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Organization, Boundaries, and Names of  
Wisconsin Counties

By Louise Phelps Kellogg, Ph. D.

[From the Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for 1909,  
pages 184-231]

Madison  
Published by the Society  
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Wisconsin is at present divided into seventy-one counties. The following list, arranged chronologically, shows the date of the organization of each, the territory from which it was formed, and the several changes of boundaries that have since occurred. A statement of the origin of the county names, follows in the appendix. Great care has been exercised in compiling this data, the statutes being the principal source of information; but possibly errors have crept in, and the Society will be much pleased if persons cognizant thereof will kindly call attention to the matter, that the publication may be corrected in possible future editions.

## Pre-Territorial Counties, 1818-36

**Michilimackinac, 1818.** Erected by proclamation of Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan Territory, *Laws of the Territory of Michigan, 1821; Executive Acts, October 26, 1818.* The southern boundary was a line drawn due west and east from the dividing ground between the rivers which flow into Lake Superior and those flowing south, to a point due north from Sturgeon Bay, thence south to said bay, thence by nearest line to the boundary of Indiana Territory as established in 1805. The original county thus included portions of the present Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, and Door counties. In 1826 this was limited on the north by the erection of Chippewa County, whose southern boundary was parallel of latitude 46° 31'. Upon the erection of Wisconsin Territory (1836), Michilimackinac County

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was confined to Michigan, and such portions thereof as fell to the lot of Wisconsin became unorganized portions of Crawford and Brown counties respectively.

**Brown, 1818.** Erected by proclamation of Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan Territory, *Laws of the Territory of Michigan, 1824; Executive Acts, October 26, 1818.* Boundaries: north, county of Michilimackinac; east, the same and the northward extension of the line between Indiana and Illinois; south, by Illinois; west, by a line due north from the Illinois boundary, through the middle of the portage between Fox and Wisconsin rivers, extending to the county of Michilimackinac.

1834. By legislative act of Michigan Territory, *Acts passed at the Extra and Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Council, September 6,* Milwaukee County was set off from Brown, the former to include all south of the line between townships 11, 12 north, of the Green Bay land district. By the same act, the western boundary of Brown was enlarged to extend to Wisconsin River; the eastern was defined as a line running through the middle of Lake Michigan until it struck the southern boundary of Michilimackinac County.

1836. Under No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836,* thirteen counties were erected from the territory of Brown and Milwaukee. Of these, the entire counties of Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Marquette, likewise the townships of Washington, Dodge, and Portage, north of township line between 11 and 12, were taken from Brown. The southern boundary of Brown was thus the township line between 20 and 21, from Lake Michigan to Fox River, up that to Lake Winnebago; thence to township line between 18 and 19, from Lake Winnebago to the line between ranges xii and xiii east; south to the township line between 17 and 18; west to a line between ranges xi and xii east; south, to the township line between 16 and 17; west to the line between ranges x and xi east; south to the township line between 15 and 16; west to the line between ranges viii and ix east; south to the township line between 13 and 14; west to Wisconsin River. This line attempted roughly to follow the course of Fox River.

1840. Under section 8, No. 12, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839-40,* there were taken from Brown County to form Winnebago, townships 19 and 20 of ranges xiv-xvii east.

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1841. Under section 1, No. 38, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1840-41*, all that portion of Brown lying west of the range line between ix and x east was added to Portage. Section 8 of the same chapter defined the limits of Brown as bounded on the north and east by the state line, south by the counties of Manitowoc, Calumet, and Winnebago, and by Fox River, and west by Portage County. Under No. 40 of the same year, the law establishing Calumet County was repealed, and its territory reverted to Brown.

1842. Under an act approved February 18, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1841-42*, Calumet County was re-established from Brown.

1849. Under chapter 73, *Laws of 1849*, Marquette County was enlarged by all the townships lying north of Fox River to the line between townships 20 and 21, between ranges x-xiii; this made the southern boundary of Brown the township line between 20 and 21. Chapter 79, of the same year, annexed to Winnebago County all the Menominee Indian purchase not included in any county since its consummation. This detached from Brown all territory lying west of Wolf River.

1850. Under chapter 166, *Laws of 1850*, townships 21 of ranges xxii-xxv east, were cut off from Brown and annexed to Manitowoc.

1851. Under chapter 31, *Laws of 1851*, Oconto County was cut off from Brown, including all north of the line between townships 25 and 26, extending from Green Bay to range xix, thence south to the line between townships 24 and 25, thence west to Wolf River. Under chapter 66 of the same year, all of the present Door and Kewaunee counties were cut off from Brown to form Door. Under chapter 83, of the same year, Outagamie County, comprising townships 21-24 of ranges xv-xviii and the west half of range xix east, was taken from Brown, which was by this act reduced to its present boundaries.

**Crawford, 1818.** Erected by proclamation of Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan Territory, *Laws of the Territory of Michigan, 1824; Executive Acts, October 26, 1818*. Boundaries: north, county of Michilimackinac; east, Brown County; south, State line of Illinois; west, the western boundary of the Territory (that is, the Mississippi River).

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1829. By act approved October 9, *Laws of Michigan Territory, 1829*, all of Crawford south of Wisconsin River was set off to form Iowa County.

1834. By legislative act of Michigan Territory, *Acts passed at the extra and Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Council, September 6*, Brown County was extended to Wisconsin River, thus cutting off a portion of Crawford.

1836. Under section 6, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, township 10, range vi east; a fractional part of township 10, range vii east; fractional parts of townships 11 and 12, range viii east; and a fractional part of township 12, range ix east—that is, all those portions of such townships lying west of Wisconsin River—were taken from Crawford to become part of Portage County.

1838. Under No. 39, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1838*, a six-mile strip parallel to Wisconsin River, and west of the same, was added to Portage from Crawford. Under No. 104, of the same year, all of Wisconsin Territory lying south and west of Lake Superior, east of Mississippi and Grand Forks rivers, and north of the Wisconsin, not included in any other county, was attached to Crawford “for all judicial purposes.” This practically included such portions of Michilimackinac and Chippewa counties of the Territory of Michigan, as had been left unprovided with local boundaries or jurisdiction on the erection of Wisconsin Territory in 1836.

1840. Under No. 20, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839–40*, St. Croix County was organized from Crawford, to comprise all territory lying north and west of a line from the mouth of Porcupine River on Lake Pepin, up that river to its first forks, thence to the Meadow fork of Red Cedar River, thence up said river to Long Lake, thence along the canoe route to Lake Court Oreille, thence to the nearest point on the west fork of Montreal River, thence to Lake Superior and to the United States boundary line. Under *Ibid.*, No. 23, Sauk County was organized from Crawford, cutting off all north and west of Wisconsin River, east of the line between ranges i and ii east, and south of the line between townships 13 and 14.

1841. Under No. 38, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1840–41*, all of Crawford east of a line between ranges i and ii east, north of township 13, was annexed to Portage.

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1842. Under act approved February 18, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1841-42*, Richland County was created, taking from Crawford all south of township 12, east of range ii west.

1845. Under section 1 of act approved February 3, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1845*, the boundaries of Crawford were defined as comprising all north of Wisconsin River and east of the Mississippi, south of a line beginning at the mouth of Buffalo River, up that stream to its source, thence in a direct line to the southern point of Lake Chetae, thence due east to the western boundary of Portage, and west of the western lines of Richland and Portage counties. The same act created Chippewa County, from territory thus cut off from Crawford.

1846. The foregoing line was found inconvenient. Hence, under an act approved January 14, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1846*, the boundary between Crawford and Chippewa was thus defined: commencing at the mouth of Buffalo River, thence up the main branch thereof to its source, thence along the dividing ridge between the waters of Chippewa and Black rivers to the headwaters of the latter, thence a direct line due east to the western boundary of Portage County.

1851. Under chapter 131, *Laws of 1851*, Bad Ax (now Vernon) and La Crosse counties were organized from Crawford. The former detached townships 12-14 and the northern half of townships 11, in ranges ii-vii west; the latter, all of Crawford north of the line between townships 14 and 15. Thus Crawford was reduced to its present boundaries.

Chippewa (Mich. Ty.), 1826. Under act approved December 22, 1826, *Laws of Michigan Territory*, Chippewa County was organized, from lands lying north of parallel 46° 31' north latitude. This included portions of the present Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron counties, with the sites of the cities of Superior and Ashland.

In 1836, when Wisconsin Territory was organized, this county was restricted to Michigan.

1838. Under No. 104, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1837-38*, that part of Wisconsin formerly within this county was incorporated in Crawford County.

Iowa, 1829. Under act approved October 9, *Laws of Michigan Territory, 1829*, Iowa County was erected from Crawford, comprising all the territory bounded on the south by Illinois, on



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the east by the west line of Brown County, and on the west and north by the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers.

1836. Under section 4, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Dane County was formed, taking townships 5-9 of ranges vi-viii from Iowa County. No. 31, of the same year, further reduced the boundaries of Iowa, by erecting all west of the fourth principal meridian into the county of Grant; and townships 1-4 in ranges vi-ix east, into the county of Green.

1846. Under an act approved January 31, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1846*, Iowa was to be divided into two counties: the southern, to be called Lafayette, was to be composed of townships 1, 2, 3, and the southern half of 4, of ranges i-v east; the northern, consisting of the remaining townships, was to be called Montgomery. This act was submitted to a referendum of the people of the county, who favored the division.

1847. Under an act approved February 4, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1847*, Lafayette County was declared erected. The proposed name Montgomery was, however, not appended to the northern portion, which retained the name of Iowa, with its present boundaries.

**Milwaukee, 1834.** By an act approved September 6, *Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Council of Michigan Territory, 1834*, Milwaukee (originally spelled Milwaukie) County was erected from Brown, with the following boundaries: east, the eastern boundary of Illinois extended northward through Lake Michigan; south, the present state line of Illinois-Wisconsin; west, Iowa County; north, the line between townships 11 and 12 of the Green Bay land district.

1836. Under No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Milwaukee County was divided, there being taken therefrom the counties of Racine, Rock, Walworth, Jefferson, and parts of Dane, Washington, Dodge, and Portage, thus restricting the boundaries of Milwaukee to the present Waukesha and Milwaukee counties.

1846. Under an act approved January 31, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1846*, all of Milwaukee County west of range xxi east was to be organized into Waukesha County, provided a referendum to the people of that portion of the county should be favorable to division. This was carried, and Milwaukee County was in the same year reduced to its present boundaries.

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## Territorial Counties, 1836-48

When organized in 1836, Wisconsin Territory comprised all of the present states of Iowa and Minnesota, and part of the Dakotas. The portion lying west of the Mississippi was on June 12, 1838, set off as Iowa Territory; the counties formed therein by the first Wisconsin territorial legislature are not included in this summary.

**Walworth, 1836.** Under section 1, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Walworth County was organized from Milwaukee, with its present boundaries.

**Racine, 1836.** Under section 2, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Racine County was organized from Milwaukee, with boundaries including the present Racine and Kenosha counties.

1850. Under chapter 39, *Laws of 1850*, Kenosha County was set off from Racine, which was thus reduced to its present boundaries.

**Jefferson, 1836.** Under section 3, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Jefferson County was organized from Milwaukee, with its present boundaries.

1856. Under chapter 27, *General Laws of 1856*, Jefferson County was enlarged by adding thereto townships 9 of ranges xiii-xvii east, taken from Dodge County.

