

HISTORY
of
BLOOMER

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HISTORY OF BLOOMER

1848-1923

COMPILED BY THE CLASS OF 1925

TYPED BY THE CLASS OF 1924

DEDICATED TO

MISS IRENE M. RAMSAY

TEACHER OF HISTORY, WHO ASSISTED US IN OUR WORK.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE, WITH THANKS, THE INTEREST
SHOWN BY THE CITY OF BLOOMER, AND THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE
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Townships of Chippewa County

1. Anson
2. Arthur
3. Auburn
4. Birch Creek
5. Bloomer
6. Cleveland
7. Colburn
8. Delmar
9. Eagle Point
10. Edson
11. Estella
12. Goetz
13. Hallie
14. Holcombe
15. Howard
16. Lafayette
17. Ruby
18. Sampson
19. Sigel
20. Tilden
21. Wheaton
22. Woodmohr

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F. J. Lebeis
Henry Zecherle
F. Jenneman
Otto Lebeis
C. T. Ruff
Fred Hilger
Lawrence Ruff
Anton Boos
Annie Boos

Section 2.

Annie Boos
Lawrence Ruff
C. T. Ruff
Peter Hilger
Albert Ruff
E. F. Shipman
Jos. Hilger
Phil. Weiner
Fred Hilger

Section 3.

Katharine Hassemer
J. P. Hassemer
William Ruff
C. Schwartz
Henry Schwab
Eugene Caron

Section 4.

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C. Schwartz
E. Miller
Emil Miller
Walter Pritchard
Walter Pritchard
Charles Pritchard
J. Braden
J. Braden
Jac. Braden
Peter Braden
Casper Hassemer
Chas. Albrecht
E. Miller

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H. Albrecht
F. Schetdecker
Eva Emmerson
John Klund
W. Berg
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L. Kranzfelder
H. Albrecht
Wm. Henke
Ed. Ziebell

Section 6.

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H. Albrecht
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Jos. Berg
H. F. Dietche

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Chas. Miller

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Mrs. C. M. Woodard
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Chas. Atwood
E. Hickeltnier

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Mrs. Ignaz Stike

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Bert Kennedy
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Nels Elias
Henry Schimmel

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Oscar Bekken
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T. Zwiefelhofer
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And. Marek

Section 19.

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Geo. Henneman
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H. Hutchinson
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Frank Baier
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John Seibel
Jac. Rubenzer
Jos. Seibel
Frank Baier

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Bert Benson
Maloney Bros.

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Harry Kressin
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Math. Reischel
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Jos. Goettl

