BURKE.

BY JOHN DOUGLAS.

THIS town is known as township 8 north, of range 10 east, and is equally divided into oak openings and prairie, with a marsh in the westerly part. Two branches of Token Creek enter the town. The eastern branch on section 3, and the western on section 6. then unite on section 7, run thence through the town of Westport into Fourth lake, being the largest stream that flows into the lake. The town received its name after the Right Hon. Edmund Burke, one of Ireland's illustrious orators and poets.

In 1847, it was made as one of the four towns of Windsor; the first town meeting was held at the house of Horace Lawrence, Charles M. Nichols being elected *chairman*, and Ira Mead, *clerk*. In 1852, it was organized as a separate town, and its first meeting held at the house of Adam Smith, when he was elected *chairman*, and John Douglas, *clerk*.

The Indian trail from Koshkonong and Third lakes, to Fort Winnebago (now Portage City), passed through the town, near the Indian Spring, on section 26. It was a well beaten track, and is still seen, where cultivation has not obliterated its traces, and on which the early settlers frequently saw as many as five hundred to one thousand Indians, with their wives and little ones, pass and repass in a week.

On section 10, in Mr. McMarran's field, there are two ancient circular mounds, and on H. P. Hall's lands, section 28, there is a mound in the form of a cross, while on section 30, on the farm of Henry Satchjen, there is a large oblong mound, running in a northwest and southeast direction, which was probably used at one time as a fort. These are all losing their identity by frequent cultivation of the soil.

Horace and William Lawrence came here from Vermont, in 1837, and built the first house in the town, on section 11, now owned and occupied by Washington Woodward. Lawrence lived here in the year 1838, and had a well known fame as a remarkably good hunter. In the winter he has been known to kill a score of deer, besides a great variety of other game. He is still noted among hunters as a good shot. Horace kept "bach" for some little time, but afterwards started a hotel, which for a number of years was known as the "Prairie House." When he raised his first barn it is said that nearly every white man in Dane, and some from Columbia county were present. The barn was afterwards destroyed by lightning.

The road to Fort Winnebago lay near the Prairie House, and many notables, even in early times had occasion to pass and repass through the town. Before the Mexican war, Gen. Scott (then only a colonel), together with Jefferson Davis and Zach. Taylor, being appointed by the United States government as inspectors of the military forts in the west, put up at the Prairie House, where they were entertained with

the common fare of deer, prairie hens and pork. Gen. Scott was the marked man among the others, not only for his tall and manly bearing, but also for the precise care he had of his person, performing his ablutions regularly and systematically. It is reported that they held a council with the Indians here.

The Indians were quite numerous in those early times, and were always peculiarly desirous of obtaining a little *fire water*, a privilege they then possessed, and which extended as well to some of the whites — indeed, the whites were known to be particularly fond of "Pecatonica" and "Rock River," pet names given for several kinds of whisky, and of a very poor quality at that. The Indians traded back and forward in the town for a number of years until large game became scarce, when their visits were not as frequent.

When Alex. Botkin settled on sections 27 and 28 (the '76 farm), the Indians always camped near his house, and in his dealings with them he at first had some trouble, in consequence of their innate thieving propensities and greed, but afterwards he became a person of considerable importance among them, so that on one occasion, when they had come in larger numbers than usual, he (in order that a proper understanding might exist between them and himself) assembled a council of all the chiefs in his house. Sitting down on the floor in a circle, while he stood in the center, he explained to them that they might camp near his house if they wished,

but must not steal his corn or hay; in fact (as he well knew the Indian character as being unsafe to *give* a gift without some equivalent) he would give them *nothing;* but if they had venison or anything to sell, he would willingly purchase the same. The council agreed to his request, and he had no trouble with them afterwards.

The mail was carried from Madison to Fort Winnebago, through this town, crossing the Creek a mile above the village on the old Indian trail, in the town of Windsor. There was no wagon road leading to the fort at that time, and business required to be done there had to be reached by passing across the creek at the old Indian trail. The only two houses on the road were the Lawrences', afterward called the "Prairie House," and Wallis Rowan's, near Poynette.

Chas. S. Peaslee, now living in Sun Prairie village, was an early settler on what is now known as Robert Ogilvie and A. C. Cummings' farm, on secs. 27 and 28. The frequent changes occurring among the settlers makes it difficult to trace up all occupants of this lovely spot; but soon after we find Alexander C. Botkin, Esq., lived here, near the beautiful rise of ground close to the road, that is now so tastefully surrounded with evergreens and other trees. He put up a sign, with the two large figures, '76, on it, in honor of the year in which the Declaration of Independence was made (1776), a term by which the farm is known even up to the present time, although it is also known as the "Courtney Place," because an English sea

captain of that name bought it, and there built a stone castle. It was struck by lightning and burned when the Hon. R. B. Sanderson owned and occupied it in 1870. It has not been rebuilt since, the walls still continuing to stand like some ancient ruins of feudal times. One of the former owners of the place, D. J. Powers, set out the poplar trees on the south-east side of the road, while Mr. Courtney planted those on the northwest side. J. C. Plumb, the celebrated nurseryman, now of Milton, Rock county, at one time leased this place, and many of the evergreens and fruit trees are of his planting. He was well known for a new variety of plum he raised. But the best were those in the house, and as good things are often moving, so they were transplanted to another place.

There was also a sign board placed on the hill beyond this farm, at the forks of the Portage and Columbus roads, but it is reported that there were rival taverns on each of these roads, and the sign board was frequently cut down by the landlords of these respective taverns, in the hope that travelers getting the wrong road, might patronize the house of the depredator.

Prairie fires were the dread of early settlers, and were sometimes caused by the Indians setting fire to the long grass for the purpose of driving the deer. These fires burned with intense heat, and traveled with great rapidity, making extraordinary leaps across creeks or any barriers that the settlers might have prepared to impede their progress and prevent the

burning of their fields of grain or stacks of hay. Many a time, when the husband would be absent on business or at the market, have the wife and children been compelled to spend the whole night fighting these fires from their homes, and when accomplished, would fall exhausted and powerless at the last place they extinguished the flames.