1858. Under chapter 90, *General Laws of 1858*, the preceding act was repealed, and Jefferson was reduced to its former and present boundaries.

**Dane, 1836.** Under section 4, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Dane County was erected from territory formerly part of Milwaukee and Iowa counties. This act provided for its present boundaries, save at the northwest angle, which extended beyond Wisconsin River.

1840. Under No. 23, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839-40*, all of township 9 of range vi east that lies northwest of Wisconsin River, was given to Sauk County. Dane was thus reduced to its present boundaries.

**Portage, 1836 (see also Columbia).** Under section 5, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Portage County was erected from territory formerly belonging to Brown, Milwaukee, and

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Crawford. It comprised townships 10 of ranges vi-xiii east, townships 11 of ranges viii-xiii east, and townships 12 and 13 of ranges ix-xiii east, the whole nearly equivalent to the present Columbia County.

1838. Under No. 39, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1838*, the boundaries of Portage were re-defined; according to which all of range xiii was omitted, being likewise a part of Dodge; while a six-mile strip parallel to Wisconsin River, on its west bank, was annexed to Portage from territory formerly a part of Crawford County.

1840. Under No. 23, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839-40*, Sauk County was established west of Wisconsin River, Portage thus losing township 10 in range vi and portions of the before-mentioned six-mile strip.

1841. Under No. 38, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1840-41*, Portage County was enlarged by adding to it all that territory running north to the state boundary lying north of Sauk and Portage, between ranges ii and ix east, save the fractional portions of townships 14 and 15, range ix east, lying east of Fox River, which were part of Marquette County. Under this definition of bounds, Portage County included the present Columbia, Adams, Juneau, Wood, and Lincoln counties, the western portions of the present Marquette, Waushara, Portage, Marathon, Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas counties, and the eastern portions of Taylor, Price, and Iron.

1846. Under an act approved February 3, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1846*, Columbia County was set off from Portage, taking with it all of the latter county south of the line between townships 13 and 14, save the portion between Fox and Wisconsin rivers. Thus Columbia corresponded nearly to the original Portage County.

1848. Under an act approved March 11, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1848*, Adams County was set off from Portage; the new county comprised the territory between Lemonweir River and the northern boundary of Sauk County.

1849. Under chapter 73, *Laws of 1849*, Marquette County was enlarged, cutting from Portage townships 14-20 of range viii, and 16-20 of range ix. Under section 2 of the same chapter, Adams County was also enlarged, cutting from Portage

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townships 15–20 of ranges ii–vii. Chapter 77 of the same year provided that the portion of Portage south of township 14, between Fox and Wisconsin rivers, should be annexed to Columbia. Thus the southern boundary of Portage County was in 1849 a line between townships 20 and 21, eleven townships north of its original boundary as established in 1836.

1850. Under chapter 226, *Laws of 1850*, Marathon County was erected from all that portion of Portage lying north of the line between townships 25 and 26.

1851. Under chapter 114, *Laws of 1851*, townships 21–25 of range x east were annexed to Portage from territory formerly incorporated in Winnebago County.

1855. Under chapter 51, *General Laws of 1855*, the qualified voters of Winnebago County were to decide whether townships 21–25 of range x east should be stricken off from Winnebago. Under chapter 58 of the same year, all qualified voters in townships 21–25 of range x were to decide whether this territory should be part of Portage or of Waupaca counties. This election favored the former.

1856. Under chapter 54, *General Laws of 1856*, Wood County was set off from Portage, consisting of townships 21–25 in ranges ii–v, townships 21, 22 of range vi east, and as much of township 23 of the same range as lies south of Wisconsin River. Section 9 of the same chapter defined the boundaries of Portage County in accordance with this division, and included townships 21–25 of range x east. Chapter 108, of the same year, amended chapter 54, so as to include in Wood County all of township 23 in range vi east. Thus Portage was in 1856 reduced to its present boundaries.

**Dodge, 1836.** Under section 6, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Dodge County was organized from Brown and Milwaukee counties: fifteen townships, 11–13 of ranges xiii–xvii east, were taken from Brown; and ten townships, 9 and 10 of ranges xiii–xvii east, were subtracted from Milwaukee. Townships 10–13 of range xiii were by the same chapter assigned to Portage as well as to Dodge County.

1838. Under No. 39, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1838*, townships 10–13, of range xiii, were dropped from Portage and thus confirmed as part of Dodge.

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1856. Under chapter 27, *General Laws of 1856*, townships 9 of ranges xiii–xvii east were detached from Dodge and annexed to Jefferson County.

1858. Under chapter 90, *General Laws of 1858*, the preceding act was repealed, and Dodge reverted to its original boundaries, which are those of the present.

**Washington, 1836.** Under section 7, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Washington County was erected out of Milwaukee and Brown. Townships 9 and 10, of ranges xviii–xxii east were taken from the former; townships 11 and 12 of ranges xviii–xxiii east, from the latter. Washington County then included the present Washington and Ozaukee counties.

1850. Under chapter 114, *Laws of 1850*, Washington County was to be divided by setting off townships 9 and 10 of all its ranges to form the county of Tuskola. By section 14 of this chapter, this proposition was to be submitted to popular vote within the county. It failed of securing a majority, however, and Washington County remained for three years longer undivided.

1853. Under chapter 21, *General Laws of 1853*, Washington County was divided, and Ozaukee erected by cutting off all townships east of the line between ranges xx and xxi. Washington County was thus reduced to its present boundaries.

**Sheboygan, 1836.** Under section 8, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Sheboygan County was erected from Brown. It comprised townships 13–16 of ranges xx–xxiii east, the same boundaries as at present.

**Fond du Lac, 1836.** Under section 9, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Fond du Lac County was erected from Brown, and comprised townships [13] of ranges xviii [and xix] east, townships 14–16 of ranges xiv–xviii east, and townships 17 and 18 of ranges xiv–xvi, including most of the present Fond du Lac, and part of Winnebago County. The original act establishing Fond du Lac County omitted the word “thirteen” before ranges xviii and xix east; and also omitted range “xix” after “xviii east,” thus leaving five townships out of any jurisdiction. The townships 14–18 in range xiv were by the same act included in both Fond du Lac and Marquette counties. These defects were later remedied.

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1840. Under No. 12, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839-40*, Winnebago County was established, cutting off from Fond du Lac townships 17 and 18 of ranges xiv-xvii east. Section 2, of the same chapter, transferred fractional townships 17 in ranges xviii and xix east, south of the Indian reservation line, from Calumet County to Fond du Lac.

1844. Under act approved January 22, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1843-44*, all of Lake Winnebago south of a line from the southern boundary of the Brothertown Indian reservation to the line between townships 16 and 17 was made part of Fond du Lac County.

1848. Under act approved March 6, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1848*, the boundaries of Fond du Lac were defined as including township 13, range xviii east, townships 13-16 of range xix east, and all of Lake Winnebago south of a line from Brothertown reservation to the line between ranges xvii and xviii, thence to a line between townships 16 and 17. Section 2 of the same act declared that townships 14-16 of range xiv, which by No. 28, *Laws of 1836*, had been included in both Marquette and Fond du Lac counties, were part of the latter.

1859. Under chapter 69, *General Laws of 1859*, the legal voters of Fond du Lac were to decide whether township 16, range xiv east, should be transferred to Green Lake County. Popular concurrence was not accorded to this measure, and the boundaries of Fond du Lac remained as defined in 1849.

**Calumet, 1836.** Under section 10, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Calumet County was established from Brown, the new county comprising townships 17-20 of ranges xvi-xx east.

1840. Under section 2, No. 12, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839-40*, the southern portion of townships 17, in ranges xviii and xix east, south of the Indian reservation, was detached from Calumet and annexed to Fond du Lac.

1841. Under No. 40, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1840-41*, Calumet County was declared non-existing and its territory reverted to Brown County.

1842. Under an act approved February 18, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1841-42*, the preceding act was repealed, and Calumet County re-established.

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1848. Under an act approved March 6, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1848*, all of Lake Winnebago north of the southern boundary of the Brothertown Indian reservation, and east of a line between ranges xvii and xviii, was declared a part of Calumet County.

1849. Under chapter 2, *Revised Statutes of 1849*, the boundaries of Calumet County were defined as at present.

**Manitowoc, 1836.** Under section 11, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Manitowoc County was erected out of territory formerly belonging to Brown, comprising townships 17–20 of ranges xxi–xxv east.

1850. Under chapter 166, *Laws of 1850*, townships 21 of ranges xxii–xxv east were annexed to Manitowoc from territory belonging to Brown. The boundaries of Manitowoc were thus established as at present.

**Marquette, 1836.** Under section 12, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Marquette County was erected from territory formerly belonging to Brown, with boundaries as follows: townships 14, 15 of ranges ix and x east, townships 14–16 of range xi east, townships 14–17 of range xii east, and townships 14–18 of ranges xiii, xiv east. Of these, townships 14–18 of range xiv were, through inadvertence, assigned under section 9 of the same chapter to Fond du Lac as well as to Marquette.

1840. Under No. 12, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839–40*, Winnebago County was erected, its limits including two of Marquette's townships, 17 and 18 of range xiv.

1848. Under act approved March 6, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1848*, townships 14–16 of range xiv were declared to be part of Fond du Lac County.

1849. Under chapter 73, *Laws of 1849*, the boundaries of Marquette were much enlarged, and made to comprise all the present Marquette, Green Lake, and Waushara counties. Of this new portion, townships 14–20 of ranges viii, and townships 16–20 of range ix east, were transferred to Marquette from Portage; while townships 16–20 of range x east, 17–20 of range xi east, 18–20 of range xii east, and 19, 20 of range xiii were transferred from that part of Brown that was part of the Menominee Indian purchase.

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1851. Under chapter 77, *Laws of 1851*, Waushara County was erected from all that part of Marquette lying north of the line between townships 17 and 18.

1858. Under chapter 17, *General Laws of 1858*, Green Lake County was set off from Marquette. The boundaries between these counties were modified by chapter 85 of the same year, which set off for Green Lake County all east of the line between ranges x and xi, except the west four tiers of sections of townships 16 and 17, range xi east.

1860. Under chapter 143, *General Laws of 1860*, the boundaries of Marquette were defined as at present.

1862. Under chapter 23, *General Laws of 1862*, portions of townships 14 and 15 in range x were to be detached from Marquette and added to Green Lake, and portions of township 16 in range xi detached from Green Lake and added to Marquette, provided a popular vote should so decide; but this proposition failed of endorsement.

1865. Under chapter 191, *General Laws of 1865*, the same proposition in regard to portions of townships 14 and 15, in range x, was to be a second time submitted to popular vote. This again failed to secure approval of voters, and the boundaries of Marquette County remained as defined in 1860.

**Rock, 1836.** Under section 13, No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Rock County was erected out of Milwaukee County, its limits comprising townships 1-4 of ranges xi-xiv east.

1838. Under No. 5, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1838*, townships 1-4 of range x east were annexed to Rock, making its boundaries the same as at present.

**Grant, 1836.** Under section 1, No. 31, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, all of Iowa County lying west of the fourth principal meridian was detached therefrom and erected into the county of Grant, which thus was given boundaries the same as at present.

**Green, 1836.** Under section 2, No. 31, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1836*, Green County was set off from Iowa, its territory comprising townships 1-4 in ranges vi-ix east—the same boundaries as at present.

