized the club included Prof. and Mrs. L. H. Clarke, Attorney and Mrs. J. E. Wright, Attorney and Mrs. E. Aug. Runge, Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Wood, Rev. L. J. Snodgrass, Maj. Charles H. Williams, Mrs. H. J. Abbott, Mrs. J. E. English, Madam Skinner and Miss Emma Gattiker. Mrs. English and Mrs. Runge are still active members of the club. Existing social economic, political and other problems are discussed and some of the noted personages of the state have appeared before the members. The present officers are H. E. Cole, president; Dr. G. W. Snyder, vice president; Mrs. Hugh Kelley, secretary; and Miss Christian Wright, treasurer.

The first regular meeting of the Woman's Club was held on Saturday afternoon, September 12, 1896, at the home of Mrs. A. D. Dorsett, 533 Second Avenue. The first roll included Mrs. H. W. Battin, Miss Jennie Cheek, Mrs. G. L. G. Cramer, Mrs. A. D. Dorsett, Miss Maude Fuller, Miss Margaret Gattiker, Miss Luise Gattiker, Miss Hattie Hall, Miss Dorothy Hutchins, Mrs. H. J. Irwin, Miss Ida Johnson, Mrs. B. F. Mills, Miss Louise McGann, Mrs. E. Pfannstiehl, Miss Ida Palmer, Miss Matilda Reul, Miss Viva Robinson, Mrs. A. R. Smith, Mrs. C. A. Swineford and Mrs. Ulrich F. von Wald. The present officers are: Miss Evva C. Varnell, president; Mrs. Clarissa Rowland, vice president; Miss Van Bitta G. Reynolds, secretary; and Mrs. J. E. English, treasurer.

The Twentieth Century Club held its first meeting on October 7, 1897. Before this date the constitution and by-laws had been drafted by some of those who organized the club. The charter members were Miss Lydia Kingswell (commander), Mesdames T. M. Case, J. B. Donovan, Charles Gorst, R. B. Griggs, Margaret D. Hill, E. M. Hoag, Alice Lewis, W. T. Kelsey, C. E. Martin, Ward Munroe, A. F. Snyder, Edwin Selleck, A. Reinking, Edward K. Tuttle, Frank D. Teel, Emma Walsh, D. B. Waite, E. Aug. Runge, William Faller and H. W. Hamilton. The officers for the current year are Mrs. George C. Astle, president; Mrs. W. H. Hatch, vice president; Mrs. R. R. Grosinski, recording secretary; Mrs. George W. Ziegler, corresponding secretary; Mrs. E. H. Groth, treasurer; and Mrs. B. A. Clarke, auditor.

The Inter Se (Among Ourselves) Club was organized on February 8, 1898, at the home of Mrs. Frank D. Teel, 423 Third Avenue. The charter members were Mesdames W. B. Blachly, E. M. Hoag, Frank D. Teel, E. M. Adams, Emma Davis, Arthur Kellogg, Edwin Selleck, J. P. McGuan, C. H. Evenson, John H. Newman, C. A. Stanton, D. A. Lewis, Laura Martin, Nettie Stickney, and Miss Mayme Ryan. The present

officers are: Mrs. Edwin Selleck, president; Mrs. Samuel Briscoe, vice president; Mrs. S. A. Pelton, secretary; and Mrs. Emma Davis, treasurer.

The Fellowship Club was organized ten years ago and limits its membership to men. Timely topics are discussed. The officers are: Ernest Sanderson, president; L. H. Palmer, secretary; and W. H. McIntosh, treasurer.

The Koshawagos (Men of the Valley) incorporated in 1889 and have a clubhouse at Devil's Lake. The purpose of the club is of a social nature. M. H. Mould is the president and W. J. Power is the secretary.

The Pedro Club has had an existence of about thirty years and although pedro has long since passed into disfavor the members of this organization are inclined to believe, like wine, it improves with age. The midnight banquets at the homes of the hosts and hostesses have lingering memories.

