

department in the Fort. It was called the Church in the Wilderness, and it was understood it was for temporary purposes, and that so soon as their proper churches should be organized in their reach, each one should be at liberty to go to his own home. It continued but one or two years before Gen. STREET was moved to Rock Island, and the organization of the Methodist church terminated its existence. Mr. LOWRY, however, continued to preach at this place for some time.

1835. This year a stone court house and jail was built, with residence for sheriff or jailor, which was the best in the territory for several years.

After the removal of Gen. STREET to Rock Island and Mr. LOWRY to his school, there were but three American families in the place, outside of the fort, Judge J. H. LOCKWOOD, SAMUEL GILBERT and Ez. TAINTER. There was one German and one Irish family, and three or four discharged soldiers. The remainder were of French and mixed blood, in all about 500, outside of the fort.

CHARLES FENNO HOFFMAN in his "Winter in the West" says "on the 12th of November, 1834, he arrived at the Prairie, and was entertained by Col. Z. TAYLOR, at the fort. He remained two weeks. The garrison consisted of five companies of the 1st infantry. Says the village is a half a mile from the fort with antique looking timber houses, containing an amphibious population of voyagers and hunters, half French and half Indian. Visits the mounds and fortifications on the bluffs."

ALEX. MCGREGOR, the founder of the city bearing his name, came to Prairie du Chien this year, (1835), and in 1847 removed across the river. He died there Dec. 12, 1858. On the 23d of January, 1835, the county authorities resolved that a court house and jail be built for the public convenience. WM. WILSON received this contract for \$3,695. This was the first court house built in what then constituted the territory of Michigan. The late Col. H. L. DOUSSAN was one of the supervisors who superintended the building of the old court house in 1835, and was one of the committee to plan and superintend the building of the new one in 1867, shortly before his death.

Rev. ALFRED BRUNSON came here in the fall of 1835, and again in the spring of 1836 with his family, and continued to reside here. He was superintendent of the Methodist E. Church mission of upper Mississippi and Lake Superior. He purchased a farm and built a house, bringing material from Meadville, Pa., and continued here several years as superintendent, and organized a Methodist

Church, which has continued to this time.

GEO. W. FEATHERSTONHAUGH, the English geologist came up the river to Fort Snelling, spending a few days here.

Rev. R. CADLE, of P. E. Church, came here as a missionary 1836, but was shortly after appointed chaplain at Fort Crawford, where he continued till 1841, when he resigned and entered the missionary service in another part of the territory; while here he organized Trinity Church.

S. A. PALMER, of Pottsville, Pa., was here in 1836, relates that there were 300 troops at the fort, four substantial stone buildings, each 200 feet long, forming a square; a few mean houses, tenanted by a miserable set of French and Indians; JAS. FISHER and O. B. THOMAS, came here in 1836; his father JOHN THOMAS, came in 1835, and have been many years in public life.

Judge Ira B. BRUNSON, came here from Pennsylvania in 1836, and has been county surveyor 1837-46; sheriff 1848-9; clerk of court 1850, and Judge of county court since 1853.

1836. In this year the fever of speculation, then running rampant over the country, reached this place, and property ran up to fabulous heights. Two land companies were organized, who bought up all they could get of the private land claims below the garrison, and laid it out into city lots. But failing to succeed as they wished, this part of the city remained only on paper for several years.

A man by the name of VAN DORN, from Michigan, full of the idea of Chicago and Milwaukee, came to this place, and finding no land in market except the private land claims, bought up some claims on Government land not yet surveyed, in the Wisconsin bottoms, which are low and marshy, and subject to annual inundations. This he plotted on paper, and went east and put it into stock, at \$200,000, \$100 per share, and imposed upon many honest men, who supposed they were buying shares in the city of Prairie du Chien, for so he called his marsh. He paid for his claims in Michigan wild cat money, a few days before those banks exploded. He had to leave the country, and the last heard from him he was in Texas.

In this year population began to increase. Many who were bound ultimately for Iowa and Minnesota made this their stopping place, till they could prepare their future homes. Several new houses were put up, and permanent residences made. A ferry was established across the river to a point where McGregor now stands.

In the fall of this year Col. Z. TAYLOR, with his regiment, left this fort for Flori-