

## Was Chairman of County Board

Matthias J. Bovee, born in Amsterdam (Montgomery county), N.Y., was a member of the assembly of New York and chairman of the county board several times. He voted for the first railroad charter in the United States (1826) authorizing the construction of the Albany and Schnectady road. Then he was elected to congress from his district in New York. In 1843 he migrated with his family to the Wisconsin Territory, settling in Eagle with his wife, nine children, his mother and other relatives. His mother's death was one of the first in the township.

Of the nine children—Sarah, Emily, Benedict, William R., Marvin H., Elisabeth, Halsey, Edward and Hattie—several played important roles in the history of this area.

Sarah married Thomas Pitman, the first station agent of Eagle.

Emily married Jerry Parsons who built a tavern at the point now called Jericho. They say that it was so-called because the sign above his establishment read: "Jerry Co."

William R., with his father and others, founded district school No. 9. William was also county clerk of Waukesha county.

Benedict married Kate Kramer. Elisabeth married Joseph Sprague. Halsey established the Marblehead Lime Works in Chicago. Edward became a merchant in Eagle. Harriet married Michael McHugh, a carpenter. Marvin H. was one of the first senators at Wisconsin's first state capitol. He published "Capital Punishment, Reason for its Abolition" and he was partly responsible for its abolition in Wisconsin.

After being wounded and captured in the Civil war and his recovery from rather severe wounds, he returned to Eagle to make it his home. He built the store now occupied by the IGA store. It had living quarters above it and it had the furniture store, which housed both hardware and rugs and the present drugstore, which he used for a men's clothing store.

The space now taken by the Krestan addition was a side yard, beautifully kept. Lins had a well dug and a windmill erected at the rear of his lot on land now occupied by the medical center. In this yard, and in the center of the village park, he had fountains installed which played their water into pools for floating water plants and lively gold fish.

In 1873 E. L. Bovee established a grocery store on the site of the present Sherman's store. Mrs. K. Y. Salisbury later ran a millinery store and kept the post office in the building now owned by Edward Kuetter.

Still farther east E. J. Bossingham ran a tailoring shop. N. J. Hoswell, who lived in the house now occupied by Robert Finney, was a wagon maker having his factory between the American Legion building and the pumping station.

Many people know the story of the bald eagle that John Coats, W. C. Garton and Thomas Sugden saw on a mound near what was later the Ebenezer Thomas farm.

The sight of the eagle established the name of Eagle town and village, although they called it Eagle Prairie.

Few know that hidden away in lists of postmasters in the historical library at Madison is the name of Bullion—another early name for Eagle village. The name of Eagle Center was used until February 1850, when again it was called Bullion. That name was kept until May 2, 1852.