As to the clubs which have come and gone a few are worthy of mention. The members of the Curling Club have long since sold their rink for a garage and placed their granite blocks away; the prompter no longer shouts for the dancers in the Midnight Organization; the bows and arrows of the Archery Club are covered with dust and rust; the members of the Goose Club, a social group, have gone to that other bourne; the rods and creels of the Grampas members are relics of the past; the charitable work of the Dorcas Society has had its influence; the chapter has been closed on Hizonor Card Club; the members of the Phantoms are scattered; but now and then a remnant of the Kings Daughters, organized for charity, meet; and at the close of the annals of the Green Room Club, for the study of the drama, there has been written, "*Hic Jacet.*"

THE CIVIC LEAGUE

The Woman's Co-operative Civic League of Baraboo obtained a state charter on April 12, 1911. The incorporators were Mrs. Alf. T. Ringling, Mrs. H. M. Johnston, and Mrs. B. H. Strong. The officers named included Miss Katherine Falvey, president; Mrs. B. H. Strong, vice president; Mrs. F. R. Bentley, secretary; and Mrs. T. W. English, treasurer. The meetings of the organization have largely been held at the home of Mrs. Ringling, 103 Tenth Street. The organization was formed more particularly for the purpose of beautifying the City of Baraboo, its school grounds, streets, alleys, yards, and the parking of streets and other grounds. Much has been done in beautifying the street leading to the cemetery, the cemetery itself and other parts of the city. The present officers are: Mrs. R. B. Griggs, president; Mrs. H. C. Brown, vice president; Mrs. James Neff, secretary; and Miss Maeta Junge, treasurer.

THE BAND

The Wisconsin Marine Band was organized about twenty years ago and for a time was known as the First Regiment Band, playing for the troops at Camp Douglas. Open air concerts are given regularly during the summer, the city bearing the expenses. The officers are: Emil Weirich, president; F. E. Morey, vice president; E. D. Seeales, secretary and treasurer; C. A. Hofmann, manager; and G. H. Hood, director.

CHARITABLE AND RELIEF INSTITUTIONS

The first Young Men's Christian Association of Baraboo was formed in June, 1877, with eight members. In May, 1882, when there were



OLD WISCONSIN HOUSE

Torn down in 1912 to give place to Ringling Theater

numerous citizens (especially young men) of Baraboo connected with the Chicago & North Western Railway, a reorganization was effected under the name of the Railway Young Men's Christian Association. After several years of patient work, those behind the association purchased a lot at the corner of Second and Ash streets and commenced the erection of a large 2-story and basement building. The Ladies' Auxiliary rendered important assistance in the furtherance of the work, which was brought to a conclusion in October, 1890, when the building was opened to the young men and the public. Not only does it meet the requirements of the members for physical exercise and mental recreation, but several rooms are thrown open for club and society meetings. It furnishes a shelter for many young men who reside in Baraboo and is a welcome resting place for strangers as well. The present general secretary is C. H. Copley.

Baraboo has had a much-needed hospital since the winter of 1913. In February of that year Doctors F. H. Powers and Henry Fehr rented the Fischer property, corner of East and Third streets. It was immediately adapted to hospital purposes and the building opened about the first of April. Doctor Fehr was obliged to relinquish his interest soon after and Dr. F. R. Winslow, of Baltimore, Maryland, joined Doctor Powers in the enterprise. The hospital, which has twelve beds, is under the active superintendence of a trained nurse, who, at the present time, is Miss Charlotte Smith.

Through the efforts of F. A. Philbrick, its first secretary, the Sauk County Branch of the Wisconsin Humane Society was organized at Baraboo, March 23, 1912. Some work along the well known lines of the organization has been accomplished. Its present officers are: E. P. McFetridge, president; G. T. Thuerer, vice president; L. S. Van Orden, secretary and treasurer; H. E. Stone, humane officer. Since its organization, the society has received from the estate of the late Julia A. Getchell a bequest of \$1,500. This was nearly all that she possessed.

FINANCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS INTERESTS

Three banks contribute to the growth and stability of Baraboo and are themselves supported and developed by its business and industrial interests.

The Bank of Baraboo is the direct successor to the Sauk County Bank, the first institution of the kind to be established at the county seat. The latter was organized July 1, 1857, the year of the great panic and the commencement of a long and profound financial depression. Its officers were Simeon Mills, president, and Terrell Thomas, cashier. The capital was \$50,000. In 1861 Mr. Thomas purchased the interest of Mr. Mills and conducted the bank himself until 1873, when it was merged into the First National Bank. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that the First National Bank took over the Sauk County Bank. Its charter was surrendered in January, 1880, and the Bank of Baraboo, under the state law, succeeded to the business, with George Mertens, president, and J. Van Orden, cashier. In 1908 Mr. Mertens retired, and Herman Grotorphost succeeded him as president, Mr. Van Orden continuing as cashier. At the same time the capital was increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000. In January, 1915, Mr. Grotorphost resigned and was followed in the presidency by Mr. Van Orden.