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Jos. Reischel
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A. P. Zwiefelhofer
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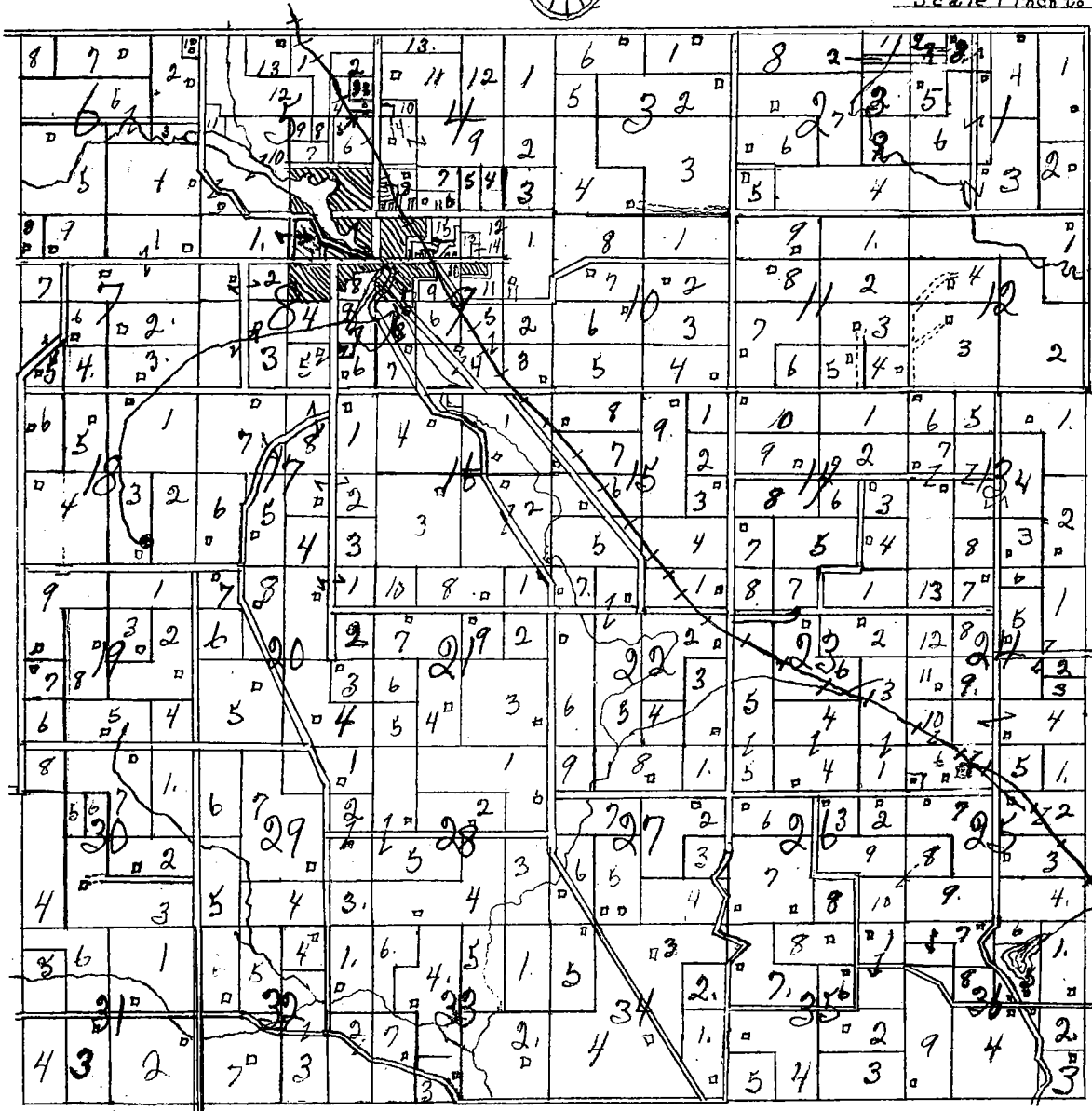
H. Albright
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MAP OF

