

of Crawford county. This purchase covered all the country lying between the Mississippi and Kickapoo rivers, running north about fifteen or twenty miles from the mouth of the Wisconsin river. The memorialists claimed that the purchase was respected through all the changes and transfers of the country from France to Great Britain and then to the United States Congress, however, did not see fit to grant the petition, and the lands were put into the market, and the best portions entered in 1841. The population of Prairie du Chien in 1840, was 1,503.

After the survey of the lands lying to the north and east, and their being brought into market for sale, emigration set in rapidly and the county of Crawford which at one time comprised the whole western half of the State, including the country around Minneapolis and the Falls of St. Anthony was divided and subdivided until it reached its present size. In 1830 Iowa county was formed, taking all of Crawford county south of the Wisconsin river. In 1840 the county of St. Croix was taken off, out of which La Pointe was organized in 1845. In 1841, the county of Portage took what was left lying east of range 1, of 4th principal meridian, out of which Sauk, Adams, and parts of Richland and other counties have been formed—Richland county taking all east of range 3, north of the river. Chippewa county was also taken off in 1845, and in 1851 La Crosse and Bad Axe. In 1840 the county board granted a ferry license across the St. Croix river, at the battle ground near the head of Lake St. Croix, near Stillwater. This gives some idea of the extent of the county of Crawford north, thirty-two years since.

In the year 1843, the election precincts as established by the county board, were Prairie du Chien, Black River Falls, Chippewa Falls and Menomonee. In March of this year, R. D. LESTER, sheriff of the county, was killed by an Indian while descending the Mississippi above the Prairie. In 1845, Mount Sterling and Prairie La Crosse were made election precincts. Mr. PELTON erected a steam mill, and the first newspaper, the *Patriot*, was published.

In 1846, St. Croix county was organized from Crawford. There was much sickness this year; some ten or more of the early settlers died, among others, Mrs. D. BRISBOIS, mother of Col. B. W. BRISBOIS, and Mrs. ALFRED BRUNSON. This year and the succeeding one (1847), Fort Crawford was garrisoned by a company of volunteers under Capt. WYRAM KNOWLTON, the regular troops having gone to Mexico.

In June, 1847, there was another freshet in the Mississippi, the river above the village was three to five, and in some places

ten miles wide, extending from bluff to bluff. A large portion of the prairie was overflowed, though no material damage was done. On the 20th of July, a military company known as the "Dodge Guards," was re-organized, and sixty-six men were mustered into the service by Major ALEX. S. HOOE, for and during the Mexican war. Twenty-five of the former company re-enlisted under Capt. MORGAN. On the 14th of September, Major HOOE, commandant at the Fort, received orders to repair to Baton Rouge, and left immediately.

1848. At the election for President, Nov. 15, Gen. LEWIS CASS received 108 votes, and Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR 70.

1849. LOUIS MAYNARD was killed by THEOPHILUS LA CHAPPELLE, and his house burned. The latter was tried in November of that year, and found not guilty, on plea of insanity.

The population in 1850 was 2,399.

1850-55. A large railroad meeting was held Jan. 16, 1850, to take into consideration the proper point for a terminus of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad. Resolutions were passed recommending Prairie du Chien, and setting forth its advantages over other points that had been suggested.

Information was received here that a large number of Winnebago Indians had left their designated home on the Crow Wing, with chiefs DANDY and LITTLE HILL, and that they were at Black river and vicinity, having been starved out, and had returned to Wisconsin in pursuit of game, and that their appearance and conduct were in every way hostile to the white settlers in that region; that they had made serious depredations upon the whites, stealing horses and cattle, entering dwelling houses and carrying off provisions.

On the 18th of March, Gen. DODGE, then in the U. S. Senate, called the attention of the Secretary of the Interior (Hon. THOS. EWING) to the matter, who on the 5th of April informed him that troops would be sent forward to protect the settlers and force the Indians to return to their country. In the month of May Hon. H. M. RICE, of St. Paul, received a contract from the Government for removing the Indians to their homes. On the 13th of February, 1851, two Chippewa Indians named OSNOGA and Baptiste ROBADO, confined in jail at the Prairie on conviction of murder and sentenced to be executed, broke jail and escaped.

During the same month the Legislature of this State set off and organized Bad Ax county from the county of Crawford.

1856. On the 12th of June, 1856, the government officers and troops departed with stores and provisions on the steamer