In the summer of 1917 the resources of the Bank of Baraboo amounted to \$1,959,237.51. Its surplus was \$50,000, undivided profits, \$22,000 and deposits over \$1,780,000.

The First National Bank was organized on December 4, 1886, by the following: T. M. Warren, president; F. T. Brewster, vice president; C. L. Sproat, cashier; and W. A. Warren, assistant cashier. The bank

opened the next month and the directors, in addition to the above, were Carlos Bacon and Robert A. Cowan. Early in this century H. C. Merritt, of Minneapolis, purchased a large interest in the bank, the Warrens retiring. In 1906 the bank was reorganized, Mr. Merritt selling his interest, the members of the new firm being T. W. English, M. H. Mould, T. M. Mould and others. In 1906 the deposits were about \$190,000, and these have grown to be about a million dollars. The officers of the bank now are T. W. English, president; D. M. Kelly, vice president; M. H. Mould, cashier; T. M. Mould and J. J. Pfannstiehl, assistant cashiers.

The youngest bank in Baraboo is the Farmers and Merchants, which opened for business in May, 1917. Its officers are: George C. Astle, president; Wilber Cahoon, vice president, and N. H. Gerber, cashier. Its capital is \$50,000, and its average deposits (in the fall of 1917) \$50,000.

The financial operations of the Baraboo banks are naturally connected with its business houses and industries. Its stores are well stocked and arranged, and among its leading industries are the large mills operated by the old Island Woolen Manufacturing Company, the large canning works, the linen mills which turn out a good grade of towels, the Humane Stanchion Works, Gollmar's Machine Shop and other plants. From 1872 to 1883 Baraboo's leading industry was the plant of the Chicago & North Western Railway Company, with its large roundhouse, machine shop and other buildings. At one time more than a hundred men were employed, and the place was considered one of the leading railroad towns in Wisconsin. Although still a division town, not so many men are employed in the shops.

BARABOO COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION

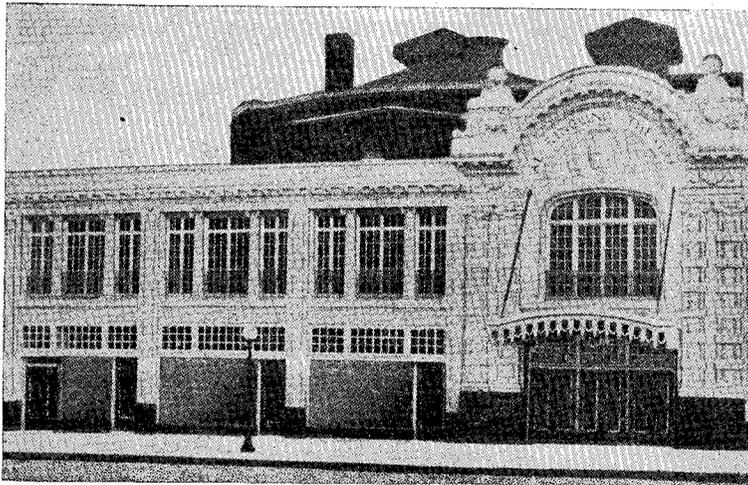
During the very last years of the last century there existed for a short time the Baraboo Business Club, the organization being for purely social purposes. The members occupied rooms at 106 Fourth Avenue and after a short life the furniture was sold and the club disbanded.

This was followed early in this century by the Ten Thousand Club, Edward L. Luckow, then editor of the Sauk County Democrat and now auditor of the navy department at Washington, being the moving spirit. Banquets were held but no marked results followed the efforts of the organization.

The Ten Thousand Club was succeeded by the Baraboo Commercial Association, incorporated September 15, 1913. The presidents have been E. S. Johnston, L. S. Van Orden, T. F. Risley, T. Edw. Mead and G. W. Andrews, the last named holding the office at the present time. The secretaries include T. Edw. Mead, Attorney J. W. Frenz and W. E. Baringer. For a number of years the business and industrial interests of the city have been fairly represented by this general organization of leading citizens.