TOWNSHIP 30N., RANGE 9W

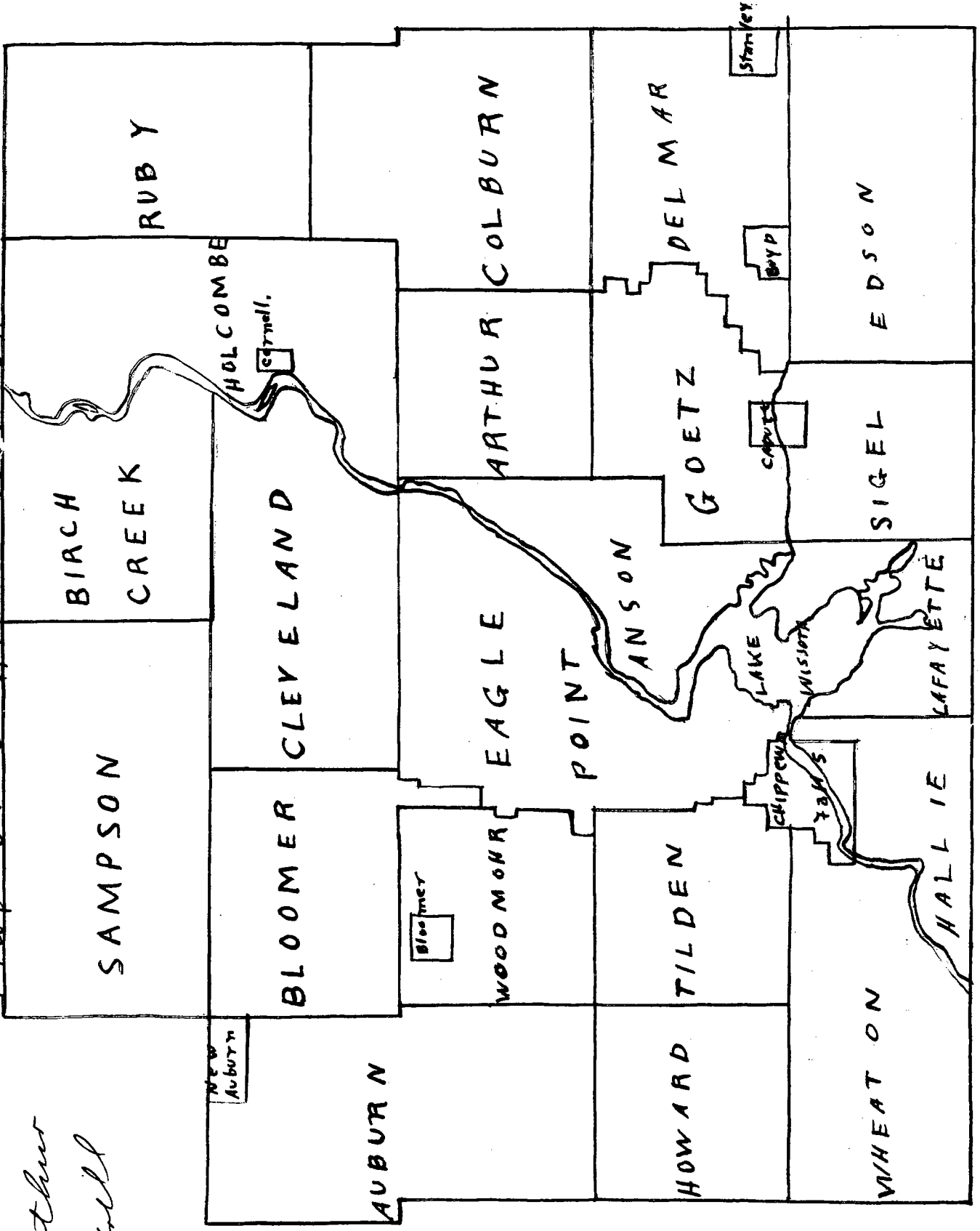
OF THE 4th P.M.

Scale 1 inch to 1 mile



Map of CHIPPEWA County

Arthur
Gull



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HISTORY OF WISCONSIN

At the time when the land of Wisconsin was first made known to Europeans it was the borderland between the hunting grounds of the Algonquian tribe, which was pushing westward, and the Dakotas or the Sioux.

In 1634, Jean Nicolet came along the Great Lakes to make treaties with the Indians and to encourage them to trade with the French. The next white explorers whom we have any record of, were Radisson and Groseilliers, two fur traders. (1658-59) These two men followed the tracks of Jean Nicolet.

In 1823 occurred the Black Hawk War with the white men as victors. After the defeat of the Black Hawks, people from the New England states came into this country.

In 1836 Michigan was admitted into the Union. Wisconsin, which then included Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of Dakota, was made into a territory.

In 1847 a bill passed Congress for the admission of Wisconsin into the Union and on May 29, 1848 Wisconsin was formally admitted into it.

HISTORY OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY

Chippewa Valley is divided into five epochs--its occupation, its preterritorial existence, its life as a territory, the brief period of British rule, and finally, its career as a state.

A settlement was begun on the banks of the St. Lawrence. At this time the Huron Indians and the Algonquins were at war with the Iroquois.

Nicolet made portages around the falls of Des Peres, the two Kakalins, Grand Chute, Appleton, and Neenah. The first sail-boat on the Great Lakes was La Salle's small vessel, the "Griffin."

A military station was established by the French at Green Bay between 1718 and 1721. A new era in the history of the Northwest began in the year 1763. By the treaty of Paris, Great Britain acquired the whole of the French provinces in North America. By a secret treaty, France ceded to Spain, all Louisiana. The British flag was not again hoisted over a Wisconsin fort until after the declaration of war against Great Britain in 1812.