**Winnebago, 1840.** Under section 8, No. 12, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839-40*, Winnebago was erected from Fond du



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Lac and Brown counties. It comprised townships 17-20, in ranges xiv-xvii east.

1848. Under section 4 of an act approved March 6, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1848*, all that part of Lake Winnebago north of Fond du Lac County line, and west of the line between ranges xvii and xviii, was declared to be a part of Winnebago County.

1849. Under chapter 79, *Laws of 1849*, all of the Menominee Indian lands, purchased under the treaty of 1848, and not attached to any other county since that treaty was consummated, were annexed to Winnebago County—practically, this included most of Waupaca, Shawano, and Langlade counties and one tier of townships in range x east, immediately east of what was then Portage.

1851. Under chapter 78, *Laws of 1851*, Waupaca County, comprising townships 21-25 of ranges xi-xiv, and such fractional part of township 25, range xv east, as lay west of Wolf River, was taken from Winnebago County. Under chapter 114 of the same year, townships 21-25 of range x east were annexed to Portage.

1853. Under chapter 9, *General Laws of 1853*, Shawano County was formed, taking from Winnebago such portions west of Wolf River as lay between townships 26 and 29, and east of the line between ranges xi and xii east.

1855. Although chapter 114 of 1851 had detached townships 21-25 of range x from Winnebago and added them to Portage, chapter 51 of the *General Laws of 1855* provided that the qualified voters of Winnebago were to decide whether these townships should belong to Winnebago or to Portage. A majority having decided for Portage, they were so incorporated.

1856. Under chapter 45, *General Laws of 1856*, the boundaries of Winnebago were defined as they are at present. Under section 2 of the same act, townships 26-29 of ranges x and xi east were added to Shawano County, and the remaining part of Winnebago, north of township 29, to Oconto County.

**St. Croix, 1840.** Under No. 12, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839-40*, St. Croix County was created from Crawford. The new county embraced all north and west of a line beginning at the mouth of Poreupine River, on Lake Pepin, thence up said

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river to its first forks, thence to the Meadow fork of Red Cedar River, thence up that river to Long Lake, by canoe route to Lake Court Oreille, thence to the nearest point on the west fork of Montreal River, and thence to Lake Superior and the United States boundary. This included, besides northwest Wisconsin, all of what is now Minnesota lying east of Mississippi River.

1845. Under an act approved February 19, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1845*, La Pointe County was set off from St. Croix. It comprised all north of a line from the mouth of Muddy Island River, thence to Yellow Lake, thence to Lake Court Oreille, thence to Montreal River, Lake Superior, and the United States boundary.

1848-49. Upon the organization of the State (1848), Congress detached from Wisconsin, for the purpose of giving it to Minnesota, all that part of the former Territory of Wisconsin lying west of St. Croix River. The tract thus given to Minnesota was henceforth lost to St. Croix County. Under section 6, chapter 77, *Laws of 1849*, the boundaries of St. Croix were defined as beginning at the western boundary of the State, at the mouth of Rush River, thence extending eastward to the line between ranges xiv and xv west, thence north to the line between townships 31 and 32, thence east to the line between ranges xi and xii west, thence north to St. Croix River and west and south coextensive with the State boundary to the place of beginning; that is, including the present Pierce, St. Croix, Polk, and Burnett counties and parts of what are now Barron and Washburn.

1853. Under chapter 31, *General Laws of 1853*, St. Croix County was divided: Pierce was set off, south of the line between townships 27 and 28; and Polk, north of the line between townships 31 and 32. St. Croix was thus reduced to its present boundaries.

**Sauk, 1840.** Under No. 23, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1839-40*, Sauk County was formed from territory formerly a part of Crawford County, with two townships from Portage, and a fractional township from Dane. The county's boundaries were the same as at present, except for four townships later added to Richland.

1842. Under an act approved February 18, *Laws of Wis-*

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*consin Territory, 1811-42*, townships 9-12 in range ii east, were taken from Sauk to be incorporated in Richland County.

1849. Under section 3, chapter 77, *Laws of 1849*, townships 14 in ranges ii-vi east were added to Sauk from Adams County.

1853. Under chapter 29, *General Laws of 1853*, the foregoing townships were restored to Adams, and Sauk assumed its present boundaries.

**Richland, 1842.** Under act approved February 18, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1811-42*, Richland County was erected from territory formerly belonging to Crawford and Sauk, with boundaries the same as at present.

**Chippewa, 1845.** Under an act approved February 3, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1845*, Chippewa County was erected from Crawford, comprising all north of the boundary established for Crawford, west of Portage, south of St. Croix, and east of the Mississippi.

1846. Under an act approved January 14, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1846*, the boundary line between Crawford and Chippewa counties was changed to Buffalo River to its source, thence following the watershed of Chippewa and Black rivers to the western boundary of Portage.

1849. Under section 4, chapter 77, *Laws of 1849*, the boundaries of Chippewa were defined as including the territory lying between Crawford, Portage, La Pointe, and St. Croix counties.

1854. Under chapter 1, *General Laws of 1854*, all of Chippewa between Beef and Chippewa rivers, south of the line between townships 24 and 25, was annexed to Buffalo County. Under chapter 12 of the same year, Dunn County was erected from Chippewa, including the present Dunn and Pepin counties. Under chapter 100 of the same year, the southern boundary between Chippewa and Jackson was made the line between townships 24 and 25, and portions of Chippewa were detached to form Clark County, making the eastern boundary of the former the line between ranges iv and v west, as far as the line between townships 31 and 32, thence east to range ii east.

1856. Under chapter 114, *General Laws of 1856*, Eau Claire, with the same boundaries it has today, was formed from Chippewa, whose southern boundary became as at present.

1860. Under chapter 235, *General Laws of 1860*, townships

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32-37 of ranges x and xi west were detached from Chippewa and added to Dallas (now Barron) County.

1864. Under chapter 462, *General Laws of 1864*, townships 38-40 of ranges x and xi west were detached from Chippewa and annexed to Burnett County.

1875. Under chapter 178, *Laws of 1875*, townships 32 and 33 of ranges i east, and i-iv west were incorporated in Taylor County.

1879. Under section 1 of chapter 103, *Laws of 1879*, townships 34-40 in ranges i east, and i and ii west were included in Price County. Under section 18 of the same act, townships 35-37 of ranges iii-v west were declared to be a part of Chippewa.

1883. Under section 1 of chapter 47, *Laws of 1883*, all of Chippewa north of the line between townships 36 and 37 was made part of Sawyer County. Chippewa was now reduced to the limits of the present Chippewa and Rusk counties.

1901. Under section 1, chapter 469, *Laws of 1901*, Gates (now Rusk) County was taken from Chippewa, which thus was reduced to its present boundaries.

**Bayfield (originally La Pointe), 1845.** Under act approved February 19, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1845*, La Pointe County was formed from St. Croix. It included all north of a line from Muddy Island River to Yellow Lake, thence in a direct line to Lake Court Oreille, to Montreal River, to Lake Superior, and to the national boundary. This county included a portion of what is now northeastern Minnesota as well as the extreme northern part of Wisconsin. The boundaries assigned on the admission of the State in 1848 cut off a considerable portion of La Pointe County.

1849. Under section 5, chapter 77, *Laws of 1849*, the boundaries of La Pointe were defined as follows: north and west, the State boundaries; south, the line between townships 40 and 41; east, Portage County (or the range line between i and ii east).

1854. Under chapter 10, *General Laws of 1854*, Douglas County was formed from all of La Pointe west of range ix west.

1860. Under chapter 211, *General Laws of 1860*, all south and east of the line between townships 44 and 45 to the range line between v and vi west, thence north to the line between

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townships 49 and 50, thence east to the centre of the channel in the Bay of La Pointe, thence between the Apostle Islands to the State boundary, was erected into Ashland County, including parts of the present Bayfield.

1866. Under section 1, chapter 146, *General Laws of 1866*, townships 48 and 49 of range v west, and fractional townships 48 and 49 of range iv west, were taken from Ashland and attached to La Pointe County. Under section 2 of the same act, the name of the county became Bayfield.

1869. Under chapter 116, *General Laws of 1869*, townships 43-47 of range v west, and 43 and 44 of ranges vi-ix west, were detached from Ashland and restored to Bayfield, which thereupon assumed its present boundaries.

**Waukesha, 1846.** Under No. 28, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1846*, it was proposed to erect Waukesha County out of Milwaukee, with boundaries as at present. This was to be submitted to a popular referendum, which resulted in favor of the new county.

**Columbia (formerly Portage), 1846.** For the establishment of this county under the designation Portage, see Portage County, above. Under an act approved February 3, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1846*. Columbia County was erected out of Portage, being bounded by Dodge on the east, Marquette on the north, Dane on the south, Sauk on the west, and on the northwest by Fox and Wisconsin rivers.

1848. Under an act approved August 19, *Laws of 1848*, the legal voters of Columbia were to vote on having all west of Wisconsin River detached and added to Sauk County. This proposition was lost at the polls.

1849. Under chapter 77, *Laws of 1849*, all that portion of the Menominee Indian purchase south of the line between townships 13 and 14, lying between Fox and Wisconsin rivers, that had been an unorganized portion of Portage County, was ceded to Columbia, whose boundaries were thus established as at present.

**Lafayette, 1846.** Under an act approved January 31, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1846*, Lafayette County was erected by dividing Iowa County. The boundaries of the new county included townships 1-3 of ranges i-v east, and the southern half

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of townships 4 of same ranges. This division of Iowa was submitted to referendum. Having been approved by the voters, the new county was by act approved February 4, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1847*, declared to be erected with its present boundaries.

**Adams, 1848.** Under an act approved March 11, *Laws of Wisconsin Territory, 1848*, at the last session of the Territorial legislature, Adams County was erected from Portage and comprised the territory between Sauk County on the south; Wisconsin and Lemonweir rivers on the east and north; and the line between ranges i and ii east, on the west.

1849. Under section 2, chapter 77, *Laws of 1849*, Adams was enlarged to include the north half of townships 15 and townships 16-20 of ranges ii-vii east. Section 3 of the same act deducted townships 14 of ranges ii-vi east from Adams and added them to Sauk.

1853. Under chapter 29, *General Laws of 1853*, the boundaries of Adams were enlarged to include townships 14-20, in ranges ii-vii east.

1855. Under chapter 28, *General Laws of 1855*, the legal voters of Adams were to vote on a division of the county by Wisconsin River, the western portion to constitute Juneau County.

1856. Under chapter 130, *General Laws of 1856*, Juneau County was formally organized from territory west of Wisconsin River formerly belonging to Adams. Thus Adams was reduced to its present boundaries.

### Statehood Counties, 1848-1908

Wisconsin entered the Union with twenty-nine counties erected within its borders. During the period of statehood forty-two have been erected, as follows:

**Kenosha, 1850.** Under chapter 39, *Laws of 1850*, Kenosha County was erected from Racine, with boundaries as at present.

**Marathon, 1850.** Under chapter 226, *Laws of 1850*, Marathon County was formed from Portage, including all the latter north of the line between townships 25 and 26. The northern boundary of Marathon was the State line; it embraced all between ranges ii and ix east—that is, all of the present Marathon

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and Lincoln, most of Oneida and Vilas, and portions of Langlade, Taylor, Price, and Iron.

