

not be considered out of place here to introduce a brief notice of the origin of

### Richland County

Therefore, as a prelude to the sketch of that county by Ira S. Haseltine, Esq., published in the Report and Collections of the Wis. State Historical Society of last year, I offer the following: During the winter of 1841-42, the total adult male resident population, within the bounds of what is now Richland county, numbered only *seven*—viz.: Messrs. John Coombs, Edward Coombs, Hardin Moore, Matthew Alexander, Capt. James B. Estes, Stephen Taylor, and a trapper named Knapp, whose secluded hermitage was situated in the vicinity of the mouth of a stream near the south-west corner of the county, which stream subsequently received his name. This section then composed part of Crawford county. Its remoteness from Prairie du Chien, the seat of justice, dictated the project of a new organization, and its consequent annexation to Iowa county for judicial and other purposes. With a view, therefore, of comparing ideas upon the utility of such an organization, notices for a meeting, to be held on a future day, at the Eagle Mill on Eagle creek, were posted, at which meeting the *entire people* assembled, and the preamble and resolutions prepared, in the form of a petition to the Legislature, then in session, by a committee appointed for that purpose, were with great unanimity approved! These proceedings (now, doubtless, on file among the archives of the State) were appropriately referred to the representatives of Iowa, Grant and Crawford counties, upon which favorable report the act establishing the county of Richland, was passed, defining its limits, &c., in accordance with the desires of the petitioners. In addition to which, Col. Abner Nichols, John Ray, and, if memory serves me, James Murphy, all of Iowa county, were commissioned to locate the future seat of justice. These gentlemen in the following summer, after partaking of a sumptuous feed (usually provided upon such occasions by parties most interested), formally “stuck