The late Alexander Botkin used to relate an incident of a semi-comic character, that we must try to repeat here. To be able to whip the prairie fires, required a great deal of skill and tact, so that the operator would put out the fire without scattering it or allowing any sparks to attach themselves to the hazel brush used as a whip, and thus avoid throwing fire backward when swinging the brush. A live Yankee from Vermont (visiting a neighbor of Mr. Botkin's), and who exhibited no capacity for knowing less than his western friends, whom, in fact, he rather conceived to be behind the times, and so was able to show them a little, started out one day to burn the grass round some stacks of hay, that had been put up in a meadow close by, just as Mr. Botkin stood on a knoll among some buckwheat. Looking for a moment toward the man to see what his object was, he saw him deliberately strike a match and light the grass on the windward side, then, with his hazel brush, commence whipping the flames. He had not proceeded far before he found that it required considerable alacrity to be able to control the fire, and, as with Yankee energy, he strove to subdue the flames,

it was but faint as compared with the consternation that afterwards seized him, when he felt an intense warmth on his back and turned to see the cause. He had whipped the fire into the stacks, and they were in a blaze. It was but a moment more and he was next seen rushing at a frantic speed across the prairie, seeming to imagine that every step he took was but one ahead of the devouring flames, while Mr. Botkin stood, the lone, but convulsed spectator of what he thought was Yankee confidence with a great deal of energy.

Men in those times seemed to be able to endure a greater amount of fatigue than they can at the present time. To travel on foot between here and Milwaukee was a very frequent occurrence, and was accomplished in about twenty-four hours. Mr. Botkin had at one time twelve acres of heavy oats to cut, and engaged four men to cut them. Two of them were men of about six feet hight, while the others were ordinary size. The tallest men cradled the oats, while the others bound them. Starting about seven in the morning, in the evening at sun down, the oats were all cut and bound. They cut very large swarths, and the binders kept up with each cut of the cradle.

Wolves were the scavengers of the prairie, and were also great pests around the farm. When any cattle died, they were removed to a convenient place away from the house, when in the evening, and often shortly after the carcass was left, the wolves would assemble in packs, and the night be made, with their

snarling howlings, the impersonation of the infernal regions.

About 1841, Abel Rasdall and Adam Smith settled on section 14, on land now owned by Mr. Hepker. They built a log cabin and broke up some of the land, but shortly after, Mr. Smith concluded to build a hotel, which he conducted for a number of years, and which was known, far and near, as "Smith's tavern." The building is still standing, and many pleasant and pleasing associations are connected with this home and household. He kept the first post-office in town, and has held that office for a number of years, as well as others of trust and honor. Sylvester Dunlap kept a store here for some years, and built up an excellent business. In 1848, one of the first school houses in town was built on the present site of Mr. Smith's elegant brick residence, but the school having been located in a more suitable place the old building was moved back, and is used by him as a granary. The new school house is located on a triangular piece of land, surrounded by some burr oaks, with the public highways on three sides of it.

Simplicity of life was always a marked feature among the early pioneers, and not less so was the implicit confidence they extended to each other and to entire strangers, as the following incident will show. When William Vroman, now of Madison, left New York to come to Madison, he came by way of Milwaukee. After waiting for some days, and finding

that he could not get through by stage, in consequence of the roads being in a bad condition from recent rains, he resolved to walk the distance on foot. After meeting with considerable difficulties (passing over the newly-formed causeway in the town of Deerfield, knee-deep in water), he came near the town of Burke, where he met a young man on horseback, who inquired of him if he was going to Madison, and if he was acquainted there. Answering in the affirmative, that he had a brother there, the young man looking at him a moment, and at the same time dismounting from his horse, told Mr. Vroman that he knew his brother, and as he seemed tired, he must ride to Madison; then directing him where to stable the horse, that he might find it conveniently when he again returned, left him in possession of the animal, he being then on his way to Watertown. The young man was then unknown to Mr. Vroman, but he afterward found him to be the Hon. Adam Smith, whose confidence in him, a stranger, was an astonishing phase of western life that he had never experienced before, nor had even any conception of. The simple fact that Mr. Smith knew his brother, George Vroman, was the measurement by which he judged the new acquaintance by the old.

Rough exteriors often cover warm hearts, and we are not guilty of flattery when we relate another incident just as pleasing. A poor German, near Mr. Smith's, had lost his horse just at the very busiest season of seeding, and the man being unable

to purchase or hire another, was in the awkward predicament of failing to get his seed in the ground. Adam Smith, hearing of the circumstance, rode over to the man's house, and, ascertaining the facts of the case to be so, told him he might come over to his barn and get one of his horses, which he could use until he had completed his seeding. This act at ordinary times might not have been deemed of much importance, but all farmers know the preciousness of such generosity, at a time when days are as months to them.

In early times the roads across the prairies were numerous, and often crossed each other in such a manner as to be perplexing to those unacquainted with the different tracks, who were liable to lose their way if not fortunate in striking the right one. On these roads emigrants' goods and lead from the mines at Blue Mounds were hauled by ox teams and covered wagons, popularly known as "prairie schooners." The teamsters and occupants, when they halted for the day, would usually select some suitable place that was known to provide shelter for themselves and grass for their animals. On the farm of H. P. Hall, section 28, there is a large burr oak that was a common resort, and was well known among the pioneers and immigrants as the "Traveler's Home." The tree is about ten feet in circumference toward the base, and about seven feet from the ground there are five branches that spread out from the trunk nearly forty feet. It occupies as much ground in Mr. Hall's

orchard as ten apple trees would, and stands in full view of the road, strong and vigorous, spreading over the ground like a great mammoth tent. Many a weary traveler has eaten his frugal meal under its sheltering branches, and it was a frequent occurrence to see as many as a dozen of the "prairie schooners" either at anchor or sailing in sight of this noble oak, where hotel charges were as free as the air of the wide spread prairie, accommodations being plenty and grass and water near at hand.