1860. Under chapter 120, *General Laws of 1860*, the boundaries of Marathon were enlarged by all the townships of range x, north of the line between townships 25 and 26. This territory was taken from Oconto and Shawano counties.

1874. Under chapter 128, *Laws of 1874*, all north of township 30 was erected into Lincoln County.

1875. Under chapter 178, *Laws of 1875*, Taylor County was erected, taking from Marathon township 30 of range ii east, Marathon was thus reduced to its present boundaries.

**Oconto, 1851.** Under chapter 31, *Laws of 1851*, Oconto County was erected out of Brown. It comprised all north and east of the line between townships 25 and 26, from Green Bay to range xix east, thence south to the line between townships 24 and 25, thence west to Wolf River, north with that to the boundary of Marathon, and thence to the State boundary.

1853. Under chapter 9, *General Laws of 1853*, Shawano County was formed, taking from Oconto all of townships 25, 26, and 27 east of Wolf River, west of the line between ranges xviii and xix, and such fractional portions of townships 27-29 range xv east, as lie east of Wolf River.

1854. Under section 3, chapter 23, *General Laws of 1854*, townships 28-30 of ranges xv-xvii east were detached from Oconto and added to Shawano.

1856. Under section 3, chapter 45, *General Laws of 1856*, Oconto was enlarged by all that portion of Winnebago lying north of township 29 — that is, all north of Shawano and east of Marathon. Oconto then included the present Oconto, Marinette, Forest, and Florence counties, and portions of Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas.

1860. Under chapter 119, *General Laws of 1860*, townships 28-30 of ranges xv-xvii east, already annexed to Shawano, were declared detached from Oconto and annexed to Shawano. Under chapter 120 of the same year, all the townships of range x east lying within Oconto were detached and annexed to Marathon.

1879. Under chapter 114, *Laws of 1879*, New (now Langlade) and Marinette counties were cut off from Oconto and Shawano. The former cut off all north of the line between

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townships 30 and 31, in ranges xi-xiv east; Marinette, all of its present territory and that part of Florence east of the line between ranges xvi and xvii east. Under section 1 of the same act, townships 30 of ranges xi-xiv east were detached from Oconto and added to Shawano; while townships 28-30 of ranges xvi and xvii east, were reapportioned to Oconto.

1881. Under section 2, chapter 7, *Laws of 1881*, the western portion of township 31 of range xv east was taken from Oconto and given to Shawano.

1882. Under chapter 165, *Laws of 1882*, townships 37 and 38 of ranges xv and xvi east were detached from Oconto and added to Marinette, to form part of the new county of Florence.

1885. Under section 2, chapter 436, *Laws of 1885*, townships 34-37 of ranges xv and xvi east, were taken from Oconto, to form part of Forest County. Thus Oconto was reduced to its present boundaries.

**Door, 1851.** Under chapter 66, *Laws of 1851*, Door County was erected from Brown, comprising the present Door and Kewaunee counties.

1852. Under chapter 363, *Laws of 1852*, Kewaunee County was formed from Door, the latter being thus reduced to its present boundaries.

**Waushara, 1851.** Under chapter 71, *Laws of 1851*, all of Marquette County north of the line between townships 17 and 18 was set off to form Waushara, which was given its existing boundaries.

**Outagamie, 1851.** Under chapter 83, *Laws of 1851*, townships 21-24 of ranges xv-xviii east, and the west half of xix east were set off from Brown County to form Outagamie.

1852. Under chapter 77, *Laws of 1852*, the boundaries of Outagamie County were defined as they are at present.

**Waupaca (originally Waupacca), 1851.** Under chapter 78, *Laws of 1851*, Waupacca County was formed from Winnebago of townships 21-25 in ranges xi-xiv east, and such fractional part of township 25, range xv east as lies west of Wolf River.

1860. Under section 2, chapter 217, *General Laws of 1860*, the above boundaries were amended so as to include in Waupacca County all of township 25, range xv east, the fractional part added being taken from Shawano County.



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1864. Under chapter 411, *General Laws of 1864*, the orthography of the county was established as Waupaca.

**Vernon (originally Bad Ax), 1851.** Under chapter 131, *Laws of 1851*, Bad Ax County was created from Crawford. It included the northern half of township 11, and all of townships 12–14 of ranges ii–vii west. This was amended by chapter 132 of the same year, modifying the boundaries of Bad Ax (Vernon) so as not to conflict with the territory of Richland, thus giving the former the boundaries it has at present.

1862. Under chapter 137, *General Laws of 1862*, the name Bad Ax was changed to Vernon.

**La Crosse, 1851.** Under chapter 131, *Laws of 1851*, La Crosse County was created from territory that had been part of Crawford; it comprised all of the latter north of the line between townships 14 and 15, between ranges ii and vii west. Chapter 132 of the same year amended that act, changing the boundaries of Bad Ax (now Vernon) County, and making La Crosse consist of all of Crawford north and northwest of Bad Ax. This made La Crosse include the present La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson, and Trempealeau counties, and parts of Clark and Buffalo.

1853. Under chapter 8, *General Laws of 1853*, Jackson County was cut off from La Crosse, comprising all north of the line between townships 18 and 19.

1854. Under chapter 2, *General Laws of 1854*, Trempealeau County was organized, taking from La Crosse that portion of township 18 that lies west of Black River. Under section 1, chapter 35, of the same year, a fractional part of La Crosse lying west of Trempealeau River, in township 18, was annexed to Buffalo. Under section 2 of the same chapter, all of La Crosse east of the line between ranges iv and v west was set off to form Monroe. La Crosse was thus reduced to its present limits.

1856. Under chapter 145, *General Laws of 1856*, townships 19 in ranges v and vi west were taken from Jackson to constitute part of La Crosse.

1857. Under chapter 17, *General Laws of 1857*, townships 20–24 of ranges v and vi west, 22 and 23 of range iv west—that is, most of Jackson west of Black River—were detached from

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that county and annexed to La Crosse. Under chapter 42 of the same year, the two preceding acts were repealed, and all north of the line between townships 18 and 19 was restored to Jackson County. La Crosse thereby resumed its present boundaries.

**Kewaunee, 1852.** Under chapter 363, *Laws of 1852*, Kewaunee County was erected from territory formerly belonging to Door, with boundaries as at present.

**Jackson, 1853.** Under chapter 8, *General Laws of 1853*, Jackson County was cut off from La Crosse, and comprised all of the territory formerly in that county, north of the line between townships 18 and 19. Jackson thus included all of its present territory, most of Clark and Trempealeau counties, and a part of Buffalo. Under chapter 100 of the same year, all of Jackson west of the line between ranges vii and viii west was formed into Buffalo County; all of Jackson north of the line between townships 22 and 23, and east of the line between ranges iii and iv west was formed into Clark County.

1854. Under chapter 2, *General Laws of 1854*, townships 19-24 in range vii west were taken from Jackson to form Trempealeau County. Chapter 100 of the same year established the boundary between Chippewa and Jackson as the line between townships 24 and 25; and additional townships in range v west, north of township 24, were added to Clark.

1856. Under section 1, chapter 145, *General Laws of 1856*, townships 19 of ranges v and vi west were taken from Jackson and added to La Crosse. Section 2 of the same act struck off from Jackson townships 19 of ranges i east to iv west, and annexed these five townships to Monroe County.

1857. Under chapter 17, *General Laws of 1857*, twelve more townships of Jackson west of Black River were detached therefrom and annexed to La Crosse. Under chapter 42 of the same year, this law was repealed, also that noted in section 1 of chapter 145, *General Laws of 1856*. Thus all these townships north of the line between townships 18 and 19, that had been attached to La Crosse, now reverted to Jackson.

1870. Under chapter 40, *Private and Local Laws of 1870*, Wood County was enlarged by townships 20-22 of ranges i east and i west, detached from Jackson County. Under chapter 41

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of the same year, the above-mentioned townships, with townships 21 and 22 of ranges ii and iii east except the 12 northern sections of townships 22, were detached from Wood and annexed to Jackson County.

1872. Under chapter 33, *Private and Local Laws of 1872*, the two preceding acts were repealed and Jackson County reverted to the boundaries it had had previous to 1870.

1883. Under section 1, chapter 194, *Laws of 1883*, all that portion of the eastern half of township 19, in range v west, lying south and east of Black River, was detached from Jackson and annexed to Monroe. Jackson's boundaries were thereby adjusted as at present.

**Shawano (originally Shawanaw), 1853.** Under chapter 9, *General Laws of 1853*, Shawanaw County was erected from territory that had been part of Oconto and Winnebago counties. It comprised townships 26-29 of ranges xii-xiv east, and 25-27 of ranges xv-xviii east.

1854. Under section 3, chapter 23, *General Laws of 1854*, townships 28-30, of ranges xv-xvii east, were added to Shawanaw from Oconto County.

1856. Under section 2, chapter 45, *General Laws of 1856*, townships 26-29 of ranges x and xi east were taken from Winnebago County and annexed to Shawanaw.

1860. Under chapter 119, *General Laws of 1860*, townships 28-30 of ranges xv-xvii east were declared annexed to Shawanaw from Oconto County; section 3 of the same act recounts that townships 26 and 27 of ranges xi and xii are defined as part of this county. Chapter 120 of the same year detached from Shawanaw townships 26-29 of range x east, and annexed them to Marathon County. Section 2, chapter 217 of the same year, added to Waupaca township 25, range xv east, a portion of which had belonged to Shawanaw.

1864. Under chapter 411, *General Laws of 1864*, the orthography of the county was fixed as Shawano.

1879. Under chapter 114, *Laws of 1879*, townships 30 of ranges xi-xiv east were annexed to Shawano from Oconto; while townships 28-30 of ranges xvi and xvii east were transferred from Shawano to Oconto.

1881. Under section 1, chapter 7, *Laws of 1881*, defining the

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boundaries of Langlade County, there was included therein townships 30 of ranges xi and xii, which had been part of Shawano. Section 2 of the same act transferred from Langlade and Oconto to Shawano, townships 31-33 of ranges xiii and xiv east and part of township 31 in range xv east.

1883. Under section 1, chapter 303, *Laws of 1883*, townships 31-33 of ranges xiii and xiv east, with the west part of township 31, range xv east, were detached from Shawano and made part of Langlade. Shawano County boundaries thereby became as they are at present.

**Ozaukee, 1853.** Under chapter 21, *General Laws of 1853*, Ozaukee County was erected from Washington, with its present boundaries.

**Polk, 1853.** Under section 2, chapter 31, *General Laws of 1853*, Polk County was erected from St. Croix, including all of the territory formerly therein, north of the line between townships 31 and 32. This included the present Polk, and parts of Barron, Washburn, and Burnett counties.

1856. Under chapter 94, *General Laws of 1856*, Burnett County was erected, taking from Polk all north of township 37.

1859. Under chapter 191, *General Laws of 1859*, Dallas (now Barron) County was erected, taking from Polk all east of the line between ranges xv and xvi west.

1862. Under chapter 387, *General Laws of 1862*, townships 32-37 in range xv west were to be detached from Dallas (now Barron) and re-annexed to Polk, if so determined by referendum to the voters of Dallas County. They consented to this arrangement.

1863. Under chapter 106, *General Laws of 1863*, these townships were declared annexed to Polk County.

1866. Under chapter 466, *Private and Local Laws of 1866*, townships 37 in ranges xviii-xx west were detached from Polk, and added to Burnett. Polk was thus given its present boundaries.