After Carver visited Prairie du Chien in 1767 he ascended the Chippewa River. It was so muddy that the French boatmen could not drink it, but when they reached Eau Claire River they sang "Eau Claire" --clear water--and that is how the river is said to have derived its name.

The war of the Revolution was inaugurated by the battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775. Up to that time little or no progress had been made in settling Wisconsin. A division occurred in 1809, when Wisconsin became a part of the territory of Illinois. From this time that part of Wisconsin began to fill up with settlers.

The Valley of Chippewa River extends from township forty-two north, to township twenty-two north from northeast to southwest and seventy-five miles wide. Geologically the valley belongs to the Potsdam sandstone period.

The climate of the valley is exceptionally good, protected by the forests surrounding it, especially in the north. It is not so cold as it is on the prairies and sleighing is good in winter. Spring comes early with warm growing summers and lovely autumns.

Passing Chippewa the first water power on that river is Eau Claire.

Louis Hennepin and his companions, Michael Accaw and Antoine Augielapper are said to have been the first white men to traverse the Chippewa Valley and River. This was in 1680.

The estimated amount of pine timber in Chippewa Valley in 1880 was 15,000,000,000 feet. Estimated amount of hemlock was 3,000,000,000 feet.

A new organization of districts became necessary in 1861, owing to the increase population. Jackson, Clarke, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin, Eau Claire, Dunn and Chippewa counties became the Thirty-second senatorial district. The senatorial districts were rearranged in 1878, Chippewa being included in the eleventh district. Pepin in the twenty-ninth district.

Another apportionment of the state was made in 1882, whereby, Barron, Dunn, Eau Claire and Pepin were included in the eight congressional district, and Chippewa and Price in the ninth. Chippewa County is now in the Tenth District.

THE INDIANS

We have many evidences that in the immediate vicinity of Bloomer there once roamed a people of whom we know very little about. The Mound-builders who once occupied our lands, were probably extinct many centuries before the advent of what we may call the present day Indians. As the name implies they built mounds of earth but for what purpose, is a mystery--although a few we know, were burial places.

This does not, however, account for the vast number strewn throughout the whole Mississippi Valley, nor does excavation reveal that they were primarily for burial places. The majority of these mounds were built in a conical or sugar loaf shape, while many were crudely constructed to represent such animals as they were most familiar with, as the bear, turtle, and other animals.

The best thought on the matter by those competent to judge is that they were used for ceremonial purposes only. The Indians as long ago as the time of Hennipin and Marquette have neither history nor tradition concerning them.

The territory in the immediate vicinity of Bloomer, so far as we know has been occupied by the Chippewas since about 1670. Prior to that time this was the country of the Sioux. The Chippewas belonged to the Algonquian tribes as distinguished by their language.

The early voyagers always considered the Chippewa Indians as being one of the bravest and most reliable tribes that they came in contact with.

The Chippewa Indians were first known to the French in 1642 on the Chippewa River, near Montreal, Canada. About this time the Sioux seem to have had possession of all the lands south of Lake Superior, and west of Lakes Huron and Michigan and south as far as Milwaukee and west to the Missouri River.

About 1670 the Chippewas commenced war on the Sioux from the north and east and fought them way south and west in and around northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. To prevent as much as possible the terrible wars raging between the tribes, the government authorized a general treaty of peace to be held at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, between all the tribes within a distance of 500 miles in every direction, the primary object of which was to fix the boundaries between the various nations.

In as much as we are only interested in the Sioux and the Chippewas the boundaries of the other Indian nations as fixed by the treaty are omitted.