Alexander Lamere, a Canadian Frenchman, was an early settler. He owned a farm on section 10, which he sold to Mr. McMurran and Martin Lewis. He was at one time engaged in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, and when residing here, usually occupied himself hunting and trapping. He was well known from the peculiarity of his costume, which was a suit of buckskin, with a little hatchet belted on behind him. He married a squaw, and removed with her when her tribe went west, by order of the United States Government.

Martin Lewis, who settled on section one, built his house on the edge of the prairie, which was a visible land mark for some distance round, and especially serviceable as a lighthouse in the night for travelers crossing the prairie, who took the lights in his windows to enable them to take their bearings.

In 1841, G. A. Spaulding, from Vermont, settled on section 3, on the old Indian camping ground near Token Creek. He built part of the house now occu-

pied by G. W. Loomis. He kept a hotel there for a number of years, and by the aid of his worthy wife and estimable daughters, it was a favorite resort in its day. The bridge across the creek was built near the house, about two years afterwards, 1843. He also built the house now occupied by L. M. Fuller, who is a very useful man among his neighbors, having an intuitive ability to take hold of any mechanical work for repair or construction which may be given him.

Messrs. Hanchett & Harris opened the first store in town at Token Creek in 1848. It was a small building, 14x18, with an upper chamber, and stood a little north of the present store. They occupied the ground floors, while Messrs. Davy & Robinson, two Englishmen from London, used the upper room as shoemakers, and were well known as good workmen. Mr. Davy had at one time been a sailor, and the constant custom of sleeping in a hammock had become so habitual to him, that he had one attached to the rafters of the room in which he slept. He had a taste for natural history, and for years had engaged himself in the preserving of flies, bugs and birds, of which he had large assorted specimens. Dr. R. K. Bell was the first physician in the town. He first lived at the Prairie House, but afterwards built a house at Token Creek. He was a young man of noble appearance, fine ability, and very successful in his profession; but he died young.

In the south part of Windsor, near Token Creek, there is a large hill that is familiarly known as "Big

Hill," and which in old times was looked upon as the lighthouse of the prairie, by which travelers were able to steer their course when crossing the open country. It was for many years their only way-mark and guide to find the harbor of Token Creek.

Mr. Goodrich and Mr. E. C. Bullis were the first blacksmiths of any note, and were afterwards succeeded by M. C. Connor, who is still in Token Creek, but has for some time back retired from the forge. Mr. Bullis' house was moved from the south part of the town of Bristol to its present site, a distance of five miles, and is occupied by Mr. Connor.

Selden Combs and brother at one time had a brick yard at the Creek, but it is not now in operation. When the war broke out, Capt. William A. Fields, who kept the hotel, raised a company for the war, and had them drilled in the village. [The first store in the village was built by John Douglas, who came here in the year 1847. He is a part owner in the mill, and is also engaged in surveying. It is related of him that at one time, while engaged surveying for a Norwegian, who could not speak or understand English, they came to an Indian wigwam, and it was a matter of astonishment to the Indians that Mr. Douglas and the Norwegian were compelled to understand each other by signs, as well as the Indians were them. Three nationalities were here represented, but the red man was as favorably situated as his more civilized brothers, since they could do no more than talk by signs. The compass which Mr. Douglas carried was a subject

of great wonderment to them, as they kept turning it over to examine it. When elected to the office of superintendent of schools, he rode round the county on a black pony, that was too lazy to run away, and when he came to the school to be visited, if no convenient hitching place was at hand, a rope carried in his saddle bags, Jacob's staff, that he carried with him, were made serviceable for the occasion, and the pony was staked on the prairie until again required. On one occasion, as justice, he married a couple under the shade of an oak tree, and who sat in their open buggy during the performance of the marriage service. It is reasonable to suppose that the couple were made happy, and though romantic like, yet in those early times it was more difficult to catch a justice than to be caught by one.]

The road by way of Token Creek was in old times very much traveled, as people passed through the village on their way to Fort Winnebago and the pineries. It was no uncommon thing to see five or six four-horse coaches pass each way in a day, and equally so to see a score of teams in sight. On one occasion, in the winter, a company of twenty-five teams passed through the village, and they enlivened the occasion by one of the occupants of the sleighs playing a violin with his hands delicately encased in gloves. There were also, on another occasion, 200 head of cattle and thirty-seven teams, loaded, and on their way to the pineries. The manner of supplying the early settlers with cattle and horses was, for parties from the south

to start in the spring, when the grass was getting up, and drive before them droves of cattle and horses with bells round their necks, which enabled the drivers to hunt up any that strayed from the herd.

Ezra Gould was an early settler on section 32. A painful incident is connected with his respected wife, who became blind by accidentally running against the sharp point of the spindle of a spinning wheel. She is now living at Belleville, and is a diligent and tidy housewife yet, even under her severe affliction.

The farmers hauled their wheat to Milwaukee to market, and the small amount paid them for their grain very often brought them back in debt, unless they were fortunate in bringing back merchandise or immigrants.

Deer were plenty, and seen in droves of from 25 to 100. But the Indians at one time went out on a big hunt, and drove the deer toward Fourth Lake, in the town of Westport, and killed over 500, which, together with the continued shooting of them by the early settlers, has made their appearance scarce. Mr. H. P. Hall, for a number of years, kept a small deer park; but, four years ago, during a storm, his fence was blown down, and seven of the deer escaped, and are supposed to have bred in the woods, as three or four have been shot in the neighborhood.

On the elevated prairie land owned by G. J. Margerum and S. A. Cummings, there was at one time a remarkably good race course. From this position a magnificent view is obtained of Madison and the sur-

rounding country. The sporting men from Madison, as well as others in and out of the state, would gather at this course in large numbers, and witness many good horses try their speed and excellence in in equestrian display, even to rivalling Hiram Woodruff. When Kittie Miles, from Canada, ran a race here, she broke from the course and ran a distance of two miles, to the barn of Adam Smith, and gave the race to her competitor, "Little Flea," from Long Island, New York. The celebrated trotter, Tobby was trained on this course.