**Pierce, 1853.** Under chapter 31, *General Laws of 1853*, Pierce County was set off from St. Croix. It comprised all of the territory formerly part of the latter county, south of the line between townships 27 and 28. These are the present boundaries of Pierce.

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**Buffalo, 1853.** Under chapter 100, *General Laws of 1853*, Buffalo County was erected from Jackson, which had been set off from La Crosse under chapter 8 of the same year, and was to comprise all the territory formerly a part of Jackson lying west of the line between ranges vii and viii west. This included most of the present Trempealeau County and part of the present Buffalo.

1854. Under chapter 1, *General Laws of 1854*, all that part of Chippewa County east of Chippewa River, and south of the line between townships 24 and 25, and west of the line between ranges ix and x west, was annexed to Buffalo. Under chapter 2 of the same year, Trempealeau County was cut off from Buffalo, comprising all east of the line between ranges ix and x west to Trempealeau River, thence to the Mississippi. Under section 1, chapter 35 of the same year, a small portion of La Crosse County west of Trempealeau River, and south of the line between townships 18 and 19, was annexed to Buffalo.

1857. Under chapter 16, *General Laws of 1857*, the boundary between Buffalo and Trempealeau counties was defined, relating especially to the channel of the river and the islands therein. Buffalo County boundaries were thereby adjusted as at present.

**Clark, 1853.** Under chapter 100, *General Laws of 1853*, Clark County was formed from Jackson, out of all lands lying north of the line between townships 22 and 23, and east of the line between ranges iii and iv west.

1854. Under chapter 100, *General Laws of 1854*, the boundaries of Clark County were defined as north of the line between townships 23 and 24, east of the line between ranges iv and v west, south of the line between townships 31 and 32, and west of the line between ranges i and ii east; a portion of this territory was taken from Chippewa and the rest from Jackson County. According to this definition of the boundaries, the four townships 23 in ranges iii west to i east would be detached from Clark and annexed to Jackson. This was not actually done, however, and section 8 of chapter 2 of the *Revised Statutes of 1858* assigned these four townships to Clark.

1875. Under chapter 178, *Laws of 1875*, Taylor County was erected, taking from Clark townships 30 and 31 of ranges i east to iv west—that is, its ten northern townships. The boundaries of Clark thus became as at present.

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**Trempealeau, 1854.** Under chapter 2, *General Laws of 1854*, Trempealeau County was formed from territory formerly included in Buffalo, Jackson, and La Crosse counties, with boundaries the same as at present.

1857. Under chapter 16, *General Laws of 1857*, the boundaries between Buffalo and Trempealeau counties were defined, with relation to the channel and islands of Trempealeau and Mississippi rivers. Under section 2, chapter 42 of the same year, the boundaries between Trempealeau and La Crosse counties were defined with reference to the channel of Black River. Trempealeau County boundaries were thus adjusted as at present.

**Dunn, 1854.** Under chapter 7, *General Laws of 1854*, Dunn County was set off from Chippewa, including all south of the line between townships 31 and 32, and west of the line between ranges x and xi west—that is, all of the present Dunn and Pepin counties.

1858. Under chapter 15, *General Laws of 1858*, all that portion of Dunn County lying south of the line between townships 25 and 26 was set off for Pepin County. Dunn was thus reduced to its present boundaries.

**Douglas (originally Douglass), 1854.** Under chapter 10, *General Laws of 1854*, Douglass County was set off from La Pointe (now Bayfield), and comprised the territory formerly included in the latter, west of the line between ranges ix and x west.

1856. Under chapter 94, *General Laws of 1856*, Burnett County was erected, taking from Douglass townships 41–43 of ranges xii–xvi west. Only a fraction of township 41 of range xvi west is within the boundaries of Wisconsin; townships 42 and 43 of ranges xvi west are part of the present Minnesota.

1864. Under chapter 411, *General Laws of 1864*, the orthography was established as Douglas. Under chapter 466 of the same year, townships 41 and 42 of ranges x and xi west were detached from Douglas and added to Burnett. Under chapter 479 of the same year, townships 43 of ranges xii–xv west were re-annexed to Douglas, being detached from Burnett. The boundaries of Douglas County were thus established as at present.

**Monroe, 1854.** Under chapter 35, *General Laws of 1854*, La

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Crosse County was divided and Monroe organized. The latter comprised townships 15-18 of ranges i east, i-iv west.

1856. Under section 2, chapter 145, *General Laws of 1856*, Monroe was enlarged by townships 19 of ranges i east, and i-iv west, all of them taken from Jackson County.

1883. Under chapter 194, *Laws of 1883*, part of township 19 of range v west, south of Black River, was detached from Jackson and added to Monroe, whose boundaries were thereby constituted as at present.

**Juneau, 1855-56.** Under chapter 28, *General Laws of 1855*, the legal voters of Adams County were to decide by ballot whether a new county named Juneau should be constituted out of all of Adams west of the main channel of Wisconsin River. If so decided, the county of Juneau should be established. The vote was favorable.

1856. Under chapter 130, *General Laws of 1856*, Juneau County was declared established, with boundaries as at present.

**Wood, 1856.** Under chapter 54, *General Laws of 1856*, townships 21-25 of ranges ii-v east, townships 21, 22 of range vi east, and such part of township 23, range vi east as lies southeast of Wisconsin River, were detached from Portage County to form Wood. Under chapter 108 of the same year, this was amended to include all of township 23, range vi east, within the boundaries of Wood, which thereupon assumed its present boundaries.

1870. Under chapter 40, *Private and Local Laws of 1870*, Wood County was enlarged by townships 20-22 of ranges i east and i west, detached from Jackson County. This was done in order to render Wood County large enough to be reduced without a referendum. According to chapter 41 of the same year, the townships named in the preceding chapter, and likewise townships 21 of ranges ii and iii, and the twenty-four southern sections of townships 22 of the same ranges, were detached from Wood and added to Jackson County.

1872. Under chapter 33, *Private and Local Laws of 1872*, that portion of Jackson in townships 21 and 22, ranges ii and iii east, was restored to Wood County, which resumed its present boundaries.

**Burnett, 1856.** Under chapter 94, *General Laws of 1856*, townships 38-40 in ranges xii-xx from Polk County, and town-

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ships 41–43 in ranges xii–xvi from Douglas County, were to constitute a new county, named Burnett.

1858. The boundaries of Burnett were adjusted by section 6, chapter 2, *Revised Statutes of 1858*, to correspond to the State lines, some of the territory set off in 1856 being found to be in Minnesota.

1864. Under chapter 462, *General Laws of 1864*, Burnett was enlarged by townships 38–40 of ranges x, xi west, which were taken from Chippewa. Under chapter 466 of the same year, townships 41 and 42 of ranges x and xi west, were taken from Douglas and annexed to Burnett. Under chapter 479 of the same year, Burnett was reduced by townships 43 of ranges xii–xv west, which were returned to Douglas.

1866. Under chapter 466, *Private and Local Laws of 1866*, townships 37 in ranges xviii–xx were taken from Polk to be added to Burnett.

1869. Under chapter 162, *General Laws of 1869*, Burnett was enlarged by townships 37 of ranges x–xiv west, taken from Dallas (now Barron) County.

1872. Under chapter 18, *Private and Local Laws of 1872*, the above law was reversed, and townships 37 of ranges x–xiv west, were re-annexed to Barron County.

1874. Under chapter 248, *General Laws of 1874*, these same townships were taken from Barron, and re-annexed to Burnett.

1883. Under chapter 172, *Laws of 1883*, Burnett County was divided, and all west of range xiv west erected into the county of Washburn. Burnett County thereby assumed its present boundaries.

**Eau Claire, 1856.** Under chapter 114, *General Laws of 1856*, Eau Claire County was erected from Chippewa, comprising all the territory formerly within that county, south of the line between townships 27 and 28. Eau Claire was thus constituted with its present boundaries.

**Pepin, 1858.** Under chapter 15, *General Laws of 1858*, Pepin County was created from Dunn, including all the territory formerly in that county, south of the line between townships 25 and 26. Pepin was thus established with its present boundaries.

**Green Lake, 1858.** Under chapter 17, *General Laws of 1858*, Green Lake County was formed from territory previously a part



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of Marquette County. Chapter 85 of the same year changed the boundaries, making Green Lake include all east of the line between ranges x and xi east, except the west four tiers of sections in townships 16 and 17 of range xi east.

1859. Under chapter 69, *General Laws of 1859*, township 16 of range xiv, containing the city of Ripon, was to be detached from Fond du Lac and annexed to Green Lake, if the qualified voters of Fond du Lac so decided. The popular vote was against this proposition.

1860. Under chapter 143, *General Laws of 1860*, the boundaries between Green Lake and Marquette counties were defined as they are at present.

1862. Under chapter 23, *General Laws of 1862*, an act was passed to change these boundaries if it should so be voted by the two counties; the people negatived the proposal.

1863. Under chapter 191, *General Laws of 1863*, the attempt was renewed, but again it was voted down by the electors.

**Barron (originally Dallas), 1859.** Under chapter 191 *General Laws of 1859*, Dallas County was erected from Polk, embracing territory comprised in townships 32-37 of ranges xii-xv west.

1860. Under chapter 235, *General Laws of 1860*, Dallas was enlarged by townships 32-37 in ranges x and xi west, taken from Chippewa County.

1862. Under chapter 387, *General Laws of 1862*, the voters of Dallas were to determine whether townships 32-37 in range xv should be re-annexed to Polk. The vote was favorable.

1863. Under chapter 106, *General Laws of 1863*, these townships were declared a part of Polk County.

1869. Under chapter 75, *General Laws of 1869*, the name of Dallas County was changed to Barron. Under chapter 162 of the same year, townships 37 of ranges x-xiv west were detached from Dallas (now Barron) and annexed to Burnett.

1872. Under chapter 18, *Private and Local Laws of 1872*, the foregoing act was repealed, and these towns reverted to Barron.

1874. Under chapter 248, *General Laws of 1874*, the act of repeal was reversed and the townships in question were made part of Burnett. Barron was thereby left with its present boundaries.

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**Ashland, 1860.** Under chapter 211, *General Laws of 1860*, Ashland County was organized from La Pointe (now Bayfield) County. It included all of the latter county south and east of the line between townships 44 and 45 to the line between ranges v and vi west, thence north to the line between townships 49 and 50, thence east to the centre of the channel of the Bay of La Pointe, and between the mainland and Apostle Islands to the State boundary. This included all of the present Ashland County, and parts of Iron, Sawyer, and Bayfield.

1866. Under chapter 146, *General Laws of 1866*, townships 48 and 49 of range v west, and such fractional parts of townships 48 and 49 of range iv west as lie west of Long Island Bay, were detached from Ashland and annexed to Bayfield County.

1869. Under chapter 116, *General Laws of 1869*, townships 43-47 of range v west, and 43 and 44 of ranges vi-ix west (13 townships in all), were detached from Ashland and re-annexed to Bayfield County.

1883. Under chapter 47, *Laws of 1883*, ten townships (41 and 42, ranges v-ix west) were detached from Ashland to form part of Sawyer County. Under chapter 74 of the same year, townships 41-47 of ranges ii and iii east—fourteen townships, several of which were fractional—were annexed to Ashland from territory formerly a part of Lincoln.