THE RINGLING BROTHERS

Baraboo has become known throughout the country as the home of the Ringling Brothers. The Gollmar Brothers also gave the place standing as a "circus town"; and that feature of its activities can really be classified as one of its business assets. It happened, also, that the Ringling family was public spirited as far as Baraboo was concerned and did much for it in many ways. The most noteworthy act was, of course, the building of the \$100,000 theater by the late Al Ringling, its formal opening to the public on November 17, 1915, and the subsequent donation of the splendid temple of amusement to the City of Baraboo. Mr. Ringling died January 1, 1916, about a month and a half after the opening. In his will the building was left in care of the four remaining brothers,



AL RINGLING'S THEATER

Mrs. Ringling to receive the profits. Mrs. Ringling released her interest, and in July, 1917, it was offered to the city, to be always known as the Al Ringling Theater. Announcement of the gift was made by Henry Ringling, then the only brother residing in Baraboo. Charles E. Ringling has his home in Evanston, Ill., and John and Alf T. are in New York. The theater is pronounced the finest municipal playhouse of any city of the size of Baraboo in the country.

The people of Baraboo are justly proud of the Ringling Brothers and will therefore appreciate a condensation of their record in the show business made from the book which they issued in 1915, entitled "Routes, 1882-1914." It succinctly tells of their lives as showmen. They began with what they termed the "Ringling Classic and Comic Concert Co.," and their first concert was in Mazomanie, Monday, November 27, 1882.

The season closed at Oregon, Saturday, February 3, 1883. The company embracing Al Ringling, then twenty, oldest of the boys, who dedicated at Baraboo a \$100,000 theater; Alf T. Ringling, Charles Ringling, E. M. Kimball, E. S. Weatherby, Fred Hart and William Trinkhouse, with M. A. Young as agent. John Ringling joined the company at Sanborn, Iowa, December 18th, about three weeks after the organization ventured forth. The route included Mazomanie, Spring Green, Richland Center, Boscobel, and so on, out into Iowa, with Bangor, Norwalk, Wilton, Kendall, Elroy, Wonewoc, Ironton, Reedsburg, Baraboo, Lodi, Waunakee and Oregon on the return trip.

That was the first season—the very beginning of the show business for boys who as circusmen have now become world leaders.

The same "Classic and Comic Concert Company" was out in 1883, opening at Baraboo March 12th and closing at Viroqua April 27th. As before, only the small places were visited. Madison, though close to Baraboo, was studiously avoided. This year Otto Ringling joined the brothers, and in 1883-4 the company had developed into what was designated as "Ringling Bros. Grand Carnival of Fun." This year Otto was out as agent, and there was a slight expansion of the company. It now included besides the brothers about eight people. A notice here says that "on November 2d all people were discharged and on November 3d, at Starbuck, Minnesota, made a parade. Alf Ringling, cornet; John Ringling, alto; Charles Ringling, baritone; Otto Ringling, bass drum." It is further noted that "Alf Ringling, Charles Ringling and John Ringling gave the show alone. Ran this way until Al Ringling joined January 6th." When the company reached Minneapolis there was "no show" and again, passing through Minneapolis, "no show," but four days were spent there "visiting vaudeville shows"—the boys were learning—and at Des Moines a little later there were "three days' recreation" and the same sort of a vacation at Omaha.

So far it was a mere concert company, with a little juggling, and always appearing in a hall.

In 1884 the first real circus was given. This was called the "Yankee Robinson and Ringling Bros. Great Double Shows, Circus and Caravan." It opened at Baraboo May 19th and closed at Benton, in Grant County, September 27th. It was a wagon show and the admission was 25 cents, but there was no band wagon, and the band, such as it was, "paraded on foot," while "all the people stopped at hotels." There were "nine wagons without privilege wagons." The canvas was 49 by 90 feet and the side show 35 by 15. Robinson died at Jefferson, Iowa, about August 25th, aged sixty-six. The members included Al Ringling, Otto, Alf, Charles and John. Here the five brothers were associated together as circusmen for the first time, and they continued in that relationship until the death of Otto in 1911, when Henry took his place. Mrs. Louise Ringling, wife of Al, is listed as a member of the company which included

fifteen other people, besides an agent. This circus gave its second performance at Sauk City, its third at Black Earth, fourth at Mount Horeb, fifth at Mount Vernon, sixth at New Glarus and after 103 performances closed at Benton, Grant County, September 27th, and went to Baraboo for "winter quarters."