This treaty was signed by Chiefs Wabasha, Red Wing, Little Crow, and twenty three other chiefs representing the Great Sioux Nation. Hole-in-the-Day and forty other sub-chiefs and braves represented the Chippewa Nation. The boundaries were fixed and agreed upon as follows. For the Sioux: "Commencing at the Mouth of the Iowa River, where it empties into the Mississippi River running back two or three miles to the bluffs, thence along the bluffs to and crossing the Bad Axe River to Black River, from which point the line described is the boundary between the Sioux and the Winnebagoes and extends in a direction nearly north to a point on the Chippewa River, a half days march from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. This point was at or near Mud Creek. This line becomes the boundary between the Sioux and the Chippewas and ran to Red Cedar River just below the Falls. From thence to the St. Croix River, about a days paddle by canoe above the Lake on that River, to the mouth of Rum River where it empties into the Mississippi River. The boundary between the Chippewa and the Winnebagoes was also defined as: "Commencing at the same point on the Chippewa River," a half days march below Chippewa Falls, thence to the source of the Clear Water River (now Eau Claire River) thence south to Black River, thence to a point where the woods project into the meadows, and thence to Plover Portage (now Portage Wis.)

Thus we see that the boundaries of the Sioux, the Chippewa and the Winnebagoes were brought all to one point "a half days' march below Chippewa Falls."

On July 29, 1837 at Fort Snelling, Hole-in-the-day with forty-seven of the Chippewa Chiefs and braves, ceded to the U. S. a large portion of this territory, and on October 4, 1842 at La Point (near Ashland) Po-go-ne-ga-shik with forty of these Chiefs and braves ceded to the U. S. the balance of these lands held in Wisconsin. Several bands of the Chippewas were very much dissatisfied with this last treaty made an appeal to the Government to be taken back from the Reservation in Minnesota.

Their appeal was not without fruit, for in 1854 the Government gave them back certain lands on Lake Court Orielles and the Chippewa River and established what is now known as the Court Orielles Reservation above Rice Lake Wisconsin.

The Chippewa language is considered by those able to judge to be one of the most expressive, and eloquent of any of the Algonquin dialects.

In this immediate vicinity there is nothing of special interest from a historical standpoint.

The old Indian Trail from the Chippewa River to the Menomonie or Red Cedar River passed just south of our city touching the Red Cedar River at or near the Village of Sand Creek.

A very old and important Trading Post was located on the West bank of the Chippewa River nearly opposite of the Village of Cornell. Near the mouth of Bob Creek there was quite an extensive Indian Village and burial ground.

As explained the Chippewas and the Sioux were enemies and were always on the warpath, and tradition tells us that there was a mighty battle fought between these two tribes just west of Long Lake.

Indian Point at Long Lake takes its name after chief Guoh-e-ge- who lived in his wigwam on this point many years.

Mrs. Summers, a full blood Chippewa, who speaks the Chippewa language only--is his daughter and was born on this point. She is now a resident of Sand Lake and comes to our city frequently.

Near Loon Lake (just south of Round Lake) there is a well defined cornfield. The rows where the corn was planted and cultured, were a few years ago clearly discernable, although grown over with a dense forest growth.

There were several burial methods practiced by the Chippewas. Tree burials and earth burials were the most common.

Tree burials consisted in wrapping the dead in skins and birch bark and placing this high up in the trees, out of reach of animals. The earth burial consisted of wrapping as described above, and burying under the earth. In both cases however, all things that were dear to the departed were buried with the corpse. Food was regularly supplied each day that he may not become famished or fatigued in the long journey to the "Happy Hunting Grounds." In the earth burial there was erected, over the grave or mound a wooden house usually about 6 feet long, 2 feet wide and about 18 inches high, well roofed and of ship pitch. At each end in the gable thus formed there were openings and a shelf to receive the necessary food for the long journey. These may now be seen in goodly numbers along the roadsides in the Court Orielles reservation for out of 1200 or so Chippewas on this reservation about one half are still pagans and keep up the old pagan customs.