1893. Under chapter 8, *Laws of 1893*, Iron County was erected from Ashland, cutting off for this purpose, townships 41-47 of ranges ii and iii east, 43-47 of range i east, and 44-47 of range i west.

1903. Under section 1, chapter 303, *Laws of 1903*, the boundaries of Ashland County were defined as at present.

**Lincoln, 1874.** Under chapter 128, *Laws of 1874*, Lincoln County was erected from Marathon, including all the territory formerly within the latter's boundaries north of the line between townships 30 and 31. This included all of the present Lincoln, most of Oneida and Vilas, and parts of Langlade, Taylor, Price, and Iron counties.

1875. Under chapter 178, *Laws of 1875*, Taylor County was erected, taking from Lincoln townships 31-33 in ranges ii and iii east.

1879. Under section 1, chapter 103, *Laws of 1879*, Price

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County was erected, detaching from Lincoln townships 34-40 in ranges ii and iii east.

1883. Under chapter 74, *Laws of 1883*, townships 41-47, in ranges ii and iii east were detached from Lincoln and annexed to Ashland.

1885. Under section 1, chapter 436, *Laws of 1885*, townships 31-34 of ranges ix and x east were detached from Lincoln and annexed to Langlade. Under chapter 411 of the same year, Oneida County was formed out of all of Lincoln north of the line between townships 34 and 35, ranges ix and x east, and north of the line between townships 35 and 36, ranges iv-viii east. Thus was Lincoln reduced to its present boundaries.

**Taylor, 1875.** Under chapter 178, *Laws of 1875*, Taylor County was formed from territory formerly belonging to Lincoln, Clark, Marathon, and Chippewa counties. From Lincoln were taken six townships, 31-33, ranges ii and iii east; from Clark, ten townships, 30 and 31 in ranges i east, i-iv west; from Marathon, one township 30 of range ii east; from Chippewa, ten townships, 32 and 33, ranges i east, i-iv west—in all, 27 townships with the present boundaries.

**Langlade (originally New), 1879.** Under section 12, chapter 114, *Laws of 1879*, New County was erected from Oconto, with imperfect boundaries.

1880. Under chapter 19, *Laws of 1880*, the name of New County was changed to Langlade. Under chapter 247 of the same year, chapter 114 of 1879 was amended, correcting the boundaries of Langlade. These now consisted of the line between townships 30 and 31 on the south; the line between ranges x and xi east on the west; the State line on the north; the line between ranges xiv and xv east on the east, thus including parts of the present Langlade, Oneida, Vilas, and Forest counties.

1881. Under section 1, chapter 7, *Laws of 1881*, the boundaries of Langlade were readjusted, whereby townships 30 of ranges xi and xii east were detached from Shawano and annexed to Langlade. Under section 2 of the same chapter, townships 31-33 of ranges xiii and xiv east were detached from Langlade and annexed to Shawano.

1883. Under chapter 303, *Laws of 1883*, these last six townships were again detached from Shawano and re-annexed to

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Langlade, together with a fractional portion of township 31 of range xv east. This was subject to confirmation by a referendum to the voters of Shawano County. The vote was favorable.

1885. Under chapter 137, *Laws of 1885*, the territory mentioned in the preceding act was declared annexed to Langlade. Under section 1, chapter 436 of the same year, townships 31-34 of ranges ix and x east were detached from Lincoln and added to Langlade. Under section 2 of the same chapter, Forest County was erected, taking from Langlade all of the townships north of the line between 34 and 35 in ranges xiii and xiv east, and all north of the line between townships 35 and 36 in ranges xi and xii east.

1898. Under section 34, chapter 2, *Revised Statutes of 1898*, Langlade's boundaries were so defined that townships 30 of ranges xi and xii east were accidentally omitted from its territory.

1907. Under chapter 107, *Laws of 1907*, Langlade's boundaries were modified to include townships 30 of ranges xi and xii east.

**Marinette, 1879.** Under chapter 114, *Laws of 1879*, Marinette County was formed from territory formerly belonging to Oconto. The new county had the State line for its east and north boundaries; the south and west were the same as at present, except that the boundary range line between xvi and xvii east on the west, extended to the State line, including in Marinette a part of Florence County.

1882. Under section 1, chapter 165, *Laws of 1882*, the townships of Oconto north of the line between townships 37 and 38 in ranges xv and xvi were detached from that county and annexed to Marinette. Section 2 of the same chapter erected the county of Florence, embracing all of Marinette north of the line between townships 37 and 38, and west of range xx east, including the new cession from Oconto. Marinette's boundaries were thus reduced to those of the present.

**Price, 1879.** Under chapter 103, *Laws of 1879*, Price County was formed from territory formerly part of Chippewa and Lincoln counties—townships 34-40 in ranges ii and iii east, from Lincoln; and townships 34-40 in ranges i east, i and ii west, from Chippewa. Price County was thus erected with the boundaries it has at present.

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**Florence, 1882.** Under chapter 165, *Laws of 1882*, Florence County was created from Marinette, including all east of the line between ranges xiv and xv east, north of the line between townships 37 and 38, and west of the line between ranges xix and xx east; of this territory, the townships in ranges xiv and xv had been, by the same chapter, added to Marinette from Oconto. Florence was thus formed from both Oconto and Marinette, with its present boundaries.

**Washburn, 1883.** Under chapter 172, *Laws of 1883*, Washburn County was erected from Burnett, comprising all of the latter east of a line between ranges xiii and xiv west; that is, townships 37-42 of ranges x-xiii west. Washburn was thus organized with its present boundaries.

**Sawyer, 1883.** Under chapter 47, *Laws of 1883*, Sawyer County was organized from territory formerly a part of Chippewa and Ashland. Ten townships, 41 and 42 of ranges v-ix west, were taken from Ashland; twenty-eight townships, 37-40 of ranges iii-ix west, from Chippewa. Sawyer County was accordingly erected with its present boundaries.

**Oneida, 1885.** Under chapter 411, *Laws of 1885*, Oneida County was formed from Lincoln, comprising all of the territory formerly in that county north of townships 34 in ranges ix and x east, and that north of townships 35 in ranges iv-viii east. This included most of what is now Oneida and Vilas counties, and a part of Iron.

1893. Under chapter 150, *Laws of 1893*, Vilas County was erected from Oneida, and townships 41-44 of range iv east detached from Oneida and added to Iron County. This cut off all of Oneida north of the line between townships 39 and 40, and also townships 39 of ranges vi and vii east. Under chapter 275 of the same year, townships 35 in ranges ix and x east were detached from Oneida and annexed to Forest.

1897. Under section 1, chapter 278, *Laws of 1897*, the north half of township 39 of range x east was detached from Oneida and annexed to Vilas County. Under section 2 of the same chapter, townships 35 of ranges ix and x east were restored to Oneida from Forest; and townships 35-39 of range xi were taken from Forest and annexed to Oneida.

1905. Under chapter 57, *Laws of 1905*, townships 39 of ranges

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vi and vii east were detached from Vilas and annexed to Oneida County, whose boundaries became as they are at present.

**Forest, 1885.** Under section 2, chapter 436, *Laws of 1885*, Forest County was erected from territory formerly belonging to Langlade and Oconto; townships 34-41 in ranges xiii and xiv east, and 35-42 in ranges xi and xii east, were taken from Langlade; townships 34-37 in ranges xv and xvi east, were taken from Oconto County.

1893. Under chapter 275, *Laws of 1893*, townships 35 in ranges ix and x east were taken from Oneida and annexed to Forest.

1897. Under section 1, chapter 278, *Laws of 1897*, townships 40-42 of range xi east were detached from Forest and annexed to Vilas County. Under section 2 of the same chapter, townships 35 in ranges ix and x east, and townships 35-39 in range xi east were detached from Forest County and annexed to Oneida.

1905. Under chapter 202, *Laws of 1905*, townships 41 and 42 of range xii east were detached from Forest and annexed to Vilas County. Forest County thus assumed its present boundaries.

**Iron, 1893.** Under chapter 8, *Laws of 1893*, Iron County was erected from territory previously a part of Ashland, including all formerly in that county in ranges ii and iii east, townships 43-47 in range i east, and townships 44-47 in range i west. Under chapter 150 of the same year, townships 41-44 of range iv east were detached from Oneida and annexed to Iron, which thus attained its present boundaries.

**Vilas, 1893.** Under chapter 150, *Laws of 1893*, Vilas County was erected from territory formerly a part of Oneida, comprising all of that county lying between ranges v and x east, north of the line between townships 39 and 40, and townships 39 of ranges vi and vii east, and township 40 of range iv east.

1897. Under chapter 278, *Laws of 1897*, townships 40-42 of range xi east, were detached from Forest, and annexed to Vilas; and the north half of township 39 in range x east was detached from Oneida and annexed to Vilas.

1905. Under chapter 57, *Laws of 1905*, townships 39 of ranges vi and vii east were detached from Vilas and re-annexed to Oneida. Under chapter 202 of the same year townships 41 and

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42 of range xii east were added to Vilas from Forest County. Vilas was thus given its present boundaries.

**Rusk (originally Gates), 1901.** Under chapter 469, *Laws of 1901*, Gates County was erected from Chippewa, comprising townships 33 of ranges v–ix west and townships 34–36 of ranges iii–ix west, its present boundaries.

1905. Under chapter 463, *Laws of 1905*, the name was changed from Gates to Rusk.

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### Derivation of County Names

**Adams** was named for one of the presidents of that name—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 112. Henry Gannett, "Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States," in U. S. Geological Survey *Bulletin*, No. 197 (Washington, 1902), p. 18, credits as the name giver, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president. *History of Northern Wisconsin* (Chicago, 1881), p. 60, says that this county was named for John Adams, the second president.

**Ashland** was named from the village, and that in honor of the Kentucky homestead of Henry Clay—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 29. Martin Beaser, one of the first settlers of the village, and an ardent admirer of Henry Clay, is credited with the selection of the name—*Hist. No. Wis.*, p. 67.

**Barron (originally Dallas).** The original name was bestowed in honor of George Mifflin Dallas, vice-president of the United States (1845–49). Barron was selected in honor of Henry D. Barron (1833–82). Born in New York state, Barron removed to Wisconsin in 1851, and was for a time editor and postmaster at Waukesha. In 1857 he entered law practice at Pepin, where in 1860 he was appointed judge of the eighth circuit. In the following year he removed to St. Croix Falls, where he thereafter resided. He was several times member of the assembly, and state senator (1873–75). In 1876 he was appointed judge of the eleventh circuit, a position held until his death—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ix, pp. 405–409.

**Bayfield (originally La Pointe).** The original name was the French appellation for the entire locality about Chequamegon Bay, named "La Pointe de Chequamegon," by Father Allouez.

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The Jesuit mission there established by him in 1665 was known as *La Pointe du St. Esprit*—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xiii, p. 404, and accompanying note. In the eighteenth century, the French post here established was frequently spoken of as “La Pointe” (for an example, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 9), although the official designation was Chequamegon. The name La Pointe was finally, in the nineteenth century, limited to the trading village on Madelaine Island, for which place the county was named. About 1857 the town of Bayfield was established, being promoted by Henry M. Rice of St. Paul, who named it for Admiral Henry W. Bayfield, R. N., who surveyed Lake Superior for the English government in 1823–25. Bayfield (1795–1865) first came to America in 1814, and from 1817–25 was employed as admiralty surveyor for the Great Lakes; later, he performed a like service for the river and gulf of St. Lawrence, dying at Charlottetown, P. E. I., after attaining the rank of admiral.