That same year, 1884, the summer circus season over, the brothers continued their "Carnival of Fun" as a winter affair, opening at Garden Prairie, Illinois, November 12th, and closing at Mount Horeb March 14th. Their route, as before, lay through Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska. They gave 94 performances that year and in 1885-6 the "Carnival of Fun" still ran on, opening at Warren's Mill April 6th and closing at Barron May 5th, a very short season. The company now embraced Alf, Charles and John Ringling and two others, Al for some reason having dropped out temporarily. The boys still avoided the larger towns. They were moving upward cautiously.

In 1885 we have "Ringling Bros. Great Double Shows, Circus Carnival and Trained Animal Exposition," the Yankee Robinson legend having been dropped. It opened in Baraboo May 18th and after a tour through Wisconsin, Iowa and Northern Illinois closed at Randolph October 3d, going thence to Baraboo for the winter. But the "Carnival of Fun" was at once resumed. November 12th it opened at Ironton, and closed at Fort Dodge, Iowa, January 30th. Al Ringling was again in the "carnival" with Charles, John and Alf, while Otto went ahead as agent. Then, says a notation, "went to Janesville and bought two cages, advance wagon and wardrobe." This winter the "Carnival" was snow bound half a dozen times in Iowa and Nebraska, which meant "no show."

In 1886 the "Carnival of Fun" opened at Waunakee March 2d and closed at Rice Lake April 23d, another short season. In this year's "Carnival of Fun" the names of neither Al nor Otto appear, but Alf, Charles and John were on duty with two others.

In 1886 we have the name "Ringling Bros. Great Double Shows and Congress of Wild and Trained Animals." Now the boys had a 90-foot round top. At this time they had eighteen wagons, whereas two years before they had but nine. Their equipment included "two cages, ticket wagon, band wagons, hyena, bear, monkeys, eagle. Bought the donkey and Shetland pony, January and Minnie (the first trick act with the show) at Winnebago City, Minnesota, June 23d. Bought another Shetland pony during the season." Henry Ringling, youngest of the brothers, joined the show September 9, 1886, not, however, as an owner but as an employee of his five elder brothers. Mrs. Al Ringling is again included among the members of the company. During the latter part of the season glanders broke out in the stock and fourteen head were lost, including several shot in the winter quarters.

The "Carnival of Fun and Specialty Co."—its name, too, had grown—was now the title of the winter attraction which went on the road, the

Ringlings running circus in summer and concert in winter. Their winter entertainment embraced music, in which about all the Ringlings participated with one instrument or another, also other things. Al Ringling balanced a plow on his chin, then a peacock feather, then a table.

In 1887 we have "Ringling Bros. United Monster Shows, Great Double Museum, Caravan and Congress of Trained Animals." So-ome na-ame! This year one camel bought on the road died and by this time a kangaroo had been added, as well as an elk and two lions. Now we have the legend for the first time—"Al Ringling, Otto Ringling, Alf T. Ringling, Charles Ringling, John Ringling proprietors and managers." But again Mrs. Al Ringling and Henry Ringling appear among the circus people. The nearest it got to Madison that year was Stoughton.

The "Carnival of Fun" for this season, 1887-8, was divided into two companies. Alf, Charles, John and Henry headed one and Al and his wife the other. Here we have the notice that while this company (No. 1) was on the road, the Ringling brothers bought two elephants; "after this important event no further interest was taken. John had to see the elephants five days before we closed, leaving the rest to give the show without him; having previously lost William and Madeline Wheeler, the company was reduced to Alf, Charles and Henry, C. White and Frederick Madison."

This season, 1887-8, was the last of the "Carnival of Fun." Thereafter the Ringlings devoted themselves wholly to the circus. The title of the organization in 1888 was "Ringling Bros. Stupendous Consolidation of Seven Monstrous Shows." It opened at Baraboo May 5th and closed at Sauk City November 13th. There now were two advance wagons and the circus tent had grown from 90 feet to 100 by 148, with a menagerie 70 by 100 feet, sideshows 40 by 80 feet, and two or three horse tents, also a 35-foot dressing room. The two elephants were Babylon and Tony. It was Babylon that died recently. This was the first season that a 50-cent show was attempted. Before it had been 25.