Contributed by Mr. A. J. Newman

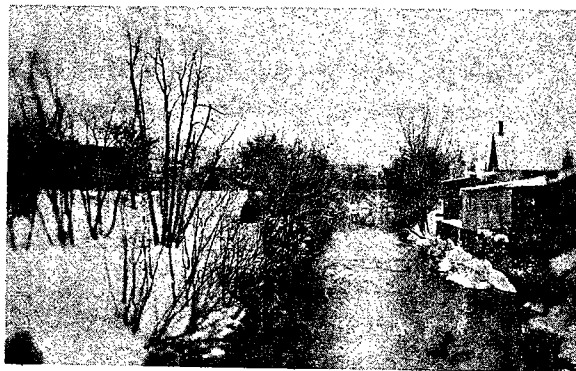
History of Bloomer

The village of Bloomer was settled in 1855. In that year Sylvester Van Loon selected it as his future home and settled the northeast quarter of section eight, township thirty, range nine west. The village was located on Duncan Creek, fifteen miles north of Chippewa Falls. It was first known as Vanville, but later, in the year of 1867, it was surveyed and platted and the name was changed to Bloomer.

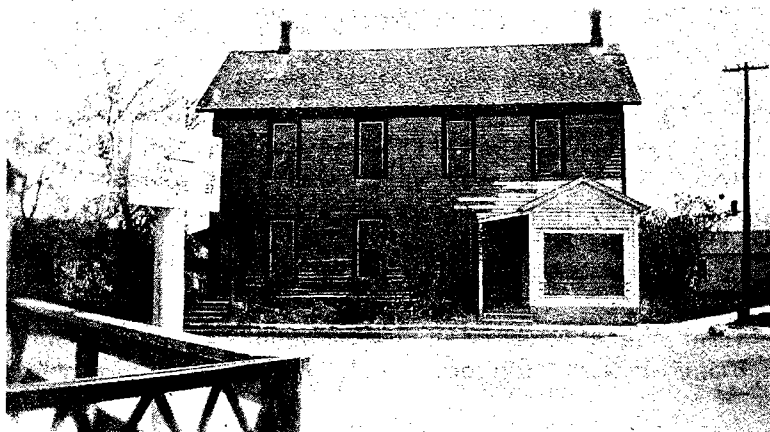


Birdseye View of Bloomer

A wealthy merchant, named Bloomer, had selected this place as a desirable location for a mill. In 1848 he brought with him from Galena, Illinois, a force of men and commenced the preliminary work on a dam and mill on the site of the present dam. By the approach of winter, however, Mr. Bloomer thought better of his project and disposed of the property to H. S. Allen. Mr. Bloomer returned to Galena.



With Mr. Van Loon upon his arrival, was William Priddy. Soon returning to their homes in Sauk county, the settlers came back in September with teams and finished the construction of a log house. Then Mr. Van Loon again made his way to Sauk county and returned with his family. He was well supplied with provisions, having with him flour and pork, but late in the fall his stock of hay was destroyed by fire, necessitating the disposal of two yoke of oxen. To feed several head of cows and young stock which remained, he was obliged to buy hay at an exorbitant price. The winter following was noted for the remarkable depth of snow and extremely cold weather, making travel almost impossible and dangerous. Deer were plentiful and could not run. It is therefore needless to say venison was daily on the table of the pioneer, who had but to approach one and knock it on the head with a club. Anyone equipped with a pair of snowshoes and a club could kill as many as he desired.



Priddy's Residence and Store

A post office was opened in 1856 and Mr. Van Loon was elected as the first postmaster. He held the office until 1868.

The railroad was graded in 1881 and the trains began to run in 1882. The telephone system was introduced in 1901; the electric lights in 1902, and the waterworks in 1907.

The first school originated in a log building in 1887. When the village was platted a district frame building was erected. This was succeeded in 1876 by a brick building with four departments.

A brewery was established in 1875 by John Wendland and Fred Adler. It burned down in 1883 and again in 1888. It was rebuilt each time by Mr. Wendland.



Duncan Creek

Story of the Flood in 1880

In June 1880 the Duncan Creek overflowed its banks and came with great force to Bloomer or Van Ville and washed out the dam and saw mill, Smith, Brook and Mc Couley were owners, and washed out every bridge in Bloomer and every bridge from Bloomer to Chippewa Falls. The water so deep that some of the families had to be taken out of the second story windows into boats.

Since this flood there have been others and for this reason the business site of Bloomer was changed.