**Brown** was named for Major-General Jacob Brown of the United States Army — Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 33; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 112. General Brown (1775–1828), born in Pennsylvania, was a successful leader in the War of 1812–15. At its close he retained the command of the Northern division, and in 1821 was made general-in-chief of the army. He died at Washington, D. C.

**Buffalo** was named for its chief river, Beef or Buffalo, so designated because of the former presence of that animal in the vicinity — Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 55. Buffalo River was so named by Father Louis Hennepin in his voyage (1680) up the Mississippi. See Thwaites, *Hennepin's New Discovery* (Chicago, 1905), p. 222, where the explorer calls it “River of Wild Bulls;” on the accompanying map, it is designated “River of Oxen.” The French voyageurs called this stream *Rivière des Bœufs*; hence its present designation, Beef River.

**Burnett** was named for Thomas P. Burnett, an early Wisconsin legislator—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii, p. 325; Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 55. Although of Virginia birth, Burnett (1800–46) emigrated to Kentucky when a child, and was there educated, practicing law at Paris in that state. In 1829 he was appointed sub-Indian agent at Prairie du Chien, and thereafter made that place his home until 1837, when he removed to Cassville. After five years service in the Indian department he again took up the



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practice of law, and was influential in Wisconsin Territorial legislation.

**Calumet** was named for a Menominee Indian village situated on the southeast shore of Lake Winnebago—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vi, p. 171; F. W. Hodge, "Handbook of American Indians," in U. S. Bureau of Ethnology *Bulletin* No. 30, p. 195. The origin of the word is the Norman-French form of chalumet, a tube or reed, which was applied by French Canadians to the Indian implement known as "the pipe of peace"—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 59; *Handbook*, p. 191.

**Chippewa** was named from its principal river, which was given this Indian tribal designation by French voyageurs. The first name applied by the early explorers to this stream was Bon Secours; it likewise occasionally appears on early maps as Bacqueville, possibly in honor of Bacqueville de la Potherie, the Canadian historian. About the middle of the eighteenth century the Chippewa tribesmen began to settle in this region, and founded villages on the headwaters of the stream—*Minn. Hist. Colls.*, v. Thereafter the river began to be called from the French form of their name, Rivière des Sauteurs. Jonathan Carver applies the term Chippewa to the stream which he ascended in 1766, and appended this name to the map that appeared in the edition of his *Travels* published in 1778. From thence until the time of American occupation, the river was known by either term—des Sauteurs or Chippewa. For the significance of this tribal name, see Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 72; *Handbook*, p. 277.

**Clark** was named in honor of Gen. George Rogers Clark, the conqueror of the Northwest during the American Revolution—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 12. Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 74, says the name was given for A. W. Clark, an early settler. Dr. Lyman C. Draper, then editor of *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, was, however, in a position to know. Clark County was erected in 1853; the same year, Dr. Draper came to Madison as secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society. He was the acknowledged authority on the life and services of Gen. George Rogers Clark, whose papers form so large and valuable a portion of the Draper MSS. now in the keeping of the Society. Draper knew many of the prominent legislators, and no doubt suggested the name as a

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fitting one for the county about to be established. His testimony thereon must be considered as conclusive.

Gen. George Rogers Clark (1752–1818) was of Virginia birth, and early emigrating to Kentucky took a prominent share in its defense (1775–78). In 1778 he captured from the British the Illinois towns, and the next year, the village of Vincennes, taking prisoner Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton of Detroit. Throughout the Revolution he was active in defense of the frontier, and has been styled the “Washington of the West.”

**Columbia** (originally **Portage**; see **Portage**, *post.*) was probably named in honor of Christopher Columbus—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 112. Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 79, appears to indicate that the name was taken from Columbia River. It was more probably given because of the town of Columbus, which was first established as Columbus precinct in 1842, and was the first county-seat of Columbia County—see A. J. Turner, *Family Tree of Columbia County* (Portage, 1904).

**Crawford** was named in honor of William H. Crawford (1772–1834), secretary of the treasury under Monroe—*Wis. Hist. Colls.* i, p. 112; Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 85. The county was, in fact, named for Fort Crawford, which took its title from Secretary Crawford. This fortification was built in 1816 by Maj. Willoughby Morgan, U. S. A.—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii, p. 122.

**Dane** was named in honor of Nathan Dane, framer of the Ordinance of 1787, establishing the Northwest Territory—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vi, pp. 388–395.

**Dodge** was named for Henry Dodge, first Territorial governor of Wisconsin—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 112. Henry Dodge (1783–1867) came from Missouri to Wisconsin in 1827, after service in the War of 1812–15. He was active during the Winnebago uprising (1827) and a colonel during the Black Hawk War (1832). Appointed first Territorial governor, he served eight years in that capacity (1836–41; 1845–48), during the intervening years (1841–45), he was Territorial delegate to Congress. On the organization of the State he was elected first U. S. senator, and being re-elected in 1851 served nine years in that capacity (1848–57). His home during pre-Territorial days was at Dodgeville.

**Door** took its name from the straits between the mainland and Washington Island, locally known as Death’s Door, a translation

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from the French *voyageur* term, "La Porte des Morts" (the door of the dead)—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vi, p. 166. The origin of this name is traditionary, probably having arisen from the dangerous character of these waters—*Hist. No. Wis.*, p. 253.

**Douglas** was named in honor of Stephen A. Douglas, U. S. senator from Illinois (1847–61), and Democratic candidate for the presidency in 1860.

**Dunn** was named in honor of Charles Dunn, first chief justice of Wisconsin Territory—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 98. Charles Dunn (1799–1872) was born in Kentucky, where he studied law, but was admitted to the bar (1820) in Illinois. During his residence in that state he served as captain in the Black Hawk War, wherein he was accidentally shot by a sentinel. In 1829 he assisted in laying out the plat of Chicago. Appointed chief justice of Wisconsin Territory in 1836, he served throughout the Territorial era, also acting as member of the second State constitutional convention. In 1852–53 he was State senator from Lafayette County, and died at his home at Belmont (now Leslie), in that county.

**Eau Claire** is named for its chief river, a tributary of the Chippewa. The name is a French rendering of the Indian term, Wah-yah-con-ut-ta-qua-yaw Sebe (Clear Water)—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 120. Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 100, erroneously states that this county is named for the river of the same name in Michigan.

**Florence** was named by H. D. Fisher in honor of Mrs. Florence Hulst, wife of Dr. N. P. Hulst of Milwaukee. The name was first applied to the Florence iron mine; and then to the town and county.

**Fond du Lac** was named for its situation at the end of Lake Winnebago, being a French term for the head of a lake—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 112.

**Forest** was named for the dense forest with which it was covered when erected—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 112.

**Grant** was named for a river of that name flowing into the Mississippi. The origin of the name of the stream is traditionary, being ascribed to "a trapper who had his cabin on its banks"—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 112. The name was probably assigned during the English regime in Wisconsin (1763–96), when

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a number of Scotch and English traders made headquarters at Prairie du Chien, or at Cahokia, Illinois, and traded up and down the river. Among these was one James Grant (see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, p. 503), a prominent Montreal merchant; see *Id.*, xii, p. 65. The Indian appellation for the stream appears to have been "Shequak;" see map in William H. Keating, *Long's Expedition up the Mississippi* (Philadelphia, 1824).

**Green** is supposed to have been named for Gen. Nathaniel Greene, of Revolutionary fame—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 112; Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 124. C. W. Butterfield, *History of Green County* (Springfield, Ill., 1884), p. 257, asserts, however, that the county was named by its first representative in the legislature, William Boyles, because of the green appearance of its vegetation; the name of General Greene was suggested, but not adopted. See also *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, pp. 424, 425.

**Green Lake** was named for its principal body of water, a beautiful sheet of a distinctly emerald color. The lake was called by the French *Lac Verd*, which the early settlers translated into Green Lake—*Hist. No. Wis.*, p. 349. See also Dart's narrative, *post*.

**Iowa** was named for the Sionan tribe that gave its name likewise to the state of Iowa. Probably these Indians were first met by the early French explorers beyond the Mississippi. In the eighteenth century this tribe seems to have removed to Missouri River; see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 248. After the close of the French regime, they were again on the Mississippi, occupying both banks—*Id.*, i, p. 32. It was probably at this time that they were found in the region of the original Iowa County, later the habitat of the Sauk, Foxes, and Winnebago.

**Iron** was named for the amount of this ore to be found within its limits—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 144.

**Jackson** was named in honor of President Andrew Jackson—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 145.

**Jefferson** was named in honor of President Thomas Jefferson—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 113.

**Juneau** was named in honor of Solomon Juneau, an early French trader on the site of Milwaukee, and first mayor of that city. Born in 1793 in Canada, as a youth Juneau began trading at Mackinac, whence he went to Milwaukee in 1818, as an em-

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ploye of Jacques Vieau. Juneau was the first postmaster of the town (1835), assisted in laying out the first plat of the city (his partner being Morgan L. Martin of Green Bay), and served as mayor after its incorporation (1846). In later life he removed to Dodge County, and died in 1856 at Shawano, while attending an Indian payment.

**Kenosha** was named for its principal town, which was first known as Southport. As this settlement was situated upon Pike Creek, a change was made to the Indian word for that fish—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, p. 414. See also *Handbook*, i, p. 673, where “Kenozhe,” signifying pickerel, is given to a Chippewa gens.

**Kewaunee** was named for its chief river, which was early known as Wood’s River. In 1834 Joshua Hathaway, an early Wisconsin surveyor, rechristened it from the Chippewa word which he translated as “prairie hen”—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 117. Verwyst, in *Id.* xii, p. 392, considers the word equivalent to a peninsula, almost surrounded by water, from the Chippewa term, “I cross a point of land by boat.”

**La Crosse** was named from the village of La Crosse, which was established upon a tract known to early Mississippi voyagers as La Prairie de la Crosse. *La crosse* was the French term for an Indian ball game which was frequently played upon this spot—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iv, p. 383. Pike notes this locality in his voyage of 1805. See *Handbook*, p. 127, for a description of the game and the implements used therein.

**Lafayette** was named in honor of Marquis de Lafayette, of Revolutionary fame—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 113.

**Langlade** was named for Charles Langlade, formerly considered the first settler of the State. It is now known, however, that he did not permanently remove to Green Bay from Mackinac until 1764, and had been preceded by several others—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xviii, p. 132. Langlade (1729–1800) was born in Mackinac, and served as an officer in the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars. He became the most prominent citizen of the small French settlement at Green Bay, where he had an extensive fur-trading establishment.

**Lincoln** was named in honor of President Abraham Lincoln—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 161.

**Manitowoc** takes its name from a small river within its boundaries. The origin of this Indian word is variously given. The

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first constituent, "manito," is conceded by all to be the Indian word for spirit, or mysterious influence; hence "spirit land," "devil's den," etc., have been assigned as its meaning—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 117; iii, p. 337; Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 170. Rev. E. P. Wheeler (Ms. in Society's library) gives its significance as "spirit woods;" which appears to be borne out by Henry R. Schoolcraft, who says it signifies "a standing or hollow tree that is under a mysterious influence." This would seem to point to the erection of a wooden cross on the banks of this river, allusion to which we find in the journal of Father J. B. Buisson St. Cosme, dated 1699–1700. He declares that such a cross was reared in this locality in the latter part of the seventeenth century. His words are: "the 4th of October we came to another small village of Poux [Potawatomi] on a little river where Rev. Father Marais had wintered with some Frenchmen and planted a cross"—J. G. Shea, *Early Voyages* (Albany, 1861), p. 50. We are inclined to think that the name Manitowoc was derived from the presence of this large wooden cross, such as the Jesuit missionaries frequently planted in the villages of their neophytes.