This year the circus had a tragedy. Mons. Dialo (James Richardson) was shot and killed at Webster City, Iowa, June 23d, by Thomas Baskett, who was sentenced to fifteen years in state prison.

This was a very wet season. "Did not see sun for four weeks. Missed many afternoon stands on account of mud and rain. Finally were obliged to abandon advance wagons and bill by rail for a short time. Business was, of course, bad, and after we were out two weeks we determined to drop the price of admission to 25 cents. We played six stands at this price and found it did not do; we immediately raised the admission again to fifty. We left the rain and mud on June 5th, after which business was good and we had a good season."

In 1889 the name was "Ringling Bros. and Van Amburgh's United Monster Circus, Museum, Menagerie, Roman Hippodrome and Universal World Exposition." Here we are told that "a small amount was paid

Hyatt Frost for the use of Van Amburgh's name." Now the number of horses had grown from 9 at the beginning to 110, and the third elephant had been added, as well as leopards and other animals. This year there were three advance wagons instead of two, and the personnel of the circus had grown greatly. This was the last season in wagons.

In 1890 the show took up the rail. There were two advertising cars, one performers' sleeper, one workingmen's sleeper, one elephant car, five stock cars, and eight flat cars. But there was only one ring. The main tent had now grown to a 125-foot roundtop with two 50-foot additions for the menagerie, etc. Out in Iowa and Nebraska Wallace & Andrews' and Sells' shows were in opposition. This year the circus opened at Baraboo May 3d and closed at Chicago Junction October 21st. There were 107 horses.

In 1891 the hippodrome, an aquarium and a spectacular tournament, a production of Caesar's Triumphal Entry Into Rome were added. Twenty-two railroad cars were necessary to carry the show, and there were 130 horses and ponies. This year the Ringlings first showed in Madison.

In 1892, among other features, a chime of bells and a "steam traction engine" were added. May 17th the train was wrecked at Concordia, Kansas, four cars being destroyed and twenty-six horses killed with many others injured. Two men also were killed and four badly injured. Only two stands were missed, however, as a consequence of this disaster. A bit later the same season the train was wrecked at Centralia, Missouri, and six cages demolished. But no further damage was done, and only one day was lost. Then, on October 28th, while the train was en route to Baraboo for winter quarters, a rear-end collision occurred. But little damage was done. Twenty-eight cars were with the show that year.

The year before, 1891, at Bolivar, Missouri, on September 26th, "a very serious battle was fought between the show and the people of the town and vicinity. Many of the local bad men were badly injured. The show got away after having a very exciting experience without suffering any injury."

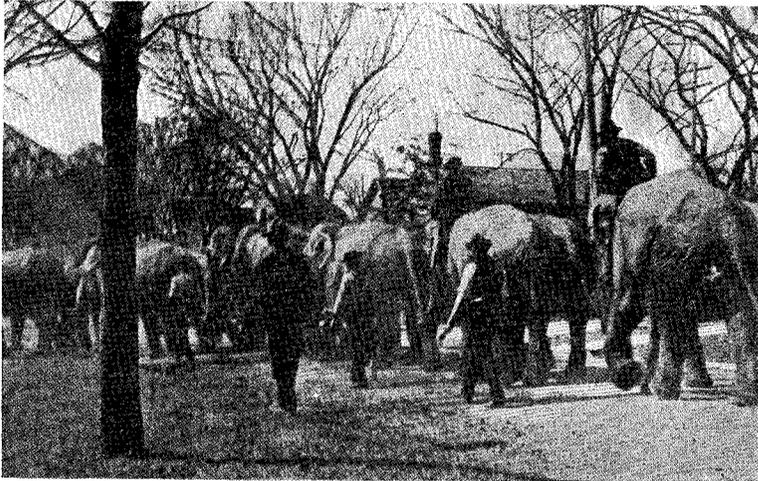
In 1892 the Ringlings were opposed by the Barnum & Bailey show at Kansas City and various other places, including Milwaukee, as well as by the Wallace and the John Robinson shows. This spring the show had thirty days of rain, yet it was a profitable year.

