

Illinois River to the northern limits of the state. I was the anti-slavery candidate, and in favor of a new Convention.\* I was twice subsequently chosen to the Legislature, though others managed to get the certificates of election. I repeatedly held the office of county commissioner, was twenty-three years post-master, and over twenty years a magistrate.

For twenty-nine years I continued farming, and purchasing lands, until, at one time, I owned thirty thousand acres in Illinois and Missouri. In 1841, I was induced to build a steam-boat, and it was the first one built on the Mississippi above St. Louis; it bore my own name by special desire of many friends; and the total loss of the boat a year after, caused me a loss of eighty thousand dollars. This so broke me up, that, in 1845, I came to Wisconsin, and after exploring all the northern part of the Territory, I finally located the present site of St. Marie, on a beautiful bank of Fox River, in Marquette county, where I removed in 1846, and where I still reside. On the opposite bank of Fox River, is a large spring, called by the early French, *La Cote St. Marie*.

In 1852, I lost my eye-sight, which I have partially recovered early in 1855, as the result of surgical operations in New York city, but not sufficiently restored to enable me to read or write. I am now in my 73d year, five feet and five inches in height, with dark eyes, hair and complexion, and weighing about one hundred and forty pounds; never having drank spirituous liquors, used tobacco, or indulged in games of chance, and am still generally healthy and active. I was never married. I have been

---

\*Nicholas Hanson contested the seat with Col. Shaw. Parties ran high in the State, and the Legislature was very closely balanced. Two questions then seemed to be the all-absorbing matters of interest; one was, the re-election of Jesse B. Thomas as United States Senator, and the other was the calling of a new Convention to revise the Constitution of the State. Gov. Ford, in his History of Illinois, remarks: "Hanson would vote for Thomas, but Shaw would not; Shaw would vote for the Convention, but Hanson would not. The party had use for both of them, and they determined to use them both, one after the other. For this purpose, they first decided in favor of Hanson, admitted him to a seat, and with his vote elected their United States Senator; and then, towards the close of the session, with mere brute force, and in the most bare-faced manner, they re-considered their former vote, turned Hanson out of his seat, and decided in favor of Shaw, and with his vote carried their resolution for a Convention."