**Marathon** was named from the famous Greek battlefield—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 171.

**Marinette** took its title from the village which was named for Marinette Chevalier (1793–1865), a French-Chippewa half-breed, wife of John B. Jacobs, and later of William Farnsworth; the last-named settled on this site in 1822. There had previously been here a trading-post of the American Fur Company, and it continued as a trade centre for many years, largely under the direction of Marinette, who had much business ability. The town was platted by her son, John B. Jacobs—See *Hist. No. Wis.*, p. 578. The name is an abbreviation of Marie Antoinette.

**Marquette** was named in honor of Father Jacques Marquette, the French Jesuit explorer, who passed through this region in 1673.

**Milwaukee** takes its name from the river, which had been the site of an Indian village since Wisconsin was first known to white men. For the variations in spelling see H. E. Legler, "Wisconsin Place Names," in Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters *Transactions*, xiv, p. 24. Legler declares that this word means "council place." The majority of authorities

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appear to consider it equivalent to "good land"—See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, pp. 290, 337; xii, p. 393; *Handbook*, p. 863. See also D. H. Kelton, *Annals of Fort Mackinac* (ed. of 1884), p. 150.

**Monroe** was named in honor of President James Monroe—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 182.

**Oconto** takes its name from its chief river. The significance of this word is variously given as "red ground," or "the place of the pickerel"—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 194; or the Menominee word for "black bass"—Legler, *Wis. Place Names*. The latter would seem to be correct, since upon many of the early maps (1820–50) the stream is noted as Black Bass River.

**Oneida** is named for a tribe of New York Indians, a branch of the Iroquois, who removed to Wisconsin early in the nineteenth century. The name is said to signify "granite people"—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 196.

**Outagamie** bears a Wisconsin Indian tribal name. It is the Chippewa appellation for the Foxes, who were first visited by the French in the Wolf River valley. The term is variously interpreted as "dwellers on either shore"—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, p. 396; and "dwellers on the other side of a stream"—Legler, *Wis. Place Names*, p. 32.

**Ozaukee** is the Chippewa form of the tribal name of the Sauk. The word is commonly asserted to mean, "people living at the mouth of a river"—Legler, *Wis. Place Names*, p. 32; others interpret it as signifying "people of yellow earth"—Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 200.

**Pepin** is named for Lake Pepin—an enlargement of the Mississippi River. Lake Pepin is one of the oldest names upon the map of Wisconsin, being mentioned by that title in 1700—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 184. It seems probable it was named for one of the companions of Duluth, whom he notes as being in that vicinity in 1679, and not as Gannett (*Place Names*, p. 205) assumes, for the French king, Pepin le Bref.

**Pierce** was named in honor of President Franklin Pierce—*Hist. No. Wis.*, p. 707.

**Polk** was given its name in honor of President James K. Polk—*Hist. No. Wis.*, p. 722.

**Portage** was originally named for the Fox-Wisconsin portage, then within its boundaries—a prominent landmark in early Wisconsin history. The gradual change in the boundaries of this

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county (described *ante*) left the name of the county without significance, save that therein is found Plover portage, an insignificant carrying-place between the waters of Wolf and Wisconsin rivers—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, pp. 113, 118.

**Price** was named for William T. Price, who was president of the State senate at the time this county was formed—*Hist. No. Wis.*, p. 765. Born in Pennsylvania (1824), Price early removed to western Wisconsin, and in 1851 was register of deeds for La Crosse County. The same year he served in the legislature, and in 1854 and 1859 as county judge for Jackson. After many terms as assemblyman and state senator, he was elected in 1883 representative to Congress, and re-elected in 1885, but died during his second term, Dec. 7, 1886.

**Racine** was named for its principal town, which was laid off in 1834–35 by Gilbert Knapp. The first designation of this settlement was Port Gilbert; but its founder decided to change this to Racine, the French translation of Root River, on which he had laid out his town. Root was apparently the translation of the aboriginal name for this stream—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii, pp. 335, 341; Butterfield, *History of Racine and Kenosha Counties* (Chicago, 1879), pp. 279, 355.

**Richland** was named for the character of its soil—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 109.

**Rock** was not named for its rocky soil (Gannett, *Place Names*, p. 222), nor for Rock Prairie therein (*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 113), but for its principal river. This stream was denominated by the early French explorers, “des Kickapoo,” for a village of that tribe found upon it. In the eighteenth century it was called “Rivière de la Roche,” which was variously translated into Stony, Rocky, and finally Rock River. This was no doubt a translation of the Indian word, given because of the chain of rocks at the mouth of the stream, causing the rapids beside which is now the city of Rock Island, Ill.

**Rusk** was originally named Gates in honor of John L. Gates, then a prominent Milwaukee lumberman and capitalist. It was changed (1905) to Rusk in honor of Governor Jeremiah M. Rusk (1830–93). Rusk was born in Ohio, and removed to Wisconsin in 1853, settling at Viroqua. A member of the legislature of 1861, he served in the federal army throughout the



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War of Secession. From 1865-67, Rusk was bank-comptroller; 1871-77, member of Congress; and 1882-89, governor of the State. Under President Benjamin Harrison, he was the first secretary of agriculture, an office wherein he was highly efficient. He died at his Viroqua home, soon after his last term of public service.

**St. Croix** is named for its principal river. This is one of the most ancient names on the map of Wisconsin, and was so designated in honor of an early French voyageur who was wrecked at its mouth—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 185.

**Sauk** is an Indian tribal name—see *ante*, Ozaukee. It took this name from a large village of that tribe formerly within its borders, for particulars of which see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, p. 206; xviii, pp. 282, 335. Although this village was removed before the coming of the American settlers, it left its name to the neighboring Sauk Prairie—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 113.

**Sawyer** was named in honor of Philetus Sawyer of Oshkosh. Born in Vermont in 1816, he removed to Wisconsin in 1847 and two years later started a sawmill at Oshkosh. In 1857 and 1861 he was a member of the assembly; 1865-75, he represented Wisconsin in Congress. In 1881 he was chosen United States senator and re-elected for a second term. He died in 1900 at his Oshkosh home.

**Shawano** was named for the lake of that name within its borders. The word is a Chippewa term, somewhat modified, and signifies "southern"—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, p. 347. It is similar to the French *Chaouanon* (English, Shawnee), a tribal term. There is no evidence that the Shawnee Indians ever lived in this locality. It was probably the southern boundary of Chippewa tribal territory, although later claimed by the Menominee.

**Sheboygan** takes its name from a river emptying into Lake Michigan. Two meanings have been assigned to this word: "a noise underground." and "river disappearing underground"—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 17, and *Hist. No. Wis.*, p. 967; and "a perforated object, such as a pipe-stem, or hollow bone"—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, p. 337; xii, p. 397.

**Taylor**. Since it was erected in 1875, this county was probably named for the governor in office at that time, William R. Taylor. Born in Connecticut in 1818, he emigrated to Dane County in 1848, and lived upon a farm therein. He was, during

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his term (1874-76) known as the "farmer governor." He died in the spring of 1909 near Madison.

**Trempealeau** is named from its principal river. This stream was so called from a contiguous bluff, familiarly known to the early French voyageurs as *La montagne qui trempe à l'eau* ("the mountain that is steeped in the water"). This, in its turn, seems to have been a translation of the Indian term, *Pah-hah-dah*, the Sioux word for "mountain separated by water;" or *Hay-nee-ah-chah*, the Winnebago word for "soaking mountain"—see Wis. Hist. Soc. *Proceedings*, 1906, p. 246.

**Vernon**. The original name of this county was Bad Ax, so designated from a stream therein, tributary to the Mississippi. Bad Ax was a translation of the French voyageur term, *La mauvaise hache*, but the origin of the name is unknown. The inhabitants of the county felt that this name created an unpleasant impression; it was thereupon, at the suggestion of Judge William F. Terhune, changed to Vernon, implying the greenness of its wheat fields, and carrying a suggestion of Washington's home at Mount Vernon—Butterfield, *History of Vernon County* (Springfield, 1884), p. 132.

**Vilas** was named in honor of William F. Vilas of Madison. A native of Vermont (1840), he removed to Wisconsin in 1851, and was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1858. During the War of Secession he attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel; was postmaster-general of the United States (1885-88); secretary of the interior (1888-91); and United States senator (1891-97). He died in August, 1908, leaving to his alma mater the bulk of his large fortune.

**Walworth** was, at the suggestion of Col. Samuel F. Phoenix, founder of the town of Delavan, named for Chancellor Reuben H. Walworth of New York—*History of Walworth County* (Chicago, 1882), p. 315. Walworth (1788-1867) was the last chancellor of that state (1828-48), the chancery court being abolished at the close of his term. He was known as a great equity jurist, and an early friend of the temperance movement.

**Washburn** was named in honor of Cadwallader C. Washburn, governor of the State, 1872-74. Born in Maine (1818), Washburn migrated West at the age of twenty-one. In 1842 he settled at Mineral Point, was admitted to the bar, and opened a

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bank. He was a congressman for three terms (1855–61), and again after the War of Secession (wherein he served), for two further terms (1867–71). After retiring from public life he built up the flour-mill industry at Minneapolis. For many years he was president of the State Historical Society, and gave the University its observatory. He died in 1882.

**Washington** was named for the first president of the United States—*Wis. Hist. Colls.* i, p. 113.

**Waukesha** was thus named when its territory was separated from Milwaukee, and erected into a county. There was a strong popular desire for an Indian name. Waukt-shaw was suggested as being the Potawatomi form of fox, because the waters of the lower part of the county drain into Fox River of Illinois (which is, however, named for the Fox tribe of Indians, not for the animal)—see Frank A. Flower, *History of Waukesha County* (Chicago, 1880), p. 376; also *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, i, p. 117. The name, therefore, was not an aboriginal name of the locality, but one chosen by its early American settlers from Indian vocabularies.

**Waupaca** takes its name from a river, whose Indian appellation has been variously interpreted. It is said to mean “white sand bottom”—Legler, *Wis. Place Names*, p. 35; and “pale water,” or “to-morrow river”—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, p. 487.

**Waushara.** This name first appeared on the map when the county was erected, and would seem (like Waukesha) to be an attempt of American settlers to apply some little-understood Indian term. One authority considers it equivalent to “good land”—Stennett, *Place Names*, p. 32.

**Winnebago** took its name from the Indian tribe that had formerly lived in this vicinity. The word was an Algonquian term applied to the Siouan tribe, and signified, “people dwelling by the fetid or ill-smelling water” (possibly a sulphur spring)—see *Wis. Hist. Colls.* xvi, p. 3; Thwaites, *Wisconsin* (Boston, 1908), pp. 16, 17.

**Wood** is thus named in honor of Joseph Wood, assemblyman from Grand Rapids when the county was formed. He came to Grand Rapids in 1848, and after having served one term in the legislature (1856), and one as county judge (1857), was mayor of Grand Rapids (1872–75)—*Hist. No. Wis.*, p. 1198.





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