In 1892-3 a giraffe was purchased from John Robinson and shipped to Baraboo on a freight car in a cage over which was built a shanty. This year the Ringlings lost two elephants and bought three, and three camels died during the winter. A calliope also was obtained of John Robinson. Now the company has 207 horses and ponies with 39 cars and 3 advance cars.

In 1896 the show opened in the Tattersall Building, Chicago, and ran from April 11th until May 2d. This year the Barnum & Bailey

bought an interest in Sells Brothers' show, which now took the name of Forepaugh & Sells Bros. "This put Bailey with an interest in three big shows—Barnum & Bailey, Buffalo Bill and the Forepaugh-Sells." The Ringling and Forepaugh shows were in opposition at forty-five or more stands.

In 1897 the show had twenty-two elephants and over thirty cages. This year the boys traded an elephant and lion for a hippopotamus with the New York Zoo, and at Minneapolis were shut out of bill-boards by the Barnum & Bailey people, but "used newspapers strongly" and banners and "turned people away from each performance." It was not many years after this that all circus opposition was abated for the



THE CIRCUS IN TOWN

very good reason that the Ringling boys had secured control of the Barnum & Bailey and Forepaugh shows.

In 1898 the Ringlings opened in a building at St. Louis—the first time that such a thing had happened in that city—that is, that a circus had been exhibited in a building. This year the John Robinson show was rented and conducted by the Ringlings. A white elephant cage caught fire near Fort Smith, Arkansas, and the elephant was so badly burned that it died three or four days later.

In 1899 the business was "very big" and for the first time the Ringlings played in Washington and Oregon. The year 1900 also was a tremendous year and the show made its first trip to California.

Jerusalem and the Crusades were a special feature of 1903, and along about this time annually the Ringlings were opening their show at the Coliseum, Chicago. In 1905 they conducted the Adam Forepaugh and Sells Bros. united shows, opening at Columbus, Ohio, and

in 1906 the special feature was The Field of the Cloth of Gold, an extremely spectacular production.

In 1906 the Ringlings bought from James A. Bailey the half-interest which he owned in the Forepaugh & Sells show, thereby completing their ownership of that circus. In 1908 they took charge of the Barnum & Bailey show, opening in Madison Square Garden, New York. In 1909 they opened their show in Madison Square Garden and the Barnum & Bailey at the Coliseum, Chicago, thus reversing the usual order, and in 1910 the Ringlings had three shows—their own, Barnum & Bailey's and Forepaugh's. Both the Ringling and Forepaugh shows wintered at Baraboo. In 1911, Otto Ringling having died March 31st, Henry Ringling acquired his interest and became a member of the firm. At that time the use of the pictures of the owners in advertising was discontinued.

An unusual incident happened at McCook, Nebraska, in 1911, when the Forepaugh stand had to be abandoned because of the inability to unload "on account of wagons facing the wrong way on the flat cars and facilities for turning the train were unavailable in the limited time."

Joan of Arc was the special spectacular feature of the Ringling show during 1913 and Cleopatra of the Barnum & Bailey, while in 1914 Solomon and the Queen of Sheba was put on by Ringlings, and the Wizard Prince of Arabia by Barnum & Bailey.

Otto Ringling died in 1911, aged fifty-three, and August G. Ringling, also one of the brothers, but not a member of the firm, died in 1907, also at the age of fifty-three. The father was born in 1826 and died in 1898, the mother in 1907, aged seventy-four. The father was a harness maker and carriage trimmer, and at this occupation the sons worked more or less in their boyhood. Al, the oldest, was born in Chicago, living for a time at McGregor, then for the rest of his life at Baraboo. The other boys were born at different places, some at McGregor and some elsewhere. Only Al and Henry made their homes at Baraboo in late years. John lives in New York and Montana, Charles in Evanston, and Alf T. in New York. Several of them have summer homes on the coast of Florida.

A Standard History of Sauk County Wisconsin An Authentic Narrative of the past, with Particular Attention to the Modern Era in the Commerical, Industrial, Educational, Civic and Social Development Volume I - Link Page

Previous	Chapter XIV Bird's-Eye Views	363
Next	Chapter XVI City of Reedsburg	469

[Return to Electronic Index Page](#)