S. L. Sheldon, the well known agricultural machine dealer, settled here about 1854, on sections 32 and 33. He owned 150 acres—70 on section 32 and 80 on 33. There were only seventeen acres under the plow, forty heavy timber, while the balance had been at one time timbered like the forty, but was then thickly covered with an underbrush of from ten to twenty feet high. He afterwards added enough land to make his farm 540 acres, and set out an orchard of over one thousand trees, put out about two miles of shade trees, and built about the same amount of fencing that year. The farm originally belonged to an early pioneer by the name of West, and who, as a type of all of that class of persons, was unable to bear the inroads of civilization, so, as his name indicates, he sold his farm and went *West*.

Mr. S. taught school in the old log school house on his farm, which was one of the first district schools, but in 1855, having sold that part of it to Alex. Lisk, in the winter he taught in his own log cabin

where he kept "bach," superintended the work of three hired men, did the housework, and sawed and split fire wood in the evening. He built the barn now owned by Samuel Drakely, on the southeast side of the road. In 1857, he started the selling of agricultural machinery, being the third person in the business in this county. The first was P. L. Carman (of the firm of Gray and Carman), and the second James H. Hill, (of the firm of Davis and Hill), now engaged in the drug business on King street, Madison. His business, from this small beginning, has kept steadily increasing until he is now the largest individual dealer in agricultural machinery in the United States. From this increase, he was obliged to sell out his farm and confine himself entirely to business in the city and elsewhere, so that in 1864 P. L. Carman and T. S. Phillip bought each a part of the 540 acres. He expended about $10,000 in improvements and sold for $14,000, leaving 250 acres under the plow. A small portion of that farm was afterwards sold by P. L. Carman for $450 an acre, without any buildings on it.

The first reaper trial in this section occurred on the farm of H. P. Hall, and between Mr. Porter, the representative of the McCormick, and S. L. Sheldon, of Seymour and Morgan, which last was the successful machine.

An incident connected with the above trial is recorded in regard to one of the agents who was exhibiting the McCormick machine. He, at one time, had been engaged in business in the east, but suddenly

disappeared from his accustomed quarters, and was never heard of again. As the trial went on, Mr. Hall's father, who was visiting at that time, came out of the house to witness its progress. As he approached one of the agents, the old gentleman was seen to be particularly scrutinizing of the personal appearance of the man, and finally burst out with the exclamation: "Halloa! is that you, Mr. ———? When did you come out here?" No two men ever looked at each other with greater astonishment than they did, the one an extensive creditor of the absenting defaulter, and the other the veritable *debit.* It is needless to add that he also went west; at least he was mysteriously absent a second time.

An illustration of a conscientious regard for the true meaning and intent of law is related of Mr. Sheldon. In 1857, he was elected assessor, and fulfilled the requirements of the office to the satisfaction of all concerned, and was again elected to fill the office. During this same year the legislature changed the old law so as to require the assessor to put in the land at its *real value.* He sacredly performed his duty, and the result showed a larger increase of taxes and a very large amount of dissatisfaction among the tax payers, and, though a very popular man in the town, the feeling against him for the proper discharge of his duty was such, that he could not have obtained a reëlection to office at any price or under any consideration.

Mr. Sheldon was one of the foremost men in everything pertaining to the interest of the town when he

was a resident of it, displaying the same zeal and energy which he has in his business calling, and, in his new home, is the leading incentive to all modern improvements in agricultural machinery.

P. L. Carman came to Wisconsin in 1847. He first located in Columbia county, while we were under the territorial form of government. In 1853 he removed to Madison, where, as dealer in grain and coal, and agricultural implements, he was known for many years, but for more than twenty years, and up to 1874, he was best known in Wisconsin and Minnesota as agent for the "Buffalo Pitts" Thresher. In August, 1864, he purchased that portion of the Sheldon farm, in the town of Burke, on sections 32 and 33, which lay on the west side of the Sun Prairie road, containing about 260 acres. In the same month he divided the land and sold to Wm. F. Fitch about 120 acres, comprising all the buildings and improvements, reserving the remaining 140 acres for a residence. He moved into the Sheldon house at once, and thus became a resident of the town of Burke, and commenced improving his place by breaking ground for a new dwelling on the first day of September, having bought, resold and made building contracts, all between the 16th of August and the 1st of September, 1874. A large and substantial brick dwelling house was completed and occupied by himself and family on the 10th day of December the same fall. The site selected for improvements, adjoined the Grover farm, and was covered with a thick growth of timber and

underbrush. The buildings were located with great care, and the grounds laid out with a view of making a beautiful wooded lawn. By having the grounds laid out and plotted, and by working according to a settled plan, together with the expenditure of not a little persevering industry, he succeeded in making one of the pleasantest and most beautiful homes on the street. The one main feature of the place was the cool green lawn, containing some six or eight acres, surrounding the buildings shaded by its native trees, and added evergreens and shrubbery, and well-kept drives.

This feature will be remembered by those who were in the habit of passing on their way to the city, some three miles distant.

In 1873 he sold the place to J. C. McKenney, Esq., and removed to Madison.

J. C. McKenney was the assistant United States Attorney at the time of the breaking up of the whisky ring, and successfully prosecuted that portion of the ring which was tried in Madison. As the result of his success in the prosecution of these cases in Madison, he was employed by the government as a special attorney to conduct the prosecution of the cases of the same nature in Milwaukee. After the close of this engagement, he opened an office in Milwaukee, for the general practice of law, where he is still engaged. His family lives upon the farm, which he still occupies as his home.

The portion of the Sheldon farm bought by Wm. F.

