

March 25, 1897

Biography.



WILLIAM WEST.

William West is the oldest living settler in the town of Mukwonago and is a native of Nurnburnholme, Yorkshire, England, where he was rushed into the world on the 6th day of May A. D. 1810. He is a son of Thomas and Anna (Pikes) West who were residents of and spent their whole life in his native country and in whose family there were ten children of whom this gentleman was the only one who came to America. He was educated in the common schools of his native town and when quite young he learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner. He was married in England to Miss Elizabeth Youhill on the 18th day of May 1834, their bridal tour was an extended one from England to America and the train they rode on in America was on exhibition at the World's Fair in Chicago. They arrived at Mukwonago July 14th, 1837, and located on his present farm where by their combined efforts they succeeded in establishing a splendid home. He died about two years ago. In religion the family are identified with the Episcopal church. Mr. West has been Surveyor of this county for twenty years and has also held the office of Supervisor and Assessor of the town of Mukwonago. In school matters he has also taken an active interest and has often been chosen a member of the School Board of his District. The family number seven children, Mrs. John Roberts, James C., Mrs. Geo. Richardson, (deceased), Mrs. Geo. Robb, (deceased), Thomas W., Mrs. Albert Hinkley and Miss Jennie. Mr. West is a pleasant gentleman and has considerable of this world's goods but far above this he will leave for his children a good example and an unblemished reputation.

The death last Friday night of Mrs. Wm. West at her home in the north part of the town removes another of the pioneer women of the town. She was born in Yorkshire, Eng., eighty-three years ago and settled near North Prairie in 1837, coming from Chicago to Mukwonago by ox team. She was married to William West in 1834. For the past nine years she has been an invalid and confined to her bed all that time. The funeral was held ~~So~~ today. She was a member of the Episcopal Church and a woman held in the highest esteem by neighbors and friends who knew her. The couple were perhaps the oldest man and women left in the county that came here as early as 1837, continuous residents of the town almost sixty years.

Mrs. Wm. West, Sr., died Friday Morning aged 83 years. Nine years ago their barn was struck by lightning and the shock was so great that Mrs. West never recovered and has been an invalid ever since. She leaves an aged husband and five children.

EAGLE PIONEER DIES.

Eagle, Wis., Sept. 17.—William West, the oldest settler in this part of Waukesha county, died this morning at 5:45. He was a native of Nurnburnholme, Yorkshire, Eng., where he was born May 6, 1810. He was educated in the common



William West.

schools of his native town, and later learned the trade of carpenter and joiner. After his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Youhill, May 18, 1834, he located at Mukwonago some three years later, where, by their combined efforts, they established a splendid home. Mr. West was surveyor of this county for some twenty years, was member of the District School board for many terms, and also held the offices of supervisor and assessor of his adopted town. Mr. West's long service as a county official made him a well known figure in Waukesha county affairs. He leaves surviving him five of his seven children, Mrs. John Roberts, Mrs. Albert Hinkley, Thomas W., James C., and Miss Jennie West. The funeral will take place from the home at 1 p. m. Wednesday.

Beloit, Wis., Sept. 17.—A hundred and fifty molders of the local union were present at the funeral to-day of Lewis Carroll, a member who died Saturday night.

NORTH PRAIRIE.

The north line of the town of Mukwonago is within a few rods of our village and perhaps it would not be out of the way to give a little sketch of the early settlement of that town. In May, 1836, Charles N. Cox and family made claim and settled on land in section 19, of that town, and made a house of their covered wagon. In June following Thos. Sugden and Joseph Smart staid with the Cox family over night and on the 12th day of that month made claim and settled on sections 26 and 19, adjoining Mr. Cox's claim. On the 15th day of that month Sewell Andrews, Henry H. Camp and Mr. Meacham settled on land where the village of Mukwonago now stands, which they had selected in 1835. They were the third group of actual settlers. But the first prospectors in that town found Indians still in possession and they were unable to build until they had given the Indians two barrels of flour for the privilege of building a house, 10x12, which was the home and lodging place for all the white settlers until the commencement of the following winter. They were then all unmarried. In selecting a name for the village these men adopted that given it by the Indians. The signification of which is "a place where bears were killed," (Mukwor or Meague), in their language being the name of that animal. Martin Field was employed in 1836 by these men to survey and plat the village. Said plat was recorded in the county, then Milwaukee, November 24, 1836. In 1837 John M. Stockman, John S. Morse, Weber Andrews, Ezra Stone, John Burnell, Robert Wilkinson, Wm. Cross, Sherman Cartwright, John

Coats, Wm. West, and some other pioneers, came without their families and some were not fortunate enough to have any. Sewell Andrews and Andrew E. Elmore were the first merchants. Their trade was with the few Whites and Indians that inhabited that village in those days. The town of Mukwonago at that time was made to comprise the towns of Mukwonago, Eagle, Ottawa and Genesee. The first town meeting was held at Daniel Biglow's house in the town of Eagle in the fall of 1838. Henry Hinkley was elected chairman. The town of Mukwonago was made by an act of the legislature, approved March 8th, 1839, to comprise its present boundary line, except a section or two taken from the town of Vernon. Hon. Martin Field, John Burnell and Wm. West are the only early 1837 settlers that are now living in the town. The first white child born in the town was John A. Smart, now of Arcadia, Wis. He was born December 31, 1836, and if memory serves me right, James C. West, of North Prairie, was the second. The first marriage was that of Mrs. Charles N. Cox to John Long, in Oct., 1838. Sewell Andrews, of the village of Mukwonago, performed the ceremony, as a justice of the peace. Mr. Powers was the first mail carrier and Wm. Wilkinson, now of Eagle, was the second. This was in 1838. In 1839 James Orendorf was commissioned as the first postmaster in the town and the postoffice was called Springfield and located near where the Fox river bridge is now. In the winter of 1839-40 the office was moved to the village and Andrew E. Elmore was appointed postmaster. The first hotel was built in 1837 by Charles B. Stockman. The first physician in the town was Dr. Youmans, now a resident of the village. The space will not allow for any further sketch this time of the early settlements.