Fitch, stepson of the Hon. Judge Hood, was occupied by him early in the spring of 1865, and extensive improvements commenced on the buildings and farm under the immediate supervision of N. B. Van Slyke, Esq. It was occupied as a home by Judge Hood and family (together with that of Mr. Fitch), for a number of years, until Judge Hood became a permanent resident in Washington. Mr. Fitch is now connected in an official capacity with the Chicago & Northwestern Railway.

Mr. H. N. Moulton has recently purchased the old Isaac Smith farm, on section 33, and has added considerable to the general appearance of the place, both internally and externally. Its proximity to the highway makes it very observable, as also the addition of a neat bay window, that during the winter Mrs. Moulton had tastefully filled with house plants, whose blossoms in the cold, bleak months of winter, have gladdened both the eye and the heart, and made it a green spot in the memory of every passer-by. Mr. Moulton is engaged in business in the city, and drives to and from every morning and evening.

Where John Brigham lives, on section 32, there was at one time a good hotel. It was built and kept for a number of years by Eleazer Grover, and was a well-known resort for travelers. Bennet Britton also owned and kept a hotel on the farm at present owned by Gen. Harnden, which was also a desirable resort in old times. It now stands a little further back than it did formerly. Gen. Henry Harnden is perhaps not

usually known to have been the person who captured Jefferson Davis, when he appeared in his unmanly suit toward the close of the late rebellion. He was colonel of the First Wisconsin cavalry that pursued and overtook Davis, near Irwinville, Georgia. The facts of that remarkable capture are still fresh in the memory of our citizens, but the indefatigable endurance of the general and his brave men will never be fully known even from the lips of those who were participants in the long night and day rides which finally resulted in the capture of Davis. When taken prisoner, he expressed a great deal of contempt for the United States government, who were employing their troops, he said, to harass *women* and children, and pacing backward and forward in front of Gen. Harnden and his command, tried to assume an arrogance of speech which was significant of an effort to impress persons with an idea of his importance, and also that he was not receiving the respect due to him, being simply acknowledged as *Mr. Davis.* A lady of the party, said to be Mrs. Davis, sallied forth from one of the tents, and in an imploring and disturbed manner, expressed herself in the hearing of the soldiers that they must be careful not to irritate the president, as some of them might get *hurt.*

Gen. Harnden bought this farm of Maj. Meredith, about four years ago, since, which, he has greatly improved it by rebuilding the fences, sinking a new well, putting up a wind mill, and building a tenement house. The farm is at present under a very high

state of cultivation and consists of 200 acres. He is engaged in breeding short-horn cattle.

Maj. Meredith bought 80 acres of this farm from Capt. Albert Pierson, in 1866, and, after tearing down the old Britton barn, he built a large new one, and afterwards added 120 acres more, which he bought of Mrs. Carpenter, the widow of the former owner, who lived in Ohio. He conducted a general farming business, but being Superintendent of Public Property under Governors Fairchild and Washburne, did not give the attention to the farm that he otherwise would. The Major was among the first volunteers in the Second Regiment, and was First Lieutenant in Company H. He was wounded at the battle of Bull Run of July 21, 1861, by which he lost the use of his arm. He was commissariat of General Pope's command.

"Cincinnati Heights," formerly known as "Rock Terrace," is the residence of J. M. Dickson, a retired capitalist, who has 300 acres under cultivation. He gave it the present name in honor of his former place of residence, Cincinnati. Nature has made it a lovely spot, and from here you have a grand view of Madison, with the Lakes on each side. In the distance is the far-famed Blue Mounds, where memory recalls the place where the first settler lived, Ebenezer Brigham, who in those pioneer days, when he dug for lead, was obliged to carry it on his back to Mineral Point, twenty miles distant, and return with his supplies in the same manner. The surroundings of

this beautiful spot cannot be penned; they must be seen.

The first proprietors of the "Heights," were John Tweed and J. V. Robbins, but shortly afterwards Robbins bought out Tweed, and became sole owner. He took a great interest in the raising of stock of the very best; buying only premium cattle wherever he had an opportunity, and keeping nothing but the best swine, cows, and horses. He was the occasion of of the great impetus given to the surrounding country in the raising of pure stock. An extensive nursery was also carried on by him, under the able superintendence of the late L. P. Chandler, who was for many years foreman with the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder.

An idea may be given of the extensiveness of Mr. Robbins' farm, when it is stated that the Hons. J. J. Crittenden and Thomas F. Marshall of Kentucky (when in Madison during one of the political campaigns) were the guests of Mr. Robbins, and on being escorted by the Governor's Guards out to his residence, he received them with a greater number of his employés than the whole military company, besides the display of flags and emblems were larger than had been made at Madison.

Being a great admirer of the late Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, he made a cheese that weighed 1,620 pounds, that was exhibited at our State Fair in 1860, but which he intended presenting to Douglas the same year, if he became the successful candidate for

president of the United States. He did not get elected, so the cheese was reluctantly cut up and distributed among a number of Mr. Robbins friends, who pronounced it a first class article. To make the cheese Mr. Robbins had his teams scattered over the town soliciting milk from the other farmers, whose contributions he paid for.

The farm now owned by H. P. Hall, on sections 20, 21, 28 and 33, embraces, with other purchases, the farm once owned by Wm. F. Porter, Esq., who put up many of the buildings. Mr. Hall has since made extensive improvements, adding greatly to the number and extent of the buildings. He has a large dairy and furnishes milk to the citizens of Madison. The farm is known as the "Orchard Farm" for the reason that there were once 2,600 apple and fruit trees on the land. There are now about 1,600 apple trees of hardy varieties in thriving condition, many of the tender varieties of apples, pears, plum and cherry trees having proved too tender for this climate. This is perhaps the largest orchard farm in the county.

This farm embraces some 668 acres of fine land, well proportioned for profit and convenience, abundantly supplied with wood and water, and has most likely, the finest and most complete set of farm buildings in this section of the country. There are five dwelling houses, five large barns with stables, ice house, observatory, etc. The basement used for cows is of solid masonry, 60 by 120 feet. Water is conducted from tanks to parts of the buildings and adjacent fields,

with a constant supply for over 200 head of stock. In the summer of 1858 Mr. H. made some seven miles of ditch, the main one being 8 feet wide, 4 feet deep and 3½ miles in length, to improve a large meadow which was unprofitable, the neighbors expressing their pity for the waste of money, and folly of the Yankee farmer. It may be interesting to know that that portion of the farm, some 340 acres, has become firm land, bearing heavy grass, and for years been adapted to the use of machinery and suitable for driving upon with horse and carriage at all seasons of the year. The drainage has been followed up where needed, till within a few years, and is now complete.

The main house stands off the road with a beautiful lawn of two acres in front, surrounded in part by a magnificent circle of evergreens, which are some thirty to forty feet high, and form a shaded driveway, which for magnificence is hard to excel, even in older or wealthier portions of our country. The views from parts of the farm are extensive and charming, embracing views of Madison, the lakes, asylum and Blue Mounds. This farm was entered for premium farm in 1860, and though then in a crude condition, the committee of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, made the following mention:

This farm has every variety of land necessary to make an excellent grain and stock farm. These superior natural advantages are being well improved by Mr. Hall. .... It is but four years since this entire farm was in a state of nature. We find the buildings all in excellent condition, comprising every convenience of an old New England farm that has been improved a hundred years. .... He

depends upon no one thing to make his farm profitable, but is developing each branch of agriculture with zeal, system and apparent success. His horses are good, substantial animals, without running specially to fancy; his cattle are all good, and means are being used for their improvement, ... and everything is kept in a manner that indicates good skill and economy in his operations. .... He is doing a noble work in reclaiming a marsh on the back part of his farm. .... There can be but little doubt but land that a year or two ago was so wet that it was useless, will be made the most valuable on his farm. W. S. A. T., pp. 146–7, 1860.

As high as 43½ bushels of wheat have been raised on an acre of land, and 138 bushels of corn, under most favorable seasons and circumstances. Mr. Hall being one of the executive committee for a number of years afterwards, was of course precluded from making a contest for a premium a second time.

The amount of capital invested in this farm is an exhibit, not only of the great confidence and faith which Mr. Hall has had in the rich and prolific bearing of the soil, but of that stability of aim which has had the power and the will to make even the sterile lands subservient to his purposes. There has been expended in the way of improvements over $70,000, an amount that would (in proportion to what is deemed certain investments in commercial circles) startle and amaze many. The tact of managing his farm and hired help is well worth imitation by all who find that their bane is *poor* help. He is particular in his first agreement with his hands, so that no misunderstanding may occur by which either party may be disappointed in their expectations; and then he is also in sympathy with them because of a rule he has of not

asking too much, knowing that human endurance has a limit both physically and morally. He requires no extra labor, however trivial, that is not compensated by its equivalent in pay. There are over thirty souls that live and are dependent on the labors of this farm.

When the bustle and hurry of spring, summer and fall work have somewhat relieved the constant friction of their bearing on the hired help, Mr. Hall gives them a social entertainment, in which they have music, together with a choice selection of the creature comforts. On one occasion the Madison brass band resolved to compliment Mr. H. and family by a serenade, and engaged an express wagon to carry them out to his house. After discoursing some of their sweet strains, the hospitalities of the house were kindly proffered them. The teamster having delivered his charge, *tied* his horses in a convenient place, and prepared for a night's frolic. As the hours moved on, the horses became restive and finally broke loose and ran away. When informed by some one of the fact, the driver, who was of Teutonic origin, came rushing out in an excited state, addressed every one he met with the exclamation: "Who *tie* my horse *loose!* Who *tie* my horse *loose?*" The horses were afterwards found *tied loose*, about two miles distant on the Token Creek road.

Mr. Geo. J. Margerum, lately of Youngstown, Ohio, has bought the farm, on section 22, formerly owned by H. P. Hall, and now known as "Fairview Farm," and has made some very extensive changes there.

The improvements are of a superior character and he seems to take advantage of his opportunities, as may be seen by the neat and useful observatory he has constructed; in putting his windmill to a double purpose. The frame is boxed in with wood, and neatly painted, while inside a stair is built with convenient platforms at each alternate angle, which leads to the top, and from which a commanding and pleassing view is obtained of the rich and beautiful fields, all over the country; the churches of Sun Prairie, the Blue Mounds in the distance, towns of Westport, Springfield, Dane, Vienna, Windsor, are all set out before the eye in panoramic beauty, while Madison, with its surroundings, lies in queenly grandeur in the sunlight of her magnificient lakes. Mr. Margerum intends adding still further to the conveniences of the tower inside and out. He has made some purchases of choice horses, cattle and sheep, and purposes engaging in the raising of stock, having prepared his large barn and other buildings for that object.

Mr. Robert Ogilvie, the present owner of the '76 farm on section —, is engaged in raising pure breed Clydesdale horses. His farm is still kept under good cultivation, although he is much occupied with his business in the city of Madison. He has concentrated a great deal of attention in the raising of pure stock, but more especially horses. That our readers may have some conception of the character of these horses, we herewith submit a description of them, showing their breeding and pedigree:

"MARQUIS OF LORNE," two years old, and will now weigh over 1,600 pounds, and from the time he was a foal by his mother's side up to the present, he has never failed to carry away the first honors in any ring wherever shown, at the many state and county fairs he has attended.

"ROBBIE BURNS" is a powerful brown horse seven years old, stands 16½ hands high and weighs over 2,000 pounds, on remarkable good legs, great bone and substance, combined with superior action and good temper. He is pronounced the most perfect model of a Clydesdale horse in Scotland or America. He was bred by Mr. Wilson Brittlebog, Kilburnie (Scotland) and sired by Rabbie Burns, the property of Mr. Clark, Manswraes, Kilburchan. His dam was also one of the successful mares that carried-off the prizes at several of the local fairs in her district. Robbie Burns was first exhibited at the great horse show in Milwaukee, and took second in his class and second in sweepstakes, being beaten in both only by the farfamed "Donald Dinnie." He took first prizes in Quincy, Ill., and first at the great horse fair in St. Louis, which has ever been regarded as the largest and most prominent agricultural fair held on this continent.

"DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH," one year old, a worthy Son of the famous Donald Dinnie, who won the international medal at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia last year.

"PRINCESS," a pure bred imported Clylesdale mare, six years old, weighing over 1,900 pounds, and has been a first prize winner at every fair where she has been shown since her importation to this country.

"GYPSY QUEEN," five years old; another pure bred, imported Clydesdale mare, who took first in her class two years ago at the great horse show at St. Louis,

In addition to the above, Mr. Ogilvie has many other valuable horses, which undoubtedly place his entire stock superior to any other in this state. There are other specialities here, apart from his horses; in the way of good hogs and cattle. The hogs are particularly good, being first prize and sweepstakes winners at our state and county fairs; they are the

justly famous Berkshire breed, now so popular among the first feeders and breeders of the present day. The cattle are pure bred and graded short horns, and like everything else on the farm, are not to be surpassed anywhere.

There is a spring on the farm that is known as the head of the "Clyde Creek" which flows in a south-westerly direction, through the town of Blooming Grove into Third lake. Philo Dunning for some years had a saw mill on the stream, at a place which was known by some as "Millwood."

Mr. Henry Gilman owns a fine large farm of 400 acres, on section 22, known as "Hill Side" farm. It was at one time owned by J. V. Robbins, who put a very extensive and expensive lot of buildings on it, and called them the "farm-house," but which were accidentally destroyed by fire, when owned by Dexter Curtis. The thorough and extensive improvements which Mr. Gilman has made, rank with the leading farms in town. He has rebuilt a portion of the barns, refitted the elegant white brick house, situated a few rods from the road, beautifully surrounded with evergreens, and is devoting himself entirely to the raising of stock. He is at present engaged in erecting a barn on the old site of the famous Robbins barn, which was the most complete building for that purpose in the state. The new barn will measure fifty by one hundred feet, and is intended as a rival to its predecessor. The well arranged conveniences which surround his farm are not surpassed by any

other in the county, and he is making it his object to spare neither labor nor money in making it a model farm in every particular. There are two cisterns, one of which holds 1,500 and the other 1,000 barrels of water, that are in themselves sufficient to house both flocks and herds. He has a convenient platform scale in front of his farm, for the use of himself and neighbors, in weighing hay and cattle. His wells are thirty feet deep in the soil, and then drilled through rock the same distance. While the workmen were engaged drilling, they struck a vein of water that precipitated the drill eighteen inches down, and an endless flow of water at any season and under all circumstances was the result.

Mr. Gilman is a son of Gen. John C. Gilman, of Watertown, one of the oldest pioneer settlers of the state. He and Tim. Johnson were the first to settle in Watertown, having come in the winter of 1836. In the spring of 1847 he was engaged to locate the school lands in the Mineral Point district, and employed John Douglas as surveyor, to assist him. On the discovery of gold in California, the General immigrated there, and remaining a few years returned home, then started for Pike's Peak, and afterwards to Montana, where he died in 1869. Soon after the selection of the land for school purposes, and immediately at the conclusion of the Mexican war, he, in consequence of his acquaintance with the land, located a large number of pieces for those who held land warrants, and at the same time located three quarter

sections for himself, in the town of Vienna, which he afterwards bought and sold to his son Henry, who broke up the land and farmed it for some years, but selling out, went into the mercantile business in the village of Sun Prairie, his chief object being to secure better opportunities for educating his children. Having a good chance to dispose of this business, he sold and bought his present location, the Robbins farm. He has again entered business in Sun Prairie, being a partner in the firm of Gilman, Moak and Weigan.

Near the back of his house there is a knoll that is said to be the highest point of land in the town, and which Mr. Robbins, when he owned the farm, was undecided whether to build there or on "Cincinnati Heights." The view from here is equally intensifying in grandeur to that of the others, and with surrounding fields spread round the knoll, is suggestive of the times when chiefs assembled their followers around some such eminence for the purpose of harranguing them. A host could be gathered round this spot, and their leader's every gesture and word seen and heard with distinctness. On the opposite side of the highway, there is a portion of land that looks like a twin sister to this knoll, and may at one time have been part of it. It is on Mr. Margerum's farm, and has been opened and excellent stone obtained for building purposes.

Doctor Wightman and Mr. Damon were the first owners of the farm now owned by La Fayette Stow, on section 23. Mr. Stow has moved the double house

farther from the road, to a more convenient and pleasanter place, and built a fine, large barn, with a stone basement, and convenient scales for weighing.

On the road between sections 21 and 22, there is a hill known as "Norwegian Hill" (named so because a number of citizens of that nationality reside near there). It has lately been graded and greatly improved. On the top of this hill, N. B. Van Slyke, Esq., has a fine farm with a good view of the city in the distance.

Ensign hill, on section 10, is well known as one of the places where a good view of the county can be obtained. It is called Ensign hill, because a gentleman of that name owned the farm on this section. It is noted for its cold exposure in winter, so that a common expression among the neighbors is to say, "as cold as Ensign hill."

Some of the early settlers are, Mr. Dailey, on section 33, Gardner Cotrell on 23, A. D. Goodrich on 9, F. H. Talcott on 15, James Sullivan and H. D. Goodenow on 34, C. M. Nichols and George Nichols on 36, Thomas Rathbun on 11, Thomas Sandon and J. P. W. Hill on 5, Martin Lewis on 1, S. W. Thompson on 12, Torkel Gulekson and Gunder Olson on 24.

The farm of Sidney H. Hall comprises one hundred and sixty acres of prairie and opening. It is pleasantly situated, and affords a fine view of Madison and the lakes. Brought under cultivatian in 1857, it was originally a grain farm, but at present is devoted to market gardening, and is also the home of a herd of Alderney cattle. An orchard of 500 trees and

a well 130 feet deep are the principal attractions of the place. From the bottom of this well may always be heard the rippling of an unseen spring. One of the earliest windmills in the country was set up over this well.

The farm of Adam Smith comprises 520 acres, on sections 13 and 14, and is beautifully situated. It is part prairie, oak openings and meadow lands, and the house is acknowledged to be the most complete in the county. He came west in 1837, and was one of those who worked on the capitol, and afterward purchased the interest of Pineo, the "shingle weaver," and made shingles for the capitol contractors. He kept tavern on his present farm for twenty-eight years, and was the first that staked out the road between Token Creek road and Sun Prairie. He also assisted in laying out the one between Cottage Grove and the Creek. When he kept tavern, his house was much frequented, and many social gatherings were held there that recall pleasant recollections among many early settlers.

As justice of the peace, he sometimes made the law subservient to the circumstances of the case. A thief was once caused to pay the penalty of his crime by walking through the slush roads back to the place he committed the depredation, and after suitable apology and a reprimand, was set at liberty; while on another occasion, he threatened to chastise two clients that would not, at his suggestion, come to an amicable settlement. Many and singular samples of humanity put up at his tavern, and if unable to pay, a candid

acknowledgment of the fact was sufficient for him, but it sometimes happened that an impostor would try to take advantage of the landlord's generous hospitality. A man of considerable physical power once took breakfast there, and refused to pay because he had no money. Mr. Smith seemed to doubt him, when the fellow, seemingly conscious of his physical superiority, boldly walked off. He was pursued by Mr. Smith, and after a desperate struggle brought back, when $300 in gold was found tied securely round his waist. He was made to pay for his breakfast, and also, as Mr. Smith called it, the legal expenses of bringing him back.

Mr. Smith was considered a dead shot with the rifle. The elk horns that were exhibited for so many years at Rodermund's brewery were supposed to be the results of his rifle.

The grist mill on section 5 was commenced in 1849 by David C. Butterfield, a peculiar and eccentric man, that in early times did some trading with the Indians. He did not complete the mill, but Rasdall and Loomis bought and finished it, and it is still in operation and a great convenience to the surrounding country. Rasdall was an old pioneer settler and Indian trader, and was one of the spy scouts in the Black Hawk war. He was accidentally killed by getting into the gearing of the mill.

Douglas and Parfey built and owned the grist mill in the south part of Windsor, at Token Creek, and soon after Mr. Douglas became sole proprietor. It

was badly constructed at first, so that new wheels and gearing had to be put in and the dam thoroughly repaired, making it an expensive investment to the then owner. He now has a half interest it.

At Token Creek, in Windsor, near the line, there is a number of springs which are now being successfully used by Ellis Lawrence as a fish hatchery. He has made two ponds, and has about fifteen hundred trout in them. It promises to be an excellent spot for the purpose he is now engaged in developing.

Abner Cady built the first brick house in the town, on section 16, the brick of which he made himself. It is now occupied by Hermon Olson.

David Grafton, a veterinary surgeon, who lives on section 3, has a far-famed reputation for his professional skill in the treatment of the diseases of all kinds of cattle and horses, the latter more especially, and is much sought after among those needing his attention. He is a man of remarkably generous impulses, and for which he is even more highly esteemed than he is professionally. "Uncle David," as he is familiarly and affectionately called, has a heart too large to be measured by the world's narrow guage. No neighbor ever feels the sharp shaft of sorrow, that does not find in him a soothing and helpful friend in need; and no wayfarer ever passes his house whose wants are not bountifully supplied, and he set on his way rejoicing. He is a man of upwards of seventy years, but yet is so hale and hearty, that he bids fair to outlive many of his juniors. It will be a dark day

to the town when it shall be known that the "golden bowl is broken, and the silver cord loosed," and "Uncle David" gone to his long home.

The first and only church is on section 15, with a cemetery attached. It belongs to the Norwegian Lutherans. There is a Grange Hall on section 23, and nine public school houses and eleven school districts, including joint districts. The track of Madison and Portage Railroad passes through the western part of the town, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul on the southeast, and the Northwestern, the southwest corner.

There are cemetery grounds on sections 14 and 26.

That part of the road leading out to the Insane Asylum, from Madison, passes over a part of the western line of the town, and is familiarly known as Sugar Bush grove, from the number of maple trees growing there. It is the leading road to the Asylum, and also to several of the towns north of Burke.

The town is near the city of Madison, and one of the principal thoroughfares from the city is a leading artery through the town of Burke to several of the towns in the county, and is known as the "Sun Prairie road." It is directly in a line with the State capital in a northeastern direction. It was at one time part of the old military road to Green Bay. That portion of the road lying nearest the city was for years a source of trouble to the citizens, in consequence of the marshy character of the ground leading over the creek, and impassible in spring or wet weather. Mr.

H. P. Hall agreed with a number of the citizens to fill up the marsh provided they would contribute toward the expense. The work was done, and is now one of the best parts of the road.

Mr. S. A. Cummings is recently from Massachussets, and has bought what is known as the "Floral Hill" farm, and is engaged in general farming.

David Prindle was an early settler on section 26, and was, before he died, the oldest man in town. He died at about ninety years of age.

Washington Woodward, on sec. 11, has some fast horses which lately carried off the prize at Stoughton.

C. G. Lewis, son of Martin Lewis, and brother of H. M. Lewis, attorney, Madison, has a fine farm on section one. The road here is beautifully situated for a drive, and those having fast horses often use the street as a place to try their speed. The old gentleman is about eighty years of age, and drives the cows to the pasture like a youngster.

Judge L. B. Vilas owns nearly all of section 36, on which there are some springs that have mineral properties of a medicinal character in them.

The soil is good for grain and stock raising, while water is both good and plenty. Some of the best farms, best buildings and modern improvements are to be found in this town, and with its location and numerous advantages will be ranked among the best in the state. The people are of an enterprising, steady character, made up of several nationalities, and noted for a development of a thorough knowledge of agricultural pursuits